

3 January 2006

To: All learners enrolling at FET Colleges that are provisionally accredited with Umalusi

### **INFORMATION REGARDING STATUS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROGRAMMES BEING OFFERED BY FET COLLEGES**

This correspondence from Umalusi contains important information, which you as a student must use when considering the qualification or programme of study you wish to enroll for.

It is our experience that students mainly enquire as to whether the provider/college is registered and/ or accredited without necessarily asking whether the qualifications or programmes being offered are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and whether the college has been accredited or granted approved by the relevant Education and Training Authority (ETQA) to offer such qualifications/programmes.

Please take note that at this present time, no private FET Colleges are registered, as the National Department of Education, which is the registering authority has only recently (June 2005) begun the process of inviting private colleges to lodge applications for registration.

Umalusi is the Council for Quality Assurance in the General and Further Education and Training bands of the national qualifications framework (NQF). The General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act (Act 58 of 2001) requires Umalusi to, among other things

- accredit private providers;
- monitor the suitability and adequacy of standards and qualifications;
- ensure that providers adopt quality management systems for learner achievement;
- assure the quality of learner assessment at exit points; and
- issue certificates of learner achievements.

In terms of Umalusi's current scope of operations, qualifying providers are granted three (3) years provisional accreditation. This provisional accreditation has been granted on the meeting of minimum criteria (for provisional accreditation) and attests to a level of institutional credibility. It DOES NOT guarantee the quality of the programmes or their status.

In this regard then, it is necessary for students to ascertain from the provider / college the status of the qualifications or programmes for which they intend enrolling. The following qualifications or programmes may be offered by providers.

## National qualifications

These are qualifications that are registered on the NQF. As such they are credit bearing and are quality assured by an ETQA (SETA ETQA's or Umalusi). This means that upon successful completion the certificate will be issued by the ETQA (SETA ETQA or Umalusi). Before enrolling for such qualifications or programmes, students must obtain proof from the college that these qualifications are registered on the NQF and that the college has approval from the relevant SETA to offer such programmes. A valid NQF identification number which can be verified on the SAQA website is proof that these qualifications or programmes are in fact registered on the NQF.

Students enrolling for Department of Education registered qualifications (N courses and National Senior Certificate) must ensure that the college enrolls them for the national examinations with the Department of Education as Colleges are not allowed to set their own examinations and/or issue certificates for these programmes.

## Provider programmes

These include:

- non-formal qualifications and programmes which are non-accredited, non-registered programmes. Students enrolling for these programmes must understand that these programmes are NOT credit bearing, and therefore DO NOT lead to any registered qualification. Also they DO NOT have any official equivalency with NQF registered qualifications. The college usually certifies these qualifications.
- Some Provider programmes have interim NQF registration status- these provider programmes were at the launch of the NQF granted interim registration on the NQF in order to facilitate the development of unit standards for such qualifications. This interim registration expires in June 2006. The college issues certificates on completion of these qualification

Learners wanting to register are advised to familiarize themselves with the contents of this correspondence and to ensure that they fully understand the status of the qualification /programme for which they register.

Umalusi, Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training takes this opportunity to wish you success with the qualification / programme you have registered for.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I \_\_\_\_\_ (*full name of student*)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*ID number*)

Registered at \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of College*)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Student number*)

hereby acknowledge that I have read the contents of this Umalusi correspondence and that I understand the implications thereof in terms of my choice of qualification or study programme.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE