



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Zambia, through the Ministry of Education, to host the Regional Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) conference in Lusaka from 31st October 2023 to 1st November.

The Government of Zambia, through the Ministry of Education, will this month host a high level conference on Foundational Learning.

The regional Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) conference will be held at the TAJ Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka from 31st October 2023 to 1st November.

The Ministry of Education, and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) are co-organizing the 2023 edition of the High-Level Policy Dialogue Forum (HLPDF) on Foundational Learning.

Education Minister, Hon. Douglas Syakalima MP. has announced the development in Lusaka.

Hon. Syakalima said the conference will take stock of the progress made in foundational learning in Africa since the commitments made at events such as the ADEA 2022 Triennial, the meeting of African Coalition Ministers on Foundational Learning, and at the last Transforming Education Summit (TES).

The Minister has said Foundational learning (FL) skills are at the base of all learning and are crucial in breaking cycles of poverty.

“Children who are unable to attain basic literacy and numeracy skills, and who lack the ability to strengthen their socio-emotional development, risk exclusion from education and economic opportunities in later years. But Africa’s FL outcomes are at crisis proportions.” Hon. Syakalima said.

The Minister has further observed that a recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research shows that 94% of children in sub-Saharan Africa lack the basic skills needed to contribute to a modern economy.

He has said the two years of COVID-19-related school closures have worsened FL outcomes, with learning poverty (the ability to read and understand a simple story) being as high as 87% in the same region.

Children from the poorest households, including girls, those in rural areas, and those with disabilities have paid the heaviest price.

Hon. Syakalima believes the Conference is an opportunity to showcase the progress it has made in improving learning outcomes.

“Zambia is excited to host this continental dialogue forum on education. We believe that there is a lot of lessons we can share with Africa from the progress we have made in education. But we also want to learn from our sister countries in Africa and see what we can adapt to sustain our foundational learning outcomes. This is what ADEA represents, and we are very excited to partner with them in hosting this event.” Hon. Syakalima said.

The Conference will convene several Ministers in charge of basic education and country-level policymakers in charge of delivering foundational learning, development partners, civil society organizations and private sector representatives.

Recommendations from the event will inform preparations for the 2024 African Union Year of Education to mobilize deeper political commitment to improve the salience of foundational learning.

Ends/.

Issued by :

Ministry of Education Communications Unite
Ministry of Education Headquarters
Lusaka
Contact M: 0977476562, 0978341326

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

The annual high-level policy dialogue forum is a continental cross-country knowledge exchange mechanism organized by ADEA and supported by African governments and education stakeholders. It showcases, shares, and discusses comprehensive and innovative programs aimed at developing Africa’s education and learning system. This year’s edition will focus on three main objectives:

- Share the best practices for developing long-term national strategies for foundational learning.
- Discuss policy-level experiences aimed at improving teaching for foundational learning.
- Extract long- and short-term policy lessons about teacher recruitment strategies, what works and what needs improvement.

The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) is a critical voice and a forum for policy dialogue on education in Africa. It is hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. ADEA envisions a "high-quality African education and training geared towards the promotion of critical skills for accelerated and sustainable development in Africa". ADEA serves as an "open and flexible pan-African organization that informs and facilitates the transformation of education and training to drive Africa's accelerated and sustainable development." We act as catalysts in promoting innovative policies and practices by pooling ideas, experiences, learning, and

knowledge. The anticipated impact of ADEA's work is that African countries are empowered to develop education and training systems that respond to their current and emergent needs and sustainably drive Africa's social and economic transformation.