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| **COSATU Submission:** **National Qualifications Framework** **Amendment Bill****05 September 2018** |
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**Submitted to:****Portfolio Committee:** **Higher Education and Training****National Assembly****Republic of South Africa** |

1. **Introduction**

COSATU welcomes the Department of Higher Education and Training’s National Qualifications Framework Amendment Bill.

We believe that it is a fair but tough bill that will further enhance and strengthen existing legislation as well as legislative requirements tasked to both the department and education and training institutions.

COSATU has no objections or proposed amendments to the bill.

We believe that it will be an important tool in government’s efforts to fight corruption and fraud.

South Africa, government and the good name of hundreds of thousands of hard working public servants have been unfairly tarnished by a fraudulent few who have falsely claimed to have certain qualifications when applying for posts.

This has damaged the standing of the public service in the eyes of the public. It has denied legitimately qualifying public servants of posts that they qualified and worked hard to apply for.

It has cost billions of Rands of fraudulent and wasteful expenditure when unqualified persons have wrongly occupied specialised and critical posts. An example can be best shown when Prasa spent billions on trains that could not fit local rail lines. Such instances could easily result in loss of life. This has resulted in large amounts of taxpayers’ monies being diverted from badly needed service delivery.

COSATU notes that the bill provides for various sanctions in line with existing anti-fraud legislation and provides for judicial discretion when determining sentences.

We further note and appreciate that it does not interfere or impede existing labour relations processes and rights as spelt out in the Labour Relations Act. This is critical for COSATU as all accused have the inherent right to judged innocent until proven guilty.

Allegations must be proven before actions taken. All workers must be afforded their inherent right to be charged, called before a disciplinary enquiry, afforded representation, guaranteed a fair hearing, allowed appeals to higher authorities and structures etc. We are confident that the bill does not undermine these sacrosanct and non-negotiable labour rights.

COSATU hopes that our highlighting of the views of our members will be of value to the Portfolio Committee and taken into account during the Committee’s deliberations.

COSATU would like to reiterate its support for the bill as an important to restore the integrity of the state.

COSATU will remain available as always to assist the Committee in any way possible.

Yours comradely,

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