

Teachers get 16% increase in salaries and allowances, worth K300m for next 3 years



(L-R) Teaching Service Commission's, Rose August—Commissioner Operations, Stand in Chairperson of TSC, Jerry Kuhena (centre), and Secretary for the Department of Personnel Management sign the MoA.

Teachers around the country will enjoy increases in their salaries and allowances, after the Papua New Guinea Teachers Association, Teaching Service Commission and the Department of Personnel Management signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Wednesday, April 6 at the PNG Education Institute Hall.

According to the MoA, the National Government has approved a 16 percent pay rise

for teachers totalling up to K300 million for the next three years starting this year.

This agreement replaces a three year agreement which expired at the end of last year, with the new one expiring on December 31st 2013.

At the signing in Port Moresby, Chairman of the Salaries and Conditions Monitoring Committee and Secretary for Department of Personnel Management, John Kali said the gov-

ernment is committed to the 46, 000 plus teachers around the country.

Teachers from elementary to Technical and Teachers Colleges will all get an increase dating back to January 1st 2011.

Mr. Kali challenged the teachers saying that, the government has played its part and therefore, teachers must teach to the quality and standards required of them.

He said the only way from here is for teachers to maintain the standards or improve the standards.

PNG Teachers Association president, Tommy Hecko, expressed gratitude to the Government particularly DPM for the negotiation processes and the understanding and the approval of the MoA.

Mr. Hecko said teachers must be proud of what they do and this pay increase is wholly deserving of their immeasurable services to the nation.

Meanwhile, care taker Chairman of the TSC, Jerry Kuhena, praised the TSC, PNGTA, DPM and the government for addressing the teachers' pay issue, saying that many teachers leave teaching due to the low salary conditions.

Mr. Kuhena said, this increase will assist the TSC in holding on to teachers and hopefully it will bring back teachers who have left teaching.

He said there are currently 46, 000 plus teachers, and the country still needs more than eight thousand teachers.

The increases is expected to be paid to teachers by the middle of May once, the pay system is updated with the new increases.

**Inside
this
issue:**

PAGE 2
**New RESI
Project criteria clarified**

PAGE 5
Many Pathways available

PAGE 8
**Auto suspension affects
6,000 teachers**

PAGE 10
**OBE Text-books for
Sacred Heart**

Minister Marape clarifies criteria of new RESI Project

The Minister for Education Honorable, James Marape would like to inform the public about the focus of the new RESI (Rehabilitation of Existing School Infrastructure) Project.

The Minister said that the National Government has allocated K70 million for the project but said, the funding allocated was not enough to meet all the needs of all the schools.

Mr. Marape explained that there is a need to prioritise activities and the Ministry and Department of Education, have decided to rehabilitate 30 high schools.

He said the Education Department has also come up with the criteria that will be used to select the 30 schools and they are as follows:

i) A school that is offering Grade nine (9) and ten (10), ii) a school that has not received any support from the old RESI Program, iii) a school that has secured counterpart funding from its local Member of Parliament, iv) a school that is planned for in the provincial plan to be converted into a secondary school, v) a school that has not received any support from either District Services Improvement Program



Minister Marape...Wants local members to assist.

or donors.

Mr. Marape warned schools not to go ahead and engage contractors as the Department of Education will be managing the project through an approved Project Manager.

The Minister elaborated that K35 million out of the total of K70 million appropriated for the new RESI project will be used to settle outstanding commitments while the balance will be used to rehabilitate the Grades 9 and 10 Provincial High Schools.

Mr. Marape further elaborated that in addition to the K70 million appropriated for the project, the National Government had also appropriated K40 million which will be used to rehabili-

(DSIP), Provincial Government, Non-Government Organisation (NGO) or donors in the last 10 years and vi) a school that is currently receiving support from either the DSIP, Provincial Government, NGO

tate four National High Schools, namely, Kerevat, Passam, Sogerri and Aiyura.

The Minister said that the money appropriated for school infrastructure development and maintenance is not sufficient for the Ministry of Education to make a tangible impact on all its 10,000 institutions and therefore, called on all the Members of Parliament to work in partnership with the Ministry of Education to deliver quality education to all Papua New Guinea children from elementary prep right up to Grade 12.

