

MARCH 2024



SACE

South African Council for Educators

Towards Excellence in Education

SACE EDUCATOR'S PULSE



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CEO's Corner

Welcome to the latest edition of the SACE newsletter, where we delve into the heart of education and explore the theme, "The Teaching Profession We Want" following the African Union (AU)'s launch of 2024 as the year of education under the theme, "educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to



inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa." In a world of evolving educational landscapes and societal needs, the role of educators stands as a cornerstone in shaping the future. This edition is aimed at informing educators about new developments and activities carried out by the Council. As we navigate the complexities and opportunities of our profession, it is imperative to reflect on the ideals that guide us toward the future we envision. At the heart of our profession lies a profound dedication to nurturing minds, shaping futures, and fostering positive change in society. As we strive to uphold these principles, we must also

acknowledge the evolving landscape of education and the challenges that lie ahead.

First and foremost, the profession we want is one that prioritises inclusivity and equity. Education should be a beacon of opportunity for all, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance. We envision a future where every learner feels supported and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Furthermore, the profession we want is rooted in innovation, agility and adaptability. In today's fast-paced world, we must embrace new technologies, methodologies, subjects and competencies of the future to meet the diverse needs of our learners. This requires ethical commitment to teaching and learning of our learners by our teachers, collaborating with others to support teaching, learning and their professional development as reflected in the SACE Professional Teaching Standards, and collaboration within our communities.

Central to our vision is the notion of holistic education. Beyond academic excellence, we aim to cultivate well-rounded individuals who possess empathy, resilience, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

Our goal is to prepare learners not only for the challenges of today but also for the uncertainties of tomorrow.

As educators, we also recognise the importance of advocacy and leadership. The profession we want empowers us to be catalysts for change, exercising our agency and professional judgement in advocating for policies that promote equity, inclusivity and social justice.

Finally, the profession we want is one that celebrates diversity and the unique contributions of every individual. We believe in creating inclusive learning environments where learners from all walks of life are valued.

In conclusion, the profession we want is one that embodies our highest aspirations and values. It is a profession driven by a deep sense of purpose, passion, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Together, let us continue to strive towards this vision and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Ella Mokgalane

Upholding Teacher's Rights

In the complex historical reality of human rights advocacy, one crucial conversation often overlooked is the fundamental rights of our teachers. As we commemorate Human Rights Month, it is of vital importance to shine a spotlight on this often-neglected aspect of human rights discourse. Teachers' rights are not just professional entitlements but they are intrinsic human rights that deserve recognition, protection, and respect.

At the heart of the teaching profession lies a profound commitment to nurturing minds and shaping the future leaders of society, however teachers often find their rights disregarded or undermined by the system, learners and the society. Whether it's inadequate and delayed remuneration, unsafe working conditions, or lack of support and recognition, teachers face numerous challenges that impede their ability to fulfil their vital role effectively.

The right to education, enshrined in section 29 Bill of Rights, and must be interpreted in line with the international law and democratic values. The right to education is not only a right for learners but also a right for teachers. This implies that teachers should have the necessary support and conducive working environments to enable them to deliver quality education.

Teachers' rights are constitutionally linked to broader human rights principles, such as the right to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. Teachers must be free to express their voice and opinions, exercise their autonomy, teach what they know and trained for, teach and assess in mother tongue, and participate in union activities without fear and intimidation.



Respect and dignity which also form part of the SACE values are cornerstones of human rights, and they should be accorded to teachers in all aspects of their professional lives. Teachers deserve to be treated with respect for their dedication and contributions to the society. They should not be subjected to violence, harassment and unfair treatment.

Furthermore, ensuring teachers' rights is not just a moral imperative, it is also essential for the advancement of education and the well-being of society as a whole. When teachers' rights are upheld and protected they are better able to perform their duties effectively.

As we reflect on Human Rights Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of teachers as human rights. Let us advocate for policies and practices that promote dignity, respect, equality, humanity, and inclusivity for educators. Let us recognise the invaluable contributions of teachers to the fabric of society and ensure that they are afforded the rights and protections they deserve. As the professional body for educators, SACE is committed to fostering an environment where the rights of educators

This year, our focus revolves around the theme, "The Teaching Profession We Want." In this context, we delve into the fundamental rights that educators deserve and the steps needed to actualise them. are respected, protected, and upheld.

In striving towards the teaching profession we envision, it is essential to uphold the rights of educators and create an enabling environment for their professional growth and well-being. SACE remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for the rights of teachers and advancing the teaching profession in South Africa.



Teachers Rights are Human Rights

In Brief/Update

The SACE Registration for teachers

In recent months, the South African Council for Educators (SACE) has implemented revised registration requirements for prospective teachers seeking to enter the profession. These revision which included amongst others online registration reflect the Council's commitment to upholding high standards of professionalism, ethics, and competency within the teaching profession.

