



SAQA Board Statement of Deliberations

On **28 July 2017**, the SAQA Board had its 117th meeting. At this meeting, the Board discussed the organisation's Audited Financial Statements, Performance Information as well as the Auditor General's audit opinion for the 2016/17 financial year. The Board also discussed the Ministerial Guidelines for 2017/18. Crucially, the Board registered **57** new qualifications and **nine** professional designations on the National Qualifications Framework. It also recognised **three** new professional bodies. These qualifications, professional bodies and designations can now be trusted to contribute to the country's development.

	2016/17 Audited Financial Statements	<p>The Board discussed and approved the organisation's 2016/17 Audited Financial Statements. It acknowledged the work that was done to ensure that the audit was completed on time.</p>
	2016/17 Performance Information	<p>The Board also noted that, in the 2016/17 financial year, SAQA committed to achieving 50 deliverables, of which 47 were fully met (with four exceeded targets) and three were partially met. This is an achievement and a result of the hard work, commitment, diligence and professionalism of the SAQA Board and staff in serving lifelong learners.</p>
	Auditor-General's Audit Opinion	<p>The Board also discussed and accepted the 2016/17 audit opinion from the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General noted that the organisation's "financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SAQA...in accordance with South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act". This means that SAQA received its 20th consecutive unqualified audit. This is an achievement which points to the organisation's consistency in terms of good governance.</p>
	2017/18 Ministerial Guidelines	<p>The Minister of Higher Education and Training issued the 2017/18 Ministerial Guidelines on 11 April 2017. Given that the Guidelines were issued after SAQA's 2017/18 Annual Performance Plan and Budget had been concluded, the Board agreed that it will only implement those deliverables that can be accommodated within the current plan and budget. It also categorised the deliverables of the Guidelines into work requiring urgent attention, work that should have been completed already, and work that needs extra budget allocation. The urgent work and the work that should have been done will be prioritised.</p>
	Registration of Qualifications and Part-Qualifications	<p>The Board registered 57 new quality-assured qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Of these, 39 are in the higher education sector and 18 are in the trades and occupations sector. These qualifications range from Doctor of Philosophy in Transdisciplinary Health Sciences (NQF Level 10) to Higher Certificate in Mechatronic Engineering (NQF Level 5) and Occupational Certificate in Geomatics (NQF Level 5). (Registered qualifications are available here). All these quality assured-qualifications can now be trusted as they have gone through a rigorous process of quality assurance and international comparability. Those who will offer and pursue these new qualifications will inevitably contribute to the country's national goals of reducing unemployment, poverty and inequality.</p>
	Recognition of Professional Bodies and Registration of Professional Designations	<p>The Board also registered nine professional designations ranging from Certified Vehicle Damage Quantifier to Theatre and Live Events Practitioner. (Registered professional designations are available here). It also recognised three non-statutory professional bodies, namely, the Vehicle Damage Quantification Governance Body of South Africa, the South African Institute of Financial Markets, and the Association of South African Travel Agents. (Recognised professional bodies are available here). Recognising professional bodies and registering professional designations ensures that they remain relevant and can be trusted to contribute to country's development.</p>

In the interest of good governance and social justice, the SAQA Board continues to steer the organisation in a positive direction. That SAQA received its 20th consecutive unqualified audit cannot be overstated. The organisation's performance is testament to the Board's commitment to good quality service delivery. The organisation's planning systems ensures that SAQA is prepared not only to implement the Ministerial Guidelines but to do so in a co-ordinated and impactful manner. The Board's work in registering qualifications and professional designations as well as recognising professional bodies shows that the Board is indeed at work. The Board will continue to build the NQF and contribute to the full development of lifelong learners in South Africa.