



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

2025 National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy





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MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

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Foreword

The application of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is globally recognised as a catalyst for economic growth. STI is cardinal for our country's competitiveness, industrialisation, growth and wealth creation in order to improve the quality of life. As Zambia aspires to become a 'Prosperous Middle Income Nation by 2030', there is need to place premium on applied science in all sectors of the economy to open opportunities for growth.

The rate at which new and emerging technologies are developed is pervasive and dynamic. Zambia cannot afford to be left behind in the science race and has therefore put in place measures to reshape its STI sector. It is envisaged that this will increase the country's participation in global and regional STI endeavors.

The 2024 National STI Policy will leverage on Zambia's strategic position as a land linked nation to enhance its research and development, and technology transfer and innovation for economic transformation. In cognisant of the forgoing, it is imperative that an enabling environment is created to stimulate STI.

The Policy places research and development, innovation promotion, and transfer and adoption of technology as key pillars for development. It builds on the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of 2020 in areas of technology diffusion and commercialisation, indigenous knowledge systems, human capital development, and infrastructure development and equipment. It also provides for the adoption of space science technology, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. The implementation of the Policy will be supported by enhanced financing to STI, and coordinated legal and institutional frameworks.

I am cognisant of the role of our local and international scientists and researchers, academia, industry, cooperating partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, in supporting STI growth in Zambia. I urge you to continue with this participation as the successful implementation of this Policy will call for a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach.

Felix C. Mutati, MP
Minister of Technology and Science



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This 2025 National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy is a product of wide consultations of key stakeholders at both national and provincial levels. I, therefore, wish to pay special tribute to all the stakeholders, organisations, institutions and individuals that in one way or another made valuable input into the development of this document. I wish to pay special recognition to United Nations Development Programme for the financial support rendered towards the revision of the 2020 Policy. I also wish to thank my team at the Ministry of Technology and Science for their dedication and commitment during the development of this Policy. This Policy will create an enabling environment for all stakeholders in the STI sector to contribute to the attainment of the national vision and therefore improving the wellbeing of Zambians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Habenzu', enclosed within a circular outline.

Dr. Brilliant Habenzu
Permanent Secretary
MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

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WORKING DEFINITIONS

Applied Research	Original investigation undertaken to acquire new knowledge in view of applying it to a specific practical situation.
Basic Research	Experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts.
Folklore	A body of expressive culture, including tales, myths, legends, proverbs, oral narrations, praise songs and symbolic expressions found in various urban and rural communities
Indigenous Knowledge (IK)	The sum total of the knowledge and skills which people in a particular geographical area possess.
Indigenous medicine	The use of indigenous genetic resources such as roots, stems, leaves, grass, soil, stones, ants, animals and flowers to cure and prevent certain ailments.
Innovation	A new idea in the form of a new product or service, or an improvement in Organisation or process introduced into the marketplace.
Intellectual property	Means creations of the human mind such as copyright and industrial property.
Intellectual Property Rights	The rights to use and sell (or otherwise dispose of) intellectual property.
New and Emerging Technologies	A general term denoting various cutting-edge developments in the emergence and convergence of technologies that in effect bring up new scientific territory in some significant way, such as modern biotechnology, nanotechnology, laser, artificial intelligence, robotics, bioinformatics and mechatronics.
Quality Assurance	Planned and systematic processes that provide confidence in a product and/or service suitability for its intended purpose.
Research and Development (R&D)	Creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge for new applications
Science and Technology (S&T)	Useful knowledge about laws of nature and the physical world generated through observation, experimentation, measurements or deduction that is aimed at the satisfaction of societal needs that affect all areas of the economic activities.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Systematic study of the physical or material world (natural science) and of society (social science) that generates, or creates knowledge from which data and information is drawn for societal needs that affect all areas of the economic activities.

Spin-Off Company

A company established out of commercialisation of developed technologies.

Technology Transfer

Means the moving of technology from a licensor to a licensee.

ACRONYM

8NDP	Eighth National Development Plan
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CEEC	Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission
CIDIRZ	Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia
CVRI	Central Veterinary Research Institute
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERD	Gross Expenditure on Research and Development
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
HELSB	Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge System
IP	Intellectual Property
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISO	International Standards Organisation
JETS	Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientists
MFEZ	Multi-Facility Economic Zones
NBA	National Biosafety Authority
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NHRA	National Health Research Authority
NISIR	National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research
NRF	National Research Fund
NRSC	National Remote Sensing Centre
NSTC	National Science and Technology Council
NTBC	National Technology Business Centre
R&D	Research & Development
R&I	Research & Innovation
RPA	Radiation Protection Authority
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
SCPS	Sub Committee of Permanent Secretaries
SDF	Skills Development Fund
SRF	Strategic Research Fund
SCCI	Seed Control and Certification Institute
STPGSP	Science and Technology Postgraduate Scholarship Programme
STEM	Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
STIYF	Science and Technology Innovators Youth Fund
TDF	Technology Business Development Fund
TDAU	Technology Development Advisory Unit
TDRC	Tropical Diseases Research Centre

TEVET	Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training
TTO	Technology Transfer Offices
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ZARI	Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority

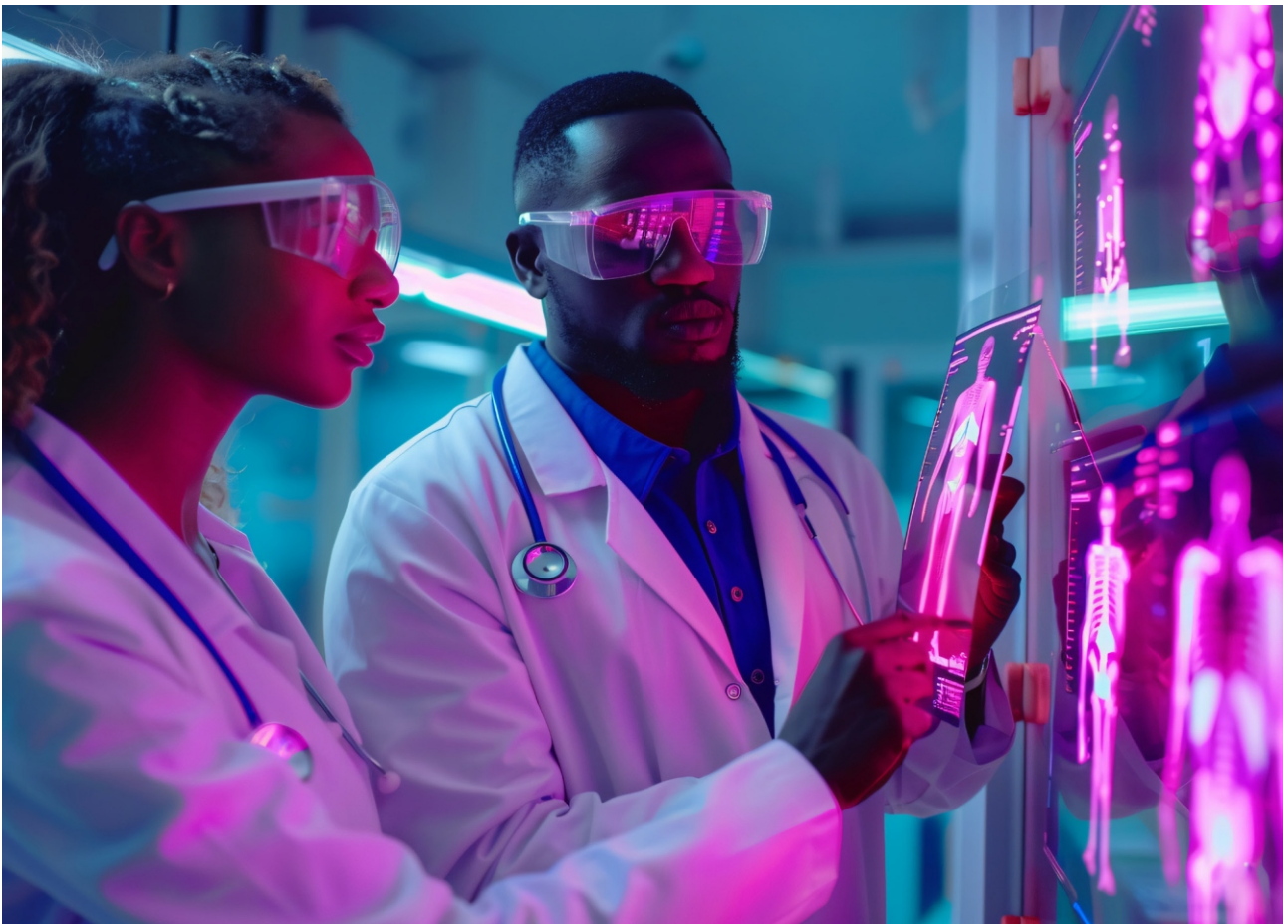
I.0. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Zambia recognises the role that STI plays in accelerating socio-economic development. In line with the aspirations of the Vision 2030 of becoming 'a prosperous middle-income nation', the Government places STI as a key driver for sustainable socio-economic development.

Zambia developed its first explicit policy on science and technology in 1996 whose main focus was to promote and exploit science and technology as an instrument for developing an environmentally friendly indigenous technological capacity. This Policy was revised in 2020 to strengthen the existing legal, governance and institutional framework in order to enhance coordination. Among the notable achievements of the 2020 National STI Policy was the creation of the Academy of Sciences which is an independent advisory body to Government on STI. In addition, the Policy resulted in the establishment of the first national ground receiving station to support the space science programme in the country.

Despite the various opportunities associated with emerging technologies, the 2020 Policy did not include measures aimed at exploiting emerging technologies. This necessitated the revision of the 2020 Policy and consequently the development of the 2024 National STI Policy.

The 2024 Policy provides for strategic interventions to promote applied research and development (R&D); technology development, transfer, diffusion and commercialization; human resource development; strengthening STI ecosystem; industry linkages and human resource development, and promotion of intellectual property rights. The Policy is outlined to include the introduction; situation analysis; vision and rationale; guiding principles; objectives and measures as well as implementation framework.



2.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

It is globally recognised that STI is an important enabler to speeding up the development process by providing leap-frog improvements in human endeavors and productive systems. STI contribution to the Global Domestic Product (GDP) is critical to attaining competitiveness and growth. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) statistics bureau, Global spending on R&D has reached almost US\$ 1.7 trillion in 2022 but only 10 countries account for 80% of this spending. Further, the World Bank statistics show that high income countries invest around 2.9 percent of their GDP in R&D whereas Sub-Saharan Africa spends about 0.33 percent of its GDP on R&D.

Recently, the world has witnessed an increase in technological development emanating from advanced scientific R&D in areas such as artificial intelligence, genetic technology, telemedicine. This has necessitated the need to intensify the development and application of STI to spur socio-economic development and industrialization.

Zambia's GDP in 2022 was estimated at US\$29.78 billion. The country's economic structure has continued to largely rely on export of primary products, primarily, ores and metal which account for 71 percent of total exports, and is a net importer of technologies. According to the World Bank, the share of GDP for industry, agriculture and service in 2022 was estimated at 33.8 percent, 3.4 percent and 58 percent respectively. The manufacturing sector on the other hand accounted for about 8.1 percent of GDP. In addition, the country has recorded declining GDP per growth from US\$1,840 in 2013 to US\$1,487 in 2022.

