



Presidential Interaction with School Principals

DECLARATION

We, school principals and education officials, gathered here, at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre, on the 7th August 2009, appreciate and applaud the initiative taken by our President, the Honourable J.G. Zuma to convene us to deal with matters affecting our education system.

1. WE AFFIRM THAT:

- Education is government's key priority to:
 - break the cycle of poverty;
 - provide skills, knowledge and training - for socio-economic upliftment, social cohesion and transformation

2. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- We have a uniform National Curriculum Statement from grade R to 12
- There are challenges linked with NCS implementation which include:
 - Teacher development
 - Skills shortage in maths and science
 - Diverse interpretation
 - Administrative burden
- The Department of Basic Education is reviewing NCS implementation.

3. WE FURTHER RECOGNISE:

- The impact of the apartheid legacy on the education system as continued distortion and inequalities reflected in infrastructure, physical and human resources provisioning, which are more pronounced in rural areas;
- The enormous contributions and sacrifices of thousands of our educators even under difficult conditions and environment;

- The need for professional leadership and management development for principals who provide leadership to more than 350 000 educators, 12 million learners and in 27,000 schools;
- That there are principals whose unprofessional conduct and incompetence tarnish the professional image of dedicated principals and contribute to dysfunctionality and under performance in schools

4. WE THUS RESOLVE TO:

- Value and appreciate the partnership with various stakeholders;
- Prioritise education;
- Ensure that education remains everybody's business
- Endorse the non-negotiables as outlined by President J.G. Zuma, that:
 - Teachers must teach;
 - Learner must learn;
 - Parents must provide support to their children;
 - Government must create conducive environment for learning and teaching;
- Ensure that schools offer quality education even in rural areas;
- Help address the social deficit of schools in rural communities;
- Recommit ourselves to the declaration of the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC)
- Allow the QLTC steering committee to follow up all matters raised in this gathering with the President.



basic education

Department:
Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA