

# QCTO Information Note No 1

## August 2010

*The work has begun ... we are well on our way!*

### You'll remember that:

- ❖ **Legal status:** The Skills Development Act was amended in 2008. Chapter 6C (Sections 26F – J) of the Amendment Act establishes the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations and sets out its functions.
- ❖ **Transfer of legal mandate:** The President transferred the legal mandate for implementation of this Act from the Minister of Labour to the Minister of Higher Education and Training on 1 November 2009. This caused a delay.
- ❖ **QCTO launched:** The Minister of Higher Education and Training launched the QCTO on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010. Here's who he appointed onto the Council:

Constituency	Organisation	Name and Surname
The Chairperson of the QCTO	SACPO	Mr Wilson Nzimande
The executive officer of the QCTO	DHET	Ms Adrienne Bird (Acting)
The executive officer of the SAQA	SAQA	Mr Samuel BA Isaacs
The executive officer of the NSA	NSA	Mr Firoz Patel (Acting)
The executive director of the Higher Education Quality Committee (EO of the Council on Higher Education)	CHE	Dr Lis Lange / Mr Ahmed Essop (CEO of CHE): co-opted member
CEO of UMALUSI	UMALUSI	Dr Mafu Rakometsi
Two from NEDLAC to represent organised labour	POPCRU	Ms Bonny Marekwa
	NUM	Mr Ecliff Tantsi
Two from NEDLAC to represent organised business	Chamber of Mines	Ms Stella Carthy
	Gijima	Mr Willy Matthiae
Two from NEDLAC to represent organisations of community and development interests	NCASA	Mr Thulane Mabuza
	FSCC	Mr Malesela Maleka
One member nominated by the Minister of Education to represent the interests of public education and training providers	DHET	Dr Bheki Mahlobo
One to represent the interests of private education and training providers	APPETD	Dr Marina le Grange
Two additional members to represent the members of the State	DHET	Ms Liz Thobejane
	DTI	Dr Julius Nyalunga

### Here's what we've been doing since 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010:

- ❖ **Induction:** The new Council first met in April when it began to familiarise itself with the work ahead. It's been meeting monthly since then.
- ❖ **Constitution:** One of the Council's first achievements has been the finalisation of its advice to the Minister on its proposed Constitution. This advice will now be forwarded to the Minister for his consideration and finalisation.

- ❖ **Policy on the Sub-Framework:** The Council has also finalised its advice to the Minister on the broad policy of the Occupational Sub-Framework. In terms of the Skills Development Act it is the Minister's prerogative to consider this advice and finalise the policy.
- ❖ **Branding:** The Council has commissioned work on its brand and is close to finalising this matter – watch this space!
- ❖ **Planning:** The Council has adopted a detailed operational plan for 2010 and is in the process of finalising a Strategic Plan by the end of September as required by the PFMA.
- ❖ **Establishment:** Work is underway to put the basics in place – staff, systems, accommodation and the like. SAQA, UMALUSI and the Council on Higher Education and Training are actively assisting the QCTO with this work. An advertisement for a permanent Executive Officer has been approved and will shortly be published. National Treasury has been requested to list the QCTO as a public entity, as is legally required and other legal matters are being attended to.
- ❖ **Policy and implementation:** The Council received policy proposals from the QCTO Task Team that worked on these matters prior to its establishment. The Council has established the following working groups to consider these proposals and finalise its recommendations to the Minister on these matters:
  - **Policy working group** – This group did the preparatory work on both the Constitution and Sub-Framework Policy indicated above. The group is now busy considering draft regulations that will frame the QCTO's core operations.
  - **Curriculum working group** – This group has been interrogating the curriculum model. Detailed discussions have taken place and options interrogated. A line of march has been agreed and now the 'i's are being dotted and 't's crossed.
  - **Foundational Learning Competency task team** – A task team has been established and the matter is being investigated.
  - **Pilot projects** – The QCTO is planning to launch its own pilot projects as well as respond to an initial set of proposals once the necessary preparatory work at both policy and system level has been completed. Project preparations have, however, begun.

### **Our message to you:**

- ❖ **We are focused and committed:** We are working hard to ensure that by April 2011 we have the first generation of policies finalised and the necessary staff and systems in place to enable us to open our doors for business. This will not mean that we'll be fully operational; however we plan, by then, to have begun a limited number of exciting pilot projects and to have responded positively to a first generation of proposals from you.
- ❖ We are doing the necessary planning and building to ensure that together we can achieve the success we all have in our sights.
- ❖ The transitional arrangements are that standard setting and quality assurance will continue under SAQA until the QCTO is up and running.

### **Cautionary note:**

**Please note that the QCTO will release official communication regarding its activities. Be careful of non QCTO sanctioned communication.**