



basic education

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Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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HEADS OF EDUCATIONAL PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS
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UMALUSI
PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
AFRICAN PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS

CIRCULAR S13 OF 2014

THE MANDATORY OFFERING OF MATHEMATICS AS A CHOICE SUBJECT IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)

As stated in the National Development Plan (NDP) and indicated below, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has the responsibility to almost triple the output of learners passing Mathematics and Physical Sciences:

"The Department has set a target to increase the number of learners eligible for bachelors programme to 300 000 by 2024, 350 000 learners who pass mathematics, and 320 000 learners who pass physical science. These targets are very ambitious, more than doubling the results achieved in 2010. We propose a target of 450 000 learners eligible for bachelors programme with Maths and Science by 2030." (National Planning Commission: National Development Plan, November 2011).

The NDP further proposes that the Higher Education and Training sector should produce 10 000 artisans per year such that by 2030 a total of 30 000 artisans are produced. It should also be noted that these goals set in the NDP place an obligation that all schools should offer Mathematics.

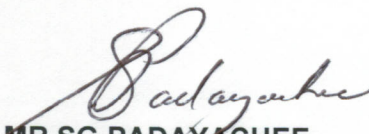
To this end, the national and provincial targets are pronounced in the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Sector Plan that was approved by the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) on the 18 September 2014. Part of the plan is to get every school in the country to enroll more learners for Mathematics while decreasing the number of learners taking Mathematical Literacy.

The DBE is considering making the necessary policy changes which will require from those learners offering one of the subjects Physical Sciences, Accounting, Economics, Agricultural Sciences, Geography, and Life Sciences to offer Mathematics instead of Mathematical Literacy.

In view of the above the department is hereby giving a directive to Further Education Training (FET) schools:

- Schools currently not offering Mathematics should, with effect from 2015, incrementally offer the subject in Grade 10 as an option between Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy;
- Schools currently offering Mathematics to increase the enrolment of Mathematics learners as in accordance with the set provincial targets;
- Schools intending to discontinue the offering of Mathematics to rescind the decision.

You are kindly requested to bring Circular S13 of 2014 to the attention of all schools and teachers involved.


MR SG PADAYACHEE
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 23/10/2014