



**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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TVET LETTERED CIRCULAR PM

DATED: 19 JULY 2022

**RE: CLARIFICATION ON THE PHASE OUT DATE OF NATED N1 –N3
ENGINEERING STUDIES PROGRAMMES**

TO: TVET Colleges Acting/Principals *[Distribution of circular by Office of DDG: T]*
Management Staff at all TVET Colleges *[Distribution of circular by Principals]*

CC: Acting/Regional Manager *[Distribution of circular by Office of DDG: T]*
Chairpersons and members of the TVET College Councils *[Distribution of circular
by Principals]*
Acting/TVET Directors *[Distribution of circular by Regional Managers]*
TVET Staff in the Regional Offices *[Distribution of circular by Regional Managers]*
Chief Directorate: National Examination and Assessment *[Distribution of Circular
by Office of the DDG: T]*

Dear Principals

As part of the Departments efforts to align Technical and Vocational Educations and Training (TVET) curricula with the needs of the rapidly changing economy, there are various activities and programmes that the Department is currently embarking on. One of those activities is the phase out of NATED Report 191 N1-N3 programmes.

In September 2021, the Minister of Higher Education and Training approved the phase out of the remaining NATED Report 191 N1 – N3 programmes and the establishment of the NATED N1 –N3 Phase Out Task Team (NPOTT). This approval came after a process of consultation with various stakeholders including analysis of public comments which were sought through a Government Notice gazetted and published in November 2020.

This communique serves to clarify the phase out dates reflected on the Government Notice for public comments in gazette No. 43872.

In the afore-mentioned *gazette 43872*, the following assertion was made:

“it is proposed that:

- N1, N2 and N3 programmes be phased out over the next three academic years namely 2021, 2022 and 2023.***
- From 2022 no new N1, N2 and N3 students be enrolled but examinations will still be offered for the remaining two years. This will give students that are in the pipeline more opportunities to complete the N1 – N3 qualification.***
- The QCTO registered occupational qualifications in the relevant Engineering fields to be phased in TVET Colleges to replace the N1 – N3 programmes as from 2022.”***

The above mentioned dates were not feasible with regards to implementing the phase out of N1 – N3 programmes, due to delays in some internal and external process that needed to be undertaken.

The NPOTT was established earlier this year with 4 Work streams comprising of DHET officials and other stakeholders including quality councils, labour union representatives, industry representatives, SETAs, student representatives etc and it meets every two months to evaluate progress on the preparation of the phase out.

New dates for implementation of the phase out of NATE N1 – N3 programmes will be communicated as soon as the planning process is complete and the actual date is gazetted.

TVET Colleges are encouraged to start considering scaling down enrolments on N1 – N3 programmes in preparation for the imminent phase out, as well as do so as part of reimagining their PQM towards being relevant and current.

Yours sincerely



Mt SZ Zungu

Deputy Director-General:

Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Date: *19/07/2022*