



# THE ZAMBIA QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

**Miriam M.A Chiyaba**  
**Director and Chief Executive Officer**

6th ACQF Peer Learning Webinar,  
22/10/2020  
**Session 2**



# Country Profile

- The Republic of Zambia is a landlocked country located in the Southern part of Africa (with a population of about 18 million). Member of SADC and COMESA.
- Zambia is surrounded by 8 countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Republic of Tanzania; Republic of Malawi; Republic of Mozambique; Republic of Zimbabwe; Republic of Botswana; Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Angola.
- Lusaka is the administrative and economic capital city of Zambia.



---

# Landscape of the Education System



- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Primary**
- **Secondary**
- **TEVET**
- **University**



General Education



Skills Development



Higher Education

# Zambia Qualifications Authority

## Act No. 13 of 2011

Establishment of the Zambia Qualifications Authority as an Institution governed by a Board under Ministry of Higher Edu

Implementation and maintenance of the Zambia Qualifications Framework (ZQF)

Registration and Accreditation of Qualifications

Validation and Evaluation of Qualifications

Ensure that Standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable

Maintain a database of Learner Achievement records in Zambia

# National Qualifications Framework

- Zambia Qualifications Framework (ZQF) was developed and implemented in 2016;
- It comprehensively covers all learning achievements and pathways;
- The Zambia Qualifications Framework (ZQF) is a 10 Level Framework made up of a single integrated system comprising three (3) coordinated qualifications sub-frameworks:



# Importance of the Zambia Qualifications Framework

## *Integration*

- To create a single integrated national framework for learning achievements

## *Access, Mobility and Progression*

- To facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within education, training and career paths

## *Quality*

- To enhance the quality of education and training

## *Employment*

- To promote education, training and employment opportunities

# Structure of Zambia Qualifications Framework

ZQF Level	General Education	Trades and Occupations	Higher Education	
10			Doctorate Degree	
9			Masters Degree	
8			Post-Graduate Diploma	
7			Bachelors Degree	
6			Diploma	
5			Level 5 Certificate	
4			Level 4 Certificate	
3			Level 3 Certificate	
2B			Senior Secondary Education Certificate	
2A			Junior Secondary Education Certificate	
	Primary Education Certificate			
Appropriate Authority	Quality Assurance Bodies established by Acts of Parliament in Zambia			
Co-ordinating Body	THE ZAMBIA QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (ZAQA)			

# ZQF Level Descriptors

Each level of the ZQF is described by a statement of learning achievement known as a level descriptor

The level descriptor provides a generic indication of learning achievements or outcomes that are appropriate to a qualification at that level

