

The SAQA Team



Prof Peliwe Lolwana Chairperson



James Keevy Deputy Chairperson



Dr Julie Reddy

CEO



Ms Sarah Netili

CFO



Ms Nadia Starr

Executive: NQF Operations



Naidoo Executive: Governance, People & Strategy

Ms Nireen





In a nutshell

• SAQA

SAQA is a Section 3A public entity



Board

Governed by 7th Board appointed by Minister: HESI



Values

Custodian of the values of the NQF



• Existence

Established by the SAQA Act, 1995 and exists under the NQF Act, 2008



• Restructure

Restructure completed in March 2022



Automation

Automation is primary focus for the period. Process is well underway



• Performance

Unbroken record of unqualified audit opinions in twenty-five-year history



• Leadership

CEO appointed in May 2021. Will retire in Nov 2022



























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MsA



























The 7th SAQA Board



Chairperson's Reflections

Strategy

Performance

Challenges





Considerations of the Board

Strategic Considerations:

- SAQA's role in the current Post-School Education & Training environment (new strategic direction)
- A new way of functioning for the education and training environment
- A new SAQA CEO appointed before November 2022 (Post was advertised in April)

Challenges:

- Fragility in the system due to restructuring and financial instability
- New structure will take some time to operate optimally
- Structure may change further after automation is complete
- Difficult to change course (strategy) mid-cycle





Updates

Information requested by the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science & Innovation







Funding requirements for 2022/23

Approved budget of R 115,7 million for 2022/23

Requested an additional R 20,6 million from DHET in August 2021 for the Automation Project

Received R 9,8 million in last quarter of 2021/22

An additional R 10.8 million is required over the next 2 years to complete the project

Once complete, SAQA's processes will be fully automated





Restructure











January 2021:

Board approved redesigned organogram for implementation April - May 2021:

Conducted interviews to fill 81 positions

May 2021:

Retrenched 89 staff members not accommodated in new organogram

April 2021 – March 2022:

Continuous monitoring and evaluation post implementation, to identify gaps

March 2022:

Board approved final organogram comprising 82 positions and will re-visit it post automation





Financial sustainability

Staff compensation comprises 59% of 2022/23 budget

Automation, once implemented, will improve efficiencies and increase revenue streams

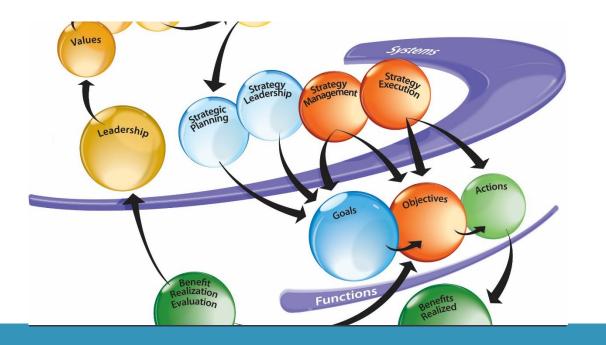
Funding from other sources for projects that will benefit the sector and grow SAQA's brand locally and internationally

Government grant comprises 70% of revenue

Potential new clients for Authentication Services show promise

SAQA's sustainability in the short term looks positive





Strategic Plan 2020/25

1 APRIL 2020 - 31 MARCH 2025





Introduction

Improving efficiency

Improve efficiency through streamlining and automating processes

Responsibility & Authority

The NQF Act 2008, as amended, gives SAQA more responsibility and authority

SAQA is strengthening its leadership role

Financial sustainability

Through diversifying its paid-services

Through alternate funding strategies

Relationships

Actively building stronger relationships with counterparts in SADC, on the African continent and globally





Strategic Plan 2020/25







Mandate

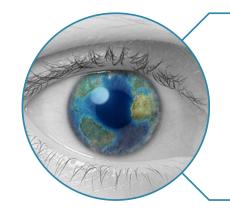
Constitutional & Legislative Mandates Constitution of RSA, 1996 PFMA, 1999 NQF Act, 2008 as amended **NQF** Amendment Act, 2019

Policy Mandates NDP, 2030 & NDP Implementation Plan WP PSET & NP **PSET** NQF Act Implementation **Evaluation** Improvement Plan **ERRP** DHET's MTSF

