



4th NESZ COMMUNIQUÉ

Lakeside Events Centre, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
27 – 29 May 2026

Organised by



MoPSE



Convened by Action for Empowerment Zimbabwe (AEZ), in partnership with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and other strategic stakeholders, the National Education Summit Zimbabwe 2026 brought together policymakers, education leaders, development partners, academics, private sector representatives, civil society organisations, and practitioners to deliberate on practical strategies for strengthening Zimbabwe's education system under the theme, "From Policy to Practice: Driving Innovation and Investment in Zimbabwe's Education System."

The Summit provided a national platform for dialogue, collaboration, knowledge sharing, and action-oriented engagement aimed at accelerating education transformation, improving learning outcomes, strengthening governance and accountability, promoting innovation, expanding access to quality education, and mobilising sustainable investment in support of Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2). The following outcomes emerged from the deliberations and reflect a shared commitment to advancing a responsive, inclusive, innovative, and future-ready education system for Zimbabwe.

I. Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

A key outcome of the Summit was the endorsement of a comprehensive Zimbabwe Education Continuous Professional Development Framework aimed at promoting professional excellence, meritocracy, continuous learning, and alignment with international best practice. The framework is expected to strengthen teacher welfare, career progression, accreditation, and the retooling and reskilling of educators to effectively implement curriculum reforms and respond to emerging pedagogical and technological developments.

II. Education Policy and Implementation

The Summit achieved broad consensus on the need for stronger implementation mechanisms capable of translating national education policies into measurable school-level outcomes. This includes strengthening district and provincial structures, improving monitoring and accountability systems, and enhancing coordination among public, mission, and private schools to ensure effective policy execution and improved educational performance.

III. Safe Schools, Inclusive Education and Learner Wellbeing

The Summit prioritised inclusive education by reaffirming the constitutional right to education for every learner, including children with disabilities and special educational needs. Increased investment in inclusive learning systems, mental health services, safeguarding mechanisms, child protection programmes, and accessible infrastructure was identified as essential. The expansion of BEAM, school feeding programmes, sanitary wear provision, and other learner support mechanisms into sustainable, nationally funded and shock-responsive systems was recognised as critical to reducing school dropouts, improving retention, and ensuring equitable access to quality education.

IV. Education Governance, Transparency and Accountability

A significant outcome of the Summit was the strengthening of governance, transparency, and accountability frameworks across educational institutions. Delegates supported the adoption of sound corporate governance principles, strengthened oversight systems, enhanced financial accountability, and measures aimed at preventing corruption, academic fraud, and resource mismanagement while promoting ethical leadership and community participation.

V. Innovation and Digital Infrastructure Transformation

The Summit underscored the importance of accelerating digital transformation through expanded connectivity, digital inclusion, smart learning environments, and strategic public-private partnerships. The integration of artificial intelligence, digital learning technologies, and innovative educational tools was recognised as essential for preparing learners for participation in the modern knowledge economy.

VI. Curriculum Development and Implementation

The Summit reaffirmed support for the Heritage-Based Curriculum as Zimbabwe's flagship national curriculum and an important expression of national identity and educational sovereignty. Delegates recognised the need for its continuous enhancement to align with international best practice, labour market requirements, and technological advancement. At the same time, the Summit emphasised that the strengthening of the Heritage-Based Curriculum should not exclude regional and international curriculum pathways, recognising the importance of learner choice and the best interests of students. Strengthened teacher preparedness, practical classroom implementation models, and continuous curriculum review were identified as critical success factors.

VII. Education Financing for Development

The Summit identified sustainable education financing as a strategic priority and highlighted the importance of innovative domestic financing mechanisms, expanded social protection programmes, stronger private sector participation, and enhanced development partnerships capable of mobilising resources for long-term education transformation and equitable access to quality learning opportunities.

VIII. Education Infrastructure Development

Delegates highlighted the need for accelerated investment in safe, modern, inclusive, and technology-enabled learning environments. Greater emphasis was placed on scalable and cost-effective infrastructure development models, improved educational facilities, and coordinated resource mobilisation to address infrastructure deficits across both urban and rural communities.

IX. Regional Education Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange

The Summit recognised the growing importance of regional collaboration in addressing shared educational challenges and advancing innovation across Africa’s education sector. Delegates endorsed the vision of Action for Empowerment Zimbabwe (AEZ), the founding convener of the National Education Summit Zimbabwe, to progressively expand the Summit into a regional education dialogue platform that promotes policy exchange, research collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnerships among education stakeholders across the SADC region and the African continent.

