

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAQA outlines process-related issues about the information on the NLRD

7 July 2020

On 6 July, Sylvia Hammond raised [concerns](#) on the Skills Portal that are valid and that SAQA takes seriously. At the core of the concerns is information about her qualification achievements that she expected to be recorded on the National Learners' Records Database (NLRD), and her perception of the way SAQA handled or failed to process her request for such information.

In this regard, SAQA unreservedly apologises for the inconvenience caused and undertakes to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. SAQA also takes to heart the perception about its administrative competence to deliver on the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act and wishes to clarify some process-related issues.

The NQF Act requires SAQA to maintain the NLRD, which is the management information system of the NQF comprising registers of national qualifications, part-qualifications, learner achievements, recognised professional bodies, professional designations and associated information.

In the early years of the NQF, learning institutions were given ten years to submit historical qualifications for interim registration on the NQF. SAQA initiated a process to register these qualifications so that the learner achievements could be added to the NLRD. In cases where institutions did not submit the historical data, the learner achievements will not appear on the NLRD.

Currently, the three Quality Councils are responsible by law for submitting learner achievement data against registered qualifications and part-qualifications on their respective Sub-Frameworks to the NLRD. SAQA follows very specific processes to upload such data and is dependent on the Quality Councils for accurate, up-to-date records of learners and their achievements.

In the case of the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework qualifications and unit standards, the NLRD has been accepting learner achievement records directly from the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) and other delegated Assessment Quality Partners (AQPs) of the QCTO. If a sector has an issue of an achievement record that has not been submitted to the NLRD, the matter must be taken up with the relevant Quality Council.

As the custodian on the NQF, SAQA oversees the implementation of the NQF. The [NQF Amendment Act](#) was signed by President Ramaphosa in August 2019 and will come into effect on a date that is yet to be proclaimed by the President. The NQF Amendment Act closes some of the gaps in the NQF Act. It tightens the legal requirements and strengthens NQF bodies for effective implementation. When it is proclaimed for implementation by the President, SAQA will implement it in full.

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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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