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# Materials Qualifications in the Roads Sector

# Question

- Is there industry support and energy to pursue the matter?

# Answer

## – “NO”

- Roads Sector must accept the consequences
  - Deterioration of already poor road infrastructure
  - Less skills to deal with increasing problems
  - Downward spiral

# Answer

## – “YES”

- Roads Sector must take responsibility and drive the process
  - This affects everyone in the Roads Sector
    - » Clients
    - » Consultants
    - » Contractors
    - » Laboratories
    - » Material Suppliers
  - No one else will!!!

# Problems

- Extremely poor quality control on site
  - Need for materials/quality control specialist seemingly not recognised
  - Expertise of experienced materials practitioners not recognised
  - Proliferation of Project Managers/Administrators
    - Limited materials experience
    - SCM specialists

# Problems

## – Labour issues

- Sparse and aging expertise (NQF 5 and higher)
  - Extinction of the species threatens
- Difficulty in retaining experienced Laboratory staff (NQF 2 – 4)
- NQF Objective – Redress of past discrimination
  - Lack of qualification blocks recognition of skills (TASK)

# Problems

- No career path for specialists in the Materials Field
  - No active qualifications for NQF levels 5 and higher
  - No active qualification for NQF levels 2 – 4
    - SAQA 49058 - National Certificate Construction Materials Testing - NQF 2
    - SAQA 49017 - National Certificate Construction Materials Testing - NQF 3
    - SAQA 48817 - National Certificate Construction Materials Testing - NQF 4
  - Specialised field
    - Small numbers of personnel

# History

- RPF issues dating back to 2001
  - Skills Development Task Group – RPF Nov. 2001
  - Resurrected – RPF May 2007
    - Barry Dumas, Les Sampson
  - Desired outcome never achieved!!!



# History

## – SANAS

- Quality systems
  - NLA proficiency testing
- Not career path oriented

# Legislated Background

– Mine-field!!!

- SAQA
- NQF
- CETA
- QCTO
- .....

# Legislated Background

## – SAQA

(South African Qualifications Authority)

- Oversees development of National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

# Legislated Background

## – NQF

### (National Qualifications Framework)

- Facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within, education, training and career paths;
- Accelerate the redress of past unfair discrimination in education, training and employment opportunities.

# Legislated Background

## – CETA

### (Construction Education and Training Authority)

- CETA's primary objective is to influence the course of training and skills development in the construction sector.
- Ratify workplace skills plans.
- Establish learnerships.
- Little past success!!!

# Legislated Background

## – QCTO

(Quality Council for Trades & Occupations)

- Develop and recommend qualifications in a training Sector to SAQA.

# Question

- Is there industry support and energy to pursue the matter?

# Proposal

- Resurrect Skills Development Task Team
- Enlist Education Expert to chart a course through the legislative mine-field.
- Find a reliable “home” within the Roads Sector to hold relevant SAQA documentation
- Roads Sector involvement in influencing career path development



# Proposal

- Career Path NQF 5 and above
  - Career path opportunities for the previously disadvantaged?
    - Can the N qualification route be used as a precursor?
  - What is the most feasible route?
    - National Higher Diploma (Civil Eng.)
      - » B.Tech (Materials)
    - National Higher Diploma (Materials)

# Proposal

- Career Path NQF 2 - 4
  - What of the existing SAQA registered qualifications?
  - Merits of the N qualification route?
    - Training by FET colleges?
  - Merits of an apprenticeship system?
    - Training by FET colleges?



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Thank You