

EDUCATION FOCUS

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From left to right): Counsellor of Human Resources Development at the Australian High Commission, Dr. Tristan Armstrong, Western Province Premier Hon. Billy Veo, Minister of Education, Hon. Tozen Leokana and First Secretary New Zealand High Commission Olivia Benton-Guy cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Goldie College boy's dormitory.

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the final edition of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) Newsletter for this year.

This year has been a significant year for MEHRD in the implementation of the new Education Act 2023 and its subordinate documents, Government of National Unity and Transformation Policy, Annual Work Plan, National Education Action Plan 2022-2026 mid-term review and national consultation, Global Partnership for Education Program, Access to Education Policy, Inclusive Education, School Infrastructure Projects and other development areas.

I wish to acknowledge the Education stakeholders, Donor partners, Development partners, None Government Organizations (NGOs), Education Providers, School leaders, School board, Provincial Government and the Community for making this year a successful one.

We are delighted to provide insightful, accurate and providing you with first-hand information and avenues where you can access useful information concerning our education system.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Tozen Leokana

Minister of Education and Human Resources Development

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Significant achievements of MEHRD

This year (2024) marks a significant achievement for the Ministry of Education and Human Resources (MEHRD) towards improving the education system and achieving equal access and quality education.

Some of the highlights of this year's achievements include the launch of the five-year System Transformation Education program, socialization and implementation of the Education Act 2023, Teachers in Training (TIT), launch of the Solomon Islands Inclusive Education Manual and National Education Action Plan (NEAP) 2022-2026 mid-term review and consultation and many others.

The five-year System Transformation Education program worth SBD\$54 million was launched on 21st October 2024 and supported by financial assistance approved by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to help MEHRD strengthen its education system in the country.

GPE is the only global fund for education that brings together 59 developing countries with low incomes by donor government

The four key reforms under GPE financial support are; (1) Teacher Management System, (2) School Leadership and Management, (3) Teacher Professional Learning and (3) Development and Curriculum (Learning Framework), (4) Student assessment, and teaching and learning resources.

This is aligned with the new Education Legislative Framework, which comprises the Education Act 2023, Regulations, Learning Framework, Education Funding Code and Administrative Instructions.

The passing of the Education Act 2023 late last year and the ongoing socialization and implementation – this year, brings a new framework on how education is led, managed, coordinated and supported across all provinces under the existing reform program.

Also aligned with the new Education Legislative Framework is



MEHRD's Key stakeholders participating in the NEAP National Consultation.

the successful implementation of the Teachers in Training (TIT), also known as untrained or unqualified teachers.

Under this program, a total of 406 teachers were graduated with certificates, diplomas and graduate diplomas in teaching.

This is in compliance with the provisions for registration of teachers that all teachers are qualified in the subjects they teach.

Developments are also occurring across many parts of the education sector, including new initiatives being developed for Early Childhood Education, Curriculum Development, school infrastructure and a new project to support the improvement of Senior Secondary Education funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

This year, the ministry also launched the Solomon Islands Education Manual that will guide and assist the MEHRD staff, teachers, education partners, and those supporting inclusive education programs in the country.

This initiative is a significant milestone in our belief that no child should be left behind, regardless of their abilities or challenges.

The Inclusive Education Manual is part of the Ministry's commitment to ensure and strengthen access to education for persons and inclusivity in Solomon Islands.

The ministry this year also undertook a Mid-Term Review and national consultation of the National Education Action Plan 2022-2026 –

after implementing it for more than 2.5 years.

The review will better inform the Ministry to make decisions and actions for implementation of the rest of the reform activities, projects and programs until the plan is concluded at the end of 2026.

The review focuses on evaluating progress in achieving the three intermediate goals of the NEAP and their corresponding priorities. These are:

- the achievement of equitable access to education
- improvements in the quality of education, and
- the efficient and effective management and monitoring of the education system.