He further called on all local Members of Parliament and District Presidents to support the Department of Education to use their funds for development of elementary and community schools, and all Provincial Governments to fund provincial and secondary schools using their DSIP.

Mr. Marape thanked the National Government for the increased funding to the education sector in the 2011 budget and said that as the Minister responsible for education in the country, he will continue to work together with the current Government to ensure that sufficient funding is secured for the education sector.

Minister Marape assures World Bank on Projects

Minister for Education, Honorable. James Marape, MP has assured the World Bank that the two projects funded by them will be implemented successfully.

Mr. Marape made this assurance while speaking at the one-day workshop and launch of the two projects – READ PNG and FODE at the Gateway Hotel on April 19.

Mr. Marape said that since the education reforms in 1995, education has achieved a lot even though many people are saying otherwise.

Mr. Marape said that despite these achievements, there are challenges that the Department and the Ministry as a whole face as they come.

"We operate the biggest sector and in



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very remote areas where you cannot find the other government services' human presence you will most definitely find a teacher.

This is how important education is.

It is also the key cornerstone for the country," Mr Marape said.

The Minister thanked the donors especially World Bank for the funding assistance for these two projects.

He also thanked and acknowledged the other donor partners for their continued assistance to the education

sector.

Mr. Marape told the workshop that the READ PNG project will complement the Government's Policy on Universal Basic Education.

"We will feel the full impact of UBE in 2015, however, we must plan ahead for the large number of students to go into FODE," the Minister said.

He urged the implementing division to use the funding for FODE to make FODE lively and the best option for the vast majority of students who come out of Grades 8, 10 and 12.

He challenged the divisions responsible with implementing the projects to ensure that these projects are continued until they are fully implemented.

NDoE hosts World Bank Project Launching Workshop

The Department of Education (DoE) hosted a combined project launching workshop for the World Bank funded International Development Assistance (IDA) credit projects that would be implemented by DoE and supported by two other PNG Government agencies.

There are two specific projects that fall within this arrangement.

Their titles are: Flexible Open and Distance Education (FODE) Project, 2011-2015 and Reading Education (READ PNG) Project, 2011-2013.

The FODE project has four components and K13.5 million has been allocated as a soft loan from the World Bank to assist their implementation.

READ PNG project has four components also and K51.9 million as a grant from the World Bank was given to implement those components.

These two significant projects were officially agreed to by the Government of PNG and the World Bank in March this year.

Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Paglio said it is a practice with all World Bank funded projects following the signing of Financing Agreement and before Project implementation that a launching workshop must be conducted.

In the DoE case, the IDA Credit for FODE and Grant Agreement for READ PNG Projects were signed on the 3rd March, 2011.

The launch workshop was held at the Gateway Hotel on the 19th of April 2011.

The purpose of the workshop was to familiarise the key players within the Department of Education, divisions implementing the projects, Department of Treasury and Department of National Planning and Monitoring with goals, objectives and the plan for the project, and to build firm support and co-operation among the main implementers.

The program for the workshop included a combined session for both projects on these areas; i) Financial Management and Disbursement Processes, ii) Establishment of Project Accounts, iii) Procurement within DoE and iv) Management of Donor Funds.

The Acting Secretary said the FODE project is aimed at expanding FODE's coverage of out-of-school youth and to improve the quality of its programs and service delivery as well as to assist FODE to demonstrate the technical sustainability of its programs in order for the Government of PNG to financially sustain its programs after the project period.

Regarding the second project, Reading

Education (READ PNG) Project, its principal objective is to improve reading skills among students in elementary and primary schools in Papua New Guinea.

The progress towards achieving this objective will be monitored against baselines for reading results which would be established in selected provinces over the three year project period (2011-2013).

The other objective is to build the capacity of the Curriculum Development & Assessment Division (CDAD) to select, procure and distribute books and reading support materials and to undertake assessment of early grade reading together with the provincial officials.

The intermediate objective will be to include a measure of the availability of books or other educational materials per student by province during each project year, as well as the completion of reading assessment baselines.

