

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DE-REGISTRATION AND RE-REGISTRATION OF QUALIFICATIONS ON THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a single integrated system for the classification, registration, publication, and articulation of quality-assured national qualifications comprising three co-ordinated qualifications sub-frameworks, each developed and managed by a quality council,

- a) The General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF) under the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi) for qualifications on NQF levels 1 to 4;
- b) The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) under the Council on Higher Education (CHE) for qualifications on NQF levels 5 to 10; and
- c) The Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) under the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) for qualifications on NQF levels 1 to 8.

The Quality Councils are responsible for the recommendation of qualifications to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) for registration, re-registration and de-registration on the NQF.

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK

On 29 November 2022, the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) requested the CHE to submit a recommendation for the re-registration or de-registration of 8008 HEQSF qualifications that will reach their registration end date by December 2023.

On 26 June 2023, the CHE submitted a request to SAQA to,

- i. re-register 7597 HEQSF-aligned qualifications for one year with a registration end date of 30 June 2024, and
- ii. de-register all non-HEQSF-aligned qualifications, with end-dates aligned to the ministerial statement on non-HEQSF-aligned qualifications (No. 40123, Government Gazette, 6 July 2016) i.e., a maximum registration end date of 31 December 2018.

SAQA reregistered 6 766 HEQSF-aligned qualifications on the NQF until 30 June 2024. The CHE and SAQA are in the process of re-evaluating all HEQSF-aligned qualifications to ensure that these qualifications meet the criteria as set out in the *Policy and Criteria for the Registration of Qualifications and Part-Qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (2022)*.

The remaining 830 qualifications are learning programmes recorded against generic non-aligned HEQSF qualifications. SAQA and the CHE are in the process of delinking and registering these delinked learning programmes as stand-alone qualifications.

OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation determined on 24 December 2020 (Government Gazette 44031) that all pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the QQSF will be de-registered as follows:

- Registration end date – 30 June 2023
- Last date for enrolment – 30 June 2024
- Last date of achievement – 30 June 2027

The revised QQSF was published in 2021 confirming the dates as determined by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. The QCTO will ensure that the accreditation periods for pre-2009 qualifications coincide with the Ministerial Determination.

The QQSF (2021) states that all existing QQSF qualifications viz. Occupational Certificates will be revised and reregistered with qualification types in accordance with the New Ministerial Determination by 2025.

It should be noted that all non-aligned HEQSF qualifications registered on the NQF, pre-2009 qualifications and/or unit standards and Occupational Certificates registered on the QQSF are valid qualifications, irrespective of whether they reached the registration end date or if replaced by another qualification. It should be noted that no institution or employer should discriminate against any learner who completed a qualification that was replaced, reached the registration end date, or registered on the eight-level NQF.

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