

Makoya

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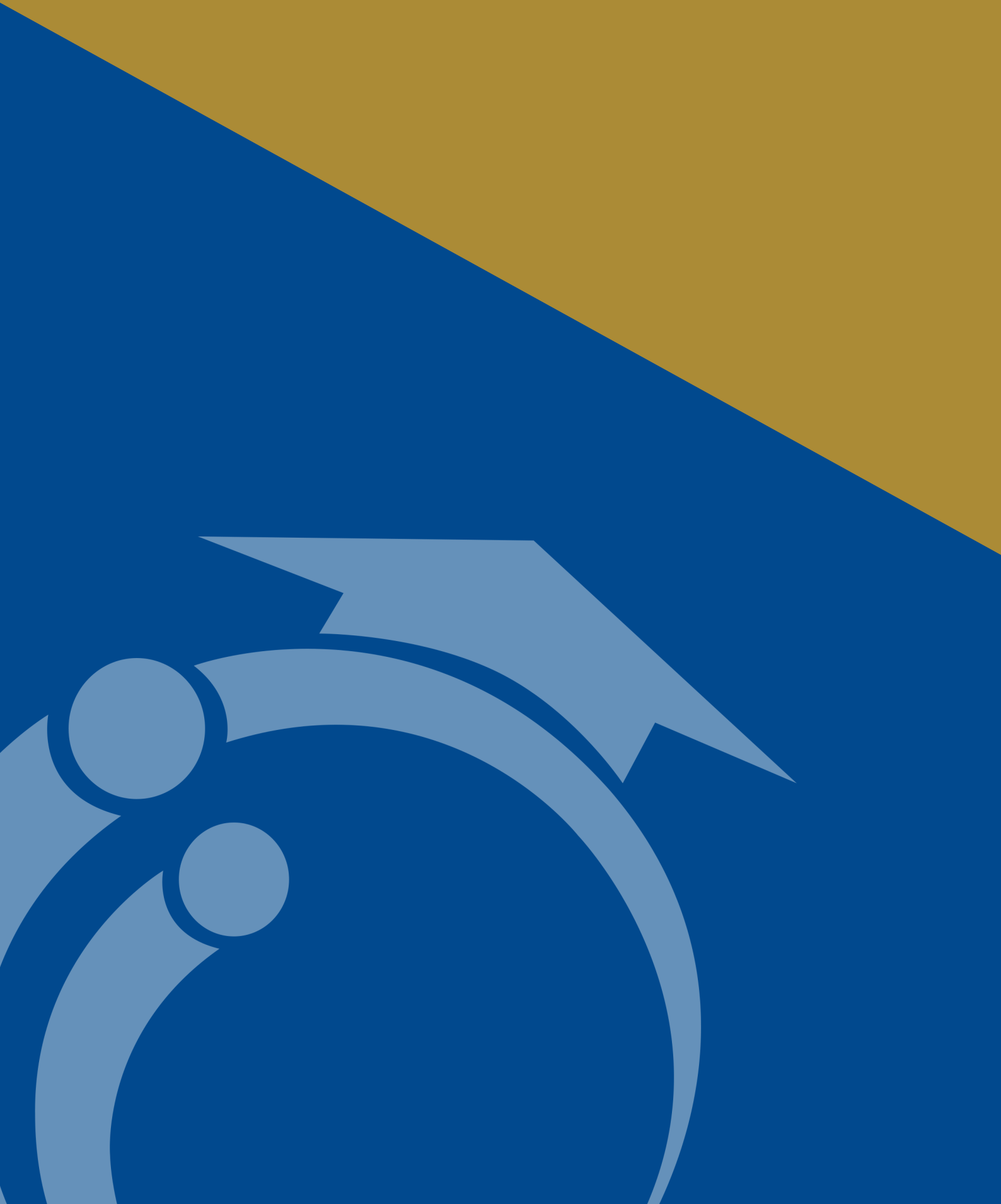
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Quality Council for General and Further
Education and Training



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From the Editor's Pen

Biki Lepota

The Makoya newsletter serves as a vehicle to inform stakeholders about developments in Umalusi.

