



FIJI TEACHERS UNION

(THE CHILD OUR HOPE)

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

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Our Ref:

General Secretary: Agni Deo Singh

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PRESS RELEASE

TEACHERS DEPRIVED OF THEIR DUES ONCE AGAIN

FTU is seriously concerned that teachers continue to be deprived of their earnings through unilateral decisions of Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts in the latest instance Teachers serving in maritime and rural schools had their location allowance ceased by the Ministry of Economy in the aftermath of COVID-19. Despite doing the work, which was allocated as per their job description, these teachers were not paid. FTU made various submissions on this to but no avail.

We, finally, saw light at the end of the tunnel when the announcement was made in the 2022-23 budget by the Minister for Economy, Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, that the location allowance would be reinstated from August 1 2022. This brought much relief to the affected teachers as they knew their commitment was going to be rewarded.

However, there was a setback, and many teachers received a rude shock to learn that they no longer qualified for the allowance. The circumstances that deemed them eligible hadn't changed, but the criteria had been reviewed unilaterally.

It is common knowledge that these teachers and their families make many sacrifices as far as the amenities, services, housing standards and travel costs, to list a few, are concerned, and it is not justified that they are not paid their location allowance.

The Union is of the firm belief that this is another cost cutting measure just as the nonpayment of MyAPA increment, long-service leave and Executive Teacher positions.

This denial is fast hitting the pockets of the teachers who are already burdened with the ever escalating cost of living.

This has been further compounded by the denial of annual increments since 2017.

The Union will not leave any stone unturned to make sure that the teachers, who are teaching in rural areas and remote islands, receive all overdue remunerations that they rightfully deserve.

AGNI DEO SINGH
GENERAL SECRETARY
6th SEPTEMBER 2022.

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.