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**A Plight of the Poor**

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Like any other normal day, pupils learning around the informal settlements of Kibera woke up early on Monday to go quench their thirst for free primary education. They found their classrooms demolished and their belonging scattered all over. The whole place was like god forgotten suburbs. Over twenty-one hundred pupils today have nowhere to study.

The government decided to demolish schools to pave way for the construction of the roads that cuts through Kibera. It is the same government pushing for the construction of more schools and high enrolment. What an irony!

Teachers who were already in school told the few pupils who turned up to go back home. The sad part is that some of them had nowhere to go since their homes were demolished too. They still made to school despite the challenges they faced at home. They were told to vacate their homes at six in the morning. This means most of the children will not make to school even if the government decides to build or find them another school.

The place was to be demolished when the schools close but they became so inhuman that they displaced over thirty thousand persons with school going kids. They were indirectly denied a right to enjoy the free education. They even went ahead to demolish children's home. Who will wipe the tears of these young kids?

They exposed them to the cold weather. These are the poor children who have been denied basic needs. It will be hard for them to succeed if the government does not have a heart of sympathy.

They promised not to interfere with the learning process but what can we see? These were the schools that accommodated even the street children and of course the poor. No one seems to care about the poor! Yes, the government promised to compensate them but how sure are we that all of the affected people will get their share?

The security was tight as the exercise kicked off leaving the residents helpless. They watched the bulldozers flattened their homes and the eight schools. They were left homeless and their children with no education. Some of them were very old and with poor health. They could not remove all their belongings before the buildings were wrecked. I believe they could not even remove their children’s books meaning they will have nothing to read.

The government talked of eradication of poverty, ignorance and diseases. These are the poor people whose schools were demolished. How is eradication of ignorance and diseases expected to happen now?

Education Cabinet Secretary talked of the affected pupils being transferred to the nearby schools to continue with their studies. There will be overcrowding in those schools which is a major challenge of free primary education. Teachers will be overburdened trying to mark pupils work and control them. The quality of education will be put into question.

Most of the leaders support the project of construction but they condemned the act of evicting people in an inhuman way. They told the responsible ministry that they could have transferred the pupils to other schools first and give out a notice. This could have helped them move out in peace. They want them compensated.

Parents wants the government respond immediately on how their kids are going to prepare for the KCSE examination. The future of the small kids remains uncertain. They are just waiting to see how the situation will unfold.

In Mau forest, around fifteen schools have been closed and homes burnt down. The ministry of education is promising them to settle their children in other schools. A child without a home will find it difficult copping with school activities. Others may drop out to look for something to feed their young siblings and their own stomachs.

The dislocations have ruined the pupil’s studies. Most of them are not going to sit for the end term exams meaning it will be hard to be absorbed in other schools. Most of the people who have been evacuated from Mau forest sold their lands to buy cheap and big land. To them, settling will be an issue. By the look of things, the rate of school dropouts will be accelerated. The Kenya we have will be hosting many illiterates and thieves. With no education people will end up stealing to bring food to the table.

Many children have been reported missing when the eviction was going on. No one knows their where about and people think that wild animals have attacked them.

The police brutality has become too much. They are displacing people in an inhuman way. They even destroyed food in stores. A child with empty stomach cannot concentrate in class or any school activity. They will only be passing time to go back home. I doubt if it is a home. Perhaps it is somewhere in the bush.

It's sad that the government watch all this without any action. The human rights group have tried to urge the government to stop forceful evacuation in vain.

Which kind of a country are we in?

This is a country which does not care about its own people but instead fight along tribal lines.

This is a country which still practises inhumanity because of politics and selfish gains.

Parents expect their children to settle in school as soon as possible. If this will be done, they will have hope that their children are going to be better in future.

Children are suffering in cold. Their clothes were burnt with no mercy and no one seems to help them, not even the government itself.

No one seems to help them restore their future. They only talk of resettling them. People living in Mau Forest are the ones who were displaced in the 2007 clashes and were taken to Mau for resettlement. Today, they are the same people forcing them out with a ‘promise' of being given a place to settle. Poor Kenyans, poor kids are being deprived a chance to free primary education.