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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

25 June 2002

No. 887

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

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE MINISTERIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE AND ADVISE ON THE SUITABILITY OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF DIFFERENTIATION, NAMESLY STANDARD AND HIGHER GRADE IN THE SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

The Minister of Education, hereby in terms of Section 3(4)(i) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996), relating to curriculum frameworks, core syllabuses and education programmes, learning standards, examinations and the certification of qualification, approved the establishment of a Ministerial Project Committee to investigate and advise on the suitability of the current system of differentiation, namely Standard and Higher Grade in the Senior Certificate examination.

Summarily the Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Committee will include:

- an understanding, value and meaning attached to the concepts of Standard and Higher Grade by all.
- to determine the ratio of learners offering Higher and Standard Grade in Grades 10-12 and to establish whether this ratio is changing as learners proceed to Grades 11 and 12;
- to determine to what extent schools have an influence on streaming learners in Standard and Higher Grade;

- to determine the level of difficulty between Standard and Higher Grade between the various approved Senior Certificate subjects;

- to analyse the way examination papers are set by different examiners for Standard and Higher Grade;
- to determine the comparability between Standard and Higher Grade examination papers regarding content differences and to establish whether there is a difference between the various subjects in terms of differentiated content in Higher and Standard Grade;
- to determine the influence of mark adjustments on Higher and Standard Grade results;
- to determine the influence of conversion from Higher to Standard Grade, as well as from Standard to Lower Grade;
- to determine the impact of Lower Grade conversions on the total Senior Certificate examination;

- to investigate the possibility of replacing the current system of Standard and Higher Grade differentiation with an alternative method, such as a single graded examination paper for all subjects;
- to determine the role of the present system of differentiation on the cognitive, psychological and sociological aspects of the education system and the nation;
- to analyse the different practices emanating from, and informed by such understanding and meaning with specific regard to:

- teaching and learning; and
- assessment and examination practices and rituals; and
- to determine the suitability, effectiveness and efficiency of Higher and Standard Grade as a form of differentiation and its impact on the quality of the examination.

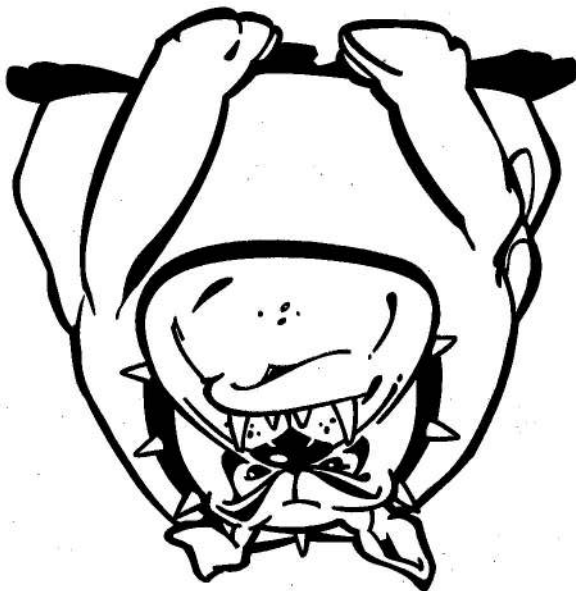
Considering the above, he has appointed the following persons as members of the Ministerial Project Committee to investigate and advise on the suitability of the current system of differentiation, namely Standard and Higher Grade in the Senior Certificate examination.

Ministerial Project Committee

NAME	DESIGNATION
Dr M. Naidoo (Convener)	Kwazulu-Natal Education Department
Dr F. Callitz	Consultant
Mr M. B. Shipalana	Limpopo Education Department
Dr J. A Myburgh	North West Education Department
Ms P. Kotecha	South African Universities' vice Chancellors' Association
Prof. N. Yeld	University of Cape Town

Prof. Kader Asmal, MP
Minister of Education

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