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.12.2012

Circular No: 50/2019

Provincial Secretaries of Education,
Provincial Directors of Education,
Zonal Directors of Education,
Deputy / Assistant Directors in charge of Divisions
All Heads of Schools,

# **Conducting School Events and Participating Students in Public Ceremonies**

Circular No 2004/28 dated 23/07.2004 previously issued in relation to participating students in public ceremonies will be hereby repealed and hereinafter the provisions of this Circular will be in force regarding conducting school events and participating students in public ceremonies.

2.0 Schools conduct events based on varied reasons and the students participate in certain ceremonies organized by external institutions and organizations. Ministry of Education has been reported through various sources that certain such ceremonies obstruct the teaching learning process of the school creating disciplinary issues among students.

Therefore, the following actions may be taken to regularize the conducting of schools events as well as the participation of students in various ceremonies and exhibitions organized by external parties.

#### 2.1 Events conducted in schools

Schools sports meet, annual prize giving and the school concerts come under this category and the number of speeches made at such events should be limited, specifically, the address of the Principal, address of the Chief Guest and the Vote of Thanks by the Head Prefect. Furthermore, allocating seating arrangements for the Head Prefect on the main stage too is highly important.

School events should be organized as short as possible considering the valuable time of the students as well as other participants and they should be organized in a way prioritizing on educational features while singing the national anthem at the commencement and the school anthem at the ending. Furthermore, funds should not be collected from students without the approval of the Line Ministry or the Provincial Ministry / Department of Education and the festivities should be conducted at a minimum cost.

Apart from the annual prize giving and the sports meet, the other events conducted by the schools should be limited to one hour (01) and the compering of such events should be compulsorily entrusted upon students in order to develop their skills.

# 2.2 Other public ceremonies participated by students

(a) Educational events organized by the Line Ministry or the Provincial Ministry of

#### Education

- i. National / Provincial Sports meet
- ii. Cultural events organized at national / provincial level These events should be organized through the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education, Provincial Ministry of Cultural Affairs/ Provincial Department of Education.
- iii. Independence Day celebrations and cultural events organized by the District Secretaries with the concurrence of the Secretary to the Ministry/ Provincial Secretary of Education/ Provincial Director of Education.
- iv. Independence Day celebrations and cultural events organized by the Ministry of Education/ Provincial Ministry of Education/ or Government Departments/ Corporations or participated by H. E. the President/ Hon. Prime Minister/ Hon. Minister of Education/ Governor of the Province/ Chief Minister of the Province.
- v. Celebrations attended by foreign Heads of State Only a limited number of students can be participated in above events.
- (b) Other events approved by the Line Ministry of Education/ Provincial Ministry of Education or Departmental Authorities
- 3.0 Students should not be participated in any non-educational residential or non-residential programmes for students organized by the various regional organizations/ institutions or associations. In addition students should not be gathered on roadside to welcome various persons or used for fund raisings or other publicity campaigns.
- 4.0 When students participate in an event organized by a government institution or any other reputed organization, the organizers should necessarily provide food, health, transport facilities, security and other facilities required by the students.
- 5.0 In addition, the participation of school bands should be restricted only to following occasions. It is hereby emphasized that the provisions of the Circular No 1995/25 issued in this relation will be further in force.
  - (a) Events conducted in the school
  - (b) Educational events organized by the Line Ministry of Education or the Provincial Ministry of Education
    - i. National/ Provincial Sports meet.
    - ii. Cultural / religious events organized at national / provincial level.
      These events should be organized by the Department of Cultural Affairs,
      Ministry/ Department of Education.
    - iii. Independence Day celebrations and cultural events organized by the District Secretaries with the concurrence of the Secretary to the Ministry/ Provincial Secretary of Education/ Provincial Director of Education.

- Independence Day celebrations and cultural events organized by the Min istry of Education/ Provincial Ministry of Education/ or Government Departments/ Corporations or participated by H. E. the President/ Hon. Prime Minister/ Hon. Minister of Education/ Governor of the Province/ Chief Minister of the Province.
- v. Celebrations attended by foreign Heads of State.
- 6.0 It is further emphasized that school bands should not be participated in other events external to above occasions.
- 7.0 Your attention is further drawn towards the morning assemble conducted in schools.

The morning assembly helps ensuring unity and harmony among students and a well-organized morning assembly will create a religious background and help develop patriotic feelings and advanced qualities from the childhood. Every school should conduct religious observances and the morning assembly with the participation of students and the teaching staff before the commencement of daily activities. If available resources are limited, the assembly may be conducted at section level. After religious observances, the school anthem should be sung and the Principal or a teacher should conduct a speech of guidance. It is adequate to allocate 15 minutes for the morning assembly. If any difficulties arise in implementing this immediately, it is the responsibility of the Principal to organize the morning assembly with the available resources.

8.0 Arrangements should be made to conduct a physical exercise session of a maximum of 10 minutes for all students on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In case of the absence of a sports teacher, a teacher knowledgeable in this regard may be assigned.

The duration allocated for both the morning assembly and the physical exercise session should not exceed 15 minutes.

9.0 At the end of the day, the teachers assigned for the last period should ensure that the students make religious observances and depart the classroom in a disciplined manner.

The decision of the Secretary to the Ministry of Education will be final and conclusive in relation to any issue arisen from this Circular.

N. H. M. Chithrananda

Secretary

Ministry of Education

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- 2. Chief Secretaries to Provincial Councils
- 3. Chairman, National Education Commission
- 4. Director General, National Institute of Education
- 5. Commissioner General of Examinations
- 6. Commissioner General of Educational Publications
- 7. All Staff Officers of the Ministry of Education
- 8. All Sectional Heads of the Ministry of Education

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