



Department of Labour

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

No. 97 of 1998: Skills Development Act
as amended by
Skills Development Levies Act, No 9 of 1999
Skills Development Amendment Act, No 31 of 2003

ACT

To provide an institutional framework to devise and implement national, sector and workplace strategies to develop and improve the skills of the South African workforce; to integrate those strategies within the National Qualifications Framework contemplated in the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995; to provide for learnerships that lead to recognised occupational qualifications; to provide for the financing of skills development by means of a levy-grant scheme and a National Skills Fund; to provide for and regulate employment services; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

BE IT ENACTED by the State President and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE

Definitions, purpose and interpretation of act

1. Definitions
2. Purposes of Act
3. Interpretation

CHAPTER TWO

National skills authority

4. Establishment of National Skills Authority
5. Functions of National Skills Authority
6. Composition of National Skills Authority and term and vacation of office
7. Constitution of National Skills Authority
8. Remuneration and administration of National Skills Authority

CHAPTER THREE

Sector education and training authorities

9. Establishment of SETA
10. Functions of SETA
11. Composition of SETA
12. Chambers of SETA
13. Constitution of SETA
14. Finances of SETA
15. Taking over administration of SETA

CHAPTER 4

Learnerships

16. Learnerships
17. Learnership agreements
18. Contract of employment with learner
19. Disputes about learnerships

CHAPTER 5

Skills programmes

20. Skills programmes
21. Disputes

CHAPTER 6

Institutions in Department Of Labour

22. Skills Development Planning Unit
23. Employment services
24. Registration of persons that provide employment services
25. Cancellation of registration of employment service
26. Appeal against Director-General's decision



Department of Labour

CHAPTER 7
Financing skills development

- 27. National Skills Fund
- 28. Use of money in Fund
- 29. Control and administration of Fund
- 30. Budget for training by public service employers

CHAPTER 8
General

- 31. Jurisdiction of Labour Court
- 32. Monitoring, enforcement and legal proceedings
- 33. Offences
- 34. Penalties
- 35. Delegation
- 36. Regulations
- 37. Repeal of laws and transitional provisions
- 38. Act binds State
- 39. Short title and commencement

SCHEDULES

- Schedule 1: Repeal of laws
- Schedule 2: Transitional provisions



Department of Labour

CHAPTER 1

DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF ACT

1. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates –

"Basic Conditions of Employment Act" means the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997 (Act No. 75 of 1997);

"Department" means the Department of Labour;

"designated groups" means black people, women and people with disabilities;

"Director-General" means the Director-General of Labour;

"employee" means –

- (a) any person, excluding an independent contractor, who works for another person or for the State and who receives, or is entitled to receive, any remuneration; or
- (b) any other person who in any manner assists in carrying on or conducting the business of an employer, and "employed" and "employment" have corresponding meanings;

"employment services" means the provision of the service of-

- (a) advising or counselling of workers on career choices either by the provision of information or other approaches;
- (b) assessment of work-seekers for –
 - (i) entry or re-entry into the labour market; or
 - (ii) education and training;
- (c) the reference of work-seekers –
 - (i) to employers to apply for vacancies; or
 - (ii) to training providers for education and training;
- (d) assistance of employers by –
 - (i) providing recruitment and placement services;
 - (ii) advising them on the availability of work-seekers with skills that match their needs;
 - (iii) advising them on the retrenchment of employees and the development of social plans;
- (a) (dA) procuring for or providing to a client other persons to render services to or perform work for the client, irrespective of by whom those persons are remunerated; or
- (e) any other prescribed employment service;

"government department" means any department or organisational component referred to in Schedule 1 or 2 of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994);

"Labour Court" means the Labour Court established by section 151 of the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (Act No. 66 of 1995);

"Minister" means the Minister of Labour;

"National Skills Authority" means the National Skills Authority established by section 4;



Department of Labour

"national skills development policy" means the national skills development policy referred to in section 5 (1) (a) (i);

"national skills development strategy" means the national skills development strategy referred to in section 5 (1) (a) (ii);

"National Skills Fund" means the National Skills Fund established by section 27;

"NEDLAC" means the National Economic Development and Labour Council established by section 2 of the National Economic Development and Labour Council Act, 1994 (Act No. 35 of 1994);

"prescribed" means prescribed by regulation;

"private employment services agency" means any person that provides employment services for gain;

"Public Finance Management Act" means the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999);

"regulation" means a regulation made and in force in terms of this Act;

"service level agreement" means a service level agreement concluded in terms of section 10A;

"SETA" means a sector education and training authority established in terms of section 9 (1);

"Skills Development Levies Act" means the Skills Development Levies Act, 1999;

"skills development levies" means a levy as defined in section 1 of the Skills Development Levies Act;

"South African Qualifications Authority" means the South African Qualification Authority established by section 3 of the South African Qualifications Authority Act;

"South African Qualifications Authority Act" means the South Africa Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995);

"this Act" includes any regulations but does not include the footnotes; and

"worker" includes an employee, an unemployed person and a work-seeker.

2. Purposes of Act

- (1) The purposes of this Act are –
 - (a) to develop the skills of the South African workforce –
 - (i) to improve the quality of life of workers, their prospects of work and labour mobility;
 - (ii) to improve productivity in the workplace and the competitiveness of employers;
 - (iii) to promote self-employment; and
 - (iv) to improve the delivery of social services;
 - (b) to increase the levels of investment in education and training in the labour market and to improve the return on that investment;
 - (c) to encourage employers –
 - (i) to use the workplace as an active learning environment;
 - (ii) to provide employees with the opportunities to acquire new skills;
 - (iii) to provide opportunities for new entrants to the labour market to gain work experience; and
 - (iv) to employ persons who find it difficult to be employed;
 - (d) to encourage workers to participate in learnership and other training programmes;



Department of Labour

- (e) to improve the employment prospects of persons previously disadvantaged by unfair discrimination and to redress those disadvantages through training and education;
 - (f) to ensure the quality of education and training in and for the workplace;
 - (g) to assist –
 - (i) work-seekers to find work;
 - (ii) retrenched workers to re-enter the labour market;
 - (iii) employers to find qualified employees; and
 - (h) to provide and regulate employment services.
- (2) Those purposes are to be achieved by –
- (a) establishing an institutional and financial framework comprising –
 - (i) the National Skills Authority;
 - (ii) the National Skills Fund;
 - (iii) a skills development levy-financing scheme as contemplated in the Skills Development Levies Act;
 - (iv) SETAs;
 - (v) labour centres; and
 - (vi) the Skills Development Planning Unit;
 - (b) encouraging partnerships between the public and private sectors of the economy to provide education and training in and for the workplace; and
 - (c) co-operating with the South African Qualifications Authority.

3. Interpretation

Any person applying this Act must interpret its provisions to give effect to –

- (a) its purposes; and
- (b) the objects of the South African Qualifications Authority Act.



Department of Labour

CHAPTER 2

National Skills Authority

4. Establishment of National Skills Authority

The National Skills Authority is hereby established.

