



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION CALLING ON TEACHERS TO COMMENT ON THE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT POLICY STATEMENTS**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 08 OCTOBER 2010**

**EMBARGO: NONE**

The Department of Basic Education urges all stakeholders, and teachers in particular, to submit their comments on the draft National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) for all Grades and Subjects that have been made available for public comment. The closing date for public comment has been extended to 18 October 2010.

The Minister of Basic Education invited stakeholder bodies and members of the public to comment on the National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements by means of Government Notice No. 784 in Government Gazette No. 33528 of 3 September 2010. To date, more than 1000 comments have been submitted on the CAPS.

The Ministerial Review Committee raised questions about the lack of clarity in the National Curriculum Statement in its Report. This Committee spent a considerable time consulting with teachers who were able to raise their concerns regarding the National Curriculum Statement and the challenges that they faced in the classroom regarding its implementation. Amongst the concerns, raised by teachers, was that the NCS did not provide sufficient guidance in terms of the content to be taught in each subject. In addition, there was a plethora of documents for each learning area/subject including Subject and Learning Area Statements, Learning Programme Guidelines and Subject Assessment Guidelines which many teachers regarded as confusing, separating content from assessment.

In order to address these concerns, amongst others, the NCS has been repackaged so that it is more accessible to teachers. Every subject in each grade will now have a single, comprehensive and concise CAPS that will provide clear guidelines and details on what

teachers ought to teach and assess on a grade-by-grade and subject-by-subject basis for all subjects listed in the NCS Grades R- 12.

The CAPS are single, comprehensive, and concise policy documents to replace the current Subject and Learning Area Statements, Learning Programme Guidelines and Subject Assessment Guidelines for all subjects listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades R- 12.

It is very important that teachers in particular keep abreast of the Curriculum Review process so that they, as curriculum implementers in the classroom, take ownership of the process. Teachers are urged to discuss the CAPS documents with their colleagues and to make their voices heard. This Curriculum review process will have a direct impact on teaching in the classroom and the Department urges all teachers to use the opportunity to comment on the CAPS.

The National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements may be accessed on the Department of Basic Education's website at [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za) or <http://www.thutong.doe.gov.za>.

Hard copies of the documents are obtainable from the address below.

The closing date for the submission of public comments has been extended to **18 October 2010**.

Submissions should be posted or delivered to:

The Acting Deputy Director-General: Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring

Department of Basic Education

Attention: Ms M Ramohapi

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Or

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