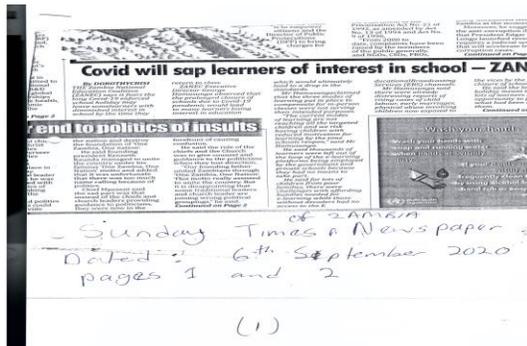




# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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## ACRONYMS

<b>ANCEFA</b>	:	Africa Network Campaign for Education for All
<b>CBOs</b>	:	Community Based Organizations
<b>CSEF</b>	:	Civil Society Education Fund
<b>CSOs</b>	:	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CSPR</b>	:	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
<b>DDCC</b>	:	District Development Coordinating Committee
<b>DEBS</b>	:	District Education Board Secretaries
<b>ECCDE</b>	:	Early Childhood Care Development and Education
<b>ECE</b>	:	Early Childhood Education
<b>ECD</b>	:	Early Childhood Development
<b>EFA</b>	:	Education for All
<b>FACT</b>	:	Fostering Accountability and Transparency
<b>FBOs</b>	:	Faith Based Organizations
<b>GCE</b>	:	Global Campaign for Education
<b>GPE</b>	:	Global Partnership for Education
<b>JAR</b>	:	Joint Annual Review
<b>LEG</b>	:	Local Education Group
<b>MoGE</b>	:	Ministry of General Education
<b>NGOs</b>	:	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NIF</b>	:	National Implementation Framework III
<b>OD</b>	:	Organizational Development
<b>PAF</b>	:	Performance Assessment Framework
<b>PCC</b>	:	Project Coordinating Committee
<b>PDCC</b>	:	Provincial Development Coordinating Committee
<b>PFP</b>	:	Provincial Focal Point
<b>PITC</b>	:	Policy Implementation Technical Committee
<b>SAIH</b>	:	Norwegian Students and Academics International Assistance Fund
<b>SNDP</b>	:	Sixth National Development Plan
<b>USAID</b>	:	United States International Development Agency
<b>ZANEC</b>	:	Zambia National Education Coalition
<b>ZOCS</b>	:	Zambia Open Community Schools

## **FOREWORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

The year 2020 presented some challenges and opportunities that affected the quality of service delivery in the Education and Skills Sector. The most significant challenge of 2020 came with the onset of the novel Corona Virus (COVID 19) which resulted in temporal closure of schools and restricted meetings in order to contain the worldwide pandemic. This affected the Coalition's activity implementation for a while.

However, this challenge also posed a great opportunity for ZANEC to further engage on the need for equitable access to education and increased financing in order to keep up with the 'new normal'. The golden opportunity came in form of funding that allowed ZANEC to coordinate a multi-stakeholder monitoring of school readiness to operate within the new normal during the COVID 19 period. This resulted in credible and evidence based advocacy which resulted in schools that had closed in March 2020 to reopen in September, 2021. Although this was a long closure, it was shorter compared to other countries in the world.

In order for ZANEC to maintain its relevance in ensuring effective implementation of the ESSP, the Coalition continued to engage through different platforms to secure some funding to help government implement the ESSP by being part of the revision process and consequent approval of the GPE funding to the Zambian government. ZANEC will continue playing its watchdog role through coordinated civil society participation, policy monitoring and influencing to ensure that the ESSP targets are achieved.

ZANEC however notes with great disappointment the decrease of the education budget allocations from 16.4% in 2019 to 12.4 % in 2020. As a result, almost all the education sub-sectors recorded a decrease in budget allocations for the year 2020. This decrease in budget allocations reduced the chances of achieving the targets of the ESSP. 2020 was also hard year for ZANEC as it lost the incumbent chairperson Ms. Harriet Miyato in August. This meant that the board had to make adjustments in order to continue with smooth operations.

