

COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS: 01 OF 2021/22

57th QCTO Council Meeting Deliberations

23 June 2021, Virtual Meeting

The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) held its 57th Council Meeting on 23 June 2021. This meeting marked the third meeting of the third Council of the QCTO and was conducted virtually.

Council further expressed its appreciation to the QCTO management for hosting a successful third Council meeting.

Council, noted the resignation of two (2) council members including that of the Chairperson, Mr. Samuel Zungu, due to his appointment as the Deputy Director-General for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with the Department of Higher Education and Training, and Dr. Thabo Mashongane (previous Executive Officer: National Skills Authority). Council wished Mr. Zungu and Dr. Mashongane well in their future endeavours, as they continue to play a significant role in the Post School Education and Training (PSET) Sector and skills development in the country.

Council has duly informed the Minister of Higher Education Science and Innovation (MHESI), Dr. Nzimande, of the four (4) vacancies in the Third Council. Council also congratulated Ms. Sibongile Antoni (current Deputy Chairperson of Council) on her appointment as Acting Council Chairperson of Council, until the vacancy is filled by the honorable Minister Nzimande.

	<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>Council has duly notified the Dr Nzimande of the current four (4) vacancies within the Council and hope they will be filled as soon as possible.</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>Council noted the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EXCO Report 2. CEO Report 3. First Quarterly Report on QCTO's Plan of Action in response to the Draft DHET's COVID-19 Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Skills Strategy (ERRSS) 4. Terms of Reference of Committees of Council 5. Financial Report for Quarter 4 of 2020/21 6. Quarter 4 Performance Report 7. PFMA Checklist 8. Audit and Risk Committee Report 9. Unaudited Draft Annual Report: 2020/21 10. Unaudited Annual Financial Statements: 2020/21 11. The Risk and Fraud Management Report as well as the Strategic, Operational and Fraud Risk Registers and progress <p>Council approved the following documents and policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Reviewed Remuneration Policy of Council and Committees 2. Reviewed QCTO Travel Policy and Procedure 3. Reviewed QCTO Asset Policy 4. Reviewed QCTO Cash and Cash Equivalents 5. Reviewed QCTO Expenditure and Accounts Payable 6. Reviewed QCTO Leave and Bonus Provision Policy 7. Reviewed QCTO Provision for Impairment of trade Receivable 8. Reviewed QCTO Related Party Policy
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		<p>9. Reviewed QCTO Revenue Policy 10. Reviewed QCTO Supply Chain (SCM) Policy 11. Reviewed QCTO Trade Receivable Policy 12. Reviewed ICT Policy 13. Master Systems Plan (MSP)</p> <p>Council noted the progress made by the QCTO Office with the appointment of chairpersons and members to the following Committees of Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Occupational Qualifications, Assessment and Certification Committee (OQACC) under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Jay Soobramoney, and 2. Quality Assurance of Occupational Qualifications Committee (QAOQC) under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Sanele Mlotshwa <p>Council congratulated the appointment of Chairpersons and members to the relevant Committees of Council and further noted the challenges with finding suitable candidates with the right skills mix and qualifications to serve on the QAOQC committee and advised QCTO to engage with potential candidates through head hunting.</p> <p>Council was also briefed by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) on the Amended Public Audit Act.</p>
	<p>Executive Committee (EXCO)</p>	<p>Ms. Sibongile Antoni was duly appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of Council at the special Executive Committee (EXCO) meeting held on 23 April 2021. Ms. Antoni was also appointed as the Acting Chairperson of Council, with the resignation of Mr. Zungu, effective from 1 May 2021.</p>
	<p>Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Policy</p>	<p>Council noted the submission to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) by the QCTO of the Revised Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Policy (2021) for Minister's consideration for publication.</p>
	<p>Committee of Council: Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)</p>	<p>Council noted the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) report. The ARC currently has one (1) vacancy and it will be duly advertised to ensure the committee is duly constituted. In the light of the current economic environment and budget cuts,</p>
	<p>Portfolio Committee: Higher Education, Science, and Technology</p>	<p>QCTO presented its Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 and the Annual Performance Plan for 2020/21 to the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education Science and Technology (PC: HEST) on 4 May 2020 at a virtual briefing session. The meeting report, recording and presentation is available for download.</p> <p>The QCTO was duly represented by the Acting Council Chairperson, Ms. Antoni, Mr. Naidoo (CEO), Mr. Gumbochuma (CFO) and Ms. Solomon (Director GRC&S).</p> <p>The Acting Chairperson together with the CEO attended a virtual meeting of the DHET Budget Vote presented by the Minister of Higher Education Science and Innovation (MHESI), Dr. Nzimande, to the National Assembly on 13 May 2021.</p>
	<p>Quarter 4 of 2020/21 Performance Report</p>	<p>Council noted the Performance Report for Quarter 4 of 2020/21.</p> <p>Of the 28 performance indicators in the Annual Performance Plan 2020/21, 26 performance indicators had quarterly targets that was reported on for the fourth quarter.</p>

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		The report indicated the achievement of 14 (54%) out of the 26 quarterly targets. Council noted the lower quarterly performance and encouraged officials to ensure continued improved performance for the first quarter of the new financial year.
	CEO Report	<p>Council noted with appreciation the comprehensive CEO Report for the period 18 March 2021 until 4 June 2021. Council further welcomed the progress made with strategic projects both nationally and internationally as well as the ongoing engagement with strategic stakeholders and partners to ensure that the QCTO remains at the cutting edge of the PSET sector.</p> <p>Council further noted the QCTO's first Quarterly Report on the progress made against the Draft DHET COVID-19 Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Skills Strategy (ERRSS).</p>
	Annual Performance Plan 2020/21	Council noted the approval, by the Minister Nzimande, of the Annual Performance Plan (APP) and budget for 2021/22 financial year that are linked to the Strategic Plan on 25 March 2021.
	Financial Reports	<p>Council duly noted the Financial Report for quarter four of 2020/21.</p> <p>Council again expressed its concern with budget cuts and the implications it will have on the operations and sustainability of the QCTO. Council further noted the ongoing engagement with DHET and NEDLAC on the review of the SETA Levy Grant Regulation.</p>
	COVID-19 Response	Council noted the QCTO's response and the return to the work from home approach for officials due to the increase of COVID-19 infections across Gauteng.

The 58th QCTO Council Meeting will take place on 8 and 9 September 2021.

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Date: 30 June 2021

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