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SCMZ Speaks

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GNU DEAL: Challenges and expectations in the education sector in Zimbabwe

After a decade of a man-made governance crisis in Zimbabwe, the nation has finally reached a transitional arrangement in the form of the power sharing agreement between the two formations of the Movement for Democratic (MDC) and the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANUPF). The agreement brings hope to the suffering masses of Zimbabwe, hope that has been destroyed by a decade of economic meltdown, *disrespect* for the rule of law and the gross violation of human rights through state organized and state sponsored violence particularly in the run up to the

sham June 27 2008 election. As the nation gets into the transitional arrangement, this is the time for all stakeholders to look at one of the worst affected area in our community, the education sector. Unless something is urgently done to address the shameful conditions prevailing in the education sector then this new government shall be deemed a failure by students and the teaching staff.

The state of the nation's universities is deplorable to say the least. The opening of the University of Zimbabwe, the National University of Science and Tech-

nology, the Great Zimbabwe University, the Midlands State University for the first semester of the 2008 to 2009 academic year has been postponed for close to a month with University authorities clearly admitting that the conditions obtaining on the ground is not conducive for safe learning. They sight, and honestly so that just an average of 10% of the teaching staff is ready to deliver lectures to students with the other 90% having either left completely or not prepared to teach until their poor remuneration has been addressed.

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ZIMBABWE'S EDUCATION: WHERE TO FROM HERE? Education Should Remain a Nation's Priority

It was a good development when the country's main political protagonists Robert Mugabe, Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara officially signed a historic power sharing deal and agreed to form an all inclusive government. From a student and youth perspective i remain sceptical, cautious though optimistic on

this latest development on the country' political landscape. Judging from Robert Mugabe's speech after he had signed the document, it somehow makes one to conclude that this man can ever change. His continued attacks on Britain and America shocked many people. It is still to be seen whether these leaders are

going to walk the talk, only time will tell. One thing for sure is that despite the 27 June election which President Mugabe claimed to have won and by participating in the talks Mugabe was accepting that it was not an election and that it was not a true reflection of the people of Zimbabwe.

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Kasiyano Innocent
National Coordinator SCMZ

*"The road to
Jericho is a
difficult route; it
is infested with
robbers and
thieves"*

Since gaining her independence in 1980, Zimbabwe has regularly conducted general elections. Since then it has been ruled and dominated by a liberation movement, Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front ZANU (PF). The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the biggest opposition party was formed in 1999 as a result of a governance deficit which manifested itself through policy failure, corruption and mis-management of funds among other things. The formation of the MDC was facilitated by the labour movement, the civic society in general and, more importantly, the student movement. The birth of a strong opposition, found on pro-democratic principles threatened the

survival of ZANU (PF) which had enjoyed a monopoly over Zimbabwean politics. ZANU (PF) as a party had to find strategies to hold on to power in the face of growing discontent among general citizens. It engaged in violence and intimidation, youth and war veterans often as the main perpetrators, even as it accused its opponents of subversive violence. Democracy cannot be comprehensively measured by elections in the world; however it is a pointer and an important variable in the democracy discourse. Elections

are a critical component of democracy in a society since they ensure citizen participation. However the mere existence of elections is not necessarily equivalent to a system of democracy because military juntas are in the habit of holding elections so as to legitimize their rule. Electoral processes provide an opportunity for citizens to choose leaders and to change or retain governments through the transfer of power in a peaceful means. With all this in mind a Government of national unity leaves a lot to be desired especially if the will of the people is not reflected.

EDITORIAL

The road to Jericho is a difficult route; it is infested with robbers and thieves. This is the road to a better Zimbabwe where human dignity is respected, where all human beings are treated equally as beings created in the image of God. The nation has travelled along this road and in the process; robbers and thieves have claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent citizens, destroyed property and displaced thousands of civilians. This was happening as Levites and priests were passing by, watching aloof and taking no action. Jesus said such Levites and Priests were no neighbors to those travelling on the road to Jericho; for they failed to exercise their faith through practical services to their communities.

The travel to a just and peaceful nation started a long time from the colonial period, through the liberation struggle, the road was bumpy and almost closed in the early to mid 1980s with the infamous gukurahundi atrocities in the Midlands and Matabeleland provinces. More challenges were to be encountered in the road in the form of the de facto one party state policy, the structural adjustments policies of the early 1990s, corruption by senior government officials, the disbursement in 1997 of the unbudgeted war veterans gratuities and the costly involvement of the

Zimbabwe national army in the Democratic Republic of Congo war. Robbers and thieves intensified their evil deeds by the close of the century through the chaotic and violent land reform exercise. This was followed by years of systematic closure of democratic space to members of the opposition, civic movements and even interference in freedom of worship. The challenges in the new millennium have been coupled by the economic meltdown which has resulted in the massive suffering of the majority of Zimbabweans.

Nevertheless, there is a God in heaven, the conflicting political players in the country have come to an agreement. These players are the two formations of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF). The Lord had promised us who survive in crisis environments through the prophet Joel that he shall surely restore what the locust has

eaten (Joel 2:25) and thereby restoring safety on the road to Jericho. The locusts in Zimbabwe have taken a human face but the Lord is giving assurance that restoration is coming, but young people have a great role to play to see to it that there is transitional justice in Zimbabwe. The Lord is challenging us in Joel 2:27 when he says "your sons and daughters shall prophesy". When we all work hard then surely Zimbabwe will very soon reach the ideal envisioned in Psalms 133, "behold how good and pleasant it is when brethren stay together in peace and harmony...."

This ideal requires everyone's effort; the ecumenical players should shun the behavior of the Priests and the Levites on the road to Jericho. True Christians shall be judged not on the basis of the quality of their cloths of worship but on the basis of their practical contribution to the growth of humanity. This is the message of the September 2008 issue of SCMZ SPEAKS.

Challenges and expectations in the education sector in Zimbabwe (...from page 1)

Students are expected to pay ZW\$48 000 for accommodation and tuition fees. Bindura University which has been opened the living conditions of students are pathetic. The two accommodation sites, the new site and the old site both can not meet the high demand for accommodation due to the ever increasing enrolment at the institution. The deficit in accommodation is forcing students to stay in the fairly cheap but overcrowded Chipadze high density suburbs where an average of seven students is reportedly sharing a single room.

The nation's universities do not have water and electricity, the sanitary system is a clear health hazard. Recently the University of Zimbabwe made headlines when two deputy ministers commissioned the opening of boreholes at the institution of higher learning. The libraries in these Universities are stocked with very old textbooks which are no longer relevant to modern education. Efforts to bring modern internet technology on campuses have not yielded any meaningful results, with the bulk of University Students still computer illiterate because they

do not have access to any computer piece.

The situation in Polytechnic and Teachers Colleges is no better. These colleges were successfully opened at the beginning of September. However, there is no learning going on as lecturers are not coming citing poor remuneration. Moreover the students are required to pay around ZW\$14 000 for tuition, accommodation and food, a figure that is a mockery to the parents and guardians who are receiving paltry salaries from their jobs. As if not enough, the food that is served in the college dining halls is not suitable for human consumption. Water and electricity shortages are the order of the day.

The story of the education system will not be complete without reference to the status of the primary and secondary education in Zimbabwe. Just a decade ago, Zimbabwe was celebrated the world over as one of the countries with the leading quality and quantities of those who receive such education. However, following the governance crisis, the situation in the nation's schools has

deteriorated to unacceptable levels. Rural schools are no longer accessible due to poor roads which badly need repairs. More seriously, the tuition fees charged at primary school are too high in both rural and urban schools. Teachers are not reporting for duty or doing so but not executing their expected duties.

In the secondary education sector, particularly in boarding schools the school authorities in an attempt to cushion inflation are now asking students to bring their own groceries for use in the school kitchen. The tuition fees themselves are too high for the parents who are mainly civil servants and peasants.

This whole picture in the education sector has far reaching gender implications in the school and college communities of the nation. Female students are now being forced to resort to prostitution in light of the serious economic hardships. They are forced to get into relationships in which they have no power to negotiate safe sex therefore exposing them to risks like HIV and AIDS. This is happening in the background of a country whose health delivery system has totally collapsed.