5. Functions of National Skills Authority

- (1) The functions of the National Skills Authority are –
 - (a) to advise the Minister on –
 - (i) a national skills development policy;
 - (ii) a national skills development strategy;
 - (iii) guidelines on the implementation of the national skills development strategy;
 - (iv) the allocation of subsidies from the National Skills Fund; and
 - (v) any regulations to be made;
 - (b) to liaise with SETAs on –
 - (i) the national skills development policy;
 - (ii) the national skills development strategy; and
 - (iii) sector skills plans;
 - (c) to report to the Minister in the prescribed manner on the progress made in the implementation of the national skills development strategy;
 - (d) to conduct investigations on any matter arising out of the application of this Act; and
 - (e) to exercise any other powers and perform any other duties conferred or imposed on the Authority by this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of investigations referred to in subsection (1) (d), the Authority has the prescribed powers of entry and to question and inspect.
- (3) The Authority must perform its functions in accordance with this Act and its constitution.

6. Composition of National Skills Authority and term and vacation of office

- (1) The National Skills Authority consists of –
 - (a) voting chairperson appointed by the Minister;
 - (b) 24 voting and five non-voting members appointed by the Minister; and
 - (c) its non-voting executive officer appointed in terms of section 8 (2) (a).
- (2) The members referred to in subsection (1) (b) are--
 - (a) five voting members nominated by NEDLAC and appointed by the Minister to represent organised labour;
 - (b) five voting members nominated by NEDLAC and appointed by the Minister to represent organised business;



Department of Labour

- (c) five voting members nominated by NEDLAC and appointed by the Minister to represent organisations of community and development interests, which must include –
 - (i) a woman who represents the interests of women;
 - (ii) a person who represents the interests of the youth; and
 - (iii) a disabled person who represents the interests of people with disabilities;
 - (d) five voting members appointed by the Minister to represent the interests of the State;
 - (e) four voting members appointed by the Minister to represent the interests of education and training providers;
 - (eA) two non-voting members, who have expertise in skills development, appointed by the Minister after consultation with the National Skills Authority;
 - (f) two non-voting members, who have expertise in the provision of employment services, appointed by the Minister; and
 - (g) a non-voting member nominated by the South African Qualifications Authority and appointed by the Minister to represent that Authority.
- (3) The Minister must designate four members as deputy chairpersons, one deputy chairperson each from the members to be appointed to represent –
- (a) organised labour;
 - (b) organised business;
 - (c) organisations of community and development interests; and
 - (d) the interests of the State.
- (4) A member of the Authority holds office for a period of three years and is eligible for re-appointment.
- (5) A member of the Authority vacates office if that member –
- (a) is removed from office by the Minister as contemplated in subsection (6); or
 - (b) resigns by written notice addressed to the Minister.
- (6) The Minister may remove a member of the Authority –
- (a) on the written request of the body that nominated that member in terms of subsection (2);
 - (b) for serious misconduct;
 - (c) for permanent incapacity;
 - (d) for absence from three consecutive meetings of the Authority –
 - (i) without the prior permission of the Authority; or
 - (ii) unless the member shows good cause; or
 - (e) for engaging in any activity that may undermine the functions of the Authority.
- (7) If a member of the Authority vacates office before the expiry of the period of office, the Minister must, in terms of subsection (2), appoint a new member for the unexpired portion of that period.

7. Constitution of National Skills Authority

- (1) The National Skills Authority must, as soon as possible after the appointment of its members, adopt its constitution.



Department of Labour

- (2) Subject to this Act, the constitution of the Authority –
 - (a) must provide for –
 - (i) procedures for the nominations of members of the Authority referred to in section 6 (2) (a), (b), (c) and (g);
 - (ii) the establishment and functioning of committees, including an executive committee;
 - (iii) subject to subsection (3), the rules for convening and conducting of meetings of the Authority and its committees, including the quorum required for and the minutes to be kept of those meetings;
 - (iv) the voting rights of the different members and the manner in which decisions are to be taken by the Authority and its committees;
 - (v) a code of conduct for the members of the Authority;
 - (vi) the determination through arbitration of any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the constitution; and
 - (vii) subject to subsections (4) and (5), a procedure for amending the constitution and advising the Minister on regulations to be made; and
 - (c) may provide for –
 - (i) the delegation of powers and duties of the Authority to its members, committees and employees, provided that the Authority may impose conditions for the delegation, may not be divested of any power or duty by virtue of the delegation and may vary or set aside any decision made under any delegation; and
 - (ii) any other matter necessary for the performance of the functions of the Authority.
- (3) At least 30 days notice must be given for a meeting of the Authority at which an amendment of the constitution or a regulation to be made is to be considered.
- (4) A supporting vote of at least two thirds of the Authority's members and the approval of the Minister is required for an amendment to its constitution.
- (5) A supporting vote of at least two-thirds of the Authority's members is required for advising the Minister on regulations to be made.
- (6) Despite subsection (2) (a) (i), the Minister must determine the procedure for the nominations for the first appointment of members of the Authority referred to in section 6 (2) (a), (b), (c) and (g).

8. Remuneration and administration of National Skills Authority

- (1) A member of the National Skills Authority who is not in the full-time employment of the State may be paid the remuneration and allowances determined by the Minister with the approval of the Minister of Finance.
- (2) Subject to the laws governing the public service, the Director-General must –
 - (a) appoint a person to be the executive officer of the National Skills Authority who will, upon such appointment, be in the employ of the public service; and
 - (b) provide the Authority with the personnel and financial resources that the Minister considers necessary for the performance of its functions.



CHAPTER 3

SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITIES

9. Establishment of SETA

- (1) The Minister may, in the prescribed manner, establish a sector education and training authority with a constitution for any national economic sector.
- (2) The Minister must determine a discrete sector for the purposes of subsection (1) by reference to categories of employers and for the purposes of that determination take into account –
 - (a) the education and training needs of employers and employees that –
 - (i) use similar materials, processes and technologies;
 - (ii) make similar products; or
 - (iii) render similar services;
 - (b) the potential of the proposed sector for coherent occupational structures and career pathing;
 - (c) the scope of any national strategies for economic growth and development;
 - (d) the organisational structures of the trade unions, employer organisations and government in closely related sectors;
 - (e) any consensus that there may be between organised labour, organised employers and relevant government departments as to the definition of any sector; and
 - (f) the financial and organisational ability of the proposed sector to support a SETA.
- (3) On the establishment of a SETA, the Minister may provide assistance to the SETA to enable it to perform its functions.
- (4) The Minister may, after consulting the National Skills Authority and the SETAs in question and subject to subsection (2), change the sector of a SETA and must publish a notice in the Gazette reflecting such change.

