



Advancing
Auditing & Accountability

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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"SAIGA's Progressive Journey in 2023: A year of Achievements, Recognition and Transformation"



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CEO's Note

The year 2023 stands out as a remarkably progressive year for the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA), surpassing the achievements of the previous year. We went through a progressive path with our annual conference, workshops, and webinars.

It was a year in which the institute celebrated its 35th anniversary, and to mark the momentous occasions, we held a gala dinner along with the 3rd annual SAIGA conference.

We reflect on the journey that started when SAIGA's founding members resolved to establish an organisation that would serve the public sector and advanced public accountability and auditing back in 1988.

By many accounts, the annual conference, which featured distinguished speakers such as the then- acting public protector, Kholeka Gcaleka, Minister of Justice and Correctional services Ronald Lamola, and Deputy Auditor General Vonani Chauke, was a great success.

Under the theme 'Advancing Auditing and Accountability for Citizens and the Future,' the conference brought together professionals in accounting and auditing, politicians, and leaders to engage in panel discussions covering diverse topics such as accounting, auditing, politics, and socioeconomic issues.

The conference also afforded us an opportunity to recognise universities, with the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) being the first university in South Africa to be recognised as an institute of higher learning alongside its academic programme the Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting offered by UKZN.

This means that UKZN BCOM graduates are eligible for membership at SAIGA and that their qualification is a direct feeder to the Registered Government Auditors (RGA) designation. This award serves to recognise the contribution UKZN has made and will continue to make in terms of the RGA designation.

Throughout the year, we dedicated efforts to recognise other various universities, including the University of South Africa, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Pretoria, University of Johannesburg, and the university of Venda, with successful events and workshops held in these and other institutions throughout the year.

Gratitude is extended to several training programmes, including LGSETA, FASSET, and Diebold, for providing this valuable opportunity to the interns who have since joined us.

A special acknowledgment goes to LGSETA for transforming the lives of 38 individuals, granting them the chance to become future RGAs and assist local governments.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to our two task teams, one focused on developing SAIGA competency frameworks and the other dedicated to creating a competency framework for performance audit designations.

The RGA competency framework emphasises the essential skills required by auditors and accountants to navigate today's fast-paced world.

A heartfelt 'thank you' goes out to our members, stakeholders, partners and staff members for their invaluable contributions to SAIGA.

As we wrap up 2023, we would like to wish you all a happy festive season.

SAIGA CEO
Russel Morena

SAIGA empower varsity students



By Sinazo Mondo

SAIGA have continued their drive to get university students ready for the workforce.

Together with the ABASA University of Pretoria (UP) Student Chapter, the Institute recently conducted a transformative interview skills workshop with the aim of preparing students for the professional world by sharpening their interview skills and assisting them in their job search.

Students are often inadequately prepared, lacking basic but essential skills needed to get a foot in the workplace door.

In addition, the workshop equipped the final-year students with essential skills, including interview preparation, Curriculum Vitae (CV) crafting and the art of networking with potential employers.

"We have noted a gap that although students might have academic achievements, they struggle to 'sell themselves' to their new potential employers," said Sello Malatsi, the Education and Training Manager at SAIGA.

"We have also seen this as an opportunity for SAIGA to engage with University students to share with opportunities of being a Registered Government Auditor (RGA) and career opportunities with the public sector with a specific focus in both external audit and public sector finance."

Sinegugu Ngema, the HR Manager at SAIGA, added: "We are committed to helping students not only secure jobs but thrive in their workplaces. We assist them in structuring their CVs and continually encourage self-development."

The intense interview training session was followed by an exhibition where students had the opportunity to engage with the recognised training officers from audit and accounting firms, MGI RAS and KEP Consulting.

"The event workshop went very well. We learned a lot as final year students and we now know how to prepare ourselves for interviews and how to present ourselves to employers," Promise Mokhatla, the UP ABASA student Forum chairperson, enthused.

This initiative has been hailed as a significant step towards preparing the next generation of professionals for the workforce.

To date, the SAIGA training has so far trained over 200 students across various universities including Vaal University of Technology, Tshwane University of Technology and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, with UP being the latest.

Similar workshops will be conducted in all universities next year with the aim of empowering university students and potential future Registered Government Auditors (RGAs).

SAIGA office a hive of activity



By Sinazo Mondo

The once-quiet SAIGA and PSAAA office is now buzzing with no fewer than 26 people occupying the Institute's Centurion headquarters.

This is thanks largely to the interns, who have been with the Institute for a few months now, having come in through several training programmes namely Diebold Nixdorf South Africa represented by Intsha Consulting, Mavco Engineering, Ekurhuleni East TVET College as well as LG SETA.

