KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CHAIRPERSONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

KZN CURRICULUM CIRCULAR NO.5 OF 2024

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF MOTHER TONGUE-BASED BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN 2025- GRADE 4 IN MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES/ TECHNOLOGY

1. The Minister of Basic Education has endorsed the implementation of Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education (MTbBE) as one of the priorities of the Department of Basic Education.

2. The legislative mandate that supports the implementation of MTbBE is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which states that:
   a. *The official languages of the Republic are Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, and isiZulu. [Now Sign Language]. (The Sign Language has also been endorsed as an official language)*
   b. *Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the Indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages*

3. The implementation of the MTbBE in Mathematics and Natural Sciences-Technology in Grade 4, is scheduled for January 2025.

4. The following approach will be taken in implementing Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education (MTbBE) in 2025:
   (i) All schools currently offering African Language Mother tongue instruction in the Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3) must introduce Mother Tongue-Based **Bilingual Education** in grade 4 in 2025.
   (ii) Grade 4 Mathematics and Natural Sciences-Technology will be targeted subjects for the implementation.
   (iii) The assessment in the implementing grades will be done based on Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual approach.
   (iv) Translanguaging (the practice of alternating between languages in a bilingual or a multi-lingual classroom), will be used to ensure effective mediation of the learning content

IMPLEMENTATION OF MOTHER TONGUE-BASED BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN 2025 - GRADE 4 IN MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCE/ TECHNOLOGY (NS/T) SUBJECTS

5. Schools that use English and Afrikaans as the Language of Teaching and learning in Grades 1 to 3 and have learners whose mother tongue is neither of the two must initiate a process for the rollout of the MTbBE. These processes include:

(i) Adopting a dual-medium approach to language instruction.
(ii) Ensuring the availability of adequately trained teachers to cater to all learners.
(iii) Phase 1 MTBBE Models (2025 – 2028) are tabulated below:

SUBJECT	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7
HL	AL/Eng/Afr	AL/Eng/Afr	AL/Eng/Afr	AL/Eng/Afr
FAL	AL/Eng/Afr	AL/En/Afr	AL/Eng/Afr	AL/Eng/Afr
Mathematics	AL 80% +EL 20%	AL (70% +EL30%	AL 60%+EL 40%	AL 50+EL 50
Natural Scie. & Technology	AL 80%+ EL20%)	Al (70% +EL30%)	AL 60%+EL40%)	NS AL 50% + EL 50 Tech- AL 50% + EL 50%
Life Skills	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr (LO)
Social Sciences	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr
EMS	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr	Eng/Afr

6. School Governing Bodies are therefore required to review the Schools Language Policy to align with MTbBE policy requirements.

7. Schools are further reminded to respond to the attached link of readiness assessment https://forms.office.com/r/fcj2Dv0SAq

8. The contents of this circular must be brought to the attention of all it is intended to reach.

Mr GN Ngcobo
Head of Department: KZNDOE
Date: 13 December 2024