In this issue, under “Getting to Know the 6th Umalusi Council better”, we bring you the new members of the Umalusi Council appointed by the Minister of Basic Education to exercise oversight on the operations of Umalusi. This issue also tells the reader about the various committees of the Council and their roles. The reason for doing this is two-fold: to fulfil the need for Umalusi to be a trusted authority in fostering high education standards in the general and further education and training sector; and in the interests of transparency and accountability.

This edition comes during the busiest period for Umalusi and assessment bodies. November to January is when examinations are administered and marked; and results are standardised, approved and released. The Umalusi Council committee responsible for standardising results is the Assessment Standards Committee (ASC), while the Executive Committee of Council (EXCO) is assigned responsibility to approve the release of results.

The newsletter concludes with a section themed “Engagement” which looks back at the work done over the 12 months of the last academic year. It covers stakeholder engagements that both the Chairperson of Council and the CEO of Umalusi held on various aspects of Umalusi’s work.



From the CEO's Desk

Dr Mafu Rakometsi

It gives me great pleasure to present to you members of the sixth Umalusi Council. The new Council was inaugurated on 6 September 2022 by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga. The inauguration coincided with the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Umalusi. The Council is made up of capable leaders with a good mix of the requisite knowledge, skills and dispositions.

The sixth Council began its work at the time when Umalusi was preparing to undertake the journey of its next 20 years in pursuit of equity in the provision of quality education for all in the general and further education and training sector. Umalusi, like many other entities, always needs a firm guiding hand of Council to keep it in check.

One of the critical fiduciary duties of Council is to ensure that the finances of this public entity are disbursed prudently in compliance with the provisions of the PFMA. We are grateful to have in the sixth Council people with a good mix of educational background and experience in governance and compliance matters. This will help us sustain our clean audit record in the foreseeable future, and, in turn, ensure that Umalusi is continually counted among the public entities that meet the requirements of an effectively managed organisation.

Importantly, the Councillors are knowledgeable about public and private educational settings. We have no doubt that we will benefit from the wisdom of this sixth Council as we toil along the journey of the next 20 years.

Getting to Know the 6th Umalusi Council Better

Mr Hezekiel Moloise and Ms Stella Mosimege

On 8 June 2022 the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, appointed the 6th Umalusi Council to serve a four-year term that will end on 7 June 2026. The Council was installed on 6 September 2022. The assumption of office by the new Council coincided with Umalusi’s preparations to embark on a journey of another 20 years.

At the celebration of Umalusi’s 20th anniversary on 6 September 2022 and the welcoming of the 6th Umalusi Council, Minister Motshekga said:



“...as you begin the journey of the next 20 years, you should actively seek out criticism and well-founded judgements, on what we could have done—and can still do—better.

The Council should continue in its pursuit of equity in the provision of quality education for all in the general and further education and training sub-sector, mindful of the fact that decisions taken today will lay the foundation for the third decade of excellence in the service of South Africa’s pre-tertiary system.”



Who are the Councillors?





Professor Yunus Ballim

Professor Yunus Ballim is the former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the founding Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Sol Plaatje University (SPU), which opened in 2014. Professor Ballim graduated from Wits with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, a Master of Engineering and a PhD in cement-based materials. He was appointed as a member of the 5th Umalusi Council in June 2018 and returned as the Chairperson of the 6th Umalusi Council in June 2022.

