

New guidelines for school grounds amid COVID-19

When Grade 7 and 12 learners return to schools on the proposed date of 1 June 2020, school as they knew it, will be a thing of the past.

As government sets out to curb the spread of the Coronavirus, school grounds and hallways will look very different, with learners donning compulsory face masks and gloves. Sanitiser will also be a common feature on school premises, under the

guidelines proposed by the Department of Basic Education for the reopening of schools.

If given the nod by Cabinet, from the 1 June 2020, schools will reopen - subject to compliance with health and safety measures and the department's guidelines for schools on maintaining hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the proposed guidelines, schools must meet the requirements of proper sanitation, use and provision of personal protective equipment, sanitisers, hand washing soap, gloves, cloth masks and thermometers.

In line with the guidelines, returning educators and learners - starting with Grades 7 and 12 - will be screened upon the reopening of schools. Temperature checks will be administered and learners or staff members, who present with raised temperatures, will then be considered for isolation and testing.

To ensure the health and safety of learners and teachers, schools will be furnished with a Standard Operating Procedures Booklet, as a guide to be used in all schools.

Measures contained in the booklet will include plans for social distancing, where no more than two learners may share a desk, with no hugging or handshaking. Under the guidelines, learners and teachers will be expected to wear cloth masks at all times.

All sports matches, choral practices and festivals, eisteddfods will be prohibited.

Extra classes should be arranged in small groups that maintain social distancing. Infrastructure and furniture

Schools will be expected to sanitise classrooms prior to the start of each school day.

Learners will have to sanitise their hands before entering classrooms.

Movement of learners between classes will also be limited.

Transport

Working with the Department of Transport, vehicles that transport children will undergo sanitisation prior to the start of all trips.

Everyone entering will also be expected to wear a mask and sanitise their hands before entering the vehicle.

Distance between learners in the buses has also been proposed as a measure.

Remedial measures

As government prepares for the reopening, provincial education departments have identified 3 500 schools with critical water supply challenges.

These schools are spread all over the country, except for the Western Cape. The highest numbers of these schools are in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has initiated an Emergency Water Supply programme, through which water tanks will be installed at critical supply points; and portable water will be delivered to these tanks, using water trucks.

The DBE will participate in this initiative to get water tanks installed at the identified schools, and to get portable water delivered to these tanks.

- SAnews.gov.za



Basic Education minister, Angie Motshekga.

World Press Freedom Day – Journalism under severe financial threat

The South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) commemorates World Press Freedom Day in 2020 under level four Coronavirus lockdown in South Africa. We believe that during the coronavirus pandemic the news media has never been more important – and yet it is under severe threat.

Historically World Press Freedom Day has been celebrated as a day where citizens, journalists and journalist organisations around the world celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and its benefits to society. We evaluate the status of press freedom internationally and in our countries, regions and continents and we recommit to defending journalists from attacks on their independence.

In South Africa 2020 we note the important work done by journalists – particularly covering the Coronavirus pandemic. Journalists are designated essential workers and have been on the frontline telling stories of the spread and containment of the virus, the impact the virus is having on people's daily lives, holding to account those in authority and educating the public on minimizing the risk of infection. We have seen audiences soar as citizens seek information on health issues and the economy. However, while journalism plays its critical role, simultaneously it has also been under severe financial threat as the lockdown has prompted advertisers to rein in spending and made it difficult to circulate newspapers and magazines.

SANEF notes the closure of Associated Media Publishing (AMP), one of South Africa's pioneering independent media houses. AMP CEO Julia Raphaely announced that the company would cease trading and publishing all its magazine titles from Friday, 1 May 2020. AMP published famous brands including Cosmopolitan, House & Leisure, Good Housekeeping and Women on Wheels. Raphaely said that, coupled with the global halt on advertising spend as well as the inability to host events

for the foreseeable future, the AMP found it impossible to continue trading. She remarked, "For the last 38 years, AMP has been one of South Africa's leading publishers and our titles have been part of many people's lives. It's a big blow for magazine media brands in South Africa".

AMP's decision to stop trading comes soon after the distress call for increased government advertising support – and support from the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) – from the Association of Independent Publishers (AIP). AIP organizes approximately 200 small independent community print publications across the country.

Also, several media houses have announced plans to cut salaries by up to 40% and/or to stop commissioning the services of freelance journalists.

SANEF is aware that community media journalists and freelancers face some of the greatest threats. Freelance workers do not have the traditional protections of paid sick leave, insurance and funds from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). Consequently, they face a disproportionate risk of financial hardship. A survey carried out by the South African Freelancers Association (SAFRE) has shown the impact of the pandemic, with more than 50% of members having already lost more than 70% of their income. Many freelancers have lost 100%, and because their work is often ad hoc rather than contractual, they have been turned down for government relief funding.

Not only are jobs at stake, but media diversity and the production of quality news to provide verifiably information in the public interest should newsrooms, already under pressure, shrink or news organisations be forced to close.

In the wake of this crisis SANEF has decided to commission research on the impact of the Coronavirus on the industry and what is to be done. We hope to release the findings shortly.

HOW TO RECOVER FROM THE PAIN OF REJECTION

Understanding the pain you going through, helps you understand that you will go through the stages of grief. While grieving about the pain, remember that the same pain, you can take it as a learning wave.

Some of the things will help you during this time of pain is to stop self-blame and focus on positive solutions. Set a hard deadline for letting it go. For how long you want to suffer from the pain?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

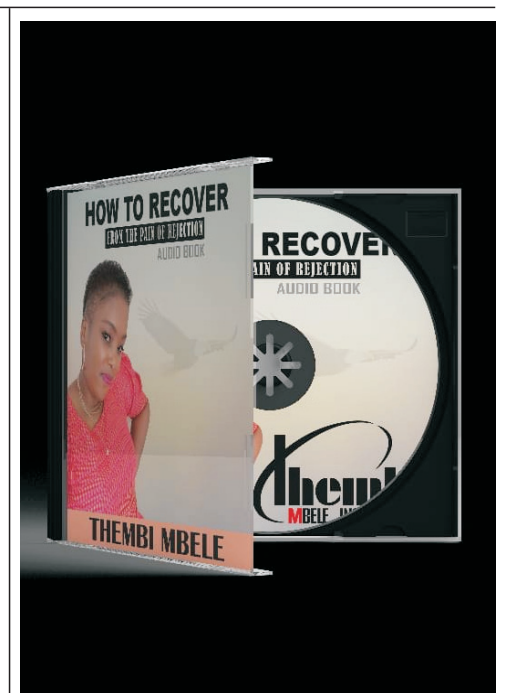
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I am endowed with excellent leadership, interpersonal, analytical, theoretical research, writing skills, problem solving and communication(both verbal and written) skills.

I have the necessary capacity to work under pressure. I thrive for new challenges in life, and always look for ways to makes things better.

My personal goals in life, are to grow beyond my current ability and capacity in my career environment, and through further studies, grow my intellectual capacity to meet daily challenges in life, and in my work environment, with an animus to assist me to be able to contribute meaningfully in life.

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