

PRESS RELEASE BY ELIMU YETU COALITION:THE POOR STATUS OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR

6TH FEB 2014

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

As you may be aware the Education sector is currently in a mess and the leadership of the sector do not seem to be taking action despite the public outcry. The latest admission by the Director of Secondary Education Mr. Masese in support of the fees increase was in bad taste and against the discussions we have held with the ministry and where they have promised action. Further he was contradicted yesterday by the principle secretary Education Dr Bellio Kipsang who was issuing warning committing to undertake an audit to find out which schools have increased fees.

This statement is unfortunate especially coming from the leadership at the ministry and one thing is for sure- the PS has not been in this country. If he has been in the country then he has not been at the helm and if he has been leading the ministry we seriously believe he or the leadership at the ministry are what is ailing our education sector!

A few indicators as to where the sector is headed include:

- (i) The skyrocketing cost of secondary education that is locking out the majority Kenyan poor. This is despite the ministries own directive of 2009 to cap school fees to be charged in all secondary schools.
- (ii) Latest Quota system of form one selection that leave children frustrated even after performing highly. The innocent children have been unable to access public schools of their dream. The Quota system is an ill advised intervention that is punitive to learners and a lazy excuse by a government not keen to equalizing education opportunities in this country.
- (iii)The inability by the ministry to expand access to secondary education where 200000 learners missed form one places. This is a number similar to last year's indicating Zero progress despite promises by subsequent leadership every other time results are released.
- (iv)The poor performance in public primary school that is made worse by the under investment, lack of clear supervision and direction from the government. That Hundreds of thousands of learners scored below 100 marks is a disturbing situation that should trigger any investor to demand accountability, results and value for money.

We have severally written to the Ministry of Education and in particular had face to face and phone conversations with the Cabinet Secretary attempting to urge the Cabinet Secretary to take action to no fruition.

