The Ministry of Education would like to respond to the article, No more Computer Studies for YOUR child, published by The Namibian Sun on 19 February 2015. The reporter published a misleading article that put the government of Namibia and the Ministry of Education in a bad light.

The National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) would like to inform the public about the response of the Ministry of Education to one of the objectives of Vision 2030, namely to integrate ICT education and training into the education and training system. To enable learners to acquire computer skills at a young age is a very high priority for the government and the Ministry of Education. Consistent with the objectives of Vision 2030, the Ministry of Education adopted an ICT Policy for Education in 2003 which reflects their commitment to empower our learners to be on par with the rest of the world with regard to ICT skills. The ICT Policy for Education covers three aspects of the ICT curriculum, namely ICT Literacy, ICT as a subject, and Cross Curricular ICT.

**ICT Literacy:** All learners are expected to have basic ICT literacy skills before they finish their secondary level education.

**ICT as a subject:** For more advanced technical literacy skills, a curriculum for Computer Studies has been provided for the explicit study of ICT.

**Cross Curricular ICT:** This promotes the general use of ICT in all curriculum activities.

NIED has responded to the ICT Policy for Education appropriately. Information and Communication Technology Skills are part of the core skills in the National Curriculum for Basic Education. The new national ICT curriculum is structured as follows:

*In the junior primary phase (grade 1-3), ICT is taught as a cross curricular theme. Learners participate freely in ICT-related activities and use educational games, software and multimedia as appropriate to their purpose or task.*

*In the senior primary phase (grade 4-7), the subject Information and Communication (IC) is a compulsory subject. It is a combination of the two existing subjects, namely ICT Literacy and Basic Information Science (BIS). The new syllabus was informed by the latest trends in education world-wide. The senior primary syllabus focuses on the following computer skills:*  
- Basic computer equipment and keyboard and mouse skills.
- Navigating the operating system.
- File and folder management.
- The Internet and e-mail

*In the secondary phase (grade 8-12), the IC syllabus focuses on advanced word processing skills, presentation software (PowerPoint), spreadsheets, databases and web design.*

**Computer Studies** is taught as an elective subject. It is a highly specialised and theoretical subject. Topics in the course include systems analysis, data paths, number systems (decimal, binary and hex), logic gates and the writing and interpreting of algorithms and computer programmes. For pedagogical reasons, a subject of this magnitude cannot be taught in the primary phase. Therefore it is better placed in the secondary school curriculum.

The other subject in the National Curriculum for Basic Education which provides advanced technical skills is called Office Practice.

In addition to the above-mentioned, ICT is also integrated in all subjects of the National Curriculum for Basic Education as a cross-curricular theme.

We trust that the public will now have a better understanding of the Information Communication Technology learning area in the National Curriculum for Basic Education, and can therefore look forward to the implementation of the curriculum, which has been reviewed to respond to the needs of the Namibian society.

*We would like to request the media to work closely with us in order to provide accurate information to the public.*

For more information regarding the content of the syllabuses, kindly contact us:

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