

Crisis Report

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'Propaganda will not resolve the crisis in Zimbabwe's Education Sector'

By Crisis Report

Since schools opened on February 7, 2022 teacher unions in Zimbabwe have declared that their members are incapacitated to report for duty.

This is mainly due to the meager salaries (which are way below the Poverty Datum Line), which the teachers continue to receive.

Chaos continues to reign supreme at government schools around the country and students continue to be deprived of their right to education.

However, in the midst of this entire crisis, the government has been on an overdrive to paint a rosy picture of the country's education sector despite the fact that events on the ground prove otherwise.

Speaking during a Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Twitter Space event on the state of the country's education sector, the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Taungana Ndoro defended the government's stance that all was well at schools across the country.

He however admitted that more could be done to improve the standards of education as well as teachers' welfare.

"I have been at several schools and what I



observed was that we have a mixed bag ever since government intervened. Last week we had a number of teachers not attending but now the situation is changing. It is not all blink and blurry but the outlook is looking positive although there is probably more that could be done.

Let us allow government to take the strides that it has taken to make sure that the welfare of the teachers is taken care of," said Ndoro.

Government and teacher unions have been at loggerheads with the teachers blaming the government for pushing a propaganda campaign aimed at painting a positive picture yet the education crisis in the country continues to affect both teachers, parents and children.

Speaking during the same event, the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) and the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) challenged government to face the reality on the ground and create platforms for genuine dialogue with the teachers.



Upholding right to education critical for Sustainable Development

By Crisis Report

Crisis In Zimbabwe Coalition Chairperson, Peter Mutasa has implored the government to uphold the right to education and address the current crisis within the education sector.

Mutasa said that achieving sustainable and equitable development hinges on ensuring that citizens enjoy the right to quality education.

He made the remarks during a Twitter Space discussion on the state of the education sector which was hosted by the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition on 17 February 2022.

“As the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, we believe that the right to education is so fundamental to our aspirations to have a democratic Zimbabwe and also to our aspirations for equitable and sustainable development,” said Mutasa.

in addressing the crisis in the education sector which has seen teachers absconding from duty citing incapacitation. Zimbabwean teachers continue to receive salaries that are far below the Poverty Datum Line (PDL).

Teachers accuse government of insincerity in as far as addressing their plight is concerned. Government has also taken the decision to dismiss teachers who fail to report for duty and according to teachers' unions, the decision by the government will affect an estimated 135 000 out of 150 000 teachers across the country.

Said Mutasa; “We believe that dialogue is critical in resolving our problems and we believe that citizens should be accorded the right to air their views. Citizens should be able

to enjoy their right of freedom of association, the right to protest and to petition against actions that they believe are against their interests.”

He added that Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition will continue to create platforms for discussion of issues of national concern.



Peter Mutasa
Chairperson
Crisis In Zimbabwe Coalition

Govt's failure to dialogue with teachers fuelling crisis in the education sector



By Crisis Report

The failure by the government to create genuine platforms for discussion of teachers' welfare and the chaos within the education sector can only serve to further worsen the crisis and deprive children of their right to education, the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) has said. Speaking during a Twitter Space event organized by the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition on 17 February 2022, ARTUZ President and also Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Spokesperson, Obert Masaraure blamed the government for deliberately evading dialogue with poverty stricken teachers.

He blamed the government for continuing to use divide and rule tactics against teachers.

"They (the government) made sure that they collapsed collective bargaining although it was fake through the National Joint Negotiating Council. They are saying they want us back in the classroom and we are saying we are not coming back until the day they change their attitude and engage us. "When there is no space for dialogue, this conflict will always escalate," said Masaraure.

He said that the failure by the government had deprived children of their right to education and called upon parents to join the struggle by teachers. "Even the majority of our learners cannot make it to the classroom. You are aware that 60 percent of learners dropped out of school in Bulawayo province, 50



percent dropped out in Harare province while only 35 percent of school going children in Mashonaland East province are in class. "So the crisis in the education sector is not only confined to the issue of teachers' salaries. It is a crisis where the government has failed to meet its constitutional obligations as outlined in Section 75 and Section 81 of our constitution of Zimbabwe. Government must be pushed to be responsible and provide state funded education," said Masaraure.

According to the Progressive Teacher Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) resolving the current chaos in the education sector requires commitment from the government. The PTUZ is of the view that the government must resuscitate the collective bargaining platform between teachers and the government. PTUZ Secretary General, Raymond Majongwe blasted the move by the government to label protesting teachers as proxies of Western nations. "It is nonsensical for the government of

Zimbabwe to think that teachers are being pushed by the Western forces to demonstrate.

"It is very worrisome in this day in age that someone can think that the British government can come and tell us what democracy is," said Majongwe.

Citizens Coalition for Change Shadow Minister for Education, Evelyn Masaiti blamed government for collapsing the education system in the country.

"Teachers are under-paid and spend most of their time scavenging for food. The teachers cannot even afford decent education for their children and yet they are expected to go to work and perform to the best of their abilities. "There is limited prioritization of the education sector by the Zanu PF government and there is also limited engagements with teacher unions and this has led to conflicts," said Masaiti.



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