SA-SAMS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

Let's Catch up

- The SA-SAMS Modernisation Project continues to make steady headway across all core workstreams. Significant developments were recorded in architecture, infrastructure and testing, where preparations are underway for non-functional and security testing, alongside a proposal for a closed tender to accelerate the cloud infrastructure rollout.

- On the functionality and solution development front, updates to key functional specifications (FRS), inclusive education enhancements, and learner concession workshops are ongoing, alongside efforts to finalise the assessment module updates. The solution deployment workstream remains focused on addressing previously identified defects and backlog requests across major modules.

- Data cleansing and migration work progressed with the commencement of data mapping between the legacy and modernised systems, with API-based integration planning for DDD set to begin. On training, sourcing of a content vendor and alignment of system and training activities are underway, pending SACE endorsement and budget approval for video development.

- The Change Management workstream has refined its pilot-phase strategy to enhance and accelerate stakeholder readiness. The revised plan supports funding mobilisation through a concept note and provides strategic direction for broader system adoption. Coordination with the North West province for an upcoming Data Dialogue is also advancing, laying the foundation for provincial engagement and mobilisation.

Solution Development

Business Analysis

In Progress

- Updating SIAS FRS documentation as per walkthrough feedback.
- Inclusive Education Requirements and Design workshops.
- Learner Concession Analysis and Workshops
- Setup a New School FRS Draft.
- Preparation for Special Needs Education Workshop.
  – Age ranges per grade.
  – Grades for SNE schools.

What's Planned:

- Special Needs Education Workshops.
- User Management Data Access Configuration
- Learner Concession FRS Draft.
- Sign-off Assessment FRS v2.0 Addendum (Learner Mark Management, Learner Progress Report Management, Learner Promotion and Progression).

Functionality Development

In Progress

- Addressing defects identified in SIT.
- Development of second version of a major portion of backlog requests across ML, MS, MHR.

Data Cleansing and Migration

In progress

- Started with the data mapping documentation between the old SA-SAMS database and the new system database.

What's planned:

- Commence the development work on the integration using API's for DDD
- Completion of Data Mapping Documentation
- DBE Data Team to sign-off Data Mapping Documentation

Architecture, Infrastructure & System Integration Testing

In progress

- Assistance to the DBE in request to SITA to commence "Tender Process" for the provisioning of Cloud Infrastructure Solution.
- Motivation for closed tender that is for the NECT to identify and secure an interim service provider to deliver on Cloud Infrastructure Solution.
- The next SIT testing cycle to follow the recent deployment, which incorporated both new MCA developments and fixes for previously identified UAT defects.
- Onboarding of resources and commencement of capturing of Curriculum subjects (CAPS)

What's planned:

- Planning and scoping of identified priorities by DBE
- Non- Functional Testing – Performance, Scalability, Volume, Penetration Testing
- Security Testing of System aligned to SITA process
- Approval of interim service provider – Cloud Infrastructure Solution.

Solution Deployment

Change Management & Communications

The Change Management workstream has finalised a revised pilot-phase plan to sharpen focus, improve alignment, and accelerate readiness. This plan will also inform a concept paper by the New Leaders Foundation (NLF) to secure funding for key change activities, ensuring the groundwork is laid for lasting impact and system-wide adoption.

In progress:

- Coordination of NW Provincial Dialogue with DBE and NW
- Planning to fastrack a meeting with NLF to have a workshop on Change Management
- Fine-tune change management plan in preparation of the workshop

What's planned:

- Dialogue coordination meetings with NW EMIS Provincial Team
- All personnel and infrastructure logistics for NW Dialogue
- Recruitment for additional Change Management capacity

Training

In progress:

- Sourcing vendor to assist with the creation of professional training video content
- Awaiting SACE endorsement approvement status
- Align system business activities with training programme

What's planned:

- Recording of material after approved budget
- DBE e-cadre training on SA-SAMS Modernisation project
- Complete SACE endorsement
- Complete one professional introductory video

Acronyms

API	Application Programming Interface	NLF	New Leaders Foundation
CAPS	Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement	NW	North West
DDD	Data Driven Districts	SACE	South African Council of Educators
DBE	Department of Basic Education	SA-SAMS	South African School Administration and Management Management System
EMIS	Education Information Management System		
FRS	Functional Requirements Specification	SIAS	Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support
MCA	Manage Curriculum and Assessment		
MHR	Manage Human Resources	SIT	System Integration Testing
ML	Manage Learner	SITA	State Information Technology Agency
MS	Manage School	SNE	Special Needs Education
NECT	National Education Collaboration Trust	UAT	User Acceptance Testing

June 2025 Achievements

- **Completed:** Document Learner Progression Management FRS. Being prepared for signoff.
- **Completed:** Facilitated collaboration session with PEDs and DBE on User Role Matrix based on presentation at Technical Committee on 2025/06/28.
- **Completed:** User Role Matrix v2.0 approved at DBE Technical Committee on 2025/07/17.
- **Completed:** Pilot Test Implementation Product Backlog Prioritisation.
- **Completed:** Manage Teaching Specialisation, Qualifications, Teaching Load, Teaching Languages use cases (HR/Staff Management FRS Addendum).
- **Completed:** Walkthrough of SIAS FRS with DBE Inclusive Education policy owners.
- **Completed:** Data Migration using Data from the GDE Data Warehouse.
- **Completed:** First set of data mapping documentation completed and forwarded to DBE Data Team for verification and validation.
- **Completed:** Subjects capturing for 15 Sedibeng East schools has commenced.
- **Completed:** Requirements and solution options provided to GIT / DBE for Infrastructure Cloud Solution.
- **Completed:** Second engagement with vendor to create training videos.
- **Completed:** Revised Change Management Plan.

DID YOU KNOW!

Staging Data Dialogues alongside SA-SAMS project implementation ensures that system upgrades are matched with a shift in mindset – from data collection to data use. These engagements build capacity and position stakeholders to extract real value from the modernised SA-SAMS, accelerating the culture of data-driven decision-making across the sector.