

The importance and role of associations within the broader collaborative landscape of tertiary education in South Africa

National Skills Development Providers Association (NSDPA)
25 March 2026
Auditorium, 269 Lancia Street, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria.
Japie Nel: Registration and Recognition



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“Your success does not depend on how the environment adapts to you, but how you adapt to the environment”

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 AS AMENDED) AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

THE NQF ACT MANDATES SAQA TO



DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF)

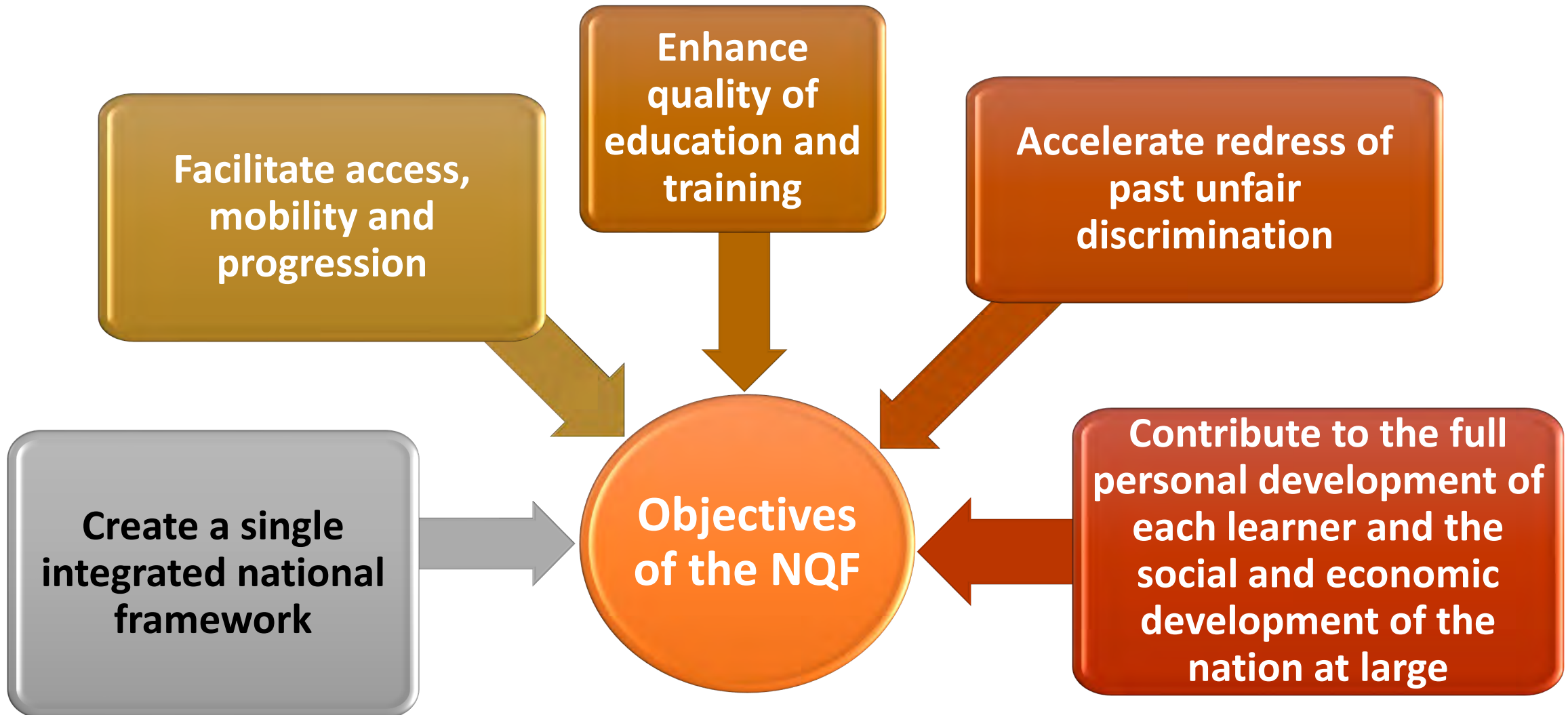


ADVANCE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NQF



CO-ORDINATE THE SUB-FRAMEWORKS OF THE NQF





SAQA Mandate

Misrepresentation

OVERSEE

NQF implementation and co-ordinate NQF Sub-Frameworks



ADVISE

the Minister of Higher Education and Training on NQF matters

DEVELOP

and implement NQF policies and criteria



MAINTAIN

a National Learners' Records Database

REGISTER

qualifications and professional designations on the NQF



RECOGNISE

professional bodies

PROVIDE

evaluation and advisory services for foreign qualifications



PROVIDE

verification services for national qualifications