9A. Amalgamation and dissolution of SETAs

- (1) The Minister may, after consulting the National Skills Authority and the SETAs in question and subject to section 9(2), amalgamate two or more SETAs.
- (2) The Minister must approve a constitution for the amalgamated SETA.
- (3) The Minister must publish a notice in the Gazette containing –
 - (a) the date of the amalgamation
 - (b) the sector for which the amalgamated SETA is established; and
 - (c) any other matter necessary to prescribe in order to establish the amalgamation.
- (4) On the establishment of the amalgamated SETA, all assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the amalgamating SETAs devolve upon and vest in the amalgamated SETA.
- (5) The Minister may, after consulting the National Skills Authority and the SETA in question, dissolve a SETA if the SETA is unable to continue to perform its functions.
- (6) The Minister must publish a notice in the Gazette –
 - (a) containing the date of the dissolution of the SETA;
 - (b) setting out the manner in which, and by whom, the SETA is to be wound-up;



Department of Labour

- (c) setting out how any assets remaining after the winding-up of the SETA must be distributed; and
 - (d) providing for any other matter necessary for the dissolution and winding-up of the SETA in question.
- (7) No transfer duty, stamp duty, fee or costs are payable in respect of the transfer of any assets, rights, liabilities or obligations between SETAs as contemplated in this section.
- (8) The Registrar of Deeds on presentation of proof of any transfer of immovable property contemplated in this section must endorse the title deeds accordingly and make the entries in the relevant register that are necessary to register the transfer.

10. Functions of SETA

- (1) A SETA must, in accordance with any requirements that may be prescribed –
- (a) develop a sector skills plan within the framework of the national skills development strategy;
 - (b) implement its sector skills plan by-
 - (i) establishing learnerships;
 - (ii) approving workplace skills plans;
 - (iii) allocating grants in the prescribed manner and in accordance with any prescribed standards and criteria to employers, education and training providers and workers; and
 - (iv) monitoring education and training in the sector;
 - (c) promote learnerships by –
 - (i) identifying workplaces for practical work experience;
 - (ii) supporting the development of learning materials;
 - (iii) improving the facilitation of learning; and
 - (iv) assisting in the conclusion of learnership agreements;
 - (d) register learnership agreements;
 - (e) within a week from its establishment, apply to the South African Qualifications Authority for accreditation as a body contemplated in section 5 (1) (a) (ii) (bb) and must, within 18 months from the date of that application, be so accredited;
 - (f) when required to do so as contemplated in section 7(1) of the Skills Development Levies Act, collect the skills development levies, and must disburse the levies, allocated to it in terms of sections 8(3)(b) and 9(b), in its sector;
 - (g) liaise with the National Skills Authority on –
 - (i) the national skills development policy;
 - (ii) the national skills development strategy; and
 - (iii) its sector skills plan;
 - (h) submit to the Director-General–
 - (i) any budgets, reports and financial statements on its income and expenditure that it is required to prepare in terms of the Public Finance Management Act; and
 - (ii) plans and reports on the implementation of its sector skills plan and service level agreement;



Department of Labour

- (i) liaise with the employment services of the Department and any education body established under any law regulating education in the Republic to improve information –
 - (i) about employment opportunities; and
 - (ii) between education and training providers and the labour market;
 - (j) subject to section 14, appoint staff necessary for the performance of its functions;
 - (jA) (jA) promote the national standard established in terms of section 30B; and
 - (k) perform any other duties imposed by this Act or the Skills Development Levies Act or consistent with the purposes of this Act.
- (2) A SETA has –
- (a) all such powers as are necessary to enable it to perform its duties referred to in subsection (1); and
 - (b) the other powers conferred on the SETA by this Act or the Skills Development Levies Act.
- (3) A SETA must perform its functions in accordance with this Act, the Skills Development Levies Act and its constitution.

10A. SETAs to conclude service level agreements

- (1) For each financial year, every SETA must conclude with the Director-General a service level agreement concerning –
 - (a) the SETA's performance of its functions in terms of this Act and the national skills development strategy;
 - (b) the SETA's annual business plan; and
 - (c) any assistance that the Director-General is to provide to the SETA in order to enable it to perform its functions.
- (2) If the Director-General and a SETA cannot agree on the contents of a service level agreement within the prescribed period, the Minister must determine the contents of the service level agreement after consulting the National Skills Authority.
- (3) The determination by the Minister in respect of a service level agreement is final and binding.
- (4) The Minister must, after consulting with the National Skill Authority, make regulations concerning –
 - (a) the procedure for negotiating a service level agreement, including the periods within which negotiations must be conducted;
 - (b) the matters which may be dealt with in a service level agreement and which may include –
 - (i) standards, criteria and targets for measuring and evaluating the SETA's performance of its functions in terms of the Act and its obligations in terms of the national skills development strategy; and
 - (ii) the timetable, number, format, contents and information requirements of plans and reports to be submitted to the Director-General.

11. Composition of SETA

A SETA may consist only of members representing –

- (a) organised labour;
- (b) organised employers, including small business;
- (c) relevant government departments; and



Department of Labour

- (d) if the Minister, after consultation with the members referred to in paragraph (a), (b) and (c), considers it appropriate for the sector –
 - (i) any interested professional body;
 - (ii) any bargaining council with jurisdiction in the sector.

12. Chambers of SETA

- (1) A SETA may, with the Minister's approval, establish in its sector chambers.
- (2) A chamber so established must consist of an equal number of members representing employees and employers and may include such additional members as the SETA determines.
- (3) That chamber must perform those functions of the SETA as delegated to it in terms of the constitution of the SETA.
- (4) A chamber of a SETA is entitled to such percentage of the skills development levies collected in its jurisdiction as the Minister after consultation with the SETA determines.

13. Constitution of SETA

- (1) For the purpose of the establishment of a SETA, the Minister must approve the constitution of the SETA.
- (2) The Minister may, after consultation with the SETA, amend its constitution in the prescribed manner.
- (3) Subject to this Act, the constitution of a SETA –
 - (a) must specify –
 - (i) the trade unions, employer organisations and relevant government departments in the sector;
 - (ii) the circumstances and manner in which a member of SETA may be replaced;
 - (iii) the number of members to be appointed to the SETA, provided that the SETA must consist of an equal number of members representing employees and employers;
 - (iv) the procedure for the replacement of a member of the SETA by the organisation that nominated that member;
 - (v) the circumstances and manner in which a member may be replaced by the SETA;
 - (vi) the election of office-bearers by the members of the SETA and of persons to act during their absence or incapacity, their term of office and functions and the circumstances and manner in which they may be replaced;
 - (vii) the establishment and functioning of committees, including an executive committee;
 - (viii) the rules for convening and conducting of meetings of the SETA and its chambers and committees, including the quorum required for and the minutes to be kept of those meetings;
 - (ix) the voting rights of the different members and the manner in which decisions are to be taken by the SETA and its chambers and committees;
 - (x) a code of conduct for members of the SETA and its chambers;
 - (xi) the appointment of an executive officer, and such other employees necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the SETA, by its members, including the determination of their terms and conditions of employment; and
 - (xii) the determination through arbitration of any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the constitution; and
 - (b) may provide for –



Department of Labour

- (i) the delegation of powers and duties of the SETA to its members, chambers, committees and employees, provided that the SETA may impose conditions for the delegation, may not be divested of any power or duty by virtue of the delegation and may vary or set aside any decision made under any delegation; and
 - (ii) any other matter necessary for the performance of the functions of the SETA.
- (4) In order to ensure that its membership is representative of designated groups, every SETA must –
- (a) provide in its constitution that each constituency contemplated in section 11 represented on the SETA in question is represented by members who are sufficiently representative of such designated groups; and
 - (b) take the necessary steps to ensure that the constituencies in question comply with the provision in the SETA's constitution contemplated in paragraph (a).

