

GOUVERNEMENT
DE LA REPUBLIQUE
DE VANUATU



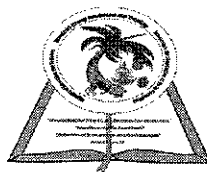
GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF VANUATU

MINISTRE DE L'EDUCATION
ET DE LA FORMATION

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CABINET DU MINISTRE - OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

16th January 2018

PRESS STATEMENT ON SCHOOL FEES AND FREE EDUCATION

As Minister responsible for National Education and Training, I take this opportunity to extend to you Warm Greetings for this new academic year 2018!

I also thank all of you who are communicating with the Ministry or through social and other forms of media to enquire or comment about the statement that were issued on School Fees.

I wish to make the following clarifications:

- i. The Education Act No. 9 of 2014 states that the Minister may, after consultation with the Director General and the National Education Advisory Council, by Order prescribe the range of fees payable at government and non-government schools.
- ii. The same Act also states than an Education Authority or a Provincial Education Board must not charge fees at any of its schools that are in excess of the prescribed range.
- iii. Any such fees that were charged before or are to be charged this year apart from the prescribed fees above must have the Minister's approval before schools charge and receive fees from students this year.
- iv. Therefore, I am requesting all Primary and Secondary Schools to write to my office to request the approval of additional fees that are to be charged, if these are deemed vital for the quality education of children, and highly necessary for the good running of the schools.
- v. On the issue of **Registration Fees**, no Government or Government-assisted school is authorized to charge parents and their children excessive Registration fees in order to be granted a student place in any Government or Government-supported school. This is depriving children the right of access to education!
- vi. Concerning the Government **Free Education Policy**, the Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu has approved a budget to **subsidise the cost of Tuition Fees for all Early**

Childhood (Kindergarten) children aged 4 and 5 years, and extend Tuition fee subsidy already applicable in Years 1 to 6 to also include, beginning 2018, Yrs 7 and 8 in government and Government-assisted schools. The Government Tuition Fee subsidy will be paid to schools in the form of additional school grants to be managed by the schools for the sole purpose of providing free tuition support to children and students, in line with the Government's policy on Free Education support.

The aim of the Government Free Education policy through Tuition Fee subsidy is to reduce the heavy burden of education costs to parents and students, by subsidising tuition fees from Kindy (4 to 5 years old up to Year 10 at Junior Secondary School level). In 2018, this government funding will cover tuition fee costs from Kindy (4 to 5 years old) up to Year 8.

The term "Free Education" is now commonly used, but often with ambiguity and confusion. But in simple terms, it refers to **three forms of new and direct Government funding support (grants)** to help Ni-Vanuatu children's education and kindergarten teachers beginning in 2018.

One: It means that the **Government** through the Ministry of Education and Training **will pay for Tuition Fee Costs of all Ni-Vanuatu kindergarten children aged 4 and 5 years who are officially registered through the Civil Status, and enrolled in a certified Government, Government-assisted and/or Private Kindergarten School in Vanuatu;** The grant amount to be paid to eligible children aged 4 and 5 years is 9,000 vatu per annum per child.

Two: It means that the **Government** through the Ministry of Education and Training **will pay for Tuition Fee Costs of all Ni-Vanuatu students enrolled in Junior Secondary School Years 7 and 8 in a Government or Government-assisted School in Vanuatu. This is an extension of tuition fee support that is already applicable for primary level Classes 1 to 6, and will gradually extend to cover Years 9 and 10 when new budget appropriation is approved.** The grant amount to be paid to eligible children in years 7 and 8 is 42,000 vatu per annum per child, which is 14,000 vatu per term.

Three: It means that the **Government** through the Ministry of Education and Training **will, for the first time since independence, pay the salaries of Kindergarten Teachers based on criteria prescribed by the Teaching Service Commission (based on qualifications, development programs achieved and teaching experience). To be entitled to salary benefits, Kindergarten teachers must immediately apply to register** with the Teaching Service Commission and ideally be licensed to teach.

