



# THE NQF, UMALUSI & ME

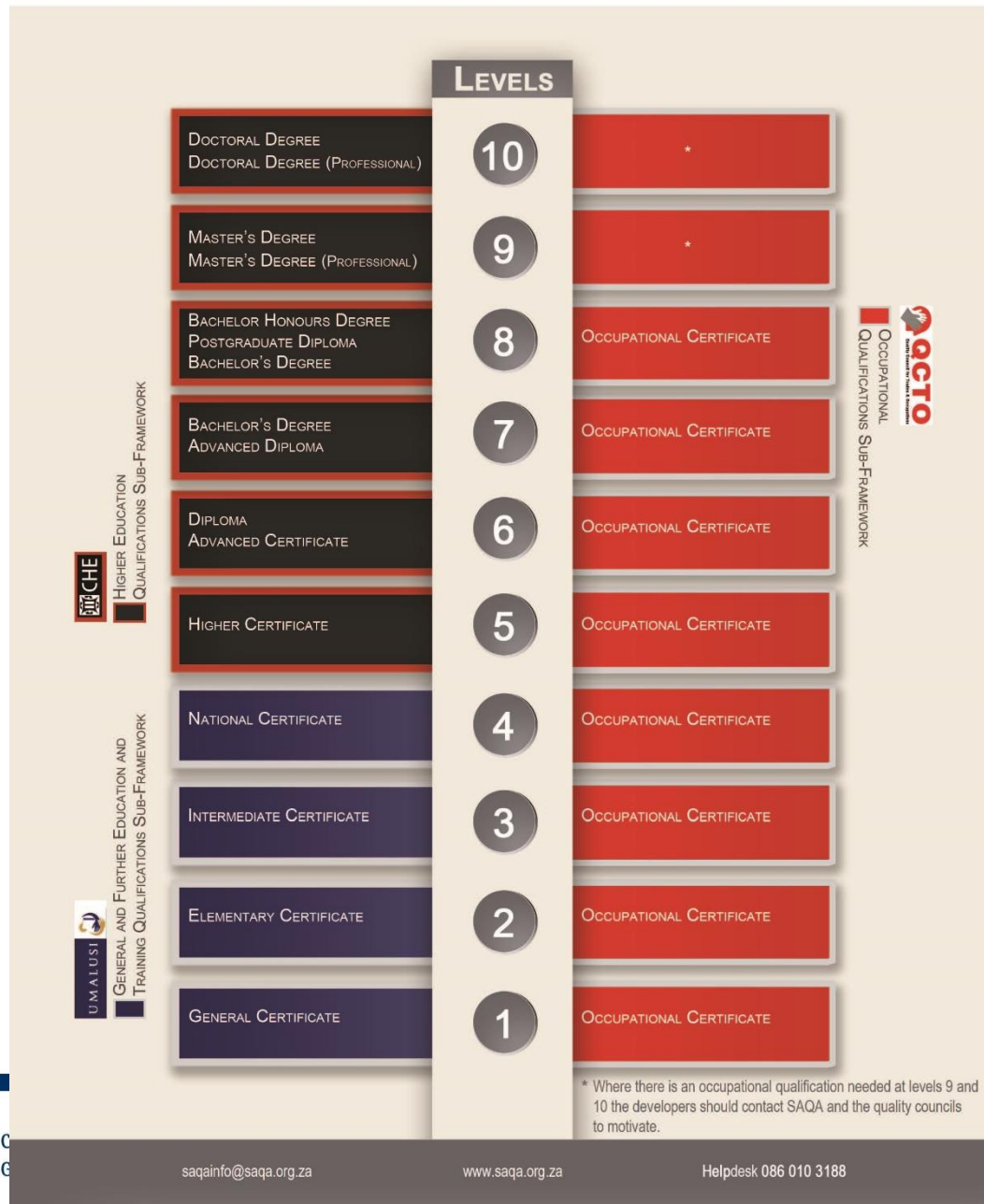
ACCREDITATION FORUM  
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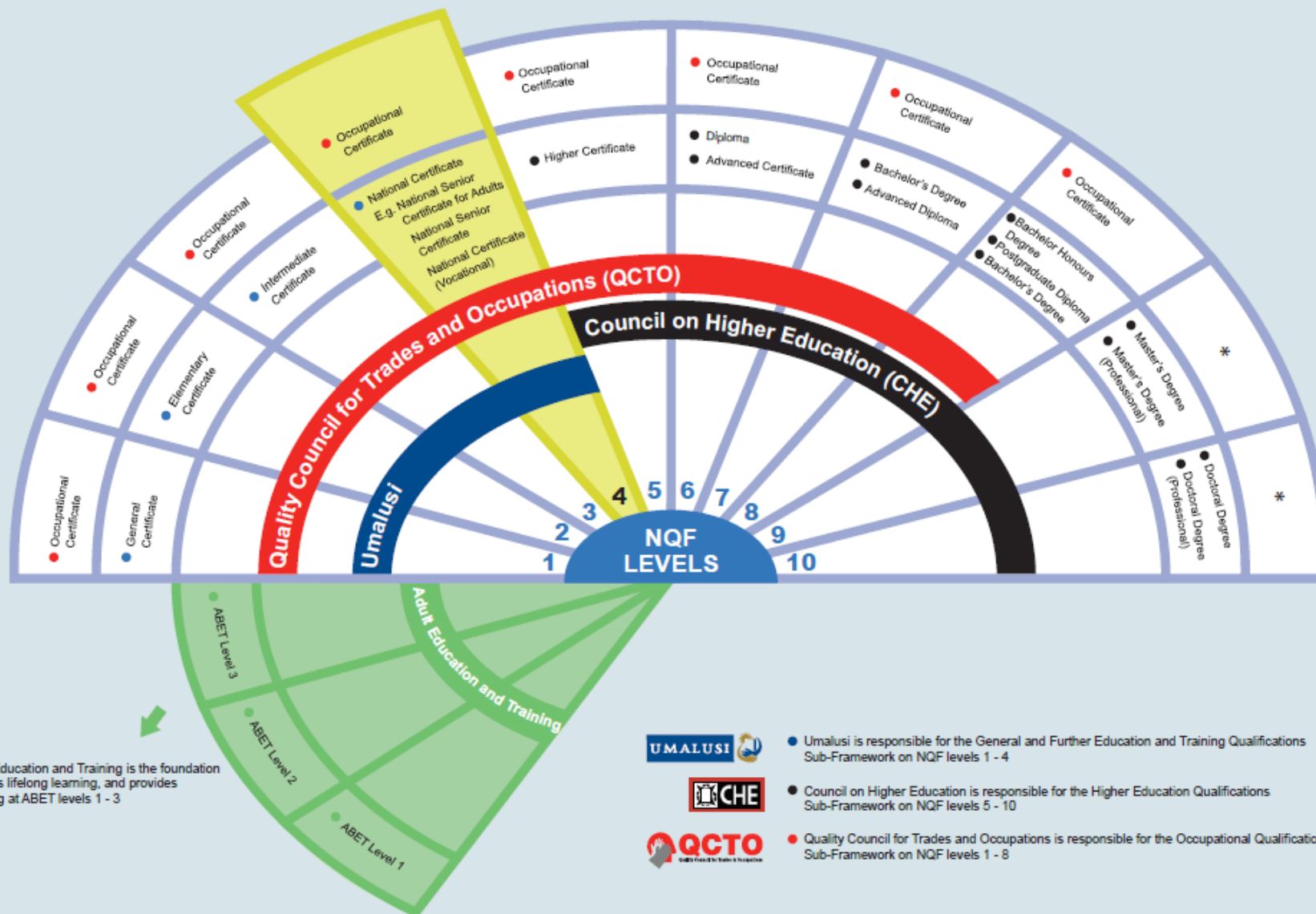
Ms Cindy Thomas



