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GOVERNMENT NOTICE GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWING

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DEPARTEMENT VAN ONDERWYS

No. 320

2 March 1998

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

In terms of section 8 of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996), the Minister of Education has a monitoring and evaluation function with regard to the implementation of national policy on education. If the outcome of the monitoring and evaluation necessitates further investigation, the Minister may, in terms of section 3 (4) (d) and 3 (4) (1) of the said Act, mandate research with a view to developing new policy or amending current policy.

Now, therefore, I, Sibusiso Mandlenkosi Emmanuel Bengu, Minister of Education, hereby request any person, society or organisation to submit to me **before 25 March 1998**, the names of persons who, by virtue of their knowledge and experience, may be considered for appointment as members of the aforesaid Committee.

Nominations, accompanied by the *curriculum vitae* of the nominee and a letter of consent to serve on the Committee, if selected, should be forwarded to:

**The Director-General: Education
(For Attention: Dr I. L. Rensburg)
Private Bag X895
PRETORIA
0001.**

S. M. E. BENGU
Minister of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SENIOR CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS****1. INTRODUCTION**

The Senior Certificate Examinations in its current form was implemented for the first time in 1996 and then in 1997. The examination system has been monitored and evaluated by the Task Team on Examinations appointed by the Minister in 1996 and other Provincial and National Teams. These monitoring initiatives have revealed that there are certain issues that need further investigation in order to ensure that the Senior Certificate examination is credible, sound, non-discriminatory, of appropriate standard and contributes to the improvement of teaching and learning.

Therefore, to furnish the Minister with information that will enable him to decide whether a change in policy or new policy is necessary, a Ministerial Committee consisting of experts in the field of examinations and certification is recommended is being established.

**2. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE
SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS**

The ministerial committee will investigate:

- * the standardisation of the senior certificate examination results;
- * the capacity of provincial education departments to analyse the senior certificate results; and
- * the examination computer system currently used in the examination process.

2.1. The Standardisation of Senior Certificate Results.

- (a) An analysis of the *South African Certification Council Act, 1986 (no. 85 of 1986)* with a view to establishing whether the act adequately provides for the maintaining of standards across the various examining bodies, given the diversity of the South African learner population.
- (b) An investigation into the role of the SAFCERT council and its executive arm, in relation to the Act.
- (c) An investigation into the mechanism of standardisation used by SAFCERT with a view to ascertaining whether the current mechanism is the most suitable and appropriate given the historical background of South Africa.
- (d) Outline the relationship between SAFCERT, the Examining Bodies and the National Department of Education, as described in the Act and to recommend a possible change in that relationship, if considered necessary.
- (e) To investigate the level of understanding of the standardisation process by the Provincial Education Departments and the capacity of these Departments to accurately implement the standardisation process as required by SAFCERT.

2.2. The Capacity of the Provincial Education Departments to Analyse the Senior Certificate Results.

To investigate the capacity of the Provincial Education Departments to analyse the senior certificate results, using appropriate methodologies with a view to:

- * arriving at appropriate conclusions about the state of teaching and learning in the province;
- * reporting effectively on the problems responsible for poor performance in the senior certificate examination; and
- * putting in place appropriate measures to improve learner and learning site performance.

2.3. The Examination Computer System.

- (a) To analyse the examination system currently used by the Provincial Examining Bodies so as to determine the suitability, efficiency and effectiveness of the system.
- (b) To investigate whether all programme changes to the system i.e. pass and endorsement requirements as stipulated in Reports 550, are accurately and timeously effected.
- (c) To determine the level of understanding of the computer system by personnel currently working with the system.
- (d) To review the technical capacity of the provinces to accurately and timeously capture, process and report on examination data.
- (e) To evaluate the nature, quality and financial implications of the service offered by QData Consulting Services, to eight of the nine provinces in terms of maintaining the computer system.
- (f) To evaluate the nature, quality and financial implications of the system and its maintenance, as utilised by the Western Cape Education Department.
- (g) To investigate the current and future role of the Help Desk services currently offered by the QData Help Desk.
- (h) To establish the progress made by the Provincial Departments in securing a new contract on either the development of a new computer system or the maintenance of the existing system.

