

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

File No. 252/302.

Department of Native Affairs,  
Division of Bantu Education,  
Private Bag 212,  
P R E T O R I A.

2nd August, 1954.

Sir,

The Transfer of control of State-aided schools to Bantu Community organizations, except in the case of teacher training schools.

1. In accordance with the policy speech of the Minister of Native Affairs, the Honourable Dr. H.F. Verwoerd, delivered before the Senate on the 7th of June, 1954, this circular is addressed to all grantees, superintendents or managers of state-aided schools in order to set out the policy of the Department and to seek the co-operation of all churches and missionary bodies concerned.

2. It should be emphasized that the transfer of control from the missions to Bantu communities is part of a wider scheme of social development, designed to assist in the progress of the Native people in the form of self-sufficient and responsible communities in all directions. The purpose is not therefore the removal of religious influence from the life of the Bantu - an influence which the Department realizes has been and will continue to be a most valuable contribution to Bantu development - but the enlistment of the energies of the Bantu in the development of a healthy social and economic life of their own.

3. It is the intention of the Department to offer reasonable compensation where necessary to the churches or missionary bodies from whom school buildings are taken over. In most cases ~~since it is not in the interest of either the churches or the communities that the buildings should be sold~~ (e.g. because the churches may want to retain control of buildings outside school hours for church services or other church activities) buildings will be hired rather than purchased. The negotiations will of necessity have to be on an individual basis, since in a great many instances buildings have been erected with funds from different sources (the community, the church and the state). Where rent is to be paid on buildings the Department will be responsible for maintenance. Since the funds available for the purchase or hiring of Native schools will be derived at least in part from Native taxation it will be appreciated that the interests of the Native taxpayer will have to be borne in mind.

4. Grantees, superintendents, or managers of all state-aided schools are requested, after due consultation with their own church authorities, to inform the Secretary for Native Affairs, Private Bag 212, Pretoria, as soon as possible (but in any case not later than 31st December, 1954) in the case of every state-aided school under their care, except teacher training and farm, mine or factory schools, whether they wish -

TO (a) to /.....  
ALL GRANTEES, SUPERINTENDENTS, OR  
MANAGERS OF STATE-AIDED BANTU SCHOOLS.

- (a) to retain control of existing state-aided schools and hostels either as private unaided institutions, or as aided institutions with the subsidy for teachers' salaries fixed at seventy-five per cent. of both the salary scale and cost of living allowance applicable to each teacher employed with the approval of the Department. (In the case of hostels see paragraph 8); or
- (b) to relinquish control of these schools and hostels to Bantu community organizations.

Negotiations in connection with transfer will be initiated as soon as possible, where necessary.

5. Since the procedure will vary somewhat according to the type of school and its situation a more detailed setting out of the procedure is given below.

6. The procedure of transfer will be as follows :-

(a) in the case of primary and post-primary schools (including industrial schools) in Native areas or in urban locations:-

- (i) if the controlling church or mission desires to retain control with a subsidy for teachers' salaries and all allowances as set out in 4(a) above and the Department is able to comply with such a request, the subsidy will become effective as from the 1st April, 1955;
- (ii) if the Department is unable to comply with such a request the subsidy will continue to be paid on the present basis until control of the school is assumed by a Bantu community organization or until the negotiations in connection with transfer have been ended by the Department. Where negotiations in connection with financial or other matters break down the Department reserves the right to withdraw subsidies and to provide alternative educational facilities. Control of mission schools will not be assumed before the necessary community organization has been created. In any case, control will not be transferred before the 1st April, 1955 (see also (v) below), unless a request from the grantee, superintendent or manager of the school concerned is received and approved;
- (iii) where a church or missionary body is agreeable to the transfer of control, the subsidy will continue to be paid on the present basis to the grantee, superintendent or manager of any such school until control is assumed by a Bantu community organization or negotiations concerning compensation have been ended by the Department;
- (iv) Under certain conditions the Department may request the grantee, superintendent or manager of a school to continue for a certain period his superintendency of a school, the transfer of which has either been agreed upon or concerning which for the time being no decision has been taken. The subsidies calculated on the present basis will continue to be paid during such a period;

(v) if, /.....

