

## **Standard Chartered commits D1, 800, 000.00 to Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education**

The Gambia May 21<sup>st</sup> 2014, Standard Chartered Gambia launched its Schools' Desk Project to provide over 1,000 Dual School Desks in the tune of D1.8million to the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education's priority schools nationwide.

The project, which forms part of the Bank's Community Initiative Agenda, aims to distribute an overall total of 1, 000 desks at the end of 2015 across The Gambia, with each region receiving a minimum of 100 dual desks.

Today the Bank officially handed over 300 Schools' desks to Honourable Minister Fatou Lamin Faye, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, to show its existing commitment to supporting education in The Gambia.

The 300 dual desks, under Phase I of the Bank's Schools Desk project, is expected to help address the current furniture situation in the school while enhancing the classroom experience for the students.

Commenting on the donation, Humphrey Mukwereza, CEO Standard Chartered Bank said, "At Standard Chartered, we believe education provides a firm foundation for the progress of any country and we remain committed to contributing to the development of this sector. We are focused on delivering benefit to the communities in which our staff live and work. This gesture delivers on that commitment and also affirms our "Here for good" promise to our communities".

The Bank's Schools Desk project is in alignment with the government's call for children of school-going to receive education and the subsequent increase in school populations across the country. So far beneficiary schools under this initiative have been drawn from all the regions of the country, with some in the rural areas.

The Honorable Fatou Lamin Faye, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education said,

"Under the leadership of His Excellency The President of the Republic of The Gambia Sheikh Professor Dr Alh. Yahya AJJ Jammeh, education is a right for all in The Gambia. We commend Standard Chartered for partnering with my Ministry to complement Government's effort to making education accessible to all. With the commitment of 1000 dual desk for schools nationwide, we want to assure the staff and Management of the Bank that we will put the desks to good use to ensure that the underlying purpose for the donation will be realized. The 300 desks we have received so far have been deployed to various schools and serving thousands of students nationwide".

Mr Baboucarr Boye, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education presided over the ceremony held at the Ministry's conference room.