The World Bank participated in the workshop.

It was represented by the Sector Manager for Education in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region, Senior Operations Officer, Task Manager, Human Development Operations Officer, Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) Specialist and a Publishing Consultant.

Australian Government to focus on Education

The Australian Government will focus more on health and education in PNG apart from other areas.

The First Secretary to the Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Tim Brayson, said this in Enga's Kompiani District during the launch of the provincial corporate plan.

He told a big crowd, which included Governor Peter Ipates, Mining Minister Mr. John Pundari, Vice-Minister for National Planning Mr. Philip Kikala, Secretary for Provincial and Local Level Government Mr. Manasupe Zurenuoc, public servants and the public that by June, AusAID would



Australian Government

AusAID

distribute text books to all primary schools in the country.

He said after the distributions of text books, they would construct 2,000 classrooms for secondary and high schools in the country.

He said their aid to the country was being reviewed to focus more on edu-

cation and health.

Mr. Brayson said apart from this, the Australian government will continue to support the national government in key programmes.

Meanwhile, he commended the Enga Provincial Government for coming up with a corporate plan saying the plan needed cooperation from everyone to ensure tangible developments and services were brought to the people.

Mr. Brayson said if there was no cooperation, nothing good would come out from the plan and also told the people to make sure their leaders implement the plans.

NDoE supports World Health Day

The Acting Secretary challenged all the schools and teachers on World Health Day to take the lead to help their students and communities to learn to live healthy lives and practice safe habits.

Using, clean water, having good disposal of all rubbish, washing hands before eating and after visiting toilets are some of the basic preventative measures that children learn in school.

These subjects offer students opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary for making informed decisions about improving their own personal health and promote health in their community by observing and applying good personal hygiene and the monitoring healthy environment.

Students learn about the importance of living a healthy life in order to be productive in various subjects in each level of education.

Dr. Pagelio said one of the goals of the National Curriculum is to help students to develop healthy concepts and be responsible for their actions and consider health and lei-

sure to be an important part of life in order to become healthy citizens of our country.

He added that the Department of Education and all stakeholders in education have an important role to play in making sure all the children go to school and stay in school until, at least, after grade 8, so that they can learn to read and write and be able to make informed choices about how they want to live their lives.

Dr Pagelio said, schools and institutions are very important for teaching our children, our young people and our communities to live healthy lives and practice safe habits so they do not have to die or suffer from illnesses that are easily preventable.

In Papua New Guinea, many of our men, women and children die each year from illnesses, which could have been easily prevented.

When infections caused by resistant micro organisms fail to respond to standard treatments, including antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines - also known as drug resistance - this may result in prolonged illness and greater risk of death.

The Acting Secretary for Education, Dr Joseph Pagelio said we live in an era of medical breakthroughs with new wonder drugs available to treat conditions that a few decades ago, or even a few years ago in the case of HIV/AIDS, would have proved fatal.

The theme for Papua New Guinea was, "Combating Drug Resistance! No action today, no cure tomorrow."

This year's theme was, "Antimicrobial resistance, no action today no cure tomorrow". It focused on the need for governments and stakeholders to implement the policies and practices needed to prevent and counter the emergence of highly resistant micro organisms.

We firmly believe that in order for Papua New Guinea to be truly self reliant and prosperous, all our men, women and children must be healthy.

The Department of Education supports the Department of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in celebrating World Health Day each year.

European Union funds K4.85 million books for SHP

The Minister for Education, Honourable James Marape launched the textbooks funded by the European Union for primary schools in Southern Highlands on Monday April 11, 2011.

The value of books for Southern Highlands is approximately K4,850,000 for a total number of 174,172 books.

In Southern Highlands 220 different primary and community schools received the books.

Each one of these schools would have received at least 672 books. Bigger schools received twice and three times this number. This

means bigger schools received 1,344 books (such as Hoieba Primary School in Tepi or Kuluanda Primary School in Tari Town) or in some cases even 2,016 books (such as Kumin Primary in Mendi Town).

