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ISalathiso 13/12/10/B



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Wes-Kaap Onderwysdepartement

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Western Cape Education Department

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ISebe leMfundo leNtshona Koloni

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CIRCULAR: 164/2001

EXPIRY DATE: NONE


TO: CHIEF DIRECTORS, DIRECTORS (HEAD OFFICE AND EMDCs), SENIOR CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND CIRCUIT MANAGERS, HEADS OF ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CHAIRPERSONS OF GOVERNING BODIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*BRIEF SUMMARY: This circular aims at controlling initiation processes at schools.*

**SUBJECT: INITIATION AT SCHOOLS**

1. It has become a tradition at many schools and educational institutions to welcome new learners with a compulsory process of initiation at the beginning of every year.
2. Unfortunately, over the last few years a large percentage of learners seem to have been under the impression that all civilised norms, respect for co-learners, school rules and discipline could be disregarded during these processes. The initiation process, which was previously aimed at creating a feeling of unity and togetherness, has become unmanageable and in the present dispensation has had detrimental and negative effects at an increasing number of institutions. It could even lead to loss of life. This initiation can no longer be allowed to continue, as it could lead to civil actions being instituted against learners, schools or the Western Cape Education Department, something which could have far-reaching effects for the parties concerned.
3. While learners at schools are not begrudged the opportunity to take part in welcoming ceremonies for new learners, this can only be allowed if the ceremonies are arranged and directly supervised by members of the teaching staff who will then be responsible for the maintenance of order and discipline at schools.
4. Governing bodies and principals are requested to ensure that **"The regulations relating to serious misconduct of learners at schools"** are strictly imposed against learners who are guilty of unacceptable behaviour which relates to initiation.

5. Parents must continually be encouraged to warn their children against unacceptable behaviour and customs at school.
6. Please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all school personnel and the members of the governing body.
7. The Xhosa translation of this circular will be available in due course and will be posted to the relevant schools.

  
ACTING HEAD: EDUCATION  
DATE: 201.12.19