The Chairperson's Acceptance Speech

In accepting the new responsibilities as the Chairperson of the 6th Umalusi Council, Professor Ballim, said:



“I am intimidated by the idea that, as the new Chair of the Umalusi Council, I receive the baton from Cassius Lubisi, John Pampallis, Sizwe Mabizela and John Volmink—all people whose work and whose approaches to their work I have long admired and respected. I have no illusions that to build further on the foundations that they laid over the past 20 years will be a challenging task for me. I take comfort from the competence, skills and wisdom of my fellow Council members at Umalusi. I will look to them for guidance in our aim to provide careful and hygienic governance oversight to this important institution. I also draw much confidence from the high levels of care, knowledge and intelligent insights of all the staff at Umalusi; their wise advice eases Council's governance task. I am mindful that those of us who accept the mantle of leadership of social institutions must also be willing to be held to higher account in social and ethical behaviour. Such negative behaviour by leaders, even when it is not considered illegal, serves only to undermine the confidence of citizens in the ability of their social institutions to contribute to delivery on the promise of a dignified life for all.”



The Role of the Council

Council derives its mandate and is established in terms of the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, Act No. 58 of 2001, as amended. In the execution of its fiduciary duties, as guided by the approved charter, the Council fulfils the objectives of the organisation as agreed with the Minister of Basic Education. The Council is ultimately accountable and responsible to the Minister for the performance and affairs of Umalusi. The Council must therefore retain full and effective control over the entity and must give strategic direction to the management of Umalusi. In addition, the Council has a responsibility to the broader stakeholders, which includes the present and potential beneficiaries of the entity's services, clients and employees, to ensure organisational sustainability.

The Umalusi Council has the fiduciary responsibility to ensure that it discharges its mandate. It exercises oversight on the operations of Umalusi; therefore it approves strategy for the organisation and monitors management's implementation of this strategy. Council drives fiscal discipline. It ensures that management establishes and maintains systems and processes for internal control, reporting, monitoring and evaluation to ensure organisational excellence at all levels. Through the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), the Council also ensures a transparent risk management strategy, a fraud prevention policy and a strategy to ensure good governance.

Advice to the Relevant Minister of Education

One of the key responsibilities of the Council is to provide advice to the relevant Ministers of Education, with respect to different aspects of the mandate of Umalusi. In this regard, the Minister of Basic Education challenges the Council to provide such advice without fear or favour.

The Architecture of the Council

The Council is led by the chairperson who, in the case of the current Council, is Professor Yunus Ballim.

The Executive Committee of the Council: Its Members and Functions

The Council is bestowed with the responsibility of establishing an Executive Committee of Council (EXCO) consisting of five members of the Council including the CEO, who is an ex-officio member of both the Council and the EXCO. The chairperson of Council shall automatically be the chairperson of the EXCO.

The roles, responsibilities and powers of the EXCO, in terms of the Council Charter, are to:

- act on behalf of Council on urgent matters with subsequent reporting to the Council;
- approve the strategic plans, annual performance plans, annual reports and budget of the organisation annually;
- approve transactions within its delegated authority limit;
- review material, strategic initiatives and recommend such to Council;
- consider emerging issues that may be material to the business and affairs of the entity, and the realisation of the entity's agreed strategy;
- make recommendations to Council on policy issues;
- review financial reports from management and approve fees and rates applicable to various processes within the organisation;
- initiate any special investigations within the entity;
- approve examination results as per Council delegation;
- report to Council at each Council meeting and so often as may otherwise be deemed necessary; and
- carry out any other matter delegated by Council.

The current EXCO members are Professor Yunus Ballim, Mr Duncan Hindle, Dr Cila Myburgh, Professor Thabo Msibi and Dr Lindiwe Mokotjo.



Mr Duncan Hindle

Mr Hindle is a teacher by training and has taught mathematics at primary and secondary levels. He lectured in Educational Technology at Edgewood College of Education and in the Sociology of Education at the (former) University of Natal. In 1995 he was elected as South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) president and in 1996 joined the Department of Education in Pretoria. In 2005 he was appointed Director-General of Education, where he served until 2010. Since then he has served as an adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and is currently appointed as Chairperson of the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP) Sectoral Education and Training Authority (SETA) Accounting Authority.