The 2020 Labour Force Survey shows that while agriculture, forestry and fishing, and wholesale and retail trade account for 22.48 percent and 26.13 percent employment share respectively, manufacturing and professional, and scientific and technical services account for 8.44 percent and 0.95 percent of employment share. The Survey also shows that agriculture and wholesale trade, which account for 48.6 percent of the employment share only account for 3.4 percent and 18.9 percent respectively of the economy's GDP. It is worth noting that agriculture and wholesale trade also account for large share of informal employment.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Employment Share Persons by Industry

INDUSTRY	2017	2020
Agriculture forestry and fishing employment share	22	22.48
Wholesale and retail trade employment share	27	26.13
Manufacturing employment	8	8.44
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.86	0.95
Global Competitiveness Index	118	120

Source: Zamstats - Labour Force Survey

With this economic structure, it shows that the country is heavily dependent on imports and finished products and that STI contribution to the economy is still considerably low. This is also evident from the country's ranking of 120th out of 140 countries in 2019 down from 118th in 2018 on innovation capabilities on the Global Competitiveness Index. Further, factors such as high cost of capital have been identified as prohibitive to the growth of innovative firms and industry which in turn affects the growth of industry.

The 2020 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) review of the STI system in Zambia attributed the country's relatively slow economic transformation to the low financing and application of STI for socio-economic development. Expenditure on science has remained low at around 0.28 percent of GDP.

The generally low resource allocation to STI has significantly reduced the contribution of STI to industry and the rest of the economy.

The situation analysis of STI in Zambia addresses the following thematic areas: scientific research and development; commercialisation, Transfer and Diffusion; indigenous knowledge; human capital development; infrastructure development; popularisation of STI; financing and resource mobilization as well as Policy, legal and institutional framework. It also highlights the key achievements and challenges in the sector.

2.1 Scientific Research and Development

Research and development in Zambia has been taking place and the country has seen an increase in research outputs. In agriculture, there have been developments of new plant and seed varieties in maize, beans, cassava, wheat, sorghum, millet, groundnuts, sweet potatoes and rice. Additionally, research has been conducted in improving yields for rice, cassava, wheat, legumes and vegetables. Other agriculture research has been in livestock vaccines, animal breeding and farm power equipment.

In the health sector, there has been research in human health vaccines and medicines, public health surveillance, communicable and non-communicable diseases and zoonosis. There has been, also, numerous research in food, food safety and nutrition. In order to sustain the environment, research has been conducted in the areas of mining, water management, climate change and energy.

At the international level, Zambian scientists have been participating in R&D. This is evidenced by the number of co-authored scientific articles that have been published. Data from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) shows that for every 100,000 people, Zambia generates 1.3 articles.

However, despite the identified progress, the contribution of scientific R&D to national development has remained low. Some of the factors affecting research in Zambia are low resource allocation, absence of a critical mass of STI personnel, obsolete equipment and dilapidated infrastructure and low research culture. Other factors include institutional low ranking, lack of international accreditation and an unresponsive STI curricula in learning institutions. This has been exacerbated by the absence of a national research agenda which should consider Zambia's competitive and comparative advantage.

In addition, there is a poor rewarding system for scientific R&D personnel conducting research appropriately. Further, despite having several universities providing STI related programmes, the scientific R&D conducted is more of basic than applied. Furthermore, the research activities conducted by students is not linked to national development needs.

2.2 Technology Transfer, Diffusion and Commercialization

Technology transfer and diffusion has been taking place in Zambia. This has significantly contributed to the industrial development that has occurred in the country.

In the mining sector, mineral exploration and extraction is being done using new technologies such as unmanned electric tipper trucks. The agriculture sector has also been modernized by using drone technology for fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide application. Similarly, the health sector has been utilising telemedicine for efficient health care service delivery.

Government has established special economic zones which are subject to unique economic regulations and includes multi facility economic zones, industrial parks, technology and innovation parks and industrial yards, among others. The Zones have investment to promote manufacturing, technological development, skills transfer, job and wealth creation. Industries targeted in the zones include R&D institutions, high technology industries and agriculture and agro-processing industries.

Further, the country has witnessed the establishment of innovation hubs emerging especially in the digital sector and fabrication laboratories (fablabs) which are slowly beginning to contribute to advancements in innovation and technology growth. Among the higher education institutions (HEI), the University of Zambia operates the Technology Development Unit while the Copperbelt University has established a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) to promote commercialisation, technology transfer and diffusion.

Zambia, compared to most countries, has lagged behind in terms of commercialisation of outputs from R&D with a technological index of 2.6. By international standards, Zambia, which aspires to become a middle income country, should strive to achieve a technological index of 4.6, which is a benchmark for middle income countries. One of the major contributing factors of the low index is insufficient funding for technology transfer and commercialisation of R&D outputs and Innovations. It is worth noting that there are several other challenges associated with technology transfer and diffusion. Some of the major challenges include the absence of a coordination framework for technology transfer and diffusion and commercialisation. Other critical factors to technology transfer and diffusion are weak industrial and manufacturing base, low levels of skills, weak framework for research in emerging technologies and the global rules governing control and ownership of new and emerging technologies which affect the process and the cost of technology transfer. According to the 2022 Economic Report, the manufacturing sector accounts for about 8.1 percent of the GDP. The weak industrial base has a negative impact on technology transfer and absorption. The UNCTAD report indicates that while the business community is a driver of innovations, private sector ownership of firms does not translate into technology transfer and diffusion industry.

Despite the increase in the number of HEIs, there has not been commensurate output of products on the market from these institutions. In addition, universities, other than being academic and research centres, have not cultivated entrepreneurial development and lack the development of spin-off and start-up companies. Some contributing factors include low absorptive capacities for technology transfer; absence of reverse engineering projects; lack of creativity and aesthetics training; absence of guidelines linking STI student projects to the national research and commercialisation agenda; low capacity for diffusion of technology; non-availability of venture capital to help in sustaining projects up to the market, and inadequate number of innovation hubs such as technology incubators, accelerators and science parks.

In addition, informal sector players such as metal fabricators have been left without any backstopping measures to sensitise them on emerging issues. Further, there are no common user facilities to support technology transfer and diffusion in the informal sector. Furthermore, while technologies such as space science have come on the scene, the country has had limited benefit from these technologies.

