

DDG: EDUCATION DISTRICT COORDINATION & INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

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## **MEMORANDUM**

TO

**CLUSTER MANAGEMENT** 

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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PRINCIPALS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**DISTRICT NORMS & STANDARDS CO-ORDINATORS** 

FROM

**DDG: EDUCATION DISTRICT COORDINATION & IOM** 

SUBJECT

1st TRANCHE 2022/23 NORMS & STANDARDS TRANSFER

PAYMENTS TO PUBLIC ORDINARY SCHOOLS (POS)

DATE

17 MAY 2022

## Dear Colleagues,

- 1. The department started the process for effecting the 1<sup>ST</sup> Tranche payments to Public Ordinary Schools (POS) on 28 April 2022. This communique serves to inform the relevant stakeholders that plans are on track to make the final payments in the run scheduled for next Tuesday 24 May 2022 and schools can therefore expect these funds to be in the school bank accounts by latest 27 May 2022. Notwithstanding this, the department officials are pooling resources to try for an earlier transfer date.
- 2. The main reasons for the delay are due to the following:
  - a. Reworking the final school paper budgets utilizing the current March 2022 school learner data. This was to factor in the financial paper budget allocations caused by the rationalization and realignment of schools which impacted on the migration of learners to schools. This included the process of completing the learner data verification process as required by AG;
  - b. At this point the department is only transferring the 10% Cash, Maintenance and Educational Consumables portions of transfers. Management decided to withhold the Municipal Services item portion of the transfers to all schools. This follows numerous requests from District Directors to bailout schools with arrear Municipal Accounts.
  - c. The department's SASAMS is currently not equipped to provide the required data on schools with Municipal or Eskom accounts as well as water and electricity services usage.

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Due to the absence of credible data, it was therefore not possible for the resourcing unit to decide whether to withhold or transfer all or portion of this item to schools.

- 3. The department has engaged EMIS to start the process of collecting data from schools which will assist with the decision to better manage the effective utilization of these funds.
- 4. EMIS will make available an online form to assist schools with capturing this data. NSF coordinators will be trained to assist schools to complete the form. This will take place at identified points to assist schools with connectivity challenges. Schools and districts will be informed when the form will be made available online. The plan is to start collecting data towards end of May and complete this by latest end June 2022. The following information will be required:
  - a. Municipal or Eskom Account details
  - b. Initially April 2022 account information; followed by May, June, July 2022
  - c. Average monthly Prepaid Meter usage costs for both Electricity and Water and
  - d. Other Energy and Water sources utilized
- 5. It must be noted the department is constrained with the allocation of funds to resource schools adequately. It is therefore important for all officials to better manage the usage of these services and prevent wastage. The department notes through observation that many of the school municipal accounts have abnormally high bills in the "Current" periods. This requires the implementation of a management and monitoring plan by school principals and district officials respectively to ensure that meters are read regularly to record and monitor usage. Also, to conduct monthly readings and share this with suppliers to avoid them estimating and overcharging.
- 6. In conclusion, the department would hereby remind the school leadership to utilise the NSF funds wisely for the purposes as depicted in the school's paper budget. Also note the contents of Circular 1 of 2013 issued by DBE to School Principals, SGBs, and Parents. This circular provides guidelines on the purpose and use of NSF school allocations.
- 7. Please not that schools are required to direct enquiries through the relevant circuit managers and district officials.

Yours sincerely

DDG: EDC & toM (ACTING)

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DATE: 17.05.2022