



Exemption Order
Ministerial Statement

By

The Honourable Dame Jennifer Smith, DBE, JP, DHumL, MP

Minister of Education

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Mr. Speaker, this Honourable House will recall that last November 18th, I informed Members that I had gazetted an **Exemption Order** to allow unlicensed teachers to teach under certain specific circumstances for a specified period of time.

Members will recall that **Section 6 of the Bermuda Educators Council Act 2002** establishes an Exemption Committee which advises the Minister on exemptions.

Mr. Speaker, the Exemption Committee has put forward additional exemption requests in response to various vacancies in the public school system. Vacancies caused by the non-arrival of teachers, unfilled positions and unexpected teacher absence.

The seventeen exemptions which they have recommended are to fill posts in social studies, motor mechanics, English, French, Spanish, music, learning support, mathematics, physical education and science.

Mr. Speaker, as required, these exemptions will be gazetted so that the public will be aware of who has been exempted and under what conditions. Gazetting this information lessens the possibility of these persons being used outside of the area for which they are approved and/or qualified.

Mr. Speaker, it may appear from the date of these exemptions, that twelve of them are retroactive - the fact is that there was some confusion as to whether or not Cabinet approval was required for each exemption.

This matter has now been resolved and in the future, the process will allow us to issue exemptions on a more timely basis.

Once again I thank the Exemption Committee for ensuring that we have qualified staff in our schools to deliver the curriculum.

Thank you.