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Media Release
**An Analysis of the Administration of
Teacher's Leave Fares in Papua New Guinea**

A new NRI spotlight article, released today has called on provincial administrators and their education advisors to address recurring problems surrounding teachers' leave fares so that teachers can take up well-deserved breaks.

The article explains that while about K20 million of the national budget has been allocated for teachers' leave fares every year, many teachers who were eligible for leave every two years were not receiving their leave fares.

Through its analysis of issues highlighted in the media, the report finds that this is because funds for teacher's leave fares were being diverted for other purposes by the provincial administrations.

The report also suggests evidence of officials administering teachers' leave fares to be incompetent and involved in corrupt dealings resulting in the abuse of funds allocated for teachers' leave fares.

In other instances, provinces were being underfunded – thus there was not enough funds to cater for teachers who were due for leave. The report reveals that the lack of relevant and accurate data has also contributed to this.

Author Dr Musawe Sinebare has said that provincial administrators and their education advisors have a duty and responsibility to manage funds for teachers' leave fares and improve the management and administration of the funds.

He said that one way they could address the problem of teachers' leave fares was through the creation of a database that would maintain up-to-date data on all teachers and their positions. This would be maintained by the Provincial Division of Education and would prevent underfunding and fraud.

He said that other problems surrounding teachers' leave fares could be addressed by:

- Disciplining provincial administrators found to be diverting funds for teacher's leave fares without approval from the Department of Treasury;
- investigating allegations of corruption through provincial authorities and disciplining officials and where warranted, terminating them immediately if found guilty;
- removing or replacing incompetent officers as soon as possible;

Dr Sinebare said that the issues surrounding teachers' leave fares "are not difficult or impossible to address. They are simply management problems which any competent manager can handle," he said.

He said that the teachers' leave fare problem was a recurring one which surfaced towards the end of every year and has not yet been addressed.

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shape Papua New Guinea's future development.***

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