- (i) To investigate, in the case of provinces that have decided to develop a new system, the feasibility of maintaining a parallel run so as to ensure a successful implementation of a new system.
- (j) To investigate in conjunction with the Gauteng Department of Education the future location of the Historical Data and the Help Desk Services.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE AND TERM OF OFFICE

- 3.1. The Committee will comprise of eight persons. The Committee will be headed by a chairperson, appointed by the Minister, who will take full responsibility for the Committee.
- 3.2. The nature of the terms of reference of the committee is such that, it is necessary to divide the Committee into two Working Groups. Each of the Working Groups will be managed by a Group Co-ordinator. The Committee as a unit will be collectively responsible for the entire brief but for the purpose of specialisation, the Working Groups will function as follows:

Working Group 1 : Investigation of the Standardisation of the Senior Certificate Examination Results
Terms of reference as outlined in paragraphs 2.1.(a) to 2.1.(e)

Working Group 2: Investigation of the capacity of the Provincial Education Departments to analyse the Senior Certificate results.
Investigation of the Computer Examination System.
Brief as outlined in 2.2. and 2.3.(a) to 2.3.(j)

- 3.3. The members of Working Group 1, must have a knowledge of the following:
 - * educational statistics with particular reference to examinations and standardisation;
 - * school examination systems and processes.
 - * the current school policy as contained in report 550 and reports 190 and 191.
 - * the latest developments relating to SAQA policy on standards setting and quality assurance; and
 - * the future role of examinations.

3.4. The members of Working Group 2 must have a knowledge of the following:

- * quantitative and qualitative analysis and interpretation of results
- * information technology as it relates to examination systems.
- * the current examination system used by the various examining bodies;
- * minimum specifications for an effective computer system used in the examination process; and
- * procedures and strategies used in the audit of a computer system.

3.5. The term of office for the Committee members shall be 30 working days effective from the date of appointment which period may be extended or shortened at the discretion of the Minister after consultation with the Director General and the Chairperson of the Committee. Members of the committee will be based at the Department of Education in Pretoria and the remuneration will be R586,00 (five hundred and eighty six rands) per day. The chairperson will receive R761,00 (seven hundred and sixty one rands) per day.

No. 320

2 Maart 1998

MINISTERIËLE KOMITEE TEN OPSIGTE VAN DIE SENIORCERTIFIKAATEKSAMEN
VRA VAN NOMINASIES: DIE MINISTERIËLE KOMITEE TEN OPSIGTE VAN DIE
SENIORCERTIFIKAATEKSAMEN

Ingevolge artikel 8 van die Wet op Nasionale Onderwysbeleid, 1996 (Wet No. 27 van 1996), beskik die Minister oor 'n monitorings- en evalueringsfunksie ten opsigte van die implementering van nasionale onderwysbeleid. Indien die uitslag van die monitoring en evaluering verdere ondersoek noodsaak, kan die Minister ingevolge artikel 3 (4) (d) en 3 (4) (l) van die genoemde Wet 'n mandaat gee vir die ontwikkeling van nuwe beleid of vir die wysiging van bestaande beleid.

Nou, dus, versoek ek, Sibusiso Mandlenkosi Emmanuel Bengu, Minister van Onderwys, hiermee enige persoon, vereniging of organisasie om aan my voor te lê, **voor 23 Maart 1998**, die name van persone wat, uit hoofde van hulle kennis en ervaring, oorweeg kan word vir aanstelling as lede van die genoemde Komitee.

Nominasies, vergesel van die curriculum vitae van die genomineerde en 'n toestemmingsbrief om op die Komitee te dien, indien gekies, moet gestuur word aan:

Die Direkteur-Generaal: Onderwys
(Vir aandag: Dr. I. L. Rensburg)
Privaatsak X895
PRETORIA
0001.