Finally, ZANEC continued to make significant strides in achieving the Strategic Plan which came to an end at the end of the year. As such, ZANEC conducted an evaluation

of the strategic Plan and proceeded to develop the follow up strategic plan. The Coalition made progress in membership coordination and recruitment in which it raised its membership from 75 in 2019 to 81 in 2020. However, there is need to ensure all members are paid up in accordance with the organizational constitution. By so doing, the voice of the Coalition will continue to get stronger.

Henry Kabwe

**Board Chairperson**

## **REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

In 2020, ZANEC strengthened its mandate to lead civil society organizations in influencing change in the education and skills sector. Key among the notable achievements was the successful lobbying for reopening of schools and ensuring learners are safe in schools.

Furthermore, ZANEC evaluated its performance and set a new path by developing a new strategic plan to succeed the one that ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The new strategy will ensure that ZANEC continues its policy influence momentum through policy engagement, analyses of key documents such as the national budget and the Auditor General's Report. The Coalition also continued to engage with policy makers, Parliamentarians and education Cooperating Partners on key advocacy issues affecting the Sector. We made significant strides in advocating for access to quality education for all Zambians regardless of their status and inspite of the COVID 19 pandemic. In order to ensure sustainability of our work, we also continued on our path for resource mobilization through the operationalization of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

Finally, we express our appreciation to our partners for supporting ZANEC in 2020 without which a stronger ZANEC would not have been possible.

George Hamusunga  
**Executive Director**

**TO OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS-THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE FOR US!**

ZANEC would like to appreciate partners who provided technical and financial support without which our desire to achieve our vision would be impossible. Special appreciations go to the following partners:

- Education Out-loud Campaign supported by the Global Campaign for Education through Oxfam ibis;
- Norwegian Students and Academics International Assistance Fund
- Norwegian Exchange (NOREC) Youth Program
- GIZ Back-Up Initiative;
- Students and Academics International Assistance Fund
- UNICEF
- Africa Early Childhood Network (AFECN)
- Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT)

ZANEC also recognizes the moral, material and financial support from the general advocacy community and other stakeholders.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report highlights outcomes of activities implemented in the 2020 work plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020. The 2020 Annual Work Plan was designed to contribute towards the achievement of the Coalition's results contained in the 2016 - 2020 Strategic Plan. The year 2020 therefore marked the end of the strategic period and registered success in four main areas namely: actively leading in education sector evidence generation through research; policy dialogue; enhanced social accountability and coordination of Member Organisations in its continued influencing of duty bearers to provide quality services in the Education Sector.

Overall, the implementation of activities under the 2020 Annual Work Plan was a great success as the Coalition registered significant results especially from the activities that were supported by the Coalition's main partners namely the Education Out Loud (EOL) Campaign; Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH), UNICEF, the GIZ Back-up Fund and the Africa Early Childhood Network (AFECN).

The ZANEC Annual Report focuses on outcome level reporting for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Notable results achieved in this respect include ZANEC's leading roles in influencing learning in the midst of the Covid Pandemic, participation in finalising the government proposal to GPE, participation in the Joint Annual Review Processes and developing a successive strategic plan to carry the coalition from 2021-2025.

However, the year did not go without some challenges that negatively affected the Coalition's work. Key among the challenges was the demise of the Coalition's Chairperson in August 2020, the continued reduction of funding to the Education sector, despite consistent advocacy for an increase in funding, and momentary disruption of activity implementation at the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. These challenges provided lessons for the Coalition that will work to improve future operations and attainment of Coalition goals.

Overall, the activities implemented in 2020 contributed significantly to the growth of the Education and Skills Sector especially in its quest to ensure that all Zambians,

especially the vulnerable and those in rural areas achieve lifelong learning which responds to national aspirations and self-fulfillment, in accordance with the Coalition’s vision.

