





PUBLIC SECTOR | NEWSLETTER

QUARTERLY: JANUARY - MARCH 2022

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 SAICA – The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants

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Connect with us:

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

31 May:

- Submission of PFMA annual financial statements to external auditors.

30 June:

- MFMA financial year end.
- Submission of audited / examined public schools annual financial statements to the Provincial Department of Education.

ARTICLES

Why does accounting in the public sector matter?

Author: Jeanine Poggiolini CA(SA)
CEO: Accounting Standards Board (ASB) and IFAC board member

Most often, people think of accounting as being synonymous with Rands and cents, profit or loss, equity, and investor returns. In the private sector, that is certainly the case as the accounting and reporting in the financial statements allows investors to decide which entity they want to invest in and what returns they should expect. The reality is that some individuals will never have an interest in - or be able to - invest in the stock exchange. As a result, accounting in the private sector will never be of interest or relevance to them.

As taxpayers, ratepayers, road-users, electricity and water consumers, etc. we are all invested in "The South African Government Incorporated" and all of its "subsidiaries". The accounting and reporting of government and its entities affects each one of us and the decisions we take. Yet so many people do not know anything about government, the information that government produces, how it should be used, and what decisions it affects.

At a fundamental level, accounting in the public sector influences democracy and how it is exercised. Democracy for all – which the Constitution promises – is not free. The founding provisions of the Constitution explain that "all citizens are equally entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits of citizenship; and equally subject to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship". In terms of the finances of government, as citizens we are entitled to transparent financial and other information that holds entities accountable, to make financial, economic

and other decisions. It is, however, our responsibility to make sure we execute our democratic rights and hold government accountable. We do so by voting in an informed way, based on credible information. The accounting principles in the public sector – when applied in an ethical way – are specifically designed to provide this information in the financial statements published by government and its entities every year.

Many would argue that the financial statements in the public sector, particularly the balance sheet, are meaningless because the assets cannot be sold or used to generate profit and government has the power to change legislation to alter its obligations. This is a narrow view of what the financial statements in the public sector mean.

Infrastructure and similar assets represent the investment you and I make in the country, and we should be interested in how much we invested, how assets are being consumed over time through depreciation, whether they are impaired, and how they are repaired and maintained. Receivables for taxes, rates, outstanding revenue for water, electricity and a range of other services, reflect the credit provided by government for debts owed, and we should assess how effective government is in managing its credit policies and payment terms.

Liabilities represent government's commitments to you and me to do certain things – pay lenders and creditors,

pay employees, pay social benefits to those in need, rehabilitate landfill sites, and the list goes on. Expressing debt as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is a universally accepted metric used around the world to assess the financial health of a country. This metric indicates the ratio of debt to the output of the economy. Did you know that ours is 75% as at February 2022?¹

If we turn to the income statement, while the "net" number does not mean the same as that in the private

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sector, it does not mean that there isn't valuable information in the income statement. If you think about your own personal finances, if you spend more than you earn in a month (deficit), this is bad, and if you earn more than you spend, this is good. At present we have

a budget deficit, and our projected deficit to GDP as at March 2022 is 5.7%.

While the financial statements present a snapshot of the financial position at a point in time, the value provided in this snapshot can be used to assess the government's long term fiscal sustainability. By extrapolating revenues, expenses, and debt, government is able to assess its sustainability to meet its social commitments, to pay its debts, how it can raise revenue such as tax, and whether it is in position to borrow more. Of course, sustainability is measured in the private sector, but sustainability in the public sector means so much more as it represents the fate of you and I and our children. Simply put – the basic recording of debits and credits, assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses in the public sector is fundamental to our wellbeing as a society.

As citizens, we are often critical of government; we express dissatisfaction at the state of service delivery; we perceive all state officials as corrupt. While these thoughts and views may be justified, pause and ask – what am I willing to do about it? Take an interest in your municipality's finances, participate in the budget process, read the audited financial statements, take a stand against corruption at grassroots level – be active, be heard, be courageous.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this article are those of the individual and not the Board of the ASB.



