

PARLIAMENTARY PRESENTATION

SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BUDGET ANALYSIS OF HEAD 9 AND 80: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION; AND HEAD 66: MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Budget Analysis of estimates to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Technology and Science

Introduction

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre was requested to provide comments on the implications of the 2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Technology and Science to the Committee of Education, Science and Technology. In conducting this assessment, the 2024 National Budget Speech and the 2024 Output Based Budget were consulted.

According to the 8th National Development Plan under strategic development area 2: Human and Social Development, the plan outlines various development outcomes one of which is to improve education and skills with strategies for the enhancement of the education sector which include: Enhance access to quality, equitable and inclusive education and Improve technical, vocational and entrepreneurship skills. In order to meet this development outcome, measures aimed at addressing the challenges facing the sector are imperative. These challenges include, inadequate human resource, inadequate teaching and learning materials, inadequate school infrastructure, high teacher-pupil ratio and low-quality service provision, among others.

The 2024 national budget outlines measures aimed at addressing these challenges through the recruitment of teachers, construction of schools, expansion of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, extension of bursary support and enhancement of skills training, among others. The budget proposed to spend K27.4 billion (15.4%) of the budget to the education sector which is an increase from 23.2 billion (13.9%) in 2023. Of the allocated funds, K1.9 billion is towards the provision of grants to schools in order to support the implementation of the free education policy. The recruitment of 4,200 teachers in addition to the 4,500 and 30,496 that were targeted for 2022 and 2023 respectively will greatly impact the teacher-pupil ratio and support the implementation of the free education policy. Additionally, the 1,200 non-teaching staff will assist in supporting a conducive learning environment as well as reducing unemployment of which K356.1 million has been allocated to support this.

Head 9- Teaching Service Commission

The Teaching Service Commission under the Service Commissions Act No. 10 of 2016 also in accordance with the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 Article 224 is mandated to constitute offices in the teaching service as well as appoint, confirm, promote, separate and hear appeals from officers in the service.

The 2024 budget estimate for the Commission stands at K21.2 million. This will go towards the fulfillment of its mandate and strategic objectives through the implementation of the two programmes namely; Teaching Service Human Resource Management and Management and Support Services.

PMRC notes that the Commission also play a crucial role in maintaining teaching standards. **In 2024, they have been allocated 6,193,176 for the enforcement of teaching standards which is an increase from 3,385,238 in 2023 and 2,509,394 in 2022.** Given the increased funding, it is expected that quality teaching standards will be enforced and that this will positively impact the quality of education services being accessed across the country as government continues to implement the free education policy.

Another component of interest is the Teaching Service Human Resource Management Programme which has been allocated K14.3 million. The larger portion of the resources will be used to facilitate monitoring and evaluation in various districts to ensure adherence to set standards, guidelines and regulations, research and development, performance support sittings, capacity building of HRMC's and orientation as well as facilitate appointments and placements. PMRC notes that this allocation will positively influence compliance of delegated functions through enhanced monitoring and evaluation of performance standards as well as facilitate research and development which are crucial for the advancement of the sector.

Implications

- Enhanced monitoring and enforcement of teaching standards
- Improved provision of quality education
- Timely resolution of conflicts and disciplinary hearings within the service which could positively impact quality of service and delivery



HEAD 80- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education is mandated to formulate and implement Government policy on the following programmes: Adult Literacy; Continuing Education; Early Childhood; Education Policy; Education Standards and Evaluation; Education Broadcasting; Higher Education; Higher Education and scholarships; Higher Education Policy; Higher Education Standards and Evaluation; Library Services; National Training Policy; Primary Education; School Guidance and Counselling Services; Secondary Education and Teacher Training Colleges, as provided for in the Government Gazette Notice No. 1123 of 2021.

Some of the strategic areas the Ministry aims to focus on in the 8NDP are; Improve Education and Skills Development; Enhance access to quality, equitable and inclusive education; Increase access to higher education and Enhance science, technology and innovation

In 2024, **the Ministry of Education has been allocated K23.2 billion** to implement programmes in Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education, Youth and Adult Literacy, University Education, as well as Management and Support Services.