## **THE MANDATE OF ZANEC**

### **ZANEC Background**

The Zambia National Education Coalition (ZANEC) was established in 2001 immediately after the World Education Forum (WEF) held in Dakar Senegal in April 2000 at which, after a decade of slow progress, the International Community including Zambia, reaffirmed its commitment to Education for All (EFA) goals which were first launched in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990 to bring the benefits of education to “every citizen in every society.” Over the years, the Coalition has transformed itself into a more formidable institution by focusing on National Plans that will contribute to attainment of internationally agreed Education and Skills targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025)

As a National Coalition, ZANEC is strategically placed to provide alternative thinking in complementing government in the realization of national plans since they have an in-depth understanding of local settings and capacity development needs for the sector. In addition, ZANEC has also established strong networks and partnerships both at national and international levels that facilitate learning and sharing of information and best practices that add value to its advocacy mandate. Locally, ZANEC collaborates with the Children’s Rights Network and Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR). At international level, ZANEC is affiliated to the Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA) and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

By the end of 2020, ZANEC had 81 Member Organizations who are active Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Students’ and Teacher Trade Unions in the education and skills sector.

## **OUR VISION**

A sustainable and inclusive education system that responds to national aspirations and fosters an environment for self-fulfillment.

## OUR MISSION

Promoting quality and inclusive education for all through influencing policy, building consensus, holding duty bearers accountable, and strengthening the capacities of stakeholders in the education and skills sector.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- a) **Universal Right to Quality Education:** Education is a right to every child, youth and adult regardless of gender, geographic divide, social and economic status.
- b) **Equity and Inclusiveness:** Education should be equitably accessible and relevant to all. “*No one should be left behind*” disabled, girls, women, poor and rural communities.
- c) **Non-partisanship:** Non-alignment to any political party and voice without “fear or favor”.
- d) **Transparency and Accountability:** Promoting and acting with the utmost integrity and responsible to the vision and mission of the organization.
- e) **Volunteerism:** Selflessness and passion for reason for existence
- f) **Value for Money:** Cost effectiveness with high sense of result orientation

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The supreme organ and highest decision making body is the General Assembly (comprising heads of all Member Organizations). Below the General Assembly is the Board of Governors which is elected by the General Assembly to provide oversight to the strategic management of the organization as well as support the Secretariat and Member Organizations achieve programme objectives by ensuring organizational strengthening and financial sustainability. Below the Board are the Education Sub-sector Committees which ensure participation of Member Organizations in line with their fields of specialization. ZANEC has five Education Sub-sector Committees which are aligned to the national level Education and Skills Sector structure to ensure efficient monitoring and influence These are: Early Childhood Care Development and Education; Basic Education (primary and secondary); Skills and Tertiary Education; Youth, Adult Literacy and Education (YALE); and Gender and Equity.

The Secretariat is the technocratic organ of the Coalition with full time staff responsible for the day to day operations of the Coalition.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

ZANEC's membership currently stands at 81 CSOs as detailed in Annex 1. Of these members, 30 of the members representing 37% are Community Based Organizations, three (3) or 4% are Faith Based Organizations, six (6) of the members representing 8% are international Non-Governmental Organizations, while 36 or 48% are local Non-Governmental Organizations. The remaining six (6) member organizations representing 8% are education trade unions. Overall, the ZANEC membership increased from 75 members by December 2019 to 81 members by the close of 2020. This represents an annual increase of 7% in the membership over the reporting period.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents highlights of key outcomes of activity implementation for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Implementation of activities during this period contributed towards the achievement of the results contained in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. A total of 46 activities out of a total of 57 planned activities were implemented representing 80.7% implementation rate. The implementation rate was good compared to the 64% achieved in 2019. The achievement was not as anticipated due to lack of funding towards some activities outlined in the annual work plan and late disbursement of funds by some key donors which meant that some activities had to be carried over to 2021.

Further, 2020 was a unique year as the world experienced a deadly pandemic in the form of the Coronavirus, which resulted in a disruption in 'normal life' and necessitated major shifts in the way of doing things. This meant that some planned activities such as the march past for the commemoration of the Global Action Week for Education, the Joint Annual Review Technical Meeting and other commemorations and major activities could not be held in their usual form. Most meetings had to be converted to virtual meetings, which to some extent was favourable as it meant that more people could participate than initially planned. However, this meant that ZANEC had to be proactive to propose budget variations to accommodate the emerging trends. Suffice to state that this was successfully done as funders were very supportive of ensuring that activity implementation continued.

