



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Tel: (062) 50 9000
Fax: (062) 50 9073
Enquiries: Dr P. Simalumba
Email: psimalumba@nied.edu.na

Luther Street, Govt. Office Park
P/Bag 13186
WINDHOEK

File No. 11/1/2

10 June 2020

FORMAL EDUCATION CIRCULAR 6/2020

TO: HONOURABLE MINISTER
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICERS: REGIONAL COUNCILS
ALL DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE
INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION OFFICERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
TEACHERS
NANTU, TUN, NANSO
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

CIRCULAR: FORM ED: 6/2020

**SUBJECT: RATIONALISATION OF THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR
PRE-PRIMARY, GRADE 1-9 IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 STATE
OF EMERGENCY**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The disruption of the original School Calendar for 2020 as a result of the declaration of the State of Emergency on 14 March 2020 by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia and the extended lockdown from 17th April to 5th May 2020, subsequent stages including the post COVID-19 measures will have an impact on the completion of syllabuses within this academic year.

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1.2 This necessitated the need to provide guidance to schools so that learners complete the academic year for promotion to the next grades with the core competencies of knowledge, skills and values.

2. RATIONALISED CURRICULUM

2.1 The Ministry recommended the rationalisation of the curriculum to 70% of the original subject syllabuses' content for Pre-primary, Grade 1 to 9. Due to this adjustment the Grade 9 semi-external examinations will not be administered in this academic year.

2.2 The rationalized curriculum documents for each phase provide guidance on skills to be developed through themes and topics within subjects to be focused on; in particular the current focus should be on development of higher order thinking skills. It is recommended to approach teaching and learning in a holistic way.

2.3 Supplementary subjects remain critical for psycho-social and physical wellness of learners even though they are not part of the rationalisation exercise. The focus for Junior Primary, especially Grade 1-3 should be on numeracy and literacy, with the concentration on four subjects (two Languages, Mathematics and Environmental Studies – with aspects of COVID-19 health protocols re-emphasised).

2.4 Care and consideration should be taken to allow more time for teaching and learning supported by formative assessment, but not dominated by assessment. In cases of changed assessment records, the forms were revised to reduce the number of assessment tasks required.

2.5 The Ministry is aware of the fact that schools used and follow different schemes of work as appropriate to the local circumstances. In Senior Primary some syllabuses are designed into two distinct sections. Natural Science and Health Education for example lay a foundation for Life Science and Physical Science while Social Studies prepare learners for both History and Geography in Junior Secondary. Cognizance is taken of the fact that there is a high possibility that some schools covered part of the one section with some less critical topics/themes during the first term. However teachers will have to strategise on how to cover the rationalized curriculum content and skills.

The Ministry hereby submits the rationalised curriculum for implementation as approved by the National Examinations, Assessment and Certification Board (NEACB) on 1st June 2020 after consultations with the members.

Yours sincerely


Sanet L. Steenkamp
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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PREVIOUS CIRCULAR: FORM. ED 5/2020

SUBJECT: ADMISSION OF LEARNERS FOR 2021

**ADDRESSEES: HONOURABLE MINISTER
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICERS: REGIONAL COUNCILS
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