Minister Pandor appoints a strong Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Reference Group

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor has appointed a 23 member Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Reference Group as part of the implementation of Phase 1 of the Recognition of Prior Learning Coordination Policy.

The Reference Group, will be chaired by Professor Ahmed Bawa, and is made up of the following members; Adv. Eben Boshoff; Ms Gerda Magnus; Mr Neil Makhaga; Mr Tsela Moloi; Ms Vuyokazi Patuleni; Dr Shirley Lloyd; Mr Mogamat Shaafig Fredericks; Mr Joe Samuels; Dr Amani Saidi; Ms Busi Langa-Mtsintsilana; Dr Eva Sujee; Prof Alan Tait; Dr Joy Van Kleef; Ms Desiree Vardhan; Ms Conti Magdeline Matlakala; Dr James Keevy; Professor Benjamin Anderson; Mr Ernest Lebuso Monyatsi; Ms Lazelle Van Kramberg; Mr Ashley Benjamin; Mr Bhabhali Ka Maphikela Nhlapo and Ms Elsie Potgieter
The Group begins its work today, 20 July 2018, and has been appointed for a period of three years.

The Group’s main functions will be to advise the Minister about funding for the Coordinating mechanism for RPL in Phase 1; to develop a strategy and implementation plan for Phase 2 of the RPL Coordination Policy; monitor and evaluate the progress made in RPL implementation and coordination across the education and training sector; and identify barriers to RPL implementation which may require legislative amendments.

**About Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Coordination Policy**

The *purpose* of this RPL policy is to provide a strong enabling policy environment for the further development and implementation of RPL across the post-school education and training system, and across all levels of the NQF. It seeks to provide a solid policy to ensure that the RPL objectives of the NQF Act are met. It aims to
- Facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within, education and training and career paths, (section 5 (1)(b) of the NQF Act); and
- Accelerate the redress of past unfair discrimination in education, training and employment opportunities (section 5 (1) (d) of the NQF Act).

The RPL Coordination Policy will support the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region related to education and training.

This policy is based on the report and proposals from the Ministerial Task team on a National strategy for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) (2013), and the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training (2013). It also recognizes a range of RPL-related initiatives. Some of these have been underway for several years, and others are being planned for the future. These will be part of an integrated strategy for RPL policy.
implementation, which has been developed by SAQA and the Quality Councils (QCs).

This is a strategic policy and has drawn on international trends in recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning and workplace-based experiential learning. The key international influences on the policy have been the valuable research of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL).

Ends

Enquiries:

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The Reference Group has the following terms of reference:

1. Advise the Minister about funding for RPL implementation on an annual basis.

2. Collaborate, cooperate and communicate with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the three Quality Councils regarding RPL implementation across education and training system.

3. Recognise and collaborate with RPL centres.

4. Provide guidance and support to implementing agencies such as education and training institutions and RPL centres.

5. Advise the Minister about the Professionalisation of RPL Practitioners.