

THE SOL EDUCATOR TIMES

March 2026
Issue #03



FROM THE MINISTRY

Greetings and welcome to the third edition of The SOL Educator Times, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development's monthly newsletter, supported by Stronger Education Together (SET).

This edition highlights *Teacher Professional Development* as a central priority of the Ministry. We remain committed to building a capable, confident, and future-ready teaching workforce that can deliver quality learning to all children across Solomon Islands.

In this issue, we feature the recent National Stakeholder Reflection and Co-Creation Workshop on Teachers' Professional Development, which brought together key stakeholders to strengthen teacher effectiveness and improve student learning outcomes.

You will also find updates on teacher study leave and supernumerary arrangements, as well as support provided to Education Providers through vehicle handovers.

Thank you for your continued service to education in Solomon Islands.

Dr. Franco Rodie

Permanent Secretary

MEHRD Promotes Professional Development for Teachers



MEHRD officers, education stakeholders, development partners and school leaders at the National Stakeholder Reflection and Co-Creation Workshop on Teachers' Professional Development in Honiara.

A two-day National Stakeholder Reflection and Co-Creation Workshop aimed at strengthening the country's education system was successfully concluded on Thursday, 5 March 2026, at the Honiara Hotel.

The workshop brought together 46 participants, including education providers, development partners, school principals and officials from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), to reflect on effective ways to support teachers in delivering quality education for all children.

Opening the workshop on Wednesday, 4 March, MEHRD Permanent Secretary Dr. Franco Rodie highlighted the critical role teacher effectiveness plays in improving student learning outcomes

nationwide. He noted that recent improvements in the education sector align with key national frameworks, including the National Education Action Plan 2022–2026, the Education Strategy Framework 2016–2030, and the Solomon Islands Partnership Compact 2023–2027.

Dr. Rodie stressed that teacher professional development must be a permanent and structured component of the education system, rather than a one-off activity.

Supported by the Global Partnership for Education System Transformation Grant and implemented in partnership with UNICEF, the initiative seeks to embed continuous, relevant, and sustainable professional development for teachers across the Solomon Islands.

Did You Know...



Until the 1970s, all education in Solomon Islands was provided by mission schools. Today, it is proudly governed by our own local authorities!

<https://borgenproject.org/8-facts-about-education-in-the-solomon-islands/>

New Vehicles for Education Providers in Isabel, Renbel and Honiara



From left: MEHRD Minister Hon. Tozen Leokana, receiving vehicle keys for 3 Land Cruisers from New Zealand High Commissioner Jonathan Curr and Australia Deputy High Commissioner Andrew Scholeffel.



From right: Hon. Minister Tozen Leokana, handing over vehicle keys to Renbel Chief Education Officer Albert Kaipua, Isabel Provincial Education Officer William Leguvaka and HCC Chief Education Officer Elison Mane.

In Mid-March, Education Providers from Isabel Province, Rennell and Bellona (Renbel), and Honiara City Council have received three Toyota Land Cruisers under the Education Sector Support Program (ESSP), funded by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD).

Valued at SBD1.3 million, the vehicles will strengthen education service delivery by supporting school

monitoring, teacher support and administrative functions, particularly in remote areas. The support builds on earlier ESSP assistance, which included boats, outboard motors, vehicles and communication equipment.

Australia and New Zealand reaffirmed their long-term commitment to education, emphasizing practical support to bridge distances and strengthen provincial education systems. ESSP continues to support equitable access to quality education across Solomon Islands.

MEHRD Clarifies Teacher Study Leave and Supernumerary Policy

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) has responded to public comments regarding teacher study leave and supernumerary arrangements, clarifying existing policy to ensure accurate understanding. Teacher study leave and related entitlements are governed by the education legislative framework, including Administrative Instruction 6 and approved workforce management arrangements, which outline eligibility, approval processes and payroll requirements.

MEHRD emphasises that supernumerary placement is not automatic and applies only to teachers formally endorsed through their

Education Providers and approved by the Ministry, subject to establishment space and payroll authorisation. Education Providers may allocate up to 2% of their approved teacher establishment for supernumerary purposes.

Teachers in duly approved supernumerary positions may continue to receive salary during study leave, provided policy conditions and budget availability are met. Privately or self-sponsored teachers are not eligible for supernumerary arrangements or salary continuation.

MEHRD reaffirmed its commitment to fairness, consistency and responsible management of public resources.

QUICK TIPS

► Wellbeing

- **Create a “done” list:** At day’s end, write what you finished (not what’s left)
- **Two-minute rule:** If a task takes less than two minutes, do it immediately. Prevents mental clutter.
- **Ask “What do I need right now?”:** Be honest. Answer might be water, silence, or a short walk.
- **Listen to one song fully:** Between classes, listen without multitasking. Resets your nervous system.

► Technology

- **Use voice typing:** In Google Docs or Microsoft Word, turn on voice typing to quickly draft emails, comments on student work, or lesson notes without typing.
- **Split your screen:** Learn Windows + Left/Right Arrow (PC) or Control + Left/Right Arrow (Mac) to view two windows side by side - perfect for copying data or referencing a document while planning.
- **Refresh a page -** Press F5 or Ctrl + R (PC) / Command + R (Mac) to reload a slow or stuck webpage.

► Child Protection

- **Monitor student absences:** A child missing school frequently, especially without explanation, may be at risk. Follow up with the student and family privately.
- **Know your school’s reporting forms:** Find out where child protection forms are kept and who receives them before an emergency happens.