These books were written for the PNG outcomes based curriculum by PNG and foreign school book writers. They have been published by Oxford, Pearson and Macmillan and were brought into PNG through the Education, Training & Human Resources Development Programme that is a government initiative with EU funding.

The current ongoing distribu-

tion is organized by the Department of Education's Curriculum Development and Assessment Division (CDAD). The contractors for the delivery were selected through a competitive tendering procedure according to EU regulations.

The delivery is being monitored by CDAD and provincial education officials. To this end Provincial Implementation Teams (PIT) were created.

The PEA is the chairperson of this committee in which the Provincial Material Supply Officer, Standard Officers and other education officers are also represented.

The provinces thus play a decisive role in the supervision and monitoring of the delivery. Through this way best results can be achieved, because it combines the logistical knowledge of the contractor with the local knowledge of the provincial education officers. And it strengthens ownership for the books and for the way things are being done.

The overall value of books being distributed in the country is Euro 18,993,880. This corresponds to approximately K75 Million (value of books for the entire country). These are in total 2,688,000 books for the entire country.

Acting Secretary wants parents and students to choose from the many pathways in education and training

Many students throughout the country have completed Grade 8, 10 and 12 and will find themselves at the crossroad.

Some students will continue to Grades 9 & 10, 11 & 12 or tertiary institutions after graduation.

Not all students will continue to complete their education in the formal education system and many will find themselves making choices to other pathways.

The Acting Secretary for Education Dr. Joseph Pagelio said students should not take it upon themselves that they are failures nor should parents blame students for their incompetency which has led them (students) to missing out in the formal system.

"There are many pathways to take to acquire relevant skills training and or to move into the conventional stream.

Flexible Open and Distance Education (FODE) provides students with the opportunity to up-grade their academic grades and continue with their education in Grade 12," said Dr. Pagelio.

Distance education is a means of delivering education to people who cannot attend an educational institution on a full-time basis.

This can be offered through FODE and its Centres in the provinces.

At FODE, students study at their own pace and time, and the advantage is that they have the opportunity to sit the national examinations in Grade 10 and 12 just like students in the education system schools and can still progress to university and other tertiary institutions.

The Acting Secretary added that there are also many private institutions and some universities that provide distance courses, but FODE is one of the recipients of government funding for the provision of distance education which should be utilised.

Dr. Pagelio said that through FODE's twenty-one (21) provincial centres they do cater for two (2) types of students:

dents:

i) Those who wish to upgrade their level of attainment in subjects in Grade 10 that include; English, Mathematics (Formal and Practical), Science, Social Science and Commerce, and receive a letter of attainment and,

ii) Those who successfully complete all subjects for a grade and receive a certificate.

Students can upgrade their academic results by enrolling with FODE as it provides alternative opportunities to students to pursue their studies.

It has the potential to reach a wider audience at a lower cost and is open to learners who wish to receive Grade 7 – 12 education and persons undertaking technical and vocational training courses.

The same education is also open to adult citizens.

FODE is also developing adult education through literacy programs, short technical and vocational orientated courses taking advantage of advances made in information communication technology which will be delivered at its Provincial Centres.

There are 147 vocational training centres throughout the country that provide full-time courses for those who have completed Grade 6 - 12.

Students should make use of these opportunities and seek advice from the schools and institutions that are available and within their reach so that they can get enrolled on those courses.

Another avenue that students and also the members of the community can choose to continue their education or acquire skills training is the Community College.

There are 16 community colleges around the country which are offering various courses.

They are: Viviran – East New Britain Province

Karkar – Sumkar District, Madang Province

Finschafen – Morobe Province

Cape Rodney – Central Province

Aitape – Sandaun Province

Pomio – East New Britain Province

Pangia – Southern Highlands Province

Mabiri – Central Bougainville

Port Moresby – NCD

Rigo – Central Province

Kamaliki – Eastern Highlands Province

Hiwanda – Hela Transitional Authority

Kikori – Gulf Province

OK Tedi – Western Province

Marienberg – East Sepik Province

Wabag – Enga Province

"Students have come this far not only through their hard work in school but most importantly through the sacrifices and support of their parents and guardians to pay school fees and support them in school. Parents should encourage students to seek other alternatives.