**The descriptors are competence based and describe learning outcomes in terms of:**

**Foundational competences ( Knowledge)**

**Practical competences (Skill)**

**Reflexive competences and applied skills (Autonomy and Responsibility)**

---

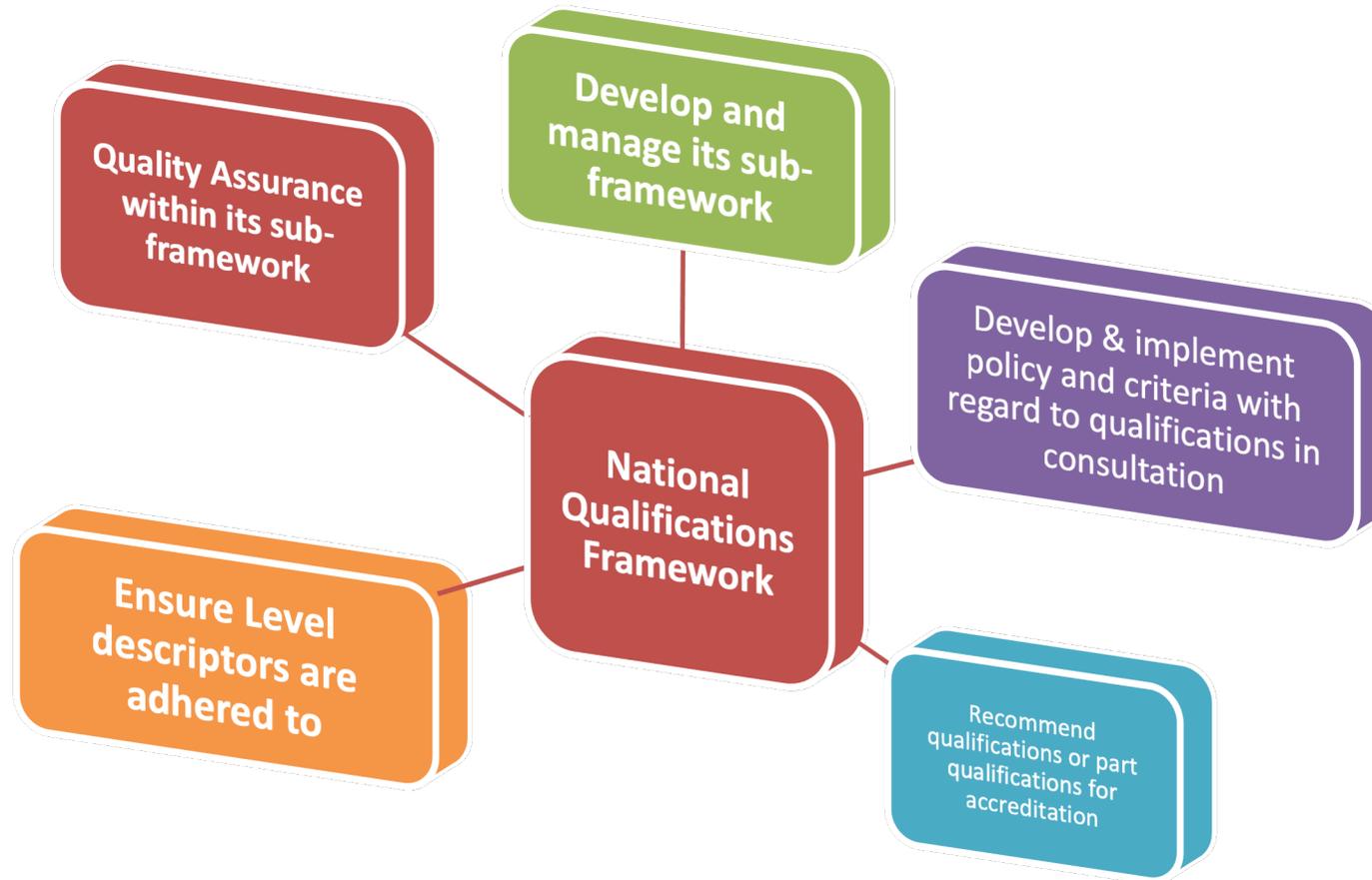
# Quality Assurance of the ZQF



ZAQA coordinates outputs of Appropriate Authorities responsible for the three(3) sub-Frameworks of the Zambia Qualifications Framework

Appropriate Authorities include HEA, TEVETA , ECZ, training institutions, professional bodies

