

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 780

01 JULY 2016

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 67 OF 2008)**NOMINATIONS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING REFERENCE GROUP**

After a process which started with the appointment of the Ministerial Task Team for Recognition of Prior Learning (MTT RPL) in 2012; the publication of a draft RPL policy in 2014; receipt of many comments; consultation with key stakeholders; submission to the technical working groups of two Directors-General clusters; and a final round of narrow consultation, the RPL Coordination policy has now been published in Government Gazette No. No. 39876, dated 31 March 2016.

The Policy recognises that a strong driver and coordinating mechanism is required to ensure that RPL is further developed and implemented on a wide scale across the education and training system. This strategy would best be served by establishing a national RPL coordinating mechanism. This should be established in two phases, to ensure that the urgency to establish the coordinating mechanism is realized, as well as to ensure that there is sufficient time to legislate the establishment of an institutional mechanism and to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for RPL implementation.

In the first phase, DHET will establish a national coordinating mechanism for RPL with a Reference Group. The Terms of the Reference for the Reference Group are in **SCHEDULE 1**.

I am inviting nominations of people who will serve in the Reference Group on RPL. The Reference Group must comprise persons who are representative of all races, gender and disability.

The members appointed must:

- a) be broadly representative of the education and training sectors and related interests;
- b) have thorough knowledge and understanding of education and training, and RPL in particular;
- c) appreciate the role of education and training in the reconstruction and transformation of the South African economy and society;
- d) have known and attested commitment to the interests of education and training, and RPL in particular; and
- e) have knowledge and understanding of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) matters and quality assurance in education and training.

Nominations are encouraged from:

- (a) Persons involved in education and training;
- (b) Persons involved in work related to RPL;
- (c) Persons involved in Project Management and project implementation;
- (d) Persons who have sound knowledge of research, monitoring and evaluation;
- (e) Organisations involved in education and training, and particularly RPL;
- (f) Professional bodies;
- (g) Organised labour;
- (h) Organised business;
- (i) Organisations representing community and development interests; and
- (j) International RPL Specialists.

The nomination form is in **SCHEDULE 2**. Nominations should be submitted to:

Dr S Lloyd

Tel: 012 312 5081/5178

Email: Lloyd.s@dhet.gov.za

Address: Ndinaye Building, 178 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria, 0001

Nominations must reach the Department within 30 days of publication of this Notice.



DR BE NZIMANDE, MP

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

DATE: 14/06/2016

SCHEDULE 1**TERMS OF REFERENCE****REFERENCE GROUP TO IMPLEMENT PHASE 1 OF THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND COORDINATION POLICY****BACKGROUND**

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, in terms of section 8(2)(b) of the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act 67 of 2008) published the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Coordination Policy in Government Gazette No. 39876, dated 31 March 2016.

The Policy provides for the establishment of a national coordinating mechanism for the Recognition of Prior Learning Institute (NRPLI). The NRPLI will be established in two phases. In the first phase, DHET will establish a national coordinating mechanism for RPL with a Reference Group.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Reference Group has the following terms of reference:

1. Advise the Minister about funding for the Coordinating mechanism for RPL in Phase 1.
2. Advise the Minister about funding for RPL implementation on an annual basis.
3. Collaborate, cooperate and communicate with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the three Quality Councils regarding RPL implementation across the education and training system.
4. Recognise and collaborate with RPL centres.
5. Provide guidance and support to implementing agencies such as education and training institutions and RPL centres.
6. Develop a strategy and implementation plan for Phase 2 of the Coordinating mechanism.
7. Advise the Minister about the Professionalisation of RPL Practitioners.

REPORTING

The Reference Group will report quarterly to the Minister about the progress made in RPL coordination across the education and training sector. These reports will be monitoring and evaluation reports which will include the quality of RPL implementation, and identify barriers to RPL implementation which may require legislative amendments.

COMPOSITION

1. The NQF Directorate will be the convenor of the Reference Group and provide the secretariat services.
2. The Reference Group will comprise one representative from each of the following bodies:
 - DHET Branches (one per Branch)
 - SAQA
 - Umalusi
 - Council on Higher Education (CHE)
 - Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)
 - Universities South Africa
 - SACPO
 - Professional Bodies
 - Three (3) persons who have thorough knowledge and understanding of RPL
 - Two (2) International Specialists in RPL who will provide input via Skype, email, and/or other means.
3. The Minister will appoint the Chairperson of the Reference Group.
4. The Reference Group will have the power to co-opt subject matter experts as and when required.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

The work of the Reference Group will commence from the date of publication in a Notice of the names of the Reference Group.

The members of the Reference Group will be appointed for a period of three (3) years.

MEETINGS

The Reference Group will meet quarterly and members must be available for at least 80% of the scheduled meetings.

SCHEDULE 2**NOMINATIONS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING REFERENCE GROUP****NOMINATION FORM****A The Nominee**

I, _____ hereby nominate
_____ whose
curriculum vitae is attached for membership to the Reference Group on Recognition of Prior Learning
(RPL) Coordination Policy.

B The person I am nominating:

1. Is broadly representative of the education and training sectors, and RPL in particular

Motivation/Detail: _____

2. Has thorough knowledge and understanding of education and training, and specifically RPL

Motivation/Detail: _____

3. Appreciates the role of education and training in the reconstruction and transformation of the South
African economy and society

Motivation/Detail: _____

4. Has known and attested commitment to the interests of RPL in particular

Motivation/Detail: _____

5. Has knowledge and understanding of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) matters and quality assurance in education and training

Motivation/Detail: _____

C Representivity in terms of race, gender and disability

1. The nominee considers himself/herself to be representative of which **race**: _____

2. **Gender** ☐ Male ☐ Female

3. **Disability:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes to 3, describe: _____

D The person nominated is from (More than one tick is permissible):

- | | Tick |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Persons involved in education and training | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Persons involved in work related to RPL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Persons involved in Project Management and project implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Persons who have sound knowledge of research, monitoring and evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Organisations involved in education and training | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. Professional bodies
7. Organised labour
8. Organised business
9. Organisations representing community and development interests
10. International RPL Specialists

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Name of nominator: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If this nomination is being made on behalf of organizations listed in 5 – 10 above please complete:

1. Name of the organization: _____

2. Name of mandated official making the nomination:

3. Designation/Position of the mandated official: _____

Acceptance of the nomination by nominee:

I, _____ hereby accept the
above nomination.

Signature: _____

Date: _____