X. National Education Summit Zimbabwe 2027

An important outcome of the Summit was the confirmation of Manicaland Province as the host of the next National Education Summit Zimbabwe in May 2027. This reflects the continued institutionalisation of the Summit as a national platform for education dialogue and reinforces the commitment to decentralising engagement and broadening stakeholder participation across all provinces.

XI. The Bulawayo Resolution

A significant outcome of the Summit was the adoption of the Bulawayo Resolution, which consolidates the collective commitments of Government, educational institutions, development partners, communities, civil society organisations, and the private sector towards practical, measurable, and accountable interventions that advance education transformation in Zimbabwe. The Resolution provides a framework for continued collaboration, monitoring, implementation, and reporting in support of Vision 2030, NDS2, Agenda 2063, and Sustainable Development Goal 4.

The outcomes contained in this Communiqué represent a shared national commitment to transforming Zimbabwe’s education system from policy formulation to practical implementation. Delegates reaffirmed the importance of collective action, innovation, accountability, inclusion, and sustained investment in education as foundations for national development, social progress, and economic prosperity.



THE BULAWAYO RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT ZIMBABWE.

Adopted by the 4th National Education Summit Zimbabwe (NESZ 2026)

Theme: “From Policy to Practice: Driving Innovation and Investment in Zimbabwe’s Education System”

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe , 29 May 2026

PREAMBULAR DECLARATION

WE, THE DELEGATES of the Fourth National Education Summit Zimbabwe (NESZ 2026), comprising representatives of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Government Ministries, Parliament, Provincial and District Education Authorities, educational institutions, headmasters, teachers, school leaderships development partners, civil society organisations, School Development Committees, Academia, learners, industry leaders and the private sector, meeting in Bulawayo from 27 to 30 May 2026;

RECOGNISING the constitutional right to education and the central role of education in advancing Zimbabwe’s Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy;

APPRECIATING, the thought leadership of the Action for Empowerment Zimbabwe for continued efforts and commitment towards convening the National Education Summit Zimbabwe,

ACKNOWLEDGING the leadership of the Government of Zimbabwe in promoting equitable access to education, curriculum transformation, infrastructure development and digital innovation; **HEREBY ADOPT** the following resolutions and recommendations.

THE SIXTEEN POINTS RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 2. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 3. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 4. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

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Resolution 8. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 9. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 10. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 11. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 12. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 13. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 14. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 15. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

Resolution 16. The Summit adopts the recommendations and commitments under this thematic area as contained in Annexure A and calls upon relevant stakeholders to support implementation.

“ANNEXURE A”

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS BY THEMATIC AREA

This Annexure forms an integral part of the Bulawayo Resolution adopted at the Fourth National Education Summit Zimbabwe (NESZ 2026) and provides detailed recommendations to guide implementation by Government, educational institutions, development partners, communities and the private sector.

1.0 RESOLUTION 1: SAFE SCHOOLS

1.1 The Summit recommends the strengthening of learner protection mechanisms through the development and enforcement of comprehensive school safety frameworks that promote safe, secure and conducive learning environments.

1.2 The Summit encourages increased investment in school safety infrastructure, including functional water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, emergency preparedness systems and fire safety equipment.

1.3 The Summit further recommends enhanced participation of School Development Committees, parents and communities in safeguarding learners and promoting school safety.

2.0 RESOLUTION 2: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

2.1 The Summit recommends increased investment in assistive technologies, Braille materials, hearing aids and accessibility infrastructure to ensure equitable access to education for learners with disabilities.

2.2 The Summit encourages the strengthening of inclusive education methodologies within teacher training institutions and continuous professional development programmes.

2.3 The Summit further recommends the strengthening of examination accommodation systems to ensure that all learners are afforded equitable opportunities to demonstrate their competencies.

3.0 RESOLUTION 3: LEARNER WELLBEING

3.1 The Summit recommends the strengthening of transparent and equitable social support systems for vulnerable learners.

3.2 The Summit encourages the expansion of school health programmes through collaboration with health institutions and development partners.

3.3 The Summit further recommends the implementation of comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing bullying, abuse, substance misuse, mental health challenges and menstrual health barriers.

4.0 RESOLUTION 4: TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETOOLING

4.1 The Summit recommends the establishment of a coordinated National Continuous Professional Development Framework for educators.

4.2 The Summit encourages the strengthening of teacher digital competencies, Artificial Intelligence literacy and innovative pedagogical approaches.

4.3 The Summit further recommends the promotion of professional support systems that enable educators to adapt to evolving educational needs.