# Roles of Appropriate Authorities in the Sub - Frameworks

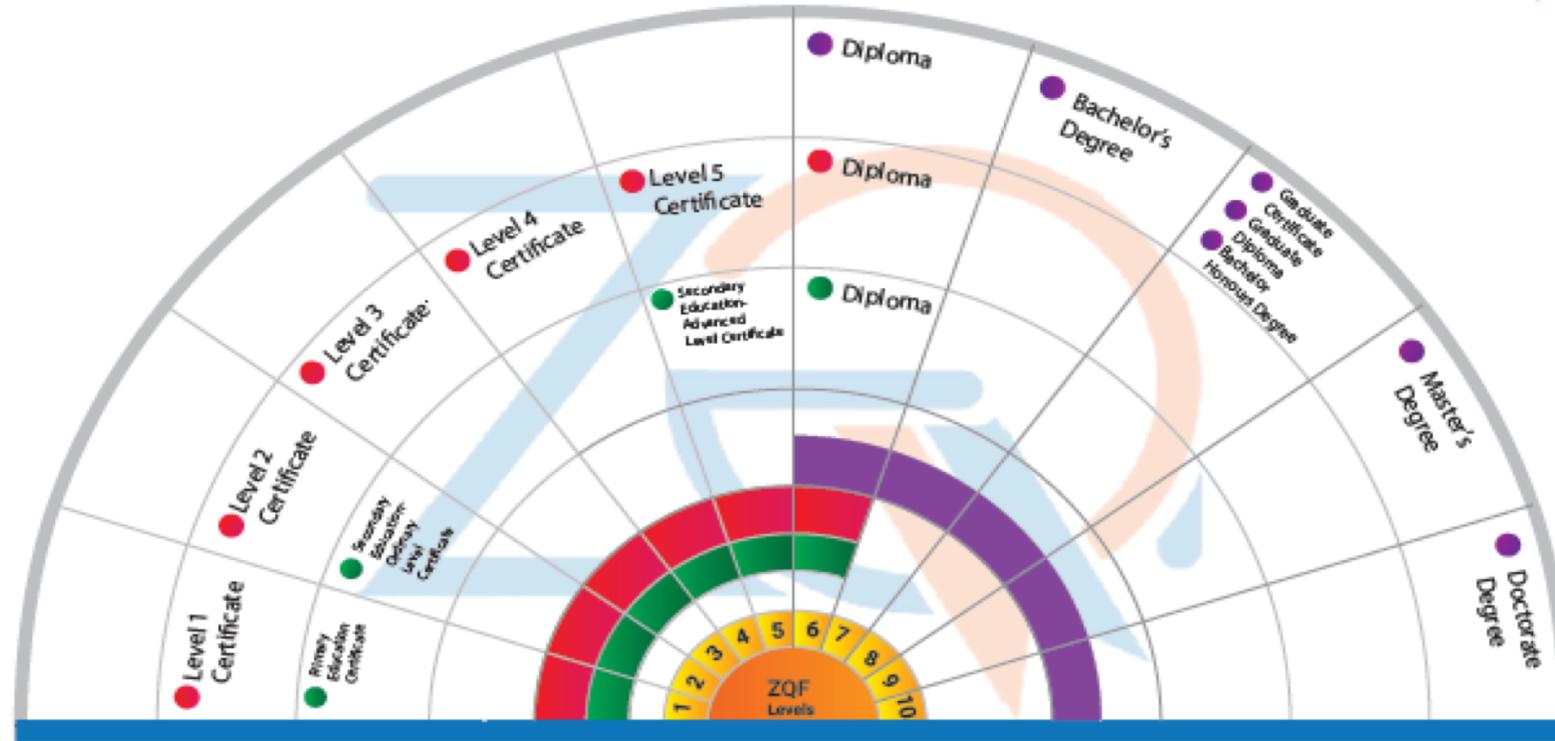


# Review of ZQF

The ZQF is currently undergoing review in order to:

- Ensure the framework is kept current and continues to respond to the ever changing education and training demands in the country;
- Ensure continued regional and international comparability of Zambian qualifications and standards;
- Provide for recognition of qualifications presently not catered for on the framework, e.g. Advanced Level, Bachelor Honours Degree, etc.; and
- Provide for the implementation of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems (CATS).
- Review recognition of Appropriate Authorities and Streamline Quality Assurance in education and training

# ZAMBIA QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (ZQF)



## SUB FRAMEWORKS

- General and Further Education and Training
- Trades and Occupations
- Higher Education

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Ministry of General Education/Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ)
- Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA)
- Higher Education Authority (HEA)

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA)

---

# Alignment of ZQF to SADCQF

Alignment of the ZQF to the Southern African Development Community Qualifications Framework (SADCQF) was undertaken by a National Alignment Committee (NAC)

Key stakeholders were represented on the NAC

Process currently on hold pending review of ZQF and possible review of the SADCQF