# What is the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)?

- a single integrated system of three co-ordinated qualifications sub-frameworks.
- Provided for in the National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008 (as amended).
- 3 Quality Councils
  - Umalusi
  - Council on Higher Education (CHE)
  - Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)
- 10 Levels





Adult Education and Training is the foundation towards lifelong learning, and provides learning at ABET levels 1 - 3



Umalusi is responsible for the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework on NQF levels 1 - 4



Council on Higher Education is responsible for the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework on NQF levels 5 - 10



Quality Council for Trades and Occupations is responsible for the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework on NQF levels 1 - 8

\*Where an occupational qualification is needed at NQF levels 9 and 10, the developers should contact SAQA and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations to motivate.

# The objectives of the NQF

<p><b>1.</b> To create a single integrated national framework for learning achievements</p>	<p><b>2.</b> To facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within, education, training and career paths;</p>
<p><b>3.</b> To enhance the quality of education and training</p>	<p><b>4.</b> To accelerate the redress of past unfair discrimination in education, training and employment opportunities.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> To contribute to the full personal development of each learner and the social and economic development of the nation at large.</p>	

# What is Umalusi's role in the NQF?

The functions of the QC are set out in section 27 of the Act.

They include:

- Develop and manage its sub-framework and make recommendations thereon to the Minister;
- Develop and implement policy and criteria for the development, registration and publication of qualifications;
- Ensure the development of such qualifications or part qualifications as are necessary for the sector
- Recommend qualifications or part qualifications to the SAQA for registration;

**Qualifications, Curriculum and Certification  
Unit (QCC)**

# Umalusi's role in the NQF

The functions of the QC are set out in section 27 of the Act.

