



## Media Advisory

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### **SACE Honours Educators' Indispensable Role of Monitoring and Assessing Learning, Despite COVID-19 Pandemic Trials**

At the heart of any teaching and learning and classroom practice, lies the assessment process. Equally, educators are pivotal to any developmental and collective assessment process that takes place in our schools and the entire education system.

As part of its 10 Professional Teaching Standards, SACE recognises that **TEACHING INVOLVES MONITORING AND ASSESSING LEARNING**. Whilst doing so, SACE applauds that:

- Teachers use assessment tasks that give learners opportunities to show what they have learned, and how they can utilise that knowledge;
- Teachers provide learners with constructive feedback that helps them understand how they can improve their learning;
- Teachers analyse learner contributions, questions, and errors as important data that shows the learner's capabilities (or lack thereof) to inform future planning; and
- Teachers keep accurate records of assessments that track learner progress.

Indisputably, teachers are pivotal concerning the process of monitoring and assessing the learning of over 13 million learners in our 24 000 public and independent schools across the country.

Due to the challenging working conditions in 2020, teachers needed to think on their feet and used their curriculum and assessment knowledge, expertise, skills, and experience and ensured that assessment was done accordingly in line with the set policies, rubric, guidelines, and protocols which benefited the learners. It is against this background that SACE, as a professional body for teachers, values the immense role played by educators in assessing learners under difficult and uncertain times in the previous year.

Whilst SACE owes a debt of gratitude to all our educators who assessed our Grade 0 -12 learners in 2020, our special recognition goes to all educators who went to various marking/assessment centres from January 2021 onwards to assess the matric examination papers. The release of the matric results for the Class of 2020 is highly dependent on you. We cannot salute you enough. We thank you in advance ahead of the release of the matric results in February 2021.

We also salute teacher unions and Provincial Education Departments who ensured that our teachers are capacitated in advance and the necessary COVID-19 regulations and protocols are observed. The ongoing monitoring and evaluation processes at the marking centres, by both Department of Education and teacher unions, have not gone unnoticed.

Notwithstanding the good work done by our members of the teaching profession at the various marking centres across the country, SACE was saddened by the passing of two educators. Our sincere condolences to their families and schools. Furthermore, SACE has learned with concerns some of the educators that had to leave the marking centres due to various COVID-19 related conditions, as well as, unfavourable residential conditions under which some of them lived. Despite all these challenges, you (our esteemed educators) endured and assessed our Class of 2020 meticulously.

Issued by the South African Council for Educators (SACE)

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