

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY ACT, 1995 (ACT NO. 58 OF 1995)

A FOCUSED STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF) WITH THE AIM OF STREAMLINING ITS IMPLEMENTATION: CALL FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDER BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. INTRODUCTION

The Minister of Education, in consultation with the Minister of Labour, Mr M. M. S. Mdladlana has, in terms of *Section 4(4) of the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995)* announced in *Government Gazette Vol. 433, No. 22471, Government Notice No. 650* of 12 July 2001 the appointment of a Study Team to review the development of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The Notice listed the members of the Study Team and its terms of reference.

Furthermore, the Notice explained that the Ministers of Labour and Education, with Cabinet's concurrence, had decided to appoint the Study Team in order to examine the challenges that have been thrown up by the implementation of the NQF regulatory frameworks and to help determine what the next steps should be in implementing the NQF.

It has been emphasised that "the study demonstrates government's commitment to the building of the NQF". It would not be aimed at reviewing the government's goals and policies, "but it will examine how the NQF is developing and how the Study Team can focus, accelerate and strengthen its implementation".

In this spirit, the Study Team invites stakeholder bodies and members of the public with an interest in the development of the NQF to make written submissions to the Study Team on any matter within its terms of reference.

2. SUBMISSIONS

It would greatly assist the Study Team if all submissions could be prepared under the following headings, which closely follow the terms of reference. If you do not wish to comment under a particular heading, indicate "No comment".

2.1 Introduction

Brief information on the person or body making the submission and the nature of their interest in the NQF.

2.2 International developments

Implications for the NQF of contemporary international developments in national qualifications frameworks, with reference to policies, regulatory frameworks and implementation procedures.

2.3 Match between policy developments and outcomes

Whether the outcomes of policies and legislation on the NQF have been in keeping with the objectives. In particular, discuss the experiences and attitudes of education and training providers and learners with the implementation of the NQF.

2.4 The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Whether SAQA has put in place appropriate and relevant policies, procedures, delivery systems, other resources and capacities which are essential for the establishment and development of the NQF, and for implementing the relevant mandates of the Ministries of Labour and Education for education and training. In particular, comment on whether the number of bodies and procedures is excessive, and whether roles and responsibilities in the areas of quality assurance and national standards development have become fragmented.

2.5 Other obstacles

Are there other obstacles, real or perceived, that prevent a more streamlined implementation of the NQF?

2.6 Summary of recommendations

Please list the recommendations you would like the Study Team to consider.

3. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the receipt of written submissions is **Friday 5 October 2001**.

4. ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Please send or deliver your submission to:

NQF Study Team

Department of Education

Room 946

Sol Plaatje House

123 Schoeman Street

PRETORIA 0001.

Prof. Kader Asmal, MP

Minister of Education