

**4th CG GPD Meeting – Rome
17 - 18 February 2026**



**South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA):
Transparency and Social Impact of LLL**



#NQFtothePeople

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18 February 2026





Social Justice within the NQF

The Social justice within the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) aims to:

- ❖ Promote equity
- ❖ Redress past injustices
- ❖ Ensure fair access to education and training
- ❖ Seeks to remove barriers
- ❖ Provide opportunities for disadvantaged learners
- ❖ Foster an inclusive, democratic education system





The NQF as a tool for Social Transformation

- ❖ **Redress and Access:** Addressing historical imbalances by creating pathways for marginalized groups.
- ❖ **Equity over Equality:** Focusing on giving the greatest support to the least advantaged to ensure fair outcomes.
- ❖ **Inclusivity:** Integrating diversity in curriculum and learning to meet the needs of all students.
- ❖ **Quality Assurance:** Ensuring qualifications are credible and recognize prior learning (RPL) to foster participation.



A Qualification Framework as a Tool

- ❖ To frame a country's education system.
- ❖ Education policy interventions intended to improve the relationship between education and training on the one hand and labour markets on the other.
- ❖ Instrument for the development, classification, and recognition of skills, knowledge and competencies along a continuum of agreed levels.
- ❖ Tools for structuring and comparing qualifications
- ❖ By 2015, the Global Inventory of Regional and National Qualifications Frameworks reported that over 150 of the 193 nations listed by the United Nations had qualification frameworks (Deij et al., 2015, p.6). When the follow-up report was released in 2019, over 120 countries were reforming their qualification systems (Villalba-Garcia and Chakroun, 2019), of which qualification frameworks are integral.
- ❖ Evaluations are regarded as a central element of reform in education (Schleicher, 2018) and qualification frameworks are a popular reform mechanism (Allais, 2018).



#NQFtothePeople



Inequality



Unemployment



Poverty





The Rationale and Vision

The #NQFtothePeople campaign emerges from one simple but powerful idea:
If people do not know the NQF, they cannot benefit from it.

- ❖ The NQF Information Centre (NIC), established in April 2024, gave life to this idea — a vision first endorsed by the late Professor Peliwe Lolwana, who believed that SAQA must meet citizens where they are.
- ❖ The campaign bridges the gap **between policy and public understanding**, making the NQF accessible, practical, and protective

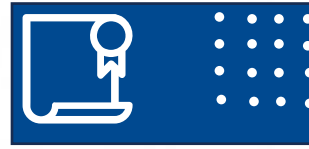
Vision

- ❖ Bring SAQA services closer to communities.
 - Protect learners from unregistered (“**fly-by-night**”) institutions.
 - Empower people to make informed education and career choices.
- ❖ In its first year, the NIC has already reached over **17 000 people** — proof that the appetite for reliable information is enormous.



Why #NQFtothePeople Matters

- ❖ **Education fraud and misinformation** remain persistent threats costing South Africans money, time, and hope.
- ❖ Many learners particularly in **rural and peri-urban areas** still do not know how to verify institutions, understand career pathways, or **access legitimate opportunities**.
- ❖ This campaign simplifies access to **trustworthy information** on **accredited qualifications**, institutions, and careers.
- ❖ It is not just awareness ***it's empowerment***.
- ❖ Ultimately, it strengthens South Africa's **education and skills ecosystem** and ensures that no one is left behind in the country's human-capital development journey.



What We Have Done So Far

a) Direct Outreach and Training Educator Training

- ❖ 61 educators trained from the **Department of Correctional Services** to align correctional education with NQF standards — giving inmates a pathway to recognised qualifications.
- ❖ 15 **Life Orientation coordinators** supported to integrate NQF content into school teaching.

Career Days and School Visits

- ❖ 18 school events across provinces, reaching **6 860 learners and teachers**, introducing the NQF as a *roadmap to opportunity*.

b) Public Blitz Campaigns

- ❖ 10 blitz activations in **Gauteng taxi ranks**, reaching over **6 000 commuters** — spreading the message in the most accessible spaces.



What We Have Done So Far



c) Stakeholder Engagements

- ❖ Partnered with NGOs, traditional leaders, and public institutions to extend reach.
- ❖ Hosted sessions with the **National Prosecuting Authority**, clarifying parity between NSC and NCV.
- ❖ Conducted an **information session for 100 inmates** at the Johannesburg Management Area — on the dangers of fake institutions and the value of recognised learning.

Each of these activities represents one thing: **the NQF at the doorstep of every South African.**



What's Next: Scaling the Movement

- ❖ The pilot phase is complete. The **NIC** is now formally integrated into SAQA's **Communications and Advocacy Unit**, ensuring continuity and expansion.
- ❖ Most importantly, **#NQFtothePeople is now a Ministerial Campaign**, endorsed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training.
- ❖ This endorsement opens national collaboration with **Quality Councils, SETAs, and civil society partners**.

Next Phase Priorities (2025 →)

- ❖ **Expand NQF information products:** documentaries, exhibits, and multilingual materials.
- ❖ **Deepen engagement:** training for Life Orientation teachers, Student Support Services Liaison Officers, traditional leaders, CDWs, Councillors, HR practitioners, and workforce champions.
- ❖ **Widen reach:** use **radio, television, and digital storytelling** to reach millions more.
- ❖ Leverage on use of social networks: Continual highlights on some of the engagements already held – for further engagements
- ❖ **Feedback loops:** community dialogues to continuously improve services.
- ❖ **Targeting the margins:** reaching the farthest rural communities — where information is most needed.

#NQFtothePeople - a movement of inclusion and empowerment.

- ❖ The campaign brings credibility, clarity, and confidence to our education system.

It says:

- ❖ The NQF belongs to everyone.
- ❖ SAQA is bringing information and **opportunity to your doorstep.**
- ❖ An informed citizen is a protected citizen.

The NIC initiative present SAQA's work as contributing to social justice and inclusive growth.



Dr Makhapa Makhafola

LIVE



C. Strengthening SAQA's Reputation

- Proactive media engagement
- Rapid crisis communication capability
- Messaging aligned to SAQA's strategic goals and national priorities

 <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>TUESDAY 6 Jan</p> <p>22:00</p>	    <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>11:30</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>15:15</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>16:50</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>18:15</p>		  <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>THURSDAY 8 Jan</p> <p>05:20</p> <p>THURSDAY 8 Jan</p> <p>05:40</p>			
<p>6 JANUARY</p>		<p>7 JANUARY</p>		<p>8 JANUARY</p>		
 <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>FRIDAY 9 Jan</p> <p>13:35</p>	  <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>MONDAY 12 Jan</p> <p>09:40</p> <p>MONDAY 12 Jan</p> <p>19:40</p>	 <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 14 Jan</p> <p>19:15</p>	 <p>LIVE ON</p> <p>THURSDAY 15 Jan</p> <p>08:40</p>			
<p>9 JANUARY</p>		<p>12 JANUARY</p>		<p>14 JANUARY</p>		<p>15 JANUARY</p>



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



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