



STATE OF READINESS OF ASSESSMENT BODIES TO CONDUCT, ADMINISTER AND MANAGE THE NOVEMBER 2024 NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

COMPOSITE REPORT

Media Briefing

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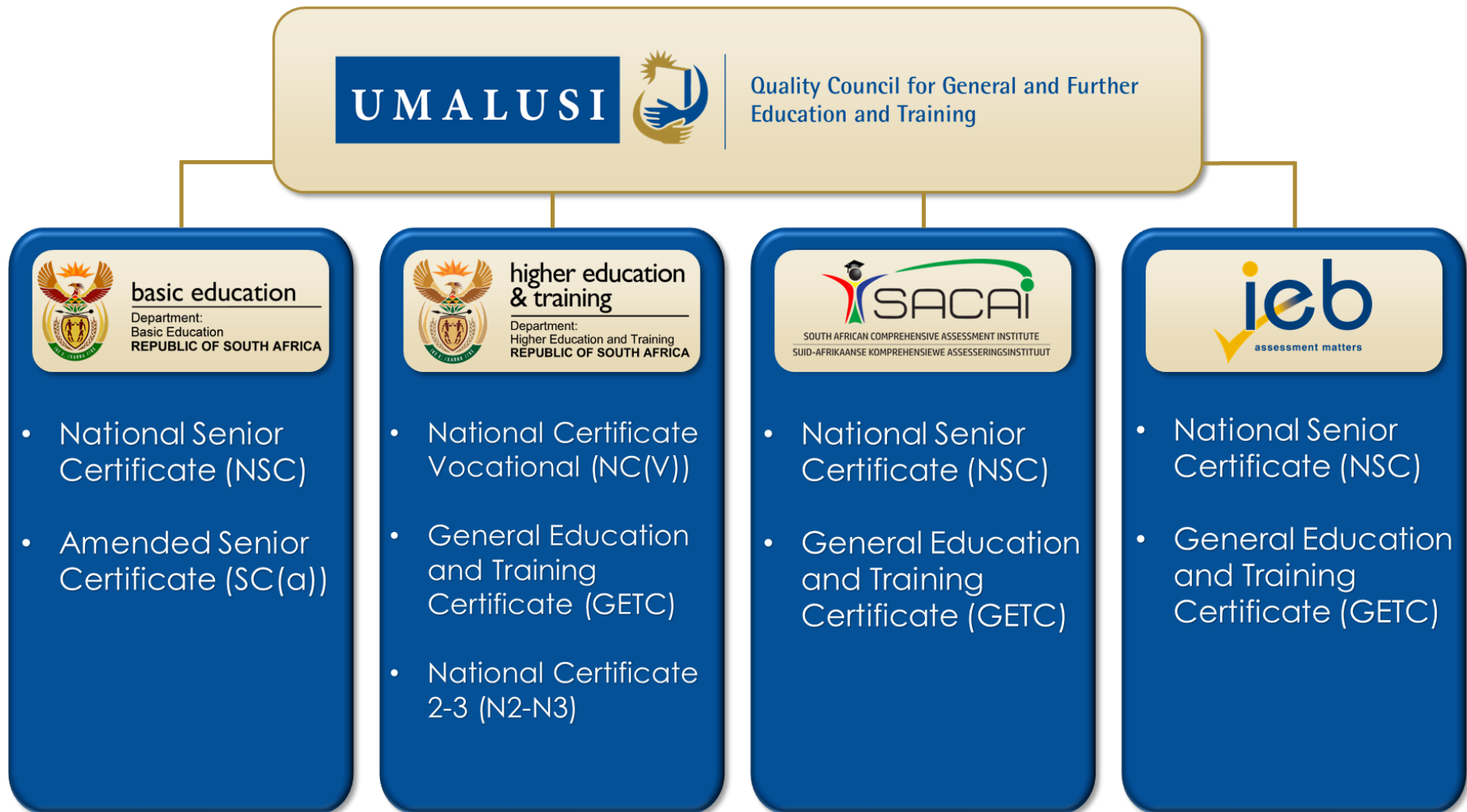
Presentation Outline

