



SAQA Board Statement of Deliberations

A day after a delegation of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) presented its 2016/17 Annual Integrated Report to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training, the full SAQA Board met on **26 October 2017** to deliberate on a number of substantive matters. Chief among the issues discussed were the registration of new qualifications and part-qualifications as well as the recognition and renewal of recognition of professional bodies and registration of professional designations. The Board also approved the implementation framework for verifying and recognising international qualifications beyond the boundaries of Nation States and their education and training systems. The Board also approved the SAQA's Annual Performance Plan, Budget and Risk Management Plan for 2018/19. These documents will be submitted to the Minister of Higher Education and Training before 15 November 2017 for final approval. The Board also took a decision to adopt and implement the King IV Principles on Corporate Governance for South Africa.



Registration of new Qualifications and Part-Qualifications

SAQA's mandate is to further develop and implement the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF) for the benefit of all learners in the country. Part of this mandate is to register quality-assured qualifications and part-qualifications on the NQF, hence at this meeting the SAQA Board registered **58** new qualifications in the Trades and Occupations and the Higher Education sectors combined. This brings the number of qualifications registered on the NQF to **11 352**. Learners can therefore pursue these quality-assured qualifications with the trust that they will benefit from these genuine qualifications. Learners can check for qualifications registered on the NQF [here](#).



Recognition and Renewal of Recognition of Professional Bodies and Registration of Professional Designations

Recognised Professional Bodies are part of an effective NQF as they protect the public interests in the sectors they represent. As such, the Board recognised two Professional Bodies, namely, the South African Council for Administrators (SACA) and Turnaround Management Association Southern Africa (TMA-SA). This means that there are now **101** Professional Bodies spanning across various sectors that are currently recognised by SAQA. The Board also renewed the recognition of **23** Professional Bodies with their respective Professional Designations. Among the Professional Bodies whose recognition were renewed are the Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA), Chartered Secretaries Southern Africa (CSSA), Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) and South African Institute of Tax Practitioners (SAIT). These Professional Bodies will continue to protect public interests in their respective sectors. The public can check for recognised Professional Bodies and registered Professional Designations [here](#).



Implementation Framework for Verifying and Recognising Qualifications offered by International Institutions

In March 2017, the SAQA Board approved and gazetted the amended *Policy and Criteria for Evaluating Foreign Qualifications within the South African NQF*. The amended policy broadened the verification criteria to cater for the recognition of international qualifications beyond the boundaries of Nation States and their education and training systems. At this meeting, the Board thus approved the implementation framework for verifying and recognising such qualifications. The implementation framework stipulates the parameters for what could be evaluated and what could be seen as non-recognisable qualifications. The framework therefore allows SAQA to deal with qualifications that would not ordinarily fit into the traditional mould of foreign qualifications.



Annual Performance Plan, Budget and Risk Management Plan for 2018/19

As a knowledge-driven organisation with an appetite for quality delivery of service, SAQA always plans ahead. In this regard, the Board approved the organisation's Annual Performance Plan (APP), Budget and Risk Management Plan for 2018/19. By approving the APP, the Board committed to continue maintaining oversight of the implementation of NQF policies, ensure that articulation pathways at both the qualification and systemic levels are clearly defined, uphold the values of the NQF by promoting authentic qualifications, and further simplify the NQF. In approving the budget, the Board noted that, like any other government department or state-owned enterprise, SAQA will be operating within a very resource constrained environment; therefore, the organisation has to find creative and innovative ways to continue to deliver within this resource constrained environment. With regard to the Risk Management Plan, the Board prioritised risks of greater concern which will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis. The next step is to submit the APP and budget to the Minister of Higher Education and Training for final approval. For the purposes of accountability and transparency, the Ministerial approved APP and budget

will be made available to the public in April 2018.



King IV on Corporate Governance for South Africa

Given that the King IV Principles on Corporate Governance for South Africa came into effect from 1 April 2017 and replaced King III in its entirety, the SAQA Board discussed the difference between King IV and King III requirements and took a decision to adopt King IV. The Board noted that the organisation already applies many of the principles contained in King IV and outlined how best to implement the remaining principles. The major change for SAQA will be the establishment of a Social and Ethics Committee. Given the size of the organisation, it was decided to split the responsibilities of the Social and Ethics Committee between the Remuneration Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee instead of establishing a standalone committee. With SAQA applying all the requirements of King IV, it means that the organisation is serious about transparency, ethical conduct and good corporate governance.

The SAQA Board continues to conduct its work for the benefit of all learners. By registering relevant qualifications on the NQF, the Board is not only increasing the pool of quality-assured qualifications for learners to choose from but is also ensuring that South African qualifications are world class. Through recognising trustworthy Professional Bodies and registering their Professional Designations, the Board continues to protect the public. That SAQA can now deal with qualifications that would not ordinarily fit into the traditional mould of foreign qualifications was not only made possible by proper planning but also anticipating risks and outlining measures to mitigate them, and doing so in a transparent and ethical way – something that SAQA will continue to do in 2018 and beyond.

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