



The South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

Session 2-2
TCCA Meeting 9-10 April 2024



SOUTH AFRICAN NQF

The NQF is a comprehensive system approved by the Minister for the classification, registration, publication and articulation of quality assured national qualifications.

The NQF is a conceptual 'ladder' of increasing cognitive complexity that enables evaluations of parity for registered qualifications across its three sub-frameworks and across global frameworks



NQF LEVELS



SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK



GENERAL FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK



U.M.A.L.U.S.I

DOCTORAL DEGREE
DOCTORAL DEGREE
(PROFESSIONAL)

10

MASTER'S DEGREE
MASTER'S DEGREE
(PROFESSIONAL)

9

BACHELOR HONOURS DEGREE
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA
BACHELOR'S DEGREE

8

SPECIALISED
OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA

BACHELOR'S DEGREE
ADVANCED DIPLOMA

7

ADVANCED
OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA

DIPLOMA
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

6

OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA

HIGHER CERTIFICATE

5

HIGHER
OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE

4

NATIONAL
OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE

INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE

3

INTERMEDIATE
OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE

ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATE

2

ELEMENTARY
OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE

GENERAL CERTIFICATE

1

GENERAL
OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE



OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK

NQF Amendment Act

OVERSEE
NQF implementation
and co-ordinate NQF
Sub-Frameworks



ADVISE
the Minister of
Higher Education and
Training on NQF
matters

DEVELOP
and implement NQF
policies and criteria



MAINTAIN
a National Learners'
Records Database

REGISTER
qualifications and
professional
designations on the
NQF



RECOGNISE
professional
bodies

PROVIDE
evaluation and
advisory services for
foreign qualifications



PROVIDE
verification services
for national
qualifications

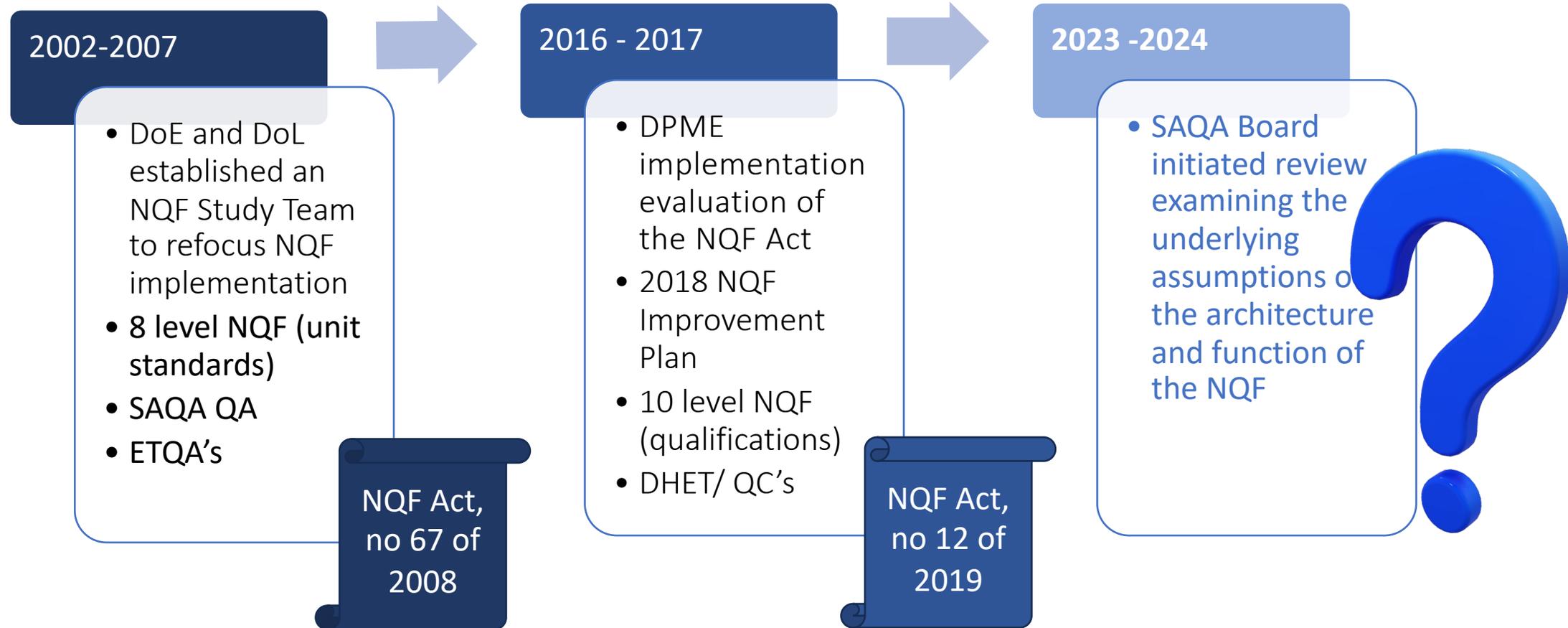
CONDUCT
research and collaborate
with international
counterparts



