

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIES CONTINUES TO BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF EDUCATION STANDARDS IN KENYA**

*Nairobi, Kenya, 19 July 2017*

**Communication from the Ministry of Education to Bridge International Academies shows that the company remains non-compliant where National Education Regulations, Norms and Standards are concerned.**

In a letter dated 29 June 2017, addressed to Bridge International Academies (BIA), the Ministry of Education in Kenya states that BIA continues to operate in breach of national standards and regulations. While the company has [claimed to be 'partnering'](#) with the Government, this letter provides a significantly different view.

The letter confirms that the materials and curriculum being used by Bridge International Academies have never been approved by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. Contents therein further indicate that Bridge International Academies, should register as a Private School as their model does not fall within the [APBET](#) category. As such, the company has since failed to secure full registration of any of its schools to date and according to the Ministry of Education, as seen in a section of the letter:

In view of the above we insist that BIA has to comply as directed and not hide under the APBET guidelines. The County Education Boards are able to decide which schools fall under APBET and which are basically private. The BIA concept falls under private category.

[Bridge International Academies](#) is an American commercial company that operates 405 low-fee private schools in Kenya, supported by international investors. The company has been the subject of debate in Kenya and Uganda over the last year due to allegations that it offers poor quality education and poor labour conditions, as well as over its failure to respect the law, as stated in recent [independent research](#) and [investigative journalistic pieces](#).

Zulekha Amin a Programme Officer- Education and Litigation at Haki Jamii reacted:

*"It is quite unfortunate that foreign entities continue to operate without due consideration, adherence and deference to the laws of the land. Furthermore, they continue to expand their operations in full knowledge of their non-compliance. This is unacceptable. The longer we wait to address this situation, the worse off we will be."*

Boaz Waruku a Program Manager and Civil Society Education Fund Africa Coordinator at ANCEFA added:

*"Bridge International Academies should dedicate resources to not only comply with regulations but to far exceed them. The company challenges or seems to push for the lowering of basic educational standards in Kenya and other African countries in which it operates as profit is one of their major concerns. The authorities fulfil their human rights obligations by regulating these schools, as has been emphasised recently in the general comment 24 adopted by the UN general Assembly in June 2017. The comment outlined state obligations in relation to the regulation of businesses such as Bridge International Academies."*

We stand with all proprietors who respect national standards and regulations in their efforts to realize every child's right to education.

**END**

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