Summary of Programme Funding

Programme	Budget Expenditure 2022	Budget Expenditure 2023	Budget Estimates 2024
Early Childhood Education	102,615,365	462,191,493	528,985,748
Primary Education	7,961,447,684	12,153,983,169	13,302,545,500
Secondary Education	3,959,641,117	4,971,129,444	5,519,230,733
Youth and Adult Literacy	2,474,838	4,768,118	5,369,365
University Education	1,184,493,081	1,546,165,884	2,007,753,100

Sources of Funding

Funding for the sector will be supported by the following cooperating partners

- World Bank Grant of 60,000,000
- World Bank Grant of 120,000,000
- World Bank Grant of 37,468,484
- World Bank World Bank Loan of 300,000
- World Bank Loan of 630,000,000
- EU Grant of 150,000,000

Implication

- Given the constrained fiscal space, grants from cooperating partners play a critical role in supporting social sector spending in strategic areas such as education. Much of the external funding from cooperating partners is in the form of grants which eases the pressure on government given that it is currently pursuing debt sustainability efforts.
- PMRC is of the view that the loans being accessed under the World Bank are on concessional terms which allow for low interest payments over an extended repayment period. Such loans have the potential of addressing current needs while government spends resources on other priority sectors.



Early Childhood Education Programme

A total of K529.0 million has been allocated to the Early Childhood Education Programme. Of this amount, K199.0 million is for Personal Emoluments for members of staff and teachers contributing to this Programme. Further, K9.2 million has been allocated towards Use of Goods and Services to cater for the operations under the Programme. In addition, K131.2 million has been allocated to Transfers of which **K6.0 million has been allocated to the School Feeding**

Programme, while K60.0 million has been allotted for the Zambia Education Early Learning (ZEEL) project. Further, K65.2 million has been allocated to Early Childhood Education school grants while K189.6 million has been allocated for the acquisition of Assets.

The Early Childhood Education Provision Sub- programme allocation has increased from K301.2 million in 2023 to K332.3 million in 2024. This is mainly attributed to the increase of the allocation towards ECE school grants. The increase can also be attributed to the increase in the allocation of the school feeding programme which has grown from K979,945 to K6.0 million to cater for the increase in the number of ECE learners.

In addition, the Curriculum and Materials Development Sub-programme has been allocated K788,962 for the development and review of curricular for ECE while the Infrastructure Development Sub-programme has been allocated K190.0 million for the construction of ECE Hubs and satellite centres.

Implication

- Increased funding for the provision ECE and construction of ECE centres has the potential to enhance access to education and improve education outcomes due to early exposure to numeracy and literacy, particularly under the free education policy to ensure targets aimed at supporting cognitive and development needs of early learners are met.
- Further, the provision of the school feeding programme will support the nutritional needs of children. Zambia has high prevalence rates of malnutrition and stunting among children. Therefore, for many children coming from vulnerable households, school meals may be the only guaranteed meal of the day.



Primary Education

K13.3 billion has been allocated to the Primary Education Programme. Of this amount, K12.5 billion has been allocated towards Personal Emoluments while K22.8 million has been allocated towards the Use of Goods and Services for operations to run this Programme. **Further, Transfers have been allocated K797.7 million out of which notable expenditures under this allocation include Primary Schools Grants to support the education for all policy and the school feeding programme.** The Educational Standards, Assessment and Evaluation Sub-programme has been allocated K14.5 million while the Open and Distance Learning Sub-programme has been allocated K127,932.

Funding to the special education function has been allocated 18,000,000, while the school requisites for primary education have been allocated 250,000,000 an increase from 187,804,977 allocated in 2022 and 2023.

Implication

- Although government has allocated 18,000,000 to special education function, PMRC is uncertain if grants to schools with special education needs have been taken into consideration in 2024 as there is no indication of the estimate funding. In 2023, the programme was allocated 10,000,000.
- The implication of this could have a negative impact on special needs

education.

- PMRC notes the school requisites for primary education has been increased from 187,804, 977 in 2022 and 2023 to 250,000,000 in 2025. This will advance the implementation of the free education policy.



Secondary Education

K5.5 billion has been allocated towards the Secondary Education Programme.

Of this amount, K2.9 billion has been allocated towards Personal Emoluments while K28.0 million will be used to run the operations of the Programme. **Further, Transfers have been allocated K1.5 billion of which school grants for free education have been allocated K900.0 million.** In addition, K1.1 billion has been allocated to Assets out of which **K630.0 million has been allocated to the Zambia Education Enhancement Project for the construction of secondary schools.**

Secondary Education Provision Sub-programme has been allocated K4.4 billion. This allocation includes Personal Emoluments for personnel under this Programme, grants to schools as well as **funds meant for the Keeping Girls in School project.** The Teacher Education and Specialized Services Sub-programme has been allocated K 438,915. Further, to ensure that standards to education among secondary schools are upheld, the Education, Standards Assessment and Evaluation Sub-programme allocation has been increased from K14.1 million to K32.9 million. The Open and Distance Learning Sub-programme has been allocated K1.1 million while **Infrastructure Development Sub-programme**

has been apportioned K1.0 billion for the construction and rehabilitation of secondary schools.

