

BACKGROUND

The Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ), formerly Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe, is a teacher organization founded in 2009 and launched officially in Harare on the 12th of March 2013. The launch of RTUZ set a tone for our fight for the improvement of both working conditions of rural teachers and livelihoods of citizens living in rural areas. The idea to form a rural teachers union was mooted in 2009 when the government of Zimbabwe introduced an incentive scheme in which teachers were to get 10% of levy paid by pupils.

The incentive scheme benefited already privileged urban teachers. The rural teachers went on to meet in Gweru in August 2009 where we unanimously resolved that we had peculiar challenges that could best be represented by an autonomous, issues based specific union, meant to amplify our voice in pressing for our demands to government.

The Gweru meeting noted that the rural teacher is a growth point in rural communities and as such, the insurmountable contributions we make in strengthening development of our communities and the country at large should be recognized.

On 18 November 2016 Rural Teachers Union Zimbabwe (RTUZ) united with other rural teacher associations and formed the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) and was duly registered with the Ministry of Labour and Public Service.

ARTUZ currently has a membership of 5534 members and 233 associate members countrywide. The Union operates and has structures in eight (8) administrative provinces of Zimbabwe (excluding Harare and Bulawayo metropolitans).

AIM

To unite teachers, education workers and educationists and to work towards bridging the gap between rural teachers and urban teachers, so as to inspire rural teachers to fully commit themselves to their work and stimulate growth and development in rural communities.

VISION

The realisation of a motivated rural teacher peacefully, co-existing with the community

MISSION

To enhance the capacity of rural teachers so that they become advocates of rural development and agents of community empowerment.

STRATEGIES

- Research, Policy Analysis and Monitoring
- Training, Education and Leadership
- Communication and Networking
- Lobbying and Advocacy

OBJECTIVES

- To negotiate on behalf of union members and to advance their individual and collective interests by entering into collective bargaining relations with the government and education authorities for the purposes of entering into collective agreements.
- To eradicate discrimination based on gender, sexism and sexual harassment of teachers, education workers and learners.

- To establish affirmative action programs for women and people with special needs and maximise their participation at all levels of the union and education system as a whole.
- To promote /oppose, as the case may be, any laws and administrative procedures that affect the interests of the members in particular and education at general.
- To institute legal proceedings on behalf of the union / its members in pursuance of the objectives of the union and to render, where appropriate, legal assistance to members in matters relating to education and employment.
- To conduct researches into educational & broader socio-economic matters.
- To establish and administer funds for the benefit of members and their dependents.

VALUES

- Transparency
- Equity and Equality
- Accountability
- Efficiency
- Democracy and solidarity

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Advisory Board
- National Executive Council
- Secretariat

PARTNERS

- Students Christian Movement of Zimbabwe (SCMZ)
- Education Coalition of Zimbabwe (ECOZI)
- Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe (CCDZ)
- Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)
- ZINASU(Zimbabwe National Students Union)
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)
- Counselling Service Unit (CSU)
- VERITAS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Trained 80 teachers in post trauma counselling
- Produced 2 research reports on policies in the education sector
- Parliamentary engagement on new curriculum
- Bonus payments for 2016
- 3 end child marriages discussions in rural areas (2016)
- 4 sports for peace tournaments in 2016
- 3 peaceful protests in 2016

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

JOIN US TODAY and get the following benefits:

- Collective bargaining for better salaries, allowances and conditions of service

- Welfare and central legal protection, litigation, protection against arbitrary firing and unfair treatment at work.
 - Individual low interest loans for members
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- Free annual diary and T-shirts.
 - Quarterly magazine, The Rural Teacher
 - Monthly circulars/ circular letters/newsletters
 - Teacher Development programmes
 - HIV and AIDS training programmes
 - Grievance handling
 - Teacher Management and Professional Support services
 - Study Circles
 - Leadership Training Programmes
 - Exchange programmes at regional and international levels

Contact Us:

69 Samora Machel Avenue, 10th Floor Bard House, Harare

www.rtuz.org.zw

ruraltrsunion@gmail.com

Facebook: Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe

Twitter: @RuralTeacherZim

+263 776 129 336/ 775 643 192