It is our responsibility as parents, guardians and educators to give students a second chance to progress instead of letting them wander off into the streets," Dr Pagelio said.

He added that as students progress through life, they (students) must also exercise some self-discipline and responsibility in the decisions they make and in the actions that they take.

He said the students owe it to their family, school, community and the country as a whole to make good decisions but provided those decisions are based on positive attitudes and behaviours that will equip them to live productive lives in the future.

He wished all the students who have continued in 2011 all the best in their studies and encouraged those who will pursue other means of education and training to be productive and self-reliant in their communities.

EQUITV launched in SHP

The Minister for Education, Honourable James Marape launched the EQUITV Project for the Southern Highlands Province on Monday April 11th April at Walete Primary School.

The program is in collaboration with the Department of Education, SHP, parents and community to improve teaching and learning in SHP.

NDoE will provide four satellites and one antenna for TV receiving equipment for five selected primary schools in the province.

The Division of Education will use the schools as model receiving schools to conduct training and awareness to expand EQUITV program and activities to all schools in the Province.

The National Education Media Centre will support with technical advice and resource materials.

Moreover, the support and implementation of the EQUITV Program is a



Staff of the National Education Media Centre install a satellite dish at Walete Primary School with the help of locals.

ners in the education sector and other government agencies to support and contribute to making this program a success.

He also encouraged provinces, and districts to support further expansion and the sustainability of the EQUITV Program

The Minister challenged the TV receiving schools, their Boards of

shared responsibility.

The Minister encouraged all stakeholders, including all levels and divisions of the education system, communities, schools, parents and part-

Management, teachers, students and the community to fully utilize the equipment and resource materials supplied for the children's education as model receiving schools in Southern Highlands Province.

Digicel Foundation launches CLC competition

For the first time the Digicel Foundation is launching the "CLC of the Year" competition, pioneering new and exciting ways to work with and encourage sustainable positive development for PNG communities.

Digicel Foundation staff travelled with the judging panel for the competition, to judge the first four of the 21 CLCs involved in the competition.

They visited ATS Tembari Children's Centre, 9 Mile Makana, 9 Mile St Francis and 9 Mile Mutinneio CLCs.

Idau Negesa (Elementary Schools Inspector for NCD), Tessie Timah Haroharo (Head Teacher Barakau Primary School), Wendy Kenwal (Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation Trainer) and Leo Kulumbu (First Assistant Secretary for Department of Community Development) were all chosen as judges due to their many years of experience in their chosen fields.

Leo Kulumbu said, it was great to be



Elementary 2 class children in their Digicel Foundation funded classroom from the Busu Compound CLC school in Lae.

CLCs in urban and rural communities in Mt Hagen, Goroka, Lae and Port Moresby.

Physically, these centers are a container or small kit structure where members of the community can meet to run education programs and hold

part of something that is helping the community and showing that positive things are happening.

"Today we saw people who have achieved great things with the help of the Digicel Foundation and we look forward to seeing the rest of the CLCs over the next week," said Mr Kulumbu.

Over the past two and a half years the Digicel Foundation has funded 33

activities, but they are much more than just a building.

These CLCs are the heart of the communities they are in and serve one of the most important functions of all – education of their children. The majority of Digicel Foundation CLCs operate as Pre and Elementary schools and five have recently been recognized by the Department of Education

(Continued on page 7)

Pagelio: Not wise to stream Grade 9 students

The Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Pagelio is calling on the principals of all the secondary schools in the country to re-examine their current practices in relation to streaming their students in Grade 9.

Dr. Pagelio made this call in response to a media article that appeared on *The National*, dated 31/3/11 alleging that some secondary schools in the education system are streaming the students in Grade 9.

The principals and teachers are reminded that the students at their schools should be offered seven (7) subjects out of the nine (9) subject fields. Out of the 7 subjects, three (3) subjects are required. They are; English, Mathematics and Personal Development for literacy and numeracy skills and integral development of a student holistically.

The other four (4) subjects will come from the remaining subjects to ensure that there are seven (7) subjects for certification.

