

NEWSLETTER

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors



SAIGA UPDATES

The SAIGA newsletter is a regularly distributed publication designed to keep you informed about our latest activities and updates.

ABOUT SAIGA

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) is a non-profit professional body dedicated to serving the public interest. Since its inception in 1988, the role and function of SAIGA have been to serve the public sector and society by advancing public accountability and auditing in its broadest sense.

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CEO'S NOTE

As we approach the end of 2024, it is an important time for reflections and setting the tone for the year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key milestones and achievements, as well as to share essential updates for all our members.

Firstly, I would like to remind all members that the Ethical Declaration and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Declaration are due by 31 January 2025.

I encourage members to complete them and submit on time to ensure that we continue to meet the ethical and developmental standards that we set for ourselves and the profession as a whole.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited to announce the launch of our Entrepreneurship and Incubation Programme. This initiative is designed to promote innovation, support start-ups and nurture the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs and Registered Government Auditors (RGAs) in our industry. We believe this will open new opportunities for growth collaboration and success within our sector.

As we reflect on the year, I am proud of the progress we have made, especially in our support for members' CPD programmes. This year, we launched four key seminars, which have been instrumental in helping members enhance their skills and expand their knowledge base. These seminars have proven to be a valuable resource, and I am encouraged by the engagement and feedback we have received.

Additionally, our contributions to the public sector stakeholders' capacity improvement have been significant. We hosted impactful events, dialogues and summits such as the Audit Finance and Indaba, the Local Government Summit, the Women in Leadership Breakfast and the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Dialogue and of course, our annual conference. These events were not just a platform for discussion but a vital step toward building stronger, more transparent and effective public institutions.

Another important initiative that I want to highlight is the Adopt-a-Municipality project. This has been a key focus for us as we work to uplift and improve local governance. I am thrilled to share that the following municipalities will benefit from this project, with a strong commitment to improving service delivery, governance and the overall quality of life for citizens:

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SAIGA & LGSETA ADOPT-A- MUNICIPALITY PROJECT MUNICIPALITIES

- Tokologo Local Municipality (Free State)
- Makana Local Municipality (Eastern Cape)
- Govan Mbeki Municipality (Mpumalanga)
- Joe Morolong Municipality (Northern Cape)
- Beaufort West Local Municipality (Western Cape)
- uMkhanyakude District Municipality (KwaZulu-Natal)
- Mporofana Local Municipality (KwaZulu-Natal)
- Ditsobotla Local Municipality (North West)
- Mogalakwena Local Municipality (Limpopo)
- Merafong City Local Municipality (Gauteng)



Photo: Sello Malatsi, Strategic Partnerships and Growth Manager at the Adopt a Municipality Project Launch

The impact of this initiative will be far-reaching and I am confident that our efforts will contribute to sustainable development and improved governance in these areas.

Lastly, I am excited to reflect on our introduction of the RGA programme in Eswatini. This marks a significant step in our journey to expand our reach across the African continent.

As we wrap up the year, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our members, partners and stakeholders. Your dedication, passion and hard work continue to drive our success. Let us continue to strive for excellence and work together to achieve even greater milestones in 2025. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared vision.

SAIGA AND API JOIN FORCES TO PROFESSIONALISE PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING

By Sinazo Mondo



Photo: Mr Evans Mulera (API CEO) and RUSSEL MORENA (SAIGA CEO) signing the MOUs at the MOU signing ceremony.

In a significant step towards elevating the professional standards of public sector accounting, the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Professionalisation Initiative (API).

This partnership, signed on November 6, 2024, aims to boost the expertise and competency of public sector accountants across the continent, ultimately enhancing financial management for African citizens.

SAIGA Council Member Tshepo Shabangu and Lourens Erasmus, the University of South Africa's professor in public sector financial governance, delivered keynote addresses on an academic and industry view on the objective and impact of public sector professionalisation, highlighting the role and significance of Public Sector Professionalisation.

API is a group focused on improving public sector professionals in Africa. It aims to build the skills and knowledge of accountants and auditors working in government. This agreement shows a mutual commitment to strengthen accounting and auditing standards to keep up with the fast-changing public sector.

The partnership further aims to promote and grow cooperation to increase the number and capacity of accountancy professionals (Accountants, Auditors and Non-finance managers) in the public sector thereby enhancing service delivery for citizens.

"Our joint efforts aim to strengthen not only South Africa's public finance management but that of Africa at large. This collaboration is about making meaningful strides in education and professionalisation," said SAIGA CEO Russel Morena.

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Photo: From left to right, Sello Malatsi (SAIGA Strategic Partnerships and Growth Manager), Avens Mulera (API CEO), Russel Morena (SAIGA CEO) and Tshepo Shabangu (SAIGA Council member) at the MOU signing ceremony.

