



# SAQA Board Statement of Deliberations

The SAQA Board had its last meeting of the year on **06 December 2017** where it discussed, among other things, legal matters affecting SAQA. The Board also discussed the preliminary findings of the Implementation Evaluation of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act of 2008. It also noted the progress made on the 2017 NQF Impact Study which seeks to support the implementation and further development of the NQF and to build relationships in the NQF context.

In addition, the SAQA Board registered **13** new qualifications and part-qualifications on the NQF, recognised **one** new Professional Body and registered **five** additional Professional Designations. This brings the number of registered qualifications, recognised Professional Bodies and registered Professional Designations since the beginning of the 2017/18 financial year to **230**, **45** and **144**, respectively. Most of these qualifications, Professional Bodies and Professional Designations were processed for registration and recognition within the target period pointing to efficiency on the part of the Board.

The Board also noted that the CEO, Mr Joe Samuels, completed 20 years of service at SAQA and handed him a certificate recognising his contribution to building the NQF locally and Qualification Frameworks internationally.



## Legal Matters

Following the court ruling on the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) [case](#) wherein SAQA was interdicted from informing the public that learners with ACE school-leaving certificates did not have a valid qualification, the SAQA Board discussed this and other legal matters affecting SAQA. The Board deliberated on the implications of the court case for the work of SAQA.



## Implementation Evaluation of the NQF Act

Replacing the SAQA Act, the NQF Act came into effect in 2009 bringing with it some changes into the South African education and training system. Since then, NQF policies were developed and are currently being implemented. Jointly commissioned by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Implementation Evaluation of the NQF Act provides an independent and objective examination of the implementation of the Act relative to its goal(s) and objectives, including its associated policies and regulations. Conducted by independent researchers, the evaluation comes against the backdrop of the NQF Amendment Bill that seeks to strengthen the Act. The Board will engage with the findings of the report and provide a formal response when requested to do so.



## Update on the 2017 NQF Impact Study

The NQF Act requires SAQA to conduct or commission investigations on issues of importance to the development and implementation of the NQF, including periodic studies on the impact of the NQF on South African education, training and employment and publish findings of such investigations. To this end, SAQA conducts an NQF Impact Study every three years to support the implementation and further development of the NQF and to build relationships in the NQF context. The 2017 NQF Impact Study does not duplicate but support the Implementation Evaluation of the NQF Act. It looks at the extent to which NQF policies are aligned and how they affect the NQF sector. This study has an impact on the implementation of NQF policies in the sector. Consequently, the Board noted progress made on the study. The draft report will be submitted to the Minister at the end of this financial year.



## Registration of new Qualifications and Part-Qualifications

Part of SAQA's mandate is to register qualifications and part-qualifications on the NQF, thus the SAQA Board registered **13** new qualifications in the Trades and Occupations sector ranging from Textile Dry Finishing Machine Operator to Paintless Dent Remover and Road Traffic Safety Operator. This brings the number of new qualifications and part-qualifications registered on the NQF between 1 April 2017 and December 2017 to **230**. These qualifications and part-qualifications were processed within five months or less. This means that South Africans have **230** more quality-assured qualifications to choose from. These and other quality-assured qualifications and part-qualifications registered on the NQF can be viewed [here](#).



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

In addition to registering qualifications and part-qualifications, SAQA is also tasked by the NQF Act to recognise Professional Bodies and register their Professional Designations on the NQF. The Board therefore recognised **one** new Professional Body, that is, the Southern African Emergency Services, taking the number of Professional Bodies whose recognition was granted and/or renewed since the beginning of the financial year to **45**. The SAQA Board also registered **five** Professional Designations including Sport Science Conditioning Specialist and Certified Timber Roof Truss Designer taking the number of registered Professional Designations since the beginning of the financial year to **144**. Again, the recognition of these Professional Bodies and

registration of their Professional Designations was done within the target period. The number of recognised Professional Bodies and registered Professional Designations continue to grow meaning that South Africa is eager to professionalise various sectors for the benefit of the public. This is likely to increase public trust in South African professions. A list of recognised and trustworthy Professional Bodies and their registered Professional Designations can be viewed [here](#).

The year, 2017, was filled with action as the SAQA Board not only dealt with legal matters but also dealt with other matters affecting the NQF such as the Implementation Evaluation of the NQF Act and the NQF Impact Study. These studies have a material impact on how the NQF landscape will be shaped going forward - all in the interest of lifelong learners. The SAQA Board also made strides in registering **230** quality-assured qualifications and part-qualifications on the NQF over the course of the financial year. Moreover, the Board recognised and/or renewed the recognition of **45** Professional Bodies and it also registered **144** of their Professional Designations. Most importantly, these qualifications and part-qualifications as well as Professional Bodies and their Professional Designations were processed within the target period. This shows commitment to the further development and implementation of the NQF on the part of the Board. The SAQA Board therefore thanked the Minister of Higher Education and Training, NQF partners, other stakeholders and SAQA staff for their support and commitment to the NQF during 2017. It wished all the staff and stakeholders a happy, joyful and peaceful festive season and a fantastic 2018. As the Board drew the curtain on 2017, it looked forward to further developing and implementing the NQF in 2018 for the betterment of all South Africans.

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