

Fiji Times - 13/06/21

Union disappointed

Education Ministry not listening to our concerns, says Agni Deo Singh

By ANISH CHAND

Fiji Teachers Union (FTU) says eight teachers in Fiji have contracted the COVID-19 virus through interactions with members of the public while distributing worksheets in July this year.

FTU general secretary Agni Deo Singh said this was a concern as teachers were being made to interact with parents in red

zones while receiving and handing out worksheets. He expressed disappointment at the Ministry of Education for not listening to their concern.

"I have written to the ministry to highlight this issue and yet our members are subjected to public exposure daily," he said.

"It's a sad predicament that now those with the virus are being told to stay home and what guarantee is there that they will not come

to the school on behalf of their child."

Mr Singh said all schools had been told to practise COVID protocols while dealing with parents.

"Even then, there is interaction with the worksheets changing hands and the possibility of the virus remaining on paper. We are now telling our members not to touch or handle the worksheets for some time and leave it in sunlight."

He maintains the Ministry of Education should engage the National Disaster Management Office, police and Republic of Fiji Military Forces in the dissemination and collection of worksheets.

"If this continues, we will see more of our teachers getting infected and God forbid we don't see a death."

Questions sent to Education Ministry permanent secretary Anjeela Jokhan remained un-

answered when this edition went to press.

Singh.
Picture:
RAMA

