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Ref : 14/R

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The Principal / Head of Institution

Dear Sir or Madam

UNACCREDITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS REGISTERED AS EXAMINATION CENTRES FOR THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)

1. Regulation 26A(1-4) Chapter 5 "Requirements for the registration of independent schools as examination Centres" of the Regulations pertaining to the conduct, administration and management of the National Senior Certificate Examinations state that:
 - (1) In order for an independent school to be registered as an examination centre by either an accredited private assessment body or the state, such a school, besides being registered as a school, must also be accredited by Umalusi.
 - (2) Independent schools that have complied with registration by the relevant Provincial Education Department and accreditation by Umalusi, must apply to the relevant assessment body for registration as examination centres under their own names.
 - (3) The registration of independent schools as examination centres is also determined by the fulfilment of the requirements of the assessment body which is either the public or a private assessment body accredited by Umalusi.
 - (4) Examination centres that have complied with all the requirements will be registered by the assessment body in accordance with the criteria as stipulated in Regulation 27.
2. The condition for registration of independent schools as examination centres as outlined above implies that only learners who wrote and fulfilled the requirements of the National Senior Certificate at such independent schools can be certificated by Umalusi.

Whilst all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information contained herein, Umalusi accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever if the information is, for whatsoever reason, incorrect and Umalusi reserves its right to amend any incorrect information.

3. It has come to Umalusi's attention that some unaccredited independent schools are registered as examination centres by assessment bodies. Such Independent schools may have been registered as examination centres from the period prior to the approval of the accreditation policy by the Minister of Basic Education on 29 October 2012.
4. Subsequent to the approval of the accreditation policy all independent schools that were registered as Independent schools and or examination centres were required to apply for accreditation with Umalusi by 31 October 2013.
5. From 2017 onwards, Umalusi will certify only the learners who sat and fulfilled the requirements of the NSC at accredited independent schools or independent schools that have made considerable progress in their application for accreditation with Umalusi.
6. Umalusi therefore requests that the all independent schools that are registered as examination centres and not accredited by Umalusi ensure that they apply for accreditation by 31 October 2016.
7. Schools which have the status of "confirmed candidate" and were confirmed between 2006 and 2010, are also required to apply for accreditation by 31 October 2016 in order to retain that status.
8. Schools which have the status of "confirmed candidate" and were confirmed between 2011 and 2013, or received 7 years' accreditation as part of the pilot project must have submitted a monitoring report by 31 October 2016 in order to retain their compliant status.
9. The list of schools referred to in paragraph 5 above will be sent to the Provincial Departments of Education and Private Assessment Bodies on or before 15 February every year.

Kindly forward any enquiry in this regard to Cindy Thomas.

Yours sincerely



Ms Mary-Louise Madalane

Senior Manager : Evaluation and Accreditation Unit