



SAQA Board Statement of Deliberations 1 of 2018

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Board consistently provides strategic direction to the organisation. This year, the SAQA Board met on 8 and 9 March 2018 to inform the strategic direction the organisation will take in the medium-term. The meeting took place against the backdrop of the 20th anniversary of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Further, the meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training (HET), Mr Buti Manamela, who was informed about SAQA and the Quality Councils' mandates, achievements and challenges as this was his first meeting with the SAQA Board since his appointment as Deputy Minister: HET. His attendance provided an opportune moment to understand the work of the SAQA Board and its contribution to the education and training sector. The Board also discussed the implications of decolonisation and Africanisation on SAQA's work in the education and training sector. It approved the re-registration of qualifications and part-qualifications currently registered on the three Sub-Frameworks of the NQF with clearly spelt out conditions for re-registration. The Board also approved the procedure for the de-recognition of professional bodies.



Discussion with the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training

The Deputy Minister: HET attended the SAQA Board meeting as part of the Minister's oversight mandate over the NQF, SAQA and the Quality Councils (QCs). As part of the SAQA Board, the Chief Executive Officers of SAQA and the QCs presented their mandates, achievements and challenges. The Deputy Minister acknowledged the work of SAQA and the QCs and stressed the need for continuous engagement. The SAQA Board provided reports to the Minister on the following aspects of the year's work:

- Progress against the 2017/18 Ministerial Guidelines;
- How it has promoted collaboration with the QCs in order to advance the objectives of the NQF;
- How it has simplified the NQF for the benefit of lifelong learners;
- The visible movement of learners within and between the three Sub-Frameworks of the NQF as well as the consequences of this movement; and
- The outcome of the NQF Impact Study, which shows that the NQF indeed has made, and continues to make an impact in the lives of lifelong learners.



Setting the Strategic Direction of SAQA

The Board considered the implications of the NQF Amendment Bill, the NQF Act Implementation Evaluation, the draft National Plan for Post-School Education and Training, and the litigious environment within which SAQA operates. On the basis of these considerations, it approved a set of strategic imperatives on which SAQA's Strategic and Annual Performance Plans for 2019/20 will be developed and submitted for approval by the Minister before implementation. These preparations point to the Board's dedication to plan ahead with foresight and thought leadership on matters regarding its mandate.



Working position on Decolonisation and Africanisation

Following a series of initiatives and discussions SAQA has been engaged in, the Board acknowledged that transformation in education and training cannot be achieved without decolonisation and Africanisation. Thus, the Board adopted a working position on decolonisation and Africanisation, which will allow SAQA to consult with all the other bodies within the NQF family to develop shared meanings and understandings while SAQA's position on these matters is being further refined.



Re-registration of Qualifications and Part-qualifications on the NQF

One of the items on the Board's agenda was the re-registration of qualifications and part-qualifications currently registered on the three Sub-Frameworks of the NQF. Following consultation with the QCs, the SAQA Board approved the re-registration of qualifications and part-qualifications currently registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF) and the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) for three years from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021. The re-registration of qualifications and part-qualifications currently registered on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) was approved for five years from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023. The re-registration excludes those qualifications that:

- Do not meet QC requirements for registration;
- Have been reviewed and replaced by new qualifications;
- Are not quality assured or accredited by the QCs; and
- Do not meet the SAQA requirements as per the *Policy and Criteria for the Registration of Qualifications and Part-qualifications*.



De-recognition of Professional Bodies

The SAQA Board approved the procedure for the de-recognition of a professional body in line with the *Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act* which makes provision for SAQA to de-recognise a professional body and/or de-register its professional designations if the professional body no longer complies with the Policy and Criteria or if the professional body ceases to exist. Professional bodies have the right to appeal against de-recognition and/or de-registration of their professional designations. In addition, the Board amended the *Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act* to allow SAQA to charge professional bodies cost recovery-related fees for all services rendered.

At this meeting, the SAQA Board engaged with the Deputy Minister: HET on its mandate, achievements and opportunities in line with the NQF Act. In addition, the Board took several steps aimed at effectively ensuring that it delivers on its mandate such as providing strategic direction to the organisation, developing and amending policies for effective delivery.

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