With regard to quality assurance within its sub-framework:

- Develop and implement policy for quality assurance
- Ensure the integrity and credibility of quality assurance;
- Ensure that such quality assurance as is necessary for the sub-framework is undertaken

**Quality Assurance of Assessment (Schools and Post Schools) Units - (QAA)**

**Evaluation and Accreditation Unit (E&A)**

# Umalusi's role in the NQF

The functions of the QC are set out in section 27 of the Act.

With regard to information matters:

- Maintain a database of learner achievements and related matters for the purposes of the Act, and
- Submit such data in a format determined in consultation with the SAQA for recording on the national learners' records database.

**Qualifications, Curriculum and Certification  
Unit (QCC)**



# Umalusi's role in the NQF

The functions of the QC are set out in section 27 of the Act.

With regard to other matters:

- Conduct or commission and publish research on issues of importance to the development and implementation of the sub-framework;
- Inform the public about the sub-framework;
- Perform any other function required by the Act; and
- Perform any function consistent with the Act that the Minister may determine.

**Statistical Information and Research Unit (SIR)  
and  
Public Relations and Communications Unit**

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## 3. (1) This Act applies to-

(a) education programmes or learning programmes that lead to qualifications or part-qualifications offered within the Republic by-

- (i) education institutions; and
- (ii) skills development providers;

**(2) Every qualification or part-qualification contemplated in subsection (1) must be registered on the National Qualifications Framework in accordance with this Act.**

(3) Every private education institution or skills development provider offering education and training programme or any component thereof towards a qualification or part-qualification, must be registered by the relevant Department as a private education institution or skills development provider and accredited by the relevant QC to offer such qualification or part-qualification.

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## Provides a definition of an “authentic qualification”

(a) in relation to a qualification or part-qualification, includes a qualification or part-qualification that is—

(i) registered on the NQF;

(ii) offered by a registered, established, declared or merged and accredited education institution or skills development provider in terms of this Act or any other applicable law; and

(iii) lawfully obtained; and

(b) in relation to a foreign qualification, means a qualification or part-qualification that is lawfully obtained from a foreign country and is evaluated by the SAQA in terms of this Act.”

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## Referral of a qualification or part-qualification to the SAQA for verification and evaluation

**32A.** (1) (a) All organs of state, employers, education institutions, skills development providers and QCs must authenticate, prior to appointment or registration, if the qualification or part-qualification which is presented to them for the purposes of appointment, study or for any other related purpose, is registered on the national learners' records database.

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## Offences and penalties

### **32B. (1) A person is guilty of an offence if the person—**

(a) makes or causes to be made a false entry in the national learners' records database or the misrepresented or fraudulent register;

(b) is a party to the falsification and dissemination or publication of a qualification or part-qualification of any person or the records of the national learners' records database or the misrepresented or fraudulent register; or

(c) with a fraudulent purpose, knowingly provided false or misleading information in any circumstances in which this Act requires the person to provide information or give notice to another person.

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## Offences and penalties

**32B. (2) A person, an education institution or skills development provider is guilty of an offence if a person, the education institution or skills development provider**

- claims to be offering a qualification or part-qualification registered on the NQF whereas that qualification or part-qualification is not so registered.

**32B. (3) A person is guilty of an offence, if such a person**

- falsely or fraudulently claims to be holding a qualification or part-qualification registered on the NQF or awarded by an education institution, skills development provider, QC or obtained from a lawfully recognised foreign institution.

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## Offences and penalties

**32B. (4) Any person, education institution, skills development provider, foreign institution is guilty of an offence if**

- **it falsely claims to be registered and accredited as an education institution, skills development provider or foreign institution in terms of the laws of the Republic or foreign law.**

**32B. (5) If a person, education institution its directors or board, a foreign institution its agents or directors or board, or a skills development provider is convicted of any offence under this Act, the court that imposes the sentence shall consider as an aggravating factor the fact that the offence was—**

- **(a) committed with the intent to gain financially, or to receive any favour, benefit, reward, compensation or any other advantage; or**
- **(b) gained financially, or received any favour, benefit, reward, compensation or any other advantage.**

# How does the NQF and the NQF Act affect me?

## Offences and penalties

**32B. (6) Any person convicted of an offence in terms of this Act**, is liable, in the case of a contravention of sections 32B(1), 32B(2), 32B(3) or 32B(4) to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

**32B. (7) Any person, education institution, director or a board member of an education institution, foreign institution or its agents, or skills development provider in contravention of section 32B(4)** may be ordered to close its business and declared unfit to apply and register any education institution, skills development provider or become an agent of any foreign institution in the Republic offering a qualification or part-qualification on the NQF or foreign qualification or part-qualification for a period not exceeding 10 years.”



## References

SAQA website: 16 January 2020

<http://www.saqa.org.za/list.php?e=NQF>

The National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008 *as amended*

The NQF Amendment Act (*Government Gazette 42646 of 129 August 2019*)

# Thank you

