

# THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM CENTRE

## REPORTS ON PERFORMANCE

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2010/2011  
(December)

# **1. PARLIAMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

## **1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The National Curriculum Centre was established in 1983 as a result of a merger between the Primary Curriculum Unit based in Manzini and the Secondary Curriculum unit which was based at Matsapha. The main purpose of its establishment was to “evaluate, design, prepare and co-ordinate the curricula for educational institutions ... (Ed Act 1981 pg S11).

### **1.1.1 VISION**

The National Curriculum Centre aspires to be a leading research and curriculum development institution while turning into reality the nation’s educational goals and aspirations.

### **1.1.2 MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to continuously improve our service delivery as we work together with all stakeholders in producing relevant, high quality, accessible and affordable curriculum materials and in serving as a resource in curriculum matters while striving to ensure the success of every learner and educator.

### **1.1.3 OBJECTIVES / TARGETS**

#### **a) Long Term Objective**

To design, prepare, coordinate and evaluate the curricula for educational institutions

#### **b) Short Term Objectives**

- To design and develop a curriculum that adequately reflects the national development goals of Swaziland
- To design, produce and procure relevant and high quality instructional materials in line with the national education goals
- To train and provide support to stakeholders on new curricular and instructional materials
- To coordinate all curriculum development activities

- To evaluate at all stages of curriculum development

### **c) Path**

- Conduct research and disseminate information
- Interpret and translate education development goals/policy
- Prepare curriculum guidelines.
- Build capacity through staff development and training
- Evaluate educational programmes
- Network with educational organizations/institutions
- Print educational materials
- Procure resources
- Develop instructional curriculum materials for:
  - Preschool
  - Primary school level
  - Secondary school level
- Pilot test instructional materials and examinations
- Evaluate instructional curriculum materials
- Assess student performance

## **1.2 ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES**

## a) Achievements

### Consultations with stakeholders on curriculum development

- Successfully **hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Curriculum** where the theme was “Free Education: Realities and Curriculum implications” in October 2010. Participants got an opportunity to share their views with the Ministry of Education and Training on various issues related to the theme.
- **Feedback meetings** with teachers from pilot schools as well as Review Committees of various subjects were conducted this quarter. Feedback was effected in the materials and manuscript drafts
- The NCC also joined and **reported on their activities to other stakeholders** in the sector through activities like the National Education Policy Review workshop and various Subject Panels’ meetings
- In ensuring wide participation in curriculum development, the National Curriculum Centre invited different stakeholders to **Subject Revision workshops** for Social Studies, Religious Studies and Orientation workshops for teachers and administrators in Physical Education and Sports.
- Participated in the **development of UNISWA IDE instructional materials**

### Review and diversify (100%) curricula programmes

- Drafted curriculum guidelines on Disaster Relief issues in collaboration with the Disaster Relief Unit. These will later be developed for promotional programmes.
- Developed a proposal for the addition of **Arts and Culture as a Secondary school subject by 2015**. This is currently being discussed by stakeholders.
- Currently developing a **Monolingual SiSwati Dictionary**. This activity has secured funding from the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS)

### Technical expertise on curriculum development offered to local institutions/organisations yearly

- Offered leadership to organisations on curriculum related issues e.g
  - the development of a National Sports Education and Accreditation System for **Swaziland National Sports Council**;
  - participating with **AMADI University** on programme implementation and assessment;
  - The hosting of the **Arts and Culture Council** symposium
  - The development of a curriculum guidelines for Disaster materials with the **Disaster Management department**
  - The development of a curriculum for **Non-Communicable Diseases for the Ministry of Health**

- The development of a Framework and Trainers' manual for the **Schools as Centres of Care and Support**.
- The development of **TVET Occupational Frameworks**

### Evaluate instructional materials

- Evaluation instruments for instructional materials were developed for Religious Education, Primary English, Physical Education and Sports and used for the review activities
- Achievement tests for Practical Arts and Physical education and Sports were developed and administered

### b) Challenges

- **Transport** was the main challenge such that officers had to be either transported in small groups or sometimes have few officers attending a training session or workshop. NCC officers are almost always late for meetings. Also the NCC budget for CTA Charges is fast declining since huge amounts are spent on very old problematic vehicles that spend every second week at the repairs.
- Having some of the **curriculum development activities coordinated away from the National curriculum Centre** is a huge drawback on our activities e.g. syllabus development is coordinated by subject panels in this country. Some of them do not meet for as long as 5 years. This implies therefore that no materials may be reviewed for all that time. Such examples are primary SiSwati, and Agriculture
- The incomplete activity of reviewing the **National Education Policy** is delaying the development of a Curriculum Development policy/guideline which is desperately urgent.
- The inability of the MOET to hold **Professional Staff Meetings** for over a year has hindered the opportunity for NCC to share her research findings with her major stakeholders.
- The inability to create **new posts for curriculum designers** in certain areas has caused curriculum development to lag behind related interventions in those areas, e.g. in
  - Special education
  - ICT
  - ECCD