The Ministry will continuously strive **to improve the completion rates at Grades 9 and 12 set at 80 percent and 85 percent respectively in 2024.** Through this Programme, the Ministry intends to **achieve gender parity of 1 at Grade 10 to 12** and intends to ensure that 200 Schools are gazetted and 300 school establishments are created. Further, the Ministry targets to increase the **transition rate from 9 to 10 from the current 52 percent to 55 percent.** In addition, the Ministry intends to **ensure that school curriculum is responsive to learners.** Thus, they will train 2,000 teachers and educators in the revised curriculum. The Ministry further **targets to construct 248 secondary schools with support from the World Bank in order to increase access at secondary education.**

Implication

- Given the increased demand for education services, it is imperative to increase the construction of secondary schools across the country. Particularly, more technical schools to support STEM as infrastructure at this level has been inadequate in comparison to the primary section.
- Increased support to the Keeping Girls in School has the potential to improve education and livelihoods outcomes for girls beyond achieving gender parity. This can improve the status of women, particularly in areas of political participation which has continued to lag behind.

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- Further, the recruitment of teachers will improve the teacher-pupil ratio, PMRC is of the view that more secondary school teachers should be recruited under of the targeted 4,200 as majority of the 30,000 recruited in 2022 were largely primary school teachers.
 - PMRC is of the view that infrastructure development in schools should prioritise the construction of modern laboratories and libraries to compliment learning beyond classroom walls.



Youth and Adult Literacy

The Youth and Adult Literacy Programme has been allocated K5.4 million. Of this amount, K1.0 million has been allocated towards Personal Emoluments while K1.6 million has been allocated for operations under Use of Goods and Services. In addition, **Transfers have been allocated K1.2 million which is meant for grants to Education Broadcasting Services and Zambia College of Distance Education.** Further, K1.5 million has been allocated towards the acquisition of Assets of which **K800,000 has been earmarked for the procurement of equipment for Education Broadcasting Services.**

K474,289 has been allocated to the Curriculum and Materials Development Sub-programme while the **Youth and Adult Literacy provision and Open and Distance Learning Sub-programmes have each been allocated K2.7 million and K2.2 million respectively.**

In 2024, the Ministry targets to establish 106 new Youth and Adult Centres across all ten provinces. Further, the Ministry intends to enrol 1,000 learners in youth and adult literacy programmes. **Due to increased enrolments from the Out of School learners (OOSC), the Ministry targets to enrol 20,000 Out of School Learners in 2024.**

Implication

- PMRC notes that the Education Broadcasting Services has been prioritised as challenges with the provision of education services during the time of COVID-19 exposed inadequacies in the programming for this service to be impactful to the needs of learners. Therefore, investment in channels such as these can advance education services.
- The promotion of Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning is a crucial component for promoting education, evidence shows that when parents are more literacy/educated, their children tend to have improved education outcomes. Therefore, this programme should be prioritised and expanded further to facilitate for skills development of adult and out-of-school learners for improved livelihood support.



University Education

The University Education Programme has been allocated K2.0 billion. Of this amount, K1.4 million has been allocated for Personal Emoluments while Use of Goods and Services have been allocated K5.4 million for operations. **Transfers**

have been apportioned K1.7 billion of which K1.2 billion is meant for Student Loans and Scholarships while the balance is meant to provide for operational grants to: Universities, Zambia Qualifications Authority, Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board and Higher Education Authority. Further, K256.0 million has been allocated to university infrastructure projects.

PMRC notes that the Infrastructure Development Sub-programme allocation has increased to K256.0 million from K100.0 million for infrastructure projects in Universities.

Implication

- Support towards tertiary education will enhance the knowledge and skills needed for national development, therefore, the expansion of bursary support through increased budgetary allocation to the HELSB is commendable.
- Further, the allocation towards university infrastructure is a notable increase that will expand the provision of education and support a conducive environment for collaborative research and learning among both students and lecturers.



