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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

No. 1407

6 October 2003

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 27 OF 1996) AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 84 OF 1996)

NATIONAL POLICY REGARDING FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES: APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES 10-12 (GENERAL) AS NATIONAL POLICY

The Minister of Education hereby, with the consent of Cabinet, approves, in terms of *Section 3(4)(l) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996)* and *Section 61 of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996)* as amended by *Section 9 of the Education Laws Amendment Act, 2002 (Act No. 50 of 2002)*:

The *National Curriculum Statement (NCS) Grades 10-12 (General)* as national education policy to be incrementally implemented during the period 2006-2008.

The NCS Grades 10-12 (General) is the curriculum that underpins the new Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC), namely a 130-credit qualification based on the principles of outcomes-based education (OBE) that will replace the Senior Certificate (Grades 10-12) in 2008.

The *NCS Grades 10-12 (General)* was developed during the period 27 May 2002 until 6 June 2003 under the auspices of a Ministerial Project Committee assisted by various well-represented curriculum development structures, comprising a Reference Group, twenty-five (25) Subject Working Groups and three (3) Cross-curricular Working Groups.

The Ministerial Project Committee and its various supporting structures operated in terms of clearly defined terms of reference, *inter alia*, to prepare subject statements and to provide guidelines for the development of provisional learning programmes and teaching and learning support material.

The 25 subject statements and the Qualifications and Assessment Policy Framework, developed respectively by the various Subject Working Groups and the Cross-curricular Working Group for Qualifications and Assessment, were scrutinised at various occasions by both the Ministerial Project Committee and the Reference Group and were also subject to various field tests.

Written submissions from stakeholder bodies and members of the public on the development of the NCS for Grades 10-12 (General) were called for by means of a *Government Notice, No. 1335* in the *Government Gazette, Vol. 448, No. 23988* of 28 October 2002.

On 22-23 January 2003 the Ministerial Project Committee also conducted public hearings on the NCS Grades 10-12 (General) with various stakeholder groupings.

All comments received were attended to and the final documents have been adapted accordingly.

The NCS Grades 10-12 (General) consists of the following documents:

- An Overview;
- Twenty-five (25) Subject Statements; and a
- Qualifications and Assessment Policy Framework.

Twenty-five (25) Subject statements, addressing the learning outcomes and associated assessment standards, as well as competence descriptions have been developed for the various subjects and grouped into six (6) NQF learning fields, to form national policy.

Subjects Statements have been developed for the following subjects to be incorporated into the NCS Grades 10-12 (General):

- Languages (11)
- Dance Studies
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dramatic Arts
- Design
- Life Orientation
- History
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Mathematical Literacy
- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Information Technology
- Computer Applications Technology
- Agricultural Sciences
- Accounting
- Economics
- Business Studies
- Mechanical Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Engineering Graphics and Design
- Tourism
- Hospitality Studies
- Consumer Studies.

The FETC complies with the South African Qualifications Authority's stipulations regarding the three NQF learning components, namely the Fundamental, Core and Elective Learning components.

Learners will be assessed in terms of a 6-point rating scale that will replace the current Higher Grade, Standard Grade and Lower Grade differentiation.

Copies of these documents are obtainable upon request from:

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Professor Kader Asmal, MP

Minister of Education



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