



17 January 2024

CEO MESSAGE

As we start 2024, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on 2023 and share some of my vision and hopes for 2024.

It has been just over one year since I assumed the role of CEO at SAQA. This appointment was a tremendous honour and privilege for me as I succeeded the likes of our founding CEO, the visionary Samuel Isaacs, the great NQF Champion, Joe Samuels and the impressive and passionate, Dr Julie Reddy.

I took on the role at a time that SAQA had lost much of its core staff and significantly reduced its operations due to the COVID impact on budgets. SAQA faced many challenges, but also enjoyed much support and generosity - from our staff, board, and stakeholders. As I look back, I am satisfied that we have persevered and grown commendably, a smaller, leaner organization but one that is being re-imagined to do more with much less. We have a renewed strategic focus, driven by our late Chairperson Professor Lolwana and her robust SAQA Board and operationalized by my resilient and capable SAQA team.

Although there remain areas of challenge, I believe that SAQA is building its credibility across the multiple areas of our mandate; from the management of the NQF and coordination of its sub-frameworks; research and advice to the Minister; policy development and even in our much-improved authentication services.

Amongst the significant achievements at SAQA in 2023, I list the following:

- SAQA achieved a clean (unqualified with no significant findings) audit opinion from the Auditor General SA for the 2022/2023 financial year.
- The Authentication Services unit successfully cleared the backlog in verifications and made substantial progress in addressing delays in the evaluation of foreign qualifications.





PostnetSuite 248
Private Bag X 06
Waterkloof, 0145
SAQA House
1067 Arcadia Street
Hatfield, 0083

 (+27 12) 431 5000

 www.saqa.org.za



- Operational units increased revenue generation (as SAQA is not fully funded by the fiscus)
- SAQA presented at various national and global platforms as part of SAQA's strategy to increase visibility.
- SAQA published critical and topical research in the SAQA Bulletin 2023
- SAQA established valuable partnerships by signing MOA's with universities, counterpart qualification authorities and other strategic partners.
- SAQA made significant progress towards full automation of our systems, which will allow us to deliver our work more efficiently.

Through these activities, we are building a strong basis on which to further improve our services and our research and publication capabilities, in particular. In this year I aim to make SAQA more visible and the NQF more ubiquitous for everyone learning and working in South Africa.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude for the general support and constructive engagement that SAQA receives from stakeholders and partners.

May your 2024 year be safe and successful.

Nadia Starr
CEO, SAQA

