



SAQA Board Statement of Deliberations 3 of 2018

It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) continues to be a model statutory body thus on 25 October 2018, the Board met once again to make this a reality. It made several decisions on strategic and governance matters including the approval of strategic planning documents as well as the registration of qualifications and part-qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), and professional bodies fees. These decisions do not only support SAQA to meet its objectives but are also in the interest of the implementation of the NQF.



Draft APP for 2019/20

SAQA's strategic planning process leads to the approval by the Minister of Higher Education and Training and ultimate oversight by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training. To feed into this process, the SAQA Board approved the draft Annual Performance Plan (APP) for 2019/20. This draft APP was prepared in line with National Treasury's Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans, which aims to achieve better service delivery for South Africans. Given that 2019/20 is the fifth year of SAQA's five-year strategic plan (2015-2020), the draft Plan consolidates the goals that SAQA set in its five-year strategy and takes into account the 2018 Ministerial Guidelines as well as the NQF Act Implementation Evaluation Improvement Plan. SAQA will submit this draft Plan to the Minister of Higher Education and Training in November 2018 for approval. Once approved by the Minister, the approved Plan will be made public.



Draft Budget for 2019/20

Every organisation requires financial resources to function. As such, the draft Budget reveals the financial resources that SAQA would require in 2019/20 to deliver on its mandate. This draft Budget takes into account SAQA's deliverables and balances them against available resources. Together with the draft APP mentioned above, the draft Budget will be submitted to DHET for approval in November 2018 and made public as well.



Draft Human Resources Plan for 2019/20

Without adequate human resources, SAQA will not function optimally. In this regard, the draft Human Resources Plan shows the additional human resources that SAQA would need in 2019/20 to perform its functions. The draft Plan makes a case for additional human resources with full consideration of available resources as outlined in the draft Budget.



Draft Risk Management Plan for 2019/20

Managing risks is an integral part of organisational sustainability. With the approval of the draft Risk Management Plan for 2019/20, the Board ensured that there are robust strategies in place to mitigate the risks that SAQA could face.



Materiality and Significance Framework for 2019/20

The Materiality and Significance Framework makes it easier for the public to hold SAQA accountable. It outlines the nature of the information that is material and significant in the context of SAQA, and how that information is captured and reported. Such information includes any losses that may be incurred through criminal conduct, irregular expenditure, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure. This Framework is in line with the Public Financial Management Act and Treasury Regulations, which require the Board to include it in its strategic plan, review, and report on it on an annual basis.



Report of the High-Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change

Part of the SAQA Board's mandate is to engage with emerging issues that relate to the NQF and feed that into its strategic planning and oversight. As such, the Board discussed the Report of the High-Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change, which was led by former President Kgalema Motlante. The report examined the impact of key legislation on (i) poverty, unemployment and the equitable distribution of wealth, (ii) land reform: restitution, redistribution, and security of tenure; and (iii) social cohesion and nation-building. The SAQA Board engaged with sections of the report that relate to education, training and development issues. The Board will further refine its position and present it to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training.



Internal Audit Charter

The Internal Audit Charter helps SAQA to achieve its objectives through a clear, systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the adequacy and effectiveness of its risk management, control, and governance processes. The Board approved the review of this Charter as it aims to improve the internal audit function.



Finance Committee Membership

In order to improve the skills set of its Finance Committee, the Board approved the appointment of two new members, namely, Mr Barry du Toit and Mr Zane Mheyamwa. Both Mr du Toit and Mr Mheyamwa bring a wealth of experience in financial and risk management. The Board believes their journey on its Finance Committee will be fruitful and looks forward to their immense contribution.



Legal Matters

The Board discussed legal matters and ratified the decision to seek legal advice on matters involving SAQA.



Registration and re-registration of qualifications and part-qualifications

The Board registered eight higher education qualifications and part-qualifications ranging from NQF Levels 5-10 as well as 12 occupational qualifications and part-qualifications ranging from NQF Levels 2-6. The Board also re-registered one occupational qualification on the NQF, namely, the National Certificate in Environmental Assessment Practice for a period of 5 years from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023.



Amendments to qualifications and part-qualifications

The Board made various amendments to qualifications and part-qualifications registered on the NQF to ensure that they remain relevant. The Board amended the registration end date for the Certificate in Computers and Management offered by Oval International Computer Education to 31 December 2019. It also changed the title of the Doctor of Philosophy in Radiology offered by the University of Stellenbosch to Doctor of Philosophy in Radiobiology at NQF Level 10. The Board also amended credits of two occupational qualifications and changed the NQF Level of one occupational qualification.



Amendments to the Framework for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

Following the amendment of the Policy and Criteria for Evaluating Foreign Qualifications within the South African NQF in March 2017, the Board had to align the Framework for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications. In addition to approving the amendments to the Framework, the Board ratified the decision to change the recognition of the Professional Diploma offered by the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply from NQF Level 7 to NQF Level 8.



Publication of the National Policy and Criteria for the Implementation of RPL

The Board approved the publication of the amendments to the National Policy and Criteria for the Implementation of RPL for public comment. The amendments seek to further embed RPL in the national education and training agenda and ensure clarity and consistency regarding contexts, roles, and responsibilities of all RPL role-players in South Africa. After the public comments process, the Board will consider the comments and publish the amended policy in 2019.



Report on the Alignment of the SANQF to the SADCQF

As part of the SADC vision to enable qualification recognition at the regional level, the SAQA Board approved the Report on the Alignment of the SANQF to the SADCQF. Endorsed by the South African National Alignment Committee, the report shows that the SANQF is aligned to SADCQF. The report will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation.



Professional Bodies Fees

Following the SAQA Board decision in March 2018 to charge professional bodies cost recovery-related fees for all services rendered, a Professional Body Fees Task Team investigated the feasibility of a sliding scale taking into account the financial sustainability of professional bodies. The Task Team recommended that:

- Professional bodies pay 0.27% of their audited net revenue with a minimum fee of R10,000.00 and a maximum fee of R200,000.00 payable per year;
- Professional bodies must declare their net revenue (through audited financial statements) – excluding grants and sponsorship income and make a provisional payment according to the calculated measures; and
- SAQA will assess the reasonability of the percentage applied relative to the whole population making an adjustment if necessary before issuing a final assessment.

The SAQA Board approved the recommendation of the Task Team with effect from 25 October 2018 and that Professional Bodies should pay before the end of the financial year, that is, 31 March 2019.

The deliberations and decisions outlined above show that the SAQA Board is performing its functions with focused attention towards realising good governance outcomes. By approving all the strategic and governance documents ahead of time, the Board paved the way for effective service delivery. This is in line with SAQA's Governance Manual, which states that "good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and, ultimately, good outcomes."

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

Date: 30 October 2018