

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
between the Government of South Africa
and the National Religious Leaders' Forum (NRLF)/
National Religious Association for Social Development (NRASD)**

PROJECT BRIEF

Religious Sector Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Programme

1. Introduction

The Government of South Africa in collaboration with the NRLF and the NRASD has approved a National ABET Programme for the Religious Sector. This collaboration is an effort to eradicate poverty through the promotion of the previously disadvantaged members of society.

The practical roll-out of this programme is coordinated by:

- the Department of Labour;
- a Joint Project Committee of the NRLF/ NRASD MOU Management Unit; and
- Project Literacy (the technical and implementation partner).

2. Project Scope

The project is targeting all members of the Religious Sector either registered or not registered with the NRASD in all provinces. The breakdown of learner allocations by province is as follows:

- KwaZulu-Natal: 2,000;
- Eastern Cape: 1,500;
- Limpopo: 1,500;
- Free State: 500;
- Mpumalanga: 500;
- North West: 500;
- Gauteng: 200;
- Western Cape: 200;
- Northern Cape: 100;
- Totalling 7,000 learners.

The target groups include the unemployed youth, including women and the disabled members of the community largely from the rural areas as it targets nodal areas in line with the National Skills Development Strategy.

The learning areas to be covered are English and Maths in levels 1 and 2; and every learner must cover both learning areas.

The project tenure is 12 months and should be implemented through working with different congregations as Community Based Organisations (CBO's).

3. Project Objectives

The learner numbers must cover the following targets:

- 54% to be women;
- 60% to be from rural areas;
- 4% disabled; and
- 80% success rate.

4. Partners and their Roles in the Project

Department of Labour

- Oversees project chartering and supervision of implementing partners and reports regularly to the Office of the President.
- Reviews progress and ensures continuity of project through quarterly funding of activities.

National Religious Association for Social Development (NRASD)

- Conducts advocacy campaign for project within the Religious Sector.
- Recruits the different church congregations and all religious denominations interested in the project and allocates learner numbers.

Project Literacy

- Provides technical expertise in project role out modalities by assisting in educator and learner selections (assessment) tools.
- Conducts educator training and capacity building to all participating congregations via its regional offices in every province.
- Monitoring and evaluating project progress and recommending corrective actions.

Religious denominations at national, regional and local level

- Recruits learners and educators working in conjunction with Project Literacy support teams.
- Provides learner venues at their premises where possible and ensures there is adequate furniture for learning purposes.
- Pay educators (may be members of denomination) a monthly stipend to ensure continuity of project after being paid learner allowances from the project budget by Project Literacy. Each congregation/denomination will be paid R1,057.14 per learner for the 2 learning areas for the entire project period. This will be paid in equal quarterly tranches of R264.28 per learner. This will be multiplied by the number of learners allocated to give the total amount receivable.

5. Resources provided in the Project

All leaning materials (textbooks, books, pens and pencils) are provided over and above the amount paid per learner.

No school fees are charged to learners - this project is for free including the exam fees.

6. Benefits of the Project

For religious denominations (congregations, mosques, etc)

- Realise some surplus money after paying educators stipends from the lump sum receivable to be used for other congregational activities.
- Creation of employment for congregation members who will qualify to be educators.
- Skills level awareness and general understanding of life leading to personal development and literacy in English and Maths as the areas to be examined.
- Increased participation in the community through better parenting and development of their families and self confidence as citizens of South Africa.

7. If interested please contact any of the following:

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You could also make enquiries through any Provincial Office of Project Literacy - see their website for details of Provincial Offices.

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