All stakeholders in the education sector particularly students are looking forward to the new government impatiently but with a lot of hope. The historic agreement between ZANU PF and the two MDC formations, though it falls short of the glory of democracy brings hope to the suffering masses of Zimbabwe. In fact that was the best route for Zimbabwe to take at this moment given the need for national healing. The government should therefore stand up to the challenges and expectations of Zimbabweans in general and students in particular by urgently allocating the ministries of education and higher education to competent and professional individuals, those who have an educational background.

The students' grievances, a litmus test on the new government

It is with great pleasure to note that the interparty agreement signed on the 15th of September has restored hope and optimism in the student movement. The long lost dignity in the countries *crème della crème* is expected to be restored in the shortest time possible by the new inclusive government. As Zimbabweans we ought not to forget that there are those students who have suffered physi-

cal and psychological trauma in the struggle to see new dispensation through the quest for academic freedoms. Some were suspended others were expelled and they are hoping that they will see themselves retaining back to their colleges and universities where freedom of association, expression and the fundamental rights to education will be championed by the responsible authorities.

It is however of major concern to note that some colleges and universities are still charging exorbitant prices and have literally chosen to fork out lecturers salaries from that little which they exploit from the poor peasants and civil servants. This has made higher education in Zimbabwe a privilege for the elite not for the enlightened in the rural areas and urban areas. This has been evidently seen at colleges such as Bindura university where a top up of up to \$3000 is being demanded from students.

By Welcome Zimuto CUT Branch

NURTURING A CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY: PROJECT ROUND UP



Part of the youth attending a public meeting in Mutare.

Nurturing a Culture of Democracy among Youths in Zimbabwe is a project which was launched in October 2007 by SCMZ. The project was coming in the face of a multi-faceted Zimbabwean crisis. There was apathy among youth especially Young Christians in participating in governance issues. The project had the following specific objectives

- To mobilize Christian students and youths to participate in national issues, stand up for their rights and fight stigma.
- To build a critical mass and raise awareness, development and understanding on democracy education, gender main-

streaming and citizen rights.

- To promote relevant, effective and positive participation of Christian Students and youths in issues of governance and human rights defending.
- To integrate young Christians interventions with other progressive youths civic formations so as to foster a coordinated approach to resolution of the Zimbabwean governance crisis.

SCMZ is convinced that youths need support, guidance, and empowerment to face the growing challenges which are manifestations of leadership crisis. Young people have to be capacitated and equipped with adequate, accurate and relevant information and skills so as to meaningfully contribute to sustainable

development both to their lives and the society at large. Instead of being leaders of tomorrow they are in fact leaders of today.

The project which targeted all the ten political and administrative provinces of the country saw the holding of public meetings, community outreach meetings, tertiary institutions meetings, focus group discussions, community sweep for democracy campaigns, as well as the publication of three issues of the newsletter, SCMZ SPEAKS and the distribution of t shirts, flyers and the constant publication of press statements.

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HIV/AIDS, the human rights challenges

The HIV/AIDS pandemic remains one of the toughest challenges facing the young generation of today. This is clearly evidenced by the HIV prevalence rates which stand at % within the 19 – 33 years age group. This automatically places students at the focal points of any probable HIV/AIDS intervention mechanisms.

The current economic and social crisis that the nation is facing today has compounded the effects of the deadly pandemic on the student's population. The lack of government's financial support and the recent introduction of tuition and accommodation fees at all tertiary institutions have resulted in further impoverishment of students. These economic challenges have seen many students mainly fe-

male students engaging in risky sexual tendencies so as to survive. The lack of easily accessible treatment channels both at tertiary institutions and the nation at large have resulted in many students developing a negative attitude towards issues of testing and disclosure, which are vital steps towards eradicating HIV/AIDS. The global HIV/AIDS theme for last year and this year has been focusing on "Leadership".