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Background

- Umalusi is mandated to audit the State of Readiness (SoR) of the public and private assessment bodies to conduct, administer and manage national examinations prior to their commencement. The process starts with Umalusi tracking directives for compliance and improvement that are issued annually to assessment bodies after the national examination.
- Using a risk management-based approach, Umalusi independently and objectively identifies potential risks that could compromise the credibility and integrity of the examinations. The quality assurance requirements of this approach are communicated to the four assessment bodies.
- For the 2024 SoR, all four assessment bodies submitted their self-evaluation reports, which Umalusi analysed and evaluated through a desktop review of the supporting evidence.
- This report presents Umalusi's findings from the audit conducted on the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) and the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI).

Qualifications on Umalusi's Sub-framework



Umalusi Mandate and Regulatory Framework (1)

The **National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act 67 of 2008**, as amended, assigns to Umalusi the responsibility to:

Develop and implement policy and criteria for assessment for the qualifications on its sub-framework. With regard to quality assurance within its sub-framework, Umalusi has the responsibility to:

- (i) develop and implement policy for quality assurance;
- (ii) ensure the integrity and credibility of quality assurance;
- (iii) ensure that such quality assurance as is necessary for the sub-framework is undertaken;

Section 17A of the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance (GENFETQA) Act 58 of 2001, as amended

- (3) The Council must perform the external moderation of assessment of all assessment bodies and education institutions.
- (4) The Council may adjust raw marks during the standardisation process.

Umalusi Mandate and Regulatory Framework (2)

GENFETQA Act 58 of 2001, as amended, Section 17

- (5) The Council must, with the concurrence of the Director-General and after consultation with the relevant assessment body or education institution, approve the publication of the results of learners if the Council is satisfied that the assessment body or education institution has:
- (i) conducted the assessment free from any irregularity that may jeopardise the integrity of the assessment or its outcomes;
 - (ii) complied with the requirements prescribed by the Council for conducting assessments;
 - (iii) applied the standards prescribed by the Council, with which a learner is required to comply with in order to obtain a certificate; and
 - (iv) complied with every other condition determined by the Council.

Framework for Quality Assurance of Assessment

Umalusi conducts quality assurance of assessment to ensure that assessment leading to the award of certificates in schools, adult education centres and technical and vocational education and training colleges is of the required standard. This is in order to ensure that the certificates issued by Umalusi are credible.

The quality assurance of assessment is achieved through the:

- Moderation of examination question papers, Practical Assessment Tasks (PAT) and Common Assessment Tasks in the case of Life Orientation;
- Monitoring and moderation of Internal Assessment (SBA; ICASS; ISAT, Orals)
- Audit of the state of readiness to conduct, administer and manage the examinations;
- Monitoring of the conduct, administration and management of assessment and examination processes;
- Monitoring and moderation of marking;
- Management of concessions and examination irregularities;
- Standardisation of assessment outcomes;
- Approval of the publication of the results of learners if the Council is satisfied that the assessment body has conducted the assessment free from any irregularities that might jeopardise the integrity of the assessment;
- Certification.

Status on key Examination Processes (1)

Process	Status
Question Paper	The question papers for the November 2024 NSC, NC(V), NATED N2-N3, and GETC: ABET examinations, which candidates will be writing, have undergone moderation, fully complied with Umalusi's quality assurance standards, and have been approved.
Timetables	The examination timetables for the November 2024 NSC, NC(V), NATED N2-N3, and GETC: ABET are now available.
Registration Data	The final registration statistics have been received from the assessment bodies for the Class of 2024, except for NATED.
Printing	The printing of examination material is currently taking place in accordance with the printing management plans of the assessment bodies.
Audit of Examination Centres	Audit of examination centres and storage points for examination materials, including scripts, have been completed. Risk assessments have been conducted, and measures are in place to mitigate identified risks.