The event drew distinguished guests, who included ASB CEO, Jeanine Poggiolini, Professor Erasmus, Sipho Maluleke, HOD of TUT's Public Accountancy Department, among others.

Speaking on the collaboration, API CEO Evans Murela said: "API and SAIGA members will also benefit from access to a collaborative platform, sharing insights into advanced public finance management, including training in artificial intelligence."

API has made the programmes accessible and affordable, offering a cost-effective pathway for SAIGA members to gain vital skills and professional recognition.

Morena added: "We are committed to supporting the next generation of public sector finance professionals and ensuring that our programmes contribute to the broader mission of improved service delivery across Africa."

SIU BOSS DELIVERS KEYNOTE AT SAIGA ANTI-FRAUD DIALOGUE

By Sinazo Mondo

Fraud and corruption are unethical practices that destabilises society and endangers the rule of law.

In a powerful keynote address at the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Dialogue, Advocate Andy Mothibi, Head of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), emphasised this point as well as the importance of holding wrongdoers accountable in the fight against corruption.



Photo: from left to right, SAIGA CEO, Russel Morena, Advocate Andy Mothibi, IISA CEO Arlene-Lynn Volmink and ICFP CEO Chris de Beer at the dialogue.

"Wrongdoers must not be let off the hook but must be held accountable and be blacklisted along with their directors," Mothibi declared, highlighting his commitment to ensuring that those responsible for corruption face consequences.

The event, a collaborative effort by the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA), the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa (IIA SA) and the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners (ICFP), focused on the critical role whistleblowers play in exposing corruption and protecting transparency. Mothibi's address came at a pivotal time as his unit continues its efforts to tackle fraud and financial mismanagement in the public sector.

While the SIU recently drew attention for its investigations into corruption in three municipalities: OR Tambo, eThekweni, and Ngaka Modiri Molema, uncovering procurement irregularities, including inflated tenders and bribes.

But Mothibi made it clear that the fight against corruption will not stop.

His comments were a reminder that the accountability of public officials is non-negotiable, with the SIU continuing to draw on key pieces of legislation, such as the Public Finance Management Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act, to guide their investigations.

Mothibi's message resonated with attendees, reinforcing the need for integrity and transparency in both public administration and corporate governance. He also highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by his team in ensuring that those who betray the public trust are brought to justice.

As the dialogue concluded, the message was clear: combating corruption requires not only rigorous investigation and accountability but also the protection of those who expose it. For Mothibi and the SIU, the battle against fraud and corruption is far from over.

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Photo: from left to right, panellists Dr Jerry Chetty (ICFP), Kgothatso Maoko (SAIGA), Xola Lingani (IIA SA), Jovita Fazenda (The Ethics Institute) at the Dialogue.

Dr Sani Gildenhuys from the Unisa College of Accounting Sciences supported Adv Mothibi's statement, emphasising the importance of providing protection, financial rewards, and other support for whistleblowers. She said, "We don't want more whistleblowers, we want less crime.

She also stressed the need to create a strong system that allows whistleblowers to report without fear.

Following their presentations, a panel discussion took place on how to establish a framework that truly protects whistleblowers.

The panel included Kgothatso Maoko, Head of Technical Department at SAIGA, Dr Jerry Chetty, Chairperson of the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners, Jovita Fazenda, Ethics Expert and Head of the International Bureau at The Ethics Institute and Xola Lingani, Chief Audit Executive at Unisa.

SAIGA PARTNERS WITH LTS TO EMPOWER RGAS

By Sinazo Mondo

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) announced a long-term partnership with Learner Tracking Systems (LTS), a leading provider of online assessment solutions for accounting firms and professional bodies.

As SAIGA continue to grow and onboard more Registered Government Auditor (RGA) trainees through its partnerships with the SETAs and funding organisations, this collaboration with LTS will help us provide better training and support for our future RGAs.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"This partnership with LTS is a historic moment for the institute," said Kgothatso Maoko, Head of the Technical Unit at SAIGA.

"Our trainees will benefit from an efficient learner tracking platform, enabling them to assess their growth through both summative and formative assessments. These assessments are rigorously monitored for quality assurance, aligning with our RGA training streams and competency frameworks."

"Specifically, the frameworks include the RGA-FIN for trainees practicing in public finance and the RGA-EA for the trainees to become registered government auditors via external audit route. We are very intentional as a capacity-building partner and innovation catalyst. This is to produce a high calibre of public sector experts and specialists that will professionalise the public sector and bring the change that our country and the SADEC region has been waiting for!"

