



MINISTRY OF BASIC AND SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

NEW ENGLAND VILLE, FREETOWN

PRESS RELEASE

Anti-Corporal Punishment Initiative in Schools

On Wednesday, 15th September 2021, the Cabinet of Sierra Leone approved a memorandum of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to introduce an '**Anti-Corporal Punishment Initiative**' in schools. This policy will promote positive discipline methods and effectively reinforce a ban on the practice of corporal punishment in all schools nationwide, including all Government-owned, Government-assisted, Community and Private Schools.

According to the most recent Strengthening Accountability Building Inclusion (SABI) Report, 'almost all (89%) students report that they are flogged in schools. Flogging, more than once a week, is the most common frequency reported by 56% of students. ... Those most likely to report flogging everyday are students with disabilities (7% PWD), 5% for people without disabilities, and those most likely to report being flogged more than once a week were pregnant girls or women (83%).'

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education is seeking to completely remove violence against students from our nation's schools. In order to ensure this, the Ministry will implement a comprehensive policy and strategy that includes training and support for teachers in positive discipline. Currently, Sierra Leonean teachers are already taught positive discipline techniques in the country's teacher training institutions. It is, however, recognized that in order to properly eradicate corporal punishment from schools, further training is necessary.

As such, MBSSE will develop a "*Positive Discipline: Alternatives to Corporal Punishment*" Training Manual, aimed at ending violence in schools. This manual will offer teacher training in alternative disciplinary techniques, through in-service training of practising teachers, by the Teaching Service Commission and initial teacher training by teacher training institutions in the country.

Community and Civil Society stakeholders will play a critical role in guaranteeing that all of our children are protected in schools and at home.

The Ministry counts on the cooperation of all.

-End

AMINATA Y. SANNOH (MRS.)
FOR: SENIOR PERMANENT SECRETARY
16TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

