

Immediate Press Release
Friday; December 18, 2009

Education Ministry Grand Corruption: Ordering Investigations Inadequate

International Center for Policy and Conflict, ICPC, is urging President Mwai Kibaki to act much tougher in order to deal effectively, efficiently and sufficiently with the scourge of corruption and impunity dogging the Coalition Government. Grossly inadequate public declarations and knee-jerk actions from the President without decisive action only enhance criminality tendencies of public officials to continue abusing public office for Personal gain.

ICPC is calling on the President to take extraordinary punitive steps against Education Minister, Permanent Secretary and all top officials in the Education Ministry for Kenyans to take his public declarations seriously, and get rid of the cancer of corruption in the Public Service. The shameful act of outright theft of free primary education funds has caused and brought into disrepute and embarrassment to the President, the Prime Minister, the entire coalition government and Kenyan people. Failure to take such an immediate decisive action against culprits including recovery of all funds would amount to an admission by the country's top leaders that existing measures and public statements are irrelevant. Public confidence in the government and its agencies has taken a serious battering as it has become a norm for public officials to misappropriate public resources and abuse their offices with little or no tough action taken against them as they continue enjoying their ill-gotten pillage. We fear that those who stole Free Primary Education Funds in the Education Ministry just like in the past similar cases are likely going to walk scot free.

Free Primary Education was meant not only to guarantee and ensure enjoyment of right to education but remove the unacceptable discrimination and structural inequalities in the Kenyan society. Misappropriation of such crucial funds threatens economic growth, social development, consolidation of democracy and the national morale. Politically, it creates situations of potential instability by destroying trust and confidence, for when an administration loses its credibility a climate for instability, unrest and general lawlessness is created. International Center for Policy and Conflict

warns that high-level corruption and abuse of public office in Kenya remain a serious threat to national stability and negatively impacts on practices of productivity and performance as well as efforts to bring about national recovery, and sustainable and equitable development.

Signed by
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