However, schools can offer all the subjects but as long as the schools have sufficient resources such as; teachers, learning resources, classrooms, etc.

Dr. Pagelio also cautioned the schools that as there are three required subjects that must be taught to the students in Grade 9, they should not be led to believe that streaming begins at that level and start the science and social science streaming at Grade 9.

"Streaming of students into humanities, science and technical/business pathways should begin in term two of Grade 11," Dr. Pagelio said.

He added that all subjects at lower secondary are general and schools are not encouraged to stream students at Grade 9, but must make available seven (7) subjects for the students to study.

Dr. Pagelio said the principals and their teachers should consult "Lower Secondary Implementation Handbook and Upper Secondary Implementation Handbook for further information and guidance on the secondary subjects.

He said for further clarifications and information, the principals of secondary schools may contact the Principal Curriculum & Assessment Officer – Secondary Level, Department of Education, Curriculum Development & Assessment Division, P.O. Box 446, Waigani, National Capital District.

Dr. Pagelio also called on parents to obtain more information from the same address if they wish to find out more about the subjects taught and assessment used at the secondary schools.

Competition to make CLCs self reliant and sustainable

(continued from page 6)

as Elementary schools. The key focus for the Digicel Foundation is that each CLC is sustainable and this is the core of the criteria it will be judged on.

In order for a community to receive a CLC building they must apply to the Digicel Foundation and demonstrate they have strong community leadership, motivation, ownership and responsibility for all members in their community. The Digicel Foundation works with those communities that are active in helping themselves with the little resources they have.

The idea for the competition emerged when the communities and the Digicel Foundation recognized that they would like a way of showcasing the diversity of every CLC in PNG in a mutually beneficial way.

The CEO of the Digicel Foundation, Marina van der Vlies said "The CLC of the Year Competition" is intended to motivate members managing each CLC to achieve targeted improvements for their centre, based around their stated needs, that leads to increased sustainability, quality of life and community involve-

ment in their CLC.

The Digicel Foundation is excited to launch the CLC competition and recognizes that each CLC has a unique and rich story to tell which exemplifies the many highs and lows of empowering communities in PNG.

It is hoped that through this competition these small schools will become recognised and sustain invaluable education for children in these communities".

Each CLC will be competing for one of three prizes of in kind funding for the community to build a project of their choice.

First prize value is K10,000, second prize value is K5,000 and third prize value is K3,000.

The judges will spend the next six days visiting CLCs in Port Moresby, Mt Hagen, Goroka and Lae before announcing the winners at the Final Presentation event held on **10th May 2011** in Port Moresby.

For more information or to apply for funding please visit

www.digicelpngfoundation.org

~Article contributed by Digicel Foundation



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School students clapping and cheering as they witness the handover of OBE textbooks and a computer by Oxford First Aid Supplies company. Full story on page. 10

Schools of Excellence is the way forward

The Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Pagelio opened the first Schools of Excellence Concept Meeting at the Port Moresby National High School on April 19 saying that it is a way forward for the education sector at the Secondary and National High School level.

The meeting which was held for two days focused on drawing up a model that will link current pathways to the existing National High Schools and Secondary Schools.

"This meeting marks a historical journey for the Department of Education to begin its discussions on the concept of 'School of Excellence' (SoE)," Dr. Pagelio said.

"Being with you gives me a great pleasure to start those discussions on SoE as the Department has been known for organising and carrying out high level forums on issues that support the quality of education in Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Pagelio said it was important to start the discussions on SoE now because the current Government is very supportive of our young people's education in this country.

This support he said came through the implementation of the Universal Basic Education plan, Free Education from Elementary Prep to Grade 8 and it has also endorsed scholarships for the top 1% of Grade 12 to do further studies through the NEC Decision 21/2009.

However, the Acting Secretary said in order to make SoE successful existing issues at national high schools must be addressed.

"Before we try to explain and define what 'school of excellence' is, we need to appreciate that there are existing issues in the following National High Schools such as; poor state of the infrastructure at Sogeri, Wawin, Aiyura, Kerevat and Passam," Dr. Pagelio said.