Professor Msibi is the Dean and Head of the School of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He obtained his BEd and BEd Honours degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, his MEd from Columbia University and his PhD from the University of Cambridge. He is an NRF P-rated scholar.



Professor Thabo Msibi



Dr Cila Myburgh

Dr Myburgh is a registered industrial psychologist and higher educational expert with 15 years' senior management experience in the educational sector. She is highly skilled in strategic issues related to governance and compliance, operating model design and organisational effectiveness and cost management. She has extensive experience in student systems, data audits and student administration.

Dr Mokotjo is the Head of the Faculty of Education at The Independent Institute of Education. Her research interest lies in the areas of dyscalculia, social justice and mathematics education. Her academic career began as a teacher, lecturer and senior lecturer. She has published articles in scholarly journals and presented at local and international conferences.



Dr Lindiwe Mokotjo

The Committees of Council

Various committees have been established to support the work of the Council. While Council members chair the committees of Council, the other committee members are neither members of the Council nor employees of Umalusi. In contrast, they are professionals in their individual capacities and are nominated to serve on the committees on the basis of their qualifications and expertise.

Qualifications Standards Committee (QSC)

The QSC is responsible for supporting any work by Umalusi that is related to the development or amendment of qualifications on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF). It further provides guidance on the formulation of suitable qualifications that meet the requirements of the relevant Minister and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The QSC Chairperson is **Mr Duncan Hindle**.

Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC)

This committee exists to contribute to the quality assurance of provision in private education, recommend the accreditation status of private education institutions or private assessment bodies, recommend the withdrawal of accreditation status from private education institutions or private assessment bodies and provide inputs on the development of policies for accreditation as well as monitor private education institutions and private assessment bodies. **Dr Cila Myburgh** chairs the ACC.

Assessment Standards Committee (ASC)

Broadly, the ASC supports the work of Umalusi on matters relating to the establishment, maintenance and improvement of the standard and quality of assessments in the South African education system. This is done by carrying out the process of standardisation of internal and external assessment for all qualifications registered on the Umalusi sub-framework of qualifications, among others. The Chairperson of the ASC is **Professor Loyiso Jita**.



Professor Loyiso Jita

Professor Jita is the Dean of Education at the University of the Free State (UFS) where he holds a SANRAL-endowed Research Chair in Science and Mathematics Education. Professor Jita is a Fulbright scholar who graduated with a Masters and PhD in Curriculum, Teaching and Education Policy from Michigan State University (MSU) in the United States of America. He is the Chair of the ASC of Umalusi, a committee he has served on since 2014. In June 2022, Professor Jita was appointed a member of the 6th Umalusi Council.

Research Forum (RF)

The role of the RF is to strengthen Umalusi's research function by offering strategic input to research direction in an advisory capacity. The Chairperson of the RF is **Ms Mary Metcalfe**.

Ms Metcalfe is Professor of Practice at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). She has worked in education since 1974. She holds an MEd and lectured at the Johannesburg College of Education and at the University of the Witwatersrand before serving as the Gauteng Education Member of the Executive Council (MEC) from 1994 to 1999; and then as MEC for Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs. She was Head of the Wits School of Education from 2005 to 2009 before joining the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) as Director-General in 2009. She is currently the Executive Director at the Programme to Improve Learning Outcomes (PILO) and is a commissioner for the National Planning Commission (NPC).



Ms Mary Metcalfe



Dr Karen Dos Reis

Information and Communication Technology Oversight Committee (ICTOC)

The ICTOC is responsible for conceptualising and overseeing corporate governance of information and communication technology (CGICT) and its strategic alignment with Umalusi's corporate strategic plan. The committee further coordinates the ICT framework which addresses several ICT policies. **Dr Karen Dos Reis** is the Chairperson of ICTOC.

