

Minister of Education Visits Schools Damaged by “Torrential Rain 0602” to Cheer up Associated Personnel & Highlight Safety Inspection of School Buildings

(Courtesy of Sun, Min-Yi, Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



Torrential Rain lashed Taiwan on June 2, 2017, which has severely affected northern Taiwan, particularly Taipei City, New Taipei City, and Keelung City. As the heavy rain was coming down without any warning, the northern area was greatly damaged, including buildings in universities, senior high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools. Pan, Wen-Chung, Minister of Education, paid a visit to Keelung City on June 4, 2017 to inspect the situation himself and to express his gratitude towards the relevant personnel for the efforts they made, hoping that the impact on teaching activities could be reduced to a minimum.

Accompanied by Lin, You-Chang, Mayor of Keelung City, as well as related personnel, Pan visited severely damaged educational entities, including Municipal An-Xin Kindergarten, Keelung Municipal Der Her Elementary School, Affiliated Kindergarten of Sdes Elementary School, and the track of Keelung Municipal Stadium, to learn more about the levels of damage and their restoration work. Meanwhile, Pan also send the best regard towards the affected entities on behalf of Lin Chuan, Premier of the Executive Yuan, while recognizing the efforts stemming from the faculties of the entities and double checking if there was any student home that is still been impacted. In the meantime, Pan also went on a field trip to check their restoration work and see if the budget was sufficient. He hoped

that the impact on teaching activities could be minimized, and that the damaged premises could be restored in the shortest possible time so that students might feel reassured to go back to school safely.

Pan paid a visit to each entity and expressed his gratitude towards the immediate response by Keelung City Government and Guidance Committee for Monitoring Students' Behavior Outside School of Keelung City, Ministry of Education. At the same time, Pan instructed relevant departments to help address the issues brought up by the entities, including an insufficient budget for the restoration of the premises, as well as damage of pathways to school. Since the rain caused great damage to several kindergartens, the Ministry of Education, apart from instructing the Keelung City Government to place small children in safe venues, immediately allocated NTD\$15 million for reconstruction and restoration work so that teaching activities can be resumed to normal operations as soon as possible.

Considering the great damage on the schools in Taipei City, New Taipei City, and Keelung City, Pan took a step further to remind all schools of getting well-prepared in advance for disaster mitigation as well as disaster prevention based on the Directions for Schools and Affiliated Entities under Ministry of Education for Disaster Prevention and Relief. Furthermore, schools should lay out a detailed plan, design drills, and develop procedures for rescue in the aftermath of disasters to enhance schools' ability to respond to disasters and familiarize themselves with immediate response procedures. Hopefully, as these measures are put in place, the impact on teaching activities and schools will be minimized and school safety will be thus safeguarded.