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Opinion – Sou Ciência: MEC, the ministry that became the scene of scandals

The reversals and setbacks of education policies have been recorded by SoU_Ciência and also motivated reflections in this space. We recently wrote about the discovery of an informal scheme by pastors and mayors to obtain funds from the Ministry of Education (MEC).

Unfortunately, since then, more episodes of scandal have surfaced. Among them, the arrest of the former minister of the portfolio in a Federal Police operation that investigates influence peddling and corruption in the release of funds from the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE) and the pastor involved in favoring city halls.

The release of the ex-minister just over 24 hours later does not erase or minimize the accusations and the context of dismantling in which this controversy takes place. After three years of destruction in one of the most important ministries on the Esplanade, it is difficult to imagine what else might come next in this government, in which all rational barriers have been overcome. It is a horror show, which disrespects the activity that should be the most important of a nation: Education.

There were all sorts of attacks by managers whose lack of competence and responsibility are frightening. The dismantling of structures such as Inep (National Institute of Educational Studies and Research Anísio Teixeira), Enem (National High School Exam), Capes, Graduate Assessment and MEC's ??Legal Consultancy are just a few examples. . All this occurred while, through the ministry, olavists, military, opportunists and pastors passed and still circulate.

At every moment, dismantling policies are outdoing themselves. The feeling of a bottom that does not arrive is general, especially after this episode involving the ex-minister and the illegal benefit scheme. Yet, persistently, the structures of ministry resist.

Among them, the more than 100 federal educational institutions, including universities and technical and technological institutes. Institutions that experience budget losses of billions of reais over the last few years – only in universities and federal institutes there was a drop in 2021 of more than half of the amounts spent in 2014.

On the other hand, during the pandemic, the 69 federal universities produced more than 3200 actions that supported more than 40 million people. There were numerous teaching, research and extension actions to combat Covid-19 and which will be detailed by SoU_Ciência in an unprecedented survey carried out together with Andifes (National Association of Directors of Federal Institutions of Higher Education), presented in a public panel soon.

Despite all that they do for society with insufficient levels of resources, federal educational institutions continue to struggle to recover what was unduly suppressed from them, and several have already announced that they will not be able to finish the year if the cuts are not reviewed.

In the end, what we are witnessing now is the systematic deterioration of State structures with the dismantling of organs in the area, interference of gigantic proportions in autonomy, freedom of thought and expression, in addition to the destruction of the highest values ??present in the Federal Constitution. .

The arrest of a former education minister is a cause of unhappiness for a nation and it is alarming what is yet to come. A recent survey by SoU_Ciência showed that a significant part of young people have no perspective. It is urgent to recover hope, education and dignity so that we can have a future.

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