



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS
AGRICULTURE & LANDS
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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Friday, 13 July 2018

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, JP, MLA
P.O. Box 48 North Side
Grand Cayman, KY1-1701

Dear Mr. Miller,

Re: Astroturf for Edna M. Moyle Primary School (EMPS)

As Minister with responsibility for Education, I take care to work with the Ministry team to ensure that all government schools are provided with the necessary resources within the approved budget.

It is my understanding the Astroturf material was purchased by a donor for the Edna M. Moyle Primary School (EMPS) without consultation with the Ministry regarding suitability. I have been advised that the company that developed the material have indicated that it is not suitable for outside use and that it will not drain properly causing water to settle. I have also been advised that the material will become white and chalky. This could lead to health and safety concerns for our students.

While there may be ways to mitigate the drainage issues in the short term, health and safety of our students is of utmost importance and we would not want to run the risk of the potential mitigation strategies failing based on what the company has stated. This could also lead to additional costs of having to remove the turf shortly after it would have been installed.

In addition, the pitch at the school would need to be cleared and levelled, and the basketball area would need to be modified to facilitate the installation of Astroturf material. This was not a project that was budgeted for in 2018 or 2019. In developing the budget a range of capital projects are considered for schools and we aim to ensure equity across all the government schools.

This year the Ministry has worked with you to accommodate other capital projects that were not originally included in the budget allocation. However, it is necessary for us to be mindful of



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the needs of all the schools within all districts and therefore we cannot accommodate this project at this time.

I encourage you to work with the Government to gain approval for future projects prior to investing any financial resources to ensure that there are sufficient funds and other resources available for such projects.

It is my understanding that a draft plan for field work at the Edna M. Moyle Primary School was developed in consultation with Public Works. The Ministry team can review these plans and consider potential options for the future, again keeping in mind that this work is not included in the current budget.

I look forward to continued collaboration with you as we work to continue improving the Edna M. Moyle Primary School, as well as all other government schools across all three islands.

Kind regards,

Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA
Minister for Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands