South African NQF

ACQF-II launch workshop
Session 9

NADIA STARR

12 July 2023

ABOUT **SAQA**

THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA) IS A STATUTORY BODY, ESTABLISHED IN TERMS OF THE SAQA ACT (NO. 58 OF 1995) AND CONTINUING IN TERMS OF THE NQF ACT (NO. 67 OF 2008) AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

THE NQF ACT MANDATES SAQA TO

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF)
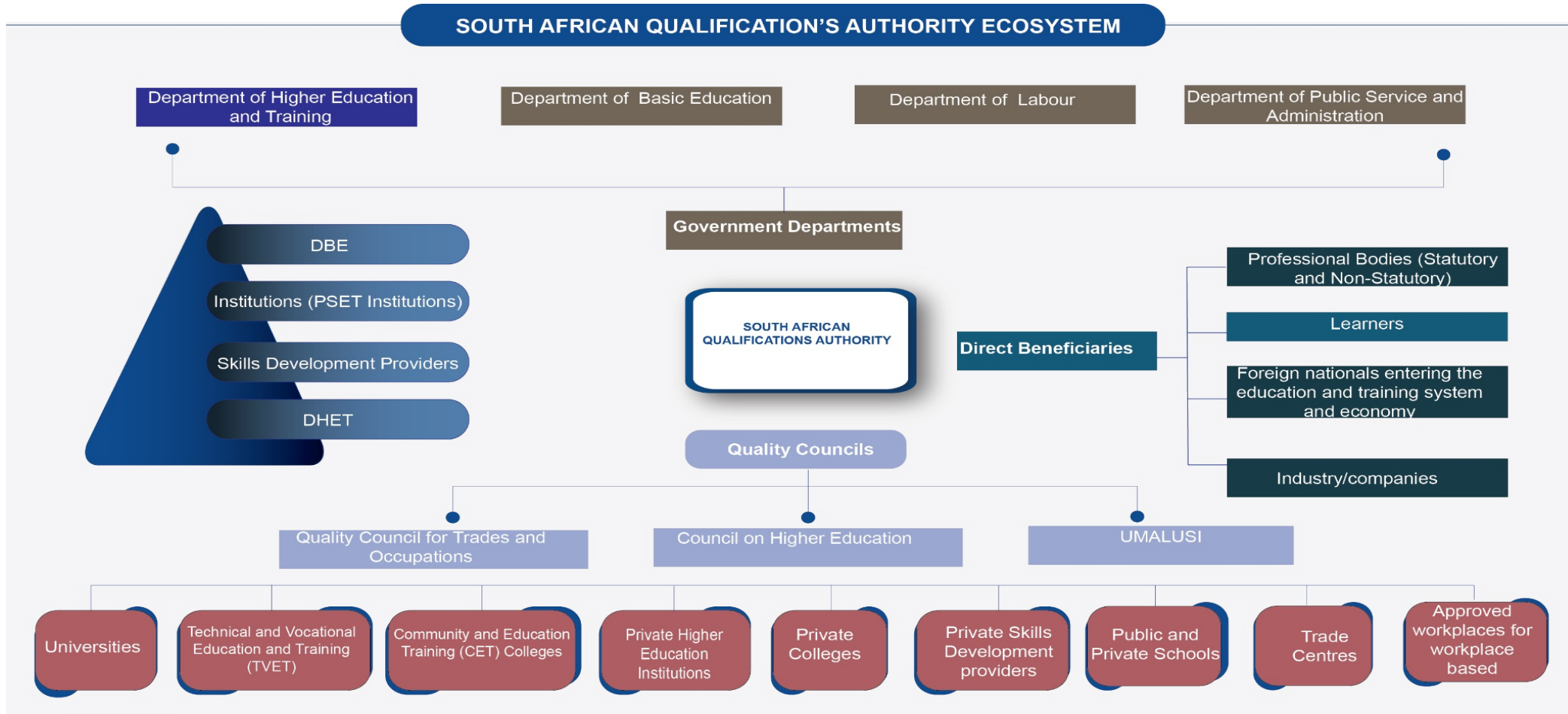
ADVANCE THE OBJECTIVESOF THE NQF

