



education

Department:
Education
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Enquiries: Mr SLN Kheswa

Tel: 033 348 6111

Ref No. 13/15/ P

**TO: THE GENERAL MANAGER: DISTRICT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CES: CIRCUIT MANAGERS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS
CHAIRPERSONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

KZN CIRCULAR NO:73 OF 2016

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA 27 OF 1996: NATIONAL POLICY ON RELIGION AND EDUCATION GG 25459 OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2003.

1. The purpose of this circular is to ensure that all stakeholders in education comply with the principles of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa governing religious freedom and those espoused in the policy referred to above. It also seeks to safeguard the rights of learners and ensure that no learner is discriminated against in any form on the basis of his/her culture and religion.
2. As a democratic society with a diverse population of different cultures, languages and religions we are duty bound to ensure that through our diversity we develop a unity of purpose and spirit that recognizes and celebrates diversity in public schools. All Departmental officials must join hands and accept that South Africa is a multi-religious country with diversity in culture and languages and schools must celebrate such attributes.
3. The South African Schools Act (Act 94 of 1996) upholds the constitutional rights of all citizens to freedom of conscience, thought, belief and opinion, and freedom from unfair discrimination on any grounds whatsoever, including religion, culture, language and gender in public education institutions.
4. Owing to issues of discrimination raised by parents and Leadership of the Nazareth Baptist Church and of the Nazareth Church of God as discussed with the Commission for Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and the Department of Education in KZN at UMkhanyakude, the Department saw it fitting to remind all officials of the Department, especially at institutional level, to implement the National Policy on Religion and Education.

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KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Postal Address: Private Bag X9137 • Pietermaritzburg • 3200 • Republic of South Africa

Physical Address: 247 Burger Street • Anton Lembede Building • Pietermaritzburg • 3201

Tel.: +27 33 392 1029 • **Fax.:** +27 033 392 1212 • **Email:** Nompumelelo.gasa@kzndoe.gov.za • **Web:** www.kzndoe.gov.za

Facebook: KZNDOE... **Twitter:** @DBE_KZN... **Instagram:** kzn_education... **Youtube:** kzndoe



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5. School Governing Bodies are therefore requested to review the Codes of conduct for Learners and other related policies to make certain that the provisions thereof do not in any way discriminate against learners in public schools on the basis of religion, culture and language.
6. Principals of schools must create platforms where all educators and learners are apprised on issues of diversity in religion in line with the South African Constitution. The Principals are also urged to bring to the attention of all educators the contents of the National Policy on Religion and Education which has been attached for ease of reference. Disciplinary actions will be taken against any official of the Department who fails to comply with all legislation and policies referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
7. The contents of this circular must be brought to the attention of all relevant role-players.
8. Your cooperation in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Dr E.V Nzama

Head of Department: Education

Date: 15/10/2016

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