

No. 692

26 June 2009

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ACT (ACT NO. 67 OF 2008)**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS
AUTHORITY (SAQA) BOARD**

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act (Act No. 67 of 2008) became operational on 1 June 2009.

The NQF Act provides that the South African Qualifications Authority continues as a juristic person to oversee the implementation of the NQF. Under the new Cabinet arrangements SAQA is accountable to the Minister of Higher Education and Training. SAQA has functions in keeping with the new NQF architecture, in particular the establishment of Quality Councils for standards setting and quality assurance. SAQA's new functions are set out in detail at section 13 of the NQF Act.

The South African Qualifications Authority is supported by its own professional secretariat, headed by the Executive Officer, and controls its own operating budget.

SAQA is governed by a Board. The Minister must appoint 12 Board members in their personal capacities. At least two of the 12 members must be appointed from nominations made by organised labour. The chief executive officer of SAQA and the chief executive officers of the Quality Councils for higher education, general and further education and training and trades and occupations respectively are also members of the SAQA Board by virtue of their offices.

Section 14 of the NQF Act provides that the members of the SAQA Board, taken as a whole, must:

- Be broadly representative of the education and training sectors and related interests;
- Have thorough knowledge and understanding of education and training;
- Appreciate the role of education and training in the reconstruction and transformation of the South African economy and society;
- Have known and attested commitment to the interests of education and training;
- Have knowledge and understanding of qualifications matters and quality assurance in education and training; and
- Be competent to undertake the governance and oversee the financial affairs of the SAQA.

The Minister must give due attention to the representivity of the Board in terms of such factors as race, gender and disability.

The members of the SAQA Board are expected to ensure that SAQA's functions are performed according to the highest professional standards.

Therefore, I Bongikosi Emmanuel Nzimande, MP, Minister of Higher Education and Training, hereby request –

- (a) persons involved in education and training;
- (c) organisations involved in education and training;
- (d) professional bodies;
- (e) organised business;
- (f) organised labour; and
- (g) organisations representing community development interests

to submit to me, **before 31 July 2009**, the names of persons who by virtue of their knowledge and experience, may be considered for appointment as members of the SAQA Board.

Nominations, accompanied by the *Curriculum Vitae* of the nominee and a *letter of consent indicating availability of the nominee* to serve on the SAQA Board if selected, should be forwarded to:

The Director-General: Higher Education and Training
(For the attention of Dr G Simpson, Simpson.g@doe.gov.za and Fax 012 325 4419)
Private Bag X 893
PRETORIA
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Dr BE Nzimande, MP
Minister of Education

Date: 12/6/09