



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, DR. MICHAEL F. TAPO, EdD CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF PROPER ADMINISTRATION IN SCHOOLS

The Secretary for Education Dr. Michael F. Tapo, EdD is concerned that Provincial Education Boards, school Governing Boards, Principals and Head Teachers are not effectively dealing with maladministration in their schools.

Dr Tapo is concerned that issues such as misuse of school funds, students' discipline and teacher absenteeism are not effectively being dealt with thereby compromising the smooth operations of teaching and learning.

“Some school boards are not dealing with school fights, or are not acquitting funds and also not dealing with teacher absenteeism therefore, if there are evidences of these not being addressed properly than Provincial Education Boards are mandated by Law to suspend school boards providing there are sufficient evidence of non-performance. But before a PEB suspends a school board it must first of all inform the education agency of the suspension and then advise the education agency to put in a new board for the PEB's approval.

In terms of student discipline, the Law empowers school boards to make rules and enforce these rules. The PEBs will only hear the appeals from students who are either terminated for poor performance or expelled for misconduct.”

The Teaching Service Act is the only authority to deal with teacher appointment and discipline however, the Education Act also allows for the PEBs to deal with teacher discipline issues and appointment for teachers in member provincial institutions based on recommendations from the school boards. Under the Education Act Section 85, school boards can only report in writing to the PEBs or the National Education Board (NEB) about issues relating to teachers' discipline and appointment.

There are different authorities responsible for dealing with different issues from the different sectors of education. The Department of Education is only responsible for national functions such as policy, curriculum, examination and certification, and registration of schools.

Provinces must have their Provincial Education Acts in force to deal with issues affecting their schools. Provinces are responsible for the following levels of education:

1. Elementary schools;
2. Community schools;
3. Primary schools;
4. High schools;
5. Secondary schools;
6. Technical schools;
7. Vocational centres;
8. Technical high schools;
9. Technical secondary schools;
10. Community Education and Training College.

The Department of Education is responsible for National Institutions such as:

1. National high schools;
2. Teachers` colleges;
3. Business colleges;
4. Technical colleges;
5. Polytechnic institutes;
6. Papua New Guinea Education Institute;
7. Flexible and Open Distance Education (FODE)
8. Inclusive Education Resource Centres;

The Provincial Education Acts that are currently in force including Bougainville Education Act:

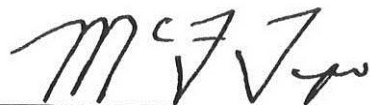
1. Morobe Provinsel Gavman Education Act 1996;
2. East New Britain Provincial Government Education Act 1998;
3. Enga Provincial Government Education Act 1998;
4. West New Britain Province Education Act 1998;
5. Western Province Education Act 1999;
6. Manus Provincial Government Provincial Education Act 1999;
7. Sandaun Education Act 2001;
8. Western Highlands Province Provincial Education Act 2001;
9. Simbu Provincial Education Act 2003;
10. New Ireland Provincial Government Provincial Education Act 2005;
11. Oro Province Education Act 2006;
12. Milne Bay Provincial Government Education Law 2011;
13. Bougainville Education Act 2013.

The following provinces except the National Capital District that do not have in force their Provincial Education Acts but they all have received draft copies of their Provincial Education Act (Bill) from the Department of Education's Legal Services Unit already with them for further development are:

1. Central Province;
2. Eastern Highlands Province;
3. East Sepik Province;
4. Gulf Province;
5. Hela Province;
6. Jiwaka Province;
7. Madang Province;
8. Southern Highlands Province.

The Secretary Dr Michael Tapo is urging Provincial Education Boards, school Governing Boards, Principals and Head Teachers to work together and effectively deal with maladministration in their schools.

Dr Tapo is calling on the general public and other stakeholders in education to know the different authorities in place in the education sector and understand their functions, roles and responsibilities as far as the administration of schools is concerned.



Dr Michael F. Tapo, EdD
Secretary for Education