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## GENERAL NOTICE

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### NOTICE 1077 OF 2010

#### DEPARTMENT HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

#### NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT 67 OF 2008

#### CALL FOR COMMENTS ON THE POLICY ON THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training, hereby publish the *Policy on the Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications* for public comment

This policy aligns qualifications for teacher education with *The Higher Education Qualifications Framework, 2007*, and it replaces the *Norms and Standards for Educators in Schooling, 2000*, in its entirety.

The policy has been developed in consultation with key role players in the field, including the Education Deans Forum of Higher Education South Africa, the Council on Higher Education, the Department of Basic Education, the Heads of Education Departments Committee, and the Sub-Committee on Teacher Education and Development, the Teacher Unions, the South African Council of Educators, public and private higher education institutions that offer teacher education.

The policy describes minimum standards for different types of teacher qualifications in accordance with their purpose, and level. It provides clear guidelines to higher education institutions for the design of learning programmes for the academic and professional preparation of teachers, and describes the basic competences required of newly qualified beginner teachers. Specific emphasis is placed on the knowledge mix required to design purposeful qualification programmes. Integrated and applied knowledge is the umbrella term used to describe five types of learning within teacher education programmes: disciplinary, pedagogical, practical, fundamental and situational. Such programmes should lead to the development of teachers with strong subject content knowledge, who know how to teach specific subjects effectively and confidently in varying South African school phases and contexts; how to teach and communicate in more than one official language, including an indigenous African language; and who are ICT competent.

The policy also describes minimum requirements for further post professional and postgraduate qualification paths for teachers to prepare them for further career advancement in, for example, teaching, education management, education research and support to schools.

The policy also describes articulation and progression routes for teachers in possession of historical qualifications obtained before the implementation of *The Higher Education Qualifications Framework, 2007*, to ensure that clear pathways are created for these teachers to access further qualifications for professional and career development purposes.

The training and development of well-qualified and competent teachers for Grades R to 12 forms the basis for all human resource and skills development at all levels of the National Qualifications Framework and is a high priority for government.

All interested persons and organisations are invited to comment on the draft policy.

Copies of the draft policy may be downloaded from the website of the department at [www://education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za). Hard copies are also available for collection in Room 822, Department of Higher Education and Training, 123 Schoeman Street, Pretoria. Copies will be posted or e-mailed on request to any interested person.

Written comments may be submitted to:

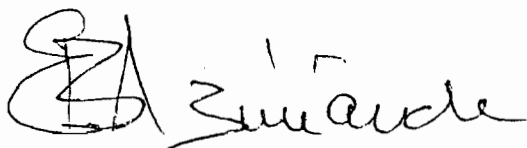
**The Director-General, Office of the Ministry of Higher Education and Training, Private Bag X174, Pretoria, 0001, 123 Schoeman Street**

**For attention: Dr D Parker, Chief Director: Teacher Education and Development, Tel: 012 312 6214, fax: 012 323 3322, e-mail: [parker.d@dhet.gov.za](mailto:parker.d@dhet.gov.za)**

**All comments must reach the Department within 31 days of publication of this notice in the Government Gazette.**

Kindly provide the following contact information when submitting comments: name, address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address.

After considering all comments the final policy on *The Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications* will be published by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in terms of Section 8 (2) (c) of the *National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008*. The Act makes provision for key role players in the field, including the Ministry of Basic Education and the Council on Higher Education to make regular inputs on the effect of the policy on the education system and the priorities of government in this regard.



**Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, MP**

**Minister of Higher Education and Training**

Date: 01/11/10

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