

UPDATE REGARDING THE EXTERNAL MODERATION AND VERIFICATION OF KHA RI GUDE 2016

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The SAQA Kha ri Gude (KRG) moderation event from 19-21 June 2016 worked exceptionally smoothly. The DBE and Morvest management teams provided highly professional organisational backup. The venue (Southern Sun ORT) was excellent - the facilities could hardly have been better for the numbers involved. The only area of dissatisfaction lay in inefficiencies in the delivery of the sample by Skynet.

It will be some weeks before the statistical processing of the results allows us to compile the report for the SAQA Board. An update on the process is offered here for your information.

The moderation event consisted of three processes:

1. The moderation of the marking of the Learner Achievement Portfolios (LAPs): This was carried out by 100 KRG regional Coordinators acting as Moderators, plus 9 Senior Moderators - all supervised by an external team of 5 Senior Verifiers. Everyone worked intensely to targets for the 2 1/2 days. The process has yielded a sample of 17,150 moderated LAPs, or approximately 6.5% of the estimated total of LAPs produced by KRG in 2016 (around 270,000). The sample was drawn according to strict guidelines. These should ensure that every Coordinator grouping is reflected in a representative sample of provinces and languages. (The LAPs of deaf candidates were processed by a dedicated sign-language team.)
2. The moderation of the Braille LAPs by a team of blind Moderators was supported by sighted assistants, and was overseen by one Senior Verifier. All 2,623 Braille LAPs for 2016 were moderated.
3. 2,881 Individual Site Visit Records were processed by 30 KRG Coordinators acting as Verifiers under the supervision of 2 external Senior Verifiers. Of these, 1,996 could be matched to LAPs. The intensive process involved matching independent tests conducted during 300 site visits with the LAPs of the same candidates. Test marks were set against the Moderators' marks for parallel items on the LAPs and against the Voluntary Educators' marks for the same LAPs. Handwriting and other elements were examined for authenticity.

Regarding the site visits: 300 site visits were conducted in all nine provinces according to a range of criteria aimed at broad representation of KRG implementation in this year. The site visits were conducted under my

guidance by two agencies: Hubutani and Tembaletu, Although a number of site visits enjoyed full attendance (18), local conditions meant that the average was much lower than this. Nonetheless, the yield of matching sets was better than expected. The site visitors made brief evaluations of every visit. These will also be analysed for the final report.

My colleagues in managing the moderation and verification of KRG, Mr David Adler and Prof John Aitchison, were both abroad at the time of the moderation event. They have played important roles in the guidance of this year's processes, and will both be closely involved in the forthcoming analysis and reporting of the results. In their absence, I was grateful to have the helpful attendance of Ms Shenall Israel from SAQA, and to be able to employ a fine team of external Senior Verifiers. The concentrated work of Ms Mary Selepe and Mr Patrick Baloyi was especially valued. It was also helpful that Dr Morongwa Ramarumo and her team (notably Ms Petunia Cilo) were on hand throughout the event. This contributed to the discipline and good spirit of the occasion.

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