

**FROM: Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education**

TO: All Principals

DATED: 15th June 1979

SUBJECT: Applications for Extended Sick Leave

1. Recently, Teachers applying for Extended Sick Leave have been submitting Medical Certificates which are neither issued nor countersigned by a Government Medical Officer. I therefore wish to draw your attention to Regulation 46 of the Education (Teaching Service) Regulations, 1967, relevant sections of which are reproduced below:-

- i. Sick Leave on full pay may be granted the Minister to teachers not exceeding 14 days annually. Each application shall be supported by a Medical Certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner.
- xii. The Minister may grant Extended Sick Leave after the expiration of Sick Leave granted under paragraph (1) on full or half pay, as he may think fit, to teachers for such period as the Minister may approve if -
 - a. the application for Sick Leave is supported by a Certificate of a Government Medical Officer; or
 - b. where the applicant is outside Trinidad and Tobago, the application is supported by the Certificate of a medical practitioner approved by an accredited diplomatic Consular Officer acting on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

- xiii. In this Regulation:-

"Government Medical Officer" means a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Board Ordinance and employed on a full or part time basis by the Government;

"Medical Board" means a Board of medical practitioners registered under the Medical Board Ordinance and appointed by the Minister to examine and report upon the physical or mental condition of teachers.

2. I should be grateful if you would ensure that members of your teaching staff are made aware of the contents of this Circular so that in the future applications for extended sick leave are submitted as required by the Regulation.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education and Culture