2.3 Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) is the sum of the knowledge, innovations, practices, beliefs and skills which are embedded in the cultural traditions of the natives of a particular geographic region for socio-economic benefit. This knowledge includes such indigenous technologies as those relating to tools and techniques for hunting or agriculture; midwifery; preservation of natural resources in view of climate change issues; traditional medicine; craft skills; the general study of native plants for their practical uses. In many cases, indigenous knowledge (IK) is passed down through generations within indigenous communities in form of Oral and written knowledge. Thus, IKS plays a critical role in STI by providing unique perspectives, insights, and solutions to various societal challenges by integrating it with scientific data to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities.

Zambia has recognised the need to harness and exploit its IKS and incorporate it into the conventional STI sector in areas such as pharmaceutical industry through the utilisation of IK on traditional medicines for treatment of certain diseases and conditions. In addition, in the agriculture sector, IK based practices such as rotational grazing, community-based fisheries management, and forest stewardship reflect a holistic understanding of ecosystems and promote long-term resource sustainability.

Given the country's wealth in IK and its endowment with natural resources, efforts have been made to promote IKS in Zambia. Funding has been provided towards IKS based projects through initiatives such as the SRF to also enhance collection of data on various IK practices. Further, the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore Act No. 16 of 2016 was enacted to provide for equitable sharing of benefits arising from indigenous knowledge, use of genetic resources and folklore. Furthermore, the cultural and IP policies have recognised and incorporated IK as an important aspect to socio-economic development.

However, despite the notable strides made in investment, promotion and utilisation of IKS, there has still been inadequate public awareness of its great potential and importance. This inadequate awareness has resulted in low utilisation of and reduced reliability on IKS in Zambia. This is further significantly aggravated by the lack of deliberate mechanisms to authenticate and validate the outputs generated from IKS sources through scientific R&D, thereby negatively affecting the linkages and incorporation of IKS into conventional STI. There is equally no practical adoption of IK and its inclusion into school curricula for its eventual application to contribute to the development of industry. Further, evidence shows a lack of coordinating mechanisms for the IKS, legal and institutional frameworks and inadequate finance.

It has also been observed that there are evident gaps in the availability of basic incentives to stimulate participation from the communities. The lack of incentives results in IKS remaining basic and with minimal value addition and commercialisation. In the same vein, there is no mechanism to support R&D; awareness; transfer and commercialisation, supporting nation-wide surveys and documentation of IKS.

2.4 Artificial Intelligence

Like many other countries, Zambia has in recent years witnessed an increase in Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption across various sectors. Its applications can be found in daily life, from virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa to recommendation systems used by online platforms. Industries such as healthcare, finance, transportation, and manufacturing benefit from AI's data analysis, process optimisation, and decision support. Zambia has actively supported the Conceptual Framework of the Continental Strategy on Artificial Intelligence which addresses various dimensions of AI, including technological, ethical, economic, security, and social aspects. By endorsing the Continental Strategy, the country aims to collectively address known and emerging challenges related to AI.

Zambia's journey with AI reflects both progress and the need for responsible development. As technology advances, there is growing awareness of its potential impact on agriculture, healthcare, education, and smart cities for economic growth, governance, and social development. AI's impact on various sectors will continue to shape the nation's future. While AI holds immense potential, its implementation is challenged by limited infrastructure, inadequate access to quality education, and data privacy concerns. The implementation of AI also brings a number of challenges which include ethical issues, trust and accountability, privacy and job displacement concerns arising from the potential replacing of human jobs and AI moral agency. In addition, AI models require significant resources, including energy.

2.5 Space Science and Technology

In Zambia, the landscape of space science and technology has been gradually evolving, with notable progress in recent years. Efforts to introduce space science date back to the 1990s. In 1994, Zambia launched its first satellite, ZASAT-I, into space. This small satellite was a significant milestone, demonstrating Zambia's commitment to space exploration. ZASAT-I was primarily used for earth observation, collecting data on weather patterns, agriculture, and natural resources.

In order to promote space science, the University of Zambia introduced Astronomy courses aimed at fostering interest among students. Further, the Astronomical Society of Zambia was established to encourage research, stargazing, and educational outreach in space science. Zambia is also party to several international agreements

related to space activities. In addition, the country aligned its efforts with the African Union's Agenda 2063, recognising the importance of space technology for sustainable development and thus adopted institutional and policy frameworks which align with continental efforts and implement international agreements.

However, like many Sub-Saharan African countries, Zambia faces challenges with Space Science. The challenges include limited support for Zambian space initiatives and a centralised education system curriculum which makes the introduction of new fields like space science complex. Further, Zambian has inadequate scientists with specialised expertise in space science and technology. Furthermore, there is limited capital investment and a weak industrial sector to support the growth of space science.

2.6 Human Capital Development

Human capital is critical for attaining the set national goals and effectively contribute to national development. The requisite human capital skills must be in the right mix and numbers for effective contribution to economic growth. In the STI sector, scientists, researchers, inventors, technicians, and artisans constitute the requisite human capital to undertake scientific R&D. UNESCO data shows that the global minimum requirement for researchers is 1,000 researchers in R&D per 1,000,000 inhabitants for prosperous middle-income nations necessary to stir growth.

To attain a critical mass of STI personnel, the country has implemented interventions to increase access to education in the field of STI. The country for instance has recorded an increase in the number of universities offering STI related courses which have increased enrolments for students in STI. Further, Government has also been providing loans and scholarships for science and technology students through interventions such as the postgraduate scholarship programme (STPSP), the TEVET bursaries scheme and the Higher Education Loans Scholarship Board (HELSB) to support students in science related programmes. This is in addition to the scholarships and bursary facilities offered through bilateral cooperation with various cooperating partners. With regards to curriculum development, some universities have developed the fit-for-purpose curricular such as the Nuclear Science and Technology Programme by the University of Zambia.

