



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

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TO:

- HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER**
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
- DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**
- CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICERS: REGIONAL COUNCILS**
- ALL DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE**
- INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION**
- REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICERS**
- SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**
- HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS**
- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**
- TEACHERS**
- NANTU, TUN, NANSO**
- ALL STAKEHOLDERS**

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Following the confirmation of two COVID-19 cases in Namibia by the Ministry of Health and Social Services on 14 March 2020, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, announced appropriate precautionary measures to be taken to ensure the safety and health of all Namibians. One such measure, is the banning of all big gatherings for a period of 30 days.

It is against this background and as per the Education Act 2001 (Act No. 16 of 2001) section 37 (2), I hereby direct the following amendments to the school calendar:

- 1.1 All schools (public and private) will be closed with immediate effect, starting from 16 March 2020 for all learners and teachers;
- 1.2 The College of the Arts, Libraries, Resource Centres, Museums, National Art Gallery of Namibia and National Literacy Programmes of Namibia are also closed and suspended with immediate effect;

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1.3 Management of Resource and School Hostels must make immediate arrangements for the collection/return of learners to their homes. School Management must ensure that learners are not left unattended until they are collected by their parents/guardians.

1.4 The amended dates are as follow:

Term	School Calendar for Learners	School Calendar for Teachers
First Term First Day of School Holiday	16 March 2020	16 March 2020
Second Term First School Day Last School Day	14 April 2020 29 July 2020	14 April 2020 31 July 2020
Third Term First School Day Last School Day	24 August 2020 04 December 2020	20 August 2020 09 December 2020

This communication supersedes and nullifies our previous communication regarding calendar amendments.

I hereby further direct:

- a. Based on these amendments, crucial emphasis must be placed on the second term for teaching, learning and assessment to prepare learners for the second term examinations. This examination will cover the content of both the first and second term, therefore learners will not receive a first term progress report. The second term progress report should be used for admission purposes.
- b. School Management ensure that upon the commencement of schools in the second term, the cleanliness of schools, libraries and other educational institutions must be a key priority. All schools must strengthen the implementation of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiative, ensuring that there is sufficient soap (liquid) and tippy taps available.
- c. Parents and guardians are urged to ensure that appropriate precautionary measures are taken at home, in line with the directives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS). Parents must further oversee consistent study plans for children at home and provide the necessary support.

While putting the above mentioned measures in place, the Ministry with the support of MoHSS will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation and communicate accordingly.

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Martin Andjaba, MP
ACTING MINISTER