The NEAP 2022 – 2026 is the second education sector plan designed to support the Education Strategic Framework (ESF) for the period 2016 – 2030 that sets the policy directions and key strategies for education reform and development in our country.

The NEAP and ESF inform the development of MEHRD's Annual Work Plans as well as the Provincial Education Coordination Plans, and whole School Development Plans.

The ministry acknowledges its development partners, key stakeholders, donor partners, education providers, Non-government Organizations and the national government for making this year a successful one.

Tururana Community High School students and official guests celebrating the official handover of their girl's dormitory in early March.



MEHRD makes headway to improve quality of education

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources (MEHRD) is progressing in our reform to address some of the bottlenecks that have got in the way and prevented us from fully realizing our potential to reform and improve the quality of education in our country.

At the forefront is the legislative reform under the Education Act 2023 that was passed in 2023.

The new Education Act set a new direction to improve our education system and quality of teaching and learning in order to see improvement in student outcomes.

In an effort to progress the implementation of the new Act a series of internal and external socialization have been conducted in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Central, Malaita, Makira and Western provinces.

The outcomes were overwhelmed with the education providers and school leaders began to attained deeper understanding and

appreciation of the Education Act 2023.

Adding to that MEHRD has also launched its five-year System Transformation Education Program.

The program is supported by financial assistance by the Global Partnership for Education to help MEHRD strengthen its education system in the country that focuses more on Teacher Management System, School Leadership and Management, Teacher Professional Learning, Development and Curriculum (Learning Framework) and Student Assessment, teaching and learning resources.

Further more MEHRD have conducted series of internal and external Mid-term review and national consultation on the National Education Action Plan 2022-2026.

The review focusses on evaluating progress in achieving the three intermediate goals of the NEAP and their corresponding priorities. These are:

- the achievement of equitable access to education
- improvements in the quality of education, and
- the efficient and effective management and monitoring of the education system.

NEAP 2022-2026 is the second of three plans intended to achieve our education system's goals as outlined in the Education Strategic Framework (2016-2030).

In setting clear directions on what it intends to implement in 2025 MEHRD has finalised its Annual Work Plan.

In 2025 the Ministry will be implementing the core priorities indicated by the NEAP 2025-2026 and other upcoming programs, including Government for National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) policy, Global Partnership for Education funding (GPE), Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Senior Secondary Improvement School Project.

MEHRD successfully delivered a series of awareness on Education Act



Guadalcanal Provincial executives participated in the capacity building workshop on Education Act 2023.



Manager Education Provider Coordination and Improvement Executive and Chair of Education Provider Review Subcommittee Ali Kiko during capacity building workshop with the Guadalcanal Education Provider.

The Education Provider Review Subcommittee with support of the Education Legislative Core Team has successfully delivered a series of capacity building workshops on the new Education Act 2023.

The capacity building workshop was part of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) socialization to equip Education Providers and school leaders with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement the new Education Act 2023.

The first series of workshops was conducted on 3rd-6th September which brought together 32 Education Providers including Honiara City Council Executives. This followed with Guadalcanal Province on 10th-13th September, which brought more than 60 key figures from the provincial government, education provider and school leaders.

It was then rolled out to Malaita and Makira provinces on 8th-11th October and 22nd -24th respectively, which gathered more than 100 participants including school leaders, provincial government executives, heads of NGOs and education providers.

In the course of the workshops, the subcommittee provided a comprehensive overview of key educational frameworks, including the Education Act, Regulations, Learning Framework, and Funding Code, alongside administrative instructions.

Participants were engaged in discussions regarding the draft Agency Agreement with the province and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with non-government education providers. Additionally, the introduction of the Provincial Education Board and its setup was a focal point of the discussions.

The outcome of the workshop was overwhelmingly positive, with commitments to follow up on the Agency Agreement and other

relevant documents.

Participants were able to attain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Education Act 2023, the accompanying documents such as the Education Regulations, the Educating Funding Code, the Learning Framework, the Scheme of Secondary Education Certificate and all pertinent Administrative Instructions.,

The subcommittee looks forward to continuing its partnership with the provincial government and education stakeholders to enhance the quality and accessibility of education in the region.