CO-ORDINATE THE SUB-FRAMEWORKS OF THE NQF

Based in Pretoria, South Africa

NQF Ecosystem

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATION'S AUTHORITY ECOSYSTEM

Department of Higher Education and Training	Department of Basic Education	Department of Labour	Department of Public Service and Administration

Government Departments

- DBE
- Institutions (PSET Institutions)
- Skills Development Providers
- DHET

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Direct Beneficiaries

- Professional Bodies (Statutory and Non-Statutory)
- Learners
- Foreign nationals entering the education and training system and economy
- Industry/companies

Quality Councils

Quality Council for Trades and Occupations	Council on Higher Education	UMALUSI

Universities	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	Community and Education Training (CET) Colleges	Private Higher Education Institutions	Private Colleges	Private Skills Development providers	Public and Private Schools	Trade Centres	Approved workplaces for workplace based

Other SAQA Stakeholders

- SAQA Funding
- Education and Training Providers
- Additional SAQA Revenue
- Qualification Developers

- SADC Qualifications Framework
- African Continental Qualifications Framework
- International Qualifications Frameworks
- Funding bodies and Organisations

NQF DEVELOPMENTS

2019

- Revised SAQA Policy for Implementing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- NQF Amendment Act 12 of 2019

2020

- Revised SAQA policies for (1) registering qualifications and (2) recognising professional bodies
- Revised Sub-Framework Determination and review of the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) policy.

2021

- Revised SAQA Policy and Criteria for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)
- Revised OQSF Policy

2022

- Revised SAQA policies for (1) registering qualifications and (2) recognising professional bodies
- Quality Council revision of their Sub-Framework policies for RPL and CAT, towards greater alignment of these policies, with those of SAQA and DHET
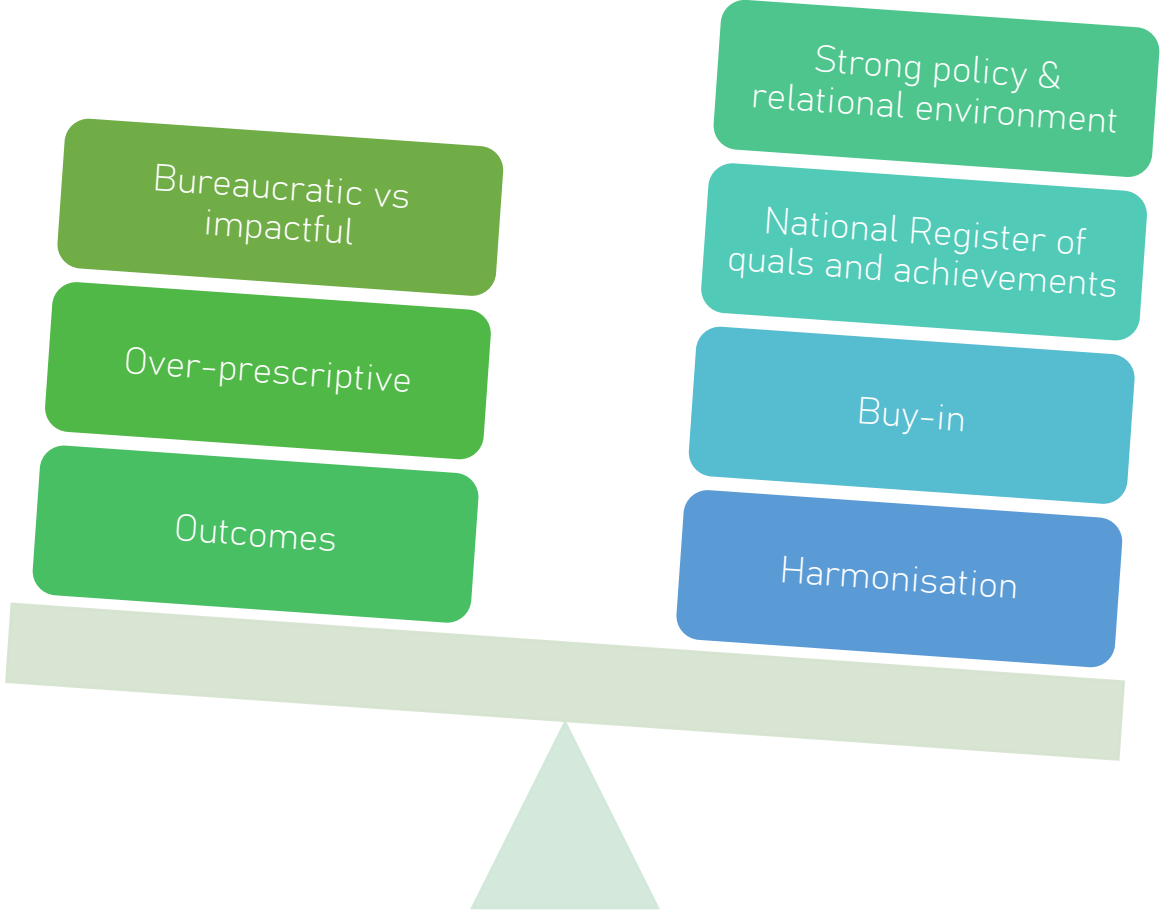- Council on Higher Education HEQ Sub Framework review