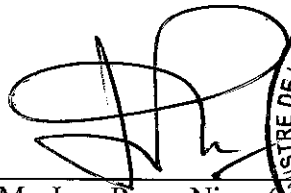
- vii. The Government will **continue** to assist the children and population of Vanuatu with Tuition Fee for Years 1 to 6 in Primary Schools, in Government and Government Assisted schools. The grant amount to be paid to eligible children in Years 1 to 6 in **Government and Government Assisted Schools will still be 8,900 vatu per annum per child.**
- viii. The Government will **continue** to assist the children and population of Vanuatu with a Grant funding for Years 7 to 14 in Secondary Schools, in Government and Government Assisted schools. The grant amount to be paid to eligible children in **Years 7 to 14 in Government and Government Assisted Schools will still be 8,125 vatu per annum per child.**
- ix. School Principals and Education Authorities are reminded that the Education Act No. 9 of 2014 provides in Section 41 and Subsection 8 **for schools to make arrangements with parents to ensure that children continue in their schooling.** This means that such arrangements as introducing relevant guidelines on aid-in kind or help-in kind in lieu of payment of Fees should be encouraged, where appropriate.
- x. As Minister responsible, I wish to issue the following interim fee structure to guide School Principals and School Councils in their planning. The Education Act No. 9 of 2014, Section 41 provides for the following fees to be prescribed at government and non-government schools:
 - a. Tuition; and
 - b. Boarding; and
 - c. Provision of books and other materials; and
 - d. Any other facilities or services provided to students.
- xi. In the interim, the additional fees to be prescribed from 2018, from Kindergarten to Year 14 are as follows:
 - a. **Exams Fee:** This is determined by the National Examinations Board for examinable years 8 and 10. Other exam fees for Years 12, 13 and 14 is determined by institutions delivering the exams, such as SPC or UNC.
 - b. **Caution Fee:** This is charged to new students, upon entry into a school, as a safety measure for damage to school assets or equipment. This is refundable if the student completes school.
 - c. **Operations Fee:** This covers the daily operations of running the school, including support staff salary.
 - d. **Medical Fee:** This covers cost of providing support to students when student falls ill.
 - e. **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Fee:** This covers use and maintenance of ICT (computing) tools and equipment in school.

- f. **Teacher Aide:** This covers allowances for teachers not on the government's payroll and for relief teachers.
 - g. **Sports Fee:** This is stipulated in the Charter for Secondary Schools Games, but also introduced at primary to enhance sporting skills.
 - h. **Security Fee:** This will cover the cost of securing the schools assets and equipment.
 - i. **Lunch Fee:** This is an optional fee, charged for students who wish to have lunch in school.
 - j. **School Uniform Fee:** As schools order uniforms for the students, this rate will be set at a minimum to cover for cost of procuring the uniform on behalf of the students.
 - k. **Government Assisted Education Authority Fee:** This is a contribution paid to Authorities to assist in covering the operational expenses of the office.
 - l. **Graduation Uniform Fee:** This is an optional fee for students to wear a standard uniform during graduation as final year students.
 - m. **School Community Association:** This is a contribution set by the parents in a school towards a particular project or activity for the school. This will need to be justified and approval must be granted by the Minister.
 - n. **Project Fund:** This is a contribution set by the School Council on projects expected to be undertaken by the school in the current year. This will need to be justified and approval must be granted by the Minister.
 - o. **Others:** All other charges will need to be justified by the school, and approval granted by the Minister.
- xii. In the interim, and until such time a new Regulation Order prescribing fees chargeable at schools is issued, the **maximum annual amount** that can be charged for these fees is highlighted in the schedule attached:

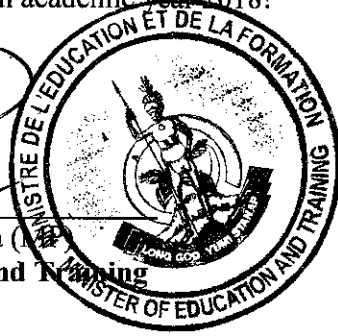
As Minister responsible, I would like to reiterate that any school that justifiably considers the level of prescribed school fees insufficient to effectively run the programs of the school, must write to seek Minister's approval for any variation or increase of the prescribed fees to that school, before parents are invoiced or instructed to pay the difference over the government's subsidy.

Should anyone have any query on these, you may contact Mr Roy Obed, Director Education Services: robed@vanuatu.gov.vu or Mr John Gideon, Director Administration and Finance: jgideon@vanuatu.gov.vu for further clarification and assistance.

Best wishes for a successful academic year 2018!



Hon. Mr. Jean Pierre Nirua (M)
Minister for Education and Training



SCHEDULE 1:

PRESCRIBED FEES CHARGEABLE TO PARENTS/STUDENTS BY SCHOOLS, PER ANNUM, IN 2018

PRESCRIBED FEES CHARGEABLE TO PARENTS/STUDENTS BY SCHOOLS, PER ANNUM, IN 2018

No.	Year Levels	Tuition		Boarding		Book		Exam/VSSC/VFSC		Caution		Operation		Medical		ICT		Teacher Aide		Sport	
		Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range	Max Range	Range
Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) or Kindergarten																					
1	Day Care (aged 0 to 3 years)	6,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Level 2 (aged 4 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	5,000	1,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Level 3 (aged 5 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	5,000	1,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary Schools																					
1	Year 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
2	Year 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
3	Year 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
4	Year 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
5	Year 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
6	Year 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Secondary Schools																					
1	Year 7	-	-	30,000	30,000	500	500	-	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
2	Year 8	-	-	30,000	30,000	500	500	500	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
3	Year 9	42,000	42,000	30,000	30,000	500	500	-	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
4	Year 10	42,000	42,000	30,000	30,000	500	500	500	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
5	Year 11	42,000	42,000	30,000	30,000	2,500	2,500	-	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
6	Year 12	42,000	42,000	30,000	30,000	2,500	2,500	As prescribed	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
7	Year 13	42,000	42,000	30,000	30,000	2,500	2,500	As prescribed	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500
8	Year 14	42,000	42,000	30,000	30,000	2,500	2,500	As prescribed	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	500	500	1,500	1,500	500	500	500	500	500

