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National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)  
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Reference: 13/9/1/2

**DEPUTY DIRECTORS – GENERAL**  
**CHIEF DIRECTORS – DISTRICT OPERATIONS**  
**DISTRICT DIRECTORS**  
**CES'S - CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT**  
**CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**  
**CIRCUIT MANAGERS**  
**HEAD OFFICE AND DISTRICT HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS**  
**HEAD OFFICE AND DISTRICT FINANCE MANAGERS**  
**HEAD OFFICE NSNP DEPUTY DIRECTORS & ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTORS COORDINATING NSNP IN DISTRICTS**  
**PRINCIPALS AND SGB'S OF SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN NSNP**  
**RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS**

**KZN NSNP CIRCULAR NO. 31 OF 2025**

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF NSNP VOLUNTEER FOOD HANDLERS CONTRACTS FROM 01 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026**

1. Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs) are employed in the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) on a twenty-four (24) month or two-financial year contract to prepare meals for the learners in participating schools.
2. The current contracts of Volunteer Food Handlers commenced in April 2023 and due to end on 31 March 2025.
3. The NSNP policy as amended in 2023 provides for the extension of Volunteer Food Handlers contracts under exceptional circumstances. It states the following that *"VFHs shall be contracted for **TWO** consecutive financial years, which may under special circumstances and as may be directed by the Department through a circular or memo signed by the Head of Department of Education have their contracts extended for only one fixed financial year or 12 month period whichever is applicable after which there shall be no further extension or re-employment of Volunteer Food Handler granted in order to promote the principle of rotation and equal opportunities for community members who are parents of learners in schools participating in NSNP"*.
4. In view of the circumstances at present making it difficult to recruit and employ a new cohort of Volunteer Food Handlers in NSNP, the Department has accordingly invoked the extension clause in the policy.
5. **This circular therefore serves to notify all relevant stakeholders that the current contracts of Volunteer Food Handlers will be extended for 12 months only (one financial year only) from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.**



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6. The above extension is however subject to the following terms and conditions which must be strictly adhered to in terms of the VFH contract and NSNP policy that:
- (a) The school is still functional and has not been closed or merged as of April 2025.
  - (b) The school's NSNP approved enrolment for feeding in 2025/26 financial year shall still be on par with the approved ratio of Food Handlers per school which is 1:200.
  - (c) The maximum number of Food Handlers employed per school in terms of the official ratio does not exceed eight (8) Volunteer Food Handlers.
7. **NB: Principals of Schools and SGBs are strongly advised to ensure that no extension is denied to any Volunteer Food Handler in their schools other than on the basis of the three conditions stated in the above paragraph.**
8. To this end, it is required that all Volunteer Food Handlers whose contracts are extended in terms of this circular must sign the extension contract which will be distributed accordingly through respective districts and to be submitted back together with a clear certified ID copy (not older than 3 months) not later than Tuesday, 15 April 2025.

Kindly bring the contents of this circular to all concerned.

**Mr. GN Ngcobo**  
**Head of Department: Education**

Date: 13/3/25