Status on key Examination Processes (2)

Process	Status
Examination Centre Profile	Examination centres have been profiled according to their risk levels, and appropriate monitoring measures have been implemented for high-risk centres.
Invigilation and Monitoring	Systems for invigilation and monitoring of examination administration are in place, with final training sessions scheduled before the commencement of the writing.
Recruitment	The recruitment, selection, and appointment of markers have been managed effectively, adhering to pre-determined criteria and timelines.
Marking	Marking schedules and quality assurance processes across the assessment bodies have been established, with marking set to commence in a staggered approach as planned by the assessment bodies.
Life Orientation Common Assessment Task (LO CAT)	The Life Orientation Common Assessment Task (LO CAT) examination was successfully administered under controlled conditions across the nine PEDs on 2 September 2024, with question papers securely printed, packaged, stored in audited facilities, and monitored throughout the process.

Findings on the State of Readiness of the

- ❖ DBE
- ❖ DHET
- ❖ IEB
- ❖ SACAI

Focus Area 1: Management of Resources

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>There is a prevalent shortage of staff across the PEDs, which remains an issue requiring a sustainable solution from the department. Contingency plans have been implemented to mitigate the identified risk.</p>	<p>There is adequate human resources to conduct, administer and manage the November 2024 NATED N2-N3, NC(V) L2-L4 and GETC: ABET examinations.</p>	<p>The IEB has sufficient staffing in all sections responsible for the examination processes for the NSC and GETC: ABET.</p>	<p>SACAI has sufficient personnel to effectively manage the conduct and administration of examinations for NSC and GETC: ABET.</p>

Overall evaluation:

Umalusi is satisfied that the four assessment bodies have implemented measures to ensure adequate resources are in place for managing the examinations. However, the DBE continues to face challenges related to staff shortages. While contingency plans are in place for the upcoming exams, Umalusi urges the department to work towards a sustainable solution to address this issue for future examination cycles, ensuring long-term stability in exam administration.

Focus Area 2 (a): Registration of Candidates

(As provided by the Assessment bodies)

EXAM CYCLE	DBE	DHET		IEB	SACAI
November 2024	NSC: 882 336	GETC:ABET : 55 184	NC(V) Level 2-4: 165 507	NSC: 16 321	NSC: 5 789
			NATED N2-N3: Registration will be completed on 21 Oct 2024	GETC: ABET: 364	GETC: ABET: 254

Overall evaluation:

Umalusi is satisfied that the four assessment bodies have systems in place for the registration of candidates for the 2024 end of year examinations.

The registration has been finalised for The NSC, NC(V) and GETC: ABET, while the registration for NATED is in progress.

Concessions and accommodations were granted to eligible candidates, including those with immigrant status. The assessment bodies were able to manage the processing of concession applications according to the policies, regulations and related guidelines.

Focus Area 2(b): Registration of Exam Centres

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
NSC: 6909	NC(V) Level 2-4: 262 GETC: 1562 NATED: 21 October 2024	NSC: 256 GETC:52	NSC: 84 GETC:38
<p>The audit of examination centres across the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) has been completed. Each PED adopted a differentiated approach during the audit and successfully complied with the established procedures. This includes examination centres where special subjects, such as IT, CAT, and SASL HL, will be administered.</p>	<p>The audit of examination centres has been completed in 4 Regions. The Audit of the 2 Regions will be finalised on 15 October 2024. The audited centres were found to be fully compliant.</p>	<p>NSC: A mixed approach was employed in the audit of examination centres. On-site audits were conducted for centres administering the IEB examinations for the first time.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: All 52 registered examination centres were required to complete a desk-top audit by the IEB.</p>	<p>NSC: The appointed service provider conducted an audit of the 84 examination centres.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: appointed service provider conducted the audit of examination centres. Evidence was provided to Umalusi.</p>

