



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of the Secretary

Date: Monday, January 26, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISBURSES K225.8 MILLION IN SCHOOL OPERATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL GRANTS AND PROJECT FEES FOR QUARTER 1, 2026

The Secretary for Education is pleased to announce that the Government through the Department of Education has commenced the processing of K225,845,619.86 in school operational and functional grants and project fees.

These funds are scheduled to be paid into all respective school bank accounts within this week. This significant financial grant covers School Operational and Functional (SOF) Grants and Project Fees across all education sectors, ensuring that schools have the necessary resources to begin the 2026 academic year effectively.

The total disbursement of K225,845,619.86 is allocated as follows:

Funding Category	Sector	Total Amount
SOF Grant (Q1, Payment 1, Batch 1)	All School Sectors	K181,499,999.40
SOF Grant	FODE & IERC	K4,418,250.00
Project Fees (Q1, Payment 1, Batch 2)	All School Sectors	K39,117,620.46
Project Fees	FODE & IERC	K809,750.00
TOTAL		K225,845,619.86

The Government of Papua New Guinea remains steadfast in its commitment to the Government's Free Education Policy. This policy is a top priority, aimed at removing financial barriers to education and ensuring that every child in Papua New Guinea has access to quality learning.

"Our mission is clear: we must ensure that no child is left behind," stated the Secretary for Education. "By prioritizing these payments early in the term, we are providing school administrations with the stability they need to focus on delivering quality teaching and learning in the classroom.

"All Heads of Schools, School Administrations, and Provincial Divisions of Education are advised to monitor their accounts and ensure funds are managed with transparency and accountability. These funds must be used specifically to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom.

The Department of Education will also publish the full list of payments for all schools per province on its website (www.education.gov.pg) for our schools and the public to view.

The Secretary also made a special call to parents and guardians: "We urge you to continue supporting your children's attendance and well-being as we work together to build a brighter future. We thank everyone for working with us to build a stronger education system for our country."

"The Secretary wishes all teachers and students the very best for the 2026 academic year."

Authorized by:

DR. UKE W. KOMBRA, PhD, OBE
Secretary for Education

