



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**State Department of Basic Education**

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REF: MOE.HQS/3/6/56

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016

Jay Kimmelman  
Chief Executive Officer  
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NAIROBI

**RE: REGISTRATION OF BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIES (BIA) LTD**

As you are aware the Ministry has held various meetings with the management of the Bridge International Academies over the issue of registration of your institutions.

The first Bridge International Academy was opened at Mukuru Kwa Njenga Slums as an APBET Institution. This was after an Education Officer visited one of the institutions in 2009 and wrote a letter indicating that the Institution met the criteria of the Ministry of Education as a non-formal Institution. You were also requested to seek for registration with the relevant Ministries then.

The establishment of this one institution was however, followed by opening up of similar institutions throughout the country. Currently BIA institutions stand at over 400 schools with an enrolment of over 100,000 children. The case of registration of BIA institutions came into the lime light when the management of the academies wanted to register their candidates for K.C.P.E in 2014.

This led to the Ministry having various meetings with Bridge International Academy (BIA) management. In these meetings it was agreed that:-



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1. Each of the schools be individually registered as private schools as per the Basic Education Act 2013.
2. Schools should follow the 8-4-4 approved curriculum
3. Ensure all teachers were trained
4. BIA cultivates a working respectable relationship with all education officials at all the levels and allows inspection of their schools.
5. BIA should engage public works in designing and construction of school facilities.
6. Liaise with KICD to vet new innovations
7. CDEs were asked to facilitate registration but only on condition that the schools met the set criteria.

The office of the Education Secretary then wrote to BIA on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 reiterating that the BIA should follow the laid down procedure of guidelines issued by MOEST.

In January 2015 a brief to the Principal Secretary indicated that BIA had not complied with the laid down regulations. On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 the Principal Secretary was again briefed on the status of the BIA academies as reported by the County Directors of Education. It was reported that all schools which had been assessed did not qualify to be registered under the Basic Education Act 2013.

The reports from Nairobi, Meru, Siaya and Nyeri Counties indicated that there was no change. The Director General wrote a letter to BIA on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 communicating the issues agreed upon during the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and Directors held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016. BIA was expected to:-

1. Provide proper teaching and learning environment with clean adequate sanitation facilities, clean water and a safe environment in accordance with the Ministry's Safety Standards regulations immediately;
2. Submit the contents of tablets used for teaching in BIA to KICD within three months for vetting and approval by 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2016;
3. Ensure 30% of the teachers were trained and liaise with teacher training colleges in order to train the unqualified 70% by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016;
4. Use approved textbooks listed in the orange book by 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2016;
5. Provide appropriate learner friendly infrastructure in all Bridge Academies and compliance certificate be obtained from Public Works and National Construction Authority by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017;
6. Fully comply with the Basic Education Act 2013 and APBET guidelines on registration of Institutions 2015 by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016.

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The Cabinet Secretary in the meeting also emphasized the need for the Academies to comply failure with which, he would have no choice but to close the institutions.

The APBET guidelines were launched on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The guidelines mainly apply to service providers who support education in the informal settlements within the cities of Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa and Urban areas as designated by the law. They will also apply to APBET Institutions as well as mobile and feeder schools in the Arid and Semi-Arid Nomadic counties. These institutions are expected to gradually be upgraded to public schools.

Assessments carried out by KNEC and Education Standards and Quality Assurance Council, in in 61 Bridge International Academies in Bungoma, Murang'a Trans Zoia, Kisii, Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu and Mombasa between 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 established that:-

1. BIA were private Institutions
2. Curriculum being offered was not recommended by KICD
3. School infrastructure was of poor quality and the classrooms were not of set standards.
4. Children were paying fees, lunch money and they also bought school uniform, yet the schools were supposed to help the poor.
5. Some of the schools were not in areas that were APBET designated.
6. Teachers were relying on lessons pre-prepared elsewhere. In one instance when the tablets failed to work the teachers could not teach.

Whereas we appreciate that BIA submitted the tablets to KICD for vetting, we however regret to inform you that KICD established the following:

- (a) Most of the content taught is not relevant to the Kenyan curriculum objectives.
- (b) The teaching approach the teachers are expected to use is teacher-centred and the teacher is not allowed flexibility to attend to individual learner needs or adopt lessons to the different learning environment and to learners with special needs.
- (c) Lesson plans used are not prepared by the individual teachers as required. These are downloaded a few hours prior to each lesson and are used as such.
- (d) Teachers have no access to previous lessons taught for reference and continuity of lesson presentation.
- (e) Teachers do not prepare schemes of work to plan for their teaching activities.

It has been recommended that BIA be required to use the KICD syllabuses and meet all attendant requirements in terms of:

- Use of appropriate and recommended course materials
- Use of appropriate teaching learning methods
- Individual teacher preparation of schemes of work and lesson plans

In addition little or no improvement has been noted in the school environment. It has also been noted that some of the BIA have been established in areas not designated for APBET.

In view of the above and the fact that KICD has indicated the curriculum being followed is not 8-4-4 and that:-

You are hereby given 90 days from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to have all your institutions comply with the set guidelines and standards. Failure to which your institutions risk being closed by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.

By a copy of this letter all the CDEs are asked to provide information to this office on the number of BIA schools and the number of children in these schools that fall under their jurisdiction.

This is for the purpose of preparing for placing the children into other schools during the first term of 2017 in the event that the BIA schools do not meet the deadlines.

**Leah K. Rotich (MRS) MBS**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Copy to:

Cabinet Secretary  
Principal Secretary  
All Directors, State Department of Basic Education  
CEO/Secretary, TSC  
Director KICD  
Ag. Secretary/CEO, KNEC  
All County Directors of Education

