

**ZINASU President, Clever Bere sends a New Year message to the students and the people of Zimbabwe:**

Revolutionary Greetings to all of you once again

We have travelled a long journey together since our last Congress in January 2008. We came out of our congress with crucial resolutions intended to assist in the resolution of the Zimbabwe's political crisis and hopefully the envisaged new dispensation would address the challenges we are facing as students in our various colleges.

In 2008, we have endured by far the most difficult year for our people. We have endured the worst humanitarian crisis in post-independent Zimbabwe characterized by cholera, hunger and starvation. Post March 29 election political violence, authored, sponsored and perpetrated by Zanu PF, completely destroyed social cohesion and human dignity. Cash shortages only but worsened the already desperate situation in the country.

Virtually no learning took place in our schools, colleges and universities. A generation has been wasted. The questions we continue to ask ourselves is that what will happen to the school kids, college and university students who have lost valuable learning time? What will be the consequences of the current developments on our economy and country in future?

Two events of great significance occurred in the past year. The election victory of March 29 and the September 15 Global Political Agreement are both historic and significant in the Renaissance of our country. The mistake we made by failing to claim our victory of the March election must never be repeated. Further, we must never make the mistake of allowing the Global Political Agreement to fall by the wayside. The Agreement, as flawed as it is, provides the only opportunity to take Zimbabwe back to her glory days. The economy is bleeding, there is a desperate humanitarian crisis, the nation is deeply divided, and there is lack of confidence in the populace. Only through the implementation of this agreement can rescue the country. We are however aware of Zanu Pf intransigence, which can be a hindrance to the successful implementation of the GPA. We must not allow Zanu Pf to detract us from achieving a better life for ourselves and our people.

The strong message we wish to convey to our political leaders at this juncture, is that put the interest of the people and the country first. The people have been patient enough. If you intend to form the inclusive government, let that be now. If you have other ideas then let us know now.

Having said that, we urge President Tsvangirai to come back and lead the country out of the current mess. Your absence is being felt.

To my fellow students, parents and Zimbabweans in general, let us remain committed to the struggle for a better Zimbabwe. let us all unite and work towards the renaissance of our country.

Wish Zimbabwe a better 2009,

On behalf of the Students' Union

Clever Bere

President

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