Dr Dos Reis has 27 years' experience in the field of education. She is currently a director at an education consultancy and held a position as Teaching and Learning Specialist (Senior Lecturer). She was also a lecturer in a faculty of education and a high school teacher. Her research interests include mentoring, work integrated learning and student success and retention.

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

The ARC executes its functions through close liaison and communication with management, external and internal auditors and other governance risk and control service providers. Included in its role are internal audit functions.

This committee consists of at least four members who are independent of the institution. It is the only committee of the Council whose chairperson is not a member of the Council. **Mr Phillip Benadé** is the Chairperson of the ARC, while **Mr Nathan Johnstone**, who is a Council member, is responsible for reporting to the Council.

Mr Benadé was the Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Director-General of the former (National) Department of Education. He graduated from Unisa and represented South Africa for four years at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the Finance and Administrative Committee, which he also chaired for two years. He is serving as Chairperson of the ARC for his second term.

Mr Johnstone is a teacher by profession and is an executive director of the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) Education Services. He has taught in secondary schools and in teacher education institutions. He chairs the boards of JET Education Services and Christian Brothers Association and serves on the boards of three independent Catholic schools.



Mr Nathan Johnstone



Advocate Maisa Merabe

Accreditation Appeals Committee (AAC)

This Committee ensures that private education providers and assessment bodies have the opportunity to appeal against a decision or outcome of the ACC in meeting the criteria for accreditation. **Advocate Maisa Merabe** is the Chairperson of the AAC.

Advocate Merabe is a practising advocate at the Free State Bar. His preferred areas of practice include education law and he holds B.luris, LLB and LLM degrees. Advocate Merabe is also a co-editor of Juta's Education Law and Policy Handbook and co-contributor to Shareholder Actions, Third Edition by Bloomsbury. He previously held various positions in government and operated at a strategic level.

Professor Maluleke is the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). He is the Deputy Chairperson of the NPC, a National Research Foundation (NRF) B1-rated researcher and a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). He has published more than 130 articles in peer-reviewed journals and more than 100 Op-Ed newspaper articles.



Professor Tinyiko Maluleke



Ms Faseega Solomon

Ms Solomon was elected as Vice-President (Education) of the SADTU during the 9th National Congress in September 2019. She began her teaching career in 1988 at Manenberg High School in the Western Cape where she taught Natural Sciences and Life Sciences (Biology).

She served as a member of the Schooling Chamber of the ETDP SETA from 2011 to 2018. She represents SADTU in the Education Labour Relation Council's Early Childhood and Development (ELRC ECD) work stream. She currently serves on the ETDP SETA Accounting Authority and was appointed as the Chairperson of the ETDP SETA Schooling and ECD Chamber.

She also serves as a South African Council for Educators (SACE) councillor, is a member of the SACE Professional Development Committee (PRODCO) and SACE ECD Ad Hoc Committee. She has a keen interest in curriculum development, assessment in education and all issues pertaining to teachers' professional development. She was appointed as a member of the 5th Umalusi Council in 2021 and returned as a member of the 6th Umalusi Council in June 2022.

To encourage collaboration among the quality councils the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act requires that the CEO of each of the quality councils—Umalusi, Council on Higher Education (CHE), Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and the SAQA—should become a board or Council member of the other quality councils.



Ms Nadia Starr

Ms Starr has been the Chief Executive Officer of the SAQA since 1 December 2022. Ms Starr has worked in education and training since 2005 in various roles. She has been an academic at a private higher education institution, a project manager at a public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college and a qualification developer and head of quality assurance at a regulatory authority. Ms Starr spent the last ten years in senior management and non-executive director roles in the public sector, working with education and training policy development, quality assurance and funding mechanisms. She has previously served as CEO of a SETA.

Ms Starr holds a Bachelors and a postgraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Cape Town (UCT) and a Master of Education from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), along with several occupational certifications.