¹ National Budget tabled in Parliament in February 2022.

ARTICLES

Why are we forgetting to apply the basic accounting principle of substance over form?

Author: Jeanine Poggiolini CA(SA)
CEO: Accounting Standards Board (ASB) and IFAC board member



As accountants, there are a few basic “rules” we live by when preparing financial statements – relevance, faithful representation, comparability, verifiability and timeliness.

Faithful representation means that the accounting in the financial statements depicts the underlying economic characteristics of transactions and events. Financial statements aim to represent the economic characteristics underlying events and transactions and not their legal substance. This is why the financial statements are prepared using accounting standards and not based on a list of prevailing laws and regulations.

So why are we not applying the principle of “substance over legal form” in preparing the financial statements?

Since the outcome of a Court case in 2021 challenging the outcome of a particular audit, there is an emerging view that the Courts should be used to solve accounting disputes. As Court orders are binding, the parties to the case are compelled to implement the outcome of the judgement or face being in contempt of Court. Implementing the outcomes of Court rulings in preparing the financial statements blurs the line between applying accounting principles aimed at reflecting economic realities and complying with Court rulings based on legal jurisprudence.

While acknowledging the rights of parties to exercise their freedoms under law, using a Court to interpret accounting standards is ill advised. Here’s why...

Lawyers have an understanding of what is called legal jurisprudence, i.e. the philosophy of law. Their jurisprudence or “legal universe” is based on an interpretation of specific laws and regulations, and common law or “case” law which is based on past Court rulings on similar matters.

Accountants have an understanding of the Conceptual Framework which outlines the philosophy underpinning the preparation of the financial statements. The Conceptual Framework, specific Standards of GRAP, and accounting policies developed based on equivalent practice for similar transactions, is the “accounting universe” used to drive the decisions of accountants and the provision of information in the financial statements.

As the Public Finance Management Act both requires entities to apply Standards of GRAP and gives the Minister of Finance the authority to issue Standards of GRAP, the Standards of GRAP are in themselves legislation and have to be applied by public entities and others.

As the Standards of GRAP are law, legal professionals should be interpreting the Standards when resolving disputes or providing opinions on accounting matters referred to the Courts. However, without a sound knowledge and understanding of the “accounting universe”, they often revert to providing opinions based on the “legal universe”. Lawyers also would not think about the users of the financial statements and their information needs as this means applying judgement rather than rigid legal rules.

Where opinions or Court rulings are based on the “legal universe” as opposed to the “accounting universe” the financial statements could fail to “faithfully represent” the economic realities of transactions and events in the financial statements as envisaged by the reporting framework. Where this is the case, applying Court rulings rather than Standards of GRAP to prepare the financial

statements has the potential to erode the credibility of the Standards, financial reporting practices, and the principles of sound public financial management.

There are no winners when legal opinions are sought to interpret accounting matters.

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So why are we not applying the principle of “substance over legal form” in preparing the financial statements?

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Disclaimer:

This article is written by Jeanine Poggiolini, CEO of the ASB and reflects her individual views.



ADVOCACY

Advocacy submissions

Part of the responsibilities of the SAICA Public Sector Department include advocating, lobbying and influencing for fit-for-purpose legislation, standards, policies, processes and systems in the public sector. This is done through the submission of comment letters to the relevant stakeholders after consulting SAICA members and associates to obtain their views on the matters.

The below outlines the department's advocacy submissions that were made in the first quarter of 2022.

» 2022-2023 MODIFIED CASH STANDARDS (MCS) PUBLISHED FOR COMMENT

The Office of the Accountant – General issued the 2022-2023 MCS amendments for comment by 31 January 2022. The amendments included various Chapters. However, SAICA's comments focused on Chapter 5: Appropriation Statement, Chapter 9: General Departmental Assets and Liabilities, Chapter 11: Capital Assets and Chapter 13: Leases as the amendments to these Chapters were considered more significant.