5.0 RESOLUTION 5: TEACHER WELFARE

5.1 The Summit encourages continued dialogue on teacher welfare, motivation, retention and professional recognition.

5.2 The Summit recommends the development of strategies that enhance educator wellbeing and productivity.

6.0 RESOLUTION 6: EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 The Summit recommends accelerated investment in school construction, rehabilitation and maintenance programmes, particularly in underserved and rapidly growing communities.

6.2 The Summit encourages the adoption of innovative infrastructure financing mechanisms, including Public-Private Partnerships.

6.3 The Summit further recommends improved access to digital connectivity, renewable energy solutions and modern learning facilities.

7.0 RESOLUTION 7: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

7.1 The Summit recommends expanded investment in school connectivity, digital learning platforms and educational technologies.

7.2 The Summit encourages the integration of digital skills and emerging technologies into teaching and learning.

8.0 RESOLUTION 8: HERITAGE-BASED CURRICULUM

8.1 The Summit reaffirms support for the continued implementation and strengthening of the Heritage-Based Curriculum as a foundation for national development and National sovereignty. The Summit encourages curriculum delivery approaches that strengthen innovation, productivity, cultural identity and Ubuntu/Unhu values.

8.2 The Summit's reaffirmation of the Heritage-Based Curriculum should not be construed as an exclusion of internationally or regionally recognised curricula. Rather, it reflects Zimbabwe's commitment to strengthening a curriculum framework that is grounded in national identity, cultural heritage, innovation, and socio-economic development priorities, while remaining open to global best practices, international standards, and complementary educational models. The Summit acknowledges the important role played by international, regional, private, mission, and independent education systems in enriching Zimbabwe's education landscape and promoting learner competitiveness in an increasingly interconnected world.

9.0 RESOLUTION 9: EDUCATION FINANCING

9.1 The Summit recommends increased and sustainable investment in education as a strategic national priority.

9.2 The Summit encourages exploration of innovative financing models and incentives that promote investment in educational technology and infrastructure.

10.0 RESOLUTION 10: ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

10.1 The Summit recommends strengthened governance systems and transparent utilisation of educational resources.

10.2 The Summit encourages increased stakeholder participation in educational planning, monitoring and accountability processes.

11.0 RESOLUTION 11: CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

11.1 The Summit recommends the adoption of climate-smart infrastructure standards in educational institutions.

11.2 The Summit encourages appropriate technical oversight and environmental sustainability measures in all education infrastructure projects.

12.0 RESOLUTION 12: INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

12.1 The Summit recommends the establishment of innovation hubs and incubation centres within educational institutions.

12.2 The Summit encourages learner-centred innovation, entrepreneurship development and intellectual property awareness.

13.0 RESOLUTION 13: STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

13.1 The Summit recommends strengthened collaboration between educational institutions, financial institutions and the private sector.

13.2 The Summit encourages the development of innovative financial products and investment opportunities that support educational development.

14.0 RESOLUTION 14: COMMUNITY AND PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

14.1 The Summit recommends strengthening community-supported school feeding programmes and learner support initiatives.

14.2 The Summit encourages active parental participation in learner development and school governance.

15.0 RESOLUTION 15: LAND FOR SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

15.1 The Summit recommends the integration of educational infrastructure requirements into local authority master plans and spatial planning frameworks.

15.2 The Summit encourages measures that facilitate access to suitable and affordable land for educational development.

16.0 RESOLUTION 16: REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND FUTURE PLANNING

16.1 The Summit supports the positioning of the National Education Summit Zimbabwe as a platform for regional dialogue, knowledge exchange and investment promotion within Southern Africa.

16.2 The Summit resolves that the Fifth National Education Summit Zimbabwe be convened in Manicaland Province in May 2027 and further recommends annual progress reviews and reporting through the National Education Summit platform.

ADOPTION AND ENDORSEMENT

On behalf of all delegates, stakeholders, partners, and participants of the Fourth National Education Summit Zimbabwe (NESZ 2026), held in Bulawayo from 27–29 May 2026 under the theme, “From Policy to Practice: Driving Innovation and Investment in Zimbabwe’s Education System,” we hereby endorse and adopt the Bulawayo Resolution and its accompanying recommendations.

We commit to supporting the implementation of these resolutions in pursuit of a quality, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable education system for Zimbabwe.

Dated **29, May 2026** at **Bulawayo, Zimbabwe**.

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Prof. Torerai Moyo

Minister of Primary and Secondary Education

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Mr. Moses Mhike

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education

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Mr. Alson Darikayi

President, Action for Empowerment Zimbabwe

.....
Ms. Violet Nkathazo

Chief Executive Officer, National Education Summit Zimbabwe