



UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA

Creating Opportunities

**Teachers change the world,
one child at a time.**

Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education

Education Conversation 24 Oct 2024

2. World Teachers' Day



“Don’t you know, talking about a revolution? It sounds like a whisper.”

Revolution by Tracy Chapman



3. Teacher, can you find YOUR voice?



To teach is to lead.

I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather.

As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humour, hurt or heal.

In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanised or dehumanised.

Hiam Ginott (1995)

4. OBE/NCS/CAPS/ATP



Teacher, where can you find YOUR voice in these documents?

CAPS was intended to enlighten teachers about what they should teach in class and how they should assess learners.

“Not incorporating teacher voices into decision-making and planning processes hinders the democratization of education”

(UNESCO Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030).

5. Reality Check in the Classroom



4IR - 4Cs framework:

Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity (Shippee, 2024)

Excluding teachers' perspectives in education policy decisions – means no buy-in.



The world will not be positively changed, one child at a time.



6. Teacher, where is YOUR voice?



Transformation of self into visible change agents who initiate new social contracts.

Mandela: Do what you can, where you are, with whatever you have.

Talk through Technology.



7. Improving communication



- Meaningful change in your school. Justify. Valid reasons. Motivate. Convincing.
- WApp 5 colleagues - to critically evaluate motivation.
- With their support, convert your WApp message into a Memo.
- Send - HoD and Principal.

Improving communication involves creating roles designed to bridge the gap between teaching staff and local leadership.

(Unesco)



8. Every child is a national asset.

So is every teacher!



44 million teachers needed worldwide by 2030.

15 million new teachers needed in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. (Global Report on Teachers)



9. Changing the Social Contract



Min of Basic Ed: Siviwe Gwarube:

“... over the past 30 years, comprehensive access to quality education has not yet been achieved.”

To turn the situation around, I have met with all teacher unions ...

The challenges are immense, but not insurmountable if we consistently pursue sustained efforts to strengthen systems.

(Sunday Times 20 Oct 2024)



10. Teachers Drive Social Transformation



Continental Education Strategy for Africa
(CESA 2016-2025)

SO 1: Revitalize the teaching profession to ensure quality and relevance at all levels.

Driven by teachers – will enable the “sustainable development for Africa to become a major player in the knowledge economy and be a credible competitor in a globalized world.” (CESA)

11. Finding My Voice...



... is more than talking, writing or self-expression.
I was not created to be silent, or to silence others.
The wisdom of voice, and using it, involves discovering how
best to package and express it so that others will want to
hear what I have to say. (Rod Smith, 2024)



12. It sounds like a whisper.



Action Plan

- Live the calling of being a teacher.
- Own our profession.
- Be professionals in the education sector.
- Speak with integrity. Live with integrity.
- Practise ethical leadership.

**“Don’t you know, talking about a revolution?
It sounds like a whisper.”**

**Know that you can truly change the world –
one child at a time.**



**Let's continue this Education Conversation ...
Thank You! Ngiabonga! Asante Sana.**

