



THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL TECHNICIANS COUNCIL

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July 2026 Edition

This edition at a glance	Key update
SAQA re-recognition	SADTC re-recognised as a professional body from 10 March 2026 to 09 March 2031.
Stakeholder Engagements	Various meetings held with SAHPRA and DENTASA.
Pipeline logbook assessments	24 cases verified across CPUT, DUT and TUT reports; 22 recommended for registration at report stage, with additional Council/follow-up decisions noted in the education section.
Legal proceedings	Council is defending two sets of High Court proceedings challenging its statutory mandate.
Career awareness	SADTC participated in the SAQA Career Expo on 16 June 2026 in Modimolle, Limpopo.

From the Council Desk

This July edition reflects a period of active engagement for the South African Dental Technicians Council. Council has continued to strengthen professional recognition, engage regulatory stakeholders on practical challenges affecting the profession, monitor education and training pathways, and create greater public awareness of dental technology as a healthcare career.

The updates in this newsletter are drawn from recent Council reports and stakeholder engagements, including the SAQA re-recognition award, SAHPRA and DENTASA engagements, pipeline student logbook submissions, an update on current legal proceedings, and the SAQA Career Expo held in Limpopo.

SADTC Re-recognised as a Professional Body

The South African Qualifications Authority has confirmed the re-recognition of the South African Dental Technicians Council as a professional body. The NQF Qualifications Committee approved the re-recognition on 10 March 2026, and SAQA formally communicated the outcome in a letter dated 14 April 2026.

The renewed recognition period runs from 10 March 2026 until 09 March 2031. SAQA also confirmed the re-registration of the SADTC professional designations Dental Technician and Dental Technologist on the National Qualifications Framework.

- This recognition supports the objectives of the National Qualifications Framework.
- It affirms the continuing role of the Council in professional service delivery and skills development in South Africa.
- It provides an important platform for ongoing cooperation between SADTC and SAQA.

Regulatory Engagement: SAHPRA, DENTASA and Council

Council met with DENTASA and SAHPRA on 15 May 2026 after DENTASA raised concerns that technicians receiving impressions and work from outside South Africa had encountered parcels being held up, with indications that registration may be required before work could be received.

SAHPRA explained that it does not register medical devices and products themselves, but registers establishments involved in importing, manufacturing or wholesaling such devices. SAHPRA further indicated that, where parcels containing custom-made medical devices are imported into South Africa, and where the items are not Class A medical devices, no licence is required. SAHPRA was unaware of parcels being retained and agreed to liaise with its licensing team to clarify the matter.

The meeting also raised wider concerns about the interpretation of dental materials, instruments, devices and appliances within SAHPRA guidance. Council and DENTASA noted inconsistencies and anomalies in the guidance as it applies to dental technology, including classification concerns affecting dentistry-specific products and appliances.

Actions and follow-up

- SAHPRA indicated that it would host a stakeholder engagement session to clarify medical-device classification and licensing processes.
 - SAHPRA agreed to prepare a short dentistry-focused document outlining relevant products and licensing processes.
 - Council sent SAHPRA and meeting participants a critique of the Guidelines for dental equipment, instrumentation, materials and appliances on 4 June 2026.
 - At the time of the supplied newsletter notes, no response to any of these actions had been received.
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DENTASA Engagement and the Road Ahead

Council held a productive meeting with the DENTASA Executive on 21 May 2026. The discussion covered the current legal action against Council by the Universities of Technology, concerns regarding practical exit-level examination standards, the ongoing pipeline student process, progression pathways for dental technicians, and the development of a new Bill.

Council emphasised the importance of maintaining appropriate standards and reiterated the need for experienced laboratory owners and supervisors to assist the education inspectorate by serving as examiners. The meeting also acknowledged the service of laboratory owners who continue to support pipeline students.

The new Bill will be an important area of collaboration. DENTASA is expected to become an active participant in the creation and finalisation of the Bill, with bi-weekly meetings planned for the remainder of the year. Council noted the importance of completing this work as soon as possible, recognising that it can take up to five years before a new Bill becomes a promulgated Act of Parliament.

Education and Pipeline Student Update

Council's pipeline student logbook submission reports for CPUT, DUT and TUT provide a detailed picture of progress and areas requiring improvement. The assessments took place on 21–22 March 2026 .

Institution	Cases verified	Recommended	Referred to Council	Clarification / investigation
CPUT	8	7 at report stage; subsequent Council decision registered the referred candidate	1	0
DUT	3	3	N/A	0
TUT	13	12	1 carried forward from previous report (separate from the 13 verified cases)	1 requiring further documentation within the verified cases

Common quality and compliance observations

- Rubrics must be properly signed, including names of signatories, Council register numbers where applicable, and student signatures.
- Declarations in logbook summaries must be signed by all participating laboratory owners or supervisors where more than one laboratory is involved.
- Weekly submissions should be accompanied by applicable associated rubrics for work completed at a satisfactory level.
- Reports noted a lack of evidence of institutional oversight.
- Where students are placed in different laboratories, separate agreements or documentation should be submitted as required.