Despite these efforts, Zambia still lags in terms of scientists and researchers per capita per population. The preliminary results from the 2024 National R&D survey also shows that the number of researchers per million inhabitants in Zambia is still low at 52. Therefore, given the low number of researchers in the country, it becomes difficult for Zambia to attain the desired growth.

Factors contributing to the low numbers of STI personnel include; absence of appropriate curriculum and the poor alignment of the curriculum to industry needs; inadequate faculties in the universities to nurture graduates with specialised and relevant STI skills; the absence of a national strategy to develop STI human capital in line with key national priority areas of intervention; uncompetitive remuneration and other incentives; inadequate staff development programmes and absence of mechanisms to utilize STI experts in the diaspora.

Further, even with the few scientists and researchers in the country, the sector is unable to absorb them into the labour force due to the weak STI industrial base, unfavourable environment and a low innovation culture for undertaking research and expression of science. This has been further compounded by a poor apprenticeship strategy for the STI sector which partly emanates from the limited number of STI based industries in the economy.

2.7 Infrastructure Development

Global experience suggests that infrastructure development provides an important lever through which effective operationalisation and utilisation of STI can affect advancement of technology and innovation in a country. To enhance scientific R&D, the Government established various facilities to support the development and commercialisation of different STI products and services. These facilities include laboratories at the National

Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR), the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI), the Central Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI), the Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC), Cotton Trust, Golden Valley Agriculture Research Trust (GART), Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) and Malaria Research Centre among others. In addition, HEIs have laboratory facilities used by lecturers, undergraduate and postgraduate students to conduct research. Similarly, some TEVET institutions have laboratory facilities also used by lecturers, students at technologist and technician levels studying STI related programmes. In addition, some TEVET institutions also house some incubation centers for nurturing technologies and innovations as they prepare for market readiness. Further, some HEIs have facilities for the development of technologies and innovations such as Technology Development Advisory Unit (TDAU) under the University of Zambia.

The private sector players such as Macha Research Centre, Center for infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDIRZ) and Alfred H Knight have also actively contributed to providing infrastructure investment in R&D. Further, industry players among them, Zambian Breweries, Trade Kings Group of Companies, food factories, seed companies and pharmaceutical companies have also invested in product development facilities in addition to the creation of innovation hubs to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. In the ICT sector, the private sector has invested in modern infrastructure that has led to the development of various ICT technologies and innovations.

Despite the efforts, the number of existing infrastructure is inadequate to facilitate the undertaking of a high proportion of scientific R&D. In addition, the state of most of the existing infrastructure is either of sub-standard or highly dilapidated with obsolete equipment. Further, there is a lack of requisite equipment to undertake specialised and cutting-edge R&D activities. Notwithstanding the contribution of the private sector, there is lack of infrastructure sharing among private sector, government and academia to promote STI. This has resulted in compromised R&D results and led to laboratories being underutilised. The product and services from these laboratories are perceived to be inferior and of low quality because they are not accredited.

2.8 Popularization of Science, Technology and Innovation

The application of STI is vital for socio-economic development as it cuts across all development sectors. However, for STI to create an impact on society for national development, there is a need for the general public to appreciate its application through popularization and awareness.

To popularize STI, Government has created platforms such as the Zambia Annual Science Conference. The Conference culminates into a researcher's symposium that attracts both local and international researchers and scientists that exhibit key STI issues. In order to enhance popularization of STI among pupils, Government has commenced the establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoE) for teaching Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in selected rural schools around the country. This is in addition to the reintroduction of STEM schools and revision of the school curricula through the Ministry of Education. In addition, Government has further equipped schools with scientific equipment and computer laboratories to popularize STI.

Other key activities aimed at the popularization of STI include STEM awareness in primary and secondary schools through activities such as the Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS), quarterly STI forums, exhibitions, mentorship programs and education tours. In addition, activities such as match pasts and exhibitions are undertaken in commemoration of World Science Week and other United Nations STI designated Days that are annually celebrated worldwide. Sector-based efforts to popularize STI are also undertaken such as the Aggrotech Expositions held on an annual basis at the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) and various STI exhibitions at the National Agriculture and Commercial Shows, the National Trade Fair in Ndola and Provincial Expositions. This has helped to popularize technologies and innovations in the STI sector.

However, despite these developments, the appreciation of STI among the general public remains very low. Some of the contributing factors to the low appreciation of STI include the lack of a national STI communication strategy, low dissemination of the research outputs coming out of the local STI research entities, the poor STI culture which has mainly been as a result of inappropriate educational curricula, the quality of teaching staff involved in STI subjects which has resulted in poor delivery of STEM subjects to learners, poor remuneration and incentives for staff in STI compared to their colleagues in other professions. This has contributed to the increased attrition rate and consequently resulted in an inadequate pool of scientists in the sector.

Further, funding for the popularization of STI has been very low in the country. This has caused a ripple effect on other aspects of STI popularization such as infrastructure and equipment as most of the available infrastructure in most government-owned institutions is in a deplorable state and outdated. Additionally, the sector's impact has been affected by insufficient public awareness, lack of dissemination of STI information in local languages and, inadequate dissemination and publication of R&D results. Further, the sector has been hampered by poor STI statistical systems which has affected data-based decision making.

2.9 Science Technology and Innovation Sector Financing

Investment to support STI is essential for scientific research, innovation, infrastructure development, human resource development and retention, commercialisation, technology transfer, diffusion, collaboration and science communication and advocacy. In this regard, Zambia has established funds such as the Technology Business Development Fund (TBDF), the Science and Technology Innovation Youth Fund (STIYF), the Strategic Research Fund (SRF) and funds under Zambia Information Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) to support several initiatives in STI. In addition to the mentioned funds, Government has put in place scholarship programs for students in STI related fields. Further, the Skills Development Fund (SDF) has been aligned to support STEM programmes under the TEVET institutions. Cooperating and development partners have also been supporting Zambia in STI programmes and projects through technical cooperation.

