



HON. JAMES MARAPE MP
PRIME MINISTER



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



HON. JIMMY UGURO, MP
MINISTER

MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT TUITION FEE (GTF) POLICY FOR 2022 FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION SECTOR SCHOOLS

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

1. INTRODUCTION

This Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) announces the Government Tuition Fee (GTF) Policy for 2022. The previous Government Tuition Fee Subsidy policy of 2020 and 2021 is revised with the Government paying full fees in 2022.

The Government has increased funding to pay 100% school fees for students from elementary to grade 12 in 2022 considering the impact of COVID 19 pandemic on the economy, citizens and families.

2. EDUCATION REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY

Education remains a priority sector next year with increased budget support to ensure quality education is provided to all citizen and especially school aged children.

The Government is committed to giving every child 13 years of complete education with emphasis on standard and quality under a standard based curriculum that provides the platform to assess children's creativity and performance. Teachers will be supported in upgrading professional skills and knowledge to continue making progress to ensure the benchmarks and content standards are achieved.

The Government intends to ensure the 1-6-6 school structure is implemented from 2022 onwards in which elementary schools move grade 1 and 2 into primary schools and grade 7 and 8 under high schools; a robust standards assurance system maintained through school inspection system; multiple pathways with FODE and VET for students is provided; Schools of Excellence implemented; Early Childhood education formalized; and schools' functioning to sustained through full funding from Government.

3. GOVERNMENT TUITION FEE POLICY

A notable increase in allocation to education is the Schools Grants budget from K486 million in 2021 to K632million in 2022.

In 2020, the Marape/Basil government embarked on a partnership with parents and stakeholders in sharing the cost of education to make people responsible and hardworking. This encouraged parents/guardians to till their land and to be more productive and grow the economy. However, given the effect of Covid-19 and its consequential impact on lives and the economy, the Government has deliberately increased funding to pay 100% schools fees for students from elementary to grade 12 in 2022. This is a huge relief to parents and guardians who are struggling to meet school fees. There will be no schools tuition fee to be paid by parents in 2022.

The GTF policy continues to encourage parents to assist schools in self-reliance programs and projects while the Government will invest in raising the quality of education, building more schools and making school managers and boards more accountable.

4. GTF FUNDING FOR 2022

The Government Tuition Fee (GTF) Policy in 2022 is allocated K632 million, an increase of K146 million from 2021. The policy maintains two components – (i) School Operations and Functional Grant of K505.6 million (80%) and (ii) Commodity component of K 126.4 million (20%). We intend to deliver the Commodity Component in partnership with provinces after procurement processes are established.

5. SPECIAL SUPPORT TO REMOTE SCHOOLS

This Government is considerate and for the first time relieving the hardship faced by the very remote schools in the country.

The Government is funding a remote equity of 10% for transportation cost. This will be paid to schools under the category of very remote schools identified by Papua New Guinea Access Remote Index (PARI).

6. 2021 TUITION COST AND NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD (NEB) MAXIMUM FEE LIMITS

The NEB Maximum Fee limits for 2022 remains the same as in 2021. The table below presents the total fees payable by Government to all sectors under the two policy components;

Table 1: Total Fee Allocation under Policy Components

2022 BUDGET	632,000,000.00	PERCENTAGE
COMMODITY COMPONENT	126,400,000.00	20%
GRANTS TO SCHOOLS (OFG)	505,600,000.00	80%
	632,000,000.00	100%

Table 2: Total Government Allocation per Sector

SECTOR	ENROL BY SECTOR	PER NEB FEE LIMIT		TOTAL
		COMMODITY 20%	OFG GRANTS 80%	
ELEM	926,066	17,286,377.78	61,659,103.64	78,945,481.42
PRIM	1,095,282	55,201,609.59	196,899,651.91	252,101,261.50
Lower/SEC	169,598	35,425,129.86	126,358,557.12	161,783,686.99
Upper/SEC	76,500	18,486,882.77	65,941,207.32	84,428,090.09
VOC	36,436		41,794,280.00	41,794,280.00
FODE	53,343		9,851,600.00	9,851,600.00
SERC	15,478		3,095,600.00	3,095,600.00
TOTAL	2,372,703	126,400,000.00	505,600,000.00	632,000,000.00

*There will be variations in funding due to enrolment changes.

7. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Government intends to pay Terms 1 and 2 funding in Quarter 1 at the start of the school year for all schools. The parents assist with other support fees such as Project Fees and other education associated costs for each child.

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 2022.

Sector	2022 School Fee Tuition	Maximum Project Fee Limit PEBs approve per Student 2022
Elementary	K110	K20
Primary	K297	K60
Secondary & NSoE	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 involve in any self-sustaining activities to support schools.

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' development and sustenance plans.

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. This arrangement will be reviewed in 2022.

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

Self-reliance is a standing policy of the department. However, the 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 maintain this direction in 2022.

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 GTF policy funding.

The Government's Tuition Fee Policy that advocates sharing the cost of education is committing to pay full fees for all students in 2022 in light of the downturn in the economy and parents struggle to maintain the partnership. The commitment to every student receiving quality education under a standard based education, a 1-6-6 school structure, a robust standards assurance system, emphasis on Early Childhood Education (ECE), and a system of education catering for the exceptionally gifted students through a home-grown but globally comparable curriculum in STEM education in our national schools of excellence.

I urge all parents and stakeholders for your continuous support in other ways than tuition fees to ensure schools remain operational throughout the year in 2022.

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 00/73350746/75777792/72668181.

Authorized by:

HON. JIMMY UGURO, MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

13th December 2021