TITLE: BOTSWANA QUALIFICATIONS ONLINE REGISTER
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SESSION 27

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Botswana Qualifications Online Register

Introduction

Many countries, including Botswana, are implementing Qualifications Framework systems mainly to make qualifications on offer more responsive to labour market and industry needs and promote articulation within and between the qualifications subsystems and with regional and international qualifications frameworks.

The National Qualifications online Register is the official national public record of all qualifications aligned to NCQF and registered on the framework.

The establishment of the BQA & NCQF

- Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoTE). It was established in November 2013 through the Botswana Qualifications Authority Act No. 24 of 2013.

- The Authority's key objectives are to provide for and maintain a national credit and qualifications framework, and to co-ordinate the education, training and skills development quality assurance system.

- The adoption of the **National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF) Policy** is a result of many recommendations and past Government interventions.

Legal-regulatory Framework

Legal-regulatory texts underpinning the register are:

BQA Act (2013) section 4(2)(j) which states that, the Authority shall maintain a national database of qualifications.

NCQF Policy 1.3.1 paragraph 4 which states that, the Minister may publish regulations relating to procedures for validation and registration of qualifications.

NCQF Policy 1.3.2 (x) reads 'the main objectives of the NCQF are to provide for registration of quality assured qualifications.

BQA, NCQF Regulations 2016, Section 9(a) states that, the Authority shall, with regard to the qualifications in each of the sub-framework, ''develop and implement national policy and criteria for the development, registration and publication of qualifications''.

Aims and Users of the Online Register

- The National Qualifications online Register is the official national public record of all qualifications aligned to NCQF and registered on the framework which;

- gives learners and other users of qualifications access to all the qualifications registered and currently on offer . The NCQF Qualifications online Register is available on the BQA web portal and regularly updated (quarterly).

- The Register is designed to be of use to:
    i.   learners
    ii.   employers
    iii.   awarding bodies,
    iv.   training providers,
    v.   schools, colleges,
    vi.   government agencies and their partners. It facilitates access to and retrieval of information on all qualifications in the NCQF through a full search facility.

Structure of the Register

The information about qualifications which is published in the BQA website and recorded in the National Qualifications Register allow learners and employers to understand the detail of the qualification, especially the outcomes which are assessed, how they are assessed and how they are quality assured, and the opportunities for employment, advancement or access to further stages of education (education pathways) and training which the qualifications offer.

Role of BQA in managing, maintaining and quality assuring the Register

- BQA, NCQF Regulations 2016, Section 10(a) states that, the Authority shall, regard to the quality assurance of qualifications within each sub-framework; '' ensure implementation of the national policy and strategy for quality assurance.

- The process outline shows how the qualification is quality assured as highlighted below;
    a) Identify a need for a qualification
    b) Verify the need for a qualification from Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)
    c) Apply for pre-approval (by BQA) of the qualification to be developed (DNCQF.P01.F01). This application form is to be completed online.
    d) Development of the Qualification
    e) Conduct a wider stakeholder consultation to obtain approval of the qualification
    f) Obtain endorsement from the professional body if a qualification is a professional qualification
    g) Submit application for registration of the qualification on the NCQF (application for registration of qualifications form)
    h) Audit the qualification against NCQF Requirements
    i) Registration of the qualification on the Framework

Process map for registration of qualifications

Process of Registration of Qualifications

Relationship between the Register, the NCQF and Quality Assurance of Qualifications

Framework Maintenance and Development (FMD) division manages the development of qualifications and maintenance of the Framework.

Furthermore, Qualifications Instruments Development division quality assures developed and submitted qualifications by auditing them before they are registered by the FMD into Quality assurance Database.

After they are registered, the FMD input the qualification's content and publish them.

Educational Records prepares them to be shared with Communications to upload them in the BQA web portal where they are accessible to the public and all users.

The system acts as a gatekeeper to verify the legal ability of awarding bodies to be considered qualifications providers and to ensure that the provider submits the qualification that meets the required criteria to be registered.

Qualifications quality assurance approval structures

All submitted qualifications go through decision making structures for approval.

Qualifications from Level 1-5 are approved at Management Qualifications Framework Maintenance Committee(MQFMC).

Qualifications from Level 6 &7 are approved at Qualifications Framework Maintenance Committee (QFMC).

Qualifications from Level 8 and above are approved at the Board

Analytical services provided by BQA to different Users

- Analytical services provided by BQA to different users based on the data of the register are;

- **For Learners :**

- The Register publishes qualifications offered by education and training providers. These qualifications are grouped by fields of learning and by industry. The type of information include the awarding body, level of the qualification, credit value of qualification, mode of delivery and assessment of the qualification etc.

- The Register helps to better understand the information of these qualifications and their relevancy to the industries concerned, and it helps learners map out their learning pathways for progression in the direction they desire.

- **For Employees Seeking Recognition of Skills, Knowledge or Experience in an Industry :**

- The Register publishes qualifications with Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) that are granted by awarding bodies under the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy after assessing the skills, knowledge or experience that they have acquired.

- **For Employers :**

- The Register helps employers to plan the human resources development of their company and enhance the quality of their workforce through the Specification of Competency based programmes.

- The information on competency requirements helps employers to determine the skills and knowledge an employee should acquire, and the relevance of the qualifications possessed by their employees.

- The Register help employers to organise their staff training and development activities more effectively.

Continuation

- **For Education and Training Providers :**

- The Register disseminates information on the qualifications and learning programmes registered on the framework.

- The Register informs ETPs what qualifications are available in the market. It helps ETPs to plan and design learning programmes to meet the specific needs of industries and learners in line with the registered qualifications .

