

KAMAL PANDAY

◆ Justice of the Peace ◆ Commissioner of Oaths ◆ Marriage Officer

The Honourable Mr Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
president@presidency.gov.za

18 May 2020

Your Excellency,

You have saved the lives of many people due to your swift response to COVID-19. Congratulations on your leadership! I take liberty to address an important educational matter with you which is crucial during this time of the pandemic. I have formerly served as a teacher, principal, and for 10 years on the Education Portfolio Committee in National Parliament and the KZN Legislature with Hon. Minister Zweli Mkhize and Hon. Minister Senzo Mchunu.

I firmly believe that schools should not reopen yet, as this will compromise the health of teachers and learners and our communities. If we consider the pre-existing health complications of several learners -and their families- the premature return to school will compromise their lives. The risk outweighs the benefit; our primary concern should be the basic health and safety our people.

This need not mean that the academic program is suspended or further disrupted. I was impressed with a school in Gauteng that responded remarkably well to the pandemic and lockdown and continued with no disruption to teaching and learning like a well-oiled machine: Education Incorporated in Fourways, Johannesburg (www.educationincorporated.co.za, 0114678015, operating from 40 Kingfisher Drive, Fourways). The school put into action their carefully planned strategy immediately after you declared a State of Emergency. From 07:00 on Wednesday 25 March 2020, all learning activities were running online, well before the National lockdown officially began. To date, not a single lesson has been missed, and the general activities of staff meetings, assessment reporting, and assembly has continued in the virtual space. I admire, approve and recommend the model of Education Incorporated to all schools that can implement it, thereby saving the lives of teachers and learners and significantly reducing the risk and spread of infection through our communities.

Please feel free to contact me and, if you feel this information proves valuable, feel free to share it with Hon. Mrs Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education.

Yours Sincerely,

Kamal Panday

