

GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICIALS,
DONORS, COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES
TEACHERS,
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS
INVITED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO GIVE THE LAST SPEECH OF THIS CONFERENCE. FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MANY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE GUEST SPEAKERS AS WELL AS PAPER PRESENTERS. THEIR HIGH QUALITY PRESENTATIONS HAVE GIVEN US ALL IDEAS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM CURRICULUM.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU – THE PARTICIPANTS. WITHOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT THIS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

THIS CONFERENCE HAS PROVIDED DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE FOR THE WAY FORWARD: DIRECTIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT

OF EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, TEACHER EDUCATION, AND INSPECTIONS AND GUIDANCE.

IT HAS PROVIDED GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS TO ENHANCE CLASSROOM TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES.

AT THE BASIC EDUCATION LEVEL, TEACHERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE REFORM CURRICULUM. CHANGE IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES CONFUSING. I AM SURE THAT THIS CONFERENCE HAS HELPED TEACHERS, INSPECTORS, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEADERS IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE REFORM CURRICULUM. IT HAS ADDRESSED ISSUES THAT AFFECT STUDENT LEARNING.

SOME OF THESE ISSUES INCLUDE:

- VERNACULAR EDUCATION AND BRIDGING
- GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY
- IMPLEMENTATION
- MONITORING AND EVALUATION
- TEACHER TRAINING AND IN –SERVICE
- ASSESSMENT
- QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

I BELIEVE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE REFORM CURRICULUM WILL DEPEND ON TEACHERS, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE GOVERNMENT ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES, WITH THE

SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, CHURCHES AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS.

TEACHERS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE AND THEY NEED SUPPORT FROM ALL OF US. WITHOUT TEACHERS QUALITY LEARNING DOES NOT HAPPEN, OUR CURRICULUM CANNOT WORK, AND OUR FUTURE CITIZENS WILL NOT ACHIEVE THE VISION OF THE COUNTRY.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

OUTCOME BASED EDUCATION IS NEW TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND REQUIRES CHANGES IN CLASSROOM PRACTICES, PLANNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT APPROPRIATE TEACHER TRAINING AND ON-GOING IN-SERVICE SUPPORT.

SUPPORT IS ALSO NEEDED AT ALL LEVELS: THE FAMILY – COMMUNITY – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, PROVINCIAL AND AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THIS IS VITAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE CURRICULUM FOR THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA EDUCATION SYSTEM.

IT WILL NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. WE ARE IN MANY WAYS AT THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE TOGETHER ON THIS JOURNEY WITH CLEAR OUTCOMES AND

HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR TEACHERS AND OUR STUDENTS.
WITH OUR HELP, CONSISTENT AND ONGOING SUPPORT WE WILL
SEE OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM ALIVE AND HEALTHY IN ALL OUR
8000 ELEMENTARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

AND WE WILL HAVE OVER 30,000 TEACHERS AND THEIR
LEADERS COMMITTED TO A COMMON SET OF EDUCATIONAL
OUTCOMES DELIVERED CONFIDENTLY IN OUR MANY DIVERSE
SETTINGS IN WAYS THAT REFLECT OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE
BUT CAN STILL TAKE US ON TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE.

A SUSTAINABLE CURRICULUM ALSO REQUIRES REGULAR
STANDARDS MONITORING TO ENSURE THAT QUALITY TEACHING
AND LEARNING IS OCCURRING. WE NEED EVIDENCE AND
RESEARCH ON WHICH TO BASE DECISIONS IN REGARD TO
IMPROVING OUR SYSTEM. WE ALL NEED TO BE PART OF THIS
RESEARCH PROCESS.

THE INSPECTIONS DIVISION HAS A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN THE
ON-GOING SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS. THEY WILL
CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLASSROOM LEARNING AND HELP
TEACHERS IMPLEMENT THE REFORM CURRICULUM.

THROUGH THE REFORM CURRICULUM OUR CHILDREN WILL
EXPERIENCE A RELEVANT EDUCATION THAT WILL EQUIP THEM

WITH THE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND VALUES TO
LIVE A PRODUCTIVE, HEALTHY LIFE.
THROUGH EDUCATION OUR CHILDREN WILL ACHIEVE A BETTER
FUTURE

I HOPE THIS CONFERENCE IS THE BEGINNING OF A TRADITION
THAT SUCH CONFERENCES WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN ON A
REGULAR BASIS.

I TAKE PLEASURE IN DECLARING THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM
CONFERENCE CLOSED.

I WISH YOU ALL A SAFE JOURNEY HOME.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.