Members and associates have continuously raised the need for national and provincial departments to move to accrual accounting in line with public entities and local government. Therefore, in addition to the amended Chapters above, SAICA's comments included the transition to accrual accounting by departments where National Treasury was urged to develop, implement and strictly monitor a plan for this transition and to publicly share the plan and the progress on its implementation. The comment letter further highlighted the benefits

of accrual accounting and the international trends regarding the adoption of accrual accounting by various jurisdictions around the world to demonstrate and emphasize the need for the quick transition to accrual accounting.

Furthermore, the comment letter highlighted the need for National Treasury to improve the MCS and subsequent amendments process by adopting a *Due Process* in line with international standard setting bodies. The *International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's (IPSASB's) Due Process and Working Procedures: June 2016* document was used to illustrate the process National Treasury should consider following.

Read the full submission [here](#).

» ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (ASB) EXPOSURE DRAFT 194 ON "TAKING STOCK: ASB's WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2026" (ED 194)

ED 194 was issued by the ASB as part of its medium-term planning to identify potential projects and activities for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 and was due for comment by 18 March 2022. Further, ED 194 sort comments on gaps that exist in the current literature, international projects the ASB should consider taking, enhancements to the standards, promotion of the adoption of the standards, stakeholder engagement, reviews of the standards, and emerging issues.

SAICA's comments included recommendations to the ASB to promote public awareness about the alignment of Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting

Practice (Standards of GRAP) to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) due to various questions about South Africa not applying the IPSAS.

Further, the comment letter recommended to the ASB to publicly share its advocacy initiatives on the adoption of Standards of GRAP by departments to demonstrate its independence and its efforts in advancing public sector financial reporting.

Read the full submission [here](#).

UPCOMING SUBMISSIONS

» DRAFT PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2022 FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (DRAFT PPR)

National Treasury has published the Draft PPR in accordance with section 5(2) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (the Act) which

are intended to be made by the Minister of Finance in terms of section 5(1), read with section 2(1)(b) and (c) and the definition of "prescribed" in section 1, of the Act. The comments are due for submission by 11 April 2022 and SAICA intends on making a submission on these Draft Regulations.



The comment letter further highlighted the benefits of accrual accounting and the international trends...



TECHNICAL UPDATES

Compliance

Document	Details
Rationale for the Draft Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022	National Treasury has published Rationale for the Draft Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022, which lists all the proposed amendments to the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017.
Draft Preferential Procurement Regulation, 2022 comment template	National Treasury has published Stakeholder Comment template for the Draft Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022.
National Treasury Instruction no. 03 of 2021/2022	National Treasury has issued Instruction no. 03 of 2021/2022 on financial year end procedures, closure and submission dates of annual financial statements and related documents.
National Treasury Instruction 02 of 2021/2022	National Treasury has issued Instruction Note 02 of 2021/2022 to prescribe the month-end closure procedures for departments for 2022/2023.

Financial Reporting

Document	Details
Updated GRAP Accounting Guidelines	National Treasury has published updated GRAP Accounting Guidelines.
IPSAS 43 Leases	IPSASB has issued IPSAS 43: Leases, which introduces a right-of-use model that replaces the risks and rewards incidental to ownership model in IPSAS 13: Leases.
Improvements to IPSAS, 2021	IPSASB has issued Improvements to IPSAS 2021, which includes minor improvements to IPSAS to address issues raised by stakeholders and minor amendments sourced from recent IFRS improvements and narrow scope projects.
Review Report on Presentation of Budget Information in The Financial Statements	ASB undertook a desktop review of GRAP 24 to assess whether entities have adhered to the requirements in the Standard. The information obtained through this review was used to identify potential issues with the application of the Standard, and identify proposed responses.

