



Recognition of Prior Learning in Mauritius

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A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST: YEAR 2000



- Certification system had been identified as a hindrance to effective realisation of national goals in the field of HRD.
- Number of providers offering courses of varied duration and quality.
- Attendance certificates issued which were not outcome based.
- Limited career pathways.
- No recognition for prior learning.

Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act 2001

Objects of the MQA amongst others:

- to develop, implement and maintain a National Qualifications Framework;

Functions amongst others:

- to recognise and validate competencies for purposes of certification obtained outside the formal education and training systems;



2002: SETTING UP OF THE NQF



MAURITIUS QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

LEVEL	PRIMARY / SECONDARY EDUCATION	TVET / WORKPLACE	TERTIARY EDUCATION	LEVEL
10			Doctorate	10
9			Masters Degrees e.g. MA, MSc, M Phil Post-Graduate Diploma Post-Graduate Certificate	9
8			Bachelor Degree with Honours	8
7			Bachelor (Ordinary Degree)	7
6			National Diploma Level 6	Diploma
5	HSC / GCE 'A' Level / BAC / IBAC / HSC Professional	National Certificate Level 5	Certificate	5
4		National Certificate Level 4		4
3	SC / GCE 'O' Level	National Certificate Level 3		3
2	National Certificate of Education (NCE)	National Certificate Level 2		2
1	Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)	National Certificate Level 1		1

NQF: AN ENABLER FOR RPL

- **Development of National Qualifications at Levels 1 to 6**
- **Clear and accurate information/qualification titles**
- **Qualifications based on Unit Standards**
- **Unit Standards based on Learning Outcomes**
- **Credits assigned to Unit Standards**
- **Flexible education and learning pathways**

NEED FOR RPL

PERSON

- Recognition of prior work experience to value PEOPLE
- Allow people to acquire a qualification for further training and career progression
- Access to higher education
- Promotion of lifelong learning

EMPLOYER

- Reduction on cost of training of people
- Reduce mismatch of skills requirements

COUNTRY

- A move towards a qualified skilled workforce
- Promote social inclusion and equity for disadvantaged groups
- Attract investors
- Optimisation on the use of human capital



Definitions and Terminologies

Various terminologies worldwide

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL)

La Validation des Acquis de L'Expérience (VAE)

Recognition of Prior Learning is a process used to identify, assess and certify a person's knowledge, skills and competencies, regardless of how, when and where the learning occurred, against prescribed standards for a part or full qualification. (ILO, 2015)

In a nutshell

- Drawing evidence of learning out of candidate experience.
- Evaluating whether evidence is strong enough
- Development of a document that makes the evidence clear

2007: TOWARDS THE MAURITIAN RPL MODEL

As per the MQA Act validates and recognises experience obtained outside the formal education and training system

Commonwealth of Learning collaborated with MQA to launch a National Sensitisation Campaign

Unesco Institute For Lifelong Learning assisted MQA to develop the policy and criteria for RPL

L'Académie de la Réunion trained MQA staff, RPL Facilitators and Assessors & Conducted Audit

2007: RPL GUIDELINES

➤ **PRE-APPLICATION**

- Candidate is provided information about the process of RPL

➤ **PRE-SCREENING**

- The candidate submits his/her application and identifies the qualification against which RPL will be claimed.

➤ **FACILITATION**

- The facilitator guides the RPL candidate in the preparation of the portfolio.

➤ **ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION**

- The candidate is assessed against the unit standards of the selected qualification

(The Guidelines for RPL were reviewed to include Pre-Application in 2016)

2008: PILOT PROJECTS

1. TOURISM INDUSTRY

- Employees of the Hotel sector
- Unemployed people from the formal and informal hospitality sector
- VRS people from the Sugar industry



2. CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

- RPL Candidates identified by Building and Civil Engineering Contractor's Association (BACECA)



LAUNCHING OF RPL AT NATIONAL LEVEL

2009: RPL launched in Mauritius in the following sectors:

- Tourism;
- Construction;
- Printing and
- Plumbing.

2010: RPL opened to all sectors of the Mauritian economy



- **2010-2011: Low intake of RPL Candidates**
 - ❖ **High cost of RPL: Facilitation cost; Assessment cost and Application fee for RPL**
- **2012: Round Table with ILO for RPL Policy review**
- **2013: Change in strategy – individual-based v/s project-based**
- **2014: Project-based with various institutions (e.g. Ministry of Education, NEF)**
- **2015: RPL in new areas (e.g. Special Education Needs) and at higher NQF Levels (Level 6)**
- **2016: Task Team for development of RPL Guidelines for SADC countries**
- **2019: Financial assistance from the HRDC as RPL support scheme**
- **2019: 2nd prize winner for the 3rd VPL Biennale for RPL Policy**
- **2022: Introduction of e-application and portfolio development for RPL**
- **To date: Among 800+ candidates, 65% have acquired either a full or partial awards.**

RPL: UPCOMING CHALLENGES

TVET SECTOR

RPL carried out for certification

- Inadequate RPL Facilitators
- Lack of motivation by candidates
- Access to evidence limited in many cases
(Validity, Reliability, Currency, Authenticity, Adequacy)
- Resilient Awarding Bodies is crucial
- Massive RPL campaign underway

Higher Education

Entry to University Programmes

Need to harmonise RPL across all sectors of the education and training system in Mauritius

The Higher Education Commission and Mauritius Qualifications Authority working together towards a National Policy Framework for RPL in Mauritius

and the journey continues...





*Thank
you*



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