



**MINISTRY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION,
RESEARCH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**



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MEDIA RELEASE

STATUS OF THE KOKOPO BUSINESS COLLEGE

I wish to inform the General Public about the situation at the Kokopo Business College (KBC) and the decision the Ministry and Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) has taken.

On 02nd May 2022, I issued a Circular Instruction to suspend the remaining weeks of Semester 1 due to the killing of two local men within the premises of KBC. Police investigation is ongoing. Furthermore, there is a new caretaker KBC Administration being appointed to manage the situation and ensure normalcy is restored.

The Department has carefully assessed the situation and in consultation with all the stakeholders in particular, the staff, students and Governing Council of KBC with the Provincial Government.

The Department has made the following decisions:

1. Suspension of KBC is uplifted;
2. A Caretaker Administration has been installed to ease tension and restore normalcy at the college.
3. Semester 2 of 2022 will proceed as scheduled. KBC Caretaker Administration will adjust their academic year to cater for courses not completed in the 1st Semester of 2022.
4. DHERST will commence repatriation of students under the Tertiary Education Scholarship Assistance Scheme (TESAS) from their home provinces back to the college. For students under Non-TESAS category, respective provincial or district administrations are requested to assist with their repatriation back to the college to continue their studies. TESAS students of KBC are advised to check the nearest Air Niugini office for their return tickets in a week after this notice.

5. DHERST has not received any formal written notice from the students and staff who wish to transfer out of KBC to other similar colleges. Hence, we assume that students and staff here wished to remain in KBC and continue their studies and work.

These decisions are made in the interest of all parties. This is to ensure that the academic year for KBC is not disrupted and students are not deprived of their rights to be educated. All stakeholders have been consulted and that normalcy has returned and that security of students, and property of the State assets are protected and guaranteed.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Raminai', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Authorised

By Hon. Wesley Raminai, MP

**Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology & Sports
and National Parliamentary Member for Kagua Erave**