



**The NQF Bill
Presentation: National Press
Club**

**Mr Samuel Isaacs
Executive Officer: SAQA
18 August 2008**

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

The objectives of the NQF are to:

- **Promote access to education,**
- **Provide redress,**
- **Encourage portability and progression,**
- **Ensure quality and**
- **Enable people to become lifelong learners.**



The National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

“The NQF has won wide acceptance as the instrument through which national education and training qualifications are recognised and quality assured.”

**Current: levels 1-8
Proposed: levels 1-10**

Specific proposed changes to NQF Bill

Proposed changes based on 2 principles:

- **The NQF is a single integrated framework**
- **All new structures should have a meaningful role with clear responsibilities assigned**

Quality Councils (QCs)

Three QCs will develop sub-frameworks for qualifications, quality assurance and information records of their sectors

QCs



General and
Further Education
(UMALUSI)

Council on Higher
Education **(CHE)**

Quality
Council on
Trade and
Occupations
(QCTO)

QCs

- **General & Further Education and Training : Umalusi and**
- **Higher Education (CHE)
Custodian: Minister of Education**
- **Trades and Occupations (QCTO)
Custodian: Minister of Labour**

Concerns

- **All the Quality Councils (QCs) will not be operational at the time of the proposed implementation**
- **This may lead to uneven NQF implementation**
- **Changes must be reflected in the suite of Bills for coherence and a consistent legislative framework (Higher Education Amendment Bill and the GENFETQA Amendment Bill, SDA Amendment Bill)**

Standards Setting

- **Standards are set so as to generate quality qualifications which are recognised globally**
- **SAQA will register qualifications and part-qualifications received from QCs ensuring that they meet national criteria and are internationally comparable.**



Quality Assurance

- **Currently SAQA performs quality audits on Education and Training Quality Assurance (ETQA) bodies.**
- **This function will move to the QCs**
- **SAQA monitor the impact of quality assurance on the overall NQF system**



Skills Development

SAQA plays a pivotal role in initiatives of the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisitions (JipSA) which is part of the Accelerated Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA)

A Record Performance (NLRD)

- **The National Learners Records Database (NLRD) is the information management system of the NQF**
 - **It captures and stores information on qualifications, unit standards, ETQAs, providers, assessors, learners, etc.**
 - **It is an invaluable resource for labour, education government and policy-makers**
- “It is a sophisticated relational database and is highly responsive to the needs of the labour market. It is the first of its kind in the world.”**

Yvonne Shapiro: Director- NLRD



Foreign qualifications

Centre for the Evaluation of Educational Qualifications (CEEQ): Evaluates foreign qualifications

“As part of the SADC Protocol on Education and Training, we have agreed on the need to treat foreign students as home students.”

Joe Samuels

Deputy Executive Officer

Global Perspectives

- **Globalisation: makes borders porous**
- **Ensure qualifications are recognised globally**
- **The Commonwealth of Learning involved SAQA in a project to set up mechanisms among small Commonwealth states**

“Employees need qualifications that can be used across national borders.”

Joe Samuels: Deputy Executive Officer

Research-Adding Value

- **Ongoing research is essential in de-mystifying learning in various frameworks**
- **Research is valuable tool to help with crucial matters such as curriculum assessment in the educational and occupational arenas**

“The NQF and its structures cannot be set in stone, but must evolve with changing circumstances.”

Prof Ben Parker: Director: Research

Inform

- **NQF advocacy: tasked with communicating the new NQF landscape to stakeholders and the public**
- **SAQA has a formidable database of stakeholders which is growing exponentially**
“We are focused on supporting the proposed legislative changes, and try to provide crucial platforms for debate and interaction.”

Stephen Sadie, Director: Communication

The SAQA Board

- **Current: 29 members- constituency based**
- **Future: 12 members- expertise based- knowledge of the education and training sector**



Coordinating Synergy

“Moving into unchartered territory was a daunting task-SAQA made the road by walking it.”

“We applied constant intellectual scrutiny to our actions, had the courage to fix mistakes, and had to sometimes take daring decisions.”

“Since our inception 12 years ago, we have had clean audits.”

Samuel Isaacs: Executive Officer

Way forward

- **Changing landscape of education and training**
- **SAQA has vast intellectual capital in the NQF environment**
- **SAQA- participating actively in the development of 3 QCs**
- **SAQA embraces change and would like to collaborate on issues**
- **“Value-Add” is important in generating legislation that will benefit South Africans**



**Thank
You**

Questions?



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