



Botswana

Jacob Dickie Nkate
Minister of Education and Skills Development



Born in 1961, Hon. Jacob Dickie Nkate holds LLB degree from the University of Botswana. Subsequently, he worked as an attorney at law, holding a position of magistrate from 1986-1988 but left the public service in 1988 to become a private attorney. While a private attorney, he became Member of Parliament in 1994 but left the law practice in 1977 to concentrate on politics. He was appointed the Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning from October 1997–early April 1999. From mid April 1999 and October, 2004 he served as a Minister in the Ministries of Lands and Housing, Ministry of Trade and Industry and became the Minister of Education in 2004

Inclusive education: Public Policies

The Revised National Policy on Education of 1994 and Botswana Vision 2016, which my Ministry is currently implementing, are a response to the international declarations on education for all.

While these policies advocate for provision of education to all, particular emphasis is placed on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups which include children from poor socio-economic backgrounds, remote areas and disabled children.

Government has embarked on the development of standards, expansion of educational facilities including assessment centers, one or two teachers' schools and introduction of double shift to promote inclusive education. Provision of support services, flexibility in the maximum entry age as well as specific targeted programmes and interventions have been put in place to enable these children to continue their education and benefit from the curriculum.

These initiatives have contributed significantly in increasing school enrolments and retention. However government has ensured that these initiatives do not compromise quality. In addition, private partnerships and parental involvement are emphasized as a way of demonstrating our collective responsibility in achieving the ideals of inclusive education.