Calls for comments

Document	Institution	Deadline
ED 81 - Conceptual Framework Update: Chapter 3, Qualitative Characteristics and Chapter 5, Elements in Financial Statements	IPSAB	31 May 2022
ED 197 - Proposed Conceptual Framework Update	Accounting Standards Board	17 May 2022
ED 198 - Proposed Amendments to GRAP 1 Presentation on Financial Statements	Accounting Standards Board	15 July 2022

TECHNICAL RESOURCES



Useful Resources

Title	Developed by	Description	How to get it?
Frequently Asked Questions on the Standards of GRAP (updated March 2022)	ASB	These Frequently Asked Questions have been prepared by the Secretariat of the ASB in consultation with the technical division of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) and the Office of the Accountant-General at National Treasury (OAG) to assist preparers of financial statements on Standards of GRAP.	Click here to access
Conditional grants example	National Treasury	The example has been prepared and published by the National Treasury to assist departments with the rollover of conditional grants in terms of section 22 of the Division of Revenue Act.	Click here to access
Revenue fund template 2021/2022	National Treasury	The template has been prepared and published by the National Treasury to provide guidance on the preparation of financial statements for 2021/2022 financial year.	Click here to access
Updated FAQs on Modified Cash Standards	National Treasury	The updated FAQs on Modified Cash Standards have been prepared and published by the National Treasury to provide guidance on the preparation of financial statements for national and provincial departments.	Click here to access

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS



Seminar and Event name	Overview	Region	Book
CA of the future Webcast Series	The series will provide participants with knowledge and an awareness on a number of topics related to the SAICA enabling competencies, equipping them for the changing world of work, business, and the accountancy profession.	Webcast	Click here to book
2022 TechTalk Series: SAICA Standards	In this TechTalk series, we discuss and analyse recent developments within the technical space (Tax, Public Sector, Corporate Reporting and Assurance) with guest panelists joining us to share their insights on specific matters.	Webcast	Click here to book
2022 Ethics in Practice Series - Webcast	All SAICA members are required to annually provide evidence of regular reflections on ethics values and attitudes as part of their CPD compliance. In order to support our members in this regular practical reflection, SAICA will be hosting a series of monthly ethics webinars, where thought provoking conversations will compel members to reflect on personal, business and professional ethics as they relate to their real world environment.	Webcast	Click here to book
2022 PFMA Public Sector Update workshop - Seminar	This seminar aims to ensure that participants are up to date with changes in Standards of GRAP and MCS to ensure these can be applied consistently throughout the 2022/23 financial year. It will further ensure that participants are up to date with key compliance requirements issued by National Treasury to ensure non-compliance can be avoided throughout the financial year. This may also assist with improvements in the audit outcomes.	Webcast	Click here to book



FEATURE PROFILE

From SA Public Sector to the world

By: Monique Verduyn



In 2020, two CAs(SA) went to the UK in search of adventure and opportunity, not knowing that a pandemic was about to change the world.

People generally move abroad to improve their lifestyle, take on a new challenge, gain new experiences or progress up the career ladder. It's difficult to imagine what life must have been like for those who went overseas just before the outbreak of COVID-19. That is what happened to two young South African CAs(SA). Shortly after Thobeka Ngcobo and Muhammad Ismaeel Buckus arrived in the UK to start their new careers, lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020 and the British public were ordered to stay at home.

Thobeka, originally from Amanzimtoti in KwaZulu-Natal, studied at Wits and completed her articles at the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) in Johannesburg. As an executive for the Trainee Auditor Forum, she got to hone her leadership skills and take ownership of many new initiatives. During her time at AGSA, she was part of various committees such as risk and ethics and strategic economic development.

Ismaeel graduated from the University of KwaZulu-Natal with a BCom Accounting degree in 2007 and immediately started working as an accounting clerk for a small accounting business in Durban. In 2011, he registered with the University of South Africa to complete his CTA and joined the AGSA as a trainee auditor. By the end of 2013 he had qualified as a CA(SA) and Registered Auditor (RA). He spent the next six years as an audit manager at the AGSA.

Both of them were drawn to the mandate of the AGSA, to strengthen democracy by building public confidence. Only a capable public sector can better the lives of South Africans, and CAs(SA) bring integrity, objectivity, and professional behaviour to the table. CAs(SA) are also adaptable, resilient, technical and have a broad mindset. Their ability to communicate means they can become advisors in a public sector environment and work as true business partners when it comes to accountability, guidance and decision-making.

