

## **Briefing notes for Minister**

Welcome this important Project being supported by the EU. It is of great significance for us in the education sector for several main reasons:

It will assist us to have a strategic approach to the education sector in which all the important and essential elements of the sector are planned for in a coherent manner. We will produce a plan for the sector based on government policies and laws which will make very clear what our priorities are.

This plan will assist us to ask for the necessary funds from government and from the international community, since it will be very well articulated and will include all the key elements required to provide a modern, balanced education system for the country. We will include all the essential features, in line with our national policies, including for example extension to the years of schooling at both the pre-school and senior secondary levels.

We will also improve provision in vocational education and training.

In line with international best practice, the provision of a quality education is for all in our country, regardless of origin, creed or ethnicity.

We are committed to introducing a very modern 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum for all schools, aimed at giving all our young people the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for modern living, both in employment and life generally. The Project will help us to achieve this by working with curriculum developers and textbook writers so that students will have the subject courses and learning materials.

Having good syllabuses and courses are not enough. If we are to achieve our objective of a well educated nation, ready to take its place in the modern world in Europe and more widely, we need to have very good teaching. Therefore the Project will assist us to introduce a system of teacher licensing which will mean that all teachers will have significant additional training over the next few years.

## **Briefing notes for Permanent Secretary**

### **“Update on sector strategic planning process”**

The EU Education SWAp project is important for us as it will help us to improve our management of the education sector in the coming years by carrying out major reforms, in what is called a “sector wide approach”, or SWAp.

With the help of Sida’s CBERP project and this EU Project we are working to finalise a strategic plan for the education sector. This plan which will enable us to deliver the government’s intentions as expressed in its laws and policies for education. With this approach we are able to take account of all the essential elements of the sector, forgetting nothing, but prioritising these elements to make the best use of available resources. This is why it is called “sector wide”.

As we make progress, we are introducing structures for managing the process, for example a SWAp Steering Committee to oversee the process, with representatives from other relevant government ministries and agencies and the donor community;

also a SWAp Secretariat established with the MEST Directorate of international and Donor Cooperation, with the responsibility for following up all the day to day aspects of the reform process;

in addition, a SWAp, Task Force from within MEST which with wider working groups has been drafting the strategic plan and we will soon have the plan together with an annual work plan.

Later, we will consult more widely with key stakeholders to get a response to our intentions as expressed in the plan.

We also intend to have an annual joint review with key government and donors and other key stakeholders. At this workshop, we will study the progress of the plan and the successes of the year that is past. We will also take account of weaknesses and problems which have emerged and agree on ways to improve the situation. This means that in each subsequent year we will be able to address any concerns, revise our plan, and move forward in what will be “continuous improvement”.

It is also essential to be very clear about the financial implications of the Plan, so we have engaged in an exercise to work out the cost of the plan. In this way we can relate what we want to do under the plan with the known financial amounts to be provided by government and the donors. If there is insufficient funds we can request more including for the donors, We expect that donors may be more interested to assist us if we demonstrate how serious we are with our planning processes.

To enable us to improve our performance in these matters , we expect to have the assistance of donor funded projects, including this one, to help build capacity at central and municipal levels.