

NATIO

Free education means overcrowding: Head teacher

FREE education has meant overcrowded classrooms for Butibam Primary School in Lae, head teacher Paul Taleng said.

He said that when showing off the school's new library, a project of Lae MP Loujaya Kouza, funded by the Lae District Development Authority.

"This library is a very important part of children's learning," Taleng said.

"We have been without a library for some time.

"This will boost children's learning.

"The school has seen rapid changes in the number of children because of the free education.

"This puts pressure on school facilities but at the end of the day we are here to implement Government policy.

"We have 20 teachers but the numbers have grown and we might be having extra classes.

"We currently have 865 students: 700 in primary and 165 in elementary.

"Classrooms are a contributing factor to the learning of our children.

"Spacing is not enough, and as the headmaster, I really feel the pinch.

"Most of the children come from Bumbu Settlement, China Town, and the surrounding communities like Butibam village and even Hunter and the Back Road."



Butibam Primary School students celebrating the opening of their new library. - Nationalpic by MALUM NALU



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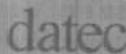
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Call for more teachers, classrooms

PAPALEALEA Primary School, in Hiri district, Central, needs teachers and classrooms for the growing number of pupils there, senior teacher Joy Vaguai said.

She said classes have been expanded to 10 from elementary prep to Grade 8.

"There are only eight teachers who look after the 10 classes from elementary prep to Grade 8 - one teacher to 50 students. That is not good enough, with only five classrooms to teach in," said Vaguai, who hails from Bougainville and has been teaching in the school

for 15 years. She was happy with Anglicare PNG for providing modern pit toilets and hand-washing facilities.

This had worked well with personal development and health and hygiene lessons taking place.

Vaguai said the students' WASH committee had taken the lead by making rosters for students to clean toilets and hand-washing and drinking facilities and areas.

Pupils were provided with posters to promote hygiene and sanitation activities in the school.

MP pays tuition fees of students from his electorate

DEFENCE Minister and North Waghi MP Dr Fabian Pok paid K148,000 in tuition fees for students from his electorate attending the University of Goroka.

North Waghi Students' Association president at the university Otto Goi thanked Pok for the "timely assistance".

"I thank the member and the district administration for their efforts in making the funds available on time for us to register," Goi said.

"These people who are committed to administering know what they were doing and they deserve to be in the system for the benefit of the district and people," he said.

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