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THE ROLE OF HEADS OF SCHOOLS AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

It is provided in the Education Amendment Act, 2006, that parents or guardians with children at any school shall constitute a School Parents Assembly (SPA) and that the responsible authority of any registered school shall cause the School Parents Assembly to establish a School Development Committee (SDC) which is elected by the parents of the children enrolled at the school.

The amendments to the Education Act therefore indicated, among other changes, that the School Development Association at each school, commonly referred to as the SDA, ceased to exist and was replaced by the School Parents Assembly (SPA), with the School Development Committee (SDC) vested with the responsibility to manage the overall affairs of the School Parents Assembly in both Government and Non-Government Schools.

As has always been the case, the composition of the School Development Committee includes the Head and the Deputy Head of the school as *ex officio* members, meaning that these are not elected into the Committee but become members, and remain so, by virtue of the official positions they occupy in the school.

It has, however, been observed that many Heads of Schools and their Deputies are not aware of their roles as *ex officio* members of the School Development Committees in their schools. Some Heads, when matters go wrong and especially when facing disciplinary action, go to the extent of apportioning blame on the School Development Committees for some decisions which would have been made in the name of the School Development Committees.

This circular minute therefore reasserts the fact that all Heads and their Deputies are bound by the decisions of the School Development Committees of their schools. In addition, as the Ministry's Sub Accounting Officers, the Heads of School shall guide the other members of the School Development Committees on Ministry and Government policies and shall also ensure, among other issues, that the Responsible Authorities comply with the provisions of the Education Act and the relevant statutory instruments on matters relating to fees and levies payable at their schools.

Ultimately, where Heads of Schools and the School Development Committees work as teams, which should be the case in all schools anyway, the teams will achieve higher levels of performance and quality education for the children at their schools shall not be compromised.

All addresses are called upon to cooperate in this regard, bearing in mind that the overall concern of the Ministry is to promote and facilitate the provision of quality education to the child.



Dr. S. J. Utete-Masango
SECRETARY FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
/role of heads as sdc members