



HON. JAMES MARAPE MP
PRIME MINISTER



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



HON. JIMMY UGURO, MP
MINISTER

MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT 01/2021

GOVERNMENT TUITION FEE SUBSIDY (GTFS) POLICY FOR 2021 FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION SECTOR SCHOOLS

TO: ALL PARENTS, SCHOOL HEADS, GOVERNING BOARDS AND EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.

1. INTRODUCTION

This public notice formally announces the PNG Government's GTFS policy for 2021. In 2021, the government is maintaining the Tuition Fee Subsidy (GTFS) Policy.

Under the GTFS, the government is committed to its policy on partnership and to make education a shared responsibility between the national government, provincial governments, DDAs, parents, churches and other stakeholders.

2. EDUCATION REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY

The Marape government reiterates its profound conviction that education is the powerful tool that will transform and sustain our prosperity and therefore will maintain education as a priority policy.

The Marape government is committed to giving every child 13 years of quality education under a standard based education system including a standard based curriculum that provides an effective platform for measuring children's performance and for teachers to use evidence to continuously improve children's learning so that they continue to make progress towards fully attaining the benchmarks and hence the attainment of content standards.

We will ensure: the 1-6-6 school structure that phase out elementary schools and move grade 1 and 2 into primary schools; a robust standards assurance system maintained; multiple pathways with FODE and VET for students is provided; Schools of Excellence implemented; Early Childhood education formalized; and schools' functioning have sustained funding from both government and parents.

The Government will prioritise FODE and will from this year pay the full tuition fees. In other words, FODE will be fee-free and will be established in all high and secondary schools from 2021.

3. GOVERNMENT TUITION FEE SUBSIDY POLICY

The Government Tuition Fee Subsidy (GTFS) Policy underscores its principle to make education cost of our children a partnership between governments, parents, churches and the local communities.

We have seen the last regime making our people lazy, detached parents from schools and systematically removed their interest in schools. We want to disengage and cut out the dependency syndrome that we have systematically allowed into our PNG culture. The shift in the school financing policy by the Marape government is deliberate to get parents and communities to plough the soil and work hard, and contribute to reviving the economy than creating a 'handout culture' and a dependency syndrome.

Papua New Guineans are naturally hard working, resilient and self-reliant. The GTFS policy will re-establish the missing link between the parents and schools while the Government will invest in raising the quality of education, building more schools and making school managers and boards more accountable.

4. 2021 GTFS FUNDING

The total funding for the Government Tuition Fee Subsidy Policy (GTFS) in 2021 will be K486,351,600. This funding remains the same as in 2020. GTFS will have two components – A School Operations and Functional Grant of K388,351,600 (80%) and a Commodity component of K 97,000,000 (20%). We will look into a decentralized procurement model that can encourage SMEs but at the same time is affordable and ensures standards and equity.

5. 2021 TUITION COST AND NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD (NEB) MAXIMUM FEE LIMITS

The following table shows the Total fees per NEB Maximum Fee limits for each component and by sector.

Table 1: Total Tuition Cost and Fee Limits in Kina

SECTOR	TOTAL TUITION COST	NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD MAXIMUM FEE LIMIT BY SECTOR		
		SECTOR	BOARDING	DAY
ELEMENTARY	117,227,440	ELEMENTARY		110
PRIMARY	323,151,444	PRIMARY		297
Lower SECONDARY	189,471,480	LOWER SECONDARY	1650	990
Upper SECONDARY	92,389,242	UPPER SECONDARY	1749	1089
VOCATIONAL	48,101,900	VOCATIONAL	1430	990
FODE	6,622,770	FODE		110
SERC	2,246,200	SERC		200
	779,210,476.00			

NB: The Approved Permitted Schools are no longer supported by the GTFS Policy. The State will pay the full FODE Fees.

6. GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY AND PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

Given the budget allocation, the State Contribution component will be 62% of the total NEB Maximum School Fee Limit cost and parents will pay 38%.