2023

- NQF and Professional Bodies Review
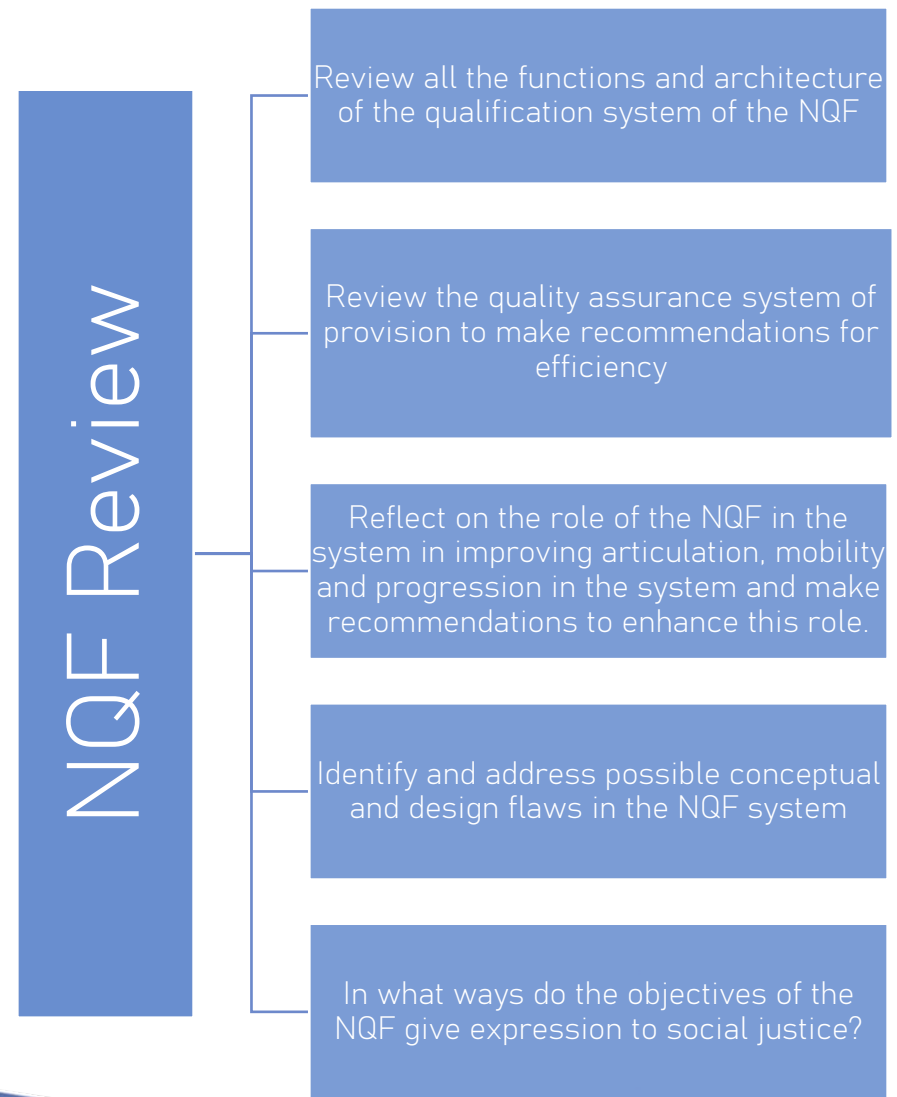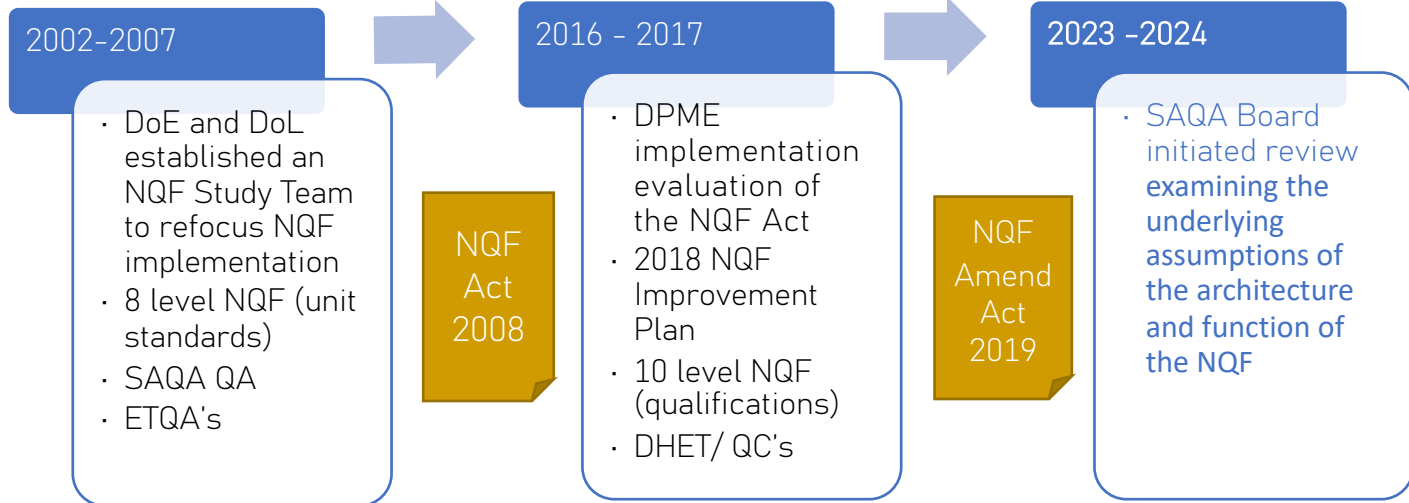- Awaiting proclamation of the NQF Amendment Act 12 of 2019

Challenges

- Bureaucratic vs impactful
- Over-prescriptive
- Outcomes

Successes

- Strong policy & relational environment
- National Register of quals and achievements
- Buy-in
- Harmonisation

NQF Review

2002-2007
- DoE and DoL established an NQF Study Team to refocus NQF implementation
- 8 level NQF (unit standards)
- SAQA QA
- ETQA's

NQF Act 2008

2016 – 2017
- DPME implementation evaluation of the NQF Act
- 2018 NQF Improvement Plan
- 10 level NQF (qualifications)
- DHET/ QC's

NQF Amend Act 2019

2023 –2024
- SAQA Board initiated review examining the underlying assumptions of the architecture and function of the NQF

NQF Review

- Review all the functions and architecture of the qualification system of the NQF

- Review the quality assurance system of provision to make recommendations for efficiency

- Reflect on the role of the NQF in the system in improving articulation, mobility and progression in the system and make recommendations to enhance this role.

- Identify and address possible conceptual and design flaws in the NQF system

- In what ways do the objectives of the NQF give expression to social justice?

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