Despite the existence of the above mentioned initiatives, evidence shows that the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in Zambia is around 0.28 percent of the GDP. This is below the Southern African Development Community (SADC) recommendation of 1% of GDP on R&D expenditure.

As a result, a number of strategic STI programmes have either stalled or been abandoned hampering the undertaking of the much needed R&D. There is limited value addition on primary commodities, low levels of employment for professionals, scientific and technical services are at about 0.95 percent employment share and low innovation where Zambia is ranked 120th out of 140 countries. Private sector participation in financing STI is very low due to the absence of a collaborative framework to aid private sector participation.

2.10 Legal and Institutional Framework

2.10.1 Legal Framework

The Government has enacted a number of pieces of legislation to provide an enabling environment for the research and STI fields within the sector. These include the Science and Technology Act No. 26 of 1997 which established the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007 which established the National Biosafety Authority (NBA), the National Health Research Act No. 2 of 2013 which led to the establishment of the National Health Research Authority (NHRA), the Intellectual Property Rights Policy of 2009 and, the Patents Act No. 40 of 2016, and the Ionising Radiation Protection Act No. 16 of 2005 that established the Radiation Protection Authority (RPA), and the Higher Education Amendment Act No. 23 of 2021.

Despite the existence of these pieces of legislation, the legal framework in the STI sector does not fully support effective coordination and implementation of STI programmes. In addition, the S&T Act does not adequately provide for the coordination and regulation of STI in the country. This has not only resulted in fragmentation in

the undertaking of STI but also brought about duplication in the conduct of activities. Further, the regulation of STI programmes in the various sectors is inconsistent.

2.10.2 Institutional Arrangements

The STI programmes are implemented under various line ministries and these include ministries responsible for agriculture, fisheries, livestock, mines, minerals, health, education, tourism, arts, lands, environment, natural resources, energy, water, sanitation, commerce, trade and industry. However, at national level, the ministry responsible for technology and science is mandated with the overall coordination of national STI programmes. The current institutional arrangement does not adequately support the linkages and coordination of STI in the country.



3.0 VISION, RATIONALE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 Vision

“A nation in which science technology and innovation are a driving force for competitiveness, wealth-creation and sustainable national development by 2030”

3.2 Rationale

The revision of the 2020 Policy has been mainly necessitated by the need to focus on new and emerging technologies in line with the country's National Development plans. These emerging technologies have presented opportunities that enable advancements in economic and human development. The revision of the 2020 Policy also provides an opportunity to make it more transformative and innovative in its approach so that the outcomes will be improved and achieved.

The revision is therefore, necessary to cater for the issues that were not adequately considered in the 2020 Policy such as the space science and technology, and other emerging issues and also provide for a responsive legal and regulatory framework. The Policy also takes cognisance of the interventions for the 2020 Policy which are being implemented and still remain valid.

The revision of the Policy will ensure that it reflects the current trends in STI and the changing needs of the economy and promote the development of new technologies and innovations, as well as the adoption of existing technologies and innovations.



4.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the STI Policy will be guided by the Zambian constitution and shall be implemented in accordance with Zambian cultural, moral and religious values under the following guiding principles:

4.1 Participation

In the implementation of the Policy, the Government will provide a conducive environment for the participation of local communities and private sector stakeholders to promote science, technology and innovation.

4.2 Transparency and accountability

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy shall be implemented in an open and accountable manner with the engagement and participation of all relevant stakeholders including state, private sector and non-state actors.

4.3 Equality and non-discrimination

The Policy will promote objectivity and shall not be influenced by any discriminatory bias, be it on grounds of age, race, colour, gender, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, citizenship or domicile, birth, education, social, economic or other status in participation in science, technology and innovation.

4.4 Partnerships

In the implementation of the Policy, the Government will promote partnerships with local and international stakeholders.

4.5 Sustainability

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy shall be implemented in a manner that will preserve the wellbeing of the present and the future generations.

4.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

The Policy will promote efficient and effective use of resources to ensure sustainable and competitive use of the country's factor endowments.



5.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

This Policy shall be guided by the following objectives:

1. To strengthen Scientific R&D capacity;
2. To strengthen Transfer, Commercialisation and Diffusion of Technology and Innovation;
3. To exploit Indigenous Knowledge for National Development;
4. To strengthen the human resource capacity in STI;
5. To strengthen STI infrastructure;
6. To enhance the popularization of STI;
7. To enhance the Integration and Implementation of Artificial Intelligence;
8. To enhance the Integration and Implementation of Space Science;
9. To improve investment and funding in STI; and
10. To strengthen the policy, legal and institutional framework of the STI Ecosystem.

5.1 Objective 1: To strengthen R&D capacity

To ensure quality R&D, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Promote research and development;
- b) Enhance local and international linkages in STI;
- c) Strengthen scientific research ethics in STI; and
- d) Promote inclusivity in STI.

5.2 Objective 2: To strengthen Transfer, Commercialisation and Diffusion of Technology and Innovation

To strengthen transfer, commercialisation and diffusion of technologies and innovations, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a. Promote the development, transfer and diffusion of technology and innovation;
- b. Promote the commercialisation of technology and innovation; and
- c. Promote the development of enterprises using outputs of science, technology and innovation activities.

5.3 Objective 3: To exploit Indigenous Knowledge for National Development

To fully exploit IK, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Promote the protection, conservation and preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems;
- b) Promote research in IKS;
- c) Promote the commercialisation of indigenous products and services;
- d) Promote the teaching and Learning of IKS; and
- e) Promote local and international collaborations in Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

5.4 Objective 4: To enhance the Integration and Implementation of Artificial Intelligence

To enhance the Integration and Implementation of Artificial Intelligence, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Promote the ethical use and application of Artificial Intelligence;
- b) Promote capacity development for AI;
- c) Promote Research and development in AI; and
- d) Promote local and international collaborations in the development of Artificial Intelligence.