He said the national high school system (NHSS) has a long history of achieving academic excellence providing tertiary institution in public and private workforce with well informed graduates.

And for the last 30 years, the national high schools have developed an excellent tradition and strong ethos and practical knowledge about providing for needs of students at high level of intel-

lectual and social maturity.

"The national high school students were able to express themselves articulately on politics and other significant issues of national significance," he said.

Up until the 1990s NHSs were the sole providers for highly qualified Grade 12 graduates.

The main strength of the NHSS was bringing in students from various provinces or regions together and promoting national unity. These institutions also bridge the gap between grade 10 and University entrance as well as to provide a broad general education for a small group of academically able students.

In a way the NHSs were schools of excellence.

In the past, 4 regional schools were established. These were Sogeri in Central (Southern), Kerevat in ENBP (NGI), Aiyura in EHP (Highlands) and Passam in ESP (Momase).

Currently, there are 6 national high schools with the inclusion of Port Moresby in NCD and Wawin in Morobe Province.

Auto suspension of teachers from payroll will affect 6,000

After numerous reminders from the Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Pagelio to all the Provincial Education Advisers to fast track their teachers' resumption of duty summary sheets (RoDSS) to the Payroll and Related Services Branch (PARS) at Waigani, a dead line for auto suspension of teachers from the Payroll was instituted on Pay Day 20th April, 2011.

"This suspension will affect a total of 6,723 out of 44,328 teachers across the country which is about 15.2% of teachers from all sectors in the education system.

The reason for instituting the suspension is to stop those teachers who have not completed their RoDSS from receiving pays as they would not be performing duties.

Other reasons for the suspension are as follows:

- i) The RoDSS may have been incorrectly completed;
- ii) The names on the Forms may have been quoted incorrectly;
- iii) The File Numbers may have been quoted incorrectly;
- iv) The Position Numbers may have been quoted incorrectly;
- v) One Position may have been occupied by more than one teacher; and
- vi) Teachers have not taken up their positions at all.

The Acting Secretary has urged the Provinces to check the list of teachers suspended from the Payroll that has

been forwarded to them already.

He also persuaded those officers who have resumed duties but did not complete the RoDSS to complete the forms, or check to see if the provinces have copies of the RoDSS and submit them to the Payroll and Related Services Branch (PARS) at Waigani as soon as possible through the facsimile or hand-deliver them by authorised Education officers.

Dr. Pagelio said individual teachers are discouraged from taking their own RoDSS forms to the Payroll and Related Services Branch.

He stressed that all the Provinces should co-operate and fast track this call to avoid unnecessary suspension of genuine officers from the payroll.

Random Pics



(Sitting L-R) Eduardo Velez Bustillo, Education Sector Manager, East Asia & Pacific, Minister for Education, Hon. James Marape, MP, Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Pagelio, (standing L-R) Julian Watson, Publishing Consultant, Ellen Kulumbu, Human Development Operation Officer, WB, Heather Wright, NZAID and Jim Stevens, Task Team Leader for the two projects in education. (story on page 2 & 3)



Minister for Education and Acting Secretary address the Principals of the National High Schools during the SOE Meeting at Port Moresby National High School.



NCD School students dressed in the traditional 'bilas' from the four regions of the country carrying the decorated NEP 2005-2014 to the official dais to be officially launched by then Governor General Sir Paulias Matane. The Plan was officially launched March 18, 2005 at the Sir John Guise Indoor Stadium.

