

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

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NEWS EDITORS ALL MEDIA HOUSES

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MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS AND RETURN OF LEARNERS IN PHASES

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in consultation with its stakeholders and as per the Cabinet endorsement herewith announces the reopening of schools and subsequent resumption of face-to-face teaching and learning of learners in all schools for the remainder of the 2020 academic year.

Learners are phased in as follows:

- **Phase 1**: resumption of face-to-face schooling for the grades 11 and 12 on Wednesday, 3rd June 2020 to Friday 18th December 2020;
- *Phase 2*: resumption of face-to-face schooling for the grades, Pre-primary to Gr.3 on Monday, 22nd June 2020 to Friday, 18th December 2020.
- *Phase 3*: resumption of face-to-face schooling for grades 7 and 9 on Monday, 6th July 2020 to Friday, 18th December 2020;
- *Phase 4*: resumption of face-to-face schooling for grades 4; 5; 6; 8 and 10 on Monday, 20th July 2020 to Friday, 18th December 2020.

Please note that a mid- term break for teachers is scheduled from the $22^{nd} - 29^{th}$ May 2020 with returning to school on the 1^{st} June 2020.

The revised school calendar with the Ministerial guidelines on the re-opening of schools will still be communicated.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture together with the Regional Directorates of Education, Arts and Culture, schools, parents, other stakeholders and the community at large, will make all the resources at its disposal available to ensure that the safety of the learners is prioritized and ensured, as far as possible, at the school.

SANET L. STEENKAMP

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