

# 2021 school calendar to kick off on 25 January

Following the revision of the school calendar, schools will reopen on 25 January 2021, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga said.

“First, let me confirm that schools will reopen on 25 January 2021; second, the school calendar will be gazetted tomorrow, Friday, 2 October, after which it will be publicly available.”

The Minister said this at a media briefing in Pretoria on Thursday.

“We are fully aware that the country needs the school calendar for effective planning

purposes, and we have worked hard to ensure it is done properly, taking into account the disruptions that have occurred in 2020,” said Motshekga.

The briefing provided an update on key developments in the basic education sector relating to COVID-19 level 1 restrictions. With much of the school year obliterated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Motshekga said schools will have to carry over some of the curriculum work into 2021.

“We have done our best to accommodate the interests of everybody, but our priority

is the learner,” she said.

With many school days lost this year, especially in the early grades, Motshekga expressed concern at the impact on long-term learning, and the potential increase of inequality in learning outcomes.

This situation, she said, makes it more urgent than before to provide sufficient support to teachers.

“All teachers know that catching up lost

learning, or learning recovery, is not an easy, quick activity but requires a lot of dedicated time.

“This will include a concerted effort by both parents and teachers and will need to extend into the 2021 academic year. To allow for this, we have revised the annual teaching plans to extend to next year,” said the Minister. – SAnews.gov.za

## MDB SHEDS LIGHT ON FINALISATION OF ELECTORAL WARDS

The Chairperson of the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB), Thabo Manyoni has expressed satisfaction with progress made following the finalisation of electoral wards for Batch 1 municipalities. The MDB has concluded the final electoral wards for Batch 1 Municipalities (Annexure A) in terms of schedule 1 of the Municipal Structures Act. Final wards for Batch 1 Municipalities will be published in provincial gazettes from 01 October 2020 - 07 October 2020.

In line with the pronouncement made earlier, the wards will be handed over to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). These are wards from 109 Municipalities. Concurrently, the MDB has, after consideration of inputs received from communities, delimited wards for all Batch 2 Municipalities in terms of schedule 1 of the Municipal Structures Act. These are wards from 104 Municipalities. Wards for Batch 2 Municipalities will be

published in Provincial Gazettes from 01 October 2020 - 07 October 2020. Any person aggrieved by the determination of municipal wards may within 14 days of publication of the Provincial Gazettes, in respective provinces, submit objections in writing to the Board with proposals on how their wards should be configured. Objections should be aligned to the criteria used for ward delimitation.

Written objections can be sent through the following platforms:  
 registry@demarcation.org.za Fax: 086 524 8643 The gazettes will also be accessed on: www.gpwonline.co.za or www.demarcation.org.za | Page “Final wards (Batch 2 municipalities) as agreed between the parties, will be handed over to the IEC in November 2020”, said Manyoni, adding that there will be no delays in finalising the electoral ward process.

# COVID-19

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