14. Finances of SETA

- (1) A SETA is financed from –
- (a) 80 per cent of the skills development levies, interest and penalties collected in respect of the SETA, as allocated in terms of sections 8(3)(b) and 9(b) of the Skills Development Levies Act;
 - (b) moneys paid to it from the National Skills Fund;
 - (c) grants, donations and bequests made to it;
 - (d) income earned on surplus moneys deposited or invested;
 - (e) income earned on services rendered in the prescribed manner; and
 - (f) money received from any other source.
- (2) The money received by a SETA must be paid into a banking account at any registered bank and may be invested only in-
- (a) savings accounts, permanent shares or fixed deposits in any registered bank or other financial institution;
 - (b) internal registered stock contemplated in section 21 (1) of the Exchequer Act, 1975 (Act No. 66 of 1975); and
 - (c) any other manner approved by the Minister.
- (3) The moneys received by a SETA may be used only in the prescribed manner and in accordance with any prescribed standards and criteria to –
- (a) fund the performance of its functions; and
 - (b) pay for its administration within the prescribed limit.
- (3A) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b), the Minister –
- (a) must prescribe the total expenditure that a SETA may make on its administration; and
 - (b) may prescribe –
 - (i) the amount that a SETA may spend on any aspect of its administration;
 - (ii) salary bands within which categories of employees must be remunerated;
 - (iii) the conditions under which employees may receive performance-related payments and the maximum payment that may be made to an employee in this regard;
 - (iv) the allowances that may be paid to members and office-bearers of SETAs or any other persons who serve on a committee or other structure of a SETA.



Department of Labour

- (3B) For the purposes of subsections (3) and (3A), the administration of a SETA includes any aspect of the administration or management of a SETA, irrespective of who performs it.
- (4) A SETA must be managed in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act.
- (5) Every SETA must –
 - (a) prepare annual budgets, annual reports and financial statements in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Public Finance Management Act; and
 - (b) furnish the Director-General with copies of all budgets, reports and statements contemplated in paragraph (a) and any other information that it is required to submit in terms of the Public Finance Management Act.
- (6) The Auditor-General must –
 - (a) audit the accounts, financial statements and financial management of a SETA; and
 - (b) report on that audit to the SETA and to the Minister and in that report express an opinion as to whether the SETA has complied with the provisions of this Act, and its constitution, relating to financial matters.

14A. Minister may issue written instructions to SETAs

- (1) The Minister may issue a written instruction to a SETA if –
 - (a) the SETA is not performing any of its functions or not complying with its service level agreement;
 - (b) the SETA is not managing its finances in accordance with this Act;
 - (c) the SETA's membership is not representative of the constituencies contemplated in section 11; or
 - (d) the SETA has not prepared and implemented an employment equity plan as contemplated in section 20 of the Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act No.55 of 1998).
- (2) An instruction issued under subsection (1) must set out –
 - (a) the reason for issuing the instruction;
 - (b) any provision of the Act that the SETA has not complied with; and
 - (c) the steps that the SETA is required to take and the period within which such steps must be taken.
- (3) At the request of a SETA, the Minister may –
 - (a) extend the period for complying with an instruction; or
 - (b) revise the terms of the instruction.
- (4) If a SETA has not complied with an instruction issued in terms of this section within the specified period, the Minister may –
 - (a) direct the Director-General to withhold all or part of the allocation to the SETA in terms of section 8(3)(b) of the Skills Development Levies Act for such period and on such conditions as the Director-General may determine;
 - (b) invoke section 15 without further notice to the SETA;
 - (c) order an investigation into the management and administration of the SETA; or
 - (d) take any other steps necessary to ensure that the SETA performs its functions or manages its finances in accordance with this Act.
- (5) If a SETA has unreasonably failed to institute disciplinary proceedings for misconduct against any employee of the SETA, the Minister may direct the SETA to institute disciplinary proceedings against that employee.



Department of Labour

15. Taking over administration of SETA

- (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the National Skills Authority and the SETA in question direct the Director-General to appoint an administrator to take over the administration of a SETA or to perform the functions of a SETA if –
 - (a) the SETA fails to perform its functions;
 - (b) there is mismanagement of its finances;
 - (c) its membership no longer substantially represents the composition contemplated in section 11;
 - (d) the SETA has failed to comply with its service level agreement; or
 - (e) the SETA has failed to comply with an instruction issued by the Minister in terms of section 14A.
- (2) The Director-General must publish a notice in the Gazette appointing an administrator and in that notice the Director General –
 - (a) must determine the powers and duties of the administrator, which may include the performance by the administrator of the SETAs functions in terms of the Public Finance Management Act;
 - (b) may suspend or replace one or more members of the SETA for a reason contemplated in subsection (1)(a) to (e);
 - (c) may suspend the operation of the constitution of the SETA; and
 - (d) may direct the transfer of all or some of the funds in the SETA's bank account to the National Skills Fund.
- (3) If a notice is published in terms of subsection (1), the Minister may, to ensure that the SETA resumes the performance of its functions –
 - (a) amend its constitution;
 - (b) reinstate any of its members; and
 - (c) withdraw or amend any provision of the notice contemplated in subsection (2) on such conditions as the Minister considers appropriate.
- (4) The Minister may act in terms of subsection (1) without consulting the National Skills Authority and the SETA in question if there is financial mismanagement of the SETA and the delay caused by the consultation would be detrimental to the SETA's capacity to perform its functions.



CHAPTER 4 LEARNERSHIPS

16. Learnerships

A SETA may establish a learnership if –

- (a) the learnership consists of a structured learning component;
- (b) the learnership includes practical work experience of a specified nature and duration;
- (c) the learnership would lead to a qualification registered by the South African Qualifications Authority and related to an occupation; and
- (d) the intended learnership is registered with the Director-General in the prescribed manner.

17. Learnership agreements

- (1) For the purposes of this Chapter, a "learnership agreement" means an agreement entered into for a specified period between -
 - (a) a learner;
 - (b) an employer or a group of employers (in this section referred to as "the employer"); and
 - (c) a training provider accredited by a body contemplated in section 5(1)(a)(ii)(bb) of the South African Qualifications Authority Act or group of such training providers.
- (2) The terms of a learnership agreement must oblige –
 - (a) the employer to –
 - (i) employ the learner for the period specified in the agreement;
 - (ii) provide the learner with the specified practical work experience; and
 - (iii) release the learner to attend the education and training specified in the agreement;
 - (b) the learner to –
 - (i) work for the employer; and
 - (ii) attend the specified education and training; and
 - (c) the training provider to provide –
 - (i) the education and training specified in the agreement; and
 - (ii) the learner support specified in the agreement.
- (3) A learnership agreement must be in the prescribed form and registered with a SETA in the prescribed manner.
- (4) A learnership agreement may not be terminated before the expiry of the period of duration specified in the agreement unless -
 - (a) the learner meets the requirements for the successful completion of the learnership;
 - (b) the SETA which registered the agreement approves of such termination; or
 - (c) the learner is fairly dismissed for a reason related to the learner's conduct or capacity as an employee.



