



NEWSFLASH | NUUSFLITS

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RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTER

What has been learnt?

The Minister of Basic Education made her long awaited media announcement on 19 May 2020 in connection to the re-opening of schools. The reasonable expectation was that more information in regard to how schools will function and complex issues will be addressed should have been provided.

In short, the lack of detailed information was absent as it did not address the myriad of questions and uncertainties. However, clarity was provided in regard to certain matters. [Click here](#) for the full statement

The following important issues could be identified from the statement as well as against the background of the consultation session of the Minister with the SAOU and other teacher unions on 19 May 2020:

- Important dates for the return to school:
 - 25 May 2020: All SMTs who could not return during the week of 18 May 2020, as well as all other staff members must report on this date.
 - 1 June 2020: Grades 7 and 12 return.
- The return of only grades 7 and 12 was determined as the country is currently still on alert level 4. The dates for the phasing in of the other grades will be determined concomitant with the move from level 4 to level 3. As this takes place wef 1 June 2020 a possible significant move can be expected within the fortnight after 1 June 2020.
- The above return dates also apply to independent schools.
- Small schools and LSEN schools will receive special attention and will be dealt with in terms of a different dispensation.
- The school calendar will be gazetted prior to 1 June 2020 and will provide clarity on the envisaged shortened school holidays.
- The ECD centres will receive urgent attention when the move to alert level 3 occurs as the economy will open up and parents will have a dire need for these facilities.

HEROPENING VAN SKOLE AANKONDIGING DEUR MINISTER

Wat is geleer?

Die Minister van Basiese Onderwys het haar lang verwagte aankondiging op 19 Mei 2020 gemaak. Die redelike verwagting was dat veel meer inligting insake hoe skole moet funksioneer en komplekse situasies aangespreek moet word, voorsien sou word.

In kort, die gebrek aan gedetailleerde inligting was afwesig omdat sy nie die veelheid van vrae en onsekerhede aangespreek het nie. Daar is egter meer inligting ten opsigte van sekere aspekte voorsien. [Klik hier](#) vir die volledige verklaring.

Die volgende belangrike aspekte kon uit die aankondiging, asook teen die agtergrond van die konsultasiesessie van die Minister met die SAOU en ander onderwysvakbondie op 19 Mei 2020, geïdentifiseer word:

- Belangrike datums vir die terugkeer na skole:
 - 25 Mei 2020: Al die skoolbesture wat nie gedurende die week van 18 Mei kon terugkeer nie, sowel as die ander onderwyspersoneel.
 - 1 Junie 2020: Grade 7 en 12 keer terug.
- Die terugkeer van slegs grade 7 en 12 was bepaal omdat die land steeds op vlak 4 is. Die datum vir die infasering van die ander grade behoort saam te loop met die afbeweg van vlak 4 na vlak 3. Omdat die afbeweg na vlak 3 miv 1 Junie 2020 plaasvind kan 'n moontlike groter infasering binne twee weke na 1 Junie 2020 te wagte wees.
- Bogemelde datums is ook op onafhanklike skole van toepassing.
- Klein skole en LSOP skole sal spesiale aandag geniet en sal ooreenkomsdig 'n ander bedeling hanteer word.
- Die skoolkalender sal voor 1 Junie 2020 gazette word en sal sodoende ook meer inligting insake die verkorte skoolvakansies kan voorsien.
- Die VKO-sentra sal ook dringende aandag geniet nav die afbeweg na vlak 3 synde die ekonomiese

- Social distancing must be maintained and the proposal to deal with it is to have 50% of the school enrolment attend and then to implement a possible system of –
 - Attendance of different grades on alternative days;
 - Rotation on alternative weeks; or
 - Platooning.
- A very high degree of autonomy for principals and SMTs to manage the school in terms of the unfolding realities at the specific school is a possibility;
- The trimmed curriculum (per subject) will be provided to schools prior to the phasing in of the particular grades.
- The comorbidities of education staff and learners are important, but the processes and documentation has not been finalised yet. The undertaking is that it will receive urgent attention and be finalised prior to 1 June.
- The following compliance to the Covid regulations must be adhered to, i.e. that if the PPEs and sanitisation products are not delivered to the school, the provincial department of education as employer does not comply with the Covid regulations and thus it will be unlawful if the department insists on re-opening.
- The proper management and operation of school transport is extremely important to combat the uncontrolled spreading of the Corona virus. The guidelines of the Department of Transport must be adhered to.

General

The SAOU is doing its utmost to ensure the best possible dispensation for members under very challenging circumstances. We will ensure that-

- We will intervene if SAOU members are subjected to unreasonable instructions or working conditions; and
- As soon as more information is available, it will be communicated to members immediately.

- meer sal oopmaak en werkende ouers 'n dringende behoefte aan die fasilitete sal hê.
- Sosiale distansiëring sal steeds verplig wees. Die voorstel om daarvan te voldoen is om slegs 50% van leerders aanwesig te hê en dan 'n stelsel van-
 - Bywoning van verskillende grade op alternatiewe dae;
 - Rotasie op alternatiewe weke; of
 - Peletonstelsel.
- 'n Hoë vlak van outonomie aan skoolhoofde en skoolbestuurspanne kan moontlik realiseer ten einde skole in terme van die ontvouende realiteite te bestuur.
- Die ingekorte kurrikulum (per vak) sal aan skole voorsien word ooreenkomsdig die rooster van implementering van die grade.
- Die komorbiditeit van onderwyspersoneel en leerders is uiters belangrik, maar die prosesse en dokumentasie is nog nie gefinaliseer nie. Die onderneming is dat dit dringende aandag sal geniet en voor 1 Junie 2020 gefinaliseer sal word.
- Die volgende voldoening aan die Covid regulasies is steeds verpligtend, nl. indien die persoonlike beskermingsstoerusting en sanitasie produkte nie aangelewer is nie, voldoen die provinsiale departement as werkgever nie aan die voorskrifte, en sal die heropening van die skool onregmatig wees.
- Die behoorlike bestuur en bedryf van skoolvervoer is uiters belangrik om die ongekontroleerde verspreiding van die Corona-virus te verhoed. Die nakoming van die voorskrifte van die Departement van Vervoer sal uiters belangrik wees.

Algemeen

Die SAOU doen sy uiterste om die heel beste bedeling onder besonder uitdagende omstandighede vir lede te verseker. Ons poog om die volgende in plek te plaas:

- Tussenbeide te tree as SAOU-lede blootgestel word aan onredelike opdragte of diensomstandighede; en
- Sodraa meerdere inligting bekend is, dit onverwyld aan lede te kommunikeer.

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