

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 3654

7 July 2023

**AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINITION ON THE LANGUAGE POLICY
FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS,
DETERMINED IN TERMS OF SECTION 27(2) OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION ACT, 101 OF 1997 AS AMENDED**

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, hereby publish an amendment to the definition of the term, “indigenous languages” as contained in the “Definition of Terms” section of the *Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions*, published in a Government Gazette No.43860 on 30 October 2020.

The term “indigenous languages” in the abovementioned policy framework is defined as follows:

Languages that have their heritage roots in Africa and that belong to the Southern Bantu language family, where “Bantu” is used purely as a linguistic term. An indigenous language is a language that is native to a region or country and spoken by indigenous people.

The above definition is replaced with the following:

Indigenous languages: An indigenous language is a language that is native to a region or country and is spoken by indigenous people. The term, in this policy framework is used interchangeably with “indigenous African languages” and it refers to previously marginalised South African languages whose use and status have been historically diminished as

referred to in Section 6(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Higher education institutions and the public are hereby notified to take into consideration this amendment.



Dr BE Nzimande, MP

Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology

Date: 28/03/2023