



EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

22 JULY 2025

PSAC MODULAR EXAMINATIONS – GRADE 5 PUPILS – ELIGIBILITY

(No. B/765) Dr. S. Prayag (First Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resource whether, in regard to the recent changes to the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) Modular Examinations in Grade 5, he will state if the pupils presently enrolled in Grade 5 are eligible to sit for the PSAC Examinations or will be shifted to the previous elite system.

Dr. Gungapersad: Madam Speaker, as from this year, there will be no modular assessments for pupils of Grade 5.

In line with the annual programme for the PSAC Assessment 2025, students who are in Grade 5 and have completed five years of schooling, inclusive of Grades 1 to 5, and who are attending government-aided or registered primary schools may exceptionally sit for the PSAC assessment in 2025 subject to request made by their parents.

However, those students who are currently in Grade 5 and have benefitted from an accelerated promotion from Grade 1 to Grade 2 in Academic Year 2021/2022 due to the COVID-19 will not be eligible to take part in the PSAC assessment this year as they would not have completed the five years of schooling. They will sit for PSAC assessment in Academic Year 2026.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the last part of the question, related to an elite system, I wish to inform the House that all leading nations have their own models of selection of their very best students from within their schooling system.

I wish to inform the House that we should not vilify elitism as long as it is not at the expense of the well-being of our students. We need to nurture excellence, support highflyers, give them proper academic support, but at the same time, we should never forsake or neglect the wellbeing of those students who have learning difficulties or learning disabilities.

I assure the House that this Government will be fair and equitable to all our students.

Thank you.