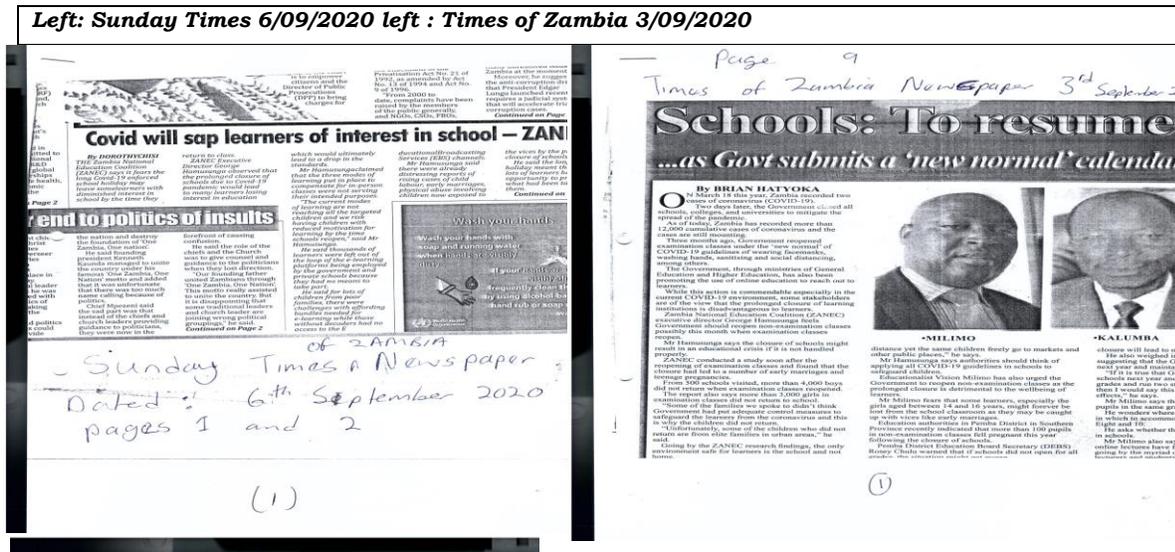
The Annual Report focuses on the outcomes. Outcomes refer to changes in behaviour which may be in form of action, relationships, policies and practices. The change must be significant, observable and takes place in an actor. The following are the various outcomes harvested and their significance.

## 2.0 SPECIFIC OUTCOMES FOR 2020

### 2.1 ZANEC calls for schools to reopen under the “new normal”

ZANE continued to call for learners to go back to school under the “new normal”, with strict adherence to provided guidelines by the Ministry of Health.

The SCREAM project findings provided key advocacy messages that were evidence based and consistent to the universally agreed position by several stakeholders that schools needed to reopen.



The low reach and alternative modes of learning designed to provide continuity of learning proved the importance of the teacher pupil relationship. Where the SCREAM project findings showed that removing the teachers and replacing them with technology cannot bring about the learning children require

