



**DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

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**TO : DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL  
CHIEF DIRECTORS: DISTRICT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CESs: GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT  
GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS  
CESs: CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH GRADE 8 OR HIGHER**

**KZN CIRCULAR NO. 05 OF 2026**

**SUBJECT: ELECTION OF RCL STRUCTURES**

1. Section 11(1) of the South African Schools Act No.84 of 1996, as amended, states that "every public school that has Grade 8 or higher must establish a representative council of learners (RCL) and such a council is the only recognized and legitimate body to represent learners."
2. The Provincial Notice No. 151 of 1997, published in the Provincial Gazette No. 5202 of May 1997, makes provision for the principal or an educator delegated by him or her as a Teacher Liaison Officer, to oversee the election of the RCL.
3. Principals of all public schools with Grade 8 or higher are therefore directed to ensure that RCLs are established in their schools by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2026.
4. Every RCL must elect an executive committee immediately after it has been established.
5. During the School Governing Body (SGB) elections, all RCLs must elect two or three learners among themselves to serve in the School Governing Body, depending on the required number as per SGB Elections Schedule. **NB: The School Electoral Officer appointed to conduct the SGB elections must be invited by the principal for the election of RCL members to serve in the SGB on the set date during the election period.**

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6. It is further advised that in carrying out this very important task, gender and racial balance be considered to promote social cohesion and to be in line with the nation building exercise.
7. Details of elected RCL members must be forwarded to the respective Circuit Managers by the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2026. Circuit Managers will consolidate and forward to the District Governance and Management Sub-directorate by the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.
8. In line with the Provincial Notice No.2548 of 2023, Circuits and Districts are expected to coordinate election of RCL structures at their levels by the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.
9. The Provincial RCL Conference will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2026.
10. Your maximum co-operation in this regard is highly appreciated.



**MR GN NGCOBO**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**  
**KZN EDUCATION**  
**DATE: 16/01/2026**