

# ZIMTA Monthly Bulletin

WWW.ZIMTA.ORG.ZW.LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.FOLLOW US ON TWITTER@ZIMTAO1



## *What's New*

### **ACCESS TO EDUCATION DENIED**

.....  
**A NOTE FROM  
 PRESIDENT**  
 .....

### **SCHOOLS LACK PPES**

.....  
**OBITUARY**

## *Access to Education Denied*

by Staff Reporter

Living under level 4 lockdown in Zimbabwe has necessitated the closure of all schools and higher learning institutions in Zimbabwe, a reality which has been widely accepted, but this is one factor that has just widened the gap between the rich and poor folks in terms of accessing education. The facts on the ground seem to prove that unless a learner or student has means to acquire digital devices, they are unable to access education whose mode of transmission has

## ***Government Must Improve Access to Education***

by Staff Reporter

(continued) largely become digital.

Mission schools, church schools, some council schools and others, a few super resourced government schools in urban centres have doubtlessly and evidently continued to deliver lessons through digital platforms during lockdowns, whereas in public schools where the majority numbers lie, processes have slowed down, because learners and educators have minimized or lost contact completely.

To its credit, the government has established radio lessons

for remote learning but reach is yet to be verified. More needs to be done.

It is the educator's conviction that citizens have a responsibility to push the government to invest in digital devices for public schools to enable meaningful online learning to take place. Ordinary Zimbabweans do not want to be left behind.

Educators want to be capacitated with modern tools in the form of laptops, desk computers for every teacher so that they can easily organise and deliver lessons on zoom and google classroom.

Educators have also said they want the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in Zimbabwe to provide the correct tools for modern learning by ensuring that every teacher is provided with data bundles to deliver lessons during this lockdown era.

Access to education is for every Zimbabwean. It is a constitutional right.

***"Learners and educators have minimized or lost contact completely"***





## ***A Covid -19 Warning President Richard Gundane***

### **Brothers and sisters, comrades and friends,**

COVID 19 is a reality and this world will never be the same. Education will never be the same, jobs will never be the same.

This demands that we adapt and embrace the new normal as defined by the environment. In doing so we will need to make the best choices.

New scientific knowledge and statistics are our best bet. Vaccines are among the benefits of science. I would be the first to confess ignorance of the full benefits of the vaccines on offer,

yet I find it compelling under the current circumstances to err on the side of caution by making the call. Vaccination is our only hope during this health crisis.

In the wake of a pandemic, maintaining a healthy life style is well advised. Home remedies, cleanliness and hygiene are the most basic of lessons we teach in school yet they are the panacea to COVID 19.

Among some worth considering advice from health experts, let's explore the benefits of traditional foods, medicines and home remedies.

These must be approved by health authorities.

Once the right decisions have been made, we as educators have a responsibility to assist in communicating authentic information from verified sources, this would go a long way in protecting the teaching fraternity.

We have been infected and affected. We have a responsibility to make sure we save our own lives and the lives of others. Remember, when the bell tolls, it tolls for all of us



**Reduced Class Sizes a Priority**

***"We have been  
infected and  
affected, We have  
a responsibility to  
save lives"***

We advocate compliance to World Health Organisation standards and Ministry of Health Care Protocols.

We care.  
ZIMTA President

## ***Public Schools Lack Equipment: PPES essential to combat Covid-19 spread***

by Daisy Zambuko

Before announcing the school re-opening dates, it is paramount that the government, which is the largest stakeholder in all public schools and the education provider of last resort to every Zimbabwean, provides the necessary personal protective equipment for both learners and teachers.

Schools disinfection, sanitizers, and class size reductions are all responsibilities of the government of Zimbabwe.

***"Schools disinfection, and reduced class sizes a priority"***

"The employer must ensure that, visits should not be mere visits to check preparedness, but those that ensure that PPEs are

PPES essential for every school



delivered, disinfection is done, Sanitizers are procured for the rural and satellite schools and that running water is available in each and every school, without the above pre-requisites, it is surely dangerous to advocate for a quick return to normal schooling for a country that is experiencing its third wave," said some educators who spoke during interviews conducted in various schools.