Council decisions and individual cases

The CPUT report recorded one candidate referred to Council for consideration. The case was discussed by Council at a Special Meeting on 20 April 2026, where it was decided to register the student.

The TUT report noted one candidate requiring further documentation and one candidate referred to Council from the previous report dated 22 November 2025. These cases underline the importance of clear supervision, complete documentation and consistent institutional oversight.

Update on Legal Proceedings Against the Council

Council is currently engaged in two sets of High Court proceedings arising from the dispute with the Universities of Technology over the Council's authority to regulate the education and training of dental technology students.

Case 1: CPUT, DUT and TUT v President of Council, SADTC and Others (High Court, Pretoria)

In April 2026, CPUT, DUT and TUT jointly instituted High Court proceedings in Pretoria against the President of Council, the SADTC, the Chairperson of the Education Committee, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, and the Council for Higher Education.

The application seeks, among other things, a declaration that the Council's actions in relation to the education and training of dental technology students are unlawful — in effect, that the Council has no authority to regulate education and training in dental technology. This directly challenges the Council's statutory mandate under the Dental Technicians Act, 1979.

Case 2: Ramabula and Others v CPUT, SADTC and Others (Case No. 2026-092916, Western Cape High Court)

CPUT students enrolled in the BHSc Dental Technology programme instituted an application against CPUT and other respondents, including the SADTC and the City of Cape Town. As a result, an interim Court Order was granted directing the City of Cape Town's Fire Department and the Council to inspect the new training facilities at 68 Edward Road, Bo Oakdale.

The Council conducted its inspection on 5 June 2026. The City of Cape Town filed an affidavit confirming it was unable to issue the required gas compliance certificate as the LP gas installation remained non-compliant with SANS 10087-1 as at 1 June 2026. The Council's inspection similarly found the facilities not compliant with registration requirements.

Council's Position

The Council submits that the Universities' position — that they stand above the statutory Council — is untenable and contradicted by the plain terms of the Dental Technicians Act, 1979.

- Section 3(b) provides that one of the objects of the Council is "to control all matters relating to the education and training of dental technicians or dental technologists."
- Section 4(e) empowers the Council to "approve training institutions in accordance with the prescribed conditions, inspect such institutions, and withdraw or suspend the approval of any such institution" where training is not satisfactory or conditions are not complied with.
- Section 16(1) states: "No person or institution may offer or provide any education or training which is intended to qualify any person to practise the profession of dental technician or dental technologist, unless such education and training have been approved by the council."

Council has placed CPUT on notice that approval of its BHSc Dental Technology degree is conditional on the University meeting the conditions of approval. CPUT is currently refusing to comply with those conditions. Council is therefore unable to grant the approval without the conditions being satisfied.

Career Awareness: SAQA Career Expo in Limpopo

The SADTC participated in the SAQA Career Expo held on 16 June 2026 at Phagameng High School in Modimolle, Limpopo. The event ran from 09:00 to 14:00 under the theme "Bringing recognised skills and professional opportunities to every community."

Council was represented by Miss Mkhonza and Ms Banda, who showcased dental technology and promoted the role of the SADTC. Ms Banda delivered a presentation introducing dental technology as a career, explaining the role of dental technicians in healthcare and outlining the Council's regulatory functions and responsibilities.

The expo was attended by learners, educators and parents from the surrounding community. Dr Makhafola, Chief Operating Officer of SAQA, delivered the keynote address and encouraged learners to engage actively with exhibitors and make informed decisions about future career paths.

SADTC formed part of the Health and Science exhibition area. Learners were directed to exhibition tents according to their subject choices and career interests, enabling meaningful engagement with organisations aligned to their fields of interest.



Figure 1: SADTC career-awareness engagement at the SAQA Career Expo.

Council extends appreciation to Tshwane University of Technology for providing informative brochures on career opportunities at the institution. The material added value to the exhibition and supports the goal of strengthening future collaboration with Universities of Technology.

Closing Note

This edition highlights the Council's commitment to protecting professional standards, building constructive stakeholder relationships, supporting education pathways, defending its statutory mandate, and promoting dental technology to future generations. The Council will continue to keep practitioners and stakeholders informed as discussions with SAHPRA, DENTASA, SAQA, UoTs and other partners progress.

Practitioners and stakeholders are encouraged to share relevant concerns, documentation and feedback through the appropriate Council channels so that matters affecting the profession can be followed up effectively.