Focus Area 2(b): Registration of Exam Centres

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>Examination centres have been classified and profiled based on their risk levels: high, moderate, and low.</p> <p>For high-risk centres, the PEDs have implemented monitoring systems to ensure compliance and oversight.</p>	<p>NC(V) Level 2-4 , NATED N2-N3 : All private colleges are classified as high-risk centres; all other centres are closely monitored.</p>	<p>NSC: Examination centres have been categorised and profiled according to risk levels: high, moderate, and low</p> <p>Examination centres writing the IEB NSC examinations for the first time are profiled as high-risk and will be monitored closely by the IEB.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: The IEB categorises the AET centres as high-risk.</p>	<p>NSC: Examination centres have been categorised and profiled according to risk levels: high, moderate, and low.</p> <p>All 84 centres will be monitored closely by SACAI.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Centres that need support are classified as moderate, those with irregularities as high risk and complaint centres as low risk.</p>

Overall Evaluation:

Umalusi is assured regarding the risk profiling of examination centres by the assessment bodies and the systems put in place to address the risks.

Focus Area 3: Internal Assessment

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>The DBE has sound plans and measures in place for the quality assurance of SBA, PAT and oral assessment to ensure their credibility.</p>	<p>NATED and NC(V) Level 2-4: Management plans for ICASS and ISAT are in place. The quality assurance process started on 7 October 2024 and will be concluded on 21 November 2024.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Management plans for SBA are in place. The quality assurance process has been scheduled for 7-25 October 2024.</p>	<p>NSC: The IEB has established systems for SBA, PAT, and oral assessments.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Examiners will moderate the SBA files prior to the marking session. The files as well as feedback reports will be available at the marking centre.</p>	<p>NSC: SACAI has put systems in place for managing SBA, PAT, and oral assessments</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Management plans for SBA are in place, the moderation will commence on 16 November 2024.</p>

Moderation management plans have been established, with subject specialists appointed and internal moderation currently in progress across assessment bodies.

Overall Evaluation:

Umalusi is assured that the assessment bodies have implemented adequate management plans for moderation, including the appointment of subject specialists and the execution of internal moderation processes.

Umalusi requirements for internal assessment have been complied with.

Focus Area 4: Printing, Packaging, Storage and Distribution (1)

DBE, DHET, IEB and SACAI

The service level agreements for printing examination materials have been established and signed. Management plans are currently being implemented.

A risk assessment for printing, packaging, storage, and distribution has been conducted by the assessment bodies, and appropriate mitigating strategies are in place.

Storage locations have undergone audits, and norms and standards for the security of examination materials are established and strictly enforced.

However, some storage locations have been partially approved by the DBE. To mitigate this risk, the DBE is ensuring that the affected provinces seek a concession from the HOD.

Focus Area 4: Printing, Packaging, Storage and Distribution (2)

DBE, DHET, IEB and SACAI

Overall evaluation

Umalusi is satisfied with the continuous enhancement of security measures, particularly the expedited vetting of individuals involved in handling live question papers. To mitigate the identified risk regarding unapproved storage locations, the DBE will utilise concessions from the HOD, and Umalusi will sample some of these locations for monitoring purposes.

The mitigating strategies for all identified risks will be monitored closely.

All security protocols concerning the printing of examination materials are considered classified and treated with strict confidentiality.

Focus Area 5: Conduct of Examinations

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>Policies and guidelines for the conduct of examinations including Standard Operating Procedure are in place.</p> <p>The DBE adopted a cluster-based training approach across the PEDs for the monitors and invigilation teams.</p>	<p>GETC: ABET, NC(V) and NATED: Policies and guidelines for the conduct of examination including Standard Operating Procedure are in place.</p> <p>The training of invigilators has been scheduled for 02-24 October 2024 prior to the start of the writing of examination.</p> <p>External monitors and their examiners will monitor the examinations.</p> <p>Distribution and nodal point managers have also been appointed and trained.</p>	<p>NSC: Established processes are in place for the effective management of examinations.</p> <p>Training for chief invigilators was conducted according to the IEB's training plans, utilising a content-based manual during the training sessions.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Guidelines for the conduct of examination are in place.</p>	<p>NSC: Systems are established for the effective management of the examination.</p> <p>Training for chief invigilators and assistant invigilators was conducted in August 2024.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Policy for the conduct of examination is in place.</p> <p>The training of chief and invigilators will be on 15 October 2024.</p> <p>The monitoring plan to be finalised on 15 October 2024.</p>

Overall evaluation

For all assessment bodies, monitoring coverage has been established and plans developed to ensure the integrity of the writing process during the administration of the examinations.