5.5 Objective 5: To enhance the Implementation of Space Science Technology

To enhance the Implementation of Space Science Technology, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Strengthen the application and utilisation of space science technology;
- b) Promote Research and development in space science and technology;
- c) Promote capacity development for space science and technology;
- d) Promote access to information; and
- e) Promote local and international collaborations in the development of space technology.

5.6 Objective 6: To Strengthen the human resource capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation

To ensure availability of a critical mass of human resource in the sector, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures

- a) Build and sustain of human resource capacities and capabilities;
- b) Strengthen the teaching and learning of STEM at all levels in the education system; and
- c) Facilitate the utilisation of local and international STI experts in the diaspora.

5.7 Objective 7: To strengthen STI infrastructure

To ensure availability of adequate infrastructure in the sector, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures

- a) Develop and upgrade infrastructure for the undertaking science, technology and innovation;
- b) Enhance collaborative linkages in STI infrastructure development; and
- c) Ensure quality assurance in STI infrastructure development.

5.8 Objective 8: To enhance the popularization of science, technology and innovation

To enhance popularization of STI, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Promote public awareness of science, technology and innovation;
- b) Promote the publication of scientific and technological products; and
- c) Strengthen support systems for STI popularization.

5.9 Objective 9: To improve investment and funding to STI

To ensure adequate resources in STI, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Enhance funding for R&D;
- b) Enhance resource mobilisation for STI; and
- c) Increase investment in STI.

5.10 Objective 10: To strengthen policy, legal, institutional and operational framework of the science, technology and innovation Ecosystem

To enhance effective and efficient coordination of the STI system, the following measures shall be put in place:

Measures:

- a) Strengthen the existing legal, governance and institutional frameworks;
- b) Strengthen the coordination and implementation mechanisms of the STI Policy;
- c) Enhance monitoring, evaluation and review of the STI Policy; and
- d) Enhance linkages for STI at local and international levels.



6.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

6.1 Institutional Arrangement

Science, technology, and innovation is important for national development and cuts across all sectors of the economy. The successful implementation of this Policy requires institutional re-arrangement in order to enhance effectiveness. The institutional adjustment shall be undertaken through the repeal of the Science and Technology Act No. 26 of 1997.

The institutional arrangement to facilitate implementation of this Policy will be at four (4) levels. The first level is Cabinet Office to provide overall Policy direction on STI. The second level will include all line ministries that have significant scientific R&D activities in their portfolio led by the Ministry responsible for STI. The third level will constitute Government agencies that will be carrying out specialised technical functions while the fourth level is that of the actual implementation of activities and this level will constitute the research institutions, universities, and R&D support centres.

The effective implementation of the National STI Policy will be achieved through collaborative efforts by all stakeholders across sectors and ministerial portfolios as outlined below.

6.2 Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office shall be the decision making body for guiding policy direction on STI in the country. There shall be established a Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries (SCPS) under the office of the Secretary to the Cabinet to promote the active participation of the general public in STI.

6.3 Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries

The Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries shall be the principle decision making body, overseeing STI in the country. The composition of the Steering Committee will include Permanent Secretaries from the ministries responsible for finance, development planning, health, energy, agriculture, livestock, local government, education, infrastructure, environment, natural resources, communications, commerce as well as mines and minerals. The Steering Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet and the Permanent Secretary from the Ministry responsible for science, technology and innovation shall be the secretariat to the Steering Committee.

6.4 Technical Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation

The Technical Committee on STI shall be the cluster technical advisory body to the Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries on Policy and program coordination and implementation. The composition of the Technical Committee shall include senior technical representatives from the ministries responsible for finance, development planning, health, energy, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, local government, education, infrastructure, environment, natural resources, communications, commerce as well as mines and minerals. The committee shall also include senior scientific representatives from the private sector, academic committee on Scientific R&D, Zambia Academy of Sciences, civil society and other cooperating partners. The committee will elect its own chairperson, while the Ministry responsible for science, technology and innovation shall be the Secretariat to the Committee.

6.5 Academic Committee on Scientific Research and Development

Academic Committee on Scientific Research and Development shall be a committee charged with the responsibility of evaluating natural, human and social research and technology development undertaken at all levels of education including early child education, general education, TEVET and higher education for development. The Committee shall also evaluate research and technology development undertaken in industry, as well as other formal and informal sectors. This Committee will be proposing and reviewing the development of novel products and services and all business models that alter how organisations and society functions.

6.6 Ministry Responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation

The Ministry responsible for STI shall be the lead in overseeing the implementation of this Policy. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for STI shall be the Secretary to the Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries. To ensure effective coordination and implementation of the Policy, the Ministry will closely collaborate (possible replacement of the word) with all line ministries, Scientific R&D institutions and private sector.

6.7 Line Ministries

The line Ministries responsible for finance and development planning, health, energy, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, local government, education, infrastructure, environment, natural resources, communications, commerce as well as mines and minerals will be expected to play a key role in the implementation of this Policy. shall be responsible for reporting to the Technical Committee on STI. The other line Ministries shall create a conducive environment for the adoption of STI products and services in line with their mandate.

6.8 Regulation of Science, Research and Technology

6.8.1 National Science and Technology Council

The National Science and Technology Council shall be restructured to be the principal regulatory institution for STI. The restructuring will also streamline their functions to include coordination and research fund management.

6.9 Science, Research and Technology Institutions

6.9.1 National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research

The National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research shall be restructured to streamline its functions to strengthen the institution's capacity to undertake applied scientific and industrial research and development.

6.9.2 National Technology Business Centre

The National Technology Business Centre shall be restructured to streamline and broaden functions to include innovation promotion, technology and innovation start-up promotion and management of commercialisation funds, among others, to their existing functions.

