



SAQA Board Statement of Deliberations 4 of 2018

The SAQA Board had its last meeting of the year on 07 December 2018. On the governance front, the Board welcomed the appointment of a new Board member and appointed a new member to one of its committees. The Board also noted the appointment of new internal auditors for a period of three years. In addition to discussing the draft 2017 National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Impact Study, the Board noted the publication of the Addendum to recognise qualifications of asylum seekers and refugees for public comment. The Board also registered 43 qualifications on the NQF, renewed the recognition of 1 professional body and registered 3 professional designations on the NQF.



Appointment of New Board Member

The Board welcomed the appointment of Mr Ashley Benjamin by the Minister of Higher Education and Training to the 6th SAQA Board for the remainder of its five-year term, which ends on 31 December 2020. As the Vice-President of Training and Education for the Federation of Unions of South Africa, Mr Benjamin brings education and training expertise from a labour perspective. The appointment of Mr Benjamin came as a result of a vacancy created by the resignation of an organised labour representative. The SAQA Board comprises of 16 members, of which 12 are appointed in their individual capacities with the remaining four comprising the Chief Executive Officers of SAQA and the three Quality Councils who are appointed by virtue of their positions. With the appointment of Mr Benjamin, the SAQA Board is now fully constituted.



Appointment of New Board Committee Member

The NQF Act allows the Board to establish committees to assist in the execution of its responsibilities. In this regard, the SAQA Board has a number of committees ranging from Audit and Risk to Finance, and Information and Information Technology (I & IT). The NQF Act also allows people who are not members of the Board to be co-opted to serve on Board committees. The Board thus appointed Ms Carol Thomas to its I & IT Committee. Ms Thomas brings a wealth of IT experience to the Committee.



Appointment of New Internal Auditors

The Board noted the appointment of new internal auditors for a period of three years. The appointment followed SAQA's procurement procedures, which are fair, competitive and equitable, and in line with National Treasury regulations.



Draft 2017 NQF Impact Study

SAQA, as the custodian of the NQF, is required by law to conduct and publish periodic studies on the impact of the NQF on South African education and training. This is done to ensure transparency because the NQF was designed as an integrated system that is accessible, and enables redress and quality learning in South Africa. Since 2003, SAQA has conducted and published 5 studies on the impact of the NQF. The 2017 NQF Impact Study is the 6th of such studies and it assesses the impact of selected aspects of the South African NQF. Given the richness of the content in the draft report of the 2017 NQF Impact Study, the Board plans to discuss the recommendations of the study more comprehensively early in 2019, following which the report will be submitted to the Minister of Higher Education and Training.



Recognition of Qualifications of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Board noted the Executive Committee's decision to publish the Addendum to recognise qualifications of refugees and asylum seekers for public comment. The Addendum extends the provisions of the revised *Policy and Criteria for Evaluating Foreign Qualifications within the South African NQF*, which was amended in March 2017. In line with *Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualification in Higher Education in African States (Addis Convention)*, the Addendum makes special provision for the evaluation of qualifications of refugees and asylum seekers for employability and integration.



Registration of Qualifications

The Board registered an additional 43 qualifications on the NQF, that is, 15 on the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework and 28 on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework. These qualifications were recommended for registration on the NQF by the Council on Higher Education and the Quality Council on Trade and Occupations, respectively. They were registered in line with the *Policy and Criteria for the Registration of Qualifications and Part-Qualifications on the NQF*, which sets out the requirements for registration. All 43 qualifications were registered within SAQA's delivery standard of a four-month turnaround time.



Recognition of Professional Bodies

Following a monitoring and evaluation process, as prescribed by the *Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation on the NQF*, the SAQA Board renewed the recognition of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants South Africa and registered its respective professional designations on the NQF. The Board also registered an additional professional designation from the Institute of Chartered IT Professionals.

The SAQA Board continues to act in the public interest. This is evident in its work, from upholding good governance to matters relating to the recognition of qualifications of refugees and asylum seekers as well as the registration of qualifications on the NQF and the recognition of professional bodies and registration of their designations. The Board will continue its work in 2019 and beyond and will keep the public informed about its deliberations and decisions to foster transparency and accountability.

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