4 SAQA



Strategic focus: vision & mission



A world class National Qualifications Framework that works for the People in South Africa



Oversee the further development and implementation of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and advance its objectives, which contribute to the full development of each lifelong learner and to the social and economic development of the nation at large



Strategic focus: five-year priorities





A dynamic NQF that is responsive, adapts to, and supports the changing needs of life-long learning Visionary and influential leadership that drives a clear, evidencebased NQF Agenda



Wellarticulated qualityassuredqualifications and relevant professional designations that instil trust and meet needs of people





higher edu & training

Higher Education a REPUBLIC OF SO

A competent and capable team, dedicated and resourced to develop and maintain the NOF

Stakeholders and roleplayers who are aligned to deliver on the NQF

DHFT Priorities

- 1.Expanded Access;
- Improved Efficiency;
- 3. Improved Quality





Strategic focus areas



Continue to simplify the NQF



Register quality qualifications



Coordinate Articulation and RPL initiatives



Lobby to strengthen and align relevant legislation





Challenges & mechanisms to address them

Challenges





Mechanisms to address challenges



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Measuring performance

Impact Statement

An integrated and transparent national qualifications framework that facilitates access to, and mobility and progression within education, training and career paths





Outcome 1

We have a dynamic NQF that is responsive, adapts to, and supports the changing needs of life-long learning

Expanded Access

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
NQF Policies that support the changing needs of life-long learning	Review five NQF Policies and amend them as required	 Amended the: Policy and Criteria for Evaluating Foreign Qualifications within the SA NQF; Policy and Criteria for Recognising Professional Bodies and Registering Professional Designations; and RPL Policy.
Amended NQF Policies are implemented	Monitor implementation of the reviewed NQF Policies	Developed and implemented the Addendum on Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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Outcome 2

We have visionary and influential leadership that drives a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda

Expanded Access

Improved Quality

Improved Efficiency

5-Year Target	Baseline
Align the SA NQF to the proposed African Continental Qualifications Framework.	SAQA aligned the SA NQF to the SADC Qualifications Framework.
	SAQA participated in the development of the Addis Convention and the Global Convention.
Implement the Addis Convention	
	Align the SA NQF to the proposed African Continental Qualifications Framework. Implement the Addis

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Outcome 2

We have visionary and influential leadership that drives a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
SAQA's work through the CEO Committee shows the results of a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda	Conclude all transitional arrangements listed in section 36 of the NQF Act, 2008 Strengthen the System of Collaboration and NQF structures	SAQA addressed all transitional arrangements listed in section 36 except: 36(c) "the regulations made under the SAQA Act continue to exist to the extent that they are consistent with this Act until they are repealed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette." SAQA performs its oversight role through a Tracking Grid. The current System of Collaboration only includes SAQA and the QCs.



Outcome 2

We have visionary and influential leadership that drives a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
SAQA's activities promote a world-class NQF that is well understood and benefits all	SAQA reaches 5 000 000 people through its advocacy and communication initiatives	Stakeholders interact with information about the NQF. 2 000 000 impressions are currently made on SAQA's online and social media platforms
stakeholders	The NLRD reflects 24 million learner achievements (learners with achievements)	There are 19 million learner achievements on the NLRD. The NLRD aims to have all national learner achievement records on the database. This is a slow and tedious process as missing records are identified, located, digitised and loaded on the NLRD.



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Outcome 3

We have well-articulated quality-assured qualifications and relevant professional designations that instil trust and meet the needs of the people

Improved Quality

Expanded Access

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
There are well- defined systemic, specific or individual Articulation pathways within and across Sub- Frameworks	All qualifications registered on the NQF after 1 January 2014 have at least one Articulation pathway within or across Sub- Frameworks	SAQA published the Policy and Criteria for the Registration of Qualifications and Part- Qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework in March 2013 and the Amended Policy in March 2020. SAQA registered 13 179 qualifications from 1 April 2014 – January 2020. Of these, 2 143 (16%) do not have articulation options.

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Outcome 3

We have well-articulated quality-assured qualifications and relevant professional designations that instil trust and meet the needs of the people

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
There is a clear understanding of the types of professional bodies, their designations and their value-add in the changing NQF landscape	Clearly define the roles of statutory and non-statutory professional bodies and use the research findings to amend the Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation	SAQA recognises 17 statutory professional bodies and 89 non-statutory professional bodies. There is a need to refine SAQA's understanding of the different types of professional bodies and what they do within the changing context.