INFORM
the public about
the NQF

Misrepresentation

Reviews of the NQF



The NQF Review
is providing
emerging
insights which
will inform
SAQA strategies
going forward.

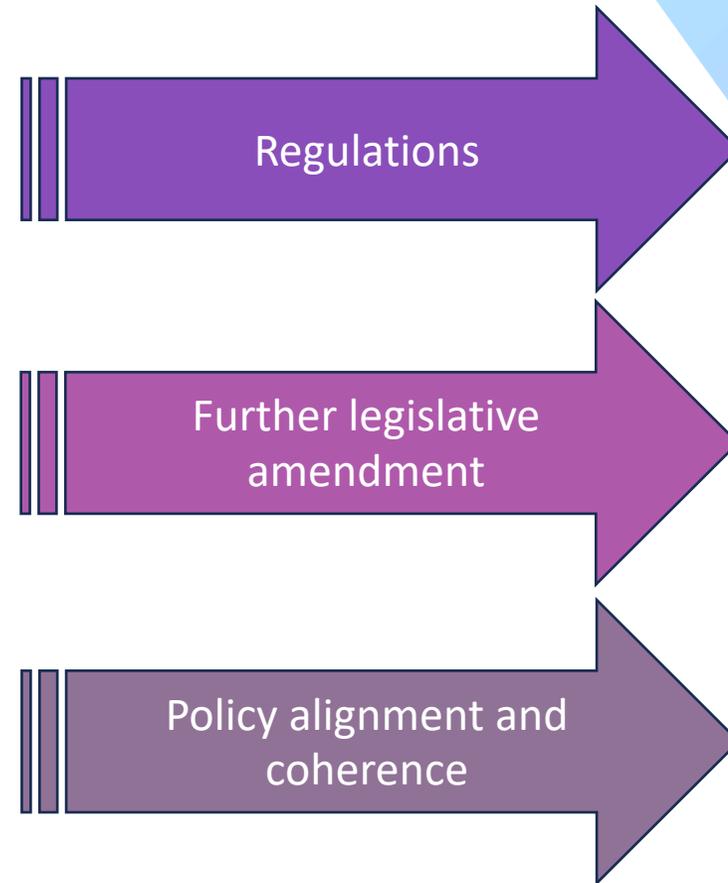
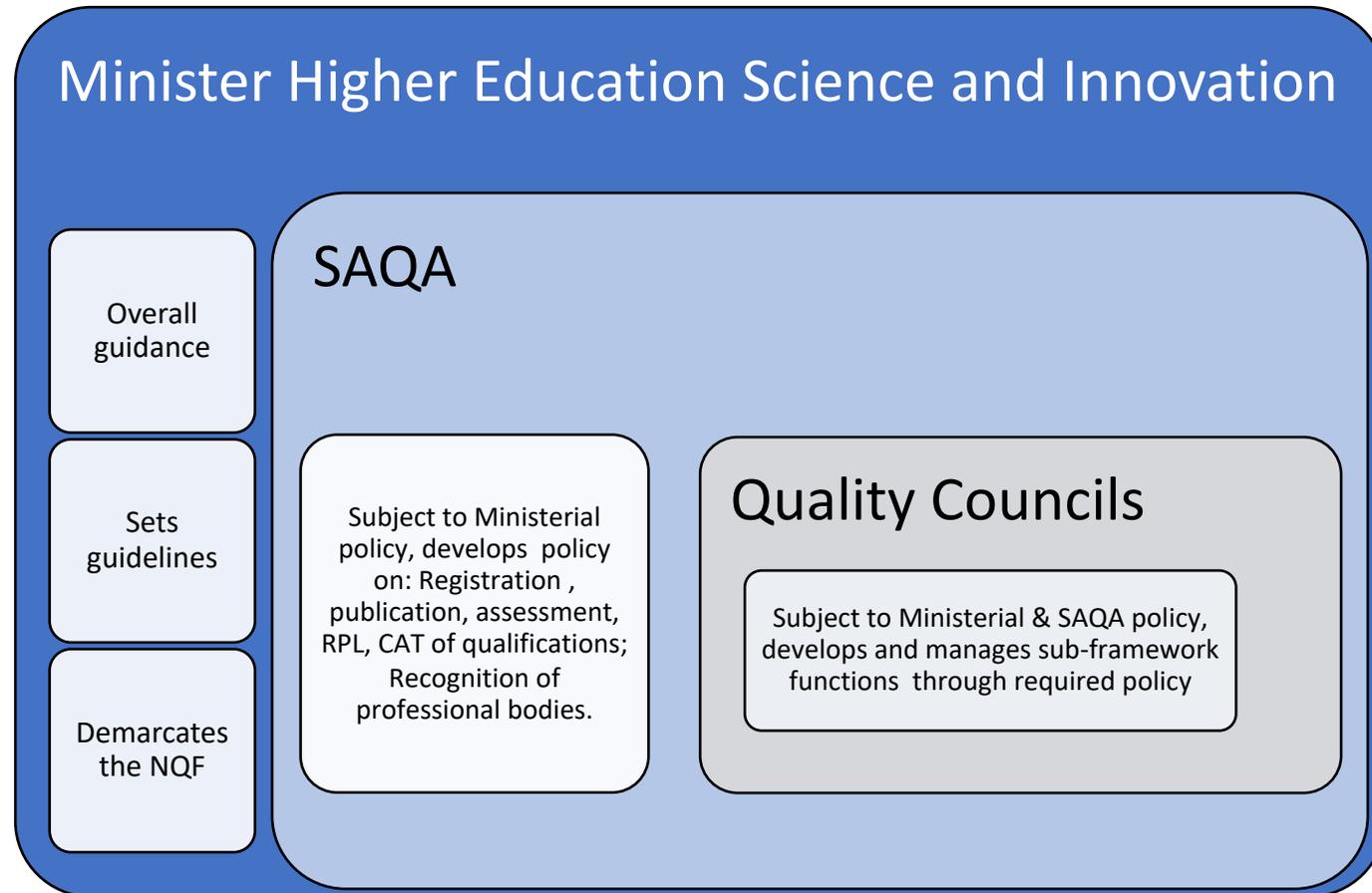
NQF Review