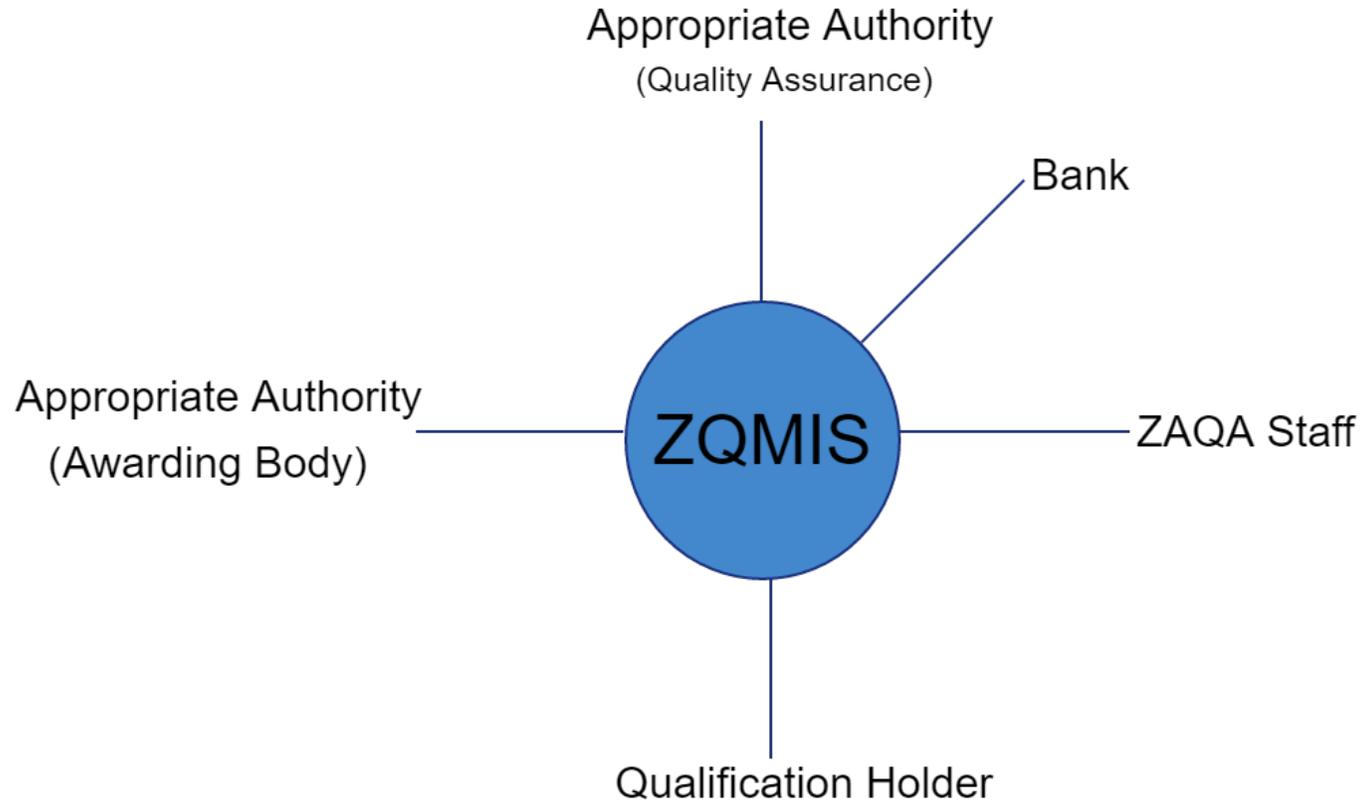
# QMIS and E-Certificate

The Qualifications Management Information System (QMIS) has been implemented and the E – Certificate was launched in June 2020

All services offered by ZAQA can be accessed via the system:

- Application validation and evaluation of qualifications;
- Application for recognition as an appropriate authority/foreign awarding board;
- Application for registration of qualifications;
- Submission of learner records by awarding bodies. The system is also aimed at maintaining an integrated database of learner achievements and related support services.

# System Users



# Sample E-Certificate

 **CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION OF QUALIFICATION**

**Qualification Holder:** [REDACTED]  
**National Registration Card Number / Passport ID:** [REDACTED]  
**ZAQA Reference Number:** 25279  
**Date of Validation/Evaluation:** 11/06/2020  
**Recognised Zambian Qualification:** Bachelors Degree

**This qualification bearing title of:**  
BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND BACHELOR OF SURGERY  
**has been validated as genuinely awarded to:**  
[REDACTED] on [REDACTED]  
**by THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA**  
**a registered and recognised public institution established by the University of Zambia Act No. 66 of 1965 of the Republic of Zambia.**  
**This qualification is recognised in Zambia as Bachelors Degree At Level 7 of the Zambian Qualification Framework.**

**Issued by The Zambia Qualifications Authority**

**MIRIAM M.A. CHIYABA (MRS.)**  
*Director & Chief Executive Officer*

ZAQA has confirmed the above information, for digital certification and sharing by PrivySeal Limited, at 17:29 PM (Africa/Lusaka) on 11 Sep 2020

  
PRIVYSEAL

# The Role of ZAQA in RPL

ZAQA guidance and coordination of RPL development through:

1. Policy and Criteria for Recognition of Prior Learning

– a document developed by ZAQA to guide RPL developers

2. Implementation Support:

– Workshops

– One-on-One

# Development of National Occupational Standards

- The Authority has commenced the development of National Occupational Standards (NOS) in various sectors of the economy in fulfilment of its mandate.
- Occupational Standards will be used in the development of curricula and learning programmes, which will lead to recognisable and internationally comparable qualifications.
- NOS will ensure that curricula and learning programmes are tailored to meet the aspirations of key stakeholders e.g industry.

---

# Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems



Guidelines have been formulated to assist institutions in the development and implementation of Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems in order to:

- Promote harmonisation, mutual recognition and eventual recognition of credits to be awarded at various learning institutions;
- Promote consistent use of credits across departments and training institutions; and
- Ease local, regional and international mobility of students in education and training.

# UNESCO Qualifications Passport(UQP) Project

- ZAQA has been implementing the UQP pilot project;
- During the pilot phase, 61 applications were received from candidates in Meheba Refugee Settlement, (Most of the applicant (90%) were from the Democratic Republic of Congo where the official language is French.). 11 Passports issued.
- The pilot phase activities were funded by UNESCO;
- The Project is a useful intervention for the benefit of the migrant and displaced individuals whose qualification documents require confirmation.
- The Project is further aimed at determining practical application of recognition provisions for refugees and displaced persons in the Addis Convention and the Global Convention

# Impact of Covid-19 on the ZQF and Education & Training

- Negative as slow or Non-Response on verification requests for both local and international qualifications as a result of closure of institutions. Suspension of activities requiring group face to face participants etc.
- All learning institutions shut from March to September, 2020. Nevertheless, learning continued via e-learning and other distance learning platforms. Examination classes resumed class in June 2020 and all exit examinations have been held/ scheduled
- Future considerations : Alternative learning and assessment methods; innovative approaches to achieving learning outcomes; recognition modalities

---

# Thank you!



you learn , we standardize

---