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4 December 2014

Mr SG Padayachee
Acting Director-General
Department of Basic Education
Private Bag X895
PRETORIA
0001

Dear Mr Padayachee

QUALITY ASSURANCE OF THE KHA RI GUDE CAMPAIGN

Please find attached a report by SAQA on the verification of the 2013 Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign learner results, as approved by the SAQA Board.

SAQA has, with the Kha Ri Gude Class of 2013, continued verification which looks more deeply into questions of quality that included, amongst other things, visits to 100 learning sites at the end of 2013 and early 2014. I wish to confirm that SAQA will not be involved in the actual certification of successful learners of the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign, as this is done by the Department of Basic Education.

SAQA is unable to comment on aspects such as the credibility of the numbers reported by Kha Ri Gude due to the understandable absence of a full quality assurance process. In the opinion of SAQA there is, however, sufficient evidence that the portfolios were completed by the learners themselves.

The SAQA Board is concerned about some previous recommendations which were, at the time of the report, not yet attended to. You are required to attend to the following recommendations as it impact on the quality of the Campaign:

- We requested in our reports for 2011, 2012, and 2013 that the Learner Assessment Portfolios be revised. One cannot have an assessment instrument that has retained identical questions for six years. This revision/refreshment is hardly a difficult process in most cases easily made by changing a few details. Without these changes the assessment becomes suspect through its utter predictability. Yet no attempt has been made to implement this recommendation.
- We also requested that the way the assessment scores are entered (currently for many of the assessment activities the marker has to transpose a raw score into a score on a scale according to certain criteria) be relooked at. [We suspected that some of the lack of correlation between these LAP scores and our site visit assessment instrument scores can be explained by problems with this scaling process by relatively unskilled markers.]
- We further requested that specific educator training and support be targeted at

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"To ensure the development and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework which contributes to the full development of each learner and to the social and economic development of the nation at large"

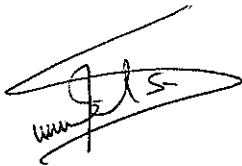
lessening the incidences of unsatisfactory marking or the likelihood of the presentation of portfolios that are not authentic.

- There are some details within the portfolios which should have been corrected several years ago, notably a major misprint whereby the results for two exercises appear on the wrong pages.
- The unusual rigour of the moderation of the hearing disabled group has been drawn to the attention of *Kha Ri Gude* twice, but still no report has been received.

Please submit a report for my attention by the end of January 2015 as to how the Kha Ri Gude Campaign Office have addressed the above issues.

The SAQA Board has recommended the recording of the learner achievements on the NLRD for the class of 2013. These achievements will be shortly submitted by the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign and I hereby request that the Department of Basic Education approve the release of the learner achievements before it is captured on the NLRD.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Samuels', enclosed within a large, stylized oval shape.

JOE SAMUELS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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