



# FIJI TEACHERS UNION

(THE CHILD OUR HOPE)

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## PRESS RELEASE

### TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

The learned Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage and Arts Ms. Angela Jokhan has recently stated that teachers who have certificate and Diploma qualifications are unqualified and will be replaced.

She is referring to the 2018 Renumeration Guideline of MEHA. This guideline was never discussed or shared with the teacher unions as the legitimate representatives of the teachers. In fact, we believe it was done in secrecy.

The JEE 2017 classified unqualified teachers in Band D. They are mostly graduates without teacher training. Their contracts are renewed annually.

The primary school teachers who have Certificate in Teaching as well as those with Diploma in Education teaching in primary and secondary schools were placed on Band E as fully qualified teachers. They are on full 5-year contracts.

Ms. Jokhan approved the promotion and awarded 5-year contract to some 600 Primary Head of Schools in January 2021. Around 400 of these Heads of Schools are Certificate holders with more than 15 years of experience. They have several years of proven performance in leadership positions, and have achieved above average grades for several years in the Annual Performance Assessment conducted by MEHA.

Now, all of a sudden Ms. Jokhan has changed her mind about these teachers she promoted only 9 months ago. It is indeed mind boggling and void of all reasoning in the considered view of the Union.

The Permanent Secretary must get the facts right, meet with the teacher unions and work in partnership to chart the way forward in addressing short term and long-term goals of MEHA. Unilateral impractical, unfair and unrealistic decisions will only further complicate the mess the Ministry is already in.

The Union will not leave any stone unturned to defend its members who are fully qualified and have served with distinction for several years, if any attempt is made to deprive them of their bread and butter.

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**Agni Deo Singh**  
**General Secretary**  
**25<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

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.