



Fiji Teachers Union

(The Child Our Hope)

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NEWSLETTER

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STOP LOSS MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEME

The 2011 AGM in Rewa approved the In-House Medical Insurance Scheme. The Scheme has now been firmly established and members are covered with effect from July 1st, 2011.

The Insurance Coverage Plan has been approved by the National Executive in its meeting of 22nd August 2011. The Plan has been printed and is now being distributed to members through the Branches.

Members are asked to peruse the document and familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions of the Plan. You are to carefully study the procedure for "How To Make A Claim"

New entrants to the teaching fraternity on becoming FTU members will receive the same benefits as the pioneer members. Teachers already in service and not members of FTU – their applications will be considered by the national executive with conditions as directed by the NE.

Since the introduction of the Scheme, two members are undergoing treatment abroad while another benefited from local hospitalization.

Please note that in emergency cases you are to call Insurance Holdings [Fiji] Limited:

William Steiner 999 0913 [M]
Karuna Segran 999 2161 [M]

CEASATION OF CHECK OFF – UNION SUBS

Government's sudden decision to cease the "chek-off" system for Union's membership subscription of \$3.32 from pay 16 is regrettable and now leaves the members to find alternate means to pay subs to retain membership.

The Union is optimistic that sooner then later, the government will dialogue with the Union's and come to a mutual agreement to ensure the "check-off" system is re-instated.

In the meantime the members are advised to keep their membership current by paying the subs through CTCL or by cash payments.

Those who are not members of the Credit Union are encouraged to join in now as a lot of benefits could be derived thereafter. The Forms are with all Branch Secretaries.

Members are reminded to settle the arrears of MABS, Insurance and Union subs for Pay 16 via cash payment.

Payments could be made at the HQ, or arrears deposited in FTU A/C No. 11040893 at ANZ and a copy of the deposit slip to be sent to the HQ.

For any queries on the amount due etc, please call the Secretariat on phone 3314099 or 9928096.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2011 - 2012

President:

Satya Nand Shandil

Vice Presidents:

Arvind Kumar
Muniappa Goundar

General Secretary:

Agni Deo Singh

Asst. General Secretary:

Rajnesh Lingam

General Treasurer

Mahendra Pal

Personnal Officer:

Gyan Prasad

Publicity Officer:

Uday N Deo

Executive Committee:

Sashi Shandil
Mahendra Dutt
Manhar Kumar

ESSENTIAL NATIONAL INDUSTRIES DECREE 2011 [DECREE No. 35 OF 2011]

Government's change of position from the norm has raised several concerns. FTUC is working with partners locally and internationally to impress upon the government to reconsider its stand.

Decree 35 and other Decrees issued earlier, have eroded the Unions' rights to challenge in any court any decision of the government or government owned entities to make employees redundant or change any terms and conditions of work, despite a collective agreement remaining in force.

These Decrees are in violation of the ILO Core Labour Standards which Fiji has ratified and is obliged to respect.

JEE 2003 IMPLEMENTATION

FTU is calling upon the Public Service Commission to implement the JEE 2003 for teachers in Fiji. The request has been made for the full implementation, albeit in phases, to ensure that teachers get what they rightfully deserve.

Government has implemented some recommendations of the report for some civil servants and it is about time that recommendations in the report relating to teachers be implemented as well.

The Union has also asked PSC to pay COLA to the teachers, particularly in view of the rising cost of living and the fact that teachers have not received any merit pay since 2006.

EXECUTIVE TEACHER POSITIONS

The Union has reminded the Ministry to restore the ET positions to its full complement [854].

FTU fully supports government's call for "quality education for all" and emphasizes that restoring the ET positions will greatly assist in achieving the above.

CODE OF ETHICS

Members are once again to adhere to the Teachers' Code of Ethics, Public Service Values and Public Service Code of Conduct.

The Union has been conducting workshops and seminars in all the branches reminding / educating / cautioning members on the need to act within the guidelines.

Members are also reminded to refrain from inflicting corporal punishment.

Though difficult, teachers are to find alternate ways and means to discipline students. There is a "guideline" from the Ministry on disciplinary measures and everyone is requested to simply follow it.

Teachers have been taken to Court and some have even lost their jobs.

Is it worth taking the risk!!

CHILD LABOUR

FTU fully supports the elimination of child labour as per ILO Convention 138 and Con.182.

Members are requested to be vigilant and ensure that all children of school age are in school.

In Fiji, children below 15 years of age cannot be in full time employment.

Cases of child labour are to be reported to the District Education Offices or to FTU HQ.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that the fundamental right of a child to education is upheld.

NON TEACHING TIME FOR HEADS OF SCHOOLS

FTU has submitted to MOE for restoration of non-teaching time for Heads of Schools, as per previous provisions.