

## Salutations

I would like to observe the presence of

1. The permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
2. Chief Directors from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary
3. Representatives from the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education Innovation Science and Technology Development and other line ministries
4. Education Partners
5. Members of the ECOZI National Executive Committee and ECOZI members
6. Teachers Unions
7. And our treasured teachers

ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED.

I am excited that today we have gathered to celebrate the contribution of teachers in the development of our country. We are all products of teachers, and this occasion is a chance for us to appreciate their unique contributions to us all.

In resonance with this year's theme; Teachers at the heart of education recovery, it is an honour to address these frontline workers who have been working to keep education going despite the raging pandemic. The resurgence of COVID 19, the frequent closure of schools and their reopening have made us realise how important teachers are in improving the quality of learning in schools. A great deal of learning was lost during the closure of schools, as such the quality of education has been affected. Teachers are therefore indeed at the heart of Education recovery and subsequently Post COVID-19 recovery.

Every 5<sup>th</sup> day of October we commemorate The World Teachers Day, a day set aside to pay tribute to the gifted souls who work every day to make sure that the future is bright for all of us.

There is a saying that teachers are greater than parents. Parents give birth to a child whereas teachers mould that child's personality and provide avenues to bright futures. Apart from academics, teachers stand by us every step to guide, motivate and inspire us to become better people. They are a source of knowledge

and wisdom and from them we are inspired to give back to the society in one way or another.

#### TEACHER WELFARE ISSUES

We are aware of the challenges that teachers are facing in this haemorrhaging economy. I would like to implore our teachers to soldier as we explore ways to relieve them from these welfare challenges by way of improving salaries, housing and generally conditions for service. My ministry values the services offered by teachers and I promise to work towards improving teacher welfare during my term as the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education.

#### CALA

We recently introduced the Continuous Assessment Learning Activity (CALA) which is a student assessment regime that was set to be implemented during the second term in preparation for November 2021 ZIMSEC examinations and has already begun. The first phase of the regime was set to run from July to September 2021. We are happy that despite the time constraints and challenges involved in coordinating CALA our dedicated teachers have been working tirelessly to comply to this new assessment method and so far, the progress reported is applauded.

#### SDG 4

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education embraced government's commitment to the sustainable development goals and how the recently adopted National Development Strategy 1 seeks to improve our education system to meet world standards and the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Teacher efficacy is the single most important determinant of a child's learning success. If SDG 4 is to become a reality, attention needs to be anchored on investing in the teacher education process and on developing a quality teaching workforce and My ministry is committed to that.

Teachers are the building blocks of our lives. The full realisation of SDG 4 is hinged on the work being done by teachers. They serve selflessly and help us reach our aims as the Ministry. They spearhead change by shaping and building the learner's personality and make them ideal citizens of the country. As one

looks at the great impact that teachers will have on growth, development and wellbeing of the learners and the nation, one must agree that teaching is a noble profession.

Their contribution is not only limited to schools, but it extends to the society and the country. In doing this there are principles that all teachers infuse inclusivity, equity, gender sensitivity, fairness, respect, ubuntu, responsiveness, balance, diversity, transparency, and accountability both in and out of the classroom. This will help bring up a well-rounded learner.

Therefore, it is our utmost duty to salute our teachers today though belatedly in recognition of their undeterred efforts. Let us take time to acknowledge their contributions not only to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education Sector but to the nation as a whole.

Thank you for your invaluable commitment, resilience and hard work to ensure an equitable ,quality education for all our learners .

Happy Teacher's Day Frontliners