Umalusi will monitor the implementation of the monitoring plans and report on its findings.

Focus Area 6: Marker Selection and Appointments of Marking Personnel (1)

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>The selection of markers for the DBE was carried out in accordance with the PAM requirements, and appointments have been made, with appointment letters currently being issued.</p> <p>However, a shortage of markers has been identified in certain subjects, and contingency measures have been implemented to address this risk.</p> <p>The assessment body has adopted various strategies to mitigate the marker shortages, including conducting additional recruitment drives, implementing staggered marking, and extending the duration of marking sessions.</p>	<p>NATED and NC(V): The DHET conducted the selection of markers on 1-4 October 2024. Training plans for the appointed marking officials are in place.</p> <p>Staggered marking is scheduled to commence on 30 November 2024. From 7-15 December 2024 block marking will be followed.</p>	<p>NSC: The selection and appointment of markers were conducted in accordance with the IEB policy for the recruitment, selection, and appointment of markers, with no shortages reported.</p> <p>Marking plans have been established, and a staggered marking approach has been adopted, set to commence in November 2024.</p>	<p>NSC: The selection and appointment of markers were carried out according to SACAI's policy for recruitment, selection, and appointment of markers, with no shortages identified during the audit.</p> <p>SACAI has implemented a staggered marking approach, which is scheduled to commence in November 2024.</p>

Focus Area 6: Marker Selection and Appointments of Marking Personnel (2)

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>The subjects impacted include History, English Home Language, and Afrikaans Home and First Additional Language, primarily within Language Paper 3. Marking plans have been established, and a staggered marking approach will be implemented, set to begin in November 2024.</p>	<p>GETC: ABET: Selection will be finalised on 17 October 2024.</p>	<p>GETC: ABET: The appointment of the markers and checkers will be finalised on 31 October 2024.</p>	<p>GETC: ABET: The pool for the marking of the November 2024 will be sourced from the database of the markers. The training of markers will be conducted on 26 October 2024.</p>

Overall evaluation

Umalusi is currently conducting an audit of the appointed markers to verify their appointments in accordance with established criteria. In cases of shortages, Umalusi will monitor the implementation of a staggered approach to ensure the credibility of the examinations.

Focus Area 7: Systems for Mark Capturing

DBE	DHET	IEB	SACAI
<p>The DBE has implemented mark capturing systems at both the national and PED levels to facilitate the standardisation of results.</p> <p>The DBE has fully complied with Umalusi's requirements in the previous examination cycle.</p>	<p>NC(V), NATED N2-N3 and GETC: ABET: The DHET will use a double entry system where one appointed official will enter a mark and the other one verifies.</p> <p>The capturing of marks will be done at the centralised marking centres of the DHET.</p>	<p>NSC: The mark capturing systems are established, and the IEB has engaged experienced capturers for this examination. Training for the capturers will begin in December, coinciding with the start of the marking process.</p> <p>GETC: ABET: Marks are captured on the IEB's database. IEB uses double capturing method to capture results. Results will be captured at the IEB offices from 25 to 28 November 2024.</p>	<p>NSC: SACAI has met the mark capturing requirements and successfully submitted the standardisation data for June 2024.</p> <p>GETC:ABET: Double capturing system whereby one SACAI official captures and other verifies will be used to ensure correctness.</p>

Overall Evaluation

All assessment bodies complied with Umalusi requirements during the April, June, August and September 2024 examinations, and the standardisation data was processed successfully.

Focus Area 8: Management of Examination Irregularities

DBE

DHET

IEB

SACAI

The structures for addressing and managing examination irregularities have been established in accordance with the regulations governing the conduct, administration, and management of examinations.

Measures to deal and handle different types of irregularities are in place across the four assessment bodies, including mitigating strategies.

Overall Evaluation

The structures for addressing and managing examination irregularities are established, with their functionality monitored by the assessment bodies.

Umalusi found the strategies determined to combat irregularities implementable and acceptable.

THANK YOU



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