

Every child is a National Asset

AMENDED 2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Presentation to the Select Committee on Education
and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture**

2 September 2020



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Purpose
- Background
- 1st Amendment of the school calendar
- 2nd Amendment of the school calendar
- Examinations and assessments
- Recommendation

PURPOSE

To present to the Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture the process of the Amended 2020 School Calendar.

BACKGROUND

- **Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) outbreak** in the country **impacted** the basic education system in general and in particular **the Approved school calendar for 2020 which was gazetted in 2018.**
- The President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr C Ramaphosa, on the 23 March **announced a national lockdown for 21 days** from Thursday midnight, 26 March 2020 until Thursday 16 April 2020 and then to 30 April 2020.
- The President then announced **further easing of the national lockdown** from Level 4 to Level 3 from 1 June 2020.
- The gradual easing of the lockdown includes, among others, the **phased reopening of schools.**

1st AMENDMENT OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- The amendment of the school calendar to its current state went through 2 phases because of the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The 1st amended 2020 School Calendar had a total of 173 school days.
- The schools used the 1-5 June week to ensure compliance with the health, safety and social distancing requirements and classes commenced on the 8 June 2020.

TERM	Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
1	(13) 15 Jan – 18 March	10	(48) 46	00	(48) 46
2	(01 June) 08 June – 07 August	(10) 09	(50) 45	01	(49) 44
3	12 August – 23 September	07	31	00	31
4	05 October – 15 December	11	52	00	52
	Total	(38) 37	(181) 174	01	(180) 173

2nd AMENDMENT OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- The President on Thursday, **23 July 2020**, addressed the Nation on progress with the management of the COVID-19 Pandemic and made an **announcement on the closure of schools and the planned reopening.**
- The President announced that **schools would be closed from 27 July and reopen on 24 August 2020.**
- The President explained that **Grade 12 learners** and teachers would have a **one week break, returning to school on 3 August 2020.**
- The **Grade 7 learners** would take a **two-week break, returning to school on 11 August 2020** and that specific arrangements would be made for different categories of special schools.

2nd AMENDMENT OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- The President further directed that the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs AM Motshekga, MP, to provide details on the management of the remainder of the school year.
- The **remainder of learners** in the following grades, years or schools will return to school on **24 August 2020**:
 - Grade R; Grade 1; Grade 2; Grade 3;
 - Grade 4; and Grade 6;
 - Grade 9; Grade 10; and Grade 11; and
 - Schools of Skill: Year 1; Year 2; and Year 3.

2nd AMENDMENT OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Heads of Education Committee (HEDCOM) and Council of Education Ministers (CEM) provided **guidance on the amendment to the school calendar** and directed its Sub-committee on School Calendars to develop a amended school calendar.
- Through its consultative process, the Sub-committee made its submission and the **CEM accepted the recommendations** and the **Minister published the 2nd Amended School Calendar for 2020.**
- The **approved 2nd amended 2020 school calendar**, which was **published on 11 August 2020.**

2nd AMENDMENT OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Publishing of the amended calendar was through the Government Notice 43609.
- The amendment starts with the third term on 24 August 2020 and ends with the fourth term on 15 December 2020.
- The third and fourth term are separated by one week holiday from 26 to 30 October 2020.
- The 2nd Amended School Calendar has **156 actual** number of school days for learners and **163** for teachers.
- It is concluded by noting that the current academic year (third and fourth terms) have **76 days** or **16 weeks** remaining.

SUMMARY OF THE AMENDED 2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- The Amended 2020 School calendar may be summarised as follows:

TERM	Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
1	(13) 15 Jan – 18 March	10	(48) 46	00	(48) 46
2	(01 June) 08 June – 24 July	(08) 07	(40) 35	01	(39) 34
3	24 August – 23 October	09	45	01	44
4	02 November – 15 December	07	32	00	32
	Total	(34) 33	(165) 158	02	(163) 156

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT - 2020

Grade R – 11

- a) Focus will be on **school-based assessment** as outlined in revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs).
- b) All **assessments** relating to these grades must be **concluded by 15 December 2020**.
- c) Learners must be issued with **school reports on 15 December 2020**, which confirms their progression/ promotion to the next grade or retention in the current grade.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT - 2020

Grade 12

- a) To ensure that the 2020 NSC November examinations conclude on 15 December 2020, (rather than 18 December 2020) it is proposed that the **examinations commence on 5 November 2020**.
- b) Subsequent key Dates:

Key Activity	Date
a) Writing of Examinations	5 Nov – 15 December 2020
b) Marking	4 Jan 2021 – 22 January 2021
c) Umalusi Standardisation	2 February 2021
d) Ministerial Announcement	22 February 2021
e) Provincial Release (MECs and Schools)	23 February 2021

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT - 2020

Grade 12

- a) With the re-opening of schools for teachers scheduled for 18 January 2021, from the 18th Jan – 22nd Jan 2021, **teachers appointed as markers may still be at marking centres.**
- b) Some of the **smaller enrolment subjects** may **conclude marking prior to 22 January 2021.**
- c) Having teachers withdrawn from school during the marking, has occurred in previous years, although not desirable.
- d) Alternatively, the **commencement** of the **new academic year** can be postponed by a week to **25 January 2021.**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture **notes and discusses** the presentation on **The Amended 2020 School Calendar.**