Department of Labour

- (5) The employer or training provider that is party to a learnership agreement may be substituted with –
 - (a) the consent of the learner; and
 - (b) the approval of the SETA which registered the agreement.
- (6) A SETA must, in the prescribed manner, provide the Director-General with a record of learnership agreements registered by the SETA.
- (7) The Minister may make regulations –
 - (a) permitting an employer to enter into an agreement with an agency to perform the employer's obligations and exercise the employer's rights in respect of a learnership agreement or, in respect of a learner contemplated in section 18(2), a contract of employment; and
 - (b) prescribing the relationship between the employer and the agency contemplated in paragraph (a).

18. Contract of employment with learner

- (1) If a learner was in the employment of the employer party to the learnership agreement concerned when the agreement was concluded, the learner's contract of employment is not affected by the agreement.
- (2) If the learner was not in the employment of the employer party to the learnership agreement concerned when the agreement was concluded, the employer and learner must enter into a contract of employment.
- (3) The contract of employment with a learner contemplated in subsection (2) is subject to any terms and conditions that may be determined by the Minister on the recommendation of the Employment Conditions Commission established by section 59 (1) of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.
- (4) Chapters Eight and Nine [*Chapters Eight and Nine of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) provide for the publication of sector determinations by the Minister on basic conditions of employment on the advice of the Employment Conditions Commission. Before the Commission advises the Minister on the publication of a determination: (a) the Department of Labour conducts an investigation and prepares a report; (b) the Commission then considers the report in the light of a number of factors set out in section 54(3) of the BCEA and in this process may hold public hearings; and then (c) gives its advice in a report to the Minister. The effect of this section is to allow for the setting of terms and conditions of employment for learners in the similar way to the setting of conditions of apprenticeship under the Manpower Training Act, 1981 (Act No. 56 of 1981), in so far as conditions of employment are concerned – see section 13(2)(c) and (k) to (p). The provisions of the BCEA are sufficiently flexible to allow for sector and cross-sector determinations for learnerships.*] of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act apply, with the changes required by the context, to a determination made in terms of subsection (3) except that –
 - (a) for the purposes of section 54 (3) of that Act, the Employment Conditions Commission must also consider the likely impact that any proposed condition of employment may have on the employment of learners and the achievement of the purposes of this Act; and
 - (b) section 55 (7) of that Act does not apply.
- (5) The contract of employment of a learner may not be terminated before the expiry of the period of duration specified in the learnership agreement unless the learnership agreement is terminated in terms of section 17 (4).
- (6) The contract of employment of a learner terminates at the expiry of the period of duration specified in the learnership agreement unless the agreement was concluded with a person who was already in the employment of the employer party to the agreement when the agreement was concluded.

19. Disputes about learnerships

- (1) For the purposes of this section a "dispute" means a dispute about –
 - (a) the interpretation or application of any provision of –
 - (i) a learnership agreement;



Department of Labour

- (ii) a contract of employment of a learner contemplated in section 18(2); or
 - (iii) a determination made in terms of section 18(3);
- (b) this Chapter; or
- (c) the termination of –
 - (i) a learnership agreement; or
 - (ii) a contract of employment of a learner contemplated in section 18(2).
- (2) Any party to a dispute may in writing refer the dispute to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration established by section 112 of the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (Act No. 66 of 1995).
- (3) The party who so refers the dispute must satisfy that Commission that a copy of the referral has been served on all the other parties to the dispute.
- (4) The Commission must attempt to resolve the dispute through conciliation.
- (5) If the dispute remains unresolved, any party may request that the dispute be resolved through arbitration as soon as possible.
- (6) The law that applies to the lawfulness [The lawfulness of a dismissal is governed by the provisions of this Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the common law.] and fairness [The fairness of a dismissal is governed by the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (Act No. 66 of 1995), the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), and the common law (administrative law in respect of public sector employees.] of a dismissal for a reason related to an employee's capacity or conduct applies to a dispute contemplated in subsection (1)(c)(ii).
- (7) Notwithstanding section 210 of the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (Act No. 66 of 1995), this section must be regarded as expressly amending any contrary provision in that Act.



CHAPTER 5 SKILLS PROGRAMMES

20. Skills programmes

- (1) For the purposes of this Chapter, a "skills programme" means a skills programme that –
 - (a) is occupationally based;
 - (b) when completed, will constitute a credit towards a qualification registered in terms of the National Qualifications Framework as defined in section 1 of the South African Qualifications Authority Act;
 - (c) uses training providers referred to in section 17 (1) (c); and
 - (d) complies with any requirements that may be prescribed.
- (2) Any person that has developed a skills programme may apply to –
 - (a) a SETA with jurisdiction for a grant; or
 - (b) the Director-General for a subsidy.
- (2) The SETA or the Director-General may fund the skills programme if –
 - (a) it complies with –
 - (i) subsection (1);
 - (ii) any requirements imposed by the SETA or the Director-General; and
 - (iii) any prescribed requirements; and
 - (b) it is in accordance with-
 - (i) the sector skills development plan of the SETA; or
 - (ii) the national skills development strategy; and
 - (c) there are funds available.
- (3) A SETA or the Director-General may set any terms and conditions for funding in terms of subsection (3) that the SETA or the Director-General, as the case may be, considers necessary.
- (4) The SETA or the Director-General must monitor the skills programmes funded by the SETA or the Director-General, as the case may be.
- (5) A SETA or the Director-General that has made funds available for a skills programme may withhold funds or recover any funds paid if the SETA or the Director-General, as the case may be, is of the opinion that –
 - (a) the funds are not being used for the purpose for which they were made available;
 - (b) any term or condition of the funding is not complied with; or
 - (c) the SETA or the Director-General, as the case may be, is not satisfied that the training is up to standard.

21. Disputes

Any party to a dispute about the application or interpretation of –

- (a) any term or condition of funding referred to in section 20 (4); or
- (b) any provision of this Chapter, may refer the dispute to the Labour Court for adjudication.



CHAPTER 6

INSTITUTIONS IN DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND REGULATION OF PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AGENCIES

22. Skills Development Planning Unit

- (1) Subject to the laws governing the public service, the Director-General must –
 - (a) establish a Skills Development Planning Unit in the Department; and
 - (b) provide the Unit with the personnel and financial resources necessary for the performance of its functions.
- (2) The functions of the Skills Development Planning Unit are –
 - (a) to research and analyse the labour market in order to determine skills development needs for –
 - (i) South Africa as a whole;
 - (ii) each sector of the economy; and
 - (iii) organs of state;
 - (b) to assist in the formulation of –
 - (i) the national skills development strategy; and
 - (ii) sector skills development plans; and
 - (c) to provide information on skills to--
 - (i) the Minister;
 - (ii) the National Skills Authority;
 - (iii) SETAs;
 - (iv) education and training providers; and
 - (v) organs of state.

