CARE AND SUPPORT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING
A SADC INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO LEARNING

Official launch of the Zimbabwe Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) National Model, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework and First Aid Kits

27 June 2019

DELEGATES FROM THE MINISTRY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION, MIET AFRICA AND BLACKFORDBY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Introduction

Zimbabwe’s Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) model was officially launched by Her Excellency, the First Lady Amai Auxillia Mnangagwa, on 27 June 2019. The auspicious occasion took place at Blackfordby Primary School in Harare and was attended by senior government officials including the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Honourable Professor P Mavima, the Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Honourable Edgar Moyo, and a representative from the office of the Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province, Honourable Oliver Chidawu. In addition to senior representatives from all divisions within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE), other dignitaries in attendance included representatives from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the CSTL funding partner, and MIET AFRICA, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) technical assistance partner for CSTL, as well as various partners in education in Zimbabwe.

Participation by teachers, learners and parents from several schools in the district emphasised the purpose of CSTL – to mainstream care and support for teaching and learning so that all children and youth are able to realise their right to education, and ultimately contribute to a prosperous and peaceful Zimbabwe.

SADC Care and Support for Teaching and Learning Programme

CSTL provides a comprehensive framework that guides the SADC Ministries of Education in their responses to the barriers to teaching and learning that threaten the rights of children and youth to quality education. It promotes the mandate and responsibility of the education sector to provide an enabling environment that allows for the provision of a coordinated, comprehensive package of essential services and support that advances the rights of the child.

The goal of the CSTL programme is that children and youth in SADC realise their rights to education, to safety and protection and to care and support, through an expanded and strengthened education sector response. This goal is supported by three strategic objectives which are:

- Systems strengthening
- Improved coordination and integration of services
- Policy harmonization and implementation.

These objectives are present in the three operational levels of CSTL: regional, national and school.

The initiating partners for CSTL are the SADC Secretariat, the SADC Ministries of Education, SDC, the core funding partner, with MIET AFRICA providing regional technical assistance. Other key international and regional partners include United Nations agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS, and regional NGOs such as REPSSI and SAT.
The Zimbabwe CSTL Journey

As an official SADC initiative, all Member States have adopted and participate in CSTL. Based on an incremental approach to support approved by the SADC Ministers of Education in 2008, seven Member States have been targeted to receive committed technical assistance. The countries are South Africa, Zambia, Swaziland, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Zimbabwe was formally inducted into the CSTL programme by the SADC regional family in 2014. At the outset, fifteen laboratory schools from all ten provinces were identified to test the programme within the Zimbabwean context. The focus has been on strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships and aligning and implementing policies and programmes, as prescribed by the officially adopted SADC Policy Framework on CSTL, in order to address national priorities. District Schools’ Inspectors, Heads of Schools, teachers and School Development Committee members have been capacitated on CSTL to better address the care and support needs of learners and teachers.

Through the technical assistance provided by MIET AFRICA, the Ministry of Education collaborated with partners to develop their CSTL National Model. The CSTL National Model provides a guiding framework for the implementation of care and support for teaching and learning within the education system. It customises the SADC CSTL Essential Package to address the specific and prioritised needs of vulnerable children and youth in Zimbabwe.
Official launch of the Zimbabwe CSTL National Model, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework and First Aid Kits

Welcome and briefing of guest of honour and dignitaries

The launch was hosted by Blackfordby Primary School, one of the fifteen laboratory schools that has demonstrated significant progress in the implementation of the CSTL Essential Package of services. This important occasion commenced with a briefing meeting, where the guest of Honour, Her Excellency the First Lady and other invited dignitaries and partners were welcomed and acknowledged. The school Head, Mr Nheya, shared the benefits of CSTL for his school: the introduction of the programme had enabled the school to work collaboratively with parents and community partners to mobilize resources to improve: infrastructure; nutrition and health promotion; water, sanitation and hygiene; safety and protection, including psycho-social support; and material support. This additional support has resulted in improved learner access, retention and achievement.

The First Lady and dignitaries were escorted by the Head and the School Development Committee on a walk-about around the school to witness first-hand the implementation of the CSTL Essential Package.

Official Opening and Welcome

Guests to the launch were officially welcomed by a representative from the office of the Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province, Honourable Oliver Chidawu. The Minister
extended a special welcome to the First Lady, dignitaries and guests and also welcomed the one thousand learners present, emphasising that the launch was about the four million learners in Zimbabwe. He urged them to spread the message about CSTL and also play their part towards its success. The Minister highlighted the importance of partnerships in ensuring sustainable human and economic development. He concluded that MoPSE views the launch as one of the major milestones in the continuing journey of partnerships towards the success of the education sector in delivering quality 21st century education. A caring and supportive school environment, with learners as active participants in shaping their own future, was a desired goal.
Introduction of the Guest of Honour

The Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Honourable Professor P Mavima, introduced the Guest of Honour, Her Excellency, the First Lady, Amai Auxillia Mnangagwa. Commending her for the good work she is doing through her ‘Angel of Hope Foundation’, he expressed his hope that the First Lady’s presence would leave an indelible mark and lay the foundation for a strong advocacy campaign for better teaching and learning environments for all learners. The Minister emphasized that the official launch provided a platform for the partner organizations to come on board and contribute to the worthy cause of ensuring that all learners enjoy equitable access to quality teaching and learning.

