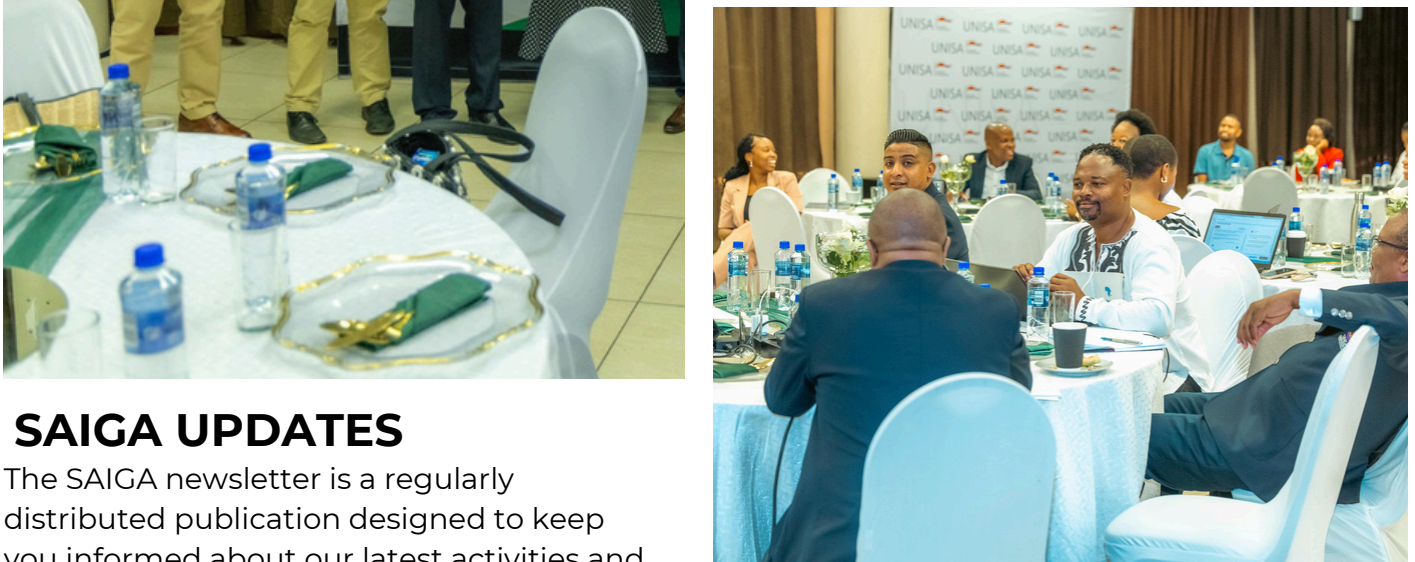


# NEWSLETTER

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 the first quarter of the year winds up, I am excited to reflect on the SAIGA Audit and Finance Indaba that brought together interesting professionals from different sectors, including the SCOPA Chairperson Songezo Zibi.

My main focus is on the panel discussion about public financial management, with a particular emphasis on fiscal decentralisation and capital investments.

Capital investments, essential for infrastructure and economic growth, were a key topic. Panellists shared knowledge on how strategic capital investment decisions can drive long-term growth and enhance the country's global competitiveness.



Photo: SAIGA CEO, Russel Morena.

It was exciting to be part of the discussion around important issues, including the challenges and opportunities of fiscal decentralisation and the role of capital investments in shaping our future. This year's Indaba was an invaluable experience for everyone involved in public financial management.

Looking ahead, we are excited about upcoming SAIGA events, such as the Local Government Summit in July, the Women in Leadership Breakfast in August, the 5th Annual SAIGA Conference in September, and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Dialogue in November. All these events offer CPD points and contribute to the professional development of our members and the broader public.

The SAIGA podcasts are becoming a hit with our members, as seen by the high listenership for the post-SONA analysis session. We urge members to tune in to our monthly podcasts.

Lastly, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the SAIGA team. We're happy to have a new Operations Officer with extensive experience in managing organisational processes, as well as two Marketing Interns who will play a key role in promoting our events and initiatives.

As always, we remain committed to providing valuable resources, CPD events and ongoing support to our members, helping them make a meaningful impact in both the public and private sectors. We look forward to collaborating with all our stakeholders as we work together to shape the future of auditing in South Africa.

## SCOPA CHAIR SONGEZO ZIBI DELIVERS KEYNOTE AT THE AUDIT AND FINANCE INDABA

By Sinazo Mondo



Photo: From left to right, Mlungisi Hlongwane, Songezo Zibi, Dr Audrey Legodi and Dr Ramphelane Hlakudi .

Songezo Zibi, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), has thanked public sector auditors for their courage and dedication in serving the people of South Africa.

