



Quality Council for General and Further
Education and Training

Remarks by the CEO of Umalusi, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, at the Media Briefing on the State of Readiness for the Hosting of the 40th Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Annual Conference

1. Thank you, Programme Director.
2. Let me acknowledge the presence of:
 - Dr David Njengere, President of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) and CEO of the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC),
 - Dr Michael Chilala, Executive Secretary of the AEAA and CEO of the Examinations Council of Zambia,
 - Mr Baldeh ba Samba, Treasurer of the AEAA
 - Mr Dan Odongo, Executive Director of the Uganda National Examinations Board and member of the EXCO of AEAA,
 - Support staff of the AEAA,
 - Executive and Senior Management and staff of Umalusi,
 - Ladies and gentlemen.
3. Welcome to this media briefing organised to inform stakeholders that the Executive Committee of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) has awarded Umalusi the bid to host the 40th AEAA Annual Conference.
4. The conference will take place at the Century City Conference Centre and Hotel, in Cape Town from 19-23



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August 2024 under the theme “Reimagining educational assessment in the age of multiple dimensions of learning in a global society”. The theme has been broken down in terms of seven sub-themes which are available on the Umalusi website.

5. Having hosted the 21st AEAA Conference on 25-27 August 2003 here in Cape Town, during the formative years of Umalusi, we feel privileged and honoured that the EXCO of the AEAA decided to bring back the conference to South Africa twenty-one (21) years later. For Umalusi, this is a special birthday present because the 40th AEAA Conference is taking place just after Umalusi celebrated two decades of its existence.
6. Concerning participants, it is anticipated that the conference will attract upwards of 300 delegates comprising assessment specialists, university academics and scholars, educationists, and policy makers from the African continent, Australia, Europe, the United Kingdom, and United States of America.
7. This will provide us an invaluable opportunity to, within the context of complex and unequal educational contexts, discuss and debates various issues of mutual interest for Umalusi and the other education systems of the world.
8. We are calling on all our partners here in South Africa (Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Independent Examinations



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Board, South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI), Independent Schooling Sector, Private Further Education and Training Colleges and Adult Education and Training Colleges) to support the conference by making it possible for the relevant officials to put together abstracts and papers for the consideration of the organising committee. The same call is extended to our partners continentally and globally.

9. In terms of its format, the main conference will be preceded by a workshop on assessment-related topic to build capacity amongst assessment practitioners.
10. There will be ample opportunity for interested organisations to exhibit their services and products to the approximately 300 conference participants.
11. Earlier today Umalusi presented a report to the EXCO of the AEAA detailing progress made to date and the tasks that still need to be undertaken for the successful hosting of the 40th AEAA Annual Conference. I can confidently report that the EXCO of the AEAA is satisfied with the progress made. To say more on that, I will after I have spoken hand over to Dr Njengere, the current President of the AEAA, to present his assessment of the work done so far.
12. After it was held last year in Kenya, which is globally recognised as a hotbed of archaeological discoveries contributing to the story of human evolution, the conference is coming to South Africa, home to the Cradle of Human kind



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– the site to the largest concentration of human ancestral remains anywhere in the world.

13. Thank you.