



September 17, 2010

Memorandum

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

2010 OCT 14 AM 10:26
Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Date 9/22/2010
Time 1:30 PM
Received by
36-10-0834

Håfa Adai Superintendent:

On August 24, 2010, our office performed an inspection of the Untalan Middle School campus and discovered approximately four different classrooms without a properly working air conditioning unit. As a result, the various rooms are inadequately ventilated with temperatures measuring above both the 78 °F standard under P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (f), and above the 84 °F standard adopted by the Department of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Division. In addition, the humidity in some of the rooms registered above 60%.

During the August 24, 2010 inspection, at least four different rooms (21, 24, 28, & T-10), did not have a working air condition unit. Rooms 21, 24, and 28 were being occupied by students but room T-10 was closed voluntarily by school officials. As a result of closing T-10, teacher is now required to rotate among other classrooms where the assigned teacher to such classroom is on their prep period. Using an environmental quality meter, the temperatures in all four rooms measured above 84 °F and the relative humidity of each room measured above 72%. The teachers for all four rooms indicated that their respective rooms become much warmer in the afternoon and that such conditions present a most uncomfortable environment for all the students as well as each teacher.

Shortly after I reported my findings to various GDOE officials as a result of the August 24, 2010 inspection, various air conditioning work was performed on some of the above-mentioned classrooms. However, as recent as September 16, 2010, rooms 24 and 28 are again experiencing warm temperatures. In addition, the air conditioning problems in T-10 have not yet been addressed and according to school officials, GDOE maintenance personnel indicated that because T-10 is not currently being occupied, that it would be addressed after the other classrooms air conditioning problems were addressed and rectified. Please be advised that room 45 has several containers in the middle of the room to catch water dripping from the A/C unit and that such condition has existed for some time and it has been reported.

Furthermore, on September 3, 2010 our office received a report that the air conditioning in room 29 was not working. I reported to the school on September 8, 2010 around 12:30 p.m. and found that both air conditioning units in the room were inoperable, the windows were opened, and there were approximately four working fans within the room. However, using the environmental meter, the temperature measured 88 °F with the relative humidity measuring approximately 88 °F with no students present at the time of the investigation. I also found that the air conditioning unit for such room was reported inoperable on August 31, 2010.

On September 14, 2010, my office received a report that some of the above-mentioned classrooms were once again and/or still experiencing air conditioning problems. In addition, it was reported that rooms 3, 29, and 14 were still experiencing warm temperatures as well. On September 16, 2010, I reported to the school at approximately 10:00 a.m. and found that the above mentioned rooms except for room 21 were experiencing warm temperatures as a result of their air conditioning units not working or not cooling properly. Both Mr. Frank Castro and myself used our environmental meters to measure the temperature and humidity of the following rooms: 1) Room 29 measured 86 °F with a relative humidity of 70% with no students present at the time but students do use the room for instruction; 2) Room 3 measured 85 °F with a relative humidity of 71%, room 28 measured 86 °F with a relative humidity of 50% with students present, 3) Room 24 measured 87 °F with a relative humidity of 58% with students present, and 4) Room 14 measured 86 °F with a relative humidity of 41% with students present. I did not measure the temperature in T-10 during this visit but I have been informed that the air conditioning in such room has not yet been rectified and the room is still closed. I have also been informed that room T-3 is still experiencing a poorly working air condition unit and warm temperatures. During my visit to such room on August 24, 2010, the


temperature measured 83 °F with a relative humidity of 83% with students present. The teacher in room T-3 indicated that the room becomes much warmer in the afternoon. Please be advised that work requests and follow-ups have been performed for all rooms. Such conditions of the various rooms are unacceptable, in violation of the 14 Points as well as Public Health requirements concerning room temperature and ventilation standards, and must be rectified immediately.

Please be advised that not all classrooms or school facilities were inspected for temperature and/or ventilation conditions. Therefore, GDOE is highly encouraged to assess all other classrooms that are experiencing warm temperatures and/or that are poorly ventilated and perform corrective action as necessary. Moreover, as you may know, Public Health generally considers classroom temperatures above 84 °F inadequate and may, if measures cannot be taken to improve the ventilation or air circulation, require the closure of such room until such time the conditions are improved. I recommend that the school re-locate the students in the affected classrooms to a more suitable room until conditions of such rooms can be improved. Your attention to this most urgent matter is greatly appreciated.

Please submit to my office, in writing, GDOE's efforts to rectify each of the discrepancies identified in the inspection report, including but not limited to measures taken or to be taken to rectify each discrepancy and a proposed date when such discrepancy was rectified or would be rectified.

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

Best regards,



Dominic Terlaje

cc:

Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature

Via email:

Arlene Unpingco

Taling Taitano

GEPB

Untalan Middle School Administrator

Billy Cruz, GDOE Maintenance Manager

Office of the Attorney General