23. Employment services

- (1) Subject to the laws governing the public service, the Director-General must –
 - (a) establish labour centres in the Department; and
 - (b) appoint such number of persons in the public service at each centre as is necessary to perform the functions of that centre.
- (2) The functions of those labour centres are –
 - (a) to provide employment services for workers, employers and training providers, including improvement of such services to rural communities;
 - (b) to register work-seekers;
 - (c) to register vacancies and work opportunities;
 - (d) to assist prescribed categories of persons--
 - (i) to enter special education and training programmes;
 - (ii) to find employment;



Department of Labour

- (iii) to start income-generating projects; and
 - (iv) to participate in special employment programmes; and
 - (e) to perform any other prescribed function related to the functions referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d).
- (3) The Minister may, after consulting the National Skills Authority, by notice in the Gazette, require each employer to notify a labour centre in the prescribed manner of –
- (a) any vacancy that employer has; and
 - (b) the employment of any work-seeker referred by that labour centre.

24. Registration of persons that provide employment services

- (1) Any person who wishes to provide employment services for gain must apply for registration as a private employment services agency to the Director-General in the prescribed manner.
- (2) The Director-General must register the applicant if satisfied that the prescribed criteria have been met.
- (3) If the Director-General –
 - (a) registers an applicant, the prescribed certificate must be issued to that person; or
 - (b) refuses to register an applicant, the Director-General must give written notice of that decision to the applicant.
- (4) A registered private employment services agency must comply with the prescribed criteria.
- (5) The Director-General may withdraw the registration of any private employment services agency that fails to comply with this Act or any prescribed requirements or criteria.

25. Cancellation of registration of private employment services agency

- (1) Subject to this section, the Director-General may cancel the registration of a private employment services agency if the private employment services agency is not complying with the prescribed criteria.
- (2) If the Director-General has reason to believe that a private employment services agency is not complying with the prescribed criteria and accordingly that its registration should be cancelled, the Director-General must, before cancelling its registration –
 - (a) notify the agency of the intention to cancel registration and the reasons for doing so;
 - (b) give the agency 30 days from the date of the notice to make representations on why its registration should not be cancelled; and
 - (c) take those representations into account in reaching a decision.
- (3) If the Director-General cancels the registration of a private employment services agency, the Director-General must give written notice of that decision to the private employment services agency.

26. Appeal against Director-General's decision

- (1) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Director-General in terms of section 24 (3) (b) or 25 (3) may, within 30 days of the written notice of that decision, in writing, request the Director-General to give that person written reasons for the decision.
- (2) The Director-General must give that person written reasons for the decision within 30 days of receiving that request.
- (3) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Director-General in terms of section 24 (3) (b) or 25 (3) may appeal to the Labour Court against that decision within 60 days of-
 - (a) the date of the Director-General's decision; or



Department of Labour

- (b) if written reasons for the decision are requested, the date of those reasons.
- (4) The Labour Court may, on good cause shown, extend the period within which a person may note that appeal.



CHAPTER 7

FINANCING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

27. National Skills Fund

- (1) The National Skills Fund is hereby established.
- (2) The Fund must be credited with –
 - (a) 20 per cent of the skills development levies, interest and penalties collected in respect of every SETA, as required by sections 8(3)(a) and 9(a) of the Skills Development Levies Act;
 - (b) the skills development levies, interest and penalties collected by the Commissioner from employers which do not fall within the jurisdiction of a SETA, as required by section 8(3)(c) of the Skills Development Levies Act;
 - (c) money appropriated by Parliament for the Fund;
 - (d) interest earned on investments contemplated in section 29 (3);
 - (e) donations to the Fund; and
 - (f) money received from any other source.

28. Use of money in Fund

- (1) The money in the Fund may be used only for the projects identified in the national skills development strategy as national priorities or for such other projects related to the achievement of the purposes of this Act as the Director-General determines.
- (2) A maximum of two per cent of the money allocated to the Fund in terms of section 8(3)(a) of the Skills Development Levies Act may be used to administer the Fund.

29. Control and administration of Fund

- (1) The Director-General is the accounting officer of the Fund in terms of the Exchequer Act, 1975 (Act No. 66 of 1975) and must –
 - (a) control the Fund;
 - (b) keep a proper record of all financial transactions, assets and liabilities of the Fund; and
 - (c) as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, ending on the prescribed date, prepare accounts of the income and expenditure of the Fund for the year and a balance sheet of its assets and liabilities as at the end of that year.
- (2) Any money in the Fund not required for immediate use may be invested with the Public Investment Commissioner or with a financial institution approved by the Minister and may be withdrawn when required.
- (3) Any unexpended balance in the Fund at the end of the financial year must be carried forward to the next financial year as a credit to the Fund.
- (4) The accounts and balance sheet contemplated in subsection (1)(c) must be submitted by the Director-General to the National Skills Authority for information as soon as possible after they have been prepared.

30. Budget for training by public service employers

Each public service employer in the national and provincial spheres of government –

- (a) must budget for at least –
 - (i) 0,5 per cent of its payroll with effect from 1 April 2000



Department of Labour

- (ii) one per cent of its payroll with effect from 1 April 2001, for the training and education of its employees; and
- (iii) may contribute funds to a SETA.

30A. Budget for training by national and provincial public entities

If 80 per cent or more of the expenditure of a national or provincial public entity is defrayed directly or indirectly from funds voted by Parliament, that entity –

- (a) must annually budget at least one per cent of its payroll for the training and education of its employees; and
- (b) may contribute funds to a SETA.



Department of Labour

CHAPTER 8 GENERAL

30B. National standard of good practice in skills development

- (1) In order to achieve the purposes of this Act, the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, establish a national standard of good practice in skills development.
- (2) The Minister may take any steps necessary to achieve the national standard contemplated in subsection (1) and may establish an agency or contract with an existing agency.
- (3) The Director-General may allocate funds from the National Skills Fund to fund any activity undertaken in terms of this section.

31. Jurisdiction of Labour Court

- (1) Subject to the jurisdiction of the Labour Appeal Court and except where this Act provides otherwise, the Labour Court has exclusive jurisdiction in respect of all matters arising from this Act.
- (2) The Labour Court may review any act or omission of any person in connection with this Act on any grounds permissible in law.
- (3) If proceedings concerning any matter contemplated in subsection (1) are instituted in a court that does not have jurisdiction in respect of that matter, that court may at any stage during proceedings refer the matter to the Labour Court.

32. Monitoring, enforcement and legal proceedings

- (1) Chapter Ten, and sections 90 to 93 of and Schedule Two to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act apply, with changes required by the context, to –
 - (a) the monitoring and enforcement of this Act; and
 - (b) any legal proceedings concerning a contravention of this Act.
- (2) A labour inspector appointed in terms of section 63 of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act may issue an order in the prescribed form requiring any person to cease conducting the business of a private employment services agency in contravention of this Act.

33. Offences

It is an offence to –

- (a) obstruct or attempt to influence improperly a person who is performing a function in terms of this Act;
- (b) obtain or attempt to obtain any prescribed document by means of fraud, false pretences or by submitting a false or forged prescribed document;
- (c) furnish false information in any prescribed document knowing that information to be false;
- (d) provide employment services for gain without being registered in terms of section 24; or
- (e) conduct the business of a private employment services agency in contravention of this Act or any prescribed requirement.