Outcome 4

We have a competent and capable team, dedicated and resourced to further develop and maintain the NQF

Improved Efficiency

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
SAQA's structure is aligned to deliver on its strategy	Re-design SAQA's structure to better suit delivery on its strategy	There is currently an uneven spread of workload across the organisation. There is a duplication of functions in some directorates. With the introduction of automation across the organisation, SAQA must look at a more streamlined organisational design to support delivery on its strategy.
SAQA develops and trains its staff	Every staff member has at least two learning interventions per year	Every staff member has at least one learning intervention per year.



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Outcome 5

We have stakeholders and role-players who are aligned to deliver on the NQF

Improved Efficiency

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
The NQF value chain works efficiently	A functional system that allows for the efficient registration of qualifications within 3 weeks	SAQA returns approximately 30% of qualifications recommended by QCs for registration that do not meet all SAQA's criteria. This delays the registration process. If the QCs provided all the information required, the registration process could be faster.
	SAQA identifies all historical (legacy) datasets that are not on the NLRD, secures and loads it on the NLRD. 90% of national learner achievements submitted for verification appear on the NLRD.	Approximately 75% of learner achievements verified against registered qualifications and part-qualifications appear on the NLRD.

SAQA

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Outcome 5

We have stakeholders and role-players who are aligned to deliver on the NQF

Outcome Indicator	5-Year Target	Baseline
The NQF value chain works efficiently	All recognised professional bodies load information about their members with professional designations on the NLRD annually	SAQA only just began monitoring professional bodies for their data loads. Going forward, all professional bodies that fail to load professional designation information annually will be de-recognised.



Section	Revised Text	Reason for Revision
Official Sign- Off		 SAQA's structure changed, staff were retrenched or had resigned, so there had to be a new sign-off (29 July 2021)
8.2 Page 26 of Strategic Plan	The SAQA Board utilises the following committee structures: Executive Committee Audit and Risk Committee Information and Information Technology Committee NQF Qualifications Committee Professional Bodies Committee National and Foreign Qualifications Appeals Committee Professional Body Appeals Committee	 The term of office of the 6th Board ended on 31 December 2020 The 7th Board took office on 1 January 2021. At its first meeting on 29 January 2021, the Board adopted a new streamlined governance structure The amendment reflects SAQA's new Board Committees (29 January 2021)

SAQA



Section	Revised Text	Reason for Revision
Page 20 of Strategic Plan	Information on the capacity of the institution to deliver on its mandate The SAQA Board approved SAQA's new organogram for implementation, in January 2021. The monitoring and evaluation process is designed to identify gaps. The Board approved the final structure in March 2022. SAQA has a staff complement of 82 members. The distribution of staff is as follows: CEO plus support = 3 Programme 1: Governance, People and Strategy: 16 Programme 1: Finance and Administration: 15 Programmes 2 – 5: NQF Operations: 48 SAQA's approach to managing unexpected and short-term crises, is to make use of short- term contract staff as required. SAQA's new structure was phased in on 1 April 2021 and fully implemented from 15 May 2021.	 SAQA's new organogram was designed on the basis of available funding. Though not ideal, it was designed to support delivery on mandated functions. This structure may change over time if new functions are added, more service delivery avenues are explored and funding permits. This structure is set up to complement efforts to automate processes and employ 4IR technologies to SAQA's work. (29 July 2021)



Section	Revised Text	Reason for Revision
Page 22 of Strategic Plan	 SAQA's capacity to deliver on its mandate The new structure accommodates eighty-two posts. The areas most impacted are the following: NQF Advisory Services – closure of this service Foreign Qualifications Walk-in Centre – closure of this service Advocacy, Communications and Advisory Services – closure of this Directorate and a more streamlined function focusing on the media and communication with stakeholders via social media platforms will emerge. NLRD – closure of this Directorate. The database itself will be managed by IT, and the MIS unit will have minimal staff to ensure the integrity of the information on the database. International Relations – closure of this Directorate and a more streamlined function is considered under Stakeholder Relations. Combining the Verifications Project (Programme 3) with the Foreign Qualifications Evaluations and Advisory Service (Programme 4) for a more streamlined service provision with less staff and an investment in automation if funding allows. 	 Financial difficulties and inability to balance budget. Board approved implementation of Section 189 of the Labour Relations Act Approximately, 71 employees were to be retrenched by 20 November 2020. Hours before retrenchment letters were to be issued, DHET gave SAQA an additional R 5 million which stopped retrenchments in the short term, and gave SAQA an additional 3 months to restructure The new Board approved the organisational structure on 9 February 2021 for implementation M&E followed to determine the effectiveness of the new structure, and make changes where required The Board will approve the final structure at its meeting in March 2022. (29 July 2021)

