



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

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### PRESS STATEMENT 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

The Council of Governors is concerned by the refusal of teachers in the North Eastern Counties to return to school almost six weeks since the beginning of the first term. As a Council, we attach great value to human life but also remain cognizant of the fact that the children in these schools have a right to education, and that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity as provided by The Child Rights Council and enshrined in the Constitution.

The effect is devastating and far-reaching: parents are afraid to send their children to school, teachers are afraid to teach, and schools are shut down. In every respect, these areas already had much more limited access to education to begin with and are increasingly becoming disproportionately affected. This climate of insecurity has seriously retarded, and in places even stopped, the crucial task of educating children.

The Council of Governors requests the National Government to utilize the provisions of Article 187 of The Constitution and surrender the function of Education to The County Governments which are facing Security Challenges. It is worth noting that other workers who are engaged by The County

Governments in these areas have not stopped working nor failed to report on duty. It thus appears that closer supervision, in this case by The County Governments, gives the workers a sense of comfort that the teachers do not enjoy.

This will strictly apply to the Counties facing this challenge and shall be enforced until such a time that normalcy returns to these areas. It is our conviction as a Council that this function would indeed be performed more effectively since The County governments provide a framework for closer supervision. The National Government shall continue to hold Constitutional responsibility for performance of the function as provided for but the children in these areas will not be unduly disadvantaged because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control.

We urge the National government to consider this matter with urgency to enable these children get adequate preparation for National Examinations which will uniformly be administered across the Country.

The Council of Governors reiterates its commitment to ensure service delivery is not compromised even during this transition period. We are engaging with the various Unions that represent employees performing devolved functions. We recognize the Unions and are currently engaging with the Kenya Union of medical practitioners to ensure that all Counties sign the requisite Recognition Agreements with the Union and commence Negotiations for the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

We have also put in place a joint committee to handle the issue of transition and progression of Doctors from “Interns” to “Medical Officer” as this has been a problem in the past. The committee comprises The Council of Governors, The Public Service Commission, The Ministry of Health, and The Transition Authority.

The Council wishes to set the record straight on our “Pesa Mashinani” initiative; The campaign is on and so far, we have collected over 1.2 million signatures. The

issue is not that Counties get an increase in allocation but that it has to be guaranteed in the Constitution not through haggling and negotiation every Financial Year. We have copies of our Bill here for you. Please read it carefully and report factually.

**SIGNED.**

**H.E HON. ISAAC RUTO (EGH),  
CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**