The actual unit fees to be paid by the state and parents based on the 62/38 sharing model for each student per sector will be as follows:

Table 2: 2021 Student Unit Tuition Fee By Sector in Kina

SECTOR	NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD MAXIMUM FEE LIMIT BY SECTOR (Kina)		GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY SUBSIDY (62%) (Kina)		PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION (38%) (Kina)	
	BOARDING	DAY	BOARDING	DAY	BOARDING	DAY
ELEMENTARY		110		68		42
PRIMARY		297		184		113
LOWER SECONDARY	1650	990	1025	615	625	375
UPPER SECONDARY	1749	1089	1086	676	663	413
VOCATIONAL	1430	990	888	615	542	375
FODE		110		110		0
SPECIAL ED.		200		124		76

7. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Parents will be required to pay fifty percent (50%) of the Parental Contribution fee at the start of the school year and the balance must be paid before the end of Term 2. The government will pay its component before the end of Term 3.

8. PROJECT FEES

Schools are allowed to collect Project Fees, but they must follow very strict approval guidelines. The Provincial Education Board is the only authority to approve a project fee for schools after it has received a School Learning Improvement Plan (SLIP), a Project Plan, Scope and Budget with a P&C Association agreement.

Where Project Fees are to be collected, it must be less than 20 percent (20%) of the Maximum Fee limit per student rate set by the National Education Board as shown below.

Table 3: Project Fees Limits for 2021.

Sector	2021 School Tuition Fee	Maximum Project Fee Limit PEBS approve per Student 2021
Elementary	K110	K20
Primary	K297	K60
Secondary	K1089	K220
Vocational	K990	K200
FODE	K100/subject	K20/subject
Special Education	K200	K40

9. CHURCH AGENCY FEES

Church agency fees are to be paid by each student attending a church agency school as per the Education Act, 1983. Provincial Education Boards will set and approve the fees, but must not be

above the maximum limits set below.

- a) Preparatory/Elementary – K5.00
- b) Primary – K7.00
- c) High/Secondary and Vocational – K10.00

10. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO EDUCATION

NO school administration or governing board is to refuse any child from enrolling in school or attending classes for non-payment of any form of fees. Special arrangements should be made between the parents and the school to pay the required fees over a period in the school year. Whilst every child has the right to education, schools also need funds to operate, therefore parents are encouraged to cooperate with school boards and pay their component of 38% as early as possible.

11. PARTNERSHIP WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES

Provincial Governments and District Development Authorities are the immediate authorities responsible for the education of students in the general education sector, within their respective jurisdictions. In the spirit of partnership, we urge every Provincial Government and District Development Authority to help their schools, and especially parents who may struggle to pay their 38% component of the fees.

Eight provinces (East New Britain, East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Enga, Milne Bay, Morobe, New Ireland and Northern) have signed MOAs with the National Government to manage national government school fee grants/subsidies. We will honor our commitment and enhance further collaboration and partnership.

12. MANDATORY SELF RELIANCE FOR SCHOOLS TO RAISE 10% OF ITS REVENUE

Self-reliance is a standing policy of the department. However, the current take-up of self-reliance projects by schools is low. Schools have become too dependent on fees and subsidies in the recent past. Hence per the NEB recommendation at its last meeting, I direct every school to generate 10% of its school' budget through self-reliance projects. Schools will comply with this direction in 2021.

13. CONCLUSION

The State is committed to education and pays the bulk of the cost of education for each child through teacher salaries, teacher training, standards assurance, curriculum and examinations, infrastructure, and grants, apart from the GTFS policy funding.

The Government's Tuition Fee Subsidy Policy that advocates sharing the cost of education will continue in our endeavor to provide a sustainable education system for our children.

I thank all parents and stakeholders for your continuous partnership in sharing the responsibility in the education of our children.

Any further explanation of the policy can be obtained from the Department of Education Website: www.education.gov.pg or by sending an email to: gtfsinfo@education.gov.pg or calling phones: 328 888 00/73350746/32 888 661/72668181.

Authorized by:

HON. JIMMY UGURO, MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

4th January 2021