



22 May 2020

Dear EWSETA Learner

COVID-19 Stipend Payment Directive for Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs)

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa in early March, followed by the lockdown that commenced on 26 March 2020, has been a source of disruption to all sectors and industries in the country. In spite of this, the EWSETA has continued to work remotely to address the needs of its stakeholders.

Since the commencement of the lockdown, Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology has released two Directives in regards skills development implementation, namely, Directive No. 04/2020 and Directive No. 05/2020. Directive No. 05/2020 stipulates that all SETAs are required to continue paying learner stipends in full, until further notice.

Subsequent to the release of the Directive, the EWSETA has been working with implementing partners in the processing of stipends.

We have received communication from numerous learners asking about stipends due to them and we wish to assure learners that we are working as quickly as possible to address any backlogs, but we cannot possibly do this alone. The stipend payment process is a complicated one and also subject to numerous rules and requirements. It is often here that delays happen when all the required information is not supplied by the service provider and/or learners.

Please note that learner stipends are paid to service providers at pre-determined intervals, subject to certain 'non-negotiable' requirements having been met.

Whereas service providers are required to submit specific information at each step of the process in order to receive tranche payments (this refers to the payment of a pre-determined amount of money at a specific time in the programme - subject to ALL requirements having been met), the responsibility lies with learners that they attend the theoretical training and sign the relevant attendance registers; logbooks from training undertaken in the workplace need to be completed and signed; all assessments, whether formative or summative, have been completed; and learners also need to confirm to the service provider that payments have been received.

What this means is that you, as the learner, have an important role to play in ensuring that the EWSETA receives all the information required to release tranche payments.

At this point, we are unsure when things can return to some sense of 'normal' but it is important to note that all EWSETA learners are required to be available for alternative methods of training that will be delivered and monitored by implementing partners. The EWSETA is working with its partners in finding solutions, whilst at all times adhering to lockdown regulations for the safety of all concerned.

As a country we face unprecedented times, but rest assured that the EWSETA will continue to work with its stakeholders in driving energy and water sector skills development.

Take care and stay safe

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Chief Operations Officer