

## **COMMUNIQUE TO PRIVATE PROVIDERS AND THE ETQA SECTOR IN THE FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING BAND**

### **Who must register with the department of education as a private FET institution**

The requirement to register with the Department of Education as a private further education and training (FET) institution applies to private education institutions that offer full qualifications that are registered at Levels 2, 3 or 4 of the National Qualifications Framework.

Private education institutions that exclusively offer short courses, or individual unit standards, or individual school subjects are not required to register as private FET institutions with the Department. However, such institutions must ensure that they are accredited to offer such short skills programmes, courses, or school subjects by relevant *Education and Training Quality Assurance (ETQA) Bodies*. They must further ensure their advertising and marketing materials indicate to the public that what they offer are not qualifications, but short skills programmes, courses or school subjects.

Should such institutions later wish to offer full FET qualifications, only then will they be required to register with the Department of Education.

Therefore all private education institutions that exclusively offer short courses, or individual unit standards, or individual school subjects and are accredited by the relevant ETQA for this purpose are not in contravention of any legislation regulating the provision of further education and training in South Africa.

### **Accreditation**

One of the requirements for registration as a private further education and training (FET) institution is that the applicant must meet the requirements of Umalusi. Given that when the process of registration started most private FET institutions had already been accredited by other *Education and Training Quality Assurance bodies*, it became crucial that a transitional mechanism for recognizing the accreditation by other ETQA had to be found.

In their deliberation on this matter, the Department, SAQA and Umalusi have agreed that, as an interim measure until 31 December 2007, in order to meet the requirements for registration in respect of accreditation, all private providers that are accredited by SETA's and other ETQA's should submit to Umalusi the following documents:

- a) A letter of intent to apply for accreditation with Umalusi
- b) A sworn declaration that the provider will comply with the requirements of Umalusi
- c) Application Form for accreditation
- d) Documentary proof of accreditation by another ETQA

After receiving these documents and verifying the accreditation status of the provider, Umalusi will communicate to the Registrar its advice on the accreditation status of the provider concerned. The Registrar will grant registration to any provider that is accredited by a SETA or any other ETQA, subject to the provider's compliance with other requirements for registration.