

Swaziland National Association of Teachers

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR

The Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), as a legitimate representative of about 16 000 educators in the country, is a fundamental stakeholder in the education system of the country as its members handle over 350 000 learners in a given year. Since the SNAT has been actively involved in all the discussions around the re-opening of schools, the organization is committed to the safe re-opening of all grades for the current calendar year (2021).

As a main stakeholder, it is one of our fiduciary duties to ensure the protection of our members, our learners and their parents against sickness and disease, and even death. It is for this reason that, whilst we entirely support the re-opening of schools, the country [like all other countries] needs to demonstrate an acceptable level of preparedness for re-opening, taking into consideration full compliance to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) and National Covid-19 Health and Safety Standards.

Today (11-02-2021), the SNAT agreed with the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) that whilst both stakeholders (MoET and SNAT) are putting



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up collaborative effort to ensure that schools are opened as soon as possible, tangible evidence must be gotten to assist both stakeholders to thoroughly prepare for the safe re-opening of schools. In furtherance of this common objective, all the SNAT Branches are required to conduct a survey regarding the level of preparedness of schools.

We request the SNAT Representatives and School Administrators from all duty stations to assist in this regard. This information shall be required in the meeting between the SNAT and MoET that will be held on Wednesday (17-02-2021). The purpose of this meeting shall be to deliberate on plans to ensure the safe re-opening of schools. The agenda for such a meeting shall include the following items, amongst others;

- A. Safe Re-opening of Schools
- B. Employment of Teachers

Required Data

The data that shall be required is as follows;

- I. Names of schools (both primary and secondary) whose level of preparedness is questionable in terms of the checklist that was circulated to all schools last year (2020)
- II. Highlight of those Covid-19 resources that are in short supply in those schools
- III. Number of Vacant Teaching posts

NB: 1. This information must be submitted to all Branch Secretaries by close of business on Friday (12-02-2021)

2. A comprehensive update shall be shared with the membership in all SNAT media platforms tomorrow (12-02-2021). The SNAT Editorial shall give direction in this regard.

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SIKELELA J. DLAMINI

(SECRETARY GENERAL)

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