



FIJI TEACHERS UNION

(THE CHILD OUR HOPE)

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

President : Muniappa Goundar

Our Ref:

General Secretary: Agni Deo Singh

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PRESS RELEASE

The Government we believe is blackmailing civil servants by suddenly stopping their pay for not having taken their first jab. This could have been handled in a much better manner if all stakeholders were engaged from the beginning. In this regard FTU fully supports the call made by the National Secretary Fiji Trade Union Congress to work through the Tripartite Mechanism.

However, FTU is encouraging all its members to get vaccinated.

The extent to which virus has spread leaves us no option.

Teachers are also exposed to the risk, as a vast majority of students require hard copies of the worksheets. The distribution and collection and marking means movement of a large number of parents and teachers. The worksheets are being handled by various persons before being returned to the teachers for marking. This mode will have to continue for several months, we believe. The Union wrote to the Permanent Secretary of Health Dr. Fong on Friday 7th seeking clarification and advice on how this process could be handled safely. A response is yet to be received. Our request to MEHA to seek assistance from other Government agencies to assist in the distribution and collection of worksheets has not been heeded.

Both, Mrs. Singh and I have received our first jab, and the second is due next week. It has not had any adverse effects on our health.

Our sources have confirmed 9119 out of 13200 teachers have received the first jab.

We urge those remaining to do so as well.

The bottom line is we must not risk our lives and those of our loved ones. And unfortunately, in this instance, it is also a bread-and-butter issue.

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Agni Deo Singh

General Secretary

Thursday, July 15, 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.