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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

No. 878

29 October 2012

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 27 OF 1996)**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE CURRENT PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS THAT IMPACT ON THE STANDARD OF THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

1. I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, hereby establish A Ministerial Committee to investigate the current promotion requirements and other related matters that impact on the standard of the National Senior Certificate
2. The Ministerial Committee will be responsible to:
 - (a) investigate all facets of the National Senior Certificate and making recommendations to me on how these matters can be addressed;
 - (b) demonstrate to the South African public that the Department of Basic Education is committed to maintaining the credibility of the National Senior Certificate; and
 - (c) improve the public perception and confidence in the National Senior Certificate qualification.
3. The terms of reference of the Ministerial Committee will be as follows:
 - (a) to establish from current research and media reports the main concerns relating to the NSC;
 - (b) to conduct a comparative study of the promotion requirements of the National Senior Certificate and other similar exit qualifications in a few countries that are of international repute;

- (c) to consult with the key recipients of the National Senior Certificate in the South African academic, workplace and business environment and identify their concerns about the National Senior Certificate and how these can be addressed in the short to medium term;
 - (d) to evaluate the currency of Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy and whether this is the best option for the South African schooling system in terms of preparing learners for the work place and higher education studies;
 - (e) to ascertain whether Mathematical Literacy should not rather be separated from Mathematics;
 - (f) to investigate the possibility of introducing another level of Mathematics, namely Technical Mathematics which is related to the technology subjects as proposed by the Principals of Technical Schools;
 - (g) to evaluate the “value add” of Life Orientation as a subject that is designed to inculcate morals, values, physical education and career guidance and to determine whether Life Orientation should not be a non-examinable subject;
 - (h) to arrange public hearings on the findings and preliminary report of the Ministerial Committee; and
 - (i) to make recommendations on the key concerns relating to the National Senior Certificate, and the implications of these recommendations, if implemented.
4. The following key stakeholder bodies, institutions and experts in education will be invited to nominate representatives to serve as members on the Ministerial Committee:
- (a) Department of Basic Education;
 - (b) Provincial Education Departments;

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- (c) International education expert(s);
 - (d) South African education expert(s);
 - (e) Department of Higher Education and Training,
 - (f) Umalusi Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training,
 - (g) Organised Business;
 - (h) Organised Labour;
 - (i) South African Qualifications Authority,
 - (j) Quality Council for Trade and Occupation;
 - (k) Higher Education South Africa (HESA); and
 - (l) Associations of School Governing Bodies.


MS AM MOTSHEKGA, MPI

MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION

DATE: 11 October 2012

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