



Dominic Terlaje
Education Suruhanu

Office of the Adequate Education Suruhanu (Ombudsman)
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November 9, 2010

TO: Superintendent of Education
FROM: Education Suruhanu
SUBJECT: Complaint: Presence of mold in classroom C-110.

Håfa Adai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

My office received a complaint indicating that mold is present in some of the student desks in classroom C-110. During the course of the investigation, mold was observed on the underside of the inside of a student desk. (See attached pictures.) The teacher indicated that mold is also present in various other student desks and that any such mold is immediately removed. However, according to the teacher, the mold generally re-appears within a day or two after being removed. The teacher also indicated that although the mold is removed as soon as it is identified, the mold can generally be observed in various student desks on Mondays. It was also reported that mold has been observed in some of the student desks in classroom C-109. The teacher indicated that she has observed mold in some of the student desks and that the mold is removed as soon as it is identified. School officials indicated that mold has been observed in various other student desks but only in a few isolated classrooms.

P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (l) requires public schools to provide a healthful, safe, and sanitary learning environment. In addition, the School Sanitation Code (the SSC), requires all areas, facilities, and equipment to be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition, and kept in good repair. Exposing students and others to mold may present various health issues that must be addressed and rectified immediately and as often as necessary. I would strongly recommend that the necessary parties be contacted to determine the method and cleaning solution to properly and effectively remove and/or prevent mold.

School officials reported that sometime in mid October 2010, an assessment of the mold issue was performed by an engineering and architect firm and the school is awaiting their findings. Please submit to my office, a copy of the findings and/or recommendations made by the engineering and/or architect firm. In addition, please submit to my office in writing, the efforts GDOE is taking or will be taking to address and/or rectify the problem, the anticipated date when the problem will be addressed, and the expected date when the problem would be rectified.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Dominic Terlaje

Attachments
Photographs

cc:
Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
Chairman, GEB
Adacao Elementary School Administration
Tom Nadeau, Administrator, DPHSS, DEH
Administration, GEPA
Pat Mason, Deputy Attorney General

2010 NOV 15 PM 2:50

30-10-0972

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.

Date 11/10/10
Time 1:10
Received by JW

Adacao Elementary Mold Complaint Oct. 2010