S. M. E. BENGU
Minister van Onderwys

DEPARTEMENT VAN ONDERWYS**MINISTERIËLE KOMITEE TEN OPSIGTE VAN DIE
SENIORSERTIFIKAATEKSAMEN****1. INLEIDING**

Die Seniorsertifikaateksamen in sy huidige vorm is vir die eerste keer in 1996 en toe in 1997 geïmplementeer. Die eksamenstelsel is deur die Taakspan vir Eksamens wat in 1996 deur die Minister aangestel is, asook deur ander Provinsiale en Nasionale Spanne gemoniteer en geëvalueer. Hierdie moniteringsinisiatiewe het aan die lig gebring dat daar sekere aangeleenthede is wat verder ondersoek moet word ten einde te verseker dat die Seniorsertifikaateksamen geloofwaardig, gesond, nie-diskriminerend en van toepaslike standaard is en dat dit bydra tot die verbetering van onderrig en leer.

Gevolgtlik, ten einde die Minister van inligting te voorsien om hom in staat te stel om te besluit of beleidsverandering of nuwe beleid nodig is, is 'n Ministeriële Komitee bestaande uit kundiges op die gebied van eksamens en sertifisering aanbeveel vir totstandkoming.

**2. VERWYSINGSRAAMWERK VAN DIE MINISTERIËLE KOMITEE TEN
OPSIGTE VAN DIE SENIORSERTIFIKAATEKSAMEN**

Die Ministeriële komitee sal ondersoek instel na:

- * die standaardisering van die uitslae van die seniorsertifikaateksamen;
- * die vermoë van die provinsiale onderwysdepartemente om die uitslae van die seniorsertifikaateksamen te ontleed; en
- * die rekenaarsstelsel tans in gebruik in die eksamenproses.

2.1 Die Standaardisering van Seniorsertifikaatuitslae

- (a) 'n Ontleding van die *Wet op die Suid-Afrikaanse Sertifiseringsraad, 1986 No. 85 van 1986*) met die oog daarop om vas te stel of die Wet afdoende voorsiening maak vir die instandhouding van standarde deur die onderskeie eksaminerende liggame, in die lig van die diversiteit van die Suid-Afrikaanse leerderbevolking.
- (b) 'n Onderzoek na die rol van die SAFSERT-raad en sy uitvoerende komponent ten opsigte van die Wet.
- (c) 'n Onderzoek na die meganisme vir standaardisering deur SAFSERT gebruik met die oog daarop om vas te stel of die bestaande meganisme die mees geskikte en toepaslike is gesien teen die geskiedkundige agtergrond van Suid-Afrika.
- (d) Omskryf die verhouding tussen SAFSERT, die Eksaminerende Liggame en die Nasionale Departement van Onderwys, soos in die Wet beskryf en beveel 'n moontlike verandering in dié verhouding aan, indien nodig geag.
- (e) Stel ondersoek in na die vlak van begrip van die standaardiseringsproses van die Provinsiale Onderwysdepartemente en die vermoë van dié Departemente om die standaardiseringsproses te implementeer soos deur SAFSERT vereis.

2.2 Die Vermoë van die Provinsiale Onderwysdepartemente om die Uitslae van die Seniorsertifikaateksamen te Ontleed

Om ondersoek in te stel na die vermoë van die Provinsiale Onderwysdepartemente om die uitslae van die seniorcertifikaateksamen te ontleed, met die doel om:

- * toepaslike gevolgtrekkings oor die stand van onderrig en leer in die provinsie te maak;
- * effektief oor die probleme wat verantwoordelik is vir swak prestasie in die seniorcertifikaateksamen verslag te doen; en
- * toepaslike maatreëls daar te stel om die prestasie van leerders en leerterreine te verbeter.