Registration with the SACE is a prerequisite for employment as a teacher in South Africa. By mandating registration, the SACE aims to protect the rights and interests of teachers, ensuring they receive fair treatment, support, and recognition within the profession.

Rationale behind the SACE Registration requirements:



- Qualifications:** Prospective teachers are required to hold a minimum qualification, such as a Matric/Grade 12 certificate, Bachelor's degree in education (B. ED) or Prior Degree/Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), from an approved institution of higher learning, Diploma in Grade R Teaching and ECD Level 4 (120 credits).

This requirement ensures that educators possess the necessary foundational knowledge and expertise to effectively teach their subject areas and meet the diverse needs of learners.

- Police Clearance:** As guardians of the profession, teachers are entrusted with the well-being and safety of their learners. To uphold ethical standards and maintain trust within the profession, prospective teachers are required to undergo ethical clearance checks to ensure they have no prior criminal record or disciplinary issues that may compromise their fitness to practice. Applicants are taken through an interview where they are given an opportunity to explain their cases. Depending on the type/seriousness of the offence, applicants are given the opportunity to be registered with Council through a process of Fit to Teach.

- Continued Professional Teacher Development:** Registration with SACE is not just a one-time requirement. it signifies a commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth. Prospective teachers are expected to engage in continued professional

development activities to enhance their skills, stay updated on best practices, and meet the evolving needs of education.

The rationale behind these registration requirements is multifield. Firstly, registration with SACE serves as a quality assurance mechanism, ensuring that only individuals who are fit to practice are registered with SACE and are given a licence to teach .

The fitness to teach is assessed through the submission of a Police clearance certificate.

For any inquiries. assistance regarding registration, requirements please visit the SACE website ,www.sace.org.za hesitate to contact us at 012 6639517.



Early Childhood Development (ECD) Shift

The shift of Early Childhood Development (ECD) from the domain of Social Development to Basic Education and the registration of ECD practitioners by the SACE marks significant changes in how early childhood education is managed and regulated in South Africa.

Historically, ECD fell under the purview of the Department of Social Development. However, recognising the importance of early childhood education in laying the foundation for lifelong learning and development, there has been a shift to incorporate ECD into the realm of Basic Education. This transition aims to streamline the oversight and management of ECD services and integrate them more closely with the formal education system. Placing ECD under Basic Education aligns early childhood education more closely with the broader educational goals of the country. Also, ECD programmes will now be more closely integrated with the national curriculum frameworks, ensuring continuity and coherence in children's learning experiences from early childhood through primary and secondary education.

The move to Basic Education will involve enhanced quality assurance mechanisms to ensure that ECD programmes meet educational standards and support children's holistic development.

The registration of ECD practitioners by the SACE signifies formal recognition of the professional status of individuals working in early childhood education. It is hoped that the registration with SACE will elevate the status of ECD practitioners, recognising their expertise and contributions to children's learning and development. Furthermore, the SACE registration will entail adherence to professional standards of practice and a code of ethics, promoting professionalism and accountability among ECD practitioners.



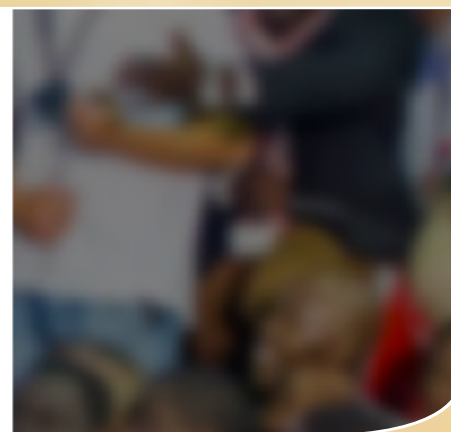
Why participation in the CPTD Programme?

Participating in Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) programmes offers numerous benefits for teachers. Here are some of the key advantages:

- **Enhanced Teaching Skills:** CPTD programmes are designed to improve teaching practices by providing teachers with up-to-date pedagogical techniques, subject knowledge, and classroom management strategies. By participating in these programmes, teachers can enhance their effectiveness in the classroom, leading to better student outcomes.
- **Professional Growth:** Engaging in CPTD programs allows teachers to expand their knowledge base and develop new skills. This continuous learning process will not only benefit teachers personally but also contributes to their professional growth and advancement within the education sector.
- **Networking Opportunities:** CPTD programmes often provide opportunities for teachers to connect with colleagues, experts, and educational leaders. These networking opportunities can lead to valuable collaborations, mentorship relationships, and access to resources that can support professional development.
- **Stay Updated with new trends :** Education is a dynamic field, with new research, technologies, and teaching methodologies emerging regularly. CPTD programmes help teachers stay current with these developments, ensuring that their instructional practices remain relevant and effective.
- **Recognition:** Participation in the SACE endorsed CPTD programmes demonstrates a commitment to professional development and excellence in teaching. It can enhance teachers' credibility and recognition within their schools, communities, and the broader education sector.
- **Career Advancement Opportunities:** Many schools and education organisations value ongoing professional development when considering promotions, leadership roles, or specialized assignments. Engaging in CPTD programmes can open doors to new career opportunities and advancement.