- more strategic positioning; coordination and governance
- Institutional review
- review and reinterpret NQF objectives to ensure that the qualifications on the NQF meet their:
 - ❖ Educational purpose
 - ❖ Occupational purpose, and
 - ❖ Social justice and inclusion role (Wheeiehan, 2023)

Professional Body Review

- PB's should remain in the NQF
- legislative contradiction should be reviewed
- regulatory systems and processes to be clarified and adjusted

Regulatory review in the NQF environment



Reviewed Policies

- Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) **2021**
- Registering of qualifications and part-qualifications **2022**
- Recognising professional bodies **2023**
- Evaluation of foreign qualifications **2024**

Policies in Review

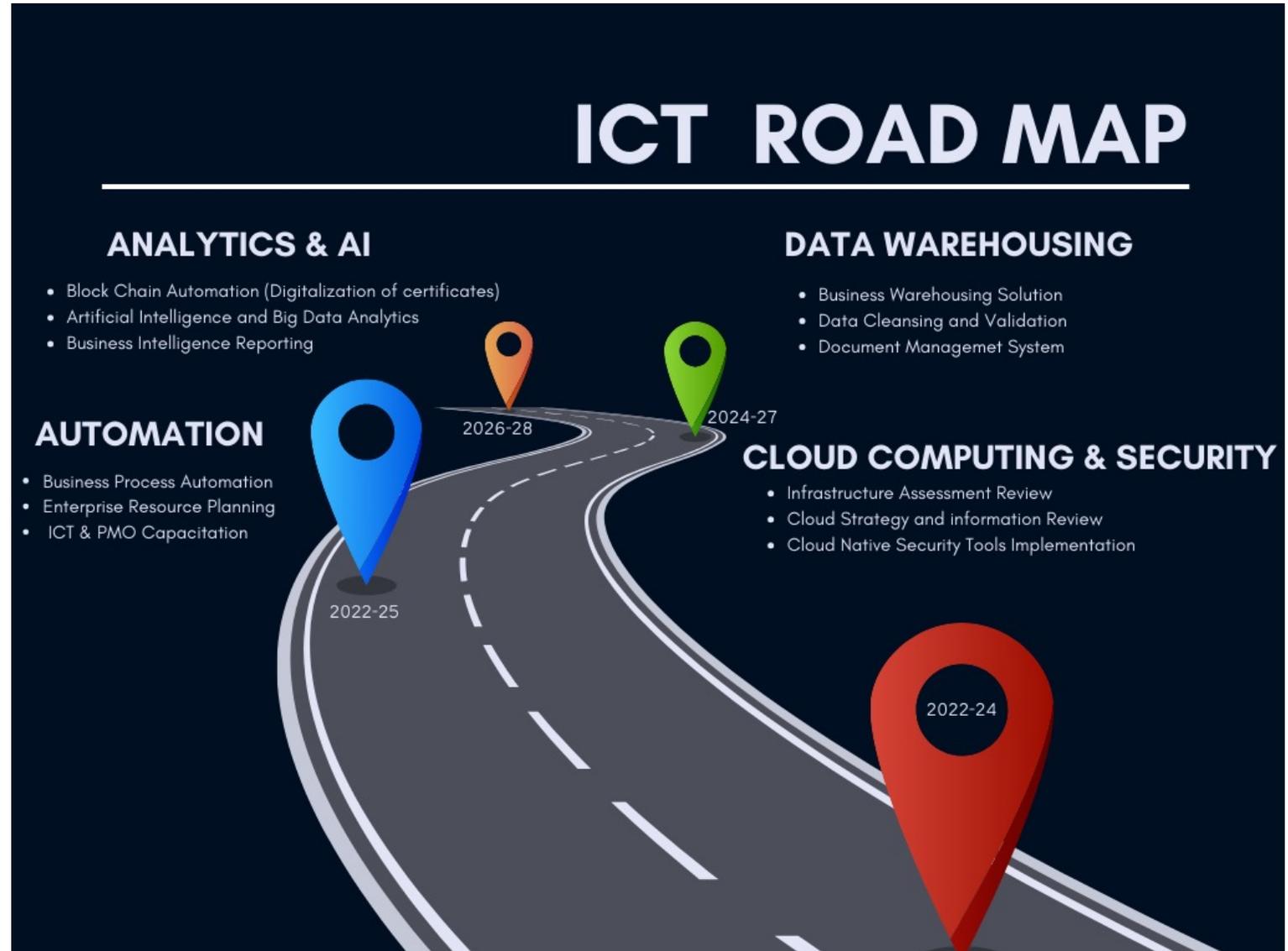
- Level Descriptors **2012**
- DHET RPL **2019**. Ministry public consultation process underway.
- Data Load Specifications (regulations)

