

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SAQA supports Umalusi's condemnation of websites that sell fake school leaving certificates**

9 July 2018

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) reiterates the [call](#) by the Council for the Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi) to members of the public to report people or entities selling fake school leaving certificates.

Umalusi is one of the Quality Councils in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) family and looks after the Sub-Framework for qualifications in our schooling and further education sector. The other Quality Councils are the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations dealing with workplace qualifications and the Council on Higher Education dealing with higher education qualifications.

As the custodian of the South African NQF, SAQA is committed to upholding the integrity of South Africa's education and training system. "That school leaving certificates are misrepresented leads to negative perceptions about our education system," says SAQA CEO, Mr Joe Samuels.

"It poses a huge reputational risk to the quality of our skills development initiatives, the portability of our country's qualifications to other countries and our competitiveness in the world," he added.

SAQA has gone on record saying that the most misrepresented qualification is the school leaving qualification. In fact, in the 2017/18 financial year, SAQA recorded a total of 188 misrepresented school leaving certificates – that is, 82.5% of all misrepresented qualifications nationally.

"We encourage the public to steer clear from misrepresenting qualifications as there are no shortcuts to success," said Mr Samuels. "You will be found out and the consequences are not worth it," he added.

Currently, cases of misrepresentation are not only reported to the Minister of Higher Education and Training but are also reported to the police for the law to take its course.

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

At the legislative level, amendments to the NQF Act include the establishment of a register of misrepresented qualifications and providers operating outside of the South African NQF.

This register will be published periodically and should act as a deterrent to individuals and providers who are contemplating misrepresenting qualifications and operating outside of the NQF, respectively.

SAQA provides a service where individuals can request their own record of learning. This can be accessed by sending an email with a certified copy of your ID document as well as the completed consent form to [verifications@saqa.org.za](mailto:verifications@saqa.org.za).

[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**

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**ENDS**

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