

20 March 2020

Dear Sir/ Madam

## **SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EFFECT ON EDUCATION**

The national state of affairs requires no reiteration, and we are all aware of the efforts made by many South Africans to help contain and suppress the spread of the virus. In the education sector, the 13 million learners and the 440 000 teachers have been released before the end of the school term. This will result in a loss of learning and teaching, and the professional development time until they are back at school.

The NECT has been in consultation with the Department of Basic Education about the catch up and emergency plans. We have agreed with the DBE to set up joint teams to drive the educational response plan. The joint response plan is focused on the following strategic imperatives –

1. Reinforcing Covid-19 prevention messages spearheaded by the DoH and the NICD;
2. Promotion of the values of solidarity, nationhood, social cohesion and care for others;
3. Strengthening, sharing, co-resourcing and driving educational and health-promotion communication networks in the education sector; and
4. Provision of educational support services in key subjects directly into homes through the development of an integrated online and broadcast platforms with particular focus on the promotion of reading for engagement and enjoyment.

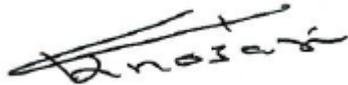
We have jointly set up the following three teams that are driving the educational response:

1. **Communications and dissemination team**, which is tasked with establishing and operationalising an agile, extensive communication strategy to all the 13 million learners (and their parents and teachers) through the nine provincial departments, 75 districts, 980 circuits and close to 25 000 schools.
2. **Content and production team**, tasked with the curation and production of relevant content, materials and platforms to disseminate to all learners and teachers.
3. **Partnerships and resourcing team**, tasked with establishing and activating partnerships that support and resource contactless learning, communication and care and support of learners and teachers.

We are inviting partners who wish to support the response to indicate how they want to do so. We also invite suggestions that can strengthen the response.

Please send your responses to [info@NECT.org.za](mailto:info@NECT.org.za).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Godwin Khosa', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Godwin Khosa

Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Dr Granville Whittle - Deputy Director General, Sector Care and Support, Department of Basic Education