



## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

### **Ministerial Policy Statement No. 4 of 2020**

**SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF SCHOOLS IN THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM INCLUDING PERMITTED AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOLLOWING CORONA VIRUS (COVID -19) SOE.**

#### **1. AUTHORITY**

The Authority of this Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) is Section 27 of the Education Act 1983 (Chapter 163) as amended 1995. This MPS is to be read in conjunction with the Secretary's Circular Instruction No.4/2020.

#### **2. APPLICATION**

This MPS applies to all schools operating under the National Education System, permitted schools and private schools providing education in the general education sector and shall be applied beginning Monday 27 April, 2020.

#### **3. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MPS is to direct all administrators and authorities of all schools and institutions operating within the National Education System (NES), permitted schools and private schools on the lifting of the suspension of schools due to the COVID 19 and resumption of classes on Monday 4 May 2020.

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

- 4.1. On 23rd March 2020, I as the State Minister responsible for Education matters implemented the Cabinet's request to suspend schools in the National Education System including permitted and private schools from 24th March 2020 to 3rd April, 2020. The suspension was further extended until 27 April, 2020.
- 4.2. I now direct all the schools to reopen for Term 2 on 27th April, 2020 with only teachers to prepare for:

- (a) the "New Normal" corona virus prevention and control protocols that students will follow when they resume on Monday 4 May, 2020;
- (b) review and reprogramme curriculum implementation of work from Week 7 of Term 1 to the end of Term 3; and
- (c) review and reprogramme student assessment plans from Week 7 of Term 1 to the end of Term 4, 2020.

4.3. All students will resume classes on 4 May, 2020.

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 five (5) weeks of lessons lost due to the suspension will be recovered. Specific instructions and details will be issued through Secretary's Instruction Circular 4/2020 and subsequent Secretary's Instructions.

## 5. CONCLUSION

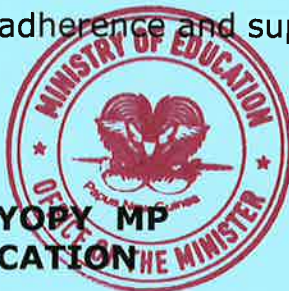
The Government has considered all the implications of the education of our students before it took the decision to suspend and now reopen schools for Term 2 on Monday 4 May, 2020.

Whilst the government is reopening schools, it is completely necessary for all teachers, parents, partners and stakeholders involved in the education of our children to remain vigilant and lead in the transition into the "new normal" safety orders and health advice to prevent and control COVID 19 in schools and our country.

I thank you all for your understanding and support in the last five weeks and ask for the same going forward during this uncertain period. We thank God as it is only through Him that we will go through this challenging period.

For your information, adherence and support.

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



Dated this: 23rd of 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