TO: MECs FOR EDUCATION

HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS
ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE PROVIDERS
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS’ COUNCIL
UMALUSI
NATIONAL TEACHERS ORGANISATIONS

CIRCULAR S7 OF 2016: CLARIFICATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INCREMENTAL INTRODUCTION OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES

1. In 2013 the Department of Basic Education (DBE) announced plans to strengthen the teaching of previously marginalised official African languages through the Incremental Introduction of African Languages (IIAL).

2. The IIAL is a priority programme aimed at promoting some aspects of social cohesion in our society. It is intended to promote and develop the previously marginalised official African languages as espoused in the Constitution and the National Development Plan (NDP) provisions.
3. In 2014-2015 the Sector implemented the IIAL pilot in Grades 1-2 in 264 schools that were not offering a previously marginalised official African language. The 2016 IIAL implementation targets schools that are currently not offering a previously marginalised African language.

4. The Department of Basic Education therefore wishes to clarify that the IIAL is a strategy that is aimed to introduce a previously marginalised official African language in all the schools that are currently not offering any previously marginalised official African language.

5. According to the EMIS data, there are 3 558 schools that are not offering a previously marginalised official African language. The IIAL strategy therefore will require learners in all these schools to offer a previously marginalised official African language. The IIAL is currently underway in 838 schools. Provinces should use 2017-2019 to phase in schools that are currently not offering a previously marginalised official African language, as illustrated in the Table below:

| Projection of number of schools implementing IIAL in 2017-2020 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 838             | 1 770           | 2 655           | 3 558           |
| 24%             | 50%             | 75%             | 100%            |

6. Learners in 3 558 schools will offer three languages, of which one should be a previously marginalised official African language. The School Governing Body may, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the South African Schools Act and any applicable provincial law, determine the language or languages and their levels, which will be selected for this purpose.

7. Consequently, learners in these schools will have an extended school day. The instructional time for Grades 1-3 will increase by one hour. Grades 1-2 will increase from 23 to 24 hours per week; whereas in Grade 3 it will increase from 25 to 26 hours per week. The instructional time in the Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6), the Senior Phase (Grades 7-9) and FET (Grades 10-12) will
increase by two hours per week. It will increase from 27.5 to 29.5 hours per week.

8. The IIAL strategy will ensure that all learners in all public schools and independent schools that are following the National Curriculum Statement are offering a previously marginalised African language as part of their programme requirement.

9. The DBE, provinces and districts will continue to provide schools that are implementing the IIAL with the necessary resources and support.

10. Provinces should therefore ensure that all schools that are currently not offering a previously marginalised official African language comply with the IIAL strategy as per the sector mandate.

11. You are kindly requested to bring the content of this Circular S7 of 2016 to the attention of all provincial and district officials, SGBs, principals and teachers of both public and independent schools affected by the IIAL.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Mm. Hm. MwelL
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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