PRESS COMMUNIQUE

A high-level meeting chaired by the Hon. Minister of Education & Human Resources, Dr. Vasant Bunwaree, met today to consider reports which have been submitted by Teams from the Ministry on issues pertaining to **indiscipline, absenteeism and management** in Secondary Schools.

During the course of the meeting, members present took note of the main findings and recommendations pertaining to indiscipline behaviour of students and absenteeism. The Committee considered that it was imperative to address the situation as a matter of urgency and to implement forthwith a number of measures that would act as a deterrent, thereby promoting disciplined behaviour and improve management at school level.

It has been decided that:

(i) Ad-Hoc multi-disciplinary teams from the Ministry Headquarters would be sent to schools to carry out inspections and monitor the situation;

(ii) A dedicated desk would be designated at school level to deal with the issue of attendance of students and to provide feedback to Ministry; and

(iii) A structured reporting system be devised to inform the Ministry accordingly.

It has also been agreed that cases of students having bad track record of attendance would be inputted in a data-base and this would eventually be reflected in leaving certificates.

Moreover, Heads of School would be empowered to deal severely with indiscipline behaviour and these may include referral to disciplinary committees, class detention and eventual rustication of students.

The overall aim is to give the right signal to all school stakeholders to effect that indiscipline would not be tolerated and all parties concerned should strive to promote a culture of regularity and disciplined behaviour at all levels.

26 May 2014