



EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING COMMITTEE

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

Responses to Committee Questions 1

Question Noticing Details

Question No.1 Secondary Placement for 2015

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Abstracted from the Daily Hansard, NPSI)

Secondary School Placement for 2015

Mr JIMMY LUSIBAEA (*North Malaita*) to the Minister for Education & Human Resources Development: Can the Minister enlighten Parliament on how many pupils in our educational system are without placement for Form 1, Form 4, Form 6 and Form 7 in 2015?

Hon SNYDER RINI (*Caretaker Minister for Education*): Students who do not have placements from Standard 6 to Form 1 are 848, from Form 3 to Form 4 is 1811, from Form 5 to Form 6 is 2866 and from Form 6 to Form 7 is 2278 students.

Mr STEVE ABANA (*Fataleka*): Can we ask supplementary questions to the question by the Member for North Malaita? From the Minister's answer, this trend has been continuing for a long time within our schools. In terms of policy matter, has the government tried doing away with exams from forms 1 to Form 6 so that we allow our children to just go through normal education until they reach Form 6?

Hon Snyder Rini: Yes, the government will be sit and look into that policy, but the drop outs are not really that they do not perform. They perform but then the problem is

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they do not have enough schools for them to go into other Forms. That is the problem here, not really as we have to take out the examination and they can move in, once the government tries to do that policy. We have to build more schools so that it will cater for them but if we do not build more schools then there is congestion there. So the problem is to build more schools for our students to have placement if they are moving into higher forms.

Mr MATTHEW WALE (*Aoke/Langalanga*): The Minister said “build more schools!”, and given the growth rate of our population, how many more classrooms should we build each year in the education ministry statistics? In this particular instance the problem or the big numbers are in Forms 5 -6 and 6-7. Those are the big numbers to those that are unplaced, and the government in the program at this time is to build two new national secondary schools, one at Rohinari, Malaita and other is at Garanga, Isabel. Because that is where the bulk that is unplaced because of not enough Forms 7 and not enough Form 6, for Forms 5 move onto Form 6 and 6 to move onto Form 7.

Mr. RICK HOUENIPWELA (*Small Malaita*): Following on from the response by the minister, I am very happy with this policy and action mentioned by the minister. I also want to know whether similar actions are being taken to vocational trainings because this is probably one place, not only mitigate this problem of no space but also to enhance life skills.

Hon Snyder Rini: Yes, the national education plan of the ministry for 2015 – 2025 is to improve vocational schools and also build more technical schools so that dropouts can go to technical schools, instead of them going to tertiary. I think that is the part that we miss out on. Now SINU go into university then they only take people to do diplomas and so forth. Government thinks to build vocational schools, or upgrade the existing ones and build more technical schools. So that people who drop out of Forms five or Forms 6 or 7 can go to technical schools.