



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

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News Editors

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Friday, 20 December 2024

MEC HLOMUKA WELCOMES PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BELA ACT

The MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka has welcomed the Presidential Proclamation signed today on Friday, 20 December 2024, by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, which brings Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act into full operation, following a consultation process on the contents of sections 4 and 5 of the act..

The BELA Act was signed into law by the President on 13 September 2024, with the aim of ensuring equal access to quality education for all children in South Africa over the past 30 years of our democracy.

The Act seeks to address inequalities in access to basic education by implementing policies that ensure every child has a right to quality education. This will be achieved through enhancements which include making sure school admission processes are more inclusive.

The amendments improve governance structures in schools by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of school governing bodies (SGBs) and provincial education departments. Thus holding education authorities and school management more accountable, it promotes transparency and efficiency in decision-making.

Parents will have strengthened rights aimed at improving parental involvement in school governance, fostering a more participative approach to educational management. By enhancing community engagement, schools are better able to serve the needs of their local populations and build stronger community-school partnerships.

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GROWING KWAZULU-NATAL TOGETHER

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Today's proclamation means that all sections of the BELA Act will be immediately implemented, thus ushering legislation that will ensure the constitutional rights of all learners are fully realized in our schools.

"The BELA Act provides us an opportunity to show unity in our diversity where it matters most, As we are now in the implementation phase of this legislation, we are tasked with promoting and valuing all official languages, including sign language. Our schools must embody inclusivity, while taking advantage of the rich linguistic diversity," said MEC Hlomuka.

Ends///