To: Dr. S.N.P. Sishi
    Head of Department
    KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

From: Ms. M. Thusi
    Senior Manager
    Information Technology Services

Subject: POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ACQUISITION AND DE-COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (e-Waste)

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this communique is to seek the Head of the Department's approval of the policy on the Management of the acquisition and de-commissioning of electronic equipment (e-Waste) in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education.

BACKGROUND

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is the largest consumer of information technology (IT) resources for administrative functions, and information and communication technologies (ICT) for the management and support of curriculum via e-Learning. Expenditure on these items contributes to the largest spend of the department's operational budget and has therefore to be managed prudently to get maximum benefit. The acquisition and use of electronic equipment which include cathode ray tube (CRT) display monitors, ink and toner cartridges, Lithium ion battery packs etc. contribute immensely to high levels of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and electronic waste (e-waste). Because of the hazardous nature of some chemicals found in both WEEE and e-waste, these materials should never be burnt in incinerators or 'waste-to-energy' facilities, or dumped in landfill sites, as this ultimately pollutes water supplies, damages the soil; and can cause serious illnesses attributed to certain cancers. It therefore becomes critical that WEEE and e-waste are disposed in the environmentally friendliest of ways.

The Information Technology Directorate has done an audit to assess the WEEE and e-waste generated within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education. It was found that large quantities of obsolete electronic equipment, namely CRT computer monitors, personal computers (PCs), printers, landline telephone receivers, cellular telephone handsets, photocopiers and facsimile machines, are stored throughout the department's offices (head, district, circuit and schools). Stored quantities will range from a few dozen up to 15,000 pieces. PCs are generally replaced after 3 to 5 years. Printers, photocopiers, phones and facsimile machines are generally used for longer and are replaced after 5 to 7 years. Cellular telephones phones are replaced very quickly after 1 to 2 years.

RECOMMENDATION

In the light of the background above it is recommended that the Head of the Department approves the policy.
Support / Not Supported
Comments:
The policy will assist in the management of e-waste and provide guidelines for the donation of computers

Mr. M. J. Dlamini
General Manager: SM & OT

Recommended / Not Recommended
Comments:

Dr. S. Z. Mphokazi
Senior General Manager: Corporate Management

Approved / Not Approved
Comments:

Nkosinathi S.P. Sishi, Phd
Head of Department: Education

POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ACQUISITION AND DE-COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (e-Waste)