



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

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TO: FENI HIVELLUAH
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THE NAMIBIAN NEWSPAPER

MEDIA RESPONSE: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

We have received a complaint from parents in the north about a ten-year-old boy who has been the target of corporal punishment at the school. He has been slapped, beaten until his hand tissue tore.

We as The Namibian are looking to do a longer piece on the issue of corporal punishment.

How often does your office receive complaints of corporal punishment?

The Ministry occasionally receive complaints of incidents of corporal punishment or similar nature from different regions across the country, and we are against such practices.

Seeing as corporal punishment has been banned out of schools, what is the ministry of education doing to address this issue?

The corporal punishment has long been abolished in the Namibian schools Namibian schools therefore, the Ministry does not condone such kind of disciplinary acts. No teacher, principal or any person employed at state or private school has the authority to inflict pain and humiliation upon a learner for whatever reason.

Learners are protected under the Education Act, No. 16 of 2001. Under this Act it is a misconduct for any person employed at state or private school to administer corporal punishment upon a learner. In terms of the Public Service Act, No.13 of 1995 such misconduct constitutes a valid and fair reason for disciplinary action to be taken against the culprit.

The learners are further protected under the Child Care Protection Act 3 of 2015, which requires any person who has control of a child to respect such a child's right to dignity conferred by Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution.

This Act also prohibits any person from administering corporal punishment to a child at any residential child care facility, place of care, shelter, early childhood development centre, a school, whether a state or private school or to a child in foster care, prison, police cell or any other form of alternative care resulting from a court order.

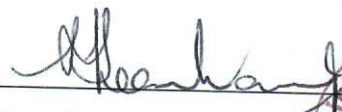
Learners or parents can report cases of corporal punishment to their respective regional education directorate offices or to the Namibian Police.

Under the Education Act, 2001, section 55 (1) and (2), schools can have rules and learners' code of conduct adopted by school boards in consultation with parents, learners and teachers.

In a case where a learner has transgressed school rule or code of conduct, positive discipline such as taking away privileges, eg. getting grounded during break time, exclusion from school trip and the like, are to be taken against a learner. However, such discipline should be measured against the transgression.

We hope you find this information useful.

Yours Sincerely


Sanet L. Steenkamp
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

