

CHE Found Compliant with African Quality Assurance Standards by the organisation on Harmonisation, Accreditation, and Quality Assurance in African Higher Education Initiative (HAQAA3)

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is a regulatory body for quality assurance in higher education in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Its mandate include the following:

- Promote quality assurance in higher education;
- Audit the quality assurance mechanisms of higher education institutions;
- Accredite programmes and issue a certificate of accreditation of higher education;
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of academic programmes and higher education institutions; and
- Manage implementation of the Lesotho Qualifications Framework (LQF).

In accordance with this mandate CHE accredits programmes offered by higher education institutions. As such no programme can be offered if it has not been accredited. CHE also conducts institutional audits on the higher education institutions looking at such things as governance and institution-wide systems that support smooth running of the institutions and their academic programmes. Furthermore, as part of managing LQF, CHE verifies local qualifications and evaluates foreign qualifications.

It is critical for CHE to be independent in its operations and in decision-making as it discharges its mandate so that its decisions are not influenced by people outside its structures. As CHE we believe in external scrutiny in relation to how we execute our mandate, and whether we comply with principles that guide quality assurance agencies internationally. CHE voluntarily subjects itself to peer review by relevant international quality assurance bodies. It is for this reason that CHE was reviewed as an a quality assurance agency by the international body responsible for HAQAA3 under the auspices of the African Union Commission from March 2025 to June 2026. One of the objectives of HAQAA3 is to enhance quality in higher education institutions and capacities of quality assurance agencies such as CHE through using transparency including African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) and African Credit Transfer System.



Chief Executive of CHE in the middle together with the panel members

CHE was reviewed using the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance by a panel of professionals from Namibia, Ghana, Tanzania, and Mauritius appointed by HAQAA3. CHE performed well in this review in that it was found to be compliant with these standards. The review also provided useful feedback on areas that should be improved.

The review process was engaging and very elaborate. As such it involved many stakeholders who were interviewed, and requested to provide information in different forms. These stakeholders included Ministry of Education and Training, Higher Education Institutions, Students, National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS), professional bodies and representatives of industry among others. We therefore, wish to thank all the stakeholders who played a role during the review of CHE by HAQAA3. We will continue to uphold the values and principles that underpin our mandate as a quality assurance agency.