2.3 Die Eksamenrekenaarstelsel

- (a) Om die eksamenstelsel wat tans in gebruik is by die Provinsiale Eksaminerende Liggame te ontleed ten einde die geskiktheid, doeltreffendheid en doelmatigheid daarvan te bepaal.
- (b) Om ondersoek in te stel of alle programveranderinge aan die stelsel, d.w.s. slaag- en endosseringsvereistes soos in Verslag 550 gestel, akkuraat en betyds aangebring is.
- (c) Om die vlak van begrip van die rekenaarstelsel van personeel wat tans met die stelsel werk, te bepaal.
- (d) Om die tegniese vermoë van die provinsies om eksamendata akkuraat en betyds vas te lê, te verwerk en daarvoor verslag te doen.
- (e) Om die aard, gehalte en finansiële implikasies van die diens wat deur QData Konsultantediens aan agt van die nege provinsies gelewer word met betrekking tot die instandhouding van die rekenaarstelsel, te beoordeel.
- (f) Om die aard, gehalte en finansiële implikasies van die stelsel en sy instandhouding, te beoordeel, soos dit deur die Wes-Kaapse Onserwysdepartement gebruik word.
- (g) Om ondersoek in te stel na die huidige en toekomstige rol van die van die Hulpdiens wat tans deur die QData Hulptonbank aangebied word.
- (h) Om vas te stel watter vordering die Provinsiale Departemente gemaak het met die sluit van 'n nuwe kontrak vir die ontwikkeling van 'n nuwe rekenaarstelsel of vir die instandhouding van die bestaande stelsel.
- (i) Om ondersoek in te stel, in die geval van provinsies wat besluit het om 'n nuwe stelsel te ontwikkel, na die haalbaarheid van die instandhouding van 'n parallelle lopie om sodoende die suksesvolle implementering van 'n nuwe stelsel te verseker.
- (j) Om in samewerking met die Gauteng Onderwysdepartement ondersoek in te stel na die toekomstige plasing van die Historiese Data- en die Hulptonbankdiens.

3. SAMESTELLING VAN DIE KOMITEE EN DIENSTERMYN

3.1 Die Komitee sal gelei word deur 'n voorsitter wat deur die Minister aangestel sal word en wat volle verantwoordelikheid vir die Komitee sal aanvaar.

3.2 Die aard van die verwysingsraamwerk van die Komitee is sodanig dat dit nodig is om die Komitee in twee Werkgroepe te verdeel. Elk van die Werkgroepe sal deur 'n Groepkoördineerder bestuur word. Die Komitee as 'n eenheid sal gesamentlik verantwoordelik wees vir die totale opdrag, maar vir die doel van spesialisering sal die Werkgroepe soos volg funksioneer:

Werkgroep 1: Ondersoek na die Standaardisering van die Uitslae van die Seniorsertifikaateksamen.

Verwysingsraamwerk soos uiteengesit in paragraaf 2.1.(a) tot 2.1.(e)

Werkgroep 2: Ondersoek na die vermoë van die Provinsiale Onderwysdepartemente om die uitslae van die Seniorsertifikaateksamen te ontleed

Opdrag soos uiteengesit in 2.2, 2.3.(a) tot 2.3.(j).

