



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE: GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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Ref No.: 13/15

**TO : THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERALS
THE CHIEF DIRECTORS: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS
THE CES: CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT
THE CIRCUIT MANAGERS
THE PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
THE SGB CHAIRPERSONS
THE ASSOCIATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

KZN CIRCULAR NO. 145 OF 2024

SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF VENDORS SELLING TO LEARNERS IN LIGHT OF THE SPATE OF ALLEGED POISONING CASES

1. This is in reference to recent incidents involving learners being rushed to hospital due to suspected food poisoning and the subsequent panic this has caused to the public.
2. All Principals of schools and the School Governing Bodies are reminded to take full charge in meeting and vetting all vendors that sell to learners while at school and to engage Owners of shops along the route of learners to schools. This is mainly to engage them regarding the importance of selling healthy snacks to learners and to ascertain that they are buying from reputable retailers
3. It is our firm belief that the engagement of all vendors would assist in reducing such cases. For this to be successful, the following guidance is offered to school Principals and Governing Bodies:
 - 3.1 Register a manageable number of vendors and avail space for them to do business within the school premises.
 - 3.2 Vet all vendors to avoid letting individuals who may be in the sex offender registers into school and by implication cause them to be closer to learners.
 - 3.3 Discuss with the vendors on healthy snack they may sell to learners and measures on how to ensure that they procure such from reputable wholesalers observing all relevant health prescripts.
 - 3.4 Discuss issues of cleanliness with regards to their places of operations to prevent food contamination. Local Municipality Health Offices may be engaged in this regard.



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- 3.5 Agree on time intervals for spot checks by the principal and or his delegates and the SGB Members. These would be to check general quality and expiry dates for snacks and other goods sold.
 - 3.6 Through the QLTC, engage local shop owners on the importance of selling healthy stuff to learners enroute to and from their schools.
4. Learners must be protected from anything that may compromise their lives. They must therefore be advised to avoid buying from unreliable/ dodgy vendors enroute to and from schools to protect themselves.

MR. GN NGCOBO
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
DATE: 29/10/2024