34. Penalties

Any person convicted of an offence referred to in section 33 may be sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year.

35. Delegation

- (1) The Minister may in writing delegate to the Director-General or any other officer of the Department any power or duty conferred or imposed on the Minister by this Act.



Department of Labour

- (2) The Director-General may, in writing, delegate to any officer of the Department any power or duty conferred or imposed on the Director-General by this Act.
- (3) Any person to whom any power or duty has been delegated in terms of subsection (1) or (2) must exercise that power or perform that duty subject to the conditions that the person who made the delegation considers necessary.
- (4) Any delegation in terms of subsection (1) or (2)--
 - (a) must be in writing;
 - (b) does not prevent the person who made the delegation from exercising the power or performing the duty so delegated; and
 - (c) may at any time be withdrawn in writing by that person.

36. Regulations

The Minister may, after consultation with the National Skills Authority, by notice in the Gazette, make regulations regarding –

- (a) any matter which may or must be prescribed under this Act;
- (b) any procedure, period, criterion or standard for SETAs to perform any function in terms of section 10(1);
- (c) categories and amounts of grants that may be allocated in terms of section 10(1)(b)(iii);
- (d) the criteria or conditions that may be attached to grants allocated in terms of section 10(1)(b)(iii);
- (e) the evaluation of applications for grants in terms of section 10(1)(b)(iii);
- (f) the manner in which grants may be allocated in terms of section 10(1)(b)(iii);
- (g) the exercise by a SETA of any power contemplated in section 10(2);
- (h) the content, format and timeframe for submitting any report or plan that SETAs are required to submit in terms of this Act;
- (i) the services in respect of which a SETA may earn income in terms of section 14(1)(e) and the fees, including maximum fees, that may be charged in respect of such services;
- (j) the financial systems that SETAs are required to utilise;
- (k) the submission by employers to SETAs of workplace skills plans and reports and the and the form and contents of such reports;
- (l) the appointment by employers of workplace skills facilitators and the obligations of employers in respect of workplace skills facilitators;
- (m) the rights and functions of workplace skills facilitators;
- (n) the rights of registered trade unions, or other employee representatives, to consult with their employer over developing, implementing and reporting on workplace skills plans and on other matters dealt with in this Act;
- (o) circumstances specified in the regulations under which a private employment services agency may charge fees in respect of any services provided by private employment services agencies and the maximum fees that may be charged;
- (p) services for which private employment services agencies may not charge work-seekers fees;
- (q) a form for registering private employment services agencies;
- (r) the administration, operation, functioning and obligations of the National Skills Fund; and



Department of Labour

- (s) any other matter which it is necessary or expedient to prescribe in order to achieve the purposes of this Act.

37. Repeal of laws and transitional provisions

- (1) The laws referred to Schedule 1 are hereby repealed to the extent specified.
- (2) The repeal of those laws is subject to any transitional provision in Schedule 2.

38. Act binds State

This Act binds the State.

39. Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act is called the Skills Development Act, 1998.
- (2) This Act takes effect on a date to be determined by the President by proclamation in the Gazette.



Department of Labour

SCHEDULE 1 REPEAL OF LAWS

(Section 37 (1))

No. and year of law	Short title	Extent of repeal
Act No. 56 of 1981	Manpower Training Act, 1981	The whole.
Act No. 62 of 1981	Guidance and Placement Act, 1981	The whole.
Act No. 41 of 1985	Local Government Training Act, 1985	The whole.
Act No. 106 of 1996	Telecommunications Act, 1996	Sections 78 to 87.



Department of Labour

SCHEDULE 2 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

(Section 37 (2))

1. Definitions

In this Part-

"**Guidance and Placement Act**" means the Guidance and Placement Act, 1981 (Act No. 62 of 1981);

"**Local Government Training Act**" means the Local Government Training Act, 1985 (Act No. 41 of 1985);

"**Manpower Training Act**" means the Manpower Training Act, 1981 (Act No. 56 of 1981); and

"**Telecommunications Act**" means the Telecommunications Act, 1996 (Act No. 103 of 1996).

2. National Training Board

Until the chairperson and other members of the National Skills Authority are appointed, the National Training Board, established in terms of section 3 of the Manpower Training Act, continues to exist and to perform the functions of the National Skills Authority.

3. Manpower Development Fund

All assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the Manpower Development Fund, established by section 38 of the Manpower Training Act, are hereby transferred to the National Skills Fund.

4. Training boards and apprenticeships

- (1) Subject to subitem (4), a training board, established and accredited in terms of sections 12A and 12B of the Manpower Training Act, continues to exist and perform its functions as if that Act had not been repealed, until 31 March 2000.
- (2) When a training board ceases to exist on 31 March 2000-
 - (a) that training board must be wound up in terms of its constitution; and
 - (b) any apprentice under a contract of apprenticeship, registered by that training board and in existence immediately before the training board ceases to exist, must be dealt with as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed except that the Director-General must perform the functions of the training board until that contract of apprenticeship expires.
- (3) The Minister must, by notice in the Gazette, abolish a training board before 31 March 2000 if-
 - (a) a SETA is established; and
 - (b) that SETA has jurisdiction over any part of an industry or area in respect of which the training board has been accredited in terms of section 12B of the Manpower Training Act.
- (4) When a training board is abolished in terms of a notice referred to in subitem (3)--
 - (a) all the assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the training board are transferred to the SETA designated in that notice; and
 - (b) any apprentice under a contract of apprenticeship, registered by the training board and in existence immediately before the training board is abolished, must, subject to subitem (6), be dealt with as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed except that that SETA must perform the functions of the training board until the contract of apprenticeship expires.
- (5) (a) Subject to sub-item (4)(b), all sections of the Manpower Training Act that concern apprentices remain in force as if that Act had not been repealed until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.



Department of Labour

- (b) For the purposes of this subitem-
 - (i) any function of the registrar must be performed by an official of the Department of Labour designated for that purpose in writing by the Minister;
 - (ii) any function of a training board must be performed by the SETA contemplated in subitem (4)(a); and
 - (iii) any function of the National Training Board must be performed by the National Skills Authority.
- (6) From the date immediately after the date referred to in sub-item (5)-
 - (a) any trade designated under section 13 (1) of the Manpower Training Act is regarded to be a qualification contemplated in section 16 (c) of this Act;
 - (b) the applicable provisions of any contract of apprenticeship registered in terms of section 18 of that Act are deemed to be a learnership agreement registered in terms of section 17 (3) of this Act and a contract of employment referred to in section 18 (3) of this Act; and
 - (c) any apprentice referred to in section 17 of that Act is regarded to be a learner in relation to such a learnership agreement.

