



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

Embargo: For Immediate Release

Date: Tuesday, 08 October 2024

KZNDOE's ADVOCACY SESSIONS ON THE BELA ACT NO. 32 OF 2024 FOR OFFICE BASED OFFICIALS

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education in conjunction with the National Department of Basic Education will host advocacy sessions on the newly signed Bela Act into law by the President of the Republic of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa on the 13th of September 2024.

The KZNDOE's Head of Department, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo has invited identified Department officials, whose work is impacted by the Bela Act No. 32 of 2024 to the advocacy sessions, that will be administered by officials from the Department of Basic Education.

The advocacy campaign is prompted by the need to ensure common understanding of contentious prescripts of the Act for smooth implementation.

There are two sections that have been suspended for three months during which further consultation will be engaged into. Clarity on them will be given though they cannot be implemented until the President pronounces on them.

Expected to attend the sessions will be Chief Directors for District Operations, Curriculum Development Programmes and Human Resources, Employee Relations, District Directors, Director: Legal Services and Team, Governance and Management Team from Head Office, Chief Circuit Managers, Circuit Managers, Officials responsible for Governance and Management, School Safety, Grade R, Admissions and Home Education.

The invited officials have a major role to play in the implementation of the prescripts of the Act and so their proper understanding is vital.

Circuit Managers will have a duty to apprise principals of schools who in terms of Section 16A (3) "must assist the governing bodies in the performance of its functions and responsibilities,..." Some policies and the Code of Conduct for Learners must be reviewed and updated to be in line with the Act.

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To maximize participation, districts have been clustered into groups and are clustered as follows:

On Wednesday, 09 October 2024 at Masibumbane High School, Ulundi, time, 09h00 - 12h00, Districts clustered together are; King Cetshwayo, uMkhanyakude, Zululand and iLembe;

On Thursday, 10 October 2024 at Port Shepstone High School, time, 09h00 - 12h00, Districts clustered together are; uGu, uMgungundlovu, uMlazi and Harry Gwala;

On Friday, 11 October 2024 at Sarrel Cilliers High School in Glencore at 09h00 - 12h00, Districts clustered together are uMzinyathi, Amajuba and uThukela;

On Wednesday, 16 October 2024 at JL Dube High School at 09h00 - 12h00 Pinetown

"I wish you well in your deliberations and in unpacking the prescripts of the Bela Act. District Directors are expected to lead their Teams as they will have to adjudicate in almost all issues to be addressed in the sessions," said MEC Sipho Hlomuka.

.../ends.

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