



**BRANCH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION (EDC) & INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT (IOM)**

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4 October 2023


**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM**

<b>TO</b>	<b>CHIEF DIRECTORS - CLUSTERS A &amp; B</b>
	<b>ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS</b>
	<b>SENIOR MANAGERS (EDC &amp; IOM)</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE CLOSURE MERGER OF SMALL AND MISALIGNED SCHOOLS</b>

1. The EDC & IOM Branch Management has noted with concern that throughout the first half of the financial year; April to September 2023, the School Rationalisation and Realignment Programme (SRRP) implementation has not kept up the pace as laid out in the 2023 Management Plan, in general and more specifically in relation to Stakeholder Consolation and attendant outputs.
2. Whilst the majority of districts are at different levels of programme implementation, notably, others have not performed on their mandate at all whereas the continuing existence of low enrolment schools continues to stretch the limited ECDoE resources in maintaining small and unviable schools, thus denying the opportunity to improve school performance.
3. The Branch has developed SRRP Management Recovery Plan with revised timeframes designed to ensure the achievement of priority closures, mergers and realignments to get the programme back on track, focusing on schools with learner enrolment below 50 and 100 where there are no attendant resource implications to migrate learners to identified host / receiving schools.
4. Reference is made to spreadsheets already shared with Districts providing specific schools falling within the above categories.
5. Against the above context, which remains a concern to ECDOE Senior Management, MEC and Minister DBE, District Directors are directed as follows:

- Identify all schools falling within the category specified in paragraph three (3) above; and
- Verify and confirm Scholar Transport and or Infrastructure requirements in respect of each school, to guide further engagements with sister Chief Directorates to expedite the Recovery Plan,
- Develop a Recovery Plan (October- November 2023) within which Stakeholder Consultation will be rolled out. Time frame should be strictly observed around Consultation Report submission within specified schedule of three (03) Days in terms of Templates prepared for this purpose including the routing thereof;
- The Recovery Plan referred to above must ensure that the identified schools and their respective stakeholders / communities are prepared for migration to host / receiving schools through adequate planning of administrative requirements for the movement of learners, educators, movable assets as well as the decanting of buildings where no alternative usage has been identified within the department.
- The above process should enable the ECDOE to make a determination on the specific schools that should be considered for purposes of resourcing for 2024; including but not limited to the PPN distribution process. This therefore suggest that due urgency should be injected on this instruction.
- Prepare a presentation on the above directives for a meeting to be communicated from the office of the DDG within the week 2-6 October 2023.

The above should be treated with the urgency required.

  
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TJZ MITYIDA  
DDG-EDC & IOM

04.10.2023  
DATE