

KNUT/PRESS/88/11/2011

September 11TH, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

THEME: CALLING OFF THE STRIKE

SALUTATIONS

**The National Chairman,
The National Treasurer,
Members of National Steering Committee,
Members of the National Executive Council,
National Trustees,
The Executive Officers,
Members of the 4th Estate (Press)**

You all know that the teachers of this nation downed their tools on the **6th September 2011** as had been required by the **National Executive Council**. We take this opportunity to report to our members that the employer took immediate action of calling the Union to negotiations.

After engaging all the other arms of Government, the Employer admitted that the Union was right to make its demands and accepted that there was shortage of teachers in public schools within the Nation hence there was urgent need to employ more teachers. The Employer also acknowledged that while the teachers in service were doing all they could to cover the syllabus; they were over burdened and could not continue working under such unbearable circumstances.

The Employer therefore quickly agreed as follows;

1. **THAT** the **18,060** teachers who were employed on contractual terms be employed on Permanent And Pensionable terms with effect from **1st October 2011**;
2. **THAT** in addition to the **18,060** teachers hired as above another **5,000** teachers be employed on Permanent And Pensionable terms with effect from 1st January 2011;
3. **THAT** the Employer engages, the Ministry Of Education to come up with a long term strategy with clear measures that will address the shortfall of teachers in public schools and the mainstreaming of the recruitment of Early Childhood Education teachers. The development of this strategy be fast tracked and considered in **2012-2013** MTEF Budget
4. **THAT** the Employer and the Union develop the terms of the return to work formula.

Ladies and gentlemen, we had made demands and the employer has met a large part of our demands; and we have received assurance that even that small portion that has remained, that is; the employment of **5,000** and not **10,000** teachers that we had demanded, will be done as soon as the next budget year of **2012/2013**.

Together with this offer, the Employer pleaded with the Union to call off the strike, but the leadership refused and was adamant that the employer should meet all the demands as stated in the Notice.

HOWEVER, as you are all aware this Union receives direction from its decision making organ, which is the **NEC**. When the **NEC** sat to deliberate, it considered what the employer was offering and the suffering of our beloved children who are candidates this term; and on that background, it directed that for the sake of our children, and for the sake of stability in the Nation, the strike be called off.

As the Secretary General and the spokesman of the **NEC**, I am left with no choice but to call the strike off.

We expect the Employer to keep their part of the bargain as stated in this agreement; there are instances when the Government has reneged on its promises; like the **LEGAL NOTICE 534 of 1997**, which we assure our members that we shall be pursuing.

We therefore advise teachers to resume duty and serve with the same valor and enthusiasm that our beloved profession is known for. We take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for ensuring that this has been the most successful strike in the history of this Nation.

Thank you all and God bless you.

(D.O. OSIANY)
SECRETARY GENERAL
K.N.U.T