

NOTICE 860 OF 2012

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

I, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, hereby give notice of my intention to declare research institutions, for purposes of the definition of "research institution" in section 1 of the National Research Foundation Act, 1998 (Act No.23 of 1998), as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Interested or affected persons are invited to submit written comments or representations on the declaration within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to:

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**MRS GNM PANDOR, MP
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

18-09-2012

1. Definitions

In this schedule, unless the context indicates otherwise, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act has the same meaning, and –

“global infrastructure” refers to international large research infrastructures, both single-sited and distributed, linked by high-speed networks for optimal sharing of data and resources, which provide research and development capability beyond the resources available at regional or national levels;

“higher education institution abroad” means any institution of higher learning with a mandate to offer and confer higher education qualifications, and recognised as such by the government of the relevant country;

“interested party” means any researcher or research institution that may apply to utilise a national facility for research or instruction in terms of section 5 (2) of the Act;

“public higher education institution” means any institution which has been established, is deemed to have been established or is declared to be a public higher education institution in terms of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997);

“research infrastructure” includes scientific equipment, specialised facilities, and global infrastructure;

“scientific equipment” means a discrete or networked, free-standing or mounted, desk-top to large, dedicated or multi-purpose usage research tool including all necessary ancillary items;

“specialised facility” refers to a physical and/or organisational structure of a capital nature which provides a controlled environment for specialised experiments and is required to ensure the optimal performance of research equipment, particularly in the advanced scientific equipment category; and

“the Act” means the National Research Foundation Act, 1998 (Act No.5 of 1998).

2. Application

The scope of this declaration excludes the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SASTA), a component of the NRF whose mandate is not research.

This declaration applies to the following funding categories of the National Research Foundation (NRF):

- 2.1 Postgraduate studies at Honours, Masters and Doctoral levels;
- 2.2 Postdoctoral fellowships;
- 2.3 Research equipment; and
- 2.4 Grants (e.g., research grants, travel grants, capacity development grants, etc).

3. Declaration of research institutions

- 3.1 With reference to qualification-offering research-performing institutions offering postgraduate studies at honours, masters and doctoral levels, as well as postdoctoral fellowships contemplated in subparagraphs 2.1 and 2.2; only public higher education institutions are declared as research institutions.
- 3.2 With reference to research-performing institutions offering postdoctoral fellowships contemplated in sub-paragraph 2.2, or eligible for support in the acquisition of research equipment contemplated in subparagraph 2.3, or whose researchers are eligible for support through various forms of grants contemplated in sub-paragraph 2.4, the following types of institutions are declared research institutions:
 - (a) Public Higher Education Institutions;
 - (b) National Facilities of the NRF declared by the Minister in terms of section 5(1) of the Act;
 - (c) Research-performing museums declared as such under the Cultural Institutions Act, 1998 (Act No. 119 of 1998), and those which house national collections relevant in conducting research;

- (d) The following science councils, whose legislative mandates generally centre around promotion of research development, and technology innovation and transfer in their various fields of operation:
- (i) The Human Sciences Research Council, established by the Human Sciences Research Act, 1968 (Act No. 23 of 1968), and retained by the Human Sciences Research Act, 2008 (Act No. 17 of 2008);
 - (ii) The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, established by the Scientific Research Council Act, 1945 (Act No. 33 of 1945) and retained by the Scientific Research Act, 1988 (Act No. 46 of 1988);
 - (iii) The Agricultural Research Council, established by the Agricultural Research Act, 1990 (Act No. 86 of 1990);
 - (iv) The South African Medical Research Council, established by the South African Medical Research Council Act, 1969 (Act No. 19 of 1969), and retained by the South African Medical Research Act, 1991 (Act No. 58 of 1991);
 - (v) The Council for Geoscience, established by the Geoscience Act, 1993 (Act No. 100 of 1993);
 - (vi) The Council for Mineral Technology (Mintek), established by the Mineral Technology Act, 1981 (Act No. 84 of 1981), and retained by the Mineral Technology Act, 1989 (Act No. 30 of 1989);
 - (vii) The South African National Space Agency, established by the South African National Space Agency Act, 2008 (Act No. 36 of 2008); and
 - (viii) The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, established by the Nuclear Energy Act, 1999 (Act No. 46 of 1999).
- (e) Research performing units within the provincial and national government departments and other public research-performing

institutions supporting these departments in fulfilling their mandates; and

(f) The South African Environmental Observation Network.

3.3 With reference to research-performing institutions offering postgraduate studies at honours, masters and doctoral levels or postdoctoral fellowships or eligible for support in the acquisition of research equipment, or whose researchers are eligible for support through various forms of grants contemplated in paragraph 2, the following institutions do not qualify to be declared as research institutions:

- (a) Centre for Education Policy Development;
- (b) Monash South Africa;
- (c) National Metrology Institute of South Africa;
- (d) Paleontological Scientific Trust;
- (e) Oceanic Research Institute, a division of the South African Association for Marine Biological Research;
- (f) South African Institute of Chartered Accountants;
- (g) South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI);
- (h) Water Research Commission and
- (i) South African Weather Bureau.

3.4 The institutions referred to in sub-paragraph 3.3 shall remain eligible for funding support in line with the current funding categories of the NRF for a period of not more than one year from the date of commencement of the declaration. Beyond this period continued support for some of these institutions will happen through the declared research institutions they are attached to. Their exclusion from being declared as research institutions is based on one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) They are attached to higher education institutions and are eligible to receive funding for one or more of the categories (bursaries and scholarships; postdoctoral fellowships; research equipment and research grants) through these institutions;

- (b) They are private or non-governmental institutions, and at present the aim is to strengthen research-intensive public institutions; and/or
- (c) Their legislative mandates fall outside the scope of research and technology development.

Commencement

This declaration of research institutions comes into operation on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.