

**PAPER PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA  
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**AT THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION  
OF THE GROUP OF 77 PLUS CHINA**

**ABSTRACT**

THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA RECOGNIZES EDUCATION AS A RIGHT FOR ALL CITIZENS AND INTERPRETS QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, CONTENT OF EDUCATION GUIDED BY THE CAREER PATHWAYS AND TEACHING & LEARNING PROCESSES. THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE A LEARNER CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING AN ANALYTICAL, INNOVATIVE, CREATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MIND. HOWEVER, THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 HAMPERED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY EDUCATION WHERE ABOUT FOUR AND A HALF MILLION LEARNERS WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 INCLUDED STRESS AMONG LEARNERS, TEACHERS AND TEACHER EDUCATORS, LOSS OF LEARNING TIME AND LACK OF HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES. TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19, ZAMBIA USED AND DEVELOPED STRATEGIES THAT ENSURED CONTINUED LEARNING INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC LEARNING (E – LEARNING) PLATFORMS AIMED AT PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION TO ALL LEARNERS.

SEVERAL CHALLENGES INHIBITED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 ERA INCLUDING GEOGRAPHIC AND REMOTE LOCATION WHERE SIGNAL WAS POOR, HIGH COST OF ICT FACILITIES & TOOLS AND E-CONTENT GAP AMONG IMPLEMENTERS. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA DEvised AND INTRODUCED STRATEGIES TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES

ENCOUNTERED THROUGH DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE E-LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS, CAPACITY BUILDING TEACHERS AND TEACHER EDUCATORS IN ICT SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES, PROCURING ICT GADGETS FOR CONNECTIVITY, TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMING AND DEVELOPING NATIONAL E-LEARNING PORTAL.

## **1. GOALS OF EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA**

THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA HAS SET FOR ITSELF THE GOALS OF PRODUCING A LEARNER CAPABLE OF;

- (i) BEING ANIMATED BY A PERSONALLY HELD SET OF CIVIC, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES
- (ii) DEVELOPING AN ANALYTICAL, INNOVATIVE, CREATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MIND
- (iii) APPRECIATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT, ACTION AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE ONE HAND, AND SUSTENANCE OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE ON THE OTHER
- (iv) DEMONSTRATING FREE EXPRESSION OF ONE'S OWN IDEAS AND EXERCISING TOLERANCE FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S VIEWS
- (v) CHERISHING AND SAFEGUARDING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHT
- (vi) APPRECIATING ZAMBIA'S ETHNIC CULTURES, CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, AND UPHOLDING NATIONAL PRIDE, SOVEREIGNTY, PEACE, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE
- (vii) PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS IN ONE'S IMMEDIATE AND DISTANT ENVIRONMENTS
- (viii) MAINTAINING AND OBSERVING DISCIPLINE AND HARD WORK AS THE CORNERSTONES OF PERSONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TO REALIZE QUALITY EDUCATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA IMPLEMENTED CAREER PATHWAYS AND USED THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT PLATFORMS (LMP).

## **2. STRATEGIES EMPLOYED TO RESOLVE CHALLENGES FACED**

TO RESOLVE THE CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC LEARNING (E – LEARNING) INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- i. APPROPRIATE E-LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS WERE DEVELOPED IN LINE WITH THE CURRICULA CONTENT
- ii. TEACHERS AND TEACHER EDUCATORS WERE CAPACITY BUILT IN ICT SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
- iii. FINANCIAL RESOURCES WERE MOBILIZED TO PROCURE ICT GADGETS AND PROMOTE ACCESS TO ICT FACILITIES
- iv. STANDARDIZED ICT INITIATIVES WERE ESTABLISHED AND MANAGED
- v. LEARNING MANAGEMENT PLATFORM THAT ENABLED EASY MONITORING OF THE PROGRESSION OF LEARNERS AT ALL LEVELS WAS DEVELOPED
- vi. E-CONTENT ON THE NATIONAL E-LEARNING PORTAL WAS DEVELOPED AND UPLOADED
- vii. NEW TV EQUIPMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL STUDIOS WAS PROCURED
- viii. RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMES WERE DIGITALIZED

AS A COUNTRY, ZAMBIA ENDEAVORS TO ACHIEVE QUALITY EDUCATION, BY ENSURING THAT ALL LEARNERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF LEARNING. TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WHERE ITS VISION EMANATES FROM:

**“THE VISION FOR ZAMBIA’S EDUCATION SITS ON THE SDG 4: “ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES”**