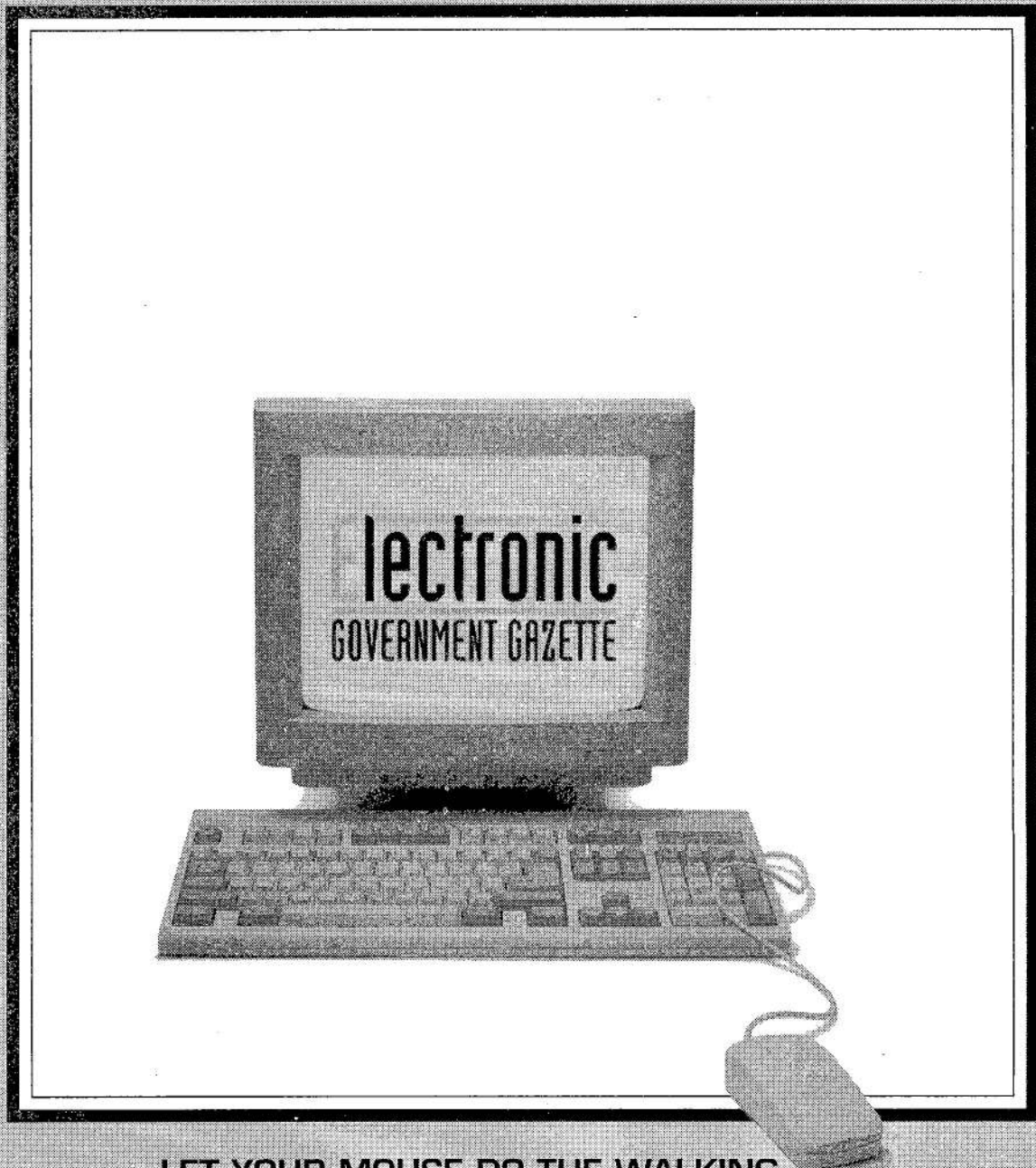
3.3 Die lede van Werkgroep 1 moet oor kennis van die volgende beskik

- * onderwysstatistiek met besondere verwysing na eksamens en standaardisering;
- * skooleksamenstelsel en -prosesse;
- * die huidige skoolbeleid soos vervat in verslag 550 en verslae 190 en 191;
- * die jongste ontwikkelinge rakende SAKO-beleid oor standaardstelling en gehalteversekering; en
- * die toekomstige rol van eksamens.

3.4 Die lede van Werkgroep 2 moet oor kennis van die volgende beskik

- * kwantitatiewe en kwalitatiewe ontleding en vertolking van uitslae;
- * inligtingstechnologie soos dit met eksamenstelsel verband hou;
- * die huidige eksamenstelsel deur die verskillende eksaminerende liggame gebruik word;
- * minimumspesifikasies vir 'n doeltreffende rekenaarselsel wat in die eksamenproses gebruik word; en
- * prosedures en strategieë in die ouditering van 'n rekenaarselsel.

