


DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SÃO TOMÉ-AND-PRÍNCIPE

(Unity – Discipline - Work)

Minister's Cabinet

GPE Conference – Brussels – Belgium – June 25-26, 2014

São Tomé and Príncipe is a small archipelago in Western Africa's Gulf of Guinea, a former Portuguese colony independent since 1975.

After 39 years of independence, basic education access indicators are encouraging thanks to government investment in human capital and development partner support.

Since Dakar 2000, the country has taken on the EFA challenge of education access for all, which is part of the Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction.

Consequently, thanks to World Bank and UN system support, and bilateral cooperation, we have started to reform our education system through its institutions, curricula, school network, and teacher training, while aligning with strategic education and poverty reduction policy papers.

Since 2005, São Tomé and Príncipe has benefitted from the World Bank PASS project funding (education and health); from 2008 the Fast Track, and currently the GPE and the World Bank, have allocated two million dollars to ensure quality and efficiency in the education system. Today over 90% of children indeed benefit from basic education – Grade 1 to Grade 6 -; gender parity is a visible reality and the literacy rate is around 12%. However, weaknesses remain in the Saotomean education system in terms of inclusiveness, pre-school education and public school quality and efficiency improvement.

Recognizing on the one hand the remaining challenges which lie ahead in the education sector as a driver of sustainable development, and on the other hand, that nothing can be done without large synergy mobilization, political will, international solidarity and financial resources, the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe congratulates the GPE initiative for greater financial resources mobilization for education in Africa so thousands of boys and girls can access basic education and a better future. Africa's salvation tomorrow depends on firm decisions we make today.

São Tomé and Príncipe join GPE's advocacy and the international solidarity movement for global education.

São Tomé, June 18th, 2014

The Minister

Jorge Lopes Bom Jesus