



MEDIA RELEASE

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Address challenges faced by primary schools in providing quality education

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has been implementing the Tuition Fee Free (TFF) policy with the aim of providing all school aged children with the opportunity to have access to education. However, quality of early learning in basic education is paramount for a child's progression into the future.

The National Research Institute has today released its Discussion Paper No. 209 titled “**Assessment of challenges that primary schools face in providing quality education: Evidence from East Sepik and Morobe Provinces, Papua New Guinea**” written by Dr Kilala Devette-Chee and Hafford Norea. It highlights the challenges that primary schools in East Sepik and Morobe provinces face in an attempt to deliver quality education to its pupils.

Key challenges faced by primary schools in East Sepik Province and Morobe Province are the following:

- Acute shortages of well-resourced classrooms,
- Shortages of teaching and learning resources,
- Inadequate qualified teachers, and
- Inadequate water sanitation and hygiene care facilities.

If the intention of the government is to sustain gains from TFF, such as the increase in enrollment of school aged children, increase in the participation of girls in education and increase in retention rate, it should consider investing more in resources for teaching and learning as well as infrastructure.

Findings from this report will provide the government and policy makers with the necessary tools they need to assess the outcomes of basic education investment for all children, while also providing other areas to improve on, in education.

The Publication and Media Release can be accessed on the PNG NRI website <https://www.pngnri.org>.

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