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Assessment Management Minute: 0018/2021

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Chief Education Specialists, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Assessment and Examination Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Heads of all educational institutions that prepare candidates for the National Senior Certificate examinations

Subject: Participation in the signing of a pledge and commitment agreement related to the writing of the 2021 National Senior Certificate examinations

1. The National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations are administered and conducted in terms of the *Regulations pertaining to the conduct, administration and management of assessment for the National Senior Certificate examination* (amended), published in *Government Gazette* No. 31337 of 29 August 2008, that apply to public and independent assessment bodies assessing and examining the National Curriculum Statement, Grades R–12.
2. Any deviation from or contravention of the regulations by a candidate entered for the NSC examinations may lead to their results being declared null and void. It is therefore imperative that all candidates are familiar with these rules and regulations.
3. The Department of Basic Education requested that candidates registered to write the NSC examinations sign a **commitment agreement** and a **pledge** to comply with the examination code of conduct.
4. The Commitment Agreement provides a detailed list of the key rules and regulations relating to the NSC examinations, as well as a list of irregularities that may occur during the writing of the examinations.
5. All learners and their parents or guardians are required to sign the Commitment Agreement (**Annexure A**) prior to the commencement of the examinations.

6. The signed Commitment Agreements are to be retained at the school as part of the school records of each candidate.
7. Schools should make a copy of the NSC Examination Pledge (**Annexure B**) for every Grade 12 candidate.
8. On 22 October 2021 an assembly of all Grade 12 learners should be convened as part of their orientation and preparation for the writing of the NSC examinations.
9. Schools must inform candidates that the pledge-signing is voluntary, and candidates will not be forced to sign the pledge.
10. During the address by the principal, the examination rules on the reverse side of the admission letter should be read to the candidates.
11. The candidates should be asked to read the pledge aloud and then be allowed to sign it.
12. Where possible, photocopies should be made of the signed pledges to be retained at the school as part of the school records of each candidate.
13. The original pledge should remain in the possession of every candidate for the duration of the 2021 NSC examinations.
14. It is recommended that the signing of the pledge be extended to Grade 10 and Grade 11 learners to ensure a uniform standard in the conduct of examinations in the Further Education and Training Phase.
15. The attached NSC Examination Pledge can be adapted for Grades 10 and 11.
16. An electronic version of the pamphlet for learners addressing irregularity prevention and the consequences of irregularities is attached as Annexure C and may be distributed to every learner. Printed copies of the pamphlet will be delivered to all schools.
17. Principals are kindly requested to ensure the appropriate conduct of the pledge-signing ceremony at their schools.
18. The cooperation of the 2021 NSC examinations candidates in this matter will be much appreciated.

SIGNED: H MAHOMED

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2021-10 - 04