

PROCEDURE WHEN THERE IS NO WATER IN SCHOOL

The Industrial Relations Act 2 (1) states in the preamble that:

“a failure to commence work or a refusal to continue working by reason of the fact that unusual circumstances have arisen which are hazardous or injurious to health or life does not constitute “industrial action”

A Teacher has the right and responsibility to protect himself/herself from exposure to hazardous situations or conditions that are injurious to health or life by removing himself/herself from such situations. Such removal of oneself should be done courteously and with the full knowledge of the Principal.

If a school is without water but the toilets are clean then Teachers should begin work and monitor the situation. If by break time there is still no water then a meeting of Teachers should be convened by the Staff Representative and a decision to leave school be taken. This information should be conveyed to the Principal or person in charge who may decide to dismiss school in which case the Teachers should assist with the orderly dismissal of the students.

Should the Principal or person in charge decide that school must go on then the Teachers should leave the premises.

If on the second day and continuing there is still no water and the toilets are unflushed then Teachers should sign the Attendance Register, mark the rolls and leave school after the Staff Representative informs the Principal or the person in charge that the Teachers are leaving.

If however, there is still no water but the toilets have been flushed then the teachers should begin work and monitor the situation. If there is no water by break time they should then leave.

The recently proclaimed Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) protects the rights of workers in such situations.

POL/HL