



September 22, 2010

Memorandum

TO: Superintendent of Education
FROM: Education Suruhanu
SUBJECT: Untalan classroom air condition issues

Håfa Adai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

Hello Dr. Bretania Underwood:

This is a follow up correspondence on the status of various Untalan Middle School classrooms air condition units reported not working or not working/cooling properly resulting in room temperatures measuring above 84 °F. As you may know, I recently reported that several classrooms at Untalan are without a working air conditioning unit or that the unit may not be working/cooling properly. Please be advised that as of September 21, 2010, work has not yet been performed at the school to improve the warm and uncomfortable conditions of the various classrooms. The conditions in some of the classrooms have existed for at least two weeks and for some classes, longer. The environment of the affected rooms is warm, humid, and uncomfortable. All of the teachers of the affected classrooms indicated that their classroom becomes much warmer and more uncomfortable as the day goes on. In addition, the teachers also indicated that the conditions are even worse on hotter days. The affected classrooms are as follows: 3, 24, 29, 14, 28, T-3 & T-10. I have been informed that there are other classrooms that may also be experiencing air condition problems but the above-listed rooms have been experiencing problems at least two weeks or longer. The temperatures in the above-listed classrooms measured above 78 °F (the maximum standard under the 14 Points) and also above 84 °F (the maximum standard adopted by Public Health).

I understand that an air conditioning unit can break down at any moment and that it may be difficult to address and rectify such unit at that particular moment. However, it is not acceptable to find that after various work requests were submitted and/or through our reports and/or correspondences notifying GDOE of such conditions, the air condition problems of the various classrooms have not yet been rectified. As such, GDOE's immediate attention to address and rectify these important matters is necessary to ensure that the students are provided a comfortable learning environment at all times.

If GDOE and/or the current air conditioning vendor are experiencing difficulties in addressing and/or rectifying all the reported air conditioning problems in a timely manner, perhaps GDOE should consider measures to increase the number of air conditioning third party vendors by providing one or more vendors to each school district. If that option cannot be accomplished at this time and there are no other options available that would improve the response and/or repair time for the many reported air conditioning problems, I would recommend that GDOE consider requesting from the Government of Guam or the Legislature, the necessary assistance in order to ensure that public school students are provided an air conditioned or properly ventilated classroom in which the sensible air temperature is no greater than 78 °F as is required under § (f) of the 14 Points.

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Office of the Speaker
Judith T. M. ...
Date: 9/23/10
Time: 9:30
Received by: [Signature]
36-10-0830

Please indicate when such work to repair and/or replace the air conditioning units of the affected classrooms at Untalan would begin. In addition, please indicate what measures are currently being taken at Untalan to ensure that all affected classrooms are air conditioned or properly ventilated. I would recommend that for classrooms that exceed 84 °F, the students be re-located to a more suitable room.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best regards,



Dominic Terlaje

cc:

Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
GEPB
Untalan School Administrator
Billy Cruz, GDOE Maintenance Manager
Tom Nadeau, DPHSS DEH Administrator
Office of the Attorney General