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Date

29.09.2024

Solution to the Issue Regarding the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination - 2024

An investigation was initiated by the Department of Examinations following complaints that questions from the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination, held on 15th September 2024, were discussed prior to the examination. The investigation revealed that a document containing three questions similar to those in Paper I had been discussed in advance and that these questions were circulated via social media the day before the examination. Based on the preliminary report, a formal complaint was lodged with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The CID has since submitted an interim report to the Secretary of Education, confirming that the said document had indeed been circulated prior to the examination and that three questions from Paper I were leaked.

In response, the Department of Examinations submitted an analytical report to the Minister of Education through the Secretary of Education, outlining potential solutions to the issue. A committee comprising local and international experts was appointed by the Hon. Minister of Education to review the report and provide suitable recommendations. The committee consisted of educationists, educational psychologists, medical professionals, and statisticians.

The expert committee has advised against holding a repeat examination, citing the potential for stress and psychological harm to the children, who are around 10 years of age. Instead, they have recommended awarding full marks for the three leaked questions to all students who sat for the examination as the most appropriate course of action.

In line with these recommendations, the Department of Examinations has decided to adopt this solution. The marking of answer scripts will begin immediately, and results will be released without delay.

Jayasundara

J.M. Thilaka Jayasundara
Secretary, Ministry of Education

H.J.M.C. Amith Jayasundara
Commissioner General of Examinations