Dr Green currently holds the position of Chief Executive Officer of the CHE, an organisation mandated to conduct research on higher education, monitor trends in higher education, provide advice to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation; and the apex organisation for quality assurance of higher education in South Africa. He was previously the Chief Director: Teaching, Learning and Research Development in the DHET.

Dr Green has worked in a range of education settings, having served as a high school teacher, as a teacher and lecturer at an education college, and as a lecturer and senior lecturer at university level. He holds a Bachelor of Science, Higher Diploma in Education, Bachelor of Education Honours, and Master of Education, all from the University of Natal/KwaZulu-Natal. He earned his PhD from the University of Stellenbosch. Dr Green has published in his field of expertise and presented a number of papers at national and international conferences.



Dr Whitty Green



Mr Vijayen Naidoo

Mr Naidoo was appointed as the CEO of the QCTO on 1 June 2017, having previously held the post of Chief Director for Occupational Quality Assurance since 2014. Prior to this Mr Naidoo worked for Umalusi. As the Senior Manager: Quality Assurance of Assessment, he was responsible for managing the development and implementation of the Umalusi quality assurance systems to support the introduction of the National Certificate (Vocational) (NC[V]) in 2007 and the National Senior Certificate (NSC) in 2008.

Mr Naidoo has almost 30 years' experience in the education and training sector and has held various positions including teacher, technical college lecturer, Deputy Principal of a technical college and Deputy Chief Educational Specialist at the Gauteng Department of Education. Mr Naidoo also served on various task teams and structures that contributed to the development of key policies in the education and training sectors. His areas of expertise are in quality assurance and assessment.

Mrs Lucy Moyane is currently the Head of Department for the Mpumalanga Department of Education. She shares vast experience in the sector having joined the Department in 1996 as a Chief Education Specialist, Languages. Her career span includes Acting Director: School Education, Director: School Education, Chief Director: Curriculum and Assessment Development.

She was at National and joined MDoE as DDG for the curriculum. She holds an MA Degree and is a qualified Setswana, African Biology and Geography teacher. She also holds a Secondary Teachers Diploma, BA, Diploma in Special Education, BA (Hon) and MA African Languages.



Ms Lucy Moyane

Administrative Support to Council

The work of the Council is supported administratively by Mr Hezekiel Moloise (Manager: Council Secretariat) and Ms Tandokazi Mbelani (Assistant Manager: Council Secretariat). They both serve under the Senior Manager for Strategy and Governance, Ms Stella Mosimege.

Handing Over the Baton

Acknowledging the need for a smooth transition between the 5th and 6th Councils, the Executive Management of Umalusi prepared and handed over a report on 6 September 2022 during the new Council's induction workshop. The Handover Report covered the Council's mandate and its governance structures and processes. It further highlighted the current strategic priorities as established in the organisation's five-year strategic plan from 2020/21 to 2024/25. In addition, the report focused on the achievements, challenges and outstanding matters of the various committees of the Council for the incoming Council's attention.

The Executive Management wishes the 6th Council well and believes that it will continue to assist the organisation to achieve its legislative mandate to provide quality assurance in the education sector.



*Ms Stella Mosimege
(Senior Manager: Strategy and Governance)*



*Mr Hezekiel Moloise
(Manager: Council Secretariat)*



*Ms Thandokazi Mbelani
(Assistant Manager: Council Secretariat)*

2022 – THE YEAR THAT WAS: SUSTAINING ENGAGEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Accounting to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education

Following the Council’s inauguration on 6 September, chairperson Professor Yunus Ballim hit the ground running in presiding over Umalusi’s engagements with key stakeholders on various organisational matters. One such engagement was with the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education (PCBE) on 13 September 2022, when Umalusi presented the findings of the NSC benchmarking report.

