

Are teachers the foundation of education system?

EDITOR: According to the salary review documents which Public Service submitted to the finance ministry for adoption, science teachers will be some of the biggest beneficiaries of the new enhanced salary structure for public servants.

Science teachers at the U4 salary scale have seen their earnings almost doubled from the current sh1.1m to sh2m while those under U5 scale will be paid sh1.75m, up from sh625,000. Where does this leave the arts teachers?

Teaching is a noble profession that makes an impact on all that attend school. Teachers have an impact on the lives of many schoolchildren every day. We are all in different careers because our lives were touched by teachers.

Many teachers do a lot of work to nurture and shape our personalities. We

are what we are because of teachers. I now wonder whether such inspiring teachers should be at different salary scales because of the different subjects they teach in schools. Whether arts or science teachers, they both make a huge impact on each and every student and need to be acknowledged for it.

Our priorities need to be redefined to make education very important in our country. Having quality education implies instituting measures that focus on both learners and teachers.

Teachers' welfare is fundamentally important as it impacts on their morale during the pursuance of their roles. Salaries should not be used to create classes of better teachers than others.

Keeping arts teachers at a low pay and enhancing salaries for science teachers is treading the wrong path. As a country

we need to make education a high priority and remunerate teachers fairly.

Teachers are the foundation of our education system. If we fail to maintain the good arts teachers in our schools, our education system will crumble as most of them are likely to leave the profession.

I am still puzzled whether the architects of this move are aware of the impact that it's likely to have on our schools.

The most obvious is the education crisis that is likely to occur. There is a possibility of a good number of arts teachers abandoning the profession to engage in other activities or seeking new opportunities in other fields.

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PICTURE BY WILFRED SANYI

LETTER OF THE DAY

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