



MEDIA RELEASE

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Parents have key role to play under the Tuition-Fee-Free Education

Some parents in Papua New Guinea (PNG) think that when the Government introduced the Tuition-Fee-Free Education (TFFE), it will pay for all costs associated with educating a child and that parents are excluded from their responsibilities.

In practice, parents finance their children's education through payments that are non-tuition fee such as project fees, uniforms, lunch, transportation and other expenses.

The National Research Institute (NRI) Spotlight Volume 15, Issue 15: **"Who pays for what under the Tuition-Fee-Free Education"** by Research Fellow Peter Magury, highlights the responsibility of the Government and parents under the TFFE.

Mr. Magury reported that TFFE is consistent with the Government of PNG's view that education must be a shared responsibility between governments at various administrative levels, communities, parents and development partners.

He said that the Government of PNG wants the tuition fee to be free from elementary prep to Grade 12 as a way to improve the literacy rate of the country and human development. However, education cannot be totally free because of the several indirect costs associated with a child's education.

For the Government of PNG, TFFE is one of the major priority areas in its Annual National Budget to meet the cost of tuition fee. As the TFF does not capture all cost associated with providing education for a child, parents are expected to also contribute their own quota.

It is important for the Government to make it clear that the inability of parents to pay non-tuition fee such as project fees, uniforms, textbooks, and other related costs should not be a barrier for pupils and students to attend school.

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For enquiries, please contact Samuel Kehatsin on Tel: 326 0061 or Email: Samuel.Kehatsin@pngnri.org

Authorised for release by:

Dr. Osborne O. Sanida
Director, PNG NRI