

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NQF

Achievements to date and priorities for the future

What was the problem?

- In 1994 democratic South Africa inherited from the *apartheid* era
- a racially segregated, unequal, unfair education and training system
 - the majority of people who had been denied access to education, training, and development
 - uneven access to education, training, development and work opportunities
 - uneven quality assurance across the education and training system
 - an education and training system that was not transparent
 - lack of parity of esteem between different types of qualifications/ learning/ knowledge
 - qualifications that were not necessarily linked to learning pathways

WHAT WAS THE SOLUTION?

Recognition, in the form of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

The bulleted items in this box show what the NQF was set up to achieve, with a score out of 10 for each in terms of success after 20 years of implementation

- Single national system
- Integrated approach: learning pathways
- Access open to all
- Redress
- Different types of qualifications, parity of esteem
- Quality
- Transparency
- Professional Bodies
- Foreign qualifications
- National database (NLRD)
- Contribute to personal development of individuals & socio-economic development of the nation

Where we come from; where we are?

SAQA Act

1995 – integrated approach in a national system; centralised standards development and quality assurance)
1998 – NSB Regulations)

NQF Reviews & Joint Policy Statement

2002, 2005 – NQF reviews
2007 – Joint Policy Statement: agreement re three differentiated coordinated NQF Sub-Frameworks



NQF Act

2008, promulgated 2009 –
SAQA oversees implementation, development, coordinates the three NQF Sub-Frameworks [GFETQSF, HEQSF, OQSF];
Quality Councils oversee standards development, quality assurance [Umalusi, CHE, QCTO];
Minister of Higher Education and Training [MHET] responsible;
NQF Forum; Inter-Departmental NQF Steering Committee

Green Paper for Post-School Education and Training

2012 – Vision for the system going forward, widely consulted

Priorities for the future

White Paper for Post-School Education and Training

2013 – Published vision widely circulated; focus on:
SIMPLIFICATION of the NQF;
Systemic ARTICULATION, learning pathways, mobility;
FLEXIBILITY in the system – LESS RESTRICTION;
COORDINATION & FUNDING OF RPL – national RPL system

Evaluation of NQF Act

2016/17 – Focus on:
EFFECTIVENESS;
EFFICIENCY;
ECONOMY (BEST USES OF FUNDS);
AN IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION

NQF AMENDMENT BILL

2016 – Focus on:
STRONGER COORDINATION ROLE FOR SAQA;
COMBATING FRAUD;
DISTINGUISHING OCCUPATIONAL & VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS;
MOVING PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS TO SEPARATE REGISTER

GFETQSF = General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework
HEQSF = Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework
OQSF = Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework