



**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE ADMISSION OF LEARNERS
TO SCHOOLS FOR THE 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

BY

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**MINISTER OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, YOUTH, SPORTS,
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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

I rise today to provide a Ministerial Statement on behalf of my Minister, our Minister, Honorable Dr Sanet Steekamp, and our Ministry pertaining to the admission of learners to schools for the 2027 academic year.

This matter has attracted considerable public attention in recent days , particularly following reports and images of parents and guardians queuing for extended periods and in some instances spending nights outside schools, in an effort to obtain application forms for admission into Pre-Primary, Grade 1 and Grade 8.

The Ministry understands the anxiety experienced by parents who wish to secure quality education opportunities for their children. However, it is important to clarify the admissions process and reassure the Namibian public that no parent is required to sleep outside a school gate in order to secure admission for their child.

The admissions process is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, specifically **Article 20**, which guarantees the right to education, as well as the **Education Act, 2020 (Act No. 3 of 2020)**, its Regulations, and **Circular ED:03/2026**, which outlines the procedures for admissions to public schools.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members,

In the Khomas Region, the admissions process commenced with a Regional Admissions Awareness Campaign conducted from 1 to 12 June 2026.

During this period, the Director of Education for the Khomas Region officially launched the admissions campaign through a media briefing. Members of the media were encouraged to sensitize parents and communities on the admissions procedures and requirements.

In addition, the Regional Admissions Committee presented the admissions guidelines to principals from both public and private schools on the 5th of June 2026 to ensure a common and unified understanding of the processes.

The Regional Admissions Committee also conducted community outreach activities throughout urban and rural areas, distributing information through flyers, posters as well as direct engagement with communities to ensure that parents were adequately informed. It is worth mentioning that these efforts are not perfect.

The collection of admission application forms is and was scheduled to take place from this past Monday the **15th of June to Tuesday the 30th of June 2026 and has commenced** in all of our 14 Regions.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to collect application forms from schools within the prescribed period. **It is important to emphasize that admissions are not conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. Collecting a form does not guarantee placement, nor does arriving first provide an advantage over other applicants.**

Schools have been instructed to make sufficient application forms available and to maintain comprehensive applicant registers with unique identification numbers to prevent duplication and ensure transparency.

Parents will be informed of the outcome of their applications after the closing date of 1 July 2026.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members,

While admission criteria may vary depending on school circumstances and available capacity, several guiding principles are applied throughout the process. Priority consideration is generally given to:

- Learners residing within a school's feeder zone, particularly those living closest to the school.
- Learners whose parents or guardians work within the feeder zone.
- Siblings of learners already attending the school and expected to remain enrolled during the following academic year.

Additional consideration is given to:

- Learners residing within the region but further away from the school.
- Families relocating to the Khomas Region or other regions due to employment or economic opportunities, such as the very colleague Honorable Members of this August House.

Where a preferred school has reached full capacity, the Regional Admissions Committee may offer placement at the nearest available school or another school with available space. Parents who are dissatisfied with such placements may approach the regional office for assistance, although placement options may be limited due to capacity constraints.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members,

The Ministry wishes to remind all schools and parents that the prescribed application fee remains N\$10.00 only. I wish to single out Honorable Hangula who has been engaging offline to ensure that this fee is adhered to.

Furthermore, no learner may be discriminated against, screened, excluded or unfairly disadvantaged during the admissions process on the basis of social, economic or any other status. Every child has a right to fair consideration.

Following consultations with regional authorities and school leadership, several key challenges have been identified.

Firstly, many parents continue to prefer a limited number of schools perceived to be the "best schools" or "centres of excellence", resulting in exceptionally high demand at those schools while other schools still have available space.

We shall continue to encourage parents to support their schools to become the very best. Secondly, despite repeated communication that admissions are not conducted on a first-come, first-served basis, some parents continue to camp outside schools in anticipation of collecting application forms. We wish to strongly denounce this.

Thirdly, many primary schools accommodate their own Pre-Primary learners, who account for a significant proportion of Grade 1 admissions, in some cases exceeding 70 per cent of available spaces.

Fourthly, several high-demand schools have already reached their practical capacity limits, with enrolments exceeding 1,500 learners. In many cases, additional classrooms cannot easily be accommodated within current existing infrastructure. Fifthly, sustained migration from regions into urban centres, particularly the Khomas Region, continues to increase pressure on already congested schools. Lastly, parental preferences often result in disproportionate demand for specific schools, creating challenges in achieving balanced enrollment across the education system.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members,

The Ministry is taking decisive action to address these challenges, where schools are being encouraged to establish representative Admissions Committees that reflect diversity, competence and integrity to ensure fair and transparent decision-making. Secondly, the Ministry is actively exploring the introduction of expanded online admissions systems to modernise the process and reduce unnecessary queues. Such systems will be complemented by manual application processes to ensure inclusivity for parents without internet access.

Thirdly, Grade 7 learners will increasingly be encouraged to apply through their existing schools for Grade 8 placement to improve planning and facilitate smoother transitions.

Fourthly, the Ministry will continue working closely with Regional Directors and education stakeholders to identify best practices and implement practical interventions aimed at eliminating current bottlenecks and strengthening admissions management.

Additionally, the Ministry is currently reviewing broader policy interventions, including standardised admissions guidelines and enhanced placement systems, to improve fairness, transparency and efficiency nationwide.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

As I draw to a close, let me assure this House and the Namibian public that the Government remains fully committed to ensuring that every child has access to quality education.

We call upon parents and guardians to remain guided by official Ministry communications, to adhere to the prescribed admissions procedures and to work together with schools and regional authorities to ensure an orderly and fair process.

The Ministry will continue to improve planning, optimise available capacity and expand educational infrastructure where resources permit.

I so submit.