Keynote Address by Her Excellency, the Honourable First Lady

The First Lady delivered a powerful keynote address. She emphasized that the launch signified that Zimbabwe had reached a critical milestone in fulfilling the requirements of the SADC Policy Framework on CSTL. She emphasized that the CSTL National Model provides a single reference point for the Ministry, as well as other Ministries and role players responsible for the comprehensive package of essential resources necessary to address barriers to education. It articulates the priority areas recognized as necessary to achieve the education and development goals of the country. She was encouraged to note that the objectives of CSTL were in full harmony with her ‘Angel of Hope Foundation’ through which she was championing the cause of children, women and their health needs of Zimbabwe.

She applauded Blackfordby Primary school for the significant strides it had made towards providing care and support through sustainable projects such as the nutrition gardens and greenhouse and market gardening. Such projects contribute towards augmenting the school coffers and supplementing the school feeding programme.
Following her affirming remarks, the First Lady officially launched the Zimbabwe CSTL National Model, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework and the First Aid Kits (donated by UNICEF) for the benefit of all learners in Zimbabwe. This was received by a jubilant audience of dignitaries and delegates. The First Lady commended the SADC Secretariat, SDC and MIET AFRICA for forging strong partnerships with Ministries of Education and other stakeholders.
Vote of Thanks
The Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Honourable Edgar Moyo, thanked the First Lady, dignitaries and guests. He embraced the First Lady’s support for the Ministry as it set fresh targets to mainstream CSTL and to pit education as an integral part of the sustainable development agenda. He stressed that Zimbabwe has a road map for the integration of the Essential Package of Care and Support services into the education system’s policies, programmes, resourcing, institutional arrangements and partnerships. This was necessary for the realisation of the Education Sector Strategic Plan’s equity goals so as to ensure that all schools are sites of care and support. The Deputy Minister ended this memorable day with the words of Albert Pine, “What we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for others and the world remains and is immortal”.

Acknowledgements
The Deputy Minister acknowledged the following representatives:

- The First Lady
- The Minister of Education
- The Minister of State for the Harare Metropolitan Province
- Ministers and Senior Government officials from Sister Ministries
- Members of Parliament and Local Government
- Representatives of Embassies of SADC Countries
- SADC Secretariat
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Civil Society Organizations and Teacher Unions
- Business Sector
- Permanent Secretaries
- Deputy Directors
- District Education Heads
- District School Inspectors
- National Association of Primary Heads and all School Heads
- National Association of Secondary School Heads and all School Heads
- Teachers and representatives of Teacher Organizations
- Representatives of MIET AFRICA
- Representatives of UNICEF
- School Development Committee members, parents and community members
- The Head and staff of Blackfordby Primary School
- Learners from Blackfordby Primary School and learners from other schools
**Programme**

Programme Director: Ms Kwadzanai R.L. Nyanungo
Chief Director: Learner Welfare, Psychological Services and Special Needs Education

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>09:00 -09:50</td>
<td>Arrival of invited guests</td>
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<td>09:50 -10:00</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Arrival of Guest of Honour</td>
<td>Hon, Minister, Prof P. Mavima</td>
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<td>10:00 -10:30</td>
<td>Briefing and tour of the school</td>
<td>Head, Blackfordby Primary</td>
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<td>10:30 – 10:35</td>
<td>National Anthem</td>
<td>Director of Ceremony</td>
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<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
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<td>10:40 – 10:45</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>10:45 – 10:50</td>
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<td>Welcome Remarks by the Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province</td>
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<td>10:55 – 11:00</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary- Mrs. T. Thabela</td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:10</td>
<td>Remarks and Introduction of the Guest of Honour, by the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education: Hon. Minister, Prof.P. Mavima</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary- Mrs. T. Thabela</td>
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<td>11:10 – 11:40</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address by Guest of Honour, Her Excellency, The First Lady, Amai Auxilia Mnangagwa</strong></td>
<td>Hon. Minister, Prof.P. Mavima</td>
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<td>Official Launch of Zimbabwe National Model, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework and First Aid kits</td>
<td>Director of Ceremonies</td>
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<td>11:45- 11:50</td>
<td>Presentation of gift to Guest of Honour</td>
<td>Hon Min, Prof. P Mavima</td>
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<td>Vote of thanks by Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education – Hon E. Moyo</td>
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<td>Closing Prayer</td>
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<td>Entertainment and Departure of Guest of Honour</td>
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<td>12:00 – 1300</td>
<td>Entertainment, Lunch and Departure</td>
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