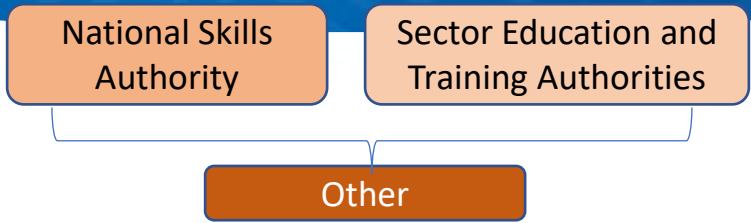
CONDUCT

research and collaborate with international counterparts



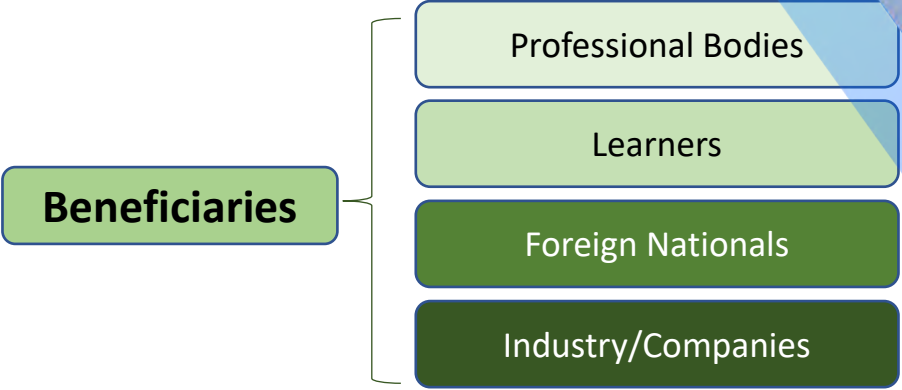
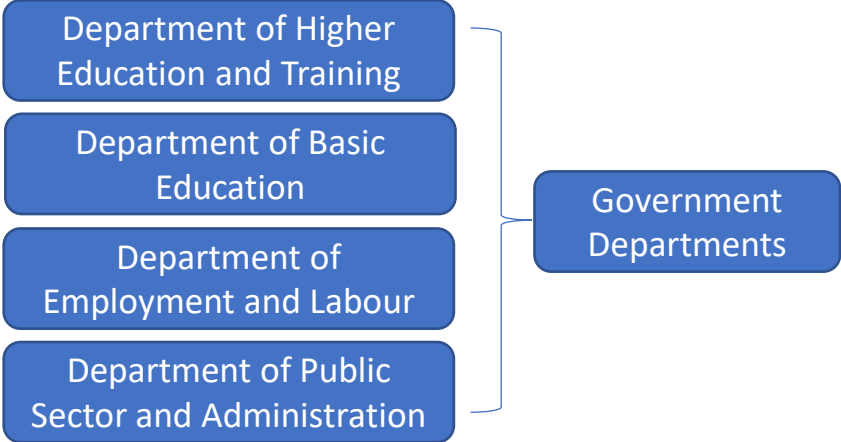
INFORM

the public about the NQF



SAQA

National Qualifications Framework		
Level	Sub-Framework and qualification types	
10	Doctoral Degree (360 Credits) Doctoral Degree (Professional)	
9	Master's Degree (180 Credits) Master's Degree (Professional)	
8	Bachelor Honours Degree (120 Credits) Postgraduate Diploma (120 Credits) Bachelor's Degree (480 Credits)	Specialised Occupational Diploma (120 Credits)
7	Bachelor's Degree (360 Credits) Advanced Diploma (120 Credits)	Advanced Occupational Diploma (120 Credits)
6	Diploma (360 credits) Advanced Certificate (120 Credits)	Occupational Diploma (360 Credits) Advanced Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
5	Higher Certificate (120 Credits)	Higher Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
4	National Certificate (120 Credits)	National Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
3	Intermediate Certificate	Intermediate Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
2	Elementary Certificate	Elementary Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
1	General Certificate	General Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)