Educators across Zimbabwe have been unanimous in calling for the government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary education,

for a step up in efforts in providing PPEs in public schools and higher learning Institutions. However it is sad that despite the surge in Covid -19 statistics some institutions have been operating without these basic necessities.

Recently, Zimbabwe recorded 2 156 new cases and 56 deaths according to the Zimbabwe Covid -19 Sit Report.

Zimbabwe is also currently operating under level 4 Lock Down, which stipulates that there would be a national curfew, from 6 pm in the evening until 6.a.m the following day.

## ***National Vice President Muzondo Dies***

by Staff Reporter

A sudden dark cloud hovered over the sky with news that the ZIMTA Deputy President Thomas Muzondo, had passed on. It was a huge shock.

The late Thomas Muzondo passed on at Chitungwiza General Hospital. He was 54 years of age. The sudden death left many speechless.

A teacher turned ZIMTA's negotiator at the National Joint Negotiating Forum, (NJNC),

Because of his deep analysis and ability to bring tangible results onto the table, Muzondo was quickly elevated to the post of District Chairman in 1996. During that time Muzondo continued to actively participate through the structures until he was elevated through elections to the post of Provincial Primary Representative, a post he held from from 2000 to 2003

As a provincial primary schools representative, Muzondo brought in a new culture of reviving issues and ensuring that the province paid an ear to the needs of the sector, a characteristic which many admired and cherished during his tenure. The late , Muzondo won the post of Provincial Chairman.

but before long, he was nominated and elected to become the National Vice President for ZIMTA, a position that he held until the time of his death.

ZIMTA National President Mr. Richard Gundane described the late Muzondo as "the leader of unions in education" at the NJNC. He said "as an alternate team leader of the Council, he fought relentlessly to improving conditions of service for civil servants. This he did with a never-say-die attitude. The past two years from the year 2018 have been very challenging years but Muzondo soldiered on," we have lost a reliable comrade in ZIMTA"

***"We have lost a reliable Comrade in ZIMTA"***

Muzondo will always be remembered for bringing results onto the table on matters concerning teacher salaries and welfare.

The late Muzondo joined ZIMTA in 1991, and was teaching at Chakavadzi Primary School, Shamva District then. In no time, Muzondo assumed the post of District Secretary in 1990.





## *Rest in Power Comrade Muzondo*

by Staff Reporter

The ZIMTA National Executive including the Chief Executive Officer Dr Sifiso Ndlovu, NAPH, NASH and NASID, the entire membership and secretariat have also expressed their condolences and bemoaned the loss of an exemplary leader.

Comrades who worked with the late Muzondo such as Laraforbudent International Secretary, Eva Elmstedt Frisk, in a statement said, "Thomas Muzondo was an active fighter who contributed immensely during the many years of his dedicated and selfless commitment to achieving trade union rights of educators in particular, and workers in general. His focus was on strengthening the working conditions while playing an active role in the improvement and development of society at large.

In a condolence message from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union, (ZCTU), Secretary General, Japhet Moyo, described the late Vice president, as a level headed and visionary colleague, "he made immense contribution to the labour movement by fighting for justice in the education sector. He was a firm believer in trade union and human rights."

The late Muzondo was a former ZCTU General Council Member who also sat in the Administration and Finance Committee meetings.

In yet another condolence message, the Progressive Teachers' Association President, Takavafira Zhou said, Muzondo was "a tolerant, enthusiastic, considerate, dependable,

accommodative and dynamic trade union leader. We have lost a brother, colleague, educationist and trade unionist whose quest for teacher camaraderie in pursuit of purchasing power parity of teachers' salaries was unquestionable."

Teachers in Zimbabwe remember the late Thomas Muzondo as a fighter, a liberator and reliable colleague. Muzondo is survived by two sons and a daughter.

