



The Republic of South Sudan
Ministry of General Education and Instruction
Office of the Undersecretary

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20 January 2021

Circular No 03/2021

Access to Education and Examination for pregnant candidates

To All Directors General of the State Ministries of Education

I am delighted that preparing for final primary and secondary examinations in our schools is progressing well. The purpose of this circular is to urge you to enable all registered candidates to sit the final examinations.

The provision of Chapter 2 of the General Education Act, 2012 stipulates that: "education shall be accessible to all citizens in South Sudan without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, health status including HIV/AIDS, gender or disability". Therefore, I direct that all registered candidates for primary and secondary school leaving examinations, including pregnant ones, must be allowed to sit the examinations.

As Directors General of Education in the ten States and the three Administrative Areas, it is your duty to promote education for all and through that foster gender equity, human rights and the development of South Sudan. Paragraph 7 of the General Education Act further provides that the goals of general education are to:

- "Eradicate illiteracy, improve employability of young people and adults and promote lifelong learning for all citizens;
- Provide equitable access to learning opportunities for all citizens to redress the past inequalities in education provision;
- Achieve equity and promote gender equality and the advancement of the status of women;
- Contribute to all personal development of each learner and to the moral, social, cultural, political and economic development of the nation (...);"

These and other provisions of the General Education Act 2012, read together with the Child Act, 2008, and the Education Strategic Plan, 2017-2022 and the Girls' Education Strategy, 2018-2022, emphasise the need for adoption of inclusive approaches for all learners, including disadvantaged ones, such as learners at risk of early marriage/married early, pregnant and learners with disabilities.

In addition to the said provisions, the Child Act 2008 in particular explicitly states that “no girl can be expelled from school due to pregnancy and that young mothers must be allowed to continue their education”.

Head teachers, School Management Committees (SMCs), Boards of Governors (BoGs) and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), in cooperation with the Payam Education Supervisors, County Education Inspectors and State Ministries of Education are hereby directed to ensure that all vulnerable learners, especially the pregnant learners are permitted to continue their education, especially the currently ongoing preparation for the examinations and further education following the reopening of schools for the Academic Year 2021.

I reiterate that:

“All pregnant candidates shall be permitted to register for and sit their final examinations. No pregnant learner shall be refused access to education or examination and all shall proactively be encouraged to continue their education.”

Thank you so much for your cooperation and good luck for all our primary and secondary school candidates!

Yours sincerely,

Kuyok Abol Kuyok
Undersecretary



CC: Hon. Martin Tako Moi, Acting Minister, Ministry of General Education and Instruction.

CC: Ustaz Simon Nyok Deng, Secretary General, South Sudan Examinations Council

CC: Ms Rama Hansraj, Country Director, Save the Children International, Juba

CC: Mr Steward Francis Kutiyote, Country Director, Windle Trust International, Juba

CC: All Directors General, Ministry of General Education and Instruction.

CC: Dr Pawan Kucita, Chief of Education, UNICEF, Juba

CC: Ms Akuja Mading de Garang, Team Leader, Girls Education South Sudan, (GESS) Juba

CC: Education Programme Officers. AGENCI, CoBE, ECW, EPRR et al

CC: File