- 3.5 Die ampstermyn van die Komiteelede sal 30 werkdag wees, met ingang van die datum van aanstelling, welke tydperk verleng of verkort kan word na die diskresie van die Minister ná oorlegpleging met die Direkteur-Generaal en die Voorsitter van die Komitee. Lede van die Komitee sal by die Departement van Onderwys in Pretoria gebaseer wees en die vergoeding sal R586,00 (vyf honderd agt en sestig rand) per dag bedra. Die voorsitter sal R761,00 (sewe honderd een en sestig rand) per dag ontvang.
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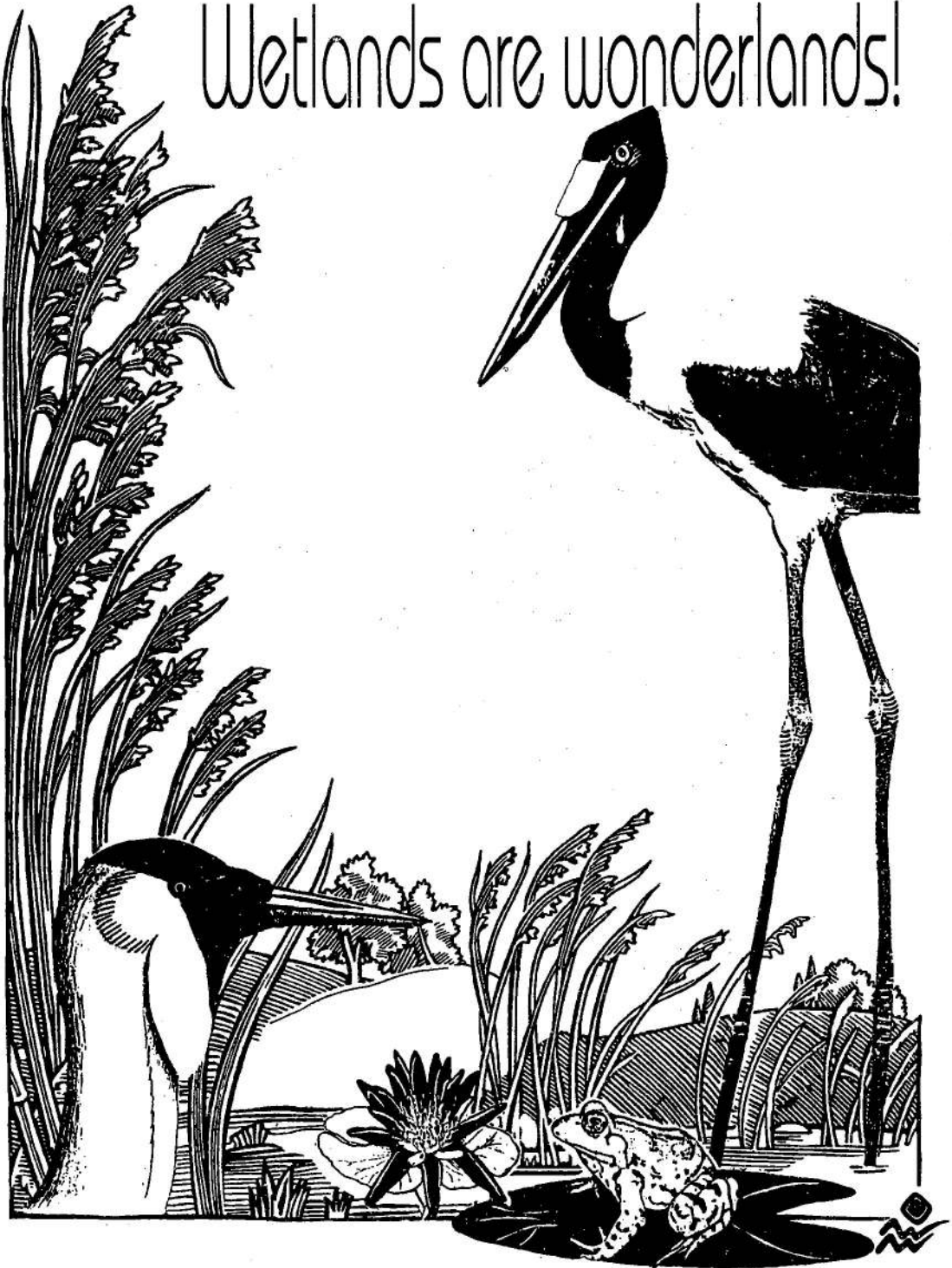
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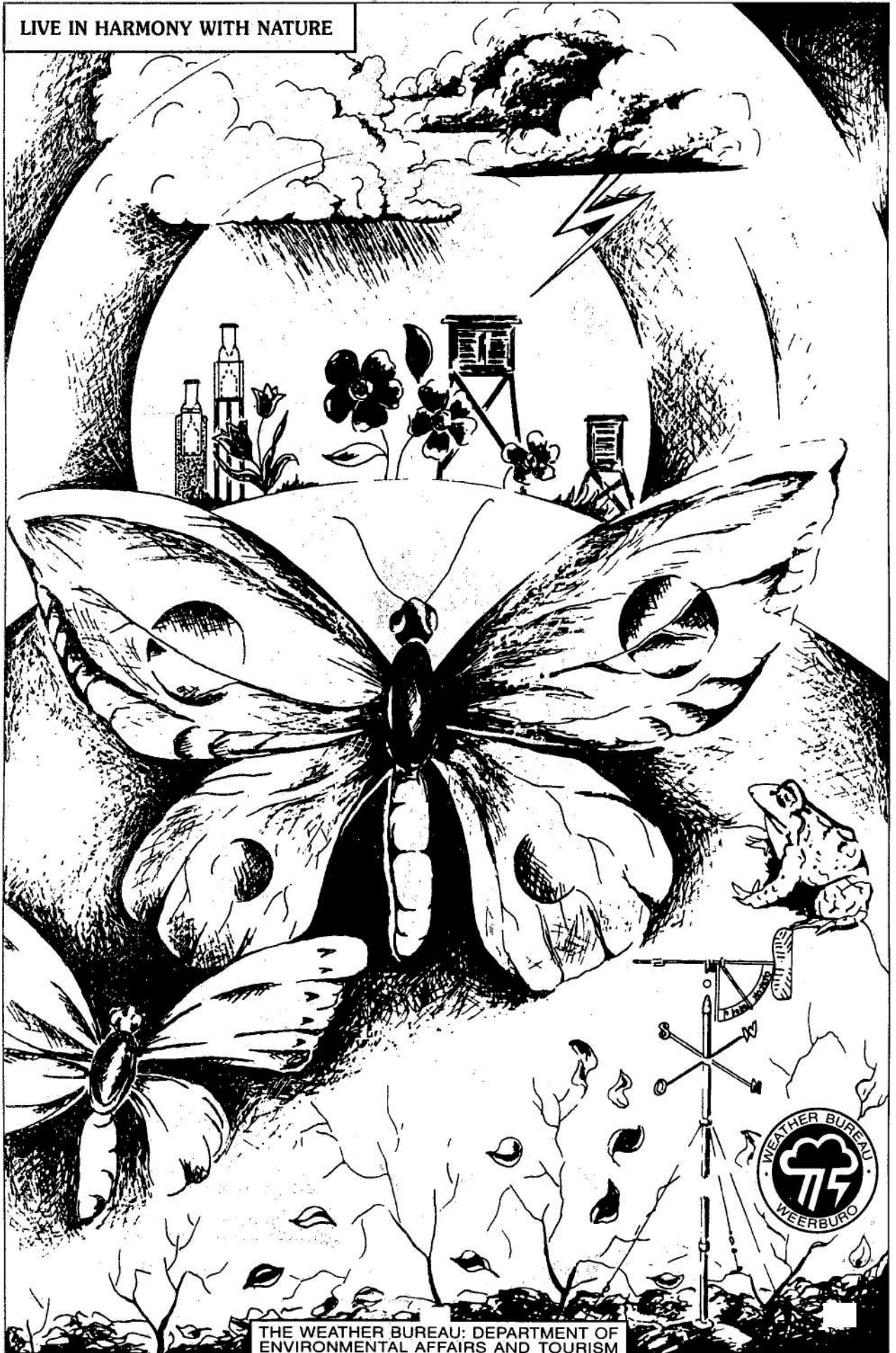
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