

SAICA congratulates successful Assessment of Professional Competence candidates

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Today, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) announced that 2 024 of the 3 560 candidates who wrote the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) evaluation in November 2019, successfully met the assessment's requirements.



“SAICA would like to congratulate the cohort of 2019 for their dedication and determination in applying themselves to the rigorous professional requirements of the APC. In many ways this is the toughest exam because it requires aspirant Chartered Accountants [CAs(SA)] to apply their technical academic knowledge from multiple disciplines to a single but complex real-life business case study. To pass, candidates must demonstrate high levels of the skills employers have told us they want in the next generation of CAs(SA),” said Freeman Nomvalo, CEO of SAICA.

“Succeeding at this final test of professional competence requires advanced levels of critical thinking, the ability to work with technology, and the capacity to assimilate new information under pressure over a five-day period which culminates in an eight-hour assessment. It’s gruelling but it’s exactly the kind

of challenge successful candidates will soon face as qualified CAs(SA),” added Nomvalo.

SAICA celebrates its transformation initiatives across the pipeline which are bearing fruit

A recent analysis of the transformation efforts that began in 2002 to make the membership of the chartered accountancy profession more diverse, reveals that African membership, under the age of 35, has significantly increased from 3% in 2002 to 25% in 2020. (See detailed charts in Notes to Editor).

While the total number of candidates that sat the 2019 assessment increased by 17.2%, SAICA noted with concern that the overall pass rate decreased by 12%.

By Race	2019				2018				Decrease in pass rate (2018 to 2019)
	FAIL	PASS	TOTAL	% PASS	FAIL	PASS	TOTAL	% PASS	
Indian	169	327	496	66%	103	358	461	78%	-12%
African	934	705	1639	43%	638	581	1219	48%	-5%
Coloured	102	104	206	50%	58	154	212	73%	-22%
Race not disclosed	1	2	3	67%	0	3	3	100%	-33%
White	330	886	1216	73%	158	984	1142	86%	-13%
Grand Total	1536	2024	3560	57%	957	2080	3037	68%	-12%

Nomvalo said: “While we are encouraged to see how the profession’s transformation efforts have translated into more African and female candidates sitting the APC, we must raise our concern about the decline in the overall pass rate. We appeal to unsuccessful candidates not to give up, but to re-enrol for next year’s exam. Many CAs(SA) do not pass at their first attempt but go on to have highly successful and rewarding careers. I would like to specifically mention the two candidates who did not give up and overcame numerous obstacles to pass the APC on their 6th attempt. They exemplify the spirit of perseverance, and never giving up on their dreams.”



Freeman Nomvalo

“As SAICA we will intensify our collaborative efforts to work with all our stakeholders in the education value chain, from schools through to training offices, to develop new and repeat candidates for solving real-world scenarios at the standard required to become a CA(SA),” committed Nomvalo.

12 exceptional candidates honoured for their aptitude and skill

On releasing the results SAICA also highlighted 12 candidates who earned a place on the institute’s prestigious APC Honours Roll. The roll is made up of candidates who demonstrate exceptional performance and show the greatest insight into the way they complete the case study tasks. Those candidates, in alphabetical order (by surname), are:

Name	Surname	Training Office	Professional Provider Programme
Ahmed	Aly	Deloitte	APT
Robert	Anderson	Nedbank	APT
Simon	Basson	KPMG	APT
Mari-Louise	Boshoff	Deloitte	APT
Ryan	Brain	EY	UCT
Helen	Denny	PwC	APT
Eduard	du Plessis	Deloitte	UCT
Chame	Ferreira	PwC	APT
Kyle	Pillay	EY	UCT
Jani	Rademeyer	BDO	APT
Christin	Thomas	Deloitte	UCT
Francois	van der Merwe	PKF	APT

SAICA’s interventions to grow the pipeline of CAs(SA)

SAICA’s commitment to its members and the public is that the CA(SA) designation is of the highest standard of excellence, able to meet the demands of the future market, driven by the skills of the 21st century. With this in mind, SAICA has implemented a number of interventions including more detailed analysis, candidate surveys and engagement with key stakeholders. Among others, these engagements led to:

- Collaboration with a range of stakeholders including ABASA (Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa) and AWCA (African Women Chartered Accountants);
- Professional Programme Providers making a number of changes to their offerings and interventions; and
- Training Offices becoming more aware of the need to expose trainees to a broader range of work environments (industries / types of clients) and to better develop the candidate’s critical thinking and judgement rather than simply their technical and numerical skills.

Additional interventions to support SAICA’s intent to develop the candidates’ beyond being able to demonstrate their pure technical ability - in order to ensure the candidates’ ongoing relevance - were put in place at specific firms. In addition, academic programme providers were consulted to assess what they could do differently within the academic programme, to further develop relevant aspects of professional competencies earlier in response to the growing complexity of the demands within the accounting profession and business.

“These long term interventions, however, will take time to reach fruition. The skills required to be demonstrated in the APC, and expected in business today, cannot be developed overnight. There needs to be interventions across the candidates’ entire professional development journey from when they start their undergraduate qualification until they complete all requirements for becoming a CA(SA),” concluded Nomvalo.

Detailed statistics can be found on the SAICA website: www.saica.co.za.

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