The theme was calling upon all leaders across the globe to take and implement necessary measures and policies which mitigate the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. The incoming Zimbabwean government created by the recent political deal by the major political parties must acknowledge HIV/AIDS as a crisis with

social, developmental and economic foundations. It should tackle related issues of poverty, malnutrition, gender exploitation and inequality, overcrowding, insecurity, cultural and traditional norms that exacerbate the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The challenge also rests on us as students to change our behaviour, attitudes and perceptions on HIV and AIDS. This deadly pandemic has a negative impact on national development and thus all of us should also take a leadership role in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Fortune Nyamande, UZ-Medical School Branch

"The challenge also rests on us students to change our attitude and perceptions on HIV and AIDS"

PROGRAMMES UPDATE

As the nation is undergoing a transitional period in its governance structures SCMZ is there to add its voice in the transitional process through various activities which formulate its programming. Having participated well with other progressive civic players in urging people to go out and vote in the March 29 2008 harmonized elections, the movement was left with an unfinished business after the presidential election failed to produce an outright winner thus triggering an election run off on 27 June 2008.

In the post March 29 the movement's programming was centered on urging people to go out and vote peacefully. However, due to the increasing scale in state organized and state sponsored violence the movement's go out and vote campaign subsequently turned into a do not vote campaign. The campaign was targeting tertiary institutions and it covered the regions of Masvingo, Bulawayo, Gweru, Harare, Mashonaland Central,

Mashonaland West and Manicaland. This was done through college discussion meetings and the distribution of t shirts.

The June 27 election was declared a sham by many observer missions including the SADC mission, the AU observer mission, the Pan African Parliament observer mission, the UN observer mission and the bulk of the civic groups in Zimbabwe (SCMZ included). This coupled with the continued economic collapse and the continued suffering of the majority of the Zimbabwean citizens forced the major political players in the country (the two formations of the Movement for Democratic Change and ZANU PF) to the negotiating table mediated by South African President, Thabo Mbeki. In the process, SCMZ was holding consultative focus group discussions with youths across the country to get their input and comments on the process in South Africa. The major issue that arose from the discussions was that the process of negotiations should have been more open and more in-

clusive to ensure that all stakeholders were represented in the talks, especially civil society, church groups and the youths.

As the parties to the talks were negotiating, SCMZ as part of its tradition held an annual youth camp in August where 200 youths from all the ten political and administrative provinces of the country gathered to (among other things) discuss and come up with a position on the talks in South Africa. The gathering, which assembled at the Masiye Camp, 65 kms South of Bulawayo in Matopos agreed that negotiations were the ideal route for Zimbabwe and that the people of Zimbabwe, particularly students and young people have suffered for more than enough and that there was need for an agreed transitional arrangement urgently. There was consensus that although the talks had a number of short comings there was need to give the process a chance but in the process SCMZ and other youth organizations need to expose the short comings in the talks.

Now that the political players have reached an agreement SCMZ is again moving around the provinces to consult its membership and the generality of the youth constituency on what their role is within the agreement and to hear their comments on the agreement itself. This is an on going process and SCMZ is still in the process of compiling these views.

In summation the movement's programming is guided by the changing needs of young people in Zimbabwe. These needs are mainly shaped by the political, social and economic developments in the country hence programming based on the governance and transitional processes.

NURTURING A CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY: PROJECT ROUND UP (*...from page 4*)

The project focused on four facets:

- Democracy, Principles of good governance and Human Rights Defending
- Leadership Training and Development
- Conflict Transformation
- Gender mainstreaming and Female Capacity Building

The project which ran for 12 months faced a number of challenges, key among them the closure of democratic space leading to the raiding of the SCMZ offices in June 2008. However, the project registered

a number of successes:

- The civic and human rights education component of the project (with complementary efforts from other civic and ecumenical players) scored very well, as evidenced by the high levels of participation by young people in the harmonized elections. Moreover, their choices of leadership indicated that they were doing it from an informed perspective
- the project boosted confidence among the female members of the movement as evidenced by the increase in

female student participation in SCMZ governance programmes

- the project also managed to challenge the myth that governance and human rights issues are no go areas for the church as through interactions with various church groups the project managed to mobilize a critical mass that wants to participate in these issues against all odds
- the talks among political players and the subsequent agreement on 15 September also shows the efforts of progressive civic projects like nurturing a culture of democracy which emphasized the need for a peaceful transformation process in Zimbabwe's governance structures

As the project winds up it is paving way to a new but related project which is to run from October 2008 to September 2009. The new project is called "Promoting positive participation of young Christians in civic issues in Zimbabwe".

ZIMBABWE'S EDUCATION: WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Education Should Remain a Nation's Priority (from page 1)

By entering in these talks with Morgan it was a clear admittance By ZANU PF that they cannot run the government on their own. I still maintain that ZANU PF cannot be trusted as they have a long record of breaking concessions and agreements they would have signed.

The greatest challenge we have is to build this nation and remove it from the whims and caprices of poverty. One of the most fundamental areas needing serious and urgent attention is our country's education sector. It is a public secret that Zimbabwe's education system had plunged into the doldrums. As the new government starts work they need to priorities education among other social services and basic rights. Education should always remain every nation's

priority for the development of any country as it is a fundamental human right and education is critical for the development of high skilled manpower, technology transfer and generation of new knowledge.

As Zimbabweans focus on this transitional process we should make sure that those who will be mandated to lead for the next 18 months, 5 years or whatever life span is going of that government not to forget the educational sector which is bleeding and in

pain. I acknowledge that there are going to be reforms in our education system but they should be for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe and such reforms and policies should not be like the failed Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) of 1992, which privatized, commoditised and commercialized education and in so doing tied the suicide rope on education in Zimbabwe.

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The status of women, a social and historical perspective

"Hence it has become apparent that gender relations theory can be developed only in cross-cultural perspective."

The discourse on the status of women in society has become increasingly widespread in the academia and out of it over the years. Previously, this was a point to ponder for women, just like all matters related to social change which inadvertently implies social conflict. The question is what is and has been the status of women vis-a-vis what it ought to be. These issues are so intimately interlaced that they cannot be discussed one outside of the other. Those of the traditional sex role school of thought believe that the status of women should be as it has been, that is, it is biologically conditioned and remains the same across cultures, traditions and religions. In other words, women's roles and lives are relatively homogeneous with respect to social function. The presumed logic is that men have been the active agents of social change and women the domesticated partner in the household sphere. These views have held

for quite a long time and remained unopposed until recently.

Since the 19th century, movements aimed at changing policy with regards women's lives began to emerge with real pressure coming in the post world war two epochs. Hence acknowledgements that sex discrimination exists became common talk. Together with this moral valuation, came the factual interest on the status of women. Hence it has become apparent that gender relations theory can be developed only in cross-cultural perspective. Thus it has become clear that the social lives of women vary widely between so-

cieties on aspects like household arrangements, division of labor between genders, child-raising practices, inter alia. Consensus however is absent about whether there have been women supremacists or matriarchal societies in which the political power of women has been actually superior to that of men. The common conclusion ensuing is that if matriarchies ever existed, they were both rare and ancient. Otherwise the status of women was that of equality with men, in their gender systems.

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The status of women a social and historical perspective (...from page 6)

While the authority and power of women is realized but consciously not recognized by men is basically because of the fear of the reproductive power of women by men. This becomes the major factor underlying the dominance and control over women by men. The levels and magnitudes of control do vary cross-culturally though. This variation is partly explained by the economic status of the different women. For instance, upper-class women who hardly raise the children they bear and the women in poverty stricken groups who are forced to raise other people's children and not nurture their own. These occupy or enjoy different statuses.

In today's modern capitalist economies, the gender roles and status of women have vastly changed. Whereas in pre modern society male and female gender roles maintained a cohesive social system and neither gender had a monopoly on public impact since both had the collective responsibility of reproduction and production, the development of capitalist centralized production enhanced the splitting of these functions. Thus the privatization of the family by the capitalist income tended to destroy the value of domestic work. Women began to live only within the private home sphere and they became isolated. The result was the personal and

political disempowerment of women. As a result, the global movements seeking justice for women have emerged across various cultures. With this, there is need to look at various sources of knowledge so as to fully place the status of women. Religion is one such source. It remains to be seen whether orthodox-Christianity, and also Judaism can deal squarely with the mounting evidence of the link between male supremacy and the salient characteristics of western religious systems as presented in the scriptures. However, whether one views the disadvantaged status of women to be an urgent moral issue depends primarily on how one assesses the status quo in respect of one's interest and upon their conception of what sort of world is divinely intended for human well-being. Therefore the question on the status of women in society requires urgent and increasing pressure and attention within Christian circles now and in the future for a balanced society to ensue societal development.

