

COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS: 01 OF 2020/21

55th QCTO Council Meeting Deliberations

12 November 2020, Virtual Meeting

The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) held its 55th Council Meeting on 12 November 2020. This meeting marked the first meeting of the third Council of the QCTO as their term of office came into effect on 1 April 2020.

The Chairperson, Mr Samuel Zungu, congratulated the new council members on their appointment and wished them well on the five-year journey that lies ahead. The Chairperson emphasised the importance of good corporate governance and compliance with the Batho Pele principles, to Council members, in the execution of their fiduciary duties.

Council also expressed its appreciation to the QCTO management for hosting a successful Induction Workshop for the Third Council on 11 November 2020.

	<p>QCTO Council</p>	<p>The QCTO Council consists of 16 members appointed by the Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation (MHESI).</p> <p>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 is to engage, ratify, and approve the decisions and recommendations of its sub-committees. Council members are appointed for five years.</p> <p>The current third Council was appointed on 31 August 2020, retrospectively from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2025.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Vijayen Naidoo, on behalf of executive management and staff welcomed the Council Chairperson and the esteemed members of Council on their appointment. Management and staff are looking forward to working with the incoming Council over the next five years.</p> <p>Council noted the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Council Handover Report, 2. End Term Review Report 2015/16 to 2019/20 3. Report of the Interim Accounting Authority 4. CEO Report 5. COVID-19 Risk Register and 6. Code of Conduct <p>Council approved the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewed Strategic and Operational Risk Register 2. Reviewed Audit and Risk Committee Charter and 3. Calendar for Council meetings <p>Council noted and approved in principle, the proposed terms of reference of the council committees, until such time that the committees are constituted.</p>
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		<p>Council granted QCTO Office approval to commence with the recruitment process to appoint members to the following committees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Occupational Qualifications, Assessment and Certification Committee (OQACC) 2. Quality Assurance of Occupational Qualifications Committee (QAOQC) 3. Research and Innovation Committee (RIC)
	Executive Committee (EXCO)	<p>Council deferred the appointment of an Executive Committee (EXCO), the Deputy Chairperson as well as Chairpersons of Committees to the 56th Council meeting scheduled for 17 March 2021.</p>
	Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Policy	<p>Council noted the publication of the Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework Policy in the Government Gazette (No. 43062, Vol. 657) on 2 March 2020. Council further noted the temporary withdrawal of this policy on 24 September 2020. Council was advised that the determination has been finalised and should be published in due course by the Minister.</p>
	Committee of Council: Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)	<p>The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) submitted its report together with the Audited Financial Statements for 2019/20, the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) Audit Report 2019/20, and the Internal Audit Overall Conclusion 2019/20 report.</p> <p>Council has noted these reports and the oversight role the ARC plays in ensuring that adequate audit and risk mitigation strategies are in place. Council further noted the risks related COVID-19 and the impact of current and future budget cuts and the management thereof. Council also noted the approaching end of term of the ARC on 31 July 2021.</p>
	Portfolio Committee: Higher Education, Science, and Technology	<p>The Council Chairperson, Mr. Samuel Zungu, together with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Vijayen Naidoo, made a presentation to the Portfolio Committee on 21 October 2020 on progress in the review of the TVET and CET sector's curriculum to respond to industry needs and review of the TVET examination cycles.</p> <p>The Chairperson, the CEO, and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr. Innocent Gumbuchuma, presented the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) Annual Report 2019/20 to the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science, and Technology, on 10 November 2020.</p>
	Quarter 2 of 2020/21 Performance Report	<p>Council noted the Performance Report for Quarter 2 of 2020/21. The report indicated the achievement of 11 (50%) out of the 22 quarterly targets. The impact of National Lockdown is eminent. Council noted the achievement and reminded management of achieving improved overall performance for the third quarter as well as the annual targets.</p>

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	<p>CEO Report</p>	<p>Council noted the CEO Report as well as the Report of the Interim Accounting Authority for the period 1 April 2020 until 10 September 2020.</p> <p>Council raised its concern around the implications of the budget cuts for the projected financial year 2020/21 and other years of the Strategic Plan. Council noted the QCTO's continued strategic support to key Departmental Projects like the Dual System Pilot Project (DSPP) and the Centres of Specialisation (COS) Project and National Imperatives like the Youth Employment Service (YES).</p> <p>Council further noted the approval by the Minister and the progress made with the implementation of the QCTO's Plan for Revoking of Quality Assurance functions delegated to SETAs as well as the signing of outstanding Service Level Agreements (SLAs). This will assist with paving the way forward in terms of the implementation of the revoking of the plan in line with the National Skills Development Plan, from 1 April 2020.</p>
	<p>Annual Performance Plan 2020/21</p>	<p>Council noted and approved the draft Annual Performance Plan (APP) for 2020/21 for recommendation to the Minister.</p>
	<p>Financial Reports</p>	<p>Council duly noted the Financial Report for quarter two of 2020/21 to Council.</p> <p>Council approved the Materiality and Significance Framework for 2021/22 for recommendation to the Minister.</p>
	<p>COVID-19 Response</p>	<p>Council noted the QCTO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the workplace.</p>

The 56th QCTO Council Meeting will take place on 17 March 2021.

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Date: 19 November 2020

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QCTO welcomes its third Council

Following the expiry of the term of the Council of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MHESI), Dr Blade Nzimande has appointed the following 15 persons as members of the third QCTO Council to serve for five years with effect from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2025, in terms of Schedule 3 of the Skills Development Act (Act No. 97 of 1998, as amended).

The members of the third QCTO Council are:

- ✔ Constituency: Chairperson of the QCTO, Mr. Samuel Zungu
- ✔ Constituency: Chief Executive Officer of QCTO, Mr. Vijayen Naidoo
- ✔ Constituency: Executive Officer of National Skills Authority (NSA), Dr Thabo Mashongane
- ✔ Constituency: Chief Executive Officer of Umalusi, Dr Mafu S Rakometsi
- ✔ Constituency: Acting Chief Executive Officer of South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Dr Julie Reddy
- ✔ Constituency: Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Higher Education (CHE), Dr Amani Saidi
- ✔ Constituency: Organised Business (two members), Mr. Mustak Ally and Ms. Sibongile Antoni
- ✔ Constituency: Organised Community (two members), Mr. Yershen Pillay and Ms. Ramatsimele Francina Motjoadi
- ✔ Constituency: Organised Labour (two members, second member to be confirmed), Mr. Zongamele Mfecane
- ✔ Constituency: Public Education and Training Providers, Mr. Sanele Mlotshwa
- ✔ Constituency: Private Education and Training Providers, Mr. Jayanathan Soobramoney
- ✔ Constituency: The State, Ms. Trudy Van Wyk and Ms. Thandi Phele

END