The capacity building workshops for the remaining provinces will continue next in 2025.

Ngalbiu Community High School teachers celebrating the World Teachers Day.



MEHRD on track to implement new teacher salary structure

The much-anticipated new teachers' salary structure and classification will be implemented as of next year 2025.

This was a welcoming news for teachers across the country who have wanted to be accorded a proper salary structure for many years.

Permanent Secretary Dr Franco Rodie, during the World Teachers Day on Friday 4th October, announced this welcoming news to the teachers.

He said the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) is on track and is in the process of devising a process to implement the new salary structure and classification.

"It is a long desire for teachers to be accorded a proper pay structure recognising the professional skills teachers need to improve quality education," Dr Rodie said.

He said he is honoured to serve long enough in the Ministry to ensure the new teachers' salary structure and the new Education Act 2023 eventuated.



Teachers in Honiara celebrating World Teacher's Day this year.

He said his ministry is committed to working together with the teachers and the Solomon Islands Teachers Association (SINTA) to implement the changes.

Implementing the new teacher's

salary structure is a top Program of Action of the Government of National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) in compliance with the new legislative framework driven by the Education Act 2023.

MEHRD approved the School Calendar for the 2025 academic year

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) has approved the School Calendar for the 2025 academic year.

Permanent Secretary Dr. Franco Rodie confirmed this in a circular issued on Thursday 14th November 2024.

This fulfills requirements as specified in the Provision of Education and Facilities Part 7 Division 1, Section 60 (a) and (b) of the Education Act, 2023. As required under section 60 of the Education Act (2023), no Education Provider shall, in respect of a school it runs or operates, alter the dates of terms and holidays, without seeking permission from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources

Development.

MEHRD wishes to inform the Education Providers, school Principal and teachers to take note of the following advice:

- Registration of students must begin on Monday 13th and end on Friday 17th January-that is, one week before the school term begins
- All Principals of Secondary and Primary schools, ECE Supervisors and teachers must be at their respective schools to administer registrations
- All classes must begin on Monday 20th January 2025
- School leaders and Education providers are requested

to communicate the commencement dates for registration and classes to their respective students at least two weeks before the start of the registration and classes.

Permanent Secretary Dr. Franco Rodie, on behalf of the Minister, Deputy Secretaries and Officers of the MEHRD wish all teachers, school leaders, students, development partners and families a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2025.

The ministry looks forward to another year of collaboration as partners in education.

For reference purposes, refer to the Calendar for School Terms and Holidays 2025 for details.

TERMS AND BREAKS	DATES OF TERMS AND BREAKS	TOTAL WEEKS
TERM ONE	Begins Monday 20th January, 2025 Ends Friday 28th March, 2025	10 weeks
TERM BREAK	Begins Monday 31st March, 2025 Ends Friday 4th April, 2025	1 week
TERM TWO	Begins Monday 7th April, 2025 Ends Friday 13th June, 2025	10 weeks
TERM TWO BREAK	Begins Monday 16th June, 2025 Ends Friday 11th June, 2025	4 weeks
TERM THREE	Begins Monday 14th July, 2025 Ends Friday 19th September, 2025	10 weeks
TERM THREE BREAK	Begins Monday 22nd September, 2025 Ends Friday 26th September, 2025	1 week
TERM FOUR	Begins Monday 29th September, 2025 Ends Friday 5th December, 2025	10 weeks

Schools are expected to observe and celebrate the following events on the specified dates:

Event	Date
Christmas Holiday	8 December, 2025
International Mother Language Day	21 February, 2025
International Environment Day	5 June, 2025
International Literacy Day	8 September, 2025
World Teachers Day	5 October, 2025
International Children's Day	11 November, 2025
Commencement of Term One, 2026	Monday 19 January, 2026
International Education Day	24 January, 2025