"CAs(SA) are driven by ethics and that is what the public sector sorely needs," says Thobeka, who spent three years at the AGSA. "My role was an important part of my career journey, even though I was scared at first. I learned an enormous amount in the time that I was there, and it was an excellent training ground for me."

When she received a call from a recruiter asking whether she was interested in working overseas, it was something she had not thought about. "I was directionless at the time, and I said 'OK, let's do it.' I had always wanted to travel so that was part of the appeal. Of course, I had no idea that I would end up spending 12 months alone in my flat. But the exposure has been incredible, and I have learned so much about how others approach audit, especially in a big corporate. There is no question the AGSA prepped me for my work at EY."

Thobeka says she has found her niche in diversity and inclusiveness (D&I), which are business imperatives at EY. "Beyond my responsibilities as an auditor, I am a D&I

champion for the assurance team, and I lead a sub-group on maximising learning and development for the regional office. I am deeply committed to creating awareness of inclusion and belonging training and achieving the firm's D&I strategy. I have also been involved in the firm's anti-racism campaign."

She has always found it impossible to limit her focus and generally has several projects on the go at any one time. She mentored a young accountant in Malawi through a virtual mentoring programme called Travel for Change Adventures. Thobeka is an ambitious, proactive leader who takes initiative and believes that leadership is about influence and impact. She is also in the Traversing Liminality programme, where she is coached by business leader Dr Lulu Gwagwa, who created the programme as a platform for ambitious and driven young, black women. As an advocate for the inclusion of women in a largely male dominated industry, Thobeka aims to be an inspiration to young women herself.



My role was an important part of my career journey, even though I was scared at first. I learned an enormous amount in the time that I was there, and it was an excellent training ground for me."



On his part, Ismaeel recalls reading about the service delivery challenges in South Africa all the time, and this forced him to think about what positive contribution he could make to improving the sector. "I knew that if I joined the Auditor General, I could make a difference to accountability in local and provincial government. As an auditor, it was my responsibility to evaluate whether a local or provincial government has adhered to applicable laws, regulations and its own policies and procedures. You could say that I was representing the citizens of South Africa, ensuring that public funds were accounted for, and controls were in place to protect public resources from misappropriation and misuse. All of this results in better accountability and ultimately

improved service delivery."

Ismaeel too moved to London in March last year to join EY. Professionally, he wanted to step outside of his comfort zone. "I knew that living and working abroad would open up opportunities to develop new skills and have new experiences. I chose London because it is the world's most international and connected financial centre, and EY because I wanted to be exposed to a global prestigious Big Four accounting firm."

He adds that the UK was an attractive prospect for him because of the proximity to multiple live sporting events. "I'm an ardent sports lover, I'm passionate about playing and watching sports and I'm a massive Liverpool FC fan. I also love travelling and living in different cities and countries. I find that this allows me to learn about cultures, ideas, and values practiced by people around the world. It adds to my personal development and broadens my worldview."

He is keen on gaining experience in as many different industries and service lines as possible. One of the reasons that he chose to become a CA(SA) was because of the flexibility that the profession offers. With EY's range of different service lines, he fully intends to take advantage of every opportunity he gets to expand his skills set.

"I love working in such a large multi-cultural team with people from all over the world and different backgrounds, Ismaeel says. "It has been an eye-opening and enjoyable experience. My role is also hugely varied with no two days the same, which is one of the things I enjoy most about my job."

Although he and Thobeka took longer to settle in than they would have without a global pandemic in the way, they are both grateful for the public sector training they had at the AGSA and for their UK colleagues who gave them an enormous amount of support during lockdown, ensuring that they were able to settle in and thrive.

"The job market fluctuates all the time depending on the economic situation," Ismaeel says. But because the CA(SA) qualification is held in high regard worldwide, it opens up many opportunities locally and internationally."



FEATURE PROFILE

Living a life of purpose and influence

By: Monique Verduyn



One of the most frequent points people make when they think about a career change is the pull they feel to do work that makes a difference. Six years after starting his career at PwC in 2004, Bruce Vivian felt the need for a job that would make an impact on people and communities while bringing greater meaning and fulfilment to his own life. That's what prompted him to forgo the most common career routes for CAs(SA) in favour of something completely different.

