

# PRIMARY

## CPE EXAMINATIONS

### CPE EXAMINATION 2015 - COMPLAINTS

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10 November 2015

(No. B/869) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the Certificate of Primary Education Examinations 2015, she will state the number of complaints received in relation thereto concerning ambiguous questions set in the papers, indicating the actions being taken to ensure that the students who sat therefor are not unfairly or unjustly penalised as a result thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate that, as at to date, seven complaints emanating from parents, one socio-cultural association and a group of educators have been received in respect of the English, Science, Arabic, Urdu and Tamil Papers for the Certificate of Primary Education Examinations 2015.

However, according to the MES, the papers carried no error. The complaints received pertained firstly to the use of certain specific words in the English, Arabic, Tamil and Urdu Papers and secondly on the possibility of having an alternative answer to one Multiple Choice Question in the Science Paper.

I wish also to highlight that as part of the process of marking of CPE Examination scripts, the MES annually conducts a rigorous and extensive sampling exercise prior to the marking exercise with a view to assessing how candidates have responded to the different questions. It is only after this sampling exercise has been completed that the marking scheme is finalised. Representations and comments received are also taken into account during this exercise.

Following the above exercise, I am informed by the MES that for the English Examination Paper, the composition topic has been understood by the great majority of candidates. Regarding the two questions in the Science Paper, correct answer has been

obtained by the majority of candidates and no particular problem has been reported. As for the Arabic Paper, the Question Paper was based on a prototype and the level of the paper was comparable to other Asian Languages. The same applies for the Tamil Paper where all words used were within the level of the 6<sup>th</sup> Standard students. The MES has confirmed that there was no error, no ambiguity and no question set out in the syllabus for any subject.

I wish to highlight that the complainants have made requests to the MES to exercise some flexibility during marking of these Papers owing to the problems raised such that the candidates are not penalised.

MES will stick to the normal procedure with regard to sampling and marking for all subjects examined.