



**MINISTRY  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**MINISTER MANAMELA TO BRIEF THE MEDIA ON THE PHASING OUT OF PRE-2009 QUALIFICATIONS**

TO ALL MEDIA

2 JUNE 2026

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela will brief the media on developments relating to the implementation of transitional arrangements for the introduction of occupational qualifications. The Minister will be supported by the leadership of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) as the implementing agencies of the transition.

The media briefing will address the implications of the phasing-out process for learners, training providers, employers and institutions across the post-school education and training sector. The Minister will also provide an update on the categories of qualifications being phased out, the rationale for the transition to occupational qualifications, and the implementation timelines associated with the process.

The transition forms part of government's broader skills revolution agenda, aimed at modernising the post-school education and training system and strengthening alignment between education, skills development and labour market needs. Occupational qualifications support a dual model of skilling that combines structured learning with workplace-based training and practical experience, enabling learners to acquire skills that are directly relevant to employment and economic participation.

As South Africa marks Youth Month, the Minister will also highlight the role of occupational qualifications in expanding opportunities for young people to access industry-relevant training, gain workplace exposure and improve their prospects for sustainable employment.

**Details of the media briefing are as follows:**

Date: Wednesday 3 June 2026

Time: 08:00

Venue: Imbizo Media Centre, Parliament, Cape Town

To RSVP, kindly contact Robinson Nqola on 073 544 0061 / 078 9352125 or email [rnqola@saqa.org.za](mailto:rnqola@saqa.org.za)

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