PRESCRIBED FEES CHARGEABLE TO PARENTS/STUDENTS BY SCHOOLS, PER ANNUM, IN 2018

No.	Year Levels	Security	Lunch	School Uniform	Education Authority	Graduation Uniform	School Community Association	Project Fund	Others	TOTAL
		Max Range	Max Range	Max Range	Max Range	Max Range	Max Range	Max Range	Max Range	Max Range
Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) or Kindergarten										
1	Day Care (aged 0 to 3 years)	-	-	-	-	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	6,000
2	Level 2 (aged 4 years)	-	-	-	200	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	6,200
3	Level 3 (aged 5 years)	-	-	-	200	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	6,200
Primary Schools										
1	Year 1	300	Set by school	Set by school	300	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	5,800
2	Year 2	300	Set by school	Set by school	300	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	5,800
3	Year 3	300	Set by school	Set by school	300	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	5,800
4	Year 4	300	Set by school	Set by school	300	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	5,800
5	Year 5	300	Set by school	Set by school	300	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	5,800
6	Year 6	300	Set by school	Set by school	300	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	6,050
Secondary Schools										
1	Year 7	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	74,000
2	Year 8	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	1,500	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	76,000
3	Year 9	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	116,000
4	Year 10	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	1,500	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	118,000
5	Year 11	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	-	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	118,000
6	Year 12	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	1,500	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	119,500
7	Year 13	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	1,500	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	119,500
8	Year 14	1,000	24,000	Set by school	500	1,500	To be justified	To be justified	To be justified	119,500

VANUATU PRESCRIBED FEES CHARGEABLE TO PARENTS/STUDENTS BY SCHOOLS, PER ANNUM, IN 2018

Notes

Tuition Fees

ECCE is free. No tuition fee is to be charged, as Government is subsidizing this cost.

Primary, Years 1 to 6 is free. No tuition fee is to be charged, as Government is subsidizing this cost.

Years 7 & 8 is free. No tuition fee is to be charged, as Government is subsidizing this cost.

Years 9 to 14. Limit is set at 42,000 vatu for tuition fees.

Boarding Fees

This is set for students who board in school.

This is exclusive of lunch fees.

Book Fee

Book fee will enable schools to replenish books in a school, and ensure that students have access to a book.

Schools are encouraged to have a 1 to 1 student to book ratio.

Exam Fees

National Examination Board set limits on exam fees at 500 vatu for Year 8 exams, and 500 vatu for Year 10 exams.

Year 12 limit set by SPC for VSSC at 2,100 vatu per subject.

Year 13 limit set by Exam Board for French subjects at 3,000 vatu; and by SPC for VFSC at 5,250 vatu per subject.

Year 14 limits set by UNC at 24,000 vatu

Caution Fees

Caution Fee is only to be set for newly registered students in a school.

Caution fee is set to cover damages by students to school materials, assets or equipment during his/her duration of study at the school.

Caution fees need to be replenished by parents so that it is maintained at 5,000 vatu throughout the student's life at the school.

Caution fee is refundable at the end of the student's life at the school.

Operational Fees

Operational fee will cover the operational expenses in a school such as utilities, stationary, salary, maintenance and so forth.

Medical Fee

This is set to cater for any illness or minor injury that may occur in school.

Schools are encouraged to liaise with the Department of Health, clinics, dispensaries, to provide medication for students.

Schools are encouraged to liaise with Pro Medical, or any similar companies, to register the school and students with them.

ICT Fee

This covers use and maintenance of ICT (computing) tools and equipment in school.

Teacher Aide

This covers allowances for teachers not on the government's payroll and for relief teachers.

Sports Fee

This is stipulated in the Charter for Secondary Schools Games, but also introduced at primary to enhance sporting skills.

Security Fee

This will cover the cost of securing the schools assets and equipment.

Lunch Fee

This is an optional fee, charged for students who wish to have lunch in school.

For primary & kindergarten schools, lunch fee is optional and is set at 130 vatu per lunch meal.

School Uniform

As schools order uniforms for the students, this rate will be set at a minimum to cover for cost of procuring the uniform on behalf of the students.

Education Authority

This is a contribution paid to Education Authorities to assist in covering the operational expenses of the office.

School Community Association

This is a contribution set by the parents in a school towards a particular project or activity for the school.

This will need to be justified and approval must be granted by the Minister.

Project Fund

This is a contribution set by the School Council on projects expected to be undertaken by the school in the current year.

This will need to be justified and approval must be granted by the Minister.

Graduation Uniform

This is an optional fee for students to wear a standard uniform during graduation as final year students.

Others

All other charges will need to be justified by the school, and approval granted by the Minister.