



UMALUSI



Council for Quality Assurance in
General and Further Education and Training

UMALUSI MEDIA STATEMENT

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APPROVAL FOR THE RELEASE OF EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR:

- **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET):**
 - ✓ **National Certificate Vocational (NC(V))**
 - ✓ **General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) for adults (ABET level 4)**
 - ✓ **NATED N1-N3**

The National Certificate Vocational (NC(V)), the General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) ABET level 4 and NATED N1-N3 examinations and assessments are administered by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). Umalusi as the Quality Council responsible for quality assurance in General and Further Education and Training is the accountable authority for assuring the quality of these qualifications and programmes. Umalusi views these qualifications together with the National Senior Certificate (NSC) as high stakes examinations and therefore applies the same stringent quality assurance regime across all these qualifications.

Umalusi remains acutely aware of its public accountability and therefore, is for the first time this year, making public the standardisation decisions for the NC(V), N1-N3 and GETC ABET level 4. Umalusi is confident that its standardisation processes are above reproach. In the interest of informing the general public about its quality assurance processes Umalusi has

produced a booklet that clearly explains what standardisation is and how it is done.

In terms of the GENFETQA Act of 2001(as amended in 2008), Umalusi is required to approve the release of results once it is satisfied that the examinations have been conducted in a credible manner. In order to make this determination, Umalusi undertakes the following quality assurance processes:

- (1) Moderation and approval of question papers;
- (2) Verification of the moderation of internal assessments;
- (3) Monitoring of the conduct of examinations;
- (4) Monitoring of the marking process;
- (5) Verification of marking;
- (6) Standardisation of the results.

The NC(V) is still a relatively new qualification and the findings from the quality assurance processes indicate that the qualification is stabilising well. Many of the implementation challenges identified in the past few years are being addressed progressively. Umalusi conducted limited quality assurance on a sample of NC(V) levels 2 and 3 subjects but applied extensive quality assurance processes to NC(V) level 4. A total of 137 895 candidates were enrolled for NC(V) levels 2 - 4. A total of 213 subjects (77 Level 2, 68 Level 3 and 68 level 4 subjects) were subjected to the standardisation process. Raw marks were accepted for 73% (156 subjects) while moderation with minor changes to raw marks was effected for 27% (57 subjects). The percentage of raw marks accepted not only indicates a stabilising qualification but also attests to the accuracy of the Umalusi standardisation decisions over the past few years. Of concern however is the late submission of examination papers

for external moderation resulting in undue pressure on the quality assurance processes which could compromise the quality of papers.

The original decision to phase out the NATED programmes was reversed when the new Ministry of Higher Education and Training was established. This change has resulted in a spike in enrolments with 38 514 candidates enrolling for 81 subjects. Of the 68 subjects standardised, raw marks were accepted for 68% (46 subjects), with only minor moderation adjustments being approved for 32% (22 subjects).

The standardisation of six subjects namely, Electrical Trade Theory N2, Industrial Electronics N2, Electrotechnology N3, Engineering Science N3, Mathematics N3 and Mechanotechnology N3 is pending the outcome of an investigation into alleged serious irregularities.

The General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) ABET level 4 is examined by the DHET. Approximately 107 000 candidates enrolled with the DHET. Of the 23 learning areas standardised, raw marks were accepted for 56% (13 learning areas). Umalusi, however remains concerned with the overall poor performance of candidates in the GETC examinations ABET level 4.

The results of the six subjects of the NATED N2 and N3 under investigation will be withheld until the investigation is concluded to Umalusi's satisfaction. On the basis of its monitoring and moderation processes, and in the absence of there being any further evidence of serious irregularities that could undermine the integrity and credibility of the examinations, the Council is of the opinion that the examinations were conducted in a credible manner and therefore approves the release of the results for the NC(V), NATED N1-N3 and GETC ABET level 4. The results of individual candidates will be released on the dates determined by the DHET after Umalusi has verified the accuracy of the resulting data.

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