



# Message from the Director-General

## ALL OU Learners

### Graduation Ceremony

- As you are aware, we had planned the graduation ceremony for May 2020. We had to cancel the event due to the sanitary curfew.
- We have now planned it for July 2020. However, if the forthcoming COVID-19 law does not allow large gatherings, then, unfortunately, we are likely to proceed with the distribution of certificates and then invite the learners to a ceremony afterwards.
- Necessary legal actions have been initiated to proceed with distribution instead of graduation, as graduation is prescribed in our Act.

### Submission of Dissertations

- Learners who are expected to submit their dissertation must submit the soft copy on the due date. Exam unit will start the marking of the soft copy.
- After the confinement, learners are expected to submit the hard copies within ten days. Programme Managers will advise all the learners accordingly.

### Exams

- The rules and regulations related to examinations are clearly written in each programme document/syllabus.
- From day one, all the students are fully aware of the exams for all the modules.
- This is also emphasized during the induction session and the meetings that Programme Managers have with the learners.

- All students are aware that they must sit for exams that can be held on any day during the week.
- We wish to assure everyone that exams will be held under the conditions respecting the law.
- We will never jeopardize the life of our students.
- Wearing of masks is likely to become law. So students are expected to bring their masks that will make them feel comfortable. OU will provide the gloves and sanitizers.
- Those who have serious health problems may request for a specific room (that we will try our best to arrange) or defer the exams.
- As in the past, learners who are facing serious difficulties (family, health or work related) can defer their exams for November/December.
- The exams will start either on 15th June or 1 July or 15 July or around these dates.
- As usual, a learner needs three or four days for exams.
- We will issue a communiqué regarding the exact dates on our website immediately after the Covid-19 law is passed.
- While certain students have written to replace the exams with assignments, others have written to us to ensure that the exams are maintained. Having exams for final year (and not for years 1 and 2) or for all the years for certain courses only, gives the impression that only the final year or certain courses are important. This is clearly not the case at OU.
- Moreover, absence of exams marks will be blatant on the final transcript.
- Rest assured that we will be guided by the authorities and the law.
- At OU, we give the learners the manual, videos, access to an online library on top of the tutorials so that they can study at their own pace and place.
- So learners are advised to remain focused, dedicated and committed to their studies.

**Director-General, Dr K.S. Sukon**

09 May 2020