

MEMORANDUM

MOTIVATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SECOND LEVEL OF BASIC ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING, ESPECIALLY FOR GRADUATES OF THE KHA RI GUDE ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME

SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION,
THE HON ANGIE MOTSHEKGA

BY: PROF. JOHN AITCHISON, DAVID ADLER AND EDWARD FRENCH

6 June 2016

For eight years we have been involved, on behalf of SAQA, in leading the moderation and verification of the results of the Kha Ri Gude literacy campaign.

The Kha Ri Gude approach has impressed discerning adult educators from South Africa and abroad, even those who were sceptical about it to start with. The design of the programme, its standards-based materials in 11 languages and its built-in accountability are of remarkable quality, well beyond most comparable adult literacy packages internationally. Particularly notable is the delivery model focusing on local voluntary educators within a modest but effective hierarchy of support.

Each year our feedback from site visits and the annual moderation event has been overwhelming in its call from learners and educators for *more like this, please!* It is clear from the call that what is wanted is the next level of learning using the same approach – rather than requiring attendance at a formal adult education and training centre, which for a variety of reasons does not attract these learners. We have reported this in all the reports submitted to you by SAQA.

We recognise that there are various challenges in creating further levels of adult education, but these are not insuperable. We are also aware, though, that the existing Kha Ri Gude programme has more or less reached a natural saturation point, and that the graduates of the programme need the chance to continue on the path of growth established for them by Kha Ri Gude.

The three of us – with nearly 150 years of adult education commitment behind us – have no doubt that consideration should be given to a new level of provision which could absorb some of the several million adult learners who have benefitted from Kha Ri Gude.