



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dr Derek Keats
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Dear Dr Keats

SOFTWARE TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT AND ASSESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (CAT) AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

On 11 September 2014, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) convened a stakeholders' meeting to share the recommendations of the steering committee that investigated the software tools to implement and assess the CAT and IT curricula.

On 4 June 2015 the Committee of Education Ministers (CEM) approved the steering committee's recommendations that Microsoft Office (latest two versions) should be used to implement and assess the CAT curriculum and that Object Pascal/Delphi should be used to implement and assess the IT curriculum.

The decision considers complexities to synchronise different software tools and versions to implement the CAT and IT curricula as well as the impact thereof on the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination and includes curriculum coverage and balancing cognitive demand in practical papers.

Other considerations include:

- Software tools currently used, including the number of provinces/schools that are currently using the various different tools;
- Availability of resources;
- Teacher training;
- The cognitive and developmental level of the target audience as well as the general profile of learners;
- Different software tools and literature suggestions regarding the suitability of these for teaching introductory programming courses and more specifically the current curricula;
- No foundation for the subjects in the General Education and Training (GET) band; and
- Other factors that impact on the system such as migration of learners and teachers and support to schools and teachers.

Kindly note that the decision will be implemented for a limited period. After implementation the DBE will monitor implementation, gather and evaluate feedback and revise the matter if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HM Mweli', written in a cursive style.

MR HM MWELI
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 21/07/2015