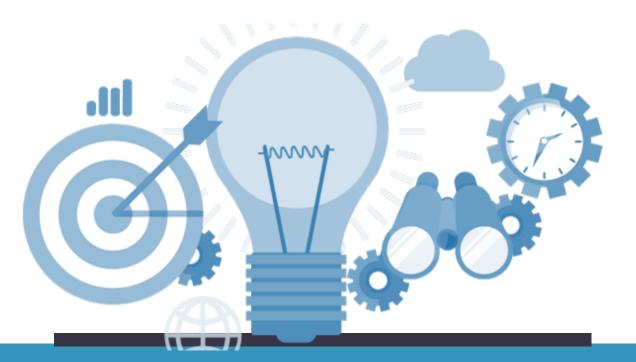
ANNEXURE A TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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Section	Revised Text	Reason for Revision
Part C: 9.2 Part D: 5b	The target relating to the indicator "SAQA's activities promote a world-class NQF that is well understood and benefits all stakeholders", was changed from "The NLRD reflects 24 million learner achievements" to: "The NLRD reflects 24 million learners with achievements".	 The change was made to align with the revised 2021/22 APP (29 July 2021)





Annual Performance Plan 2022/23

1 APRIL 2021 - 31 MARCH 2022





Introduction

YEAR 3 OF FIVE-YEAR PLANNING CYCLE

Situational Analysis





Implementing Fina new structure vuln

Financially vulnerable (heavily reliant on voted funds)



Started automation of some processes



Dealing with backlogs in service delivery



Reputational damage from retrenchments and delays in service delivery

SAQA

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Strategic Focus















Alternate revenue streams

Automation of processes

NQF Amendment Act, 2019 implementation [if proclaimed]

Dealing with service delivery issues and reputational damage

Claiming
SAQA's place in
the sector in
the country

Growing international footprint

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Deliverables per category for 2022/23 (25 deliverables)

Funding	Automation / IT	Legislation / Compliance / Policy	NQF Family	Staff Matters	Marketing & Communication	Qualifications & Achievements	Research	NLRD/MIS
	distribution of the second of	Legislation	NATIONAL QIALFICATIONS FRANCWORK				RESEARCH	
		Legislation	NATIONAL QUALFICATIONS FRANCWORK		***		RESEARCH	
		Legislation						
		Legislation						
		Legislation						





We have a dynamic NQF that is responsive, adapts to, and supports the changing needs of life-long learning

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
Research on the implementation of the NQF	Findings and recommendations of	Produce the final 2021 NQF Impact Study Report	RESEARCH
	NQF-related research	Provide a progress report on work done with research partner(s)	Programme 5
Reviewed NQF Policies and recommendations for Policy amendments	Number of policies reviewed	Review one NQF policy	[RES] [NQF OPS]
A foreign qualifications evaluation and advisory service that meets changing learner and worker needs	Articulation from foreign systems into South Africa takes place	Complete all compliant applications received for the evaluation of foreign qualifications within 3 months	Programme 4 [AS] [NQF OPS]



We have visionary and influential leadership that drives a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
National and international promotion of the SA NQF	Prominent national, regional and global standing	Identify and implement two initiatives to promote the SA NQF	Programme 1 [STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS] [CEO]
Sharing of national and international trends and best practices with stakeholders	Informed stakeholders	Identify and implement three initiatives to share national and international best practice with stakeholders	
Implementation of the Addis Convention	Recognition of international studies	Implement SAQA's Implementation Plan for the Addis Convention	