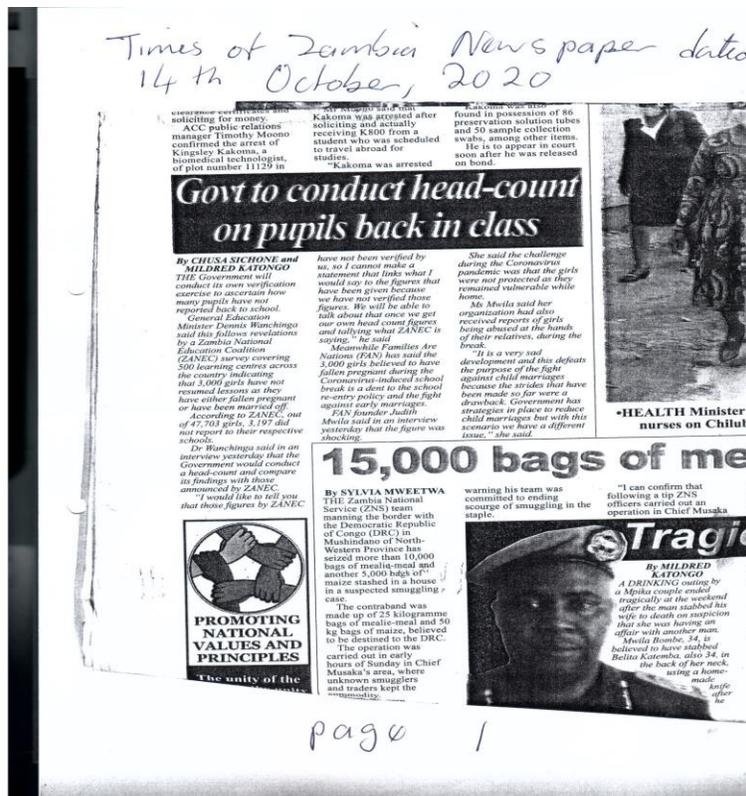
### 2.1.2 Republican President sets date for school reopening

During his State of the Nation Address (SONA) read during the official opening of the Fifth Session of the Twelfth National Assembly, the President announced the reopening all of school between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

The Coalition on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 had issued a press statement calling for the full reopening of schools by the President using information generated from the SCREAM project.

### 2.1.3 ZANEC nudges government to conduct its own assessment on school dropouts due to COVID 19

The Minister of General Education Dr. Dennis Wanchinga committed to conduct their own verification exercise to ascertain how many pupils had not reported back to school, following ZANECs submission of the SCREAM survey that was conducted in 500 school across the country indicating that 3,000 girls have not resumed school after the reopening of schools due to pregnancies or early marriages.



### 2.1.4 ZANASU to work with Forum for Democratic Process (FODEP) to manage National Students' Union elections in 2021

During the capacity building engagement on Election Management and Decentralization convened by ZANEC, ZANASU requested (FODEP) to assist the union to manage and conduct their upcoming national students' union leadership elections.



*Left : Officers from FODEP, Right: Evelyn Hone President, ZANASU Finance rep. and Mukuba University President*

### **2.1.5 ZANEC extends advocacy to the Disaster Management Unit (DMMU) – Vice Presidents’ Office**

During the engagement meeting on Loans and Scholarships for institutions of higher learning, ZANEC lobbied the DMMU to consider establishing a COVID 19 relief fund for higher education for the student who are not receiving Meal Allowances but on bursary and those who are not on any form of government sponsorship. The relief fund was further proposed for DMMU to cater for subsidizing data costs for virtual learning during the COVID 19 outbreak.



*Left: Ms. Abby Mwambazi DMMU officer, Centre: Skills and Tertiary Sub Sector Chairperson, Right: Dean of Student Lusaka School of Business*

Further engagement with the unit was done during the advocacy meeting on the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on accessing equitable and inclusive quality education in Institution of Higher Learning in Zambia.

#### ***2.1.6 Ministry of Higher Education applauds ZANEC for recognising the role of the media in the education sector during the COVID 19 Out break***

The Minister of Higher Education Hon. Dr. Mushimba during the awards observed that many various written stories of the education sector and inclusive learning during the pandemic of the covid-19 results from the important role played by the media through digestion and dissemination of information to the public.

Minister Mushimba reminded awarded reporters government had put an emphasis on the reinforcements of safety measures on the second wave of the COVID – 19, guiding all citizens to be vigilant and ensure the dangerous wave does not harm anyone.



Screen shot of the MoHE website posting on ZANEC 2020 Education Media Awards

<https://www.mohe.gov.zm/minister-mushimba-calls-for-ethical-reporting/>

### **2.1.7 ZANEC Pre Budget analysis informs Ministry of General Educations 2021 Budget submission to Parliament**

Prior to the 2021 National budget announcement, the Ministry of General Education formally requested for the report on the ZANEC pre budget meeting on the 24th September 2020. The Coalition conducted a Pre Budget meeting with Member Organisations to generate evidence for advocacy towards education financing.

