



Support and Development for Teachers

The teaching profession plays a vital role in our education system. We must provide teachers with the training, support, recognition and respect commensurate with the important role that they play.

To create a strong cadre of dedicated and professional teachers

Initiatives	Benefits
We will set up a General Teaching Council in two years' time. Preparatory work has started and the necessary legislation will be introduced in 1998.	✓ This Council will serve to raise the overall professionalism of teachers.
We have asked the University Grants Committee (UGC) to study the means needed to achieve the target that all new teachers be degree-holders and professionally trained.	✓ This will help enhance the overall quality of all teachers entering the profession. UGC will recommend the time-frame for this target in early 1998.
We will accelerate the provision of graduate posts in primary schools so that 35% of the teaching posts will be upgraded to graduate level by the 2001-02 school year, instead of the original target year of 2007.	✓ This will enhance the quality of leadership and instruction in all primary schools.



To create a strong cadre of dedicated and professional teachers

Initiatives

We will provide more than 800 clerical posts to primary and secondary schools in the coming year.

We will set up an award scheme for meritorious principals and teachers under the Quality Education Development Fund.

We will declare 10 September each year as “Teachers’ Day”.

Benefits

✓ This will relieve teachers in all schools of the burden of clerical work, enabling them to concentrate more on teaching duties.

✓ This will be an incentive for excellence in teaching and will provide recognition to outstanding teachers in every school.

✓ This will be a reminder to all students and the community of the enduring importance of this profession.



Support and Development for Teachers

To create a strong cadre of dedicated and professional teachers

Initiatives	Benefits
For kindergartens, we will deploy about 35 million to enhance the kindergarten Subsidy Scheme.	✓ This will raise the existing subsidy level and provide incentives to encourage the employment of more trained teachers.
We will provide additional training places in the Qualified kindergarten Teacher Education Course to ensure that all kindergartens have at least 90% qualified teachers by September 2000.	✓ This will enhance the standards of teaching in kindergarten.
We will from 2000 require all newly recruited kindergarten principals to have completed the Certificate in Kindergarten Education Course. Between 1998 and 2002, 10 principals will receive training.	✓ This will improve the quality of the management and leadership of kindergartens.