But such is the level of dedication, hard work and enthusiasm for their work that it is not easy to distinguish the interns from their more experienced, full-time employees.

The interns, Kalushi Sekgoka, Boitshoko Modibedi, Paballo Mashale, Lerato Mokoena, Xoliswa Mbambo, Sinazo Mondo, Felicity Mashabane, Ronald Mokgaditsi, Uyanda Ngomane, Marriam Tlou, Kate Skhosana, Lebogang Mohlala and Seani Randela, see SAIGA as their first step into the workforce and do not take this opportunity lightly.

"I'm happy to be here and it has been a great journey, I have learned a lot with SAIGA and I'm growing," Modibedi, the Management Consultant intern shared with SAIGA.

Sekgoka, the marketing intern said, "My experience with SAIGA so far has been great because the organisation has provided me with the platform to put my theoretical knowledge into practice, not only I have been exposed to duties that were relevant to my career studies but also been exposed to other duties through coordinating with other departments in the organisation."

The interns named the 3rd Annual SAIGA conference as a highlight of their year with SAIGA, having been part of the Institute's national event in September.

"One of my highlights so far was being part of the task team formed to assist in making SAIGA's conference a success. I was handling all the exhibitions, allocating stations, and assisting with registrations," enthused Sekgoka.

Reflecting on the conference, Kate Skosana, another marketing intern said: "The conference was really great for me as I have gained more exposure. I got to network and interact with the members."

It's CPD O'Clock, members!



By Sinazo Mondo

Do not be left in the dark with your Continuous Professional Development (CPDs).

Thanks to the Glue Up system, which makes it simple to submit your CPD, the procedure has never been simpler.

The process couldn't be easier than it is now, thanks to the Glue Up system, which enables members to submit their CPD without a hassle.

As SAIGA, we cannot over-emphasise the importance of the CPD programmes as learning activities that enable our members to perform competently within their professional environment.

The CPDs also contribute towards the development of the public sector auditing and accountancy profession and the service to the public interest.

"Make sure you are not left in the dark. We are here to help you make sure your membership is active," says Membership Manager Maropeng Thaba.

"Members need to submit these CPDs because they are part of the requirements for members to remain in good standing."

"Members of a professional body have a moral duty towards the profession and must be committed to expanding and updating their knowledge in their area of expertise and other related areas. So, do the right thing, member, and submit your CPD to keep your membership active."

The submission window is open till **December 31** and no late submissions will be considered.

The submission process is quite easy.

However, you will be required to fill in a form that contains the requisite CPD proof and information.

To submit:

- Go to the SAIGA website
 - Click on the CPD Option
 - Follow the easy steps and submit.
- Follow the same guidelines to submit more than one registration.

Remember, you will not be able to submit your CPD after the 31st of December 2023 and your membership will become inactive.

Meet SAIGA's toast of the month



By Sinazo Mondo

Nathan Hutton has earned the prestigious SAIGA Employee of the Month award for the month of November.

Hutton, a junior accountant, has received recognition for his diligent work since joining the Institute.

The 27-year-old has been brimming with pride since being bestowed the award and has served as an inspiration to his colleagues.

“Receiving such a prestigious award in such a short period means a lot to me. I'll be adding a lot more to my cabinet,” Hutton quips.

“But seriously, it feels wonderful to be acknowledged and to know that my hard work is being recognised.”

SAIGA presents these awards to express gratitude and show appreciation to employees. The recognition also aligns with SAIGA's policy of promoting ethical behaviour.

Hutton continues, “This is not the first award I've received; I was recognised for my hard work at my previous job. But working at SAIGA has been a positive journey for me. It is a lovely working environment, easy-going, and has a good organisational culture.”

As the Junior Accountant, Hutton oversees the entity's financial health and provision recommendations to aid in financial constraints and/or factors hampering financial efficiency.

His next goal is to implement further financial policies that will assist the current financial mechanism and structure at SAIGA.

Nathan isn't just a numbers guy. He is also an athletic individual who follows football as well as rugby and tends to participate in weightlifting.

Hutton's motto is “Dala what you must,” which simply translates to “do what you have to do”.

He encourages his colleagues to do their work in a way that satisfies them, making it their guiding principle.

SAIGA's fun-filled xmas party



By Sinazo Mondo

THE SAIGA merrymakers were undoubtedly a joyous bunch as they let their hair down and enjoyed their best Christmas party ever.

The staffers took a Sho't Left to Harties, a well-known resort town in the North West, for their year-end extravaganza in early December.

They gathered for a fun-filled day of delectable food, drinks, and dance, unwinding and reflecting on a demanding year.