LTS Managing Director Zach Mostert said: "As director of LTS, we are proud to bring 20 years of assessment expertise to our partnership with SAIGA. Through this collaboration, we are implementing an online assessment platform for the RGA training programmes to improve how trainee progress is tracked and managed.

"This platform will enable training offices to oversee their programmes with greater efficiency, while delivering valuable insights into trainees' workplace experiences and their development within the prescribed competency framework. We are excited about this partnership with SAIGA and look forward to building a strong, long-term relationship as we pursue excellence together."

This milestone represents a significant step forward for SAIGA and its goal to develop future RGAs who are key in promoting accountability and transparency in the public interest.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE ZONDO HONOURED WITH PRESTIGIOUS SAIGA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

By Sinazo Mondo

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) had the distinct honour of presenting the 2024 SAIGA Presidential Award to the former Chief Justice of South Africa, Honourable Raymond Zondo. The award was given in recognition of his exemplary leadership, strong advocacy for justice, transparency and integrity throughout his distinguished career.

The award ceremony took place at the University of South Africa in Pretoria on December 7.



As a dedicated public servant and a champion of ethical leadership, the contributions of former Chief Justice Zondo to South Africa's judiciary and governance have had a profound impact. His commitment to upholding the rule of law and promoting accountability has served as an inspiration to all who work in the public sector, particularly those in the field of auditing and governance.

Celebrating excellence in the RGA profession

The SAIGA member awards ceremony provided an opportunity to honour outstanding professionals within the RGA community. The winners in various categories were celebrated for their exceptional contributions and achievements. The following individuals were recognised:

- **RGA Professional of the Year:** Dr Audrey Legodi
- **Young RGA Professional of the Year Excellence Award:** Thabang Mahlangu
- **Most Impactful Associate Member of the Year Award:** Mahlatse Shokane

In addition, the exceptional performance of candidates in the RGA QE Examinations was acknowledged:

- **Top Achiever:** Khanyisile Bavuma
- **2nd Place:** Ndodana Ngid
- **3rd Place:** Lusani Sumbana and Ramndy Mugwena

These awardees were commended for their professionalism, excellence and commitment to the RGA profession. Their dedication continues to lift the standards of government auditing and accountability.

SAIGA extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and nominees of this year's awards. Their achievements serve as a testament to the high standards of the RGA profession and the ongoing efforts to improve governance and accountability within South Africa and beyond.

SAIGA AWARDS CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS EXCELLENCE

By Sinazo Mondo

On the 27th of November 2024, day two of the SAIGA Year-End Function at the Magalies Park Convention Centre, we celebrated the outstanding contributions of our team members through the organisational values and team award categories.

The ceremony recognised employees who have gone above and beyond in embodying our core values and fostering a positive, thriving work environment.

Here are the winners of the prestigious awards:

- **Best Team Player: Lucas Maponya** – Lucas has demonstrated extraordinary integrity and generosity, always putting the team's needs first and helping colleagues achieve success.
- **Leads in Ethical Behaviour: Mmakoma Merriam Tlou** – Mmakoma exemplifies the highest ethical standards, inspiring those around her with her commitment to doing what is right.
- **Teamwork: Finance Team** – This award recognises the collective efforts of the finance team, who consistently prioritise organisational culture and contribute to a positive work environment.
- **Change Champion: Kgothatso Joyce Maoko** – Kgothatso embraces and drives change, showing remarkable adaptability and leadership in transforming challenges into opportunities.
- **Service Excellence: Sello Malatsi** – Sello consistently delivers exceptional service and products, making excellence a standard in everything he does.
- **Accountability in Action: Qhamani Noko** – Qhamani stands out for his dedication to accountability, always finding purpose in his work and aligning his actions with the organisation's mission.
- **Growth Guru: Sello Malatsi** – In addition to his service excellence, Sello is a true mentor, supporting peers' development, encouraging continuous improvement and going above and beyond to help others grow.



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SAIGA WRAPS UP 2024 WITH AN EPIC YEAR-END OUTING

By Sinazo Mondo

On 26–27 November 2024, SAIGA hosted its much-anticipated Year-End Function, a vibrant celebration to mark the closer of a successful year. This unforgettable retreat was filled with camaraderie, laughter and exciting activities.

The year end funtion kicked off with a thrilling mix of outdoor adventures and had a bunch of intresting fun activities including boat paddling, canoeing, karaoke, and swimming.

Later on the first day, attendees gathered around the Boma by the lake to enjoy a traditional braai, refreshing drinks and heartfelt conversations under the stars. A highlight of the evening was the Secret Santa gift exchange, fostering a spirit of joy and connection among colleagues.

The year-end function was more than just a celebration it was a testament to SAIGA's achievements and the strong sense of community that drives its success. Here's to a wonderful year ahead!



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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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