

CEO ROADSHOW - EMEA

The questions below were raised by members before the CEO roadshow for members residing in the EMEA region, scheduled to take place on 23 August 2022. The relevant SAICA executives provided the answers.

MEMBER VALUE

1. How will SAICA assist in ensuring that there is minimal impact on the profession in South Africa as a result of the large emigration taking place currently?

The number of CAs(SA) that are based outside of South Africa has remained fairly consistent for several years, at just over 20% of the membership base. (View our membership statistics [here](#)). One of the value drivers of the CA(SA) designation is that it can be positively compared from a reputation and reciprocity perspective to similar designations globally, a consequence of which is that members are able to excel in their careers anywhere in the world. It is very difficult for SAICA to direct members where they can or can't practice, who they can or can't work for, or coerce a member to stay in South Africa. SAICA is proud to know that its CA(SA) designation is strong and reputable enough to ensure global opportunities and recognition for our members. SAICA will continue working towards the maintenance and improvement of the chartered accountancy profession in South Africa, regardless of the rate at which our members are emigrating.

RELEVANCE AND REPUTATION

2. How is SAICA going to partner with government/industries to improve the unemployment situation in South Africa?

SAICA acknowledges its role in building a capable state at local, provincial, and national levels and has included a strategic initiative, namely the Government Assistance Programme, in its strategy to support this approach. This strategy is aimed at improving the economy, which will, by extension, alleviate the unemployment rate.

SAICA has embarked on various projects to accomplish this strategy, which includes:

- Development of a stakeholder engagement plan for the public sector which includes engagements with, amongst others, the National and Provincial Treasuries, Auditor General of South Africa, SALGA, and Parliament. The purpose of these engagements includes advocating for improved governance, financial reporting frameworks and public finance management. Regular engagements are also held with the AGSA to unpack the audit outcomes with the aim of receiving responses to poor audit outcomes, non-compliance and lack of internal controls from government.
- Advocacy submissions – SAICA has made several submissions to government with the aim of influencing fit-for-purpose legislation, standards, policies, processes and systems in the public sector. Examples of these submissions include commenting on the Draft Procurement Bill, Modified Cash Standards, the Public Audit Act, *A National Implementation Framework towards the Professionalisation of the Public Service*, etc. SAICA is currently advocating for the urgency of filling key vacant posts within the

National Treasury which are essential in assisting National Treasury to deliver on its mandate and monitor financial reporting, budgeting, and compliance.

- SAICA has positioned itself as a key stakeholder on many government structures to enhance its advocacy to improve legislation and standards and ensure that its membership voice is heard by acting as a representative on government structures. Examples of these structures include Treasury CFO Forums, the Public Sector Accounting Forum, and the Public Sector Audit Committee Forum. SAICA agrees with government analysis that the public sector needs to be professionalised and that there are specific areas where we can contribute. Accountability and Competence is at the heart of the professionalisation as set out in our submission to the government, which can be found [here](#).

The recommendations include:

- Implementation of an ethics framework
- Setting minimum competencies, recruiting appropriate skills, and ensuring lifelong learning
- Ensuring implementation accountability through performance management

In addition to this, ensuring accountability and ownership thereof by oversight structures through the current framework is critical to ensure implementation and service delivery.

- SAICA has, since 2020, also been working on an audit reform and wider corporate reporting ecosystem improvement plan. This followed the minister of finance's call in 2020 that audit reform is needed. To this end, SAICA has created a draft document and we are ready to work with Treasury when the call comes from the government.
- SAICA has further been proactively advocating for the re-establishment of the Financial Reporting Standards Council (FRSC) which has been dormant since 2018, but has now been re-established by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. Several SAICA members have been appointed to the FRSC, whose role as an authoritative standard setter includes dealing with reporting consequences in the local context, such as the case with COVID-19 and the implications of the riots in July 2021. Read our press release regarding the new FRSC [here](#).
- SAICA is also in discussions with Treasury around reporting considerations within the treasury itself and assisting to the extent it can with these matters. Our continued work with the JSE and its governance requirements, involvement with King IV and the work underway by the public sector team, all contribute to our continued focus on increasing both skills and accountability within South African governance landscape, to ultimately help improve the economy and positively impact the unemployment rate.