4A. Mining Qualifications Authority

Despite anything to the contrary in either this Act or the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No. 29 of 1996) –

- (a) and with effect from 20 March 2000 –
 - (i) the Mining Qualifications Authority established in terms of section 41(3) of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996, must be regarded as having been established in terms of section 9(1) of this Act as SETA 16;
 - (ii) Schedule 7 to the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996, must be regarded as the constitution of SETA 16; and
 - (iii) the Chief Inspector of Mines must be regarded as the chairperson of SETA 16;
- (b) the Minister may, in consultation with the Minister of Minerals and Energy and after consulting the Mining Qualifications Authority –
 - (i) amend Schedule 7 to the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996, in order to bring the constitution of SETA 16 into line with the constitutions of other SETAs; and
 - (ii) allow an interested professional body or a bargaining council with jurisdiction in the mining sector to be represented on the Mining Qualifications Authority; and
- (c) the Minister must, in consultation with the Minister of Minerals and Energy, with regard to SETA 16, perform any function entrusted to the Minister in Chapter 3 of this Act.

5. Training centres

- (1) In this item "training centre" means any-
 - (a) centre registered as a regional training centre registered in terms of section 31 of the Manpower Training Act;
 - (b) training centre registered as an industry training centre in terms of section 34 of the Manpower Training Act; or
 - (c) training trust established in terms of any law mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Integration of Labour Laws Act, 1994 (Act No. 49 of 1994), and in existence immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) Subject to subitem (3), a training centre continues to exist and perform its functions as if the Manpower Training Act or any law mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Act referred to in subitem (1) (b) had not been repealed.



Department of Labour

- (3) A training centre must be liquidated⁴ in terms of its constitution not later than 31 March 2000 unless it has been registered as an association not for gain in terms of section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act No. 61 of 1973) before that date.
- (4) The Director-General may take steps to liquidate a training centre after 31 July 1999 if that centre has not-
 - (a) applied for registration as such an association not for gain; or
 - (b) taken steps to liquidate itself in terms of its constitution.
- (5) If a training centre is liquidated, any assets and rights not required to discharge the obligations and liabilities of that centre must be disposed of in accordance with the directions of the Director-General.
- (6) Section 32 of the Manpower Training Act remains in force as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed, until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

6. Arrangements for training of trainees

Any arrangement contemplated in section 30 of the Manpower Training Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act remains in force as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed, until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

7. Grants-in-aid

Section 35 of the Manpower Training Act remains in force as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed, until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

8. Fund for Training of Unemployed Persons

- (1) Any balance of the Fund for the Training of Unemployed Persons established by section 36A of the Manpower Training Act is hereby transferred to the National Skills Fund.
- (2) The balance so transferred may be used only for the training of unemployed persons.

9. Training schemes

- (1) Subject to subitem (2), any scheme declared binding in terms of section 39 (5) of the Manpower Training Act continues as if that Act had not been repealed.
- (2) Any such scheme must be discontinued not later than 31 March 2000 unless the scheme has been-
 - (a) registered as an association not for gain in terms of section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act No. 61 of 1973), before that date, provided that from that registration any notice issued in terms of section 39 (5) in respect of that scheme ceases to be in force;
 - (b) sold with the agreement of the members of the training board with jurisdiction over employers subject to the scheme before that date; or
 - (c) transferred to a SETA with the agreement of those members of the training board before that date.
- (3) If that scheme is discontinued, any assets and rights not required to discharge the obligations and liabilities of that scheme must be disposed of in accordance with the directions of the Director-General.

10. Training levies

- (1) Subject to subitem (2), section 39 of the Manpower Training Act remains in force as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed, until 31 March 2000.
- (2) A notice imposing a levy in terms of section 39 of the Manpower Training Act and issued, before or after the commencement of this Act-
 - (a) may be amended by the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to provide that the levy be paid to a SETA designated in that notice.
 - (b) *[deleted]*



Department of Labour

11. Training advisers

Sections 45 and 46 of the Manpower Training Act remain in force as if the Manpower Training Act had not been repealed, until a date determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

12. Registered work-seekers

Any work-seeker registered in terms of section 4 of the Guidance and Placement Act immediately before the commencement of this Act is regarded to be a registered work-seeker in terms of section 23(2)(b).

13. Private employment offices

Any private employment office registered in terms of section 15 of the Guidance and Placement Act immediately before the commencement of this Act is regarded to be an employment service registered for gain in terms of section 24 of this Act.

14. Local government sector

- (1) The Local Government Training Fund (in this item referred to as "the Fund"), established by section 7 of the Local Government Training Act continues to exist, subject to subitems (5) to (7), as if that Act had not been repealed.
- (2) Any body or institution, including a local government body, recognised as a training centre under section 9A of the Local Government Training Act immediately before the commencement of this Act, continues to be so recognised for a period of four months from that commencement as if the Local Government Training Act had not been repealed.
- (3) Subject to subitem (7)(c), any levy imposed in terms of section 10 of the Local Government Training Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, remains in force until 31 March 2000 as if the Local Government Training Act had not been repealed.
- (4) Subject to subitem (7)-
 - (a) the powers conferred and duties imposed on the Training Board for Local Government Bodies established by section 2 of the Local Government Training Act may be exercised and must be performed by the Local Government Education and Training Board established in terms of section 12A of the Manpower Training Act; and
 - (b) all the assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the Training Board for Local Government Bodies are hereby transferred to the Local Government Education and Training Board.
- (5) The Director-General: Constitutional Development must administer the Fund and is the accounting officer for the Fund.
- (6) The Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development may, after consultation with the Local Government Education and Training Board, utilise the moneys in the Fund to fund any person or institution that in the opinion of the Minister can take action to develop the skills, knowledge, expertise or attitudes of a person elected to a municipal council or employed by a municipality.
- (7) When a SETA is established for the local government sector-
 - (a) the Local Government Education and Training Board ceases to exist;
 - (b) the assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of that Training Board must be transferred to that SETA;
 - (c) the levy referred to in subitem (3) is regarded to be a levy imposed in terms of section 39 (1) of the Manpower Training Act as mentioned in item 10;
 - (d) the Fund ceases to exist; and
 - (e) the Director-General: Constitutional Development must transfer any balance of moneys in the Fund into the banking account of that SETA.

15. Telecommunications sector



Department of Labour

- (1) Subject to subitem (2), the Human Resources Fund referred to in section 78 (1) of the Telecommunications Act continues to exist as if sections 78 to 87 of that Act had not been repealed.
- (2) The Fund referred to in subitem (1) ceases to exist-
 - (a) on 31 March 2000; or
 - (b) on the establishment of a SETA with jurisdiction in the telecommunications sector.
- (3) If that Fund ceases to exist in terms of-
 - (a) subitem (2) (a), the balance of the money in the Fund must be transferred to the National Skills Fund; or
 - (b) subitem (2) (b), the balance of the money in the Fund must be transferred to the SETA referred to in that subitem.
- (4) Subject to subitem (5), the contributions contemplated in section 86 (1) of the Telecommunications Act which are in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, remain in force until 31 March 2000 as if that Act had not been repealed.
- (5) If a SETA with jurisdiction in the telecommunications sector is established, the contributions contemplated in subitem (4) must be credited to that SETA.

16. Exemptions from transfer duty, donations tax or any other tax

Any transfer of assets or rights contemplated in this Schedule is exempt from transfer duty, donations tax or any other duty or tax.