



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of the Secretary

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SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION NO: 16 OF 2025

DATE: **02nd DECEMBER, 2025**

FILE: **CM2-4-2**

TO: **ALL HEAD TEACHERS/PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS
ALL PROVINCIAL EDUCATION ADVISORS AND OFFICERS
ALL CHURCH EDUCATION SECRETARIES**

SUBJECT: TERM AND EXAMINATION DATES FOR 2026

1. PURPOSE:

This Circular Instruction is sent to inform all Head Teachers/Principals, Provincial Education Advisors (PEAs) and Church Education Secretaries of the Term Dates for 2026. These dates are to plan for the 2026 academic year while waiting for the calendar to be printed and dispatched to the provinces.

2. APPLICATION:

This circular applies to all schools operating under the National Education System, Permitted and Private Schools providing education services in the General Education Sector.

3. BACKGROUND:

The Department of Education develops the school calendar annually to ensure uniformity across the National Education System and to guarantee sufficient contact hours for curriculum implementation. Scheduling ensures that the required instructional hours are met while allowing for standard school holiday breaks between terms.

The 2026 Academic Year is as follows;

2026 TERM DATES:

TERM	START OF TERM	END OF TERM	TEACHING WEEKS	TERM HOLIDAYS
1	Monday, January 26	Friday, April 03	10	Monday, April 6–Friday, April 10
2	Monday, April 13	Friday, June 19	10	Monday, June 22–Friday, July 3
3	Monday, July 6	Friday, September 11	10	Monday, September 14– Friday, September 18
4	Monday, September 21	Friday, December 04	11	Monday, December 7 - Friday, January 22, 2027

	<p>*In 2026, teachers resume duties on Monday, January 19</p> <p>*Students resume classes on Monday, January 26, 2026</p>
	<p>*In 2027, teachers resume duties on Monday, January 18</p> <p>*Students resume classes on Monday, January 25, 2027</p>

Below also is the 2026 National Examinations dates;

2026 NATIONAL EXAM DATES:

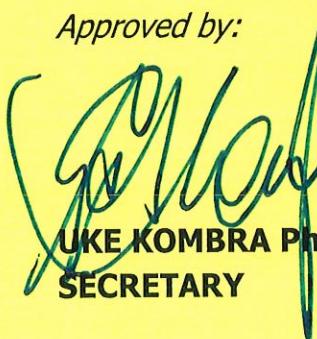
NO.	NATIONAL EXAMINATION	 DAYS	DATES
1	Lower Secondary School Certificate Written Expression (Grade 10)	Thursday	4 June 2026
2	Upper Secondary School Certificate Written Expression Exam (Grade 12)	Monday	3 August 2026
3	Grade 12 STEM Exams	Monday-Friday	31 August-4 September 2026
4	Lower Secondary School Certificate Exams (Grade 10)	Monday-Friday	5-9 October 2026
5	Upper Secondary School Certificate Exams (Grade 12)	Monday-Friday	12-16 October 2026
6	Certificate of Basic Education Exams (Grade 8)	Monday-Thursday	19-22 October 2026

4. INSTRUCTION:

This circular provides the confirmed duration of terms to allow schools and provinces to align their operational planning, budgets, and curriculum schedules immediately.

ALL schools in the National Education System, Head Teachers, Principals, Provincial Education Advisors (PEAs) and Church Education Secretaries are asked to use this information to plan in advance for the 2026 school year.

Approved by:


LUKE KOMBRA Ph.D, OBE
SECRETARY

