

## **YOUTH AGENDA POLL ON CORRUPTION WITHIN THE EDUCATION**

### **SECTOR:**

**ARE YOU THE VICTIM OF CORRUPTION WITHIN THE EDUCATION SECTOR?**

**HAVE YOU WITNESSED ANY INCIDENCES OF CORRUPTION WITHIN PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS?**

In February of this year the Youth Agenda requested the public to report any cases of corruption within the education sector with the aim of understanding the difficulties being faced by the public. What was clear from the responses gathered was that the most consistent complaints surrounded the issue of public primary schools charging parents excessive examination as well as tuition fees ranging from KShs 200.00 to 2,700.00. Some parents also complained that schools in their areas were charging for regular school activities for which the Ministry of Education has also already made provisions. Most of the affected parents were concerned that the Government funds were being misused by the schools. Respondents from the Siaya and Nyamira counties seemed to bear the brunt of this of burden. In light of the free primary school education program this is very disconcerting especially due to that fact that children in critical stages of their education in Std. 7 and 8 are being sent home for lack of payment at the expense of their educational progress.

Another of the most disturbing reports was the complaint that nearly all KCPE certificate holders in the Ugenya area had failed to be accorded public high school places without any explanation. This complaint coupled with the numerous cancellations of results experienced nationwide during last year's sitting of the KCSE and KCPE examinations is highly alarming. The prolonged disruption of the educational progress of the affected students needs to urgently be addressed by the Ministry of Education and other educational bodies particularly in light of the country's Vision 2030 educational goals.

From the total responses received it appears many parents are unaware of the actual laws and guidelines governing the ability of public primary educational institutions to charge them extra fees for normal school activities particularly examinations. It seems that the Ministry of Education needs to go further to educate the general public of their rights surrounding the free primary education programme. In the same instance the Ministry should also assess its current mechanisms for policing schools that are in violation of the law as it relates to free education and should also develop mechanisms for the compensation of victimized parents as well as students. It appears that the students who are most affected by these issues have failed to be recognized sufficiently and the continual disruption of their education remains a grave concern of the Youth Agenda.