By Matsiliso Moyo SCMZ Gender Secretary

Expectations of female students from the new government

The nation's hopes and aspirations have been raised by the agreement on the 15th of September 2008 between the two formations of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF). As citizens prepare for the new government arrangement there is a constituency that in my view deserves great attention from the new government, these are female students littered around tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe.

There are a number of challenges that we as female students face in our colleges as a direct result of the economic and governance crisis that has characterized our nation for more than ten years now. Due to the socio-cultural factors obtaining in Zimbabwe which has a bias towards educating male children as compared to female ones the support that female students receive from

parents is quite minimal while at the same time the government is not giving any financial support to students in colleges. This has left the majority of female students with no option but to resort to commercial sex work. This is exposing the females to risks like HIV infections as the poor young women can not negotiate safe sex given their vulnerable economic conditions. Worse still, the females do not have access to medication given the collapse of the health sector in Zimbabwe. Females in colleges have difficulties accessing sanitary pads due to unavailability and in cases where they are available the prices are too prohibitive. As a result female students are being forced to use other methods which are a threat to health. All students in Zimbabwe are faced with a reality of being forced to learn in an environment not conducive for learning. There are no up to date text books in colleges, let alone

computer technology. Lecturers are not coming for lectures, accommodation is dilapidated and the food offered to students is not suitable for human consumption.

The new government arrangement has a lot of work to do to ensure that it addresses the plight of female students in Zimbabwe's tertiary institutions. The best way of dealing with the issues affecting female students is to consult them, to involve them in policy formulation and development. This should be a top priority for the new government.

Women's rights are human rights too!



Sandra Dzvetve, UZ Branch

SCMZ Speaks: A NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Contribution to the next edition of
SCMZ SPEAKS to be published in
December 2008 are welcome from all
the stakeholders of the movement

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The Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe (SCMZ) is a registered non denominational faith and membership based organisation affiliated to the Geneva headquartered World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). The organisation is there to address the changing needs of young people and students. The movement has two critical responsibilities which are:

- ◆ To create a God fearing, just, peaceful, transparent, politically tolerant society with equal opportunities.
- ◆ Challenging students and members to express their faith in practical service.

Vision - A just, peaceful and transparent society in which young people enjoy equitable resource allocation and equal opportunities in education, career guidance and employment.

Mission - To conscientise and mobilise students and youths to be pro-active in society for positive change.

Overall Goal - To build a movement that is relevant and sensitive to the socio-economic issues affecting young people.

Overall Objectives

- ◆ To call students to faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ To help students grow in their Christian life through prayer, study of the bible and the active membership in the Church.
- ◆ To train, equip and encourage students to witness to their faith in practical service to their neighbours.
- ◆ To lead students to see their studies as ways of serving God.
- ◆ To provide an opportunity for other students to come and understand and accept the Christian faith.
- ◆ To strive for justice and peace in the society and for the visible unity in Christ's Church.

ZIMBABWE'S EDUCATION: WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Education Should Remain a Nation's Priority (From page 6)

Zimbabwe had become a nation for loafers the rate of unemployment of about 85%, school leavers are now surviving the hardest way. The government should create formal means of employment so as to reduce the number of people working in the informal sector as it has no benefit to a government since it cannot effectively tax the informal sector. Most vocational training centres had been closed to pave way for the Border Gezi training camps for youths and this was a sad development. We hope these centres will be reopened to pave way for students. There is need for establishing more vocational centres to cater for

those who are to venture in the small technical businesses and this will reduce unemployment.

We need quality education for all and not education for the elite, education should remain a nation's priority. The new government should put this into cognisance that there are part to many international and regional human rights instruments relevant to the education sector, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 26, which clearly states that everyone has a right to education, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Article 13 (c) states that Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in par-

ticular by the progressive introduction of free education; , further, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights article 17 (1) robustly articulate the need to make access to education, states fundamental duty and obligation. Finally, education's philosophies should entail a humanistic approach that should emphasize in promoting national development; a wider participatory process; socio-political economic and technological changes; and the overall culture of the nation. We need to work together as a nation and have a good will so that we reach the Promised Land.

Vava Blessing (ZINASU Information Secretary)