Verification of Qualifications
Lessons from practice in the Covid-19 crisis and beyond

BOTSWANA’S EXPERIENCE

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PRESENTATION
LINE UP

BQA Mandate
BQA Services
How Covid-19 Impacted on Qualification Recognition Service
BQA Recognition of Qualification Strategic Partners
Qualification Check
BQA Act No.24 of 2013.

- Its main objectives are:
  - To provide for and maintain a National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF) and
  - To coordinate the Education, Training and Skills Development Quality Assurance System.
BQA SERVICES

Registration and Accreditation of ETPs
Registration of quality assured qualifications
Accreditation of Learning Programmes
Registration and Accreditation of Assessors
Registration and Accreditation of Moderators
Recognise local and external qualifications
EVALUATION is the process of analyzing external qualifications in terms of their country of origin contexts and points of difference and/or similarity in relation to local qualifications and contexts.

Leads to recommendations which inform the process of RECOGNITION.

RECOGNITION is the formal acceptance of the appropriateness of a qualification (mostly external).
EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS PROCESS

TWIN PROCESS

- **Verification**: Process of authenticating the status of awarding body and the qualifications offered by them, as well as investigating the authenticity of qualification documentation.

- **Comparability**: Process which entails comparing qualifications (external and pre NCQF) with Botswana qualifications.
VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualification documents and associated documents
- Awarding body/Education and Training Provider
- Qualification/learning programme
- Qualification Holder
How Covid 19 Impacted on Qualification Recognition Service

Preparedness by organisations to working remotely

- **BQA**
  - Nationwide lockdown impacted processing applications causing delays
  - The Authority made plans to make work accessible remotely

- **Institutions / awarding Bodies**
  - Delay in responding to verification request from awarding bodies - most institutions closed or Staff working from home due to Covid 19
BQA Recognition of Qualification
Innovative Solutions

- **CHESSIC** (China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center)

- **CDGDC** (China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center)

- **UK NARIC**

- Qualification Check
• Chinese awarded qualifications – easy to verify qualification.

• China has databases accessible to qualification holders-
  • China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (CHESICC) - Authorised by the Ministry of Education to verify qualifications
  • China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC) - provide FREE China degree verification service

• Chinese awarded qualification holders redirected to the database
• Cuts on processing time
National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills

- Information on Education Systems of countries around the world available.
- For new organisation like BQA, information very useful during evaluation of qualification.
- Advise on accreditation/recognition status of awarding bodies or ETPS in their countries of origin.
- Advise of qualifications comparability statements.
BQA engaged the service of Qualification Check in 2019

Verification of qualifications for mostly higher education qualifications easier however

During the pandemic, there was a slight slowdown in the responses from some institutions because of closure of Institution and staff working from home due to national lockdowns
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