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We have visionary and influential leadership that drives a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme	
Strengthened System of Collaboration and NQF structures	An effective System of Collaboration and NQF structures	Report on the effectiveness of the System of Collaboration	Programme 1	
		Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation protocol for the System of Collaboration	STRATEGY, REPORTING & M&E] [GPS]	
Advice to the Executive Authority on NQF matters, including the alignment of relevant Laws	Evidence of advice provided to the Executive Authority	Advise the Executive Authority on NQF matters as required	Legislation	





We have visionary and influential leadership that drives a well-researched and clearly formulated NQF agenda

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
A growing number of learner achievements on the NLRD	An increasing number of learner achievements recorded on the NLRD	Ensure that the NLRD contains at least 22 000 000 learner achievements	Programme 3 [NQFMIS] [NQF OPS]
The NQF explained simply (Simplification)	Stakeholders access simplified information about the NQF	Implement four online campaigns aimed at informing the public about the NQF	Programme 1 [COMUNICATIONS] [GPS]





We have well-articulated quality-assured qualifications and relevant professional designations that instil Outcome 3 trust and meet the needs of the people

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
A refined understanding of a professional body and its value-add in the NQF landscape (Simplified NQF)	A clearly defined role of a professional body	Use the research findings to amend the Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation if required	Programme 2 [R&R] [NQF OPS]
A trusted qualification verification process	A Verification service used by employers and institutions	Complete all compliant verification requests received for the verification of South African qualifications within 25 working days	Programme 4 [AS] [NQF OPS]
Coordinated Articulation, CAT and RPL initiatives	Record of Articulation initiatives	Provide the Minister with a report on progress made by SAQA and the QCs in implementing the Articulation Policy	Programme 1 [STRATEGY, REPORTING & M&E] [GPS]

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We have a competent and capable team, dedicated and resourced to further develop and maintain the NQF

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
Alternative revenue streams to support the work of SAQA	Sufficient revenue to support SAQA's work	Continue to implement the plan to generate funds through alternate revenue streams	Programme 1 [FIN]
Staff capacity building programmes	Implemented staff capacity building programmes	Every staff member has at least two learning interventions per year	Programme 1 [PEOPLE MANAGEMENT] [GPS]

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We have stakeholders and role-players who are aligned to deliver on the NQF

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme	
Improved turnaround times for the registration of qualifications and partqualifications (Simplified NQF)	Streamlined processes and improved turnaround times	Register qualifications recommended by QCs that meet all SAQA's criteria within three months of submission	Programme 2	
Reduced proliferation of qualifications registered on the NQF (Simplified NQF)	Increased number of national qualifications and part-qualifications registered on the NQF	Produce a concept paper on the registration of national qualifications on the NQF in consultation with the 3 QCs and DHET	[R&R] [NQF OPS]	



We have stakeholders and role-players who are aligned to deliver on the NQF

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
A workflow system for the evaluation of foreign qualifications	Efficient electronic processes across SAQA	Develop an end-to-end electronic system for the evaluation of foreign qualifications	Programme 3 [ICT][NQF OPS]
Legacy learner achievement records on NQF MIS (comprising the NLRD)	Percentage completeness of legacy learner achievement data on NQF MIS (comprising the NLRD)	Develop a funding proposal for the digitisation of legacy achievement records	Programme 3 [NQF MIS] [NQF OPS]
Current learner achievement records on the NQF MIS (comprising the NLRD)	Learner achievement records loaded by QCs	Ensure that QCs load learner achievement records on the NQF MIS (comprising the NLRD)	

SAQA Note areas beautiful at some

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We have stakeholders and role-players who are aligned to deliver on the NQF

Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Target	Programme
Professional designations on the NLRD	Percentage completeness of learner achievement data from professional bodies on the NLRD	All recognised professional bodies load professional designation achievements that meet the requirements, on the NQF MIS (comprising the NLRD)	Programme 3 [NQF MIS][NQF OPS]
Registers of Misrepresented and Fraudulent Qualifications	Updated Registers of Misrepresented and Fraudulent Qualifications	Publish the Policy on the Misrepresentation of Qualifications if the President proclaims the NQF Amendment Act, 2019	Programme 1 [GOVERNANCE] [GPS]
		Update the Register of Misrepresented Qualifications	Programme 3 [NQF MIS] [NQF OPS]