Quality Councils



- PROVIDERS**
- Public Higher Education
 - Private Higher Education
 - TVET Colleges
 - Skills Development Providers
 - Community Colleges
 - Schools (Public and Private)
 - Trade Centers

NQF

Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework

General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework

National Qualifications Framework		
Level	Sub-Framework and qualification types	
10	Doctoral Degree (360 Credits) Doctoral Degree (Professional)	*
9	Master's Degree (180 Credits) Master's Degree (Professional)	*
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4	National Certificate (120 Credits)	National Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
3	Intermediate Certificate (120 Credits)	Intermediate Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
2	Elementary Certificate (120 Credits)	Elementary Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)
1	General Certificate (120 Credits)	General Occupational Certificate (120 Credits)

Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework



Feed back into the review
of the qualifications

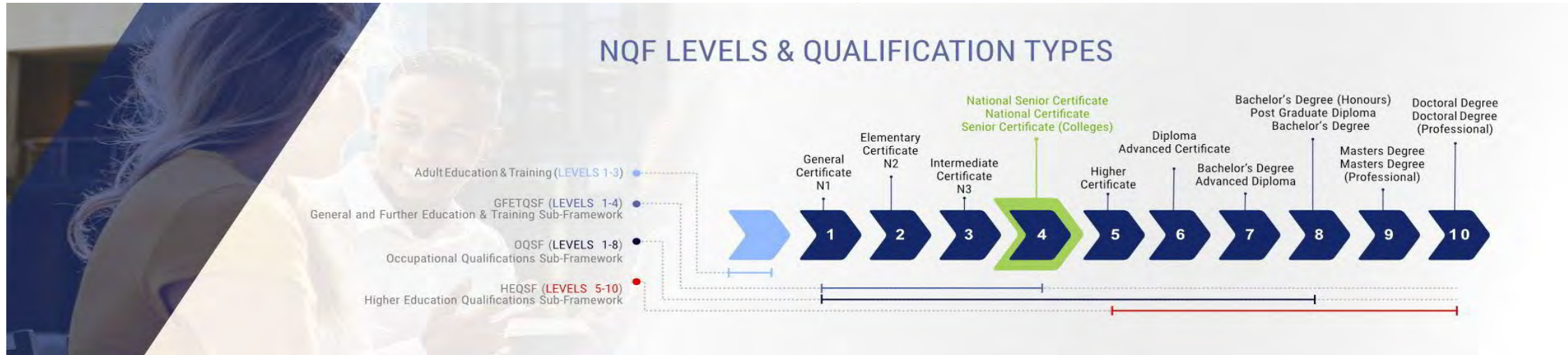
Quality Councils manage their
sub-framework and recommend
qualifications for registration on
the NQF

SAQA evaluates and registers
qualifications on the NQF

Quality Councils perform
quality assurance functions

Feedback on:

- Relevance of qualification
- # of learner achievements
- Addressing OIHD or Critical Skills
- Employment



General and Further Education

- 23 000 public schools
- 2 200 private schools
- Three (3) Streams model
- Pilots: GETC to replace ABET 4 and Implementation of the 'Adult Matric' NASCA

Occupational Education and Training

- Approx 26 Quality assurance Partners
- Approx 774 Skills Providers

2013 QQSF Policy

- Occupational qualification per level

2021 QQSF Policy

- **Aligned qualification titles to those of the other sub-frameworks**

Higher Education

- 26 public Universities
- 160 private Higher education institutions
- 13 Colleges

2022 HEQSF Review

- Shifting unit of accreditation from programme to qualification
- Flexible delivery modes and access
- Move away from level descriptors

Professional Bodies

- 102 recognised professional bodies
 - 17 Statutory Bodies
 - 85 Non-statutory Bodies

Associations in the Education and Training and Landscape



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Associations in Education and Training



Provide a platform

- Share knowledge
- Interdisciplinary collaboration



Foster development

- New trends in employment, skills development
- Other learning developments for members – conferences and webinars
- Ethics and Accountability

Associations in Education and Training

(Continued...)