The leader of Rise Mzansi made these remarks during his keynote address at the 2nd Annual SAIGA Audit and Finance Indaba held at Unisa in March.

“I want to acknowledge the vital role of government auditors in ensuring the credibility and success of our constitutional order,” Zibi said. “SCOPA acts as the Audit Committee of the government, overseeing trillions of rands in government expenditure.”

Zibi emphasised the risks faced by auditors, particularly in municipalities, noting that auditing in the public sector can be a dangerous profession. I do not believe we afford sufficient recognition to their bravery in service of the South African people. But today I want to correct that and say thank you.”

Zibi highlighted the often-overlooked auditors who work behind the scenes in internal audit function in government departments, agencies and state-owned companies.

Zibi's address focused on the theme “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Public Financial Management: An Analysis on Fiscal Decentralisation and Capital Investments.” As a key figure in holding the government accountable through his leadership at SCOPA, Zibi offered an in-depth analysis on how South Africa can improve its public financial management.

The Indaba followed closely after Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's annual budget speech, prompting Zibi to highlight the key takeaways from the budget in his address.

Speaking on it, he said: “this year’s budget proposals are contained as this information is deposited to parliament, this year, the expenditure will be 3,6 trillion rand if it is approved, and a budget only makes sense if you look at it holistically.”

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Photo: From left to right, Panelists: Faith Ngwenya, Reece Pillay, Lebogang Thobakgale, Nicky Weimar and Rob Rose deep in discussions at the SAIGA Audit and Finance Indaba..

The Indaba featured an interesting panel discussion, moderated by award-winning journalist Rob Rose, former editor of Financial Mail and author of Steinheist and The Grand Scam.

The panel included notable industry experts such as Nicky Weimar, Chief Economist at Nedbank; Reece Pillay, Financial Reporting Manager at Merafong City Local Municipality; Lebogang Thobakgale, Associate Director: Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer for KPMG and Faith Ngwenya, Head of the Education Unit at the Chartered Institute for Business Accountants.

The panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities posed by fiscal decentralisation and the role of capital investments in shaping South Africa's financial future.

SAIGA CEO Russel Morena expressed his excitement about the event's success, saying, "We are happy to have addressed critical issues like fiscal decentralisation and capital investments. This year's Indaba has been a truly transformative experience for all those involved in public financial management."

## THE GRASS IS GREENER FOR TUT STUDENTS ON GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

By Sinazo Mondo

As SAIGA continues to make significant strides in placing accounting graduates on Internships and training programmes.

As many as 34 TUT students have been successfully placed in the LGSETA and TETA programmes, bringing the total number of placements to 230 so far.

Of these, 11 graduates have been placed under the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA), while 23 have been placed under the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA).

The graduates have been placed in several training offices, including Kep Consulting, LAGAB Financial Services, Chapu Chartered Accountants, Namedu Incorporated, MGI RAS, Samba Solutions, to name a few.

These placements show the progress TUT students are making under the leadership of SAIGA and underscore the benefits of being a SAIGA member.

Wilson Magoro, one of the graduates placed, shared, “Being part of SAIGA has been instrumental in advancing my career. The opportunities I’ve had to learn and grow through this placement have been invaluable.”

In August 2024, SAIGA launched a student chapter at TUT, introducing students to a professional body dedicated to advancing their careers.

The student chapter provides a platform for students to connect with experienced professionals, gain insight into the latest industry trends and engage in activities that help with their professional growth.

TUT is also one of SAIGA's partnered institutions, this partnership ensures that TUT students benefit from the resources and opportunities provided by SAIGA, helping them to develop the skills needed to excel in their careers.

Through these ongoing initiatives, SAIGA continues to demonstrate its commitment to enhancing the careers of young professionals, contributing to the development of highly skilled individuals who will play a role in shaping the future of governance and public sector auditing.

SAIGA Membership Manager, Maropeng Thaba says, “I am very happy with the progress we have made so far, placing students on these programmes not only helps shape the future of accounting and auditing professionals but also contributes towards reducing unemployment.”



**Tshwane University  
of Technology**  
*We empower people*

Photo: Supplied

## SAIGA MARKETING TEAM GROWS WITH NEW ADDITIONS!

By Sinazo Mondo

The SAIGA Marketing division recently had new interns joining in expanding the marketing team, namely Katlego Mokomene and Boitshepo Moshime.

The duo arrived at a particularly hectic time with SAIGA event in full swing.

But they have both described their experience as incredibly enriching. “Coming into such a dynamic and fast-paced environment has been both challenging and exciting. The event preparations taught me the importance of teamwork, attention to detail and adaptability,” shares Mokomene.



Photo: SAIGA's new kids on the block, boitshepo moshime and katlego mokomene!

