




COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS: 01 OF 2019/20

54th QCTO Council Meeting Deliberations

17 March 2020, QCTO Office, Hatfield, Pretoria

The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) held its 54th Council Meeting on 17 March 2020. This meeting marked the last meeting of the second Council of the QCTO as their term of office comes to and end on 31 March 2020. The Council further noted the approval of the Strategic Plan for 2020/21 – 2024/25 and the Annual Performance Plan for 2020/21 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology.



Council also welcomed the approval of the Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Policy, by Minister Nzimande.

	<p>QCTO Council</p>	<p>The QCTO Council consists of 16 members appointed by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MHEST). The Council is entrusted with the responsibility to steer the QCTO towards achieving its mandate as stipulated in the founding legislation which is the National Qualifications Framework Act (Act no. 67 of 2008) as amended and the Skills Development Act (Act no. 97 of 1998) as amended.</p> <p>One of the responsibilities of the Council are to engage, ratify and approve the decisions and recommendations of its sub-committees. Council members are appointed for a period of five years.</p> <p>The current Council was appointed in 2015 and its term will come to an end on 31 March 2020.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Vijayen Naidoo, and executive management expressed their sincere appreciation to the Council Chairperson and members of Council as well as its sub committees for their unwavering support and leadership over their term of office. Management and staff are looking forward to working with the incoming Council over the next five years.</p> <p>Council further noted the following reports for recommendation and action to the incoming Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Council Close Out Report, 2. End of Term Review Report and 3. Audit and Risk Committee Handover Report
	<p>Executive Committee (EXCO)</p>	<p>Council noted the Executive Committee (EXCO) report and approved all policies recommended by the Executive Committee.</p>
	<p>Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Policy</p>	<p>Council noted and welcomed the approval of the publication of the Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Policy, by Minister Nzimande, on 16 February 2020.</p> <p>The Revised OQSF Policy was published in the Government Gazette (No. 43062, Vol. 657) on 2 March 2020. One of the distinct features of the Revised OQSF Policy, amongst others, are the eight (8) occupational qualification types.</p>

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		<p>Namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Occupational Certificate: NQF Level 1 2. Elementary Occupational Certificate: NQF Level 2 3. Intermediate Occupational Certificate: NQF Level 3 4. National Occupational Certificate: NQF Level 4 5. Higher Occupational Certificate: NQF Level 5 6. Occupational Diploma: NQF Level 6 7. Advanced Occupational Diploma: NQF Level 7 8. Specialised Occupational Diploma: NQF Level 8 <p>Council expressed their appreciation to the Minister with the approval of the Revised QQSF Policy as it paves the way for a well-articulated QQSF that will ensure parity of esteem and articulation across sub-frameworks.</p>
	<p>Sub-Committee of Council: Occupational Qualifications Committee (OQC)</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee of Council: Occupational Qualifications Committee (OQC) met on 6 and 7 February 2020. Council approved the recommendation of 84 full occupational and 33 part qualifications for registration to SAQA. Council noted the recommendation of a further 5 skills programmes for approval. These were part of 22 skills programmes that were approved by Council during the 53rd Council meeting.</p> <p>Council approved the latest proposed qualifications model and the OQC Handover Report for recommendation and action to the incoming sub-committee.</p> <p>Council further expressed their appreciation on the proposed conceptual model for skills programmes. Council also communicated the urgent need to address the finalisation of the implementation of skills programmes.</p>
	<p>Sub-Committee of Council: Occupational Quality Assurance Committee (OQAC)</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee of Council: Occupational Quality Assurance Committee (OQAC) met on 18 February 2020.</p> <p>Council noted the accreditation of 67 Skills Development Providers (SDPs) and 49 Assessment Centres for both Occupational Qualifications and Historically Registered Qualifications. Council acknowledged the issuing of 3 551 trade certificates as at 31 December 2019, within the 21 working day turnaround time.</p> <p>Council recognised the issuing of 151 Occupational Certificates and the progress that has been made with the digitization project.</p>

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		Council approved the Accreditation model and the OQAC Handover Report for recommendation and action to the incoming sub-committee.
	Audit and Risk Committee	The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) report as well as the ARC Handover report was noted by Council. Council has noted the change of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) Audit Strategy. QCTO has been geared towards the 2019/20 audit.
	Portfolio Committee: Higher Education, Science and Technology	Council noted the invitation by the Portfolio Committee: Higher Education, Science and Technology to the Skills Colloquium on Skills Development in South Africa, scheduled for 18 March 2020. However this event was cancelled due to the declaration of the National State of Disaster.
	Quarter 3 of 2019/20 Performance Report	Council noted the Performance Report for Quarter 3 of 2019/20. The report indicated the achievement of 6 (100%) out of the 6 quarterly targets. Council noted the achievement and reminded management of achieving improved overall performance for the fourth quarter as well as the annual targets.
	CEO Report on Strategic Projects	Council noted the issues raised by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology during the NQF Forum held on 3 October 2019. QCTO continues to provide strategic support to key Departmental Projects and National Imperatives like the Dual System Pilot Project (DSPP) and the Centres of Specialisation (COS) Project. Council further noted the progress that has been made with the QCTO's Plan for Revoking of Quality Assurance functions delegated to SETAs and the meetings that was held by the QCTO in partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) with SETAs during reporting period. QCTO has concluded one on one meetings with all SETAs. The process of signing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with individual SETAs is underway. This will assist with paving the way forward in terms of the implementation of the revoking of delegated quality assurance functions in line with the National Skills Development Plan, by 1 April 2020. Council noted the approval, by the Minister on 24 February 2020, of the Revoking Plan for Quality Assurance Functions Delegated to SETAs, for implementation.
	QCTO Strategic Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25 and Annual Performance Plan 2020/21	Council noted the approval of the Strategic Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25, the Annual Performance Plan for 2020/21 as well as the Budget of R 124,635 million for the 2020/21 financial year (inclusive of a government grant of R 27,435 million) by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology on 6 March 2020.

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	<p>Financial Reports</p>	<p>The Chief Financial Officer presented to Council the third quarterly financial report as well as the expenditure plan for surplus funds.</p> <p>Council expressed their appreciation to the CEO, CFO and all staff involved with the management of the Finances and Supply Chain Management related matters that ensured frugal expenditure management over the reporting period.</p>
	<p>End of Term of Second QCTO Council</p>	<p>Outgoing QCTO Council Chairperson, Professor Peliwe Lolwana, wished all outgoing members well and welcomed the new QCTO Council members with the start of their new term of office from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2025.</p> <p>Council members further expressed their personal thanks and appreciation to the QCTO CEO, management and staff for ensuring that QCTO is on the right trajectory for the next 5 years. Prof Lolwana further noted the achievements of the organization and expressed her personal satisfaction with building the organisation. She further requested the CEO, management and staff to continue with building this august organisation.</p> <p>The Council farewell event was cancelled due to the Statement issued by President Ramaphosa on 15 March 2020 around the measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Naidoo, further expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Council Chairperson and committee members for their support and leadership over the period since his appointment as CEO.</p> <p>Mr Lata, on behalf of the CEO and staff, further thanked the Chairperson and esteemed Council, for their selfless service to the QCTO and the nation at large.</p>

The 55th QCTO Council Meeting will take place on 24 June 2020 at the QCTO Office in Hatfield, Pretoria (*TBC).*

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