## 2.0 Report on Specific Ministry of Education & Training Targets for End of June 2010

PERFORMANCE TARGET	Planned Activities By September 2010	Actual Activities By September 2010	Rating	Comments
<b>10.1</b> <b>A curriculum covering a broad spectrum of educational policy issues, including ethical matters, in place by December 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conduct curriculum review meetings with subject panels</b></li> </ul>	<p>Attended various <b>subject panels'</b> meetings</p>	60%	<p>Agriculture has not had a panel meeting in the past 2 years hence some curriculum activities are affected.</p> <p>Physical Education &amp; Sports panel is also challenged since the chairperson repeatedly reported that there are no funds for panel meetings.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review and diversify curricula programmes</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revising <b>Grade 1 Religious Education</b> materials</li> <li>2. Revising <b>Grade 7 Social studies</b> materials</li> <li>3. Participated in the review of <b>Primary Mathematics syllabus</b></li> <li>4. Working with relevant stakeholders, developed a proposal for a <b>new Secondary level subject – Arts and Culture</b></li> </ol>	<p>80%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>80%</p>	<p>Task is ongoing</p> <p>Materials submitted to Macmillans for publishing</p> <p>Syllabus finally submitted to CCC for approval</p> <p>Proposal ready for presentation at the Arts and Culture Symposium as part of the consultative process</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conduct research on curriculum development</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conducting a <b>curriculum audit</b> of all emerging issues in all subject</li> </ol>	80%	Task ongoing

		areas		
		2.. NCC conducted <b>studies</b> and developed 12 papers that were presented at the Conference on Curriculum in October.	100%	Presentations were a huge success
	• <b>Host regional conference on Curriculum Development.</b>	1. NCC hosted the 1 <sup>st</sup> Biennial <b>Conference on Curriculum</b> where 450 people, mainly teachers participated. The theme was Free Education: Realities and Curriculum implications	100%	Activity was a huge success
	• <b>Interpret and translate education development goals and policies.</b>	<p>Offered leadership to organisations on curriculum related issues e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended and participated in <b>MOET Policy drafting</b> and editing.</li> <li>• Participated in drafting of the <b>TVET Bill</b></li> <li>• Facilitated development of the Disaster Management matrix with the <b>Disaster Management department</b></li> </ul>	<p>80%</p> <p>90%</p> <p>90%</p>	<p>Task awaiting the reviewing stage</p> <p>Task now at approval stage</p> <p>Matrix to be refined</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a National Sports Education and Accreditation System for <b>Swaziland National Sports Council</b>;</li> <li>• participating with <b>AMADI University</b> on programme implementation and assessment;</li> <li>• The development of a Proposal on <b>Arts and Culture as a Secondary School subject</b></li> <li>• The development of a Curriculum Development Plan or Street Children with <b>Manzini Youth Care Centre</b></li> <li>• The development of a Primary Schools <b>SiSwati Syllabus</b></li> <li>• The development of Anti-Corruption promotional materials with the <b>Anti Corruption Unit</b></li> <li>• Development of a plan for curriculum on Non-Communicable Diseases for</li> </ul>	<p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>90%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>90%</p>	<p>Participation ongoing</p> <p>Participation ongoing</p> <p>Draft proposal awaiting sharing with MOET stakeholders and further consultations</p> <p>Plan completed, awaiting approval by Salesians Order</p> <p>One more meeting to finalise specimen papers to be held</p> <p>Materials submitted to Anti corruption Unit for printing, awaiting pilot feedback</p> <p>Participation is ongoing</p>
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		<b>Ministry of Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gave <b>local UNISA and UNISWA students</b> tutorials on curriculum development</li> </ul>	70%	
			100%	Task done successfully
<b>10.2 Revised curriculum and instructional materials for pre-primary, primary and secondary in place and ready to use by December 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Draft Instructional materials produced and lab-tested through writings workshops.</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Drafted, lab—tested and piloted materials</b> for Physical Education and Sports</li> <li><b>Drafted materials</b> for Religious Education, Social Studies</li> </ol>	100%	Task completed successfully
			100%	Drafting completed successfully
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conduct orientation workshops for pilot school administrators on new curriculum materials.</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted Grade 5 Physical Education and Sports <b>orientation for Pilot school teachers</b></li> </ol>	100%	Task completed successfully
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Prepare curriculum guidelines.</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in the development of <b>TVET Occupational Frameworks</b></li> </ol>	70%	Completed the Tourism and Hospitality Framework. Other occupations still being developed
<b>10.3 Staff training and curriculum development workshops mounted for all curriculum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Train commissioned writers on Curriculum development</b></li> </ul>	<b>Conducted a training workshop</b> for 2 groups of commissioned writers	100%	Task completed for this year

<p><b>developers and relevant stakeholders by December 2010</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mount capacity building for NCC staff</b></li> </ul>	<p>1. Conducted and attended the following activities for NCC staff;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development of an NCC strategic Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Using DACUM</b> to develop a curriculum matrix for disaster Management</li> <li>• Attended a CASAS writing workshop on the writing of SiSwati readers</li> <li>• attended <b>Schools as Centres of Care and Support (ACCS)</b> critique workshop for pre-service curriculum</li> </ul>	<p>70%</p> <p>90%</p> <p>90%</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Awaiting refinement</p> <p>More days were needed for the activity</p> <p>All materials for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase have been developed and are being reviewed in readiness for publishing</p> <p>Materials developed and are awaiting consultant's comments</p>
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