



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Tel: 061-2933358//0811624526
Fax: +264 61- 253671
Email: Sem.Shino@moe.gov.na
Enquires: Sem Shino: Chief PRO

Private Bag 13186
Windhoek
Namibia
WINDHOEK

TO: ALL MEDIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

CLARIFICATION ON THE PURPORTED TEACHING OF SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS RELATING TO THE NAMIBIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) has been inundated with media questions related to the current topical issue of same-sex relationships in Namibia.

These questions are linked to statements made mainly by representatives of faith-based organisations and citizenry alleging that the Namibian education curriculum teaches or promotes same-sex relationships in schools.

MoEAC herewith would like to respond and clarify these allegations as follow:

The Ministry does not have a curriculum in which learners are taught to become “**homosexuals**” as perceived by some segments of our society. Part of the education curriculum consists of Life-Skills education, a non-promotional and non-examinable subject taught in Grades 4-12 in which learners are empowered with Life Skills, HIV/AIDS and Health Education.

In this curriculum, learners are provided with **incremental, age appropriate, culturally relevant and scientifically grounded sexuality education**. Learners are provided with the Ministerial approved content knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour necessary to enable them to manage and combat socio-economic and cultural challenges affecting their sexual health, well-being and ability to make informed decisions. This education is provided with due regard and awareness of the principles of respect of all humankind, regardless of color, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status and cultural differences with the purpose of promoting co-existence and tolerance among learners.

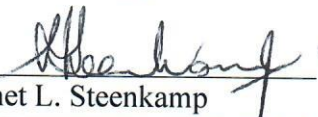
In contrast to all allegations, the Ministry assures parents, guardians and the general public that, it promotes the teaching of tolerant, non-judgmental, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Education with the focus on how human beings acquire or contract sexually transmitted infections, prevention and access to Health Care Services.

All official correspondences must be addressed to the office of the Executive Director

We further reiterate that the Namibian education curriculum is based on democracy, rule of law and non-discriminatory principles coupled with overall respect for human rights as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution. Our teaching does not favor and neither does it discriminate against learners on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We urge organizations, individuals and the citizenry to familiarize themselves with the Namibian education curriculum and to refrain from making irresponsible, uninformed, confusing and misleading statements that may cause distrust of our education system.

Yours sincerely,


Sanet L. Steenkamp
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

