



**MINISTER  
BASIC EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**31 May 2020**

Mr Mandla Mthembu  
Chairperson  
National Alliance of Independent Schools' Associations  
32 West Riding Row  
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**DURBAN**  
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By e-mail: [mandla.mthembu@aeegroup.co.za](mailto:mandla.mthembu@aeegroup.co.za)  
[secretary@naisa.co.za](mailto:secretary@naisa.co.za)

Dear Mr Mthembu

**COVID-19: RE-OPENING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

1. I refer to the discussion between representatives the National Independent Schools Alliance (“NAISA”) with the Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli accompanied by senior officials from the Department of Basic Education (“DBE”) on 30 May 2020, regarding the re-opening of independent schools in the context of the Directions published under Government Notice No. 302 of 2020, in *Government Gazette* No. 43372 of 29 May 2020 (“the Directions”).
2. I confirm that we agreed in principle that:
  - 2.1 Independent schools should not be bound by the timetable for the phased re-opening of schools set out in paragraph 4(1) of the Directions.
  - 2.2 Independent schools may re-open for learners in Grades 7 and 12 with effect from 01 June 2020, provided they are in compliance with the health, safety and social distancing requirements set out in the COVID-19 Compliance Monitoring Tool issued by the DBE (“the Compliance Tool”).
  - 2.3 Further to the publication of the amended Directions for the reopening of schools, independent schools may, re-open for learners in Grades other than Grades 7 and 12, they are in compliance with the health, safety and social distancing requirements set out in the COVID-19 Compliance Monitoring Tool.

- 2.4 As stated in paragraph 4(3) of the Directions, no school may re-open unless and until it complies with the abovementioned requirements.
  - 2.5 NAISA will, as soon as reasonably practicable, submit to the DBE a list of its member schools that have signed the requisite declarations that they meet the abovementioned requirements in respect of the Grades of learners for which they will be re-opening.
  - 2.6 Duly authorised officials of the provincial education departments will be entitled to inspect independent schools from time to time, with a view to monitoring compliance with the criteria set out in the Compliance Tool.
3. I confirm, further, that it has been agreed that the Directions will be amended formally as soon as possible to give effect to the arrangements outlined above. Meanwhile, independent schools may re-open for learners in Grades 7 and 12 with effect from 01 June 2020, if they comply with the requirements set out in the Compliance Tool. I also confirm in terms of regulation 4(3) of the Regulations issued in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 that independent schools may begin to re-open for learners in other Grades, provided they have signed the declarations of compliance referred to above, and provided NAISA has notified the DBE that the schools concerned have done so.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs AM MOTSHEKGA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION**  
**Date: 31 MAY 2020**