### **2.1.8 ZANASU submits report of online survey on COVID 19 and E- Learning in to Ministry of Higher Education**

ZANEC facilitated a Student and Management Dialogue engagement meeting in the first quarter of 2020. During this engagement, ZANASU presented the findings of an online survey conducted to obtain feedback from students on the proposed reopening of colleges and universities for 2020.

### **2.1.9 Stakeholders call for National Dialogue on Academic Freedoms**

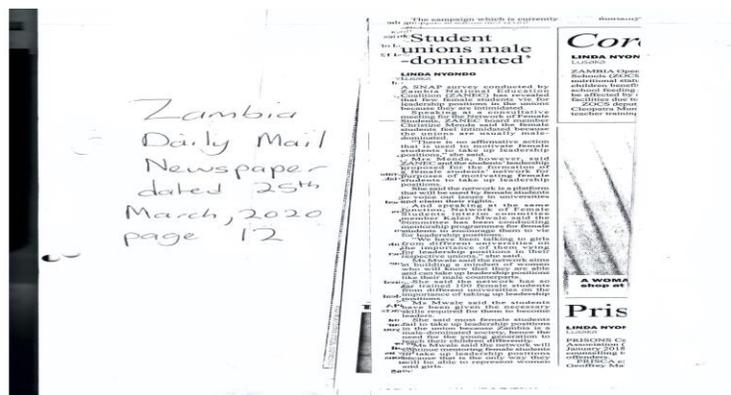
Members of Parliament and the Ministry of Higher Education called upon ZANEC to coordinate the facilitation of a national multi-stakeholders’ symposium on Academic Freedoms. This call was made following engagement meetings held on status of academic freedoms in institutions of higher learning in Zambia. The stakeholders felt that it was important for national stakeholders to come together and agree on the status of academic freedoms in Zambia and how the country wants to move forward to ensure this is realised.

**2.1.10 ZANEC Supports Affirmative Action for Female Students Leaders in Institutions of Higher Learning**

ZANEC facilitated the ZANASU Network of Female Students, mentorship and sensitisation meetings in 5 institutions of higher learning reaching out to 120 students 88% whom were female. The network under ZANASU has positioned itself to be an affirmative action wing used to motivate female students to take up leadership and also used as a platform to voice out on issues affecting women leadership in Institutions of Higher Learning.

**2.1.11 ZANEC forges New Strategic Direction**

In the quest to see the quality education agenda come to fruition, ZANEC embarked on a process to develop a strategic plan that would ensure continuity beyond the current strategy that ended in December 2020. This was preceded by a review of the 5 year strategic plan which drew success and challenges that helped build the new strategy. By the end of 2020, ZANEC had a final draft strategy in place which would be presented to the membership for approval in 2021.



### **3.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

The greatest challenge that ZANEC faced in 2020, like any other institution, was the onset of COVID 19, which brought an abrupt end to plans due to new health restrictions which resulted in closure of schools and banning of meetings for a while. However, ZANEC eventually found a way to adjust to the new normal and activities continued with more use of virtual platforms. This also led to a number of budget variations, which luckily, the funders were supportive of, enabling us to achieve set objectives. Similarly, the Coalition did not manage to raise all the funding that was required to support the implementation of the entire 2020 Work Plan. This meant that some of the planned activities such as the commemoration of the world literacy day could not be implemented due to inadequate funding. Notably, the Coalition also suffered a huge setback with the sudden death of the chairperson, Ms. Harriet Miyato. ZANEC continued to proactively pursue funding opportunities and ensure that the subsequent work plans are fully implemented in order to achieve strategic goals.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The implementation of the 2020 activities by the Coalition was mainly focused on influencing policy direction at national, provincial, district and school levels in line with the mandate. Although ZANEC successfully influenced most of the targeted policies, the Coalition's progress was partly affected by the alarming dwindling funding allocated to the education and skills sector. ZANEC will continue to lobby for the mitigation of the impact of COVID 19 on education and increased financing, especially at domestic level, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the Education and Skills Sector Plan.