



TEACHER UNIONS VOW TO CHALLENGE SCRAPPING OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Leadership of the Professional Educators' Union had joined an emergency meeting of the five (05) teacher Unions admitted to the ELRC, to look into the rumour mongering, currently doing rounds in the media, that the Council for Education Ministers (CEM) had steamed ahead in taking a decision to scrap the October 2021 school holidays, regardless of concerns sharply raised by teachers around the matter, in our meeting with DBE, last week Saturday.

Whilst we do not have an official communication from DBE, conveying the outcome of CEM on the matter, we felt it incumbent and prudent from our side as leadership, to be proactive for any eventuality around this matter. As you might have learnt from media, some of interested parties in education are already putting their ducks in a row to challenge DBE in Court, should the decision to scrap the school holidays materialise.

It is for this reason that we took a conscious decision to urgently write a letter to DBE, to get the veracity of the rumour mongering to scrap the school holidays. Should the rumour found to be true, that will just be a sad day besetting our education system, as it shall have been an insensitive and inconsiderate move, not only found to be bordering on total encroachment of our basic conditions of employment of teachers but to ignore the plight of our teachers and learners during this time of the pandemic.

The five teacher unions are in unison that should push comes to shove, this is a fight we are prepared to take even to the Highest Court in the land, to see justice done to majority of our members, who had been sacrificing their spare time and holidays, in their quest to see learners to cover the syllabus without demanding anything in return.

It is against this background that news flash is urgently issued, to bring you, our members, up to speed of what is happening in the sector. May we then

urge you to disseminate the content of this news flash far and wide, to ensure that every teacher is well informed of recent developments in his/her working environment, regardless of teacher union affiliation.

For and on behalf of the Professional Educators' Union!

Yours truly

Ben Machipi

General Secretary