



UZIMATELE MINISTRIES

SECOND TERM 2024 NEWSLETTER

UZIMATELE EDUCATION CENTRE

During the month of April and early May, our country experienced long rains that led to the worst floods since 1997.

Most rivers broke its banks leading to submergence of structures that lies on riparian lands and flood plains.

The ravaging effect of these floods compelled the Government to postpone the reopening of schools by two weeks in the Month of May. They also ordered demolition of all houses and structures build on riparian land across the country.

These order sparked anxiety among parents and learners as no one was sure whether schools build on riparian land were among those earmarked for demolition. We were worried too since our school is also adjacent to the River Nairobi and a stream behind it. The plight of many children who benefits from Uzimatele Education center for education was hanging in a balance and risks of retreating back to the streets was inevitably high.

Parents within the community were increasingly worried due to the rumours and grapevine that were circulating around suggesting that our school was among those structures marked for demolition. Since it was not clear to us then whether schools would be spared or not, we resorted to advising parents to remain calm as we prayed to God.

This fear from parents affected the few who normally pays school fees that finances the thirty percent of our operating costs because of uncertainties that were lying ahead

The government agency in charge of demolition came on the ground with bulldozers to start the process of demolishing the houses within the riparian reserve. They started by taking measurements of about 30m from the riverbanks and the streams within that area.

Fortunately, it turned out later that the government policy on demolition excludes all schools and learning institutions that are built on riparian lands. However, after taking their measurements, it turned up that three of our classrooms were found to be within the riparian area and hence we were advised to make arrangements of removing them in the near future.

The demolitions will affect all informal settlement areas adjacent to riparian reserves across the country thousands of families have been displaced and rendered homeless including most of our parents.

Some children from the displaced families are unable to come to school because their parents are now being hosted by relatives and friends who lives further away from our area of operation are now hosting their parents.

The demolition generally led to displacement of many households in Gatuamba area and regrettably among them were our parents who lost their properties. Consequently, parents who have children in our school are now trying to regain their livelihood after the tragedy and hence this has directly affected our thirty percent operating cost budget as a school.

Despite the huge challenges we have faced since the beginning of the year, our parents have displayed a high level of commitment and unwavering emotional support throught. This has been our greatest motivation to carry on with our noble duty to serve them.

Some parents have been quoted appreciating Uzimatele for providing diligent services to them through the following ways:

- Outreach programs

This is where teachers and social workers follow up pupils to their homes whenever they are absent to check on their welfare

- Providing quality education

Uzimatele has a dedicated and competent staff that has helped many pupils to excel in their Competency based assessment exams that helped them transit to higher levels

- Platform to explore their talents

Uzimatele education center has been organizing sports and talent shows events to offer many pupils and students a chance to showcase their talents in football, modelling, music and athletics which has helped some to transform them into future career

- Capacity Building

Uzimatele education center is credited for establishing a junior school to enable pupils who complete their grade six exams to transit to grade 7 within the Education Centre facility other than seeking elsewhere. Next year we will have grade 9 to complete the capacity of Preschool, Primary and Junior school



