

EDUCATION WEEKLY

MBSSE & EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS POSTPONE NPSE & BECE

Page 2 for more...



LE 126 BILLION
SPENT ON SCHOOL SUBSIDIES



MONDAY - APRIL 20

PROCESSES FOR PAYMENT OF SCHOOL SUBSIDIES FAST-TRACKED

The MBSSE's leadership has been working round the clock to ensure that data that informs the payment of school subsidies is accurate enough to ensure no mistakes or errors are made in making the payments. The Directorate of Planning and Policy is working with the FQSE Secretariat to clean the data, so payments are made to the deserving schools.

MONDAY - APRIL 20

COMMS. & MEDIA PILLAR OF THE EET MEETS WITH DEV. PARTNERS

The Communications & Media pillar of the Education Emergency Taskforce (EET) met with education Development Partners to streamline services provided by partners in support of the objectives of the communications and media pillar of the EET. Development partners signed on to the pillar to support various activities including messaging and dissemination.

THURSDAY - APRIL 23

EDUCATION RADIO EXPANDS RADIO TEACHING COVERAGE

The MBSSE Education Radio has expanded its coverage of the radio teaching program to five more districts: Moyamba, Pujehun, Port Loko, Kambia, Kailahun. The expansion is supported by Mott MacDonald, a DFID-supported programme. Catholic Relief Service has also supported the teaching programme to reach Koinadugu and Falaba districts.



PARTNERSHIP FOR HUMANITY DONATES RICE TO MBSSE

Partnership for Humanity has donated 6,000 (10kg) bags of rice to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education via the National School Feeding Programme. The symbolic handing over of the rice took place at the CARITAS warehouse in Freetown. The Permanent Secretary of the MBSSE, Mr. David W.S. Banya, the National Programme Coordinator of the FQSE, Mr. Amara Sowah and the Director of National School Feeding, Mr. S.I. Fofanah represented the Ministry during the donation. The donated rice will go to feed pupils during the school closure as the Ministry has fully engaged them through distant learning via radio teaching programme. The Ministry will hence decide to pick up the donated rice from the CARITAS warehouse.

THE TECHNICAL TEAM OF THE EDUCATION EMERGENCY TASKFORCE MEETS

The technical team of the EET met on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 to discuss the operationalization of the Taskforce, the preparation of an overall costed COVID-19 response plan for the education sector, and the details of a costed plan for an allocated US\$70,000 GPE fund.

The five working groups/pillars of the Taskforce reported on their activities since the establishment of the Taskforce. All pillars are geared towards supporting government's response to the COVID-19 health crisis, including response and system planning through data collection and monitoring, implementing safe school operations and risk communication, as well as knowledge management. The EET is headed by the Hon. Minister, Dr. David Moinina Sengeh, and Heads of Missions EU, DfID, Irish Aid, World Bank and UNICEF.



TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION ON DETAILS OF TEACHER MANAGEMENT WED. APRIL 22, 2020



The TSC has been assured by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) that the 30 per cent salary increase for Teachers would come into effect at the end of April, 2020. On salary grades, the MoF was of the view that teachers with general degrees only and those with the Higher Teacher Certificate should not be on the same scale. TSC explained the difference in terms of a general degree being a non-teaching qualification. The Commission is currently considering the possibility of an accelerated course in pedagogy for general degree holders. This would be discussed with Commissioners, the TEC and the MTHE. An additional **726** teachers would be added to the April 2020 payroll, bringing the total to **7,368** since January 2019.

MoF informed that recruitment of **5,000** new teachers announced earlier in the year would not take place, given the country's current economic situation and the government's commitment to the COVID-19 response. Replacement of January - July retirees should be completed before the start of the new school year in September. Teachers retiring between August and December would continue their service but should be replaced at the start of 2021. The total number of teachers on payroll as at 17th April 2020 is **34,288**. In view of budgetary limitations, MoF increased its target of **34,651** for 2020 to **35,500**. TSC would base recruitment of the additional **849** teachers on core subject teacher supply needs, with priority to rural area schools.

MBSSE & EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS POSTPONE NPSE & BECE

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, in consultation with Education Sector stakeholders, Development Partners and National Health Advisory Agencies has agreed to postpone the NPSE and BECE. The said examinations are now slated to take place in July, 2020.

The decision-makers arrived at this decision as the MBSSE prioritizes the health and safety of school children and their teachers; and hence promises to continue to monitor the status of the National Advisory Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, once the Education Emergency Taskforce (EET) advises the Ministry on the reopening of schools, the Ministry will develop guidelines for the preparation for the said examinations. For now, the Ministry encourages candidates to continue to self-prepare themselves at home using free data from Orange Sierra Leone.



FREQUENCIES FOR EDUCATION RADIO

FREETOWN: **FM 95.3** | KOIDU: **FM 91.5** | MAMUDU: **FM 94.4** | MAGBURAKA: **FM 93.5** | MAKENI: **FM 91.5** | BO: **FM 91.5** | KENEMA: **FM 94.4** | SEGBWEMA: **FM 95.3**

FOR MORE ON EDUCATION WEEKLY | CONTACT MBSSE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT | NEW ENGLANDVILLE | FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE

T: +232 78 848287 | E: fqsecu@gmail.com | Twitter: [mobsse_sl](https://twitter.com/mobsse_sl) | Web: www.education.gov.sl | FB: MBSSE Sierra Leone