(v) if, after the 1st April, 1955, the Department decides that it is desirable that the control of a school which has remained under the superintendency of a church or missionary body, either at the request of that body or of the Department, should be transferred to a Bantu community organization, notice of at least two school quarters will be given of the intention of the Department so that teachers may be informed and staffing arrangements made without prejudice to the school or its teachers. Negotiations will then be opened to decide on what terms the transfer may be effected;

(vi) arrangements arrived at under the provision of 6(a) (i) above will be subject to revision at the discretion of the Minister of Native Affairs. Notice of at least two full school quarters will be given of any revision of subsidy.

(b) in the case of farm, mine or factory schools situated on land in European areas:

These schools will in future limit their enrolment, except with the permission of the Department, to the children of bona fide Bantu employees, or, in the case of farm schools, children of approved residents in the vicinity of the school. The Department will approach these schools informing them of their status and of the changes which will be necessary in order to conform with the new regulations. Control of these schools will not be transferred to Bantu community organizations but will be vested in the owner of the land or his authorised representative who may be a missionary. A circular setting out in full the Department's policy concerning farm, mine and factory schools will be issued at an early date. Subsidies will continue on the same basis as hitherto.

(c) in the case of primary and post-primary schools situated on land in European areas which are not recognised as bona fide farm, mine or factory schools:

These schools are situated on European-owned land and are intended as general educational institutions for Bantu children, not merely to serve the children of Bantu employees of the owner of the land;

(i) if a church or missionary organization desires to retain control of this type of school with a fixed subsidy equivalent to 75% of the salaries of approved teachers (as set out in 4(a) above); and the Department is able to agree to the provisional retention of control by the present grantee, superintendent or manager the new subsidy will become effective as from the 1st April, 1955;

(ii) where a church or missionary organization indicates its willingness to hand over control of a school, the present rate of subsidy will be maintained until the transfer of control has been effected or negotiations have been ended by the Department;

(iii) any/.....

- (iii) any arrangements made by the Department in respect of this type of school will be subject to the provisions of the Group Areas Act (No. 41 of 1950), as amended, and also to the general policy of the Department;
- (iv) the provisions of 6(a)(iii), (iv) and (v) above will also apply.

7. Training Schools.

It is the policy of the Department that the training of all teachers for state and state-aided schools should be conducted in Departmental schools. Negotiations with the bodies controlling state-aided teacher training institutions will be initiated immediately by the Department. Owing to the variety of conditions under which these institutions have been financed it will be necessary to consider each case on its merits. The control of hostels serving teacher training schools may be retained. (See paragraph 8):

8. Hostels.

The Department is willing that hostels should remain under mission control, and is prepared to negotiate with the present grantees, superintendents, or managers in order to achieve mutually satisfactory terms in the case of those hostels whose continued existence is considered essential. Such arrangements will, however, be subject to revision by the Department especially if the system is found to cause difficulty in the control of schools which have been transferred to the Department.

9. School Committees.

In constituting school committees care will be taken that at least one Bantu member will be appointed to represent church interests.

10. School Boards and Bantu Authorities.

Care will be taken by the Department to see that certain members, able and willing to represent church interests are included in these bodies.

11. Religious Education.

The curricula of all schools under the control of the Department including those under Bantu community organizations, will provide religious instruction. Churches recognised by the Department will be allowed to provide special religious instruction for the children of their adherents at set times, provided such instruction is given in the mother tongue. Where churches do not exercise this privilege the Departmental syllabus will be taught by class teachers. The inspectorate will be instructed to see that religious instruction is thoroughly taught and that the time set aside for this purpose is not used for so-called examination subjects.

12. General.

A separate circular has been drawn up setting out the basis on which negotiations for the transfer of control of teacher training schools and hostels will be conducted. This circular will be sent out to the heads of training schools and other interested parties. Copies may be obtained from the Department.

13. In the foregoing paragraphs emphasis has been placed mainly on the rôle which the Bantu Community must play in Bantu Education. The possibility that the European community, by virtue of its experience in the past, will be able to make an important contribution to Bantu education in the future is not being neglected. The possible use in an advisory capacity of European experts, including church leaders, is being considered.

14. Grantees, superintendents or managers of state-aided schools who may wish to raise questions in connection with any matters referred to in this circular are invited to send their queries as soon as possible (but in any case not later than 15th September, 1954) to the Secretary for Native Affairs, Private Bag 212, Pretoria, who will deal with such queries in a further circular or by letter as soon as possible after the closing date.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) W.W.M. Eiselen.

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) W.W.M. Eiselen.

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

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**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963**

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