

SA-SAMS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

Issue 4/2025/04

Monthly Progress Report as of April/May 2025



Let's Catch up

- For the months of April and May, the SA-SAMS Modernisation Project continued to make steady progress across key workstreams, with significant advancements in defect resolution, enhancement development, and testing preparations, despite some delays that are currently being addressed through targeted mitigation efforts.
- Defect resolution and system readiness:** In preparation for the second phase of User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for Curriculum and Assessment, the DBE and PEDs have requested the inclusion of all 295 enhancements identified during earlier UAT cycles. These enhancements are now in development to ensure a comprehensive and effective testing phase.
- The readiness challenges and mitigation:** The data capture of the CAPS documents into the modernised system has experienced delays due to limited resource availability. To mitigate this, the Project Team is exploring fast-tracking options, including the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and recruiting additional data capturers.
- The revised process for obtaining **South African Council of Educators (SACE)** endorsement for SA-SAMS system training via the NECT has been finalised, with training manuals being prepared for submission. These developments, along with ongoing enhancements and testing dependencies, have impacted the May 2025 pilot timeline. The joint project teams are currently reassessing the requirements and developing a revised plan to support a successful pilot rollout.

Solution Development



Business Analysis

In Progress

- Finalise SIAS FRS documentation.
- Document Learner Progression Management FRS.
- Revise: User Role Matrix.
- Pilot Implementation Product Backlog Prioritization.
- Manage Teaching Specialisation, Qualifications, Teaching Load, Teaching Languages.

What's Planned:

- Present revised User Roles Matrix at DBE Technical Committee for review.
- Update User Role Matrix with review feedback.
- Preparation for Special Needs Workshop.
- User Management Data Access Configuration.
- Recruitment of 2 Additional BA resources
- Signoff Assessment FRS v2.0 Addendum (Learner Mark Management, Learner Progress Report Management, Learner Promotion and Progression)
- Internal review: Learner Transport FRS.



Functionality Development

In Progress

- Learner Report Management (Academic):**
 - Learner Promotion and Progression.
 - View Learner Assessment Results.
 - View Learner Progress Academic.
 - View Learner Reports.



Data Cleansing and Migration

In progress

- System Integration Testing to commence on migrate data by scripts to manage data quality.
- Compiling the migration documentation for DBE signoff.

What's planned:

- Invite FS EMIS directorate to validate data migration.
- Compile migration data entity mapping between SA-SAMS and the new Modernized SA-SAMS.



Architecture, Infrastructure & System Integration Testing

In progress

- Ongoing engagements with DBE GITO focusing on cloud solution are in progress.
- DBE is requesting SITA to initiate a tender for a long-term solution, while NECT motivates for a closed tender to secure an interim provider to ensure continuity.
- The next testing cycle, following deployment, will include validation of newly developed MCA features as well as resolution of defects identified during User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

What's planned:

- Scope of work requirements for FET & LSEN
- Testing of MCA backlog,
- Non- functional testing
- Security testing
- Approved interim service provider for cloud solution
- Onboarding of resources and commencement of capturing of Curriculum subjects

Solution Deployment

Change Management & Communications

- April and May marked a significant milestone for the Change Management workstream, which successfully led the planning and execution of three consecutive Provincial Data Dialogues. Held across Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape, and the Northern Cape, the sessions drew strong virtual attendance figures of 1,305, 1,038, and 367 participants respectively.
- The Dialogues brought together provincial education leadership, district officials, and school management teams to engage on the critical importance of clean data and evidence-informed decision-making.
- The DBE EMIS leadership actively attended the three sessions and generated robust discussions, reinforcing the sector's collective commitment to improving data quality and utilisation across all levels of the education system.



Mr. Dirk Hanekom from EC, giving a response post the keynote addresses.



A part of MP audience, listening intently at data conversations that are meant to drive meaningful change in education.



Mr. Gideon Oliphant from NC, opening the session and welcoming the NC delegates to the Dialogue.

Training

In progress:

- Present Revised User Roles Matrix at DBE Technical Committee for review.
- Update User Role Matrix with review feedback.
- Align business activities with training programme
- Document and align training activities with pilot plans
- Sourcing vendor to assist with the creation of professional training video content
- Awaiting approval status for SACE endorsement for SA-SAMS training material

What's planned:

- Recording of training material after approved budget
- Finalise KZN User Acceptance Training (UAT) queries
- Finalise manual template for DBE
- Finalise project plan for pilot



Acronyms

CAPS	Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement	MCA	Manage Curriculum and Assessment
CPTD	Continuing Professional Teacher Development	MHR	Manage Human Resources
DBE	Department of Basic Education	LSEN	Learners with Special Educational Needs
EMIS	Education Management Information System	ML	Manage Learner
EC	Eastern Cape	MS	Manage School
FET	Further Education & Training	NC	Northern Cape Province
GEC	General Education Certificate	NECT	National Education Collaboration Trust
GITO	Government Information Technology Officer	SIAS	Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support
FS	Free State Province	SITA	State Information Technology Agency
FRS	Functional Requirements Specification	UAT	User Acceptance Testing
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal		

April/May 2025 Achievements



- Completed:** Internal review Promotion Management FRS.
- Completed:** Learner SIAS Solution Design.
- Completed:** Learner Behaviour Solution Design Workshop.
- Complete:** Pilot Implementation Product Backlog Refinement.
- Completed:** SIAS FRS Internal Review
- Completed:** Assessment FRS – Learner Mark Management Scenario Testing
- Completed:** RCL Requirements Workshops
- Completed:** Pilot Test Product Backlog Prioritization with DBE
- Completed:** School Promotion Requirements Configuration FRS Walkthrough

- Completed:** GEC Workshop – Incorporation of GEC into Modernised SA-SAMS
- Completed:** Virtual training for 74 EMIS officials from LP on MS, ML, MHR and MCA
- Completed:** SACE endorsement deadline met
- Completed:** Business process analysis for 4 schools in Sedibeng East District for pilot preparation.
- Completed:** Learner mentoring functionality
- Completed:** Assessments – progress and promote learners
- Completed:** Requirements and solution options provided to GITO / DBE for infrastructure cloud solution
- Completed:** Three provincial data dialogues for Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, and Northern Cape.

DID YOU KNOW!

The SA-SAMS Modernisation training material is under consideration to be SACE-endorsed. SACE endorsement is a formal recognition that a programme contributes meaningfully to the professional development of South African educators, meets national standards, and qualifies for CPTD points.