As you engage in your professional development journey, it is crucial to ensure that the programmes are officially endorsed. The SACE endorsed CPTD programmes are designed to enhance skills, knowledge, and effectiveness in the classroom. It is also important to remain vigilant and verify the endorsement of programmes before enrolling. Unfortunately, there are instances of bogus programs that may not meet the necessary standards or provide the expected benefits. To safeguard your investment in professional development, always check with the SACE to confirm the endorsement status of any program you plan to participate. To check for the SACE endorsed programme in provinces and nationally, please visit www.sace.org.za.



SACE Outreach Programme Bringing Services to Teachers Across All Provinces

The SACE is committed in supporting and empowering educators throughout the country. Recognising the importance of accessibility, the SACE has implemented an Outreach Programme/Open day aimed at taking its services directly to the doorstep of teachers in all provinces.

The objectives of the programme amongst others include, increase awareness of SACE services and resources among educators, providing support and assistance to educators in accessing SACE registration, professional development activities and to gather feedback from educators and stakeholders to inform the improvement of SACE services. The Outreach Programme was launched in March 2023 and has since been conducted in all nine provinces and over five thousands educators have benefited from this initiative. The programme utilises a variety of approaches to reach educators, including:

- On spot Registration : The SACE deployed registration units equipped with laptops and internet connectivity to facilitate on-the-spot registration for educators.
- Workshops and Information Sessions: SACE organised workshops and information sessions in partnership with provincial education departments, teacher unions, and schools. These sessions covered topics such as professional ethics and continuing professional development.
- Online Resources : SACE developed online resources, including webinars, instructional videos, and downloadable materials, to complement the outreach activities and reach educators who were unable to attend in-person events.



The Outreach Programme has had a significant impact on educators and stakeholders and saw an increased registration rates.

The programme has resulted in a significant increase in the number of educators registered with SACE, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and professional standards.

Educators in remote areas , especially provinces where SACE do not have office(North West, Northern and Western Cape and Mpumalanga)have benefited from improved access to SACE services, including registration and professional development. The programme has fostered greater engagement and collaboration between SACE and educators, strengthening relationships and trust within the education community. The programme has provided valuable feedback and insights from educators and stakeholders, informing the continuous improvement of SACE services and programmes.

The SACE Outreach Programme has been instrumental in bringing SACE services and resources directly to educators in all provinces of South Africa. By increasing accessibility, promoting engagement, and fostering collaboration, the programme has made a significant contribution to the professional development and well-being of educators across the country.



Furthermore, SACE remains committed to expanding and enhancing the Outreach Programme to ensure that all educators have access to the support and resources they need to excel in their profession.

For more information about the SACE Outreach Programme, please visit the SACE website,www.sace.org.za and follow us on all our social media platforms.

SACE's Commemoration of Human Rights Month A Tribute to South African Teachers

As we commemorate Human Rights Month in South Africa, it is an opportune time to reflect on the indispensable role that teachers play in advancing and upholding human rights within our society. At the South African Council for Educators (SACE), we recognise and celebrate the tireless efforts of our nation's teachers in promoting equality, dignity, and social justice in the classroom and beyond.

Human Rights Month serves as a poignant reminder of the struggles and sacrifices made by countless individuals in the fight against discrimination, injustice, and oppression. As educators, we have a unique responsibility to instil in our learners a deep appreciation for human rights and a commitment to championing the rights of all individuals, regardless of race, gender and religion.

Through their daily interactions with learners, teachers have the power to nurture empathy, foster understanding, and cultivate a culture of respect and tolerance. By creating inclusive learning environments where every voice is heard and valued, teachers can empower learners to become agents of positive change in their communities and advocates for human rights. The SACE is committed to support South African teachers in their efforts to promote human rights education and uphold ethical standards in their practice. We provide professional development opportunities and guidance to help educators integrate human rights principles into their teaching and classroom management strategies.

**SACE wishes all Teachers a Happy 2024
Human Rights Month**

***BE PEACEFUL
AND STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
TEACHERS!***



**"TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR LEARNERS
THROUGH SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF TEACHERS!"**

Furthermore, SACE encourages teachers to lead by example by embodying the values of human rights, equity, and social justice in their interactions with colleagues, parents and learners. By modelling inclusive and respectful behaviour, teachers can inspire others to embrace diversity, challenge prejudice, and work towards a more just and equitable society.

As we commemorate Human Rights Month, let us take a moment to honour the invaluable contributions of South African teachers to the promotion and protection of human rights. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence are truly commendable, and we are grateful for the profound impact you have on the lives of our nation's learners.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the teaching profession and your tireless efforts to build a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to the South African Council for Educators(SACE), Communications and Stakeholder Division.



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Towards Excellence in Education

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Published by SACE Communication Division

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