HEAD 66- MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

The Ministry of Technology and Science under Government Gazette Notice No. 1123 of 2021 is mandated to formulate and implement policies on Technology, Science, Communications and Skills Development for enhanced impact on socio-economic development and enforcement of standards; regulation, licensing and supervision of Technology, Science, Communications and Skills Development.

Science and technology have a key role in contributing to the attainment of the policy outcomes in the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) through technological transformation, research and development of products and services as well as enhanced technical and vocational skills for socio-economic development. Therefore, the role of the Ministry of Technology and Science is cross cutting as this heavily impacts outcomes on Economic Transformation and Job Creation and An industrialised and Diversified Economy and Human and Social Development strategic development areas.

It supports the Development Outcome: Economic Transformation and Job Creation and An Industrialised and Diversified Economy with a specific strategic focus to: Enhance Digital Capacity and: Promote applied research and development

Under the Human and Social Development Development Outcome it supports the Improved Education and Skills Development Outcome with a specific strategic focus to: Enhance access to quality, equitable and inclusive education: Improve technical, vocational and entrepreneurship skills: Increased access to higher education: Enhance science, technology and innovation

Challenges impacting the sector include low diversification, low use of technology, inadequate funding for research and development, low skills in science and technology and low innovation, among others.

The main programmes are; Science Research and Development, Information Communication Technology Development, Skills Development, Technology and Innovation as well as Management and Support Services.

The Ministry of Technology and Science has been allocated K1.0 billion. Of the allocated amount, K25.5 million (2.5 percent) has been allocated to Personal Emoluments for staff salaries and other emoluments. In addition, K50.0 million (4.9 percent) has been allocated towards Use of Goods and Services to run the operations of the Ministry. **Further, Transfers have been allocated K819.8 million (79.5 percent) which is mainly grants to Grant Aided Institutions and Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET) Institutions under the Ministry as well as the Skills Development Fund. Assets have been apportioned K134.7 million (13.1 percent) for infrastructure projects under the Ministry as well as procurement of equipment for TEVET institutions.**

Summary of Selected Programmes

Programme	Budget Expenditure 2022	Budget Expenditure 2023	Budget Estimates 2024
Science Research and Development	134,037,009	134,037,009	197,753,455
Information Communications Technology (ICT) Development	166,372,723	176,814,779	186,466,897
Skills Development	301,727,673	335,770,340	517,351,173
Technology and Innovation	67,969,973	67,969,973	70,659,973

PMRC notes that the funding towards the critical programmes in this sector has been increasing, **particularly under Science Research and Development as well as Skills Development, this is a positive step in enhancing the skills and promoting innovation through R&D.**

Sources of funding

Funding is expected to come from cooperating partners such as IDA/IFAD Loan of 51,846,693 and ADB Loan of 76,848,691.

Support to Institutions

Institutions	Budget Expenditure 2022	Budget Expenditure 2023	Budget Estimates 2024
Centre for Nuclear Science & Technology	6,000,000	6,000,000	5,000,000
National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research	28,500,000	28,500,000	28,500,000
Strategic Research Fund	9,606,043	9,606,044	-
National Science and Technology Council	10,250,000	10,250,000	10,250,000

Science Technology & Innovation Postgraduate Scholarships	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
SASSCAL Counterpart Funding	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Zambia Academy of Sciences	3,200,000	3,200,000	1,500,000
Centers of Excellence	-	-	51,846,693
Modernisation-NISIR	-	-	60,016,043

PMRC notes that K197.8 million has been allocated to the Science Research and Development Programme of which K165.6 million has been budgeted for Transfers to Grant Aided Institutions. **However, there is concern on the lack of increase in institutional funding to advance the mandate of these institutions that play a critical role in research and development. Funding under scholarships for Science and Technology could be increased in order to encourage more people to apply for skills and knowledge enhancement.**

PMRC is pleased to note that modernisation of the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR) will be pursued with K27.0 million being allocated towards Infrastructure Development which includes funds meant for rehabilitation of laboratories at National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR). To compliment the rehabilitation, state of the art equipment will be installed in the laboratories. Further, the Ministry will continue with the construction of two Centre's of excellence at the University of Zambia and Copperbelt University. In addition, the Ministry will sponsor 66 researchers in Masters programmes and 32 researchers in PhD programmes.

These efforts are crucial in supporting the advancement of innovation and development of scientific knowledge which is critical for the development of local solutions to local problems.