“It’s been rewarding to see the hard work translate into successful outcomes and I’ve learned so much in just a short time,” adds Mokomene.

Mokomene is a final-year Integrated Communications student with International Communications as an elective at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).

She is also the co-founder of The Woman Drive, an NPO dedicated to community engagement, demonstrating her passion for impactful work. Beyond that, Mokomene has served as an academic mentor at her university and represented South Africa in 2024 as a delegate at Best Diplomats at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, showcasing her skills in diplomacy and global networking. In her free time, she enjoys reading.

Moshime is also a final year Integrated Communications student with a major in International Communication. She has a passion for current affairs and writing, “I’m really enjoying the writing aspect of social media but also just the behind the scenes and nitty gritty details of events planning. Truth be told I’m enjoying all things marketing,” says Moshime.

As this is Moshime’s first experience in the workplace, she says “I am eager to learn and grow. I hope to make meaningful connections and embrace new experiences that will come with my journey at SAIGA.”

“It’s been an amazing and hectic start to be quite honest. The team has been very welcoming and supportive, which has made the transition much smoother,” says Mokomene.

“I’m looking forward to the upcoming events and also just the different plans and projects we have as the marketing team, there’s something thrilling about starting new things,” says Moshime in closing.

## EARLY BIRD KATE SKOSANA SHINES AS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AT SAIGA

By Sinazo Mondo

Kate Skosana is a powerhouse of dedication, starting her day as early as 3am to rise and shine in her role as Office Administrator at The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA).

Her commitment and drive have earned her the coveted Employee of the Month award for February, adding to her impressive collection of awards, including the Rising Star of the Year and Early Bird awards.

When asked about her recent recognition, Kate said, "It feels so good. I feel seen and acknowledged." Her secret? Hard work and unwavering dedication to everything she does.



Photo: KATE SKOSANA proudly displays her employee of the month award

Skosana hails from Kwa-Mhlanga, Mpumalanga, where she was also raised by her wonderful parents that motivate her and keep her going. She takes pride in being Ndebele and celebrates her culture at any given opportunity.

She studied Marketing at Ekurhuleni East TVET College but discovered her passion for operations and office administration after she joined SAIGA as an intern. As a result of her dedication and hard work, she was appointed as the Office Administrator after completing her internship.

Skosana describes herself as a kind person with a bubbly personality. She loves socialising, going out and having fun with friends and loved ones.

One of her work highlights so far was planning the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ceremony for SAIGA and African Professionalism Initiation (API) and being part of the SAIGA annual conference organising team.

This young professional also seats by the reception and gladly answers calls and enquiries coming in, serving as the face of SAIGA.

Skosana always does her best when it comes to work, making sure that tasks are done swiftly and up to standard.

To spice things up, we fired a few fun questions

Favourite book: The journey of life by Basetsana Khumalo

Favourite destination? Zanzibar

Favourite dish? Creamy pasta

Favourite song? Your love is king by Sade, inspired by her dad.

Favourite artist? Diana Ross

## SAIGA PROVIDES SUPPORT TO TRAINEES THROUGH SITE VISITS

By Sinazo Mondo



Photo: Umnotho and SAIGA Technical team at Umnotho training office .

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) has embarked on a series of site visits to assess training offices, ensuring they meet necessary requirements and provide quality training environments.

These visits are crucial for evaluating whether trainees are working in optimal conditions. “We need to make sure that our trainees are in good hands,” says SAIGA’s Education and Training Administrator, Lucas Maponya.


Through this initiative, SAIGA is giving support to trainees by visiting and checking the training offices they work in, ensuring they receive proper care and valuable work experience. The offices that have been visited so far are Pholela Business Advisory, JT29 Management Consulting, KEP Consulting, Bonakude, LEGAB financial services and ZTC Solutions.

So far, SAIGA has visited offices including Pholela Business Advisory, JT29 Management Consulting, KEP Consulting, Bonakude, LEGAB Financial Services and ZTC Solutions. Most offices have been found to be in compliance with the checklist used for evaluation, while a few are still working on meeting all the required standards.

To date SAIGA has 52 partnered training offices in total in which they place trainees in under the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) and Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) programmes.

It has been a great progressive journey with the team while doing these site visits as it also strengthens relationships with partnered training offices.

SAIGA will continue these visits until all offices have been checked.

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## Issued by the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA)

### About the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors is a non-profit professional body that certifies and develops finance and auditing professionals in the public sector.

SAIGA represents a unique brand of professionals, the Registered Government Auditors (RGA) in the public sector and academia. SAIGA is the sole provider of the RGA, which is regarded as the highest professional qualification in public sector auditing. Visit: [www.saiga.org.za](http://www.saiga.org.za) for more information.

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