Policies to be reviewed

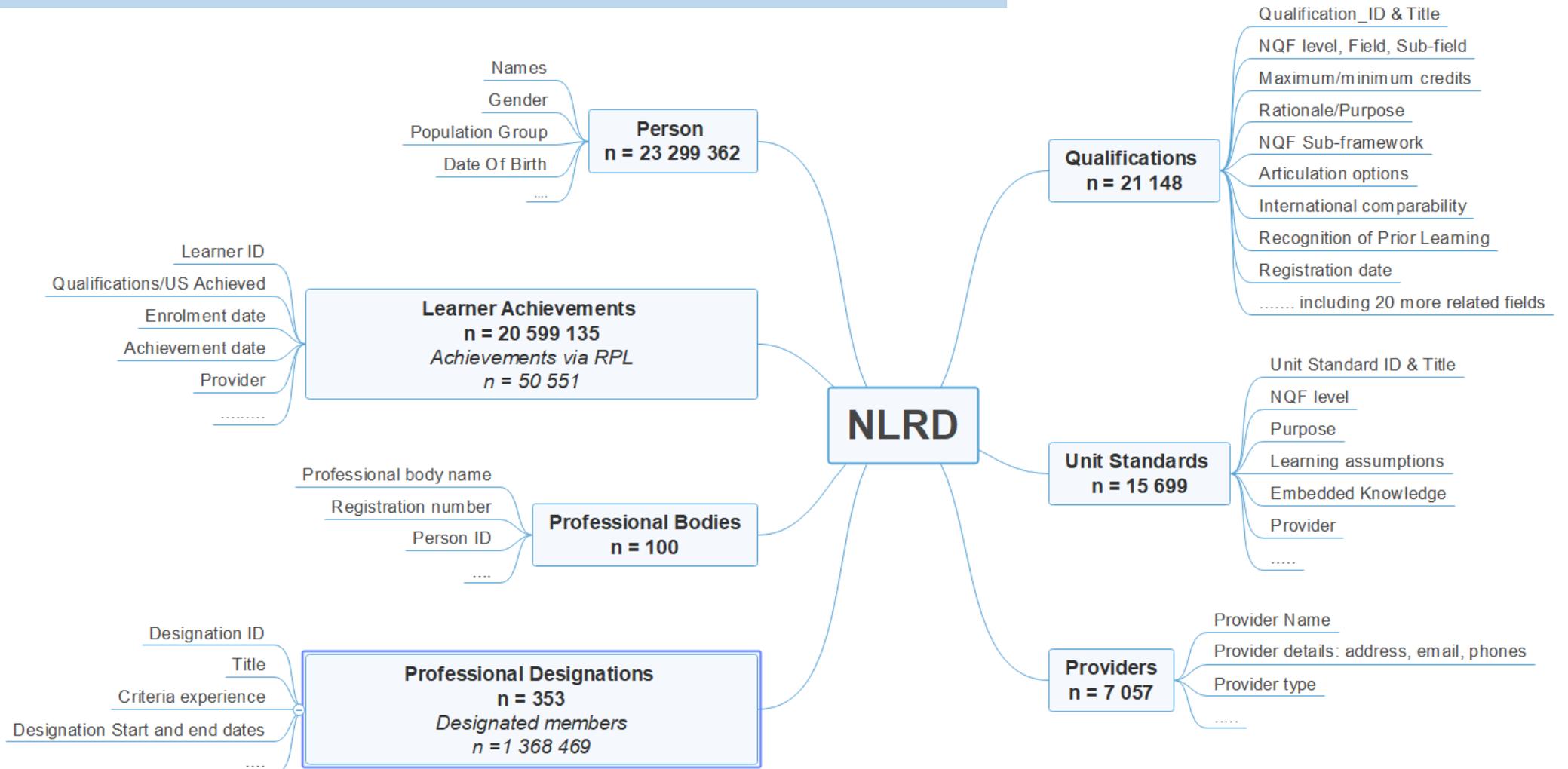
- National Verification (new)
- Misrepresentation (new)
- Assessment **2014**
- DHET Articulation Policy **2017**. To be reviewed after the RPL Process

Automation

- Cloud computing, cyber security implemented, and business processes being automated
- Data validation tool developed to replace external provider
- Data warehousing initiated to enable national, continental and global linkages by 2027
- Pilot AI projects end of 2024



Snapshot of content



SADC activities

- Networking forum of CEOs
 - SAQA Institutional Review
 - Verifications Agreement and draft SLA
 - *SAQA will verify the first 20 qualification records per budget year (1 March to 30 April) free of charge*
 - *All SADC region approved Qualification Authority clients will pay once for the verification of a specific record. The result will then be made available, at no charge, to other SADC region Qualification Authority clients on submission of a request to verify that specific record*
 - *Agreements in place with Eswatini, Namibia and Zambia.*
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**THANK
YOU**

