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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

No. 1227

29 December 2009

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 27 OF 1996)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK TEAM APPOINTED TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES R – 12

I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, with the concurrence of the Council of Education Ministers and in terms of *Sections 3(4)(l)* of the *National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996)*, hereby approve the following recommendations and associated timelines of the Task Team appointed by me with the aim of reviewing the implementation of the *National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12*:

Recommendations with immediate effect for implementation in 2010:

1. Discontinuation of the Learner Portfolio Files

Learner portfolios as separate, formal compilations of assessment tasks will be discontinued from 2010. However, evidence of learners' work and performance, and a record of school-based assessment remains a requirement for promotion and progression.

2. Requirements for a single teacher file for planning the number of Learning Areas in the Intermediate Phase should be reduced

The Department of Basic Education has developed a guideline document for a single teacher file, which lists core requirements for the Teacher File. Teachers and other education officials will be required to adhere to these requirements.

3. Reduction of the number of projects required by learners

The number of projects as part of the School-Based Assessment component will be reduced to one project per subject. Draft samples of projects to be shared with schools and teachers have been developed by the Department of Basic Education and will be distributed to schools.

4. The discontinuation of Common Tasks of Assessment (CTAs)

Common Tasks of Assessment (CTAs) designed and developed by the Department of Basic Education as an external assessment tool for Grade 9 at the end of the year will be discontinued with immediate effect. This will be replaced by annual national assessment

Recommendations with a longer term effect for implementation in 2011

- 1. The reduction of the number of Learning Areas in the Intermediate Phase of the General Education and Training Band**
- 2. The teaching of English as a First Additional Language must be given priority. English should be taught from Grade 1.**

3. **Regular external systematic assessment of Mathematics, Home Language and English First Additional Language in Grades 3, 6 and 9.**
4. **The development of National Curriculum and Assessment Policy documents per learning area and subject**

National Curriculum and Assessment Policy documents for each learning area in the GET Phase and each subject in the FET Phase will be developed in the correct policy format to be implemented in January 2011.

The longer term recommendations need policy and regulation changes and will follow the normal development processes as stipulated in the *National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996)* and the *South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996)*.

AM MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION