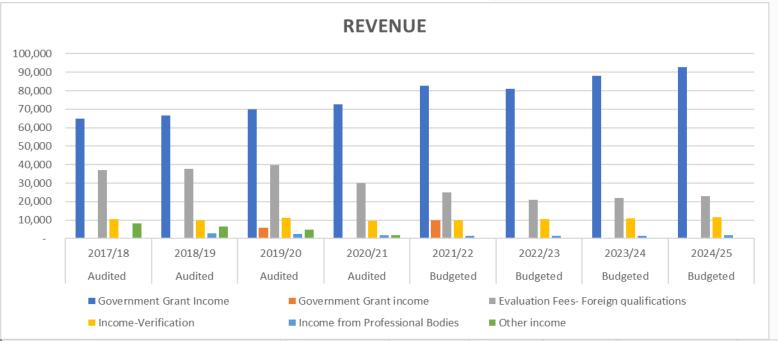
Financials

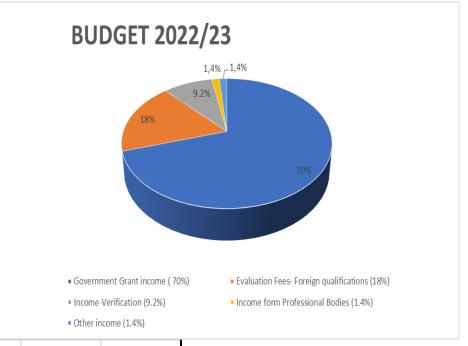
PROJECTED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2022/23



Revenue



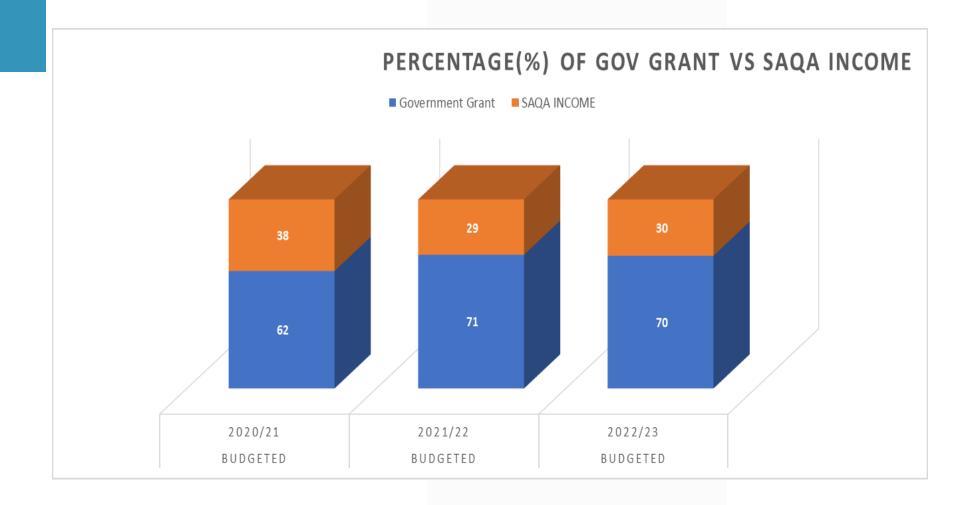




	Audited	Audited	Aud	lited	Audited	Budgeted	Budgeted	Budgeted	Budgeted
	2017/18	2018/19	201	9/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Government Grant Income	64,940	66,719		69,893	72,519	82,793	81,164	88,143	92,628
Government Grant income				5,737		9,800	-	-	-
Evaluation Fees- Foreign qualifications	36,927	37,599		39,695	30,000	25,000	20,898	21,836	22,817
Income-Verification	10,418	9,819		11,385	9,500	10,000	10,449	10,918	11,408
Income from Professional Bodies	-	2,745		2,534	1,800	1,500	1,567	1,637	1,711
Other income	8,219	6,425		4,926	1,900	639	334	349	365
Interest received	1,844	1,878		2,096	1,021	1,200	1,254	1,311	1,369
Saving from Prior Year Carried Forward					8,861	4,346			



