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The Oval Case demonstrates the importance of quality qualifications

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In 2018, the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) deregistered qualifications offered by the Oval International Computer Education Proprietary Limited (Oval). The deregistration was done in line with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, which seeks to protect the quality and integrity of our qualifications. Oval sought relief on an urgent basis from the court to have its qualifications re-registered. The court dismissed Oval's application with costs.

There are 3 conditions that Oval as a private provider must meet in order for it to legally operate, that is:

1. Its programmes must be accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE);
2. Its qualifications must be registered on the NQF by SAQA; and
3. It must be registered as a private provider by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

Oval did not meet any of the three conditions at the time of its closure.

As the Quality Council responsible for quality assurance of higher education qualifications, the CHE de-accredited Oval in 2016 because of issues with the quality of its qualifications. Subsequently, the CHE recommended the deregistration of Oval's qualifications to SAQA as per legislation. Oval was given an opportunity by the CHE to resolve the issues of quality of its qualifications but did not do so within the stipulated time-period.

The consequence of the deregistration is that Oval is not allowed to register any new students for the deregistered qualifications. Learners who were enrolled before the deregistration will be allowed to finish their programmes as stipulated in the last date of achievement on SAQA's website per specific qualification.

The Oval case demonstrates the importance of the NQF in promoting genuine qualifications and protecting learners from poor quality education. The system was designed to protect learners so it is in their best interest that qualifications offered are of an acceptable quality.

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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

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