

NSG launches compulsory online course on Ethics in the Public Service

The Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Senzo Mchunu, has directed government departments to ensure that officials enrol for the compulsory Ethics in the Public Service Online Course offered by the National School of Government (NSG).



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The NSG has developed the Ethics in the Public Service online course in collaboration with the Department of Public Service and Administration and the Office of the Public Service Commission. The course is part of the NSG's €10 million (approximately R200 million) Public Service Training and Capacity Building Programme, funded by the European Union (EU).

In the 2019 State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa, indicated that the NSG will be implementing a suite of compulsory programmes to professionalise the public service. Ethics in the Public Service is one of the courses in the compulsory suite.

“Ethical conduct and organisational integrity are key in eradicating fraud and corruption in the public service. As the training arm of government, it is therefore imperative that the NSG implements a training programme that will equip public officials with the skills and competencies to make ethical decisions, to develop organisational integrity, to prevent fraud and combat corruption in the Public Sector,” said Minister Mchunu.

Section 195 of the Constitution of South Africa envisages a public service that will promote a high standard of professional ethics. The Department of Public Service and Administration says it envisages that through providing ethics training it will give effect to this constitutional principle and enable the state to function more efficiently.

This course is relevant for employees in the Public Service at all levels as it will help them understand the revised Code of Conduct outlined in Chapter Two of the Public Service Regulations as well as serve as a tool for Ethics Officers to institutionalise ethics standards within their organisations.

More specifically, the content of the course will enable officials to:

- Reflect on their own values and behaviour in the workplace;
- Recognise common areas of ethical dilemmas for public service employees;
- Apply the core ethical values and standards contained in prescripts which have relevance for the conduct of employees in the public service; and
- Uphold and promote Professional Ethics in the workplace.

The course is open and available at no cost to the government departments. For self- registration and enrolment, public servants should do the following:

- Go to the NSG website (<https://www.thensg.gov.za/>).
- Click on "Open eLearning courses" under the eLearning tab on the NSG website.
- Follow the on-screen instructions to register an online profile (if they have not done so yet).
- Enrol for the Ethics in the Public Service Course. If officials have forgotten their username and/or password, use the "Forgotten your username or password?" link on the login page.
- Officials can also contact the eLearning Helpdesk at eLearning@thensg.gov.za for assistance.

Enquiries by those wishing to enrol may be directed to Petunia Matsapola - petunia.matsapola@thensg.gov.za or Dr Bunny Subedar at - bunny.subedar@thensg.gov.za.

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