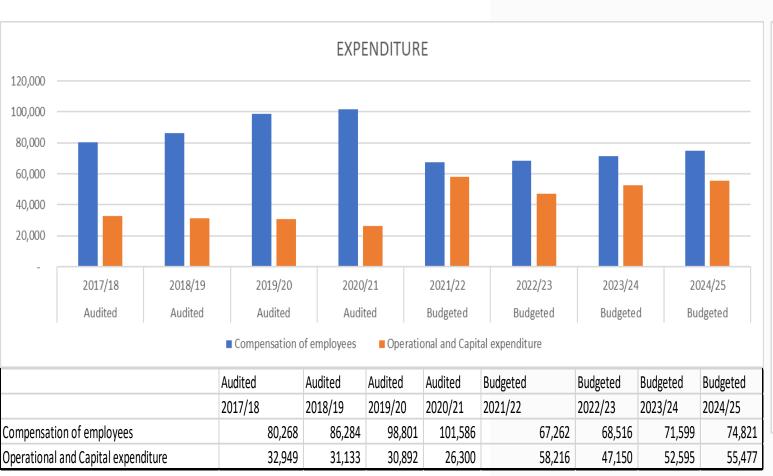
Revenue

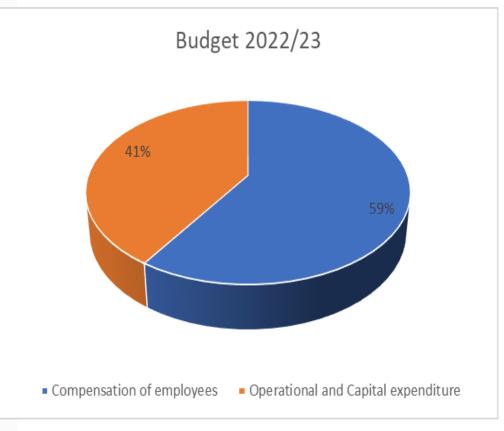




Expenditure









Expenditure per Programme



Programme 1: Administration

(CEO's office; GPS & Finance)

R 46,077,196 (40%)

Programme 2: Registration and Recognition

R 7,938,740(7%)

Programme 3: Information and Communication Technology & NQF MIS

R 28,308,288 (24%)

Programme 4: Authentication Services

R 28,811,281 (25%)

Programme 5: Research

R 4,531,093 (4%)

2022/2023







General



Recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic

All staff are back in the office

Some management & staff continue to work remotely some of the time

20 staff members tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic. Sadly, one staff member died

We continue to follow protocols around hand sanitisers, the wearing of masks and social distancing

Covid-19 pandemic

Risk Assessment done,

Risk Plan and Vaccine Policy in place

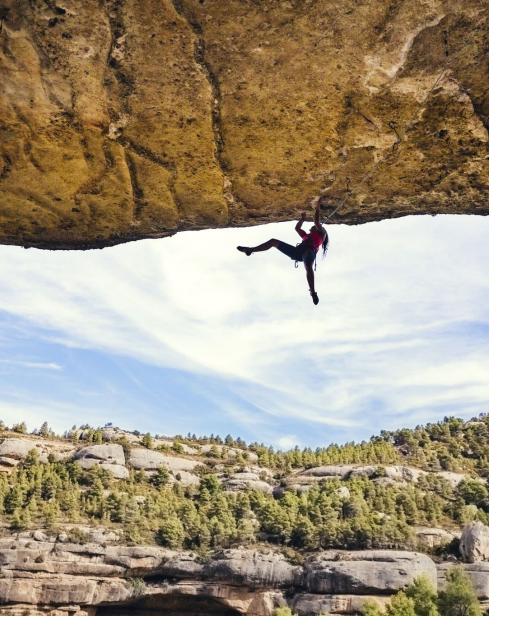
95% of staff are vaccinated (4 unvaccinated staff)

Unvaccinated staff produce weekly negative Covid-19 tests to gain access to our building

Board and Committee meetings are still mostly online

Revenue generation severely affected by lockdown measures slowly starting to recover







HIGH LEVEL RISKS

New structure is not adequate to deliver on priorities in the short term – SAQA makes use of independent contractors for high volume periods in Authentication Services

The Automation Project may not be delivered on time, although early signs are positive

Financial sustainability in the medium term is still a concern

Increased risk of litigation

SAQA may struggle to recover from the reputational damage of backlogs in Authentication Services as we await the completion of the Automation Project

Loss of networks and institutional history due to mass staff turnover

SAQA NO MICH MANAGEM MENA

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