PMRC notes that K517.4 million has been allocated under the Skills Development Programme. Of this amount, K3.9 million has been allocated towards Personal Emoluments while K2.9 million will be used to run the operations of the Programme. **Further, Transfers have been allocated K434.5 million of which K256.0 million has been earmarked for the Skills Development Fund. Other transfers under this allocation include grants to TEVET institutions and TEVET Bursaries.** In addition, K76.0 million has been allocated for the acquisition of Assets out of which **K70.0 million has been allocated to the procurement of equipment for TEVET institutions while K6.0 million has been allocated for the rehabilitation works in various TEVET institutions and the rehabilitation of the Ministry's offices.** Further, K250,000 has been set aside for payments towards outstanding bills.

Funding towards Skills Development

Programme	Budget Expenditure 2022	Budget Expenditure 2023	Budget Estimate 2024
Skills Development	301,727,673	335,770,340	517,351,173
Skills Development (CDF)	301,727,673	329,770,340	441,351,173
Infrastructure Development	-	6,000,000	76,000,000

PMRC further notes that infrastructure and modernisation of the skills centres will have a positive impact as this will expose students to new technology relevant to industry needs. Further, increased funding through CDF bursaries has the potential to enhance skills for worker who are already in the industry as well as for individuals who wish to pursue these courses. Furthermore, linking them to CDF loans could enhance job creation and foster entrepreneurship.

The Technology Commercialization Sub-programme has been provided with K48.7 million which includes allocations meant for Grants to Grant Aided Institutions and Funds such as: Radiation Protection Authority, National Technology Business Centre, National Remote Sensing Centre, Technology Development Fund and Science and Technology Innovation Youth Fund.

In addition, the Infrastructure Development Sub-programme has been allocated **K22.0 million meant for the completion of technology and innovation hubs under construction. Further, these funds will also be used for the equipping**

of the Ground Receiving Station in Chibombo to ensure it is operationalised in 2024 which will be used to enhance the country's capabilities in undertaking mining explorations, disaster monitoring, agriculture crop forecasting, forestry monitoring, border monitoring, rainfall monitoring among others in real time.

Implication

- The implication of increased funding to skills training through the provision of bursaries under CDF has led to increased enrolment in TEVET institutions and also led to improved financing for the institutions.
- infrastructure and modernisation of the skills centres will have a positive impact as this will expose students to new technology relevant to industry needs.
- The completion of technology and innovation hubs under construction will advance Science and Technology in Zambia as well as boost innovation
- Funding of technology system interventions will respond to challenges key sectors such as the mining sector to improve data to support mining exploration which requires a huge investment and time. It could also lead to improved productivity in the agricultural sector by providing key data also for early warning systems in view of climate change impacts.

Conclusion

Quality education and the promotion of science, technology and innovation remain critical elements for the success of national development goals as well as improving livelihood opportunities for citizens. Some of the major challenges that have been impacting the sector include poor quality education, inadequate human resource, distance to schools, poor infrastructure, low research and development and limited application of science and technology. Therefore, the efforts undertaken by government through the 2024 budget are commendable and will contribute to growth of various economic sectors such as agriculture, mining and manufacturing which require a well-educated, highly skilled and technological advanced work force to support economic transformation. Therefore, PMRC makes the following recommendations;

Recommendations

- PMRC urges Government through consultations with stakeholders to develop an online learning and media literacy strategy to be rolled out in schools in order to enhance the benefits of digital and media learning platforms.
- Government with the support from cooperating partners is urged to enhance the provision of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme to all schools across the country in order to support the nutritional needs of children.
- Furthermore, government is urged to link youths obtaining skills training under CDF to loans aimed at providing support for innovation and entrepreneurship among youths.
- Government is urged to promote the monitoring of education quality standards to ensure adherence to education standards which are key for ensuring quality.
- PMRC urges government to increase support to the provision of special needs education to ensure the education for all policy meets the needs of every child including those with learning and cognitive disabilities.
- Government with support from the private sector is encouraged to link students pursuing technical skills to industry for intensive internship and apprenticeship programmes to enhance their capacity and understanding of industrial trends. To this effect, government is urged to offer incentives to the private sector for this purpose.
- Further, government is encouraged to enhance grants for innovation as well as undertake a robust programme for nurturing and patenting of Intellectual Property to promote innovation in Zambia.
- Government is urged to increase funding to institutions that support science and technology such as National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research.
- PMRC is uncertain that the Strategic Research Fund will be funded in 2024 as there is no indication as highlighted in the programmes section under technology and science. Therefore, we urge government to secure funding as this could be a strategic fund that supports the advancement of the sector.



**SUBMISSION TO THE
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