

THE SOL EDUCATOR TIMES

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Issue #087



FROM THE MINISTRY

Welcome to the August edition of The Sol Educator Times, MEHRD's newsletter for teachers, supported by the Stronger Education Together (SET) program.

This issue highlights important reforms and updates supporting stronger education service delivery. We feature MEHRD's landmark Agency and Provincial Education Board agreements with Western and Malaita provinces, which aim to bring education services closer to schools, teachers, learners and communities.

We also cover the new pay structure and classification framework for TVET trainers and institution leaders, a major step in recognising specialist skills, improving salary placement and strengthening technical and vocational education pathways.

This edition also reminds schools, parents and candidates to note the confirmed 2026 national examination and SISTA schedules.

These stories reflect our shared commitment to accountable leadership, stronger provincial partnerships and improved learning outcomes for every child.

Linda Wate

Permanent Secretary Supervising

Western and Malaita provinces sign agency agreements with MEHRD



Top: (L-R) MEHRD PS Supervising DS Linda Wate, MEHRD Minister Hon. Stephen Kumi, Provincial Minister for Education, Hon. Gordon Zebo and Provincial Minister for Transport, Works and Communications Hon. Freedom Tozaka, holding the signed Agency Agreement.

Bottom: (L-R) MEHRD Director Corporate Services Coldrin Kolae, MEHRD Minister Hon. Stephen Kumi, Malaita Premier Hon. Elijah Asilaua and Malaita Provincial Secretary George Eric, posing with the signed Agency Agreement.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) has strengthened its partnership with Western and Malaita provinces through landmark Agency and Provincial Education Board agreements, reinforcing a shared commitment to bring education services closer to schools, teachers, learners and communities.

In Western Province, the agreements were signed in Honiara by MEHRD and the Western Provincial Government, with Premier Hon. Billy Veo represented by Provincial Minister for Education Hon. Gordon Zebo.

Malaita Province later signed the same agreements at the Malaita Provincial Chamber in Auki, marking the third provincial signing after Makira and



Did You Know...

Handwriting but not typewriting leads to widespread brain connectivity...

Van der Weel & Van der Meer, Frontiers in Psychology, 2024.

Western provinces.

The agreements give effect to Section 29 of the Provincial Government Act 1997 and support the Education Act 2023.

They strengthen provincial responsibility for early childhood education centres, primary schools and provincial secondary schools, including planning, budgeting, teacher management, student welfare, child protection, governance, compliance and reporting.

The Provincial Education Boards will provide a platform for provincial governments, education providers, churches, traditional leaders and partners to coordinate priorities such as technical and vocational education and training, skills development and school infrastructure.

MEHRD will support implementation through coordination offices,

technical assistance, joint reviews and agreed work plans.

Minister for Education Hon. Stephen Kumi said the agreements reflect the Government's vision for reform, empowerment, accountability and transformation by placing local leadership and accountability at the centre of education development, while reaffirming the commitment to accessible education for every child.

For Malaita, MEHRD also announced four new Education Provider Office positions, nine planned education projects for 2027 and a proposed Education Complex.

Together, the Western and Malaita signings mark progress in strengthening provincial education service delivery and improving learning outcomes across Solomon Islands.

MEHRD rolls out new pay structure for RTC and TVET trainers

Honiara, 6 August 2026 - The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) has introduced a new pay structure and classification framework for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trainers and institution leaders.

Approved on 30 June 2026 and implemented through the teachers' payroll on 6 August, the policy closes a long-standing gap that left TVET personnel outside the Ministry-wide salary classification exercise.

It provides a clear basis for placing Trainers, Senior Trainers, Program Managers and Institution Managers according to their roles and verified qualifications.

Permanent Secretary Supervising, Mrs Linda Wate, said the structure recognises the specialised work of TVET trainers and ensures salary placement is based on verified qualifications.

Trainers must hold a relevant technical qualification and a TVET training and assessment qualification, with placement based on their position and

Teaching Service Division-verified records.

The first payroll update fully transitioned 84 trainers who met both requirements, while 83 were placed on a bridging scale as they work towards the remaining requirement.

A further 167 trainers remain on the Unified Teaching Service Pay Structure while records are confirmed.

MEHRD has asked Education Providers and TVET institution leaders to share Circular No. 8/2026, check qualification records and submit clear copies of relevant qualifications.

They must also ensure new TVET trainers meet qualification and registration requirements before appointment and payroll placement.

The Teaching Service Division will continue working with providers and institutions to verify records, assess trainers, and support transition to the appropriate classification and salary scale.

QUICK TIPS

► Wellbeing

- **Healthy snacks** - Keep energy steady with local snacks - fruit or nuts. It keeps the body active and refreshed.

► Technology

- **Safe browsing** - Encourage using trusted sites only to avoid malwares and phishing.

► Child Protection

- **Community awareness** - Engage parents in safeguarding.

National Examination Dates and Times

Schools, parents and candidates urged to note the official schedules

MEHRD advises schools, education providers, candidates, parents and guardians that the official 2026 national examination and Solomon Islands Standardised Tests of Achievement (SISTA) schedules have been confirmed.

The schedules cover SISTA for selected primary schools, SIJSC, SISCL1 and SISCL2.

Key Examination Periods:

- SISTA (selected primary schools only): Thursday, 29 October 2026.
- SIJSC: Tuesday, 27 October to Friday, 30 October 2026.
- SISCL1: Monday, 26 October to Thursday, 5 November 2026.
- SISCL2: Monday, 26 October to Friday, 6 November 2026.

Schools should share the timetable widely and ensure candidates arrive prepared before each session. Reading time must be observed according to the notes accompanying each timetable.

The full official schedules are available on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EXFyYCHw4/>