



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC EDUCATION REFORMS

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture wishes to inform the general public that the Namibian Government introduced changes in the school system three times since independence in 1990.

The *first* basic education changes were introduced in the early 1990s. These changes include but not limited to basic education structure, new curricula for junior secondary phase, introduction of English as a new medium of instruction and introduction of new curriculum and examination system for senior secondary phase. The Grade 10 Junior Secondary Certificate (JSC) was introduced in 1993 for promotion to the senior secondary phase. The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the Higher International General Certificate of Secondary Education (HIGSE) examinations were adopted in 1994 in collaboration with the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate with the first examinations in 1995.

The *second* basic education changes were introduced between 2004 and 2006. These changes include the phasing out of technical subjects, replaced by Design and Technology subject, and localisation of the IGCSE and HIGSE to the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary and Namibia Senior Secondary Higher (NSSCO/H) Level in 2006.

The *third* basic education changes have started in 2012 as a result of the Cabinet Directives based on the 2011 Education Conference and phasing out of HIGSE in 2010. These changes include changes to basic education structure, review of basic education curricula, introduction of technical subjects, review of Language Policy for Schools and the Promotion Policy for all the school phases, introduction of Basic Pre-Vocational Skills Course, the phasing out of Junior Secondary Certificate national examinations, introduction of semi-external examinations at the end of Grade 9, phasing out of NSSCH and introduction of the Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS) level course.

2. Changes in basic education (school system)

Basic education is now divided into four school phases: Junior Primary (Pre-Primary and Grades 1-3), Senior Primary (Grades 4-7), Junior Secondary (Grades 8-9), and Senior Secondary (Grades 10-12).

The current basic education changes have been rolled out in schools, since the Cabinet approval at its 2nd/11.03.14/006 meeting. The curriculum for the Junior Primary phase (Pre-primary and Grade 1-3) was revised and implemented in 2015. The curriculum for the Senior Primary phase (Grade 4-7) was revised and implemented in 2016.

The Basic Pre-Vocational Skills Course, a two-year course has been developed to cater for learners with learning difficulties as well as those with a range of disabilities. The course will be implemented first at special schools and later extended to the mainstream schools. The skills-based course will enable learners to enroll for courses offered by Community Skills Development Centres (COSDECS).

The curriculum for the Junior Secondary phase (Grade 8 and 9) was revised and implemented in Grade 8 in 2017 and in Grade 9 in 2018. The technical subjects are now part of the junior secondary curriculum.

The revision of the Senior Secondary phase has started since 2016. The revised curriculum for the Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) level, a two-year course will be implemented in Grade 10 in 2019, followed by Grade 11 in 2020. The technical subjects are part of the senior secondary curriculum. As from 2019, Grade 10 will be no longer a junior secondary grade, but a senior secondary grade.

The Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS), one-year course, will replace the Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Higher (NSSCH) level, which has been offered in parallel with NSSCO curriculum and has caused a lot of challenges in teaching and learning in schools. NSSCH is an equivalent qualification to the Higher International General Certificate of Education (HIGCSE) that was phased out in 2010. The NSSCAS will be equivalent in standard to the Cambridge Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level and will be implemented in 2021.

2. Phasing out of Junior Secondary Certificate (JSC) national examinations

2.1 As part of the changes in the basic education, the Junior Secondary Certification (JSC) national examinations will be phased out. The last JSC national examinations to be administered for full-time candidates will therefore be in 2018 for the current Grade 10 learners.

2.2 Semi-external examinations will be written at the end of Grade 9 as from 2018 to ensure consistency of learning standards across the regions. Learners will be assessed to make sure that they meet subject competencies at a similar level before they progress to the senior

secondary phase. No junior secondary certificates will be issued; learners will receive school report.

2.3 Full-time Grade 10 learners who will not be able to proceed to Grade 11 in 2019 will be accorded the following opportunities:


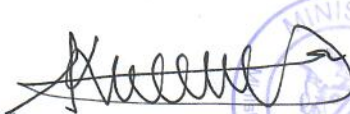
- 2.3.1 Full-time learners who are under the age of seventeen (17) will be allowed to study the new junior secondary curriculum in Grade 9, the last grade of junior secondary phase, sit for the semi-external examination at the end of Grade 9 in 2019. Learners, who will pass the semi-external examinations at the end of Grade 9 in 2019, will proceed to the senior secondary phase in 2020 and enrol for the new National Senior Secondary Ordinary (NSSCO) level course.
- 2.3.2 Full-time learners, who are above the age of seventeen (17), wishes to improve their Grade 10 symbols, will be offered an opportunity to enrol for tuition through part-time institutions registered with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and write Grade 10 national examinations as part-time candidates in October/November 2019. The tuition and examinations for these learners will be based on the old junior secondary curriculum and they will write the last Junior Secondary Certificate (JSC) national examinations as the final opportunity to them. Part-time candidates who will pass Grade 10 national examinations in 2019, will proceed to senior secondary phase and enrol for the new NSSCO) level course.
- 2.3.3 Full-time learners who are above the age of seventeen (17), who will not register for Grade 10 national examinations as part-time candidates in October/November 2019, will be allowed to register with part-time institutions for NSSCO/H as first time takers in 2019, taking 3 subjects each year, over 2 years.
- 2.3.4 Full-time learners who are above the age of seventeen (17), who will not register with part-time institutions for NSSCO/H as first time takers in 2019, will be allowed to register with part-time institutions for new NSSCO, taking 3 subjects each year as from 2020.

3. Phasing out of old NSSCO/H qualifications and phasing in of new NSSCO and NSSCAS qualifications

- 3.1 The full-time learners who are currently in Grade 10 will be the last candidates to write full-time NSSCO/H national examinations in 2020. The NSSCO/H national examinations for full-time learners will be discontinued and last NSSCO/H national examinations to be administered for full-time candidates will therefore be in 2020 for those learners who are in Grade 10 currently.
- 3.2 The full-time learners who will not be successful in the NSSCO/H national examinations in 2020 will be offered an opportunity to enrol for tuition through part-time institutions registered with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and write NSSCO/H examinations as part-time candidates in October/November 2021.

3.3 The learners who are in Grade 9 currently, will be the first cohort (group) to write the new NSSCO national examinations in 2020 and those who will wish to proceed to Grade 12, will be the first cohort (group) to write the first NSSCAS national examinations in 2021.

With this information, the Ministry is convinced that the general public understands and supports the reform because of the long-term benefits for the Namibian child.



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