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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE



ZIMBABWE

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1 JULY 2009

DISTRIBUTION

- Directors: Head Office
- Provincial Education Directors
- District Education Officers
- Heads of all Government and Non Government Schools
- Progressive Teachers Union (PTUZ)
- Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (TUZ)
- Zimbabwe Teachers Association (ZIMTA)
- National Educational advisory Board (NEAB)
- Press

1.0 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 At a meeting held on Wednesday, 10 June 2009, Teachers Unions raised a number of concerns including the following:
- Waiver of tuition for fees for teachers' children/wards
 - Incentives for teachers
 - Public Examinations
 - Amnesty for teachers
 - Presence of Youths and other unauthorised persons in schools.
- 1.2 A number of these areas were the subject of earlier Ministerial statements given on 5 March 2009 on, 4 and 19 May, 2009.

2.0 AREAS OF CONCERN

Ministry's policy regarding the afore-cited issues is given below.

2.1 Waiver of Tuition Fees in Government Schools for Teachers' Children.

- 2.1.1 In terms of Section 13 (1) of the Education Act, and in my capacity as the Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, I have, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, prescribed that **all teachers** in Government service shall be exempted from paying fees for the second term of 2009 in **Government Schools**. This only applies to the second term (and to any arrears owing in respect of the first term 2009) and will be reviewed prior to the commencement of the third term.
- 2.1.2 In this regard, the exemption applies to all teaching and non- teaching (support) staff in the Ministry.
- 2.1.3 The exemption applies to a maximum of four biological children and /or legal wards of an individual member.

2.2 Incentives for teachers

- 2.2.1 As indicated in the Ministerial Press Statement of 4 May 2009 and also in the Secretary's Circular Minute No. 5 of 2009, the combined incentives for both teachers and support (non-teaching) staff add up to 20% of the funds derived from the levies. Levies are used principally for the development of the school. In this regard, School Development Committees and Associations in consultation with School Heads should ensure that the largest percentage of the funds collected is used for the procurement of educational materials. I reiterate that all levies must be approved by parents according to laid down procedures, as amplified in the Secretary's Circular Minute No 5 of 2009.

2.3 Examinations

- 2.3.1 It is emphasised that the 2009 November Examination fees will be announced in due course.
- 2.3.2 Ministry thanks the dedicated Examination markers. Arrangements are being made for payment of those who are owed money from this exercise.
- 2.3.3 The Ministry of Finance has given an undertaking that arrears due to markers in respect of the November 2008 examinations will be paid in full prior to the commencement of the marking exercise for the mid-year examinations.
- 2.3.4 Meanwhile, Ministry hopes that in spite of the delay in commencing the Mid-Year (June) ZIMSEC Examinations, every effort will be taken to ensure that they are run professionally. Ministry counts on the cooperation of all concerned in this regard.

2.4 Amnesty for Teachers

- 2.4.1 It is observed that the Public Service Commission waived the waiting period and the procedures of re-appointment of former members as stated in Statutory Instrument 1 of 2000 and its amendments.
- 2.4.2 Regrettably, expeditious processing of applications for re- appointment has been delayed. This has been due to the fact that the Commission did not exempt the Ministry from finalising pending misconduct cases. There has also been one case of corruption within the Ministry exposed which was causing applications to be delayed.
- 2.4.3 Consultations are going on with the Commission with a view to expediting the processing of the applications.
- 2.4.4 I have also written to the Minister of Public Service asking that the procedure for re-admission and other concerns be addressed urgently.

5/1/09



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2.5 Presence of Unauthorised Persons in Schools

2.5.1 In terms of Circular No. P7 dated 11 June 1979 and Circular No. 53 dated February 1981, Schools are meant to facilitate the promotion of effective learning and teaching. To that extent, school heads should vigorously implement Ministry policy not to entertain unauthorised persons in schools. Furthermore, no partisan political paraphernalia, including documents, pamphlets and posters should be displayed in schools.

2.5.2 I shall shortly be issuing regulations in terms of section 69 (2) (f) Education Act prohibiting the use of school premises, by individuals, groups and organisations unconnected to education. In the interim, no school premises are to be used by any persons, groups or organisations without permission first being obtained in writing from the Permanent Secretary in compliance with Circular P7 and P53 mentioned above.

Under no circumstances should school buildings house or accommodate any persons or organisation not employed by or approved by the Ministry of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture.

CONCLUSION

The Ministry banks on the co-operation of all concerned, observance and implementation of the afore – mentioned policy provisions and guidelines.



Senator David Coltart
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
01 July 2009