



FIJI TEACHERS UNION

(THE CHILD OUR HOPE)

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Affiliated to EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL, FTUC, Fiji Teachers Confederation & COPE

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PRESS RELEASE

MINISTER'S WARNING ILLOGICAL: FTU

The Education Minister's warning to Heads of underperforming schools that they would be demoted if student performance does not improve in two terms is most irrational and illogical.

There are a host of factors that have to be considered when assessing the teachers' performances in underperforming schools.

What is the yard stick that the Minister wants to use as a means of measuring teacher performance!!!

Is it external examination results? Internal Examination results? Is he going to examine teachers' performance in these schools solely based on exam results?

The quality of students entering Year 9 differs from school to school. Some schools take in students regardless of their academic results in Year 8. Some schools have a high cut off marks and they only take in students who have higher Year 8 Marks. They call it "cream." It is known to all and sundry that we have the elite schools and we have those that educate the underprivileged, who would otherwise have no school to attend.

Definitely, we cannot expect the pass rate to be the same in these two different categories of intake.

It is sad, that instead of encouraging and providing additional assistance to these so called underperforming schools, the Minister is threatening the Heads with demotion. This clearly demonstrates how ill informed he is of the actual

All correspondence to the General Secretary Fiji Teachers Union, Please.

Branches: Suva, Nasinu, Rewa, Tailevu, Ra, Tavua, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, Sigatoka, Navua, Labasa, Bua, Taveuni, Savusavu, Levuka.

situation on the ground. I invite him to come with me and visit some of these schools and listen to the teachers, to understand and appreciate the extra mile they go to assist the students in their care.

Perhaps the Minister would also like to put one of the Principals from the "super performing schools" in an underperforming school and test the performance. He can be rest assured, there will be no miracle.

Socio Economic backgrounds, parental support, home back ground are other factors that have a bearing on student performance. Rural, remote and maritime schools have poor infrastructure, utilities, communication and other facilities. They cannot be compared with urban schools.

Then there are students who would not be interested in studies despite the teachers giving their best to accommodate them.

To be realistic, the performance of the Heads should be measured by looking at the student's ability at intake and the progress made during the year.

Hon Minister, please get to know the reality and learn to appreciate and provide positive reinforcement to the teachers.

The Union is always here to assist.



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Agni Deo Singh

GENERAL SECRETARY

5TH February 2015