But the day kicked off with the cable viewing as the merrymakers soared high into the sky to witness the breathtaking cityscape, mountains before they went on a delightful boat cruise around the "Harties" Dam.

As the beats played softly, a Secret Santa ceremony unfolded, adding an element of mystery to the gift exchange as the party continued with celebrations for the SAIGA birthday kids.

Mpho Nkoana, Sello Malatsi and Boitshoko Modibedi were the colleagues whose birthdays were celebrated at the Christmas party.

Nkoana, a finance administrator, isn't just a finance whiz, but she describes herself as a family-oriented mother of three who cherishes both her solitude and the company of her loved ones. She finds immense joy in spending time with her children and frequently enjoys outings with them.

This was demonstrated by her involvement in the welfare committee, which ensured the SAIGA celebration ran smoothly.

"I want to see people happy," she says, "and I'm always eager to lend a hand. I'm a bubbly person who is always happy and never angry."

Xoliswa Mbambo, an HR intern who was also involved in the event's planning, echoed Nkoana's sentiments.

"Everything went smoothly; we put in our best efforts and delivered," said Mbambo. "Both the place and the weather were fantastic and made for a perfect outing."

Buthelezi's informative webinar



By Sinazo Mondo

With over 100 attendees, SAIGA's first scheduled session of the governance training webinar proved to be a resounding success.

The webinar, funded by the Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (FASSET), focused on exploring various facets of governance and other areas that have an impact on governance.

The primary objective, however, was to help candidates gain insights into good governance standards and improve management, performance and public behaviour.

Governance, being a multifaceted field, can be challenging for many, and these training sessions aim to demystify the difficulties associated with it. The webinar also served as an educational platform, striving to inform and empower participants with essential skills.

Facilitating the webinar, Mbali Buthelezi, a Registered Government Auditor (RGA) delivered a presentation that was not only comprehensive but also highly informative.

Attendees expressed their satisfaction, with one participant Nteboheling Semoli commenting, "Thank you very much for the information presentation. This is an eye-opener. I was not able to fill out a working paper on governance, but now I am going to fill the gap and walk tall."

The positive feedback highlighted the tangible impact of the training on the participants. The newfound understanding and confidence in dealing with governance matters were evident in their responses.

The webinar not only provided valuable education but also empowered participants to navigate governance challenges with newfound confidence. As SAIGA continues its commitment to excellence, such initiatives contribute significantly to the overall development and proficiency of its members.

Can you audit joy?

SAIGA employees and RGA members enjoyed an exclusive BMW ride-and-drive event in early December hosted by BMW Kempton Park.

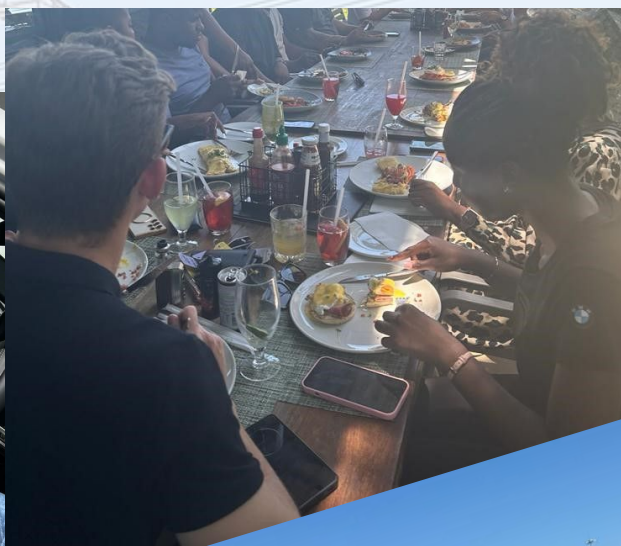
The attendees headed out in a convoy from the dealership for a delicious brunch at the Cradle Boutique Hotel, Northwest of Joburg.

The outing was amazing with the awe-inspired participants thrilled by the opportunity to test drive the latest beemers, including the X6, X5, and X3 as well as the electric car models, IX 40 and IX 3.

"It was truly a wonderful day, thanks to the BMW Kempton," said Lucky Mokoena, a SAIGA Council member and an RGA.

"I'm glad I came along for the ride. I couldn't get my hands off the X5."

BMW Kempton Customer Experience Specialist, Thapelo Matsane, said: "A special thanks to SAIGA for joining us on our ride. We look forward to a long standing relationship with the Institute."



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About the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors is a non-profit professional body representing a unique brand of professionals, the Registered Government Auditors (RGA) in the public sector and academia. The RGA is considered the highest professional designation within the public sector auditing. Visit www.saiga.co.za for more information.

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