

SAQA

KHA RI GUDE VERIFICATION AND MODERATION FOR 2012

**Speech by Ntsiki Gumbe, SAQA Director in the Office of the CEO
on the Occasion of the awarding a certificates
at the KRG Workshop, 24 March 2013**

Four points:

Clarify SAQA's role in this project
Clarify the future in terms of RPL, articulation
Future of KRG in terms of emerging policy
The situation with the certificates

Colleagues, Dignitaries, Visitors

Let me congratulate you on concluding a successful verification and moderation workshop.

This is the fifth time many of you have done this, and from what I hear it has been better every time.

It is really good to know that Kha ri Gude is an official South African programme that truly delivers on its promise, reaching people and parts of the country that have too often been overlooked in the past.

It is also good to hear that Kha ri Gude is increasingly recognised in South Africa's educational and political establishment.

It is being valued for its own achievements, and also as a model for the delivery of other forms of learning for development in the future:

Based on developments related to the Green Paper on Post School Education and Training, the Ministry of Higher Education and Training is determined to transform the underperforming delivery of official Adult Education and Training.

This will involve linking general education and skills training. To do this the curriculum and instructional approaches of the present Public Adult Learning Centres is not really appropriate.

There are several aspects of the Kha ri Gude model that are more likely to work.

On the one hand there is the flexibility of the way of drawing in volunteers and rewarding them, and also the flexibility of venues and providers.

On the other hand, there is the firm structure of curriculum, workbooks, and prescriptive learner achievement portfolios (LAPs).

These are backed by a hierarchy of support and supervision that makes up for the lack of formal structures like schools in adult education.

The process of quality assurance is part of this hierarchy. The quality assurance model includes

- the setting of outcomes in the course materials
- the guided marking by voluntary educators
- the checking and signing off by local Supervisors and district Coordinators
- external verification of a small sample of the portfolios made in independent site visits
- independent review of the programme's content and outcomes against the related unit standards
- externally-guided moderation of the marking of the portfolios
- statistical examination, and if necessary adjustment of the results
- certification endorsed by the South African Qualifications Authority

SAQA has been proud to be involved in the external quality assurance of Kha ri Gude.

It sees itself as a developmental partner in Kha ri Gude with the Department of Basic Education. At the same time, it is an utterly independent, external agency. Its work serves several important purposes:

- It give the learners (and the public) greater confidence that what they have achieved is significant and recognised
- it provides Kha ri Gude's leadership - which includes most of you here tonight - with vital feedback on the performance of the campaign
- it helps to sustain political and financial support for the campaign by increasing the confidence of the Auditor General, and of national education leadership

All this depends on SAQA's satisfaction with the findings in the process of the past week-end.

What SAQA requires above all is to see improvement in the reliability and validity of the portfolios from year to year.

For this reason, it will need to be stricter in the coming year about the management of the authenticity of the portfolios. We hope that you will take this message back into the training and management of Kha ri Gude delivery this year.

And now I thought you might like to hear about some developments on SAQA's and the broader national education and training agenda that could be of interest to you.

Two issues that are high on the agenda of the National Qualifications Framework are articulation and RPL - recognition of prior learning.

These have always been important in the NQF, but their development is now being accelerated, with a clear message from the Minister of Higher Education and Training that these and related matters must receive urgent attention.

The Minister's pressure is welcome to SAQA and will allow it to take bolder steps.

Articulation is about the way the parts of the qualification system fit together, and about how people can move in the system. At present we still have too many blockages in reality - but not in policy objectives - that stop people moving especially into technical and vocational development, or from there into academic qualifications.

The blockages have a negative effect on the way we value different kinds of learning - especially learning that isn't normally seen as academic.

Improvements in articulation will be especially important for adult education and training, where important learning is often non-formal. It is important that real learning in AET can be recognised either for work or further study.

This matter is closely linked to RPL. RPL looks so simple as an idea - let everyone get recognition for what they are good at wherever and however they learnt it. In reality the design and implementation of RPL has turned out to be really tricky.

However, we have done much work on the concept over the last few years, and are still doing work on this.

In fact, Mr Adler will be visiting Canada shortly. Canada's design and implementation of RPL seems to be much more advanced than ours, and on our behalf he will be studying the way they do things there.

This is just one of many projects that we have in progress to fast-track articulation and RPL.

This is of interest to you in at least two ways.

First, a proper system of articulation and RPL should make the routes for your learners to progress much clearer. In the past the Trade Unions liked to talk of workers having pathways "from sweeper to engineer". Nobody ever said that this would be easy. The mission was to get rid of false and artificial barriers to movement from learning into higher learning or into other work and higher earning.

Most of your learners - the majority of them seem to be older rural women - probably don't aspire to be engineers, but the fact that what they are doing in Kha ri Gude could in a real way lead to higher and wider paths is vital for their pride and motivation.

The reports from the site visits and from talking to you here show that there is a passionate desire to move onwards and upwards into new levels of Kha ri Gude, starting with an equivalent of ABET level 2. (This of course will bring with it new levels of responsibility and

training of voluntary educators by Coordinators and supervisors.) SAQA sees such growth as essential for sustained quality.

The next way in which the movement for articulation and RPL is relevant to you lies in the possibility that you should get recognition for your experience in the verification and moderation of Kha ri Gude.

As you know already, steps have already been taken with the ETDP SETA and Unisa to explore the possibility of your work here contributing to future credits that could improve your own mobility.

We will need to work further on how the learning you have had here can be linked into your different situations.

RPL is not an easy option, or necessarily a quick option. But it should show you the way that you can demonstrate and link in your current experiential knowledge to a range of options relevant to your professional careers. The experience you have here represents most important learning does not on its own constitute a qualification.

Those of you who want to turn your learning in Kha ri Gude assessment into recognised credits will need to master the critical theory behind the assessment of Kha ri Gude. Or if you have the theory in your qualifications already, you will need to demonstrate how that theory links to the present practice.

The important thing is for you to know that the issue is being taken seriously and that the care that we are investing in it is a recognition of our respect for your commitment and energy in the assessment of Kha ri Gude and your nurturing all year round of quality in this valuable national campaign.

May I wish you a great 2013 in Kha ri Gude. Let's look forward to a verification and moderation workshop in 2014 that is even more professional than this has been.

Greetings.