

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Tshwane's claim that it used SAQA to verify the qualifications of its senior managers before appointing them is false. This was claimed in a media statement by the City in their media statement on 28 June 2018 and in the Sowetan Newspaper on 20 August 2018. It was also claimed in radio broadcasts for example on Jacaranda FM on 20 August 2018.

22 August 2018

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) notes with concern recent statements made by the City of Tshwane indicating that they had verified the qualifications of their senior managers with SAQA before making their appointments.

Responding to a media probe on the veracity of the qualifications of one of his senior managers, Mr Previn Govender, the City Manager of Tshwane, Mr Moeketsi Mosola, told the Sowetan newspaper that "he had personally overseen the appointment of all senior managers reporting to him and that he had verified their qualifications with SAQA".

SAQA wants to put it on record that it does not have any verification records for Mr Previn Govender on its database. This means that no verification of qualifications for Mr Govender was ever processed by SAQA. Even so, SAQA does not have any Verifications Agreement with the City of Tshwane, which means that it is not true that the City of Tshwane had verified the qualifications of their prospective employees with SAQA before making the appointments of their senior managers.

As the custodian of the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF), SAQA is committed to upholding the integrity of South Africa's education and training system.

"SAQA provides a service to the public and private sectors for bulk verification of existing employees' qualifications, and verification of qualifications of prospective employees, evaluation of foreign qualifications and verification of qualifications for high level appointments," says SAQA CEO, Mr Joe Samuels.

SAQA brought this "inaccurate statement" to the attention of the City and they informed us that they made a "mistake" by using SAQA name. They informed us that the verification was done by a private service provider called, MIE. SAQA welcomes the City of Tshwane's announcement that they have launched an investigation into the status of the qualifications of their senior employees, and hope that the verifications will be done properly this time around.

Postnet Suite 248
Private Bag X06
Waterkloof 0145
SAQA House
1067 Arcadia Street
Hatfield 0083
Tel (+27 12) 431-5000
Fax (+27 12) 431-5200
Helpdesk: 086 010 3188
Website: www.saqa.org.za
Email: saqainfo@saqa.org.za

SAQA'S MISSION

To ensure the development and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework which contributes to the full development of each learner and to the social and economic development of the nation at large

Private companies and the public sector can also contact SAQA to verify qualifications of current and prospective employees. This service is enabled by the National Learners' Records Database – the biggest database of learner records in the country.

Issued by: SAQA

Enquiries: Joe Samuels, SAQA CEO Contact details: 012 431 5001 or 082 833 1271 or jsamuels@saqa.co.za

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