Later, on 18 October, he led an Umalusi delegation to the PCBE to table the 2021/22 Umalusi Annual Report. Exactly seven days later, on 25 October, the chairperson and Umalusi Executive Management went back to the PCBE to provide a briefing on the levels of readiness of the public and private assessment bodies to manage and conduct the 2022 end-of-year national examinations.

Sharing Research Findings

The last six months of the academic year have been extremely busy for the CEO of Umalusi, **Dr Mafu Rakometsi**, and his team. As part of his advocacy work, the CEO engaged various Education sector stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of a study that benchmarked the National Senior Certificate (NSC) against five international qualifications.

Table 1A provides information about the dates and categories of stakeholders with whom Dr Rakometsi met.

Table 1A: NSC benchmarking study: CEO and stakeholder interactions

Date (2022)	Stakeholder
30 June	Executive and Senior Management of the Department of Basic Education
27 July	Minister and Deputy Minister of Basic Education
1 August	Head of Education Departments Committee (HEDCOM)
30 August	Technical Working Group of the Social Protection, Community and Human Development Cluster (SPCHD)
13 September	PCBE
13 September	Teacher unions (SADTU, PEU, NAPTOSA, SAOU, NATU), ELRC and National Education Collaborative Trust (NECT)
21 September	SPCHD Cluster
21 September	Professional bodies
23 September	Universities, private providers of higher education, assessment bodies, research organisations, quality councils, members of the public
10 November	Council of Education Ministers (CEM)

The Council Chairperson gave the welcoming and introductory remarks during the public launch of the report on 23 September.

CEO's Advocacy Work

As part of his advocacy work the CEO and his management team visited all nine provincial education departments (PED) between April and August 2022, during which he met with the heads of Departments of Education in the provinces and the relevant officials of the PED (Table 1B). The purpose of the visits was to discuss with senior officials in the provinces aspects of Umalusi's legislative mandate, with specific reference to standardisation of examination results.

Table 1B: Umalusi CEO advocacy engagements with PED

Date (2022)	Province
21 April	Free State
11 May	Eastern Cape
12 May	KwaZulu-Natal
17 May	Gauteng
10 June	Limpopo
29 June	North West
5 July	Mpumalanga
14 July	Northern Cape
15 August	Western Cape

A special opportunity was created for the CEO to appraise the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, the Honourable Buti Manamela, on 23 June 2022, on the work of Umalusi. The theme that emerged from this meeting, as was the case during the CEO's engagements with deans of the Education faculties in universities, was: "Now I have a different perspective on standardisation".

Webinars as a Platform for Engagements

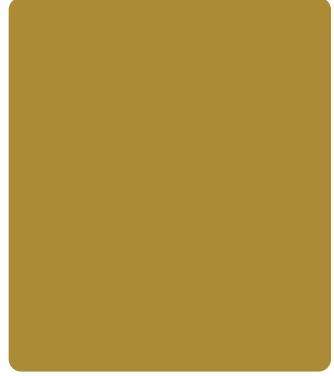
Webinars provide another strategic platform for Umalusi to keep stakeholders engaged with its work. Between May and December 2022, five webinars were arranged.

The first, on 27 May 2022, was on the Umalusi Re-issue Policy for certificates. This was followed by "How to ensure the credibility of standardised marks", on 24 June. "Unpacking the gains and losses of the quality assurance of internal assessment over a period of five years" was the title of the 28 September webinar. "The fourth webinar titled "Developments in the GFETQSF: Implications for pre-service teacher training" was held on 14 October. The concluding webinar for the year, "What to look for in choosing an independent school or private college", was held on 9 December.

Judging by the number of participants and the levels of engagement, the webinars were successful. Because Umalusi wants the webinar messages to reach as wide as possible, the presentations are publicly available on Umalusi's website at www.umalusi.org.za.

Policy Engagements

After consultation with stakeholders, two policies were gazetted, the Policy for the Certification of Candidate Records on the GFETQSF, and the Policy for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT).



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Talk to us

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