NOTICES

- Term 2 commences for all schools and Vocational centres, PNGEI, PTCs, Teachers Colleges and Business Colleges on Monday May 2, 2011.
- Heads of institutions must complete and forward their monthly staffing returns for the month of April to Provincial Division of Education and Department of Education, Corporate Data by Wednesday May 4, 2011.
- On the week of May 2-6 is the week of the issuing and release of teachers' eligibility and registration certificates.
- The week will also be used for screening of personal reports for SLIPs, successful applicants will be notified.
- May 5 is the closing date for teachers' application for furlough leave on July 2012 and all applications must be sent to each Provincial Education Office or respective Assistant Secretaries in Waigani.
- The National Education Board Meeting number 172 is scheduled for May 18 – 19.
- Basic Education Board of Studies meeting is on May 23 – 25.
- And Secondary Board of Studies meeting is scheduled for May 26 – 27.
- May 28 is the dead line for all Provincial Education Advisors, and Department of Education Assistant Secretaries to advise the Teaching Service Commission and Assistant Secretary for Human Resource and Organisational Development of full details of 2011 overseas recruiting requirements.
- Also on May 28, all Provincial Education Advisors must prepare a list of activities for the National Education Week agenda items for Provincial Education Boards.
- May 28 is also the deadline for all permitted schools to forward their 2011 enrolment data to the Department of Education, head office.

~If you want a message to be pasted here contact the editorial team~

Sacred heart receive OBE text books

The Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Hohola, National Capital District took delivery of their fourth supply of the Outcomes Based Education (OBE) textbooks from Oxford First Aid Supply Limited on Wednesday April 6.

The textbooks for their grade 5 classes is worth K80,000. As a token of appreciation and in recognition of the continued business relationship with the school, the company donated a computer set to the school.

Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. Blaise Golu said that when he took office in 2008, he and the members embarked on a mission to make the school one of the best primary schools in NCD and the whole country.

"My board set out to plot the road to excellence. OBE textbooks for students was a priority list," said Mr. Golu.

The school searched for a company who could provide OBE textbooks and they found Oxford First Aid Supply. The school purchase the first lot of textbooks in September 2008, two months before four classes of Grade 8s sat the final examinations. The books cost K38,000.

"These books really helped the Grade 8 students in their revision and many of our students did very well in the final examinations and continued in to further education," Mr. Golu said.

The following year, Sacred Heart Primary School spent a total of K66,000 to purchase textbooks for Grades 7 and 3 to ensure that two students shared a textbook for all 9 subjects.

In 2010, the school purchased textbooks from the same company at a cost of K54,000 for Grades 4 and 6. This year, the school spent K80,000 on textbooks for Grade 5.

"Altogether the school has spent more than K200,000 on textbooks to

ensure that each child had a textbook to himself or herself," Mr. Golu said.

He said that OBE was here to stay and schools should be budgeting for more teaching and learning resources for students and teachers in order to make teaching and learning easier and better.

"As a result of our schools high academic performance, the demand for space in Grades 6, 7 and 8 is increasing. For this year alone, the student to teacher ratio for Grade 8 alone has exceeded the ration allowed by the Department of Education with classes reaching as high as one teacher to 50 students," said Mr Golu.

He added that as a result of this the Board decided to introduce an additional Grade 8 class on top of the four existing classes to allow for a more conducive learning for students.

Mr. Golu thanked Oxford First Aid for the business relationship since 2008.

Easter Celebrations coincided with Term 1 school holidays

Easter celebrations this year coincided with the Term One school holidays for the schools and institutions under the National Education System.

Many schools and institutions throughout the country had their last day of classes on Thursday, April 21 except for some of the Catholic Agency Schools who ended classes on Wednesday, April 20 because Thursday, April 21 was regarded as Holy Thursday.

The Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Pagelio said that Easter was a very special and holy occasion when millions of Christians around the world honour and recognize Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious promises of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

He encouraged all students and teachers throughout the country to celebrate the true meaning of Easter with their families and also to reflect on their lives so far and make a commitment to be a better person in their family and com-

munity.

He said that students should use the holiday to contribute meaningfully to their families and communities instead of engaging in illegal activities like binge drinking and smoking of drugs which will only result in problems for themselves and their families.

"I also would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and students for the work that you have done so far in Term 1. I challenge you all to continue to work hard when you return from holidays in Term 2," Dr. Pagelio said.

The Acting Secretary added that Term Two (2) begins on Monday, May 2nd and it will be a total of 10 weeks.

Two of the important dates on the 2011 Education Calendar that schools, institutions and parents and guardians should take note of include the Queen's Birthday public holiday on Monday, June 13 and the School Certificate Written Expression Examinations for Grade 10s on Thursday, June 16.



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