Advisory role

- Strengthening ties with regulatory bodies (SAQA/QCs/SETAs) and the Government



Networking

- Changes in the education and training landscape
- Shifts in the job market
- Shifts in knowledge and skills needs
- Sharing Knowledge

Associations in Education and Training

(Continued..)



Industry-wide focus

- Broad view of trends, skill requirements, and best practices



Neutrality



Specialised expertise

- Work closely with industry, regulators, and the Government

Section 28

Co-operate with
Quality Councils

- Qualifications
and Quality
Assurance

- Promote understanding of the profession
- Promote trust in the profession
- Encourage social responsibility within the profession
- Promote pride in association
- **Setting professional standards for the profession**

Changes in the South African Education and Training Landscape



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Challenges Pre2009 Qualifications

- 8-Level NQF vs 10-Level NQF
- Old outdated content/curriculum
 - Level 7 qualification – Theatre and Performance
 - 60% of ELOs – Understand
 - One ELO – ***Use internet to access information***
- Qualifications never reviewed or updated
- OQSF (2013) vs. OQSF (2021)

**EIGHT LEVEL NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK
PRE2009**

NQF Level	Band	Qualification Type	
8	Higher Education and Training Band	Post-doctoral Research Degrees Doctoral/DTech - 240 Credits	
8		Master's/MTech degrees – 120 Credits	
7		Bachelor Honours Degrees – 120 Credits Professional Bachelor's Degrees – 480 Credits	
6/7		National First Degree – 360 Credits Baccalaureus Technologiae – 480 Credits	
7		National Diploma – 240/360 Credits	
6		National Diploma – 240/360 Credits National Certificates – 120 Credits	
5		National Diploma – 240 Credits National Certificates – 120 Credits	
4		Further Education and Training Band	National Certificates – 120 Credits Further Education and Training Certificate – 120 Credits
3	National Certificates – 120 Credits		
2	National Certificates – 120 Credits		
1	General Education and Training Band	General Education and Training Certificate – 120 Credits	ABET Level 4

		ABET Level 3	
		ABET Level 2	
		ABET Level 1	

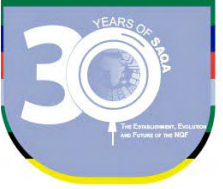
**TEN LEVEL NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK
POST2009**

NQF Level	Sub-framework and qualification Type			
10	Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework	Doctoral Degree – 360 Credits Doctoral Degree (Professional) – 360 Credits		
9		Master's Degree – 180 Credits Master's Degree (Professional) – 180 Credits		
8		Bachelor Honours Degree – 120 Credits Postgraduate Diploma – 120 Credits Bachelor's Degree – 480 Credits		
7		Bachelor's Degree – 360 Credits Advanced Diploma – 120 Credits		
6		Diploma – 360 Credits Diploma – 240 Credits (on condition that a PB must provide training for additional 120 credits) Advanced Certificate – 120 Credits		
5		Higher Certificate – 120 Credits		
4		General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework	National Senior Certificate – 120 Credits National Vocational Certificate – 120 Credits	
3			Intermediate Certificate – 120 Credits	
2	Elementary Certificate – 120 Credits			
1	General Education Certificate – 120 Credits		ABET Level 4	

		ABET Level 3	
		ABET Level 2	
		ABET Level 1	

Occupational Qualifications Sub-framework

National Qualifications Framework



Level	Sub-Framework and qualification types	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship DTech 	*
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTech 	*
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Postgraduate Qualification Advanced Postgraduate Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postgraduate Diploma Professional Postgraduate Qualification
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Certificate Bridging Diploma Graduate Certificate Higher Diploma National Higher Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Certificate Advanced Diploma Diploma Higher Diploma National Certificate
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Certificate Bridging Diploma Graduate Certificate Higher Diploma National Higher Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma Professional Diploma National Diploma Professional Qualifications
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate National Certificate National Higher Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate Higher Certificate National Certificate National Diploma

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What can NSDPA do?

Creating Trust and Credibility

- Provide for ethical, professional, and accountable practices

Specialised Expertise

- Represent private and public training providers
- Influence policy, legislation, and governance

Networking

- Promote collaboration and strategic partnerships

Foster Development

- Support members.



*Thank you
Ngiyathokoza
Enkosi
Dankie
Ngiyabonga
Kea leboga
Ndza khensa
Ndo livhuwa*

