

All communications should be addressed to
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ZIMBABWE

Ref: J/171/14

Ministry of Education Sport and
Culture
P.O Box CY 121
Causeway
Zimbabwe

3 April 2000

FINANCE CIRCULAR 6 OF 2000

DISTRIBUTION:

Heads of Division
Regional Directors
Heads of Sections
District Education Officers
School Heads

See Finance File

ASSISTANCE TOWARDS PAYMENT OF TUITION/EXAMINATION FEES: SOCIAL WELFARE SAFETY NETS

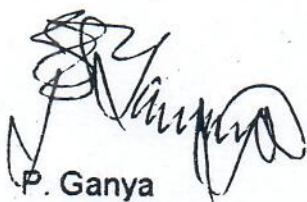
The Social Safety Nets (SSN) under Social Development Fund(SDF) introduced in 1992 after the inception of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme were aimed at protecting the vulnerable groups by alleviating the negative effects resulting from the cost recovery measures put in place by Government. In Education, assistance under SDF was in the form of payment of tuition and examination fees and in some cases, boarding fees for those whose parents/guardians had incomes of 400.00 or less per month.

Government has now put in place some funds for SSN for the year 2000, and to avoid uncertainties, the Ministry's policy is that applications are accepted only when resources are available. To minimise leakages and ensure that the most deserving pupils are assisted with limited resources available, applicants are means tested. The assessment for eligibility involves looking at the individuals and spouses income from all sources including livestock, assets and pensions.

In brief, issues to note as regards educational assistance are as follows:

1. Primary schools in rural areas are target in total. All pupils are exempted from payment of tuition fees. Therefore, no applications for assistance towards payment of tuition fees for pupils at primary schools in rural areas are expected.
2. It is also Government policy that no pupils are supposed to be excluded from school because of non-payment of school, levies and general purpose fees. The funds from the programme on SSN will therefore not cover cost on levies and general purpose fees.
3. Parents/guardians with children at secondary schools in both urban and rural areas as well as primary schools in urban areas can apply for assistance towards payment of tuition and examination fees. However, such assistance can only be granted after the applicant has been means tested for eligibility.

4. The school head is not required to issue any referral letter to the Department of Social Welfare. They can only advise parents/guardians to approach the Department of social Fund where necessary.
5. Social Safety Nets funds will be utilised to pay tuition/examination fees for Grade I to Form 6 in Urban areas and Form I to Form 6 in rural areas.
6. Boarding fees will not be covered by SSN except for exceptional cases where a professional assessment report from the District Social Welfare Office will accompany the application. It should be born in mind that where Government assistance is sought, the cheapest schools are preferred in order to assist as many pupils as is possible.
7. where an application has been processed and payment of tuition/examination fees authorised, the District Social Welfare Office will send confirmation letters to the schools to that effect. When the confirmation is issued , the District Social Welfare Office will have ensured that resources are available hence school heads are expected to honour the letters.
8. This Circular cancels any other Circulars on the above subject.



P. Ganya

UNDER SECRETARY(Revenue and Supplies)

For: SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

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