6.9.3 National Remote Sensing Centre

The National Remote Sensing Centre will be restructured to streamline and broaden functions to include space science and technology and earth observation, among others, to their existing functions.

6.9.4 Research and Development Institutions

The Research and Development Institutions shall implement R&D.

6.9.5 Higher Education Institutions

The HEIs shall be responsible for human resource development for STI, implementing R&D, and development and promotion of innovations.

6.9.6 Science, Technology and Innovation Regulatory Institutions

The Science, Technology and Innovation regulatory institutions shall provide regulatory functions for effective coordination and undertaking of science, technology and innovation.

6.9.7 Science, Technology and Innovation Support Institutions

The STI support institutions shall provide support services to undertaking of STI.

6.9.8 Private Sector Science, Technology and Innovation Institutions

The private sector shall complement government effort towards the implementation of the Policy.

6.9.9 Development Cooperating Partners

Cooperating partners shall provide support to ensure effective implementation of the Policy.

6.9.10 Civil Society Organizations

Civil society organisations shall provide advocacy with regard to the promotion and application of STI products and services.



I.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Government will ensure that a comprehensive legal framework to implement the science, technology and innovation programmes, across sectors, is put in place. The line Ministries will also be expected to align their relevant policies and legislation, in order to ensure that they are in line with the National STI Policy.

Thus, the implementation of this Policy shall be complemented by existing sectoral legal frameworks including the following:

Table 1: Legal Frameworks Guiding Implementation of National STI Policy

NO.	ENABLING ACT	PURPOSE
1.	Environment Management Act No. 12 of 2011	The Act provides for the management of environment and natural resources
2.	Forest Act No. 4 of 2015	The Act provides for the conservation and protection of forests and trees
3.	Zambia Wildlife Act No. 15 of 2015	The Act is responsible wildlife management and conservation.
4.	Agriculture Lands Act Cap 187	The Act provides for sustainable agricultural practices, development, investment and management.
5.	Mines and Minerals Act 11 of 2015	The Act provides for Mineral and Mines Development
6.	Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2011	The Act provides sustainable fisheries and aqua-cultural development and management
7.	Zambia Development Agency Act No. 11 of 2006	The Act provides for the trade, investment and industrial development in Zambia
8.	Water Resource Management Act No. 21 of 2011	The Act provides for the regulation and management of water resources.
9.	The Patents Act No. 40 of 2016	The Act provides for the protection and administration of patents; to provide for the patentability of inventions
10.	The Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act No. 16 of 2016	The Act provides for a transparent legal framework for the protection of, access to, and use of, traditional knowledge, genetic resources and expressions of folklore, as well as equitable sharing of benefits and effective participation of holders
11.	The Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007	The Act provides regulation for the research, development, application, import, export, transit, contained use, release or placing on the market of any genetically modified organism whether intended for use as a pharmaceutical, food, feed or processing, or a product of a genetically modified organism
12.	Zambia National Public Health Act No. 19 of 2020	An Act to provide for the coordination of public health security; continue the existence of the Zambia National Public Health Institute and provide for its functions; establish the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre; establish the National Public Health Laboratory;

NO.	ENABLING ACT	PURPOSE
		establish the National Public Health Emergency Fund;
13.	National Health Research Authority Act No.2 of 2013	An Act to provide for the establishment of the National Health Research Ethics Board; provide a regulatory framework for the development, regulation, financing and coordination of health research and ensure the development of consistent health research standards and guidelines for ethically sound health research; provide for the establishment of health research ethics committees and the regulation and management of research institutions, health researchers and health establishments involved in or undertaking research; provide for the regulation of biological material for health research; provide for ethical approval for the conduct of clinical trials; provide for the use of traditional, complementary and alternative medicines in health research; provide for data management and intellectual property rights in health research and provide for the designation of bio banks.
14.	Data Protection Act No. 2 of 2021	An Act to provide an effective system for the use and protection of personal data; regulate the collection, use, transmission, storage and otherwise processing of personal data; establish the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner and provide for its functions; the registration of data controllers and licensing of data auditors; provide for the duties of data controllers and data processors; provide for the rights of data subjects; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.
15.	Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act No.3 of 2021	An Act to provide for cyber security in the Republic; provide for the constitution of the Zambia Computer Incidence Response Team and provide for its functions; provide for the constitution of the National Cyber Security Advisory and Coordinating Council and provide for its functions; provide for the continuation of the Central Monitoring and Co-ordination Centre; provide for the protection of persons against cyber crime; provide for child online protection; facilitate identification, declaration and protection of critical information infrastructure; provide for the collection of and preservation of evidence of computer and network related crime; provide for the admission; in criminal matters, of electronic evidence; provide for registration of cyber security service providers; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.
16.	Information and Communication Technologies No. 15 of 2009	An Act to continue the existence of the Communications Authority and re-name it as the Zambia Information and

NO.	ENABLING ACT	PURPOSE
		Communication Technology Authority; provide for the regulation of information and communication technology; facilitate access to information and communication technologies; protect the rights and interests of service providers and consumers; repeal the Telecommunications Act, 1994, and the Radio -communications Act, 1994; and provide for matters connected with or incidental to the foregoing.

8.0 RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND FINANCING

The implementation of this Policy will be financed by funds appropriated by Parliament, the private sector and cooperating partners. A minimum of one percent of the GDP for R&D will be allocated, and in addition the Government will continue funding other STI activities through the existing funding modalities.

9.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The M&E plan for the Policy will be developed to assess the progress and impact of its implementation. Government will develop a national plan of action to oversee the implementation of the Policy with the Ministry responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation driving the process in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation instruments will be developed at three levels of national, provincial and district with key result areas, indicators, impact assessments and timeframes incorporated into the systems.

Government will provide capacity building to ensure that appropriate and inclusive systems are developed and analysed in line with Government vision to develop the STI sector. A mid-term review will be done after the first 5 years of the Policy implementation to appraise the impact. Quarterly reports will be submitted to Cabinet Office on implementation.



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