

ECIS Calls on Parliamentarians to Ensure Every Child In School.

Every Child In School -ECIS Campaign commends the The Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Professor Paul Mavima to hid its call for calling on all schools to not send children home for failing to pay school fees. As schools opened today, this move is welcome by the campaign which seeks to ensure that every child has access to education including those whose parents cannot pay school fees. The campaign notes with great pleasure the efforts made by the government to acknowledge the tenets of our Constitution section 75 (a), the Convention on the Status of the Child, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Children which require the government to ensure that children get basic education in the minister's speech on ZBC tv news bulletin of the 8th of January 2018. The minister also went on to encourage the parents to hon

The ECIS campaign, led by Tag a Life International in partnership with ZNCWC, RAU, Mambure Trust, GWEN, Chengeto Trust, JCT, Katswe Sisterhood, Shamwari Yemwanasikana, and many under signed civil society organisations, wish to emphasise the call for the government to put all policies and such calls in writing to ensure that school authorities do not falter. Our submissions are that, such calls only benefit children who are already in school, and leave out the marginalised who are not able to get places for failing to pay schools fees. The danger with having unwritten polices is that interpretation becomes subjective and school authorities can manipulate the call hence the campaign urges the government to clearly release a circular to guide implementation by school authorities and allow schools to be held accountable by citizens in the spirit of restoring our legacy.

Launched on the 14th of December 2017, the campaign has asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to **immediately release a circular** that will instruct **all School Authorities in Public Primary Schools** to allow children whose parents cannot pay for school fees to be accepted into schools including those enrolling for the first time. As we commend the government, the campaign reinvigorates the call on parliamentarians to ensure that the government has clear systems and policies in place to protect vulnerable children and communities that are struggling owing to the current prevailing economic conditions. The government must go out of their way to ensure that the out of school children are encouraged together with their families, to re-enrol into schools through setting in place conditions that make public schools accessible. The campaign wishes to remind the government of the recommended actions to be taken for ECIS to be a reality for the vulnerable in this current dispensation:

- I. All primary children to be enrolled in school beginning of January regardless of financial capabilities, disabilities, sex, race, and that all children must be able to access primary education without discrimination;*
- II. The Minister of Primary and Secondary School to immediately release a circular to instruct all public primary schools to accept enrolment of all primary level children who ordinarily are unable to pay their schools fees. This applies to children who have spent time out of school whether for a term or a number of years. (The minister yesterday called on schools to allow children into school, he did not make reference to those who are not enrolled who are the most affected when they are denied places because of failing to pay school fees. ECIS urges the ministry to release a written circular)!*
- III. All public schools to enroll ALL primary children including those who have dropped out.*

- IV. Legislators, parents and school authorities, that once the pronouncement is made by the minister, they must ensure access and enrolment for all children in all the 10 provinces, especially in rural areas, as well as to place deliberate measures in monitoring access to education and enrolment in schools.**
- V. Reformation in the education policies to become more lenient and accommodative and not conditional, which will eventually lead to 'Every Child In School' in alignment with the African Child Rights Charter.**
- VI. The platform and others working within the children's rights, to commit to working with the government, and promise to diligently promote access to education and commitments made by leadership.**

Tag a life International (TaLI) , Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC), Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), Mambure Trust, Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), UDACIZA, Justice for Children (JCT), PROWEB, Female Students Network (FSNT), Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe (FAWEZI), Research Advocacy Unit, Higher Life Foundation, Education Coalition of Zimbabwe (ECOZI), Zimbabwe Women In Politics Alliance, Rebuild Sakubva (RESA), World Vision, Issues Pane Nyaya, Katswe Sisterhood, Zimbabwe Alliance, Girls and Women Empowerment Network Trust (GWEN), Zimbabwe Women In Politics Alliance, Shamwari Ye Mwanasikana (SYS) Citizen Participation Trust, Shanduko, Zimbabwe Activists Alliance(ZAA), Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe.

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