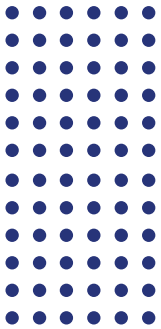# SA-SAMS

MODERNISATION **PROJECT**

Welcome to the second in a series of SA-SAMS Modernisation Programme Newsletters for 2021. The newsletter serves as a communication channel for updating all Programme stakeholders on the latest developments on the SA-SAMS Modernisation Project.

Issue 2: July 2021
email: sasams@nect.org.za

WHERE ARE WE?

APRIL 2021
NECT Board meeting refocuses PMO Team on accelerated and renewed focus on project delivery.

MAY 2021
UNESCO and DBE conclude contractual obligations on OpenEMIS.

JUNE 2021
The PMO Team completes the detailed functional assessment of the OpenEMISS solution with the UNESCO technical teams.

JULY 2021
UNESCO and DBE conclude contractual obligations on OpenEMIS.

On 21 July 2021, the OpenEMIS Vanilla solution will be fully installed in the South African cloud platform for development, testing, and sandpit environments.

Going forward, the adoption of the Agile approach coupled with Release Management methodology, will ensure the delivery of the OpenEMIS solution in five major releases.

The major releases are:

Release 1
Functionality: Human Resources/ Governance, Learner Management, Manage incidents, Manage school, School Governance, Manage Curriculum, Transportation, Communication and Notification, Infrastructure.

Release 2
Functionality: (Full modernised functionality of the modules) Learner Management, Manage incidents, Manage School, School Governance.

Release 3
Functionality: (Full modernised functionality of the modules) Human Resources Management, Nutrition, Transportation.

Release 4
Functionality: (Full modernised functionality of the modules) Curriculum Management, Communication and Notification, Infrastructure.

Release 5
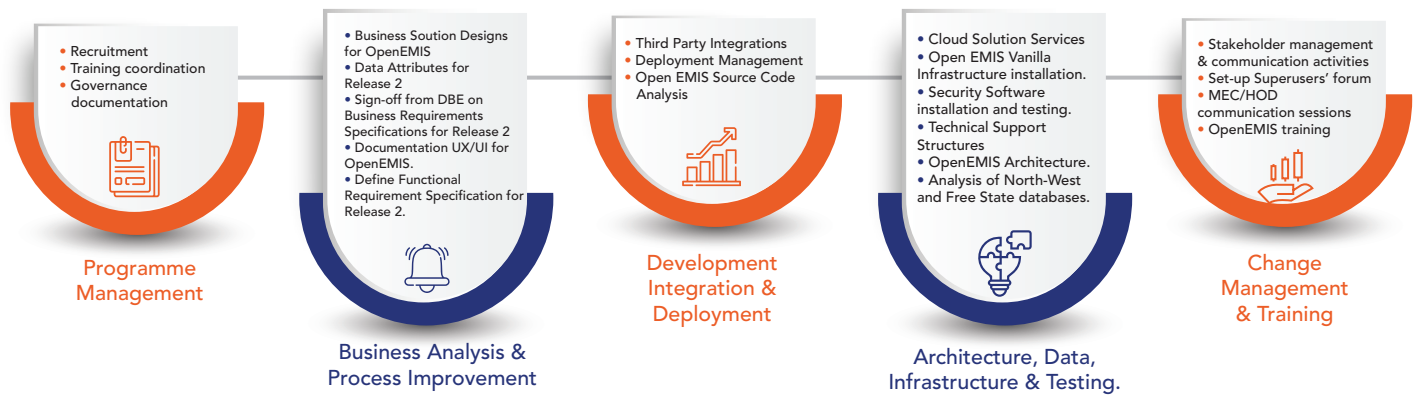**Functionality:** (Full modernised functionality of the modules) Manage accomodation, LTSM, Manage Assets, Manage Finance, Manage Library.

31 July 2023
Functionality: Full Pilot Implementation in all school, circuits, and districts in the North-West and Free State.

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING?

Programme Management
- Recruitment
- Training coordination
- Governance documentation

Business Analysis & Process Improvement
- Business Soution Designs for OpenEMIS
- Data Attributes for Release 2
- Sign-off from DBE on Business Requirements Specifications for Release 2
- Documentation UX/UI for OpenEMIS.
- Define Functional Requirement Specification for Release 2.

Development Integration & Deployment
- Third Party Integrations
- Deployment Management
- Open EMIS Source Code Analysis

Architecture, Data, Infrastructure & Testing.
- Cloud Solution Services
- Open EMIS Vanilla Infrastructure installation.
- Security Software installation and testing.
- Technical Support Structures
- OpenEMIS Architecture.
- Analysis of North-West and Free State databases.

Change Management & Training
- Stakeholder management & communication activities
- Set-up Superusers' forum
- MEC/HOD communication sessions
- OpenEMIS training

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

- **Vanilla Installation Plan** finalised with UNESCO for 21 July 2021.
- **NECT Cloud Infrastructure Plan** for the development and testing environments.
- **Release management Plan** for the delivery of the modernisation programme.
- **SITA's involvement, support and participation** in the project.
- **Integration Workshops** completed with DHA, DSD/SASSA, PERSAL, Teacher Connect, NEIMS and Northern Cape (Online Admission System).
- **Communications to the MECs'** offices for request for project progress meetings.

DO YOU KNOW?

CLOUD HOSTING VS. ON-PREMISE HOSTING

- **Cloud hosting** is when an organisation installs and accesses software on a server over the internet that is owned and managed by a third-party organization.
- **On-premise hosting** is when an organisation installs and accesses software from their own server. On-premises is also often referred to as Self hosting or local hosting.
- When software applications are bundled with cloud hosting, this is referred to as **Software as a Service (SaaS).**
- The OpenEMIS software is not platform dependent and can be either self hosted or cloud hosted on any of the cloud servers. The cloud servers are extremely reliable and highly secure as all data is encrypted. When deciding on cloud or self hosting, every organization is different and will have unique requirements.
- **Choosing cloud or self hosting raises many questions such as:**
  - Do you have existing network and server infrastructure; or the capital to purchase new infrastructure; or the capital to upgrade and replace infrastructure?
  - Do you have the technical knowledge or resources? Do you have a secure data centre?
  - Do you have a data policy regarding the physical location of data?