



## **Independent State of Papua New Guinea**

### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

## **Ministerial Policy Statement 3/2020**

### **EXTENSION OF SUSPENSION OF CLASSES IN THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM INCLUDING PERMITTED AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS DUE TO CORONA VIRUS (COVID -19).**

#### **1. AUTHORITY**

This Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) is in conjunction with MPS 2/2020. The Authority of this Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) is in line with the National Education Act (Chapter 163) Section 27 as amended in 1995.

#### **2. APPLICATION**

This MPS applies to all schools operating under the National Education System, including permitted schools and private schools providing education in the general education sector and must be applied beginning on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

#### **3. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MPS is to direct authorities of all schools and institutions operating within the National Education System (NES), permitted schools and private schools on the extension of the suspension of schools due to the COVID 19.

#### **4. POLICY DIRECTION**

- 4.1. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, I as the Education Minister implemented the Cabinet's decision to suspend schools in the National Education System including permitted and private schools from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020.
- 4.2. Following Parliament's approval for the extension of the State of Emergency for another two months and the Prime Minister's statement on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020, the suspension of classes will be extended until 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. This suspension will go through to the end of the Term 1, school holidays.

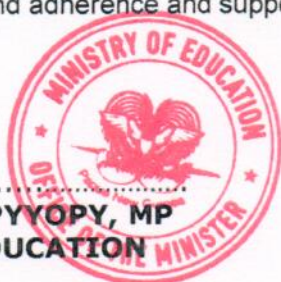
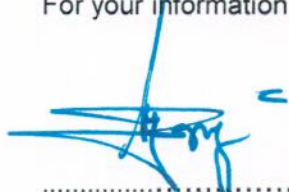
- 4.3. The classes will resume for Term 2 on 27th April, 2020. This will mean that the 2020 academic year is affected by four (4) weeks. However, this resumption date is subject to the status of the COVID -19 over the next two weeks.
- 4.4. The Department of Education will revise and advise parents and authorities of new term dates, holidays and other critical events like examinations and finer strategies on how the four (4) weeks of suspension will be recovered.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Government has considered all the implications of the education of our students before it took the decision to suspend schools until classes resume for Term 2 on 27 April 2020.

I once again urge every parent and citizen to advise your children to practice personal hygiene and encourage them to engage in productive educational tasks whilst at home. The Department will immediately issue strategies to help students access learning resources following this direction.

For your information and adherence and support.



**HON. JOSEPH YOPYOPY, MP**  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

Date this: 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

### Distribution:

- All Provincial Education Advisors
- All Principals – National High Schools, Secondary Schools, Provincial High Schools, Primary Schools, Elementary Schools
- All Principals – Permitted and Private Schools
- All Inspectors and Guidance Officers
- All Chairpersons – Governing Councils, Boards of Governors and Boards of Management
- All Church Education Secretaries
- All Education Officials