



# Government Gazette Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 667

22 January  
Januarie 2021

No. 44096

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ISSN 1682-5843



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**GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION****NOTICE 18 OF 2021****DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002**

**AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(3) OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002) REGARDING THE DATES FOR THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR, AND FOR MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION, ALL PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, ALL EDUCATION DISTRICT OFFICES AND ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, in terms of regulation 4(3)(b) of the Regulations made under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), published under Government Notice No. R.480, in Government *Gazette* No. 43258 of 29 April 2020, as amended, hereby, amend the Directions regarding the dates for the re-opening of schools, to provide for the 2021 academic year, and for measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, all Provincial Departments of Education, all education district offices and all schools in the Republic of South Africa, as published under Government Notice No. 343, in Government *Gazette* No. 43465 of 23 June 2020, as amended, as set out in the Schedule.



**MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION**  
**DATE: 22 JANUARY 2021**

## SCHEDULE

### Definition

1. In this Schedule, the “Directions” means the Directions regarding the dates for the re-opening of schools and measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, Provincial Departments of Education, all education district offices and all schools in the Republic of South Africa, published under Government Notice No. 343, in Government *Gazette* No. 43465 of 23 June 2020, as amended under—

- (a) Government Notice No. 357, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43488 of 29 June 2020;
- (b) Government Notice No. 370, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43510 of 7 July 2020;
- (c) Government Notice No. 371, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43511 of 8 July 2020;
- (d) Government Notice No. 411, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43578 of 2 August 2020;
- (e) Government Notice No. 503, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43715 of 15 September 2020;
- (f) Government Notice Number 579 published in Government *Gazette* No. 43826 of 21 October 2020; and
- (g) Government Notice Number 748 published in Government *Gazette* No. 44054 of 31 December 2020.

### Purpose of directions

2. The purpose of these Directions is to provide for the amended dates for the reopening of schools for the 2021 academic year.

### Amendment of direction 1 of Directions

3. Direction 1 of the Directions is hereby amended by the substitution for the definition of “Regulations” of the following definition:

“**Regulations**” means the Regulations made under section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act and published under Government Notice No.R.480, in Government Gazette No. 43258 of 29 April 2020, as amended under—

- (a) Government Notice No. 608, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43364 of 28 May 2020;
- (b) Government Notice No. 714, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43476 of 25 June 2020;
- (c) Government Notice No. 763, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43521 of 12 July 2020;
- (d) Government Notice No. 846, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43577 of 31 July 2020;
- (e) Government Notice No. 891, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43620 of 17 August 2020;
- (f) Government Notice No. 999, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43725 of 18 September 2020;
- (g) Government Notice No. 1053, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43763 of 1 October 2020;
- (h) Government Notice No. 1104, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43825 of 21 October 2020;
- (i) Government Notice No.1199, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43897 of 11 November 2020;
- (j) Government Notice No.1290, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43964 of 3 December 2020;
- (k) Government Notice No.1346, published in Government *Gazette* No. 43997 of 15 December 2020;
- (l) Government Notice No.1370, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44009 of 17 December 2020;

- (m) Government Notice No.1421, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44042 of 24 December 2020;
- (n) Government Notice No. R. 1423, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44044 of 29 December 2020;
- (o) Government Notice No. R. 1424, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44045 of 29 December 2020;
- (p) Government Notice No. R. 1435, published in Government *Gazette* No. 44051 of 29 December 2020; and
- (q) Government Notice No.1370, published in Government *Gazette* No. of 11 January 2021.”

#### Insertion of direction 5B in Directions

4. The following direction is hereby inserted in the Directions after direction 5A:

#### “5B. Dates for reopening of schools for 2021 academic year

- (1) All public schools must be reopened as follows:

ARRANGEMENTS FOR REOPENING OF SCHOOLS	RETURN TO SCHOOL DATE
(a) The principal, the school management team including Education Assistants and General Assistants (Basic Education Employment Initiative) and non-teaching staff must return to school	25 January 2021
(b) All educators must return to school	1 February 2021
(c) All learners must return to school	15 February 2021

- (2) Independent schools must delay the date for the reopening of schools for learners to return to school for a period of two weeks from the date of the pronouncement of the Minister, on 15 January 2021.
- (3) Independent schools may not open earlier than the two-weeks period as contemplated in sub-direction (2).
- (4) Officials may access school premises during the period of closure if required to do so, for purposes of preparation in anticipation of the reopening of schools.
- (5) All conditions in the Directions and Regulations published in relation to health and safety measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, under Alert Level 3, still apply under Adjusted Alert Level 3 and must be adhered to.
- (6) All Directions previously issued by the Minister, continue to apply, until repealed or amended.”

### **Commencement**

5. These amendment directions come into operation on the date of publication thereof in the Government *Gazette*.

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001  
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Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065