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**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO : DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT CENTRE MANAGERS  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES  
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

**FROM : ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR – GENERAL: EDC & IOM**

**SUBJECT : SANITATION APPROPRIATE FOR EDUCATION (SAFE) INITIATIVE  
OBJECTIVES AND COOPERATION**

**DATE : 3 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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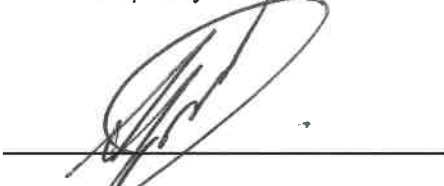
I trust that this finds you in good health.

The purpose of this communication is to communicate and circulate the attached Circular from the Department of Basic Education on **Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE) Initiative Objectives and Cooperation** dated 20 August 2021.

You are therefore urged to study the contents of this circular and bring to the attention of the department via the district office any inefficiencies in construction of the projects.

Your co-operation in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Yours in quality education



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**T.J.Z. MTYIDA**  
**ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR – GENERAL: EDC & IOM**



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Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES  
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

## **SANITATION APPROPRIATE FOR EDUCATION (SAFE) INITIATIVE OBJECTIVES AND COOPERATION**

### **1. Background:**

In 2018, the Department Basic Education (DBE) launched the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Initiative in response to the directive by His Excellency, President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

### **2. Objectives of the Initiative:**

- a) Provide schools with appropriate sanitation in accordance with the provisions of the regulations relating to the minimum uniform norms and standards for public school infrastructure.
- b) The number of toilet seats to be provided is determined by the current learner enrolment.
- c) The type of sanitation system to be deployed will be determined by the following factors:
  - i. Reliability of current water supply;
  - ii. Site specific information (e.g. Topography, soil and groundwater conditions);  
and
  - iii. System preferred by the province.
- d) Age appropriate ablution facilities must be provided at primary schools.

- e) Ablution facilities for the disabled must be provided at all schools.
- f) All work must conform to the requirements of the National Building Regulations.

**3. Co-operation from End-users/Schools:**

- a) No unsafe/inappropriate ablution facilities may be left undemolished unless a registered professional engineer certifies that the structure is safe for an alternative use. Any renovation of such facility will be for the account of the School Management.
- b) The scope of work will be as defined in the construction contract document.
- c) The Head of Department of the Provincial Department and the Accounting Officer of the Department of Basic Education must approve any change to the scope of work.
- d) In the course of monitoring construction sites, DBE came across schools which had pit toilets and that didn't have water which were previously not brought to our attention. As part of rounding off the SAFE Programme, School Principals/School Management Teams/School Governing Bodies/Circuits/Districts should report through PEDs to DBE the following:
  - i. Schools with no toilets;
  - ii. Schools with pit toilets/pit latrines;
  - iii. Schools with no water supply;
  - iv. Concerns regarding the appropriateness of the design
  - v. Concerns regarding quality of construction
- e) Inefficiencies in construction projects should also be reported by infrastructure/built experts/practitioners in the employment of provinces and districts as they go out to monitor construction projects.

I hope you will find all the above in order.

Yours sincerely



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 20 AUGUST 2021**