



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Communications Unit

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NEWS RELEASE

REMINDER TO TEACHERS **STUDENTS TO RECEIVE 5 ½ HOURS CONTACT** **EACH SCHOOL DAY**

The Ministry of Education reminds teachers that the policy regarding contact teaching time states as follows:

1. Children are entitled to thirty nine weeks of teaching per academic year.
2. Children are entitled to at least five and one half (51/2) hours contact teaching time in the classroom every day.
3. Teachers who choose to absent themselves from the classroom or engage in any activity to cause disruption in school are reminded that any lost contact teaching time must be made up outside of the regular teaching contact hours. .
4. In accordance with the Industrial Relations Act Chap.88:01 Section 69, it is illegal for any member of the Teaching Service to engage in any form of industrial action. Industrial action includes:
 - striking by a trade union or group of persons with intent to compel an employer to agree with terms of employment.
 - Failure to adhere to the law which will result in the offender being liable on summary conviction to a fine **and** imprisonment.
 - The sanction for offending trade unions is greater.

The Ministry of Education will not hesitate to take whatever legal recourse is necessary to ensure our children are not adversely affected by disruption in their contact teaching time. This is aimed at ensuring students' readiness for promotion and examinations.

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