

LINK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACILITATES KEY MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN ZIMBABWE

Link Community Development, working with the Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE), organised a key meeting in Harare last week on behalf of the Zimbabwe Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture (MoESAC).

The Seminar, which took place 12-13 July at the Meikles Hotel, Harare was opened by the Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Senator David Coltart. The Minister also engaged in a panel discussion with the audience of more than 90 delegates from over 40 organisations including MoESAC, other Ministries from the Government of Zimbabwe, the World Bank, donors, teachers' unions, international and local NGOs and church groups.

The seminar provided the first opportunity for MoESAC to share its Draft Interim (July 2010 – December 2011) and Five Year (2011-2015) Plans with a wider audience. Over the course of the two-days the draft plans were debated with representatives from within government and beyond.

The main focus was on the six key areas of the 2010-2011 interim plan:

- restoring the professional status of teachers;
- re-establishing minimum conditions of service;
- improving the quality of learning;
- reinvigorating school and system government;
- focusing resources on those with the greatest need;
- and strengthening sport, arts and culture.

Debate centred on identifying and prioritizing achievable targets, and on improving processes and communication between stakeholders in order to achieve the goals set within each key area. As a result of the seminar the draft plans have been reinforced with the knowledge and insights provided by the various stakeholders and the process of building a broad based national consensus around the plans has begun.

The Harare Seminar was a precursor to a second session held in London on the 22-23 July which continued the process by providing the Minister and his team with an opportunity to present their interim plans to an audience of UK and European donors, NGOs and friends of Zimbabwe.

Link Community Development, together with the Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE), have been working with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture since early 2010 to support the rehabilitation of education in Zimbabwe.

For further details of the follow up to either the Harare or London sessions please visit www.lcdinternational.org or contact alex@lcd.org.uk