- The Register provides CAT information which will enhance not only the transparency and dissemination of credit transfer information between ETPs and programmes but also the availability of credit transfer arrangements on quality assured qualifications contained in the Register.

- **For Department of Tertiary Education Funding (DTEF)**

- The Register gives DTEF confidence on that they sponsor learners on quality assured qualifications and learning programmes.

How many and what Qualifications in the Register

Currently, there are 641 Qualifications in the BQA Qualifications Register.

Qualifications are Classified into 14 Fields of Learning

The National Credit and Qualifications Framework Classification System is a categorisation of qualifications and part qualifications registered on the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF). The Classification System has been provided for in regulation 11(1) of the (National Credit and Qualifications Framework Regulations), 2016 which states that, the NCQF shall consist of a number of fields of learning, subfields, domains known as NCQF Classification System" (p. C.741).
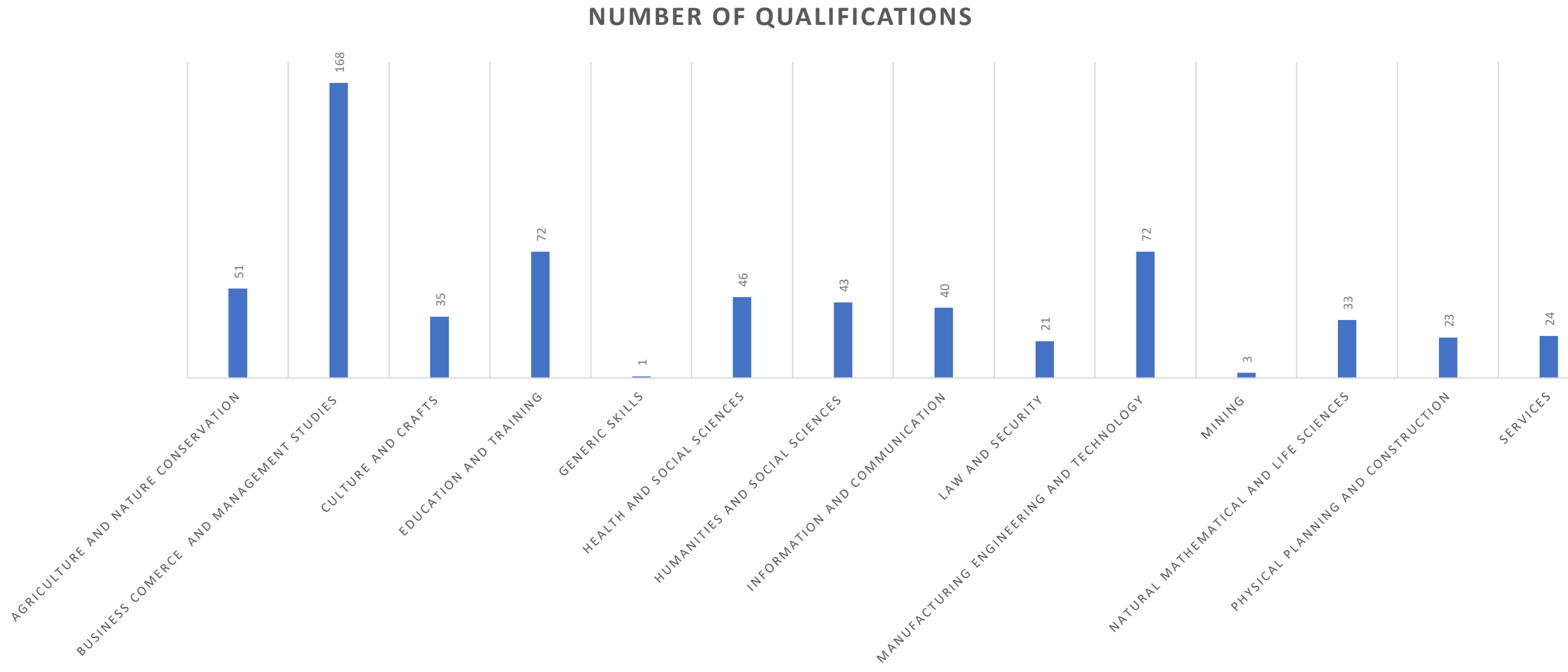
Plans for further development/ expansion of the Register-.

The Register continuously expand as the qualifications are registered from time to time. The implementation of the NCQF is an ongoing process that needs to be open to new developments and changes.

Graph showing qualification learning fields and their numbers on the BNCQF

NUMBER OF QUALIFICATIONS

Learning Field	Number
AGRICULTURE AND NATURE CONSERVATION	51
BUSINESS COMERCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES	168
CULTURE AND CRAFTS	35
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	72
GENERIC SKILLS	1
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	46
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	43
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	40
LAW AND SECURITY	21
MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY	72
MINING	3
NATURAL MATHEMATICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES	33
PHYSICAL PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION	23
SERVICES	24

Challenges and Successes

Challenges

i. Implementation of the NCQF to be able to map professional and franchised qualifications and include these mapped qualification in the NCQF Register.

ii. Integration of the BNCQF Register with other national databases.

Successes

i. Uptake of registered qualifications as shown by Learning Programmes developed against the qualifications on the framework.

ii. There is standardization of qualifications and international alignment with other qualifications Registers.

iii. The Register will facilitate alignment with regional frameworks.

iv. Accessibility of qualifications data to all stakeholders.

List of references

i.   Botswana Qualifications Authority Act, 2013

ii. Botswana Qualifications Authority (National Credit Qualifications Framework- NCQF) Regulations,2016

iii. Manual for Development and Registration of Qualifications on the NCQF

iv. NCQF Policy

v.   NCQF Classification System

vi. List of Registered Qualifications

THANK YOU