

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN – AUGUST 2019

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The following matter forms part of the Environmental Scan for August 2019:

### DHET

**1) National Qualification Framework Amendment Act 2019**

[https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201908/4264619-8act12of2019natqualificationsframeamendact.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201908/4264619-8act12of2019natqualificationsframeamendact.pdf)

"To amend the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008, so as to amend and insert certain definitions; to provide for the verification of all qualifications or part-qualifications by the SAQA; to provide for the formulation of criteria for evaluating foreign qualifications; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of separate registers of misrepresented or fraudulent qualifications or part-qualifications; to provide for a separate register for professional designations; to provide for the referral of qualifications or part-qualifications to the SAQA for verification and evaluation; to provide for offences and penalties which have a bearing on fraudulent qualifications; and to provide for matters connected therewith".

**2) Higher Education Act: Amended: Appointment of Administrator for the Vaal University of Technology**

[https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201908/42639gon1074.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201908/42639gon1074.pdf)

"Dr BE Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, in accordance with Section 49B of the Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997, as amended) appoints Professor Ihron Rensburg as Administrator for the Vaal University of Technology, after receiving information of maladministration and serious undermining of the effective functioning of the University".

**3) Cancellation of Registration of Monash South Africa Limited (incorporated in Australia External Profit Company) as a private higher education institution**

[https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201908/42608gon1022.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201908/42608gon1022.pdf)

"I, Gwebinkundla Felix Qonde, Director -General of the Department of Higher Education and Training, hereby, in terms of section 62 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997) ( "the Act ") and Regulation 17(4) of the Regulations for the Registration of Private Higher Education Institutions, 2016 ( "the Regulations " ), give notice of cancellation of the registration of Monash South Africa Limited (Incorporated in Australia External Profit Company) as a private higher education institution. The reason for cancelling the institution's registration is because it has voluntarily ceased to provide higher education".

## **SAQA**

### **1) Consolidated Annual Performance Plan 2019/20**

[http://www.saqa.org.za/docs/rep\\_annual/2019/Consolidated%20APP%20for%202019-10%20v2.2%20310119.pdf](http://www.saqa.org.za/docs/rep_annual/2019/Consolidated%20APP%20for%202019-10%20v2.2%20310119.pdf)

“The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) compiled this Annual Performance Plan for the 2019/20 financial year in accordance with the provisions of the Strategic Planning Framework that was promulgated by National Treasury. This Annual Performance Plan covers the fifth year of the five-year strategy and consolidates the goals that SAQA set for itself in its Strategic Plan for 2015/16 to 2019/20. Further consideration was given to the requirements in the 2018 Ministerial Guideline that was published in March 2018, the NQF Implementation Framework 2015-20 and the NQF Act Implementation Evaluation Improvement Plan”.

“The focus for the 2019/20 financial year is to further implement the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) through:

- Maintaining oversight of the Quality Councils' (QCs) implementation of NQF policies
- Implementing the Minister's Articulation Policy. We will continue to ensure that QCs and providers clearly define articulation pathways at the qualification and systemic levels; create a better understanding of articulation through our public awareness and research initiatives; and promote articulation at the institutional level. Progress made in this regard will be reported to the Minister through the Articulation Action Plan Report that was developed and approved by the SAQA Board in the previous financial year
- Implementing the recommendations of the NQF Act Implementation Evaluation Improvement Plan
- Implementing the NQF Amendment Bill when it is promulgated
- Further simplifying the NQF
- Upholding the values of the NQF by promoting authentic qualifications and reporting on individuals who have misrepresented their qualifications”.

### **2) 21 Years of the South African NQF**

<http://www.saqa.org.za/docs/brochures/2019/21%20Years%20of%20the%20NQF.pdf>

An infographic is provided.

## **BIZ Community**

### **1) Life after one degree: Going postgrad or not**

<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/499/194079.html>

According to Dr Felicity Coughlan, Director of The Independent Institute of Education, a first degree should only be considered as the first step in preparing for a career. Students should consider improving their career prospects by differentiating themselves through achieving a postgraduate qualification. Ensuring success depends on building onto their first degree with further education and skills development programs. Postgraduate qualification can be used to focus students on a specific career path or to diversify their skill set to take advantage of the ever-changing business environment. Moreover they will allow students to progress to Masters and Doctorate studies.

Coughlan suggests that employees seek additional academic qualifications later in their career to remain competitive and enhance their promotional prospect. These employees focus on short courses to broaden the knowledge and skills set.

Essentially to stay relevant in today's world lifelong learning is a necessity not a luxury.

### **University World News**

1) The power of data in achieving student success

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190722110623817>

Professors Bawa and Strydom, during their presentation titled "Student and Lecturer Engagement Data for Institutional and Sectoral Transformation" at the Siyaphumelela 2019 Conference held in Johannesburg, suggest that student experience and success can be improved by using the demographic data collected (survey run by the UFS - called South African survey of student engagement) to understand student diversity. The evidence-based data on student experiences, expectations, perceived strengths and weaknesses was collected through a questionnaire and will enable institutions to build programs and learning environments specifically designed to influence their student success rate.

"The concept of "student engagement" is essentially defined as what students do (the time and energy they devote to educationally purposeful activities) and what institutions do (the extent to which they employ effective educational practices to induce students to do the right things)".

By understanding students better, institutions can improve the intellectual, social and emotional development of our students.

Currently 17 public higher education institutions, three private higher education institutions and one Southern African higher education institution have taken advantage of the survey with the help of the Kresge Foundation.

2) Wits takes a quantum leap for Africa's 4IR aspirations

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190726135402662>

Africa must participate collectively as a continent and not miss out on the potential of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), warned Professor Zebulon Vilakazi,

deputy vice-chancellor for research and postgraduate affairs at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in South Africa.

As the first African partner on the IBM Quantum Computing (IBM Q) Network, Wits plans to become the focal research hub for academics across South Africa and for the 16 universities belonging to the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA).

“Having access to IBM Quantum Computing is pivotal for Wits University's cross-disciplinary research programme and allows our researchers in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and in the broad natural sciences, including in laser technology, quantum optics and molecular design, to leverage the next level of discovery research. It's envisioned that the first results from this collaboration will be forthcoming in the next two years,” said Vilakazi.