"Although I recognised the importance of the work I was doing at PwC, I needed to make a difference," Bruce says. "I had run many training programmes at PwC and an industrial psychologist suggested I would do well in front of people, but the opportunities were limited. I had always been involved in church work, so I took the leap and became a youth pastor."

The three years he spent working with young people, guiding and mentoring them, were rewarding but not financially sustainable. Deciding that it was time to return to the profession, he went to a number of interviews, but no-one could understand why he had taken a three-year gap.

"When I saw that the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) had an opening for a technical learning and training manager I applied and got the job," Bruce recalls. "The AGSA actually liked the fact that I had a passion for working with people and saw it as a positive attribute. That was how I found myself in the public sector."

It was a move that would shift the course of his career.

Not only was the role in education, but it was also for a body that made a real difference to the lives of citizens by enabling oversight, accountability and governance in the public sector.

"My role was to equip people in the organisation to do their jobs effectively, and I truly felt like I was part of something bigger," says Bruce. "It allowed me to contribute to improving the lives of people in the country, and to add value to society. I felt that I had purpose and influence."

During his time at the AGSA, Bruce developed learning content for accountants and designed and presented courses, while also becoming involved in strategic projects with the leadership team. These initiatives fuelled his desire to see more CAs(SA) serving in the public sector.

By chance, in 2016 he met a consultant who was conducting research on behalf of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the global umbrella organisation for the accountancy profession. The consultant had also worked on a project for the African Organisation of English-Speaking Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI-E), where they developed a visionary strategy to professionalise accounting and auditing in the African public sector. It just so happened that AFROSAI-E was hiring a senior manager to implement the strategy.

"It felt like the job description had been written just for me. I applied for the position and was successful. My role was to establish a multi-stakeholder initiative to grow the

capacity of professional accountants and auditors in the African public sector."

The role exposed Bruce to the international development space, liaising with donors who wanted to support the development of the profession and public financial management reforms. Out of this came the African Professionalisation Initiative (API), a pan-African collaboration to grow the capacity of accounting and auditing professionals in the public sector.

"This was an incredible opportunity for me to work with accountants general, supreme audit institutions and the accounting profession across the continent, as well as other stakeholders across the globe," says Bruce. "It was a whole new world and one where I could apply the skills and talents I had learnt in my previous role. I was grateful that my work in the public sector had ultimately led me to this organisation."

The role was not only exciting, but also challenging. One public sector accountant said to Bruce, "In our country, accountants who try to do the right thing in government go missing."

"I got to learn so much about things we are not taught in the classroom," Bruce recalls. "Multi-lateral organisations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and developed countries around the world, want to support development in Africa. The magic lay in linking their funding with sustainable, impactful initiatives that were supported by the right experts and leaders, while maintaining local ownership. As we always said at the API: By Africa, For Africa."

On his role at AFROSAI-E, Bruce says it was satisfying to see high-level stakeholders begin to advocate for the API's vision, and to witness people on the ground take ownership and make change happen in their constituencies. International donor funding made it possible to provide high-quality, learning programmes at low cost to equip people working in public sector organisations throughout the continent.

In his first week on the job at AFROSAI-E, Bruce was asked to present the strategy he had been tasked to implement to IFAC's Professional Accountancy Organisation Development & Advisory Group (PAO). Understandably

nervous, he was welcomed by an audience keenly interested in what he had to say. This was the first of many presentations to IFAC, where he soon became a familiar face. His passion for the sector was evident and he was offered a role at IFAC in July 2021 as Principal for Quality and Development.

"My role is diverse. I'm responsible for engagement with our members in Western Europe and the UK, and with IFAC's network partners. I support and advise on capacity building work in the accounting profession globally and strengthening public financial management.

"Every year IFAC calls on the G20 to urge political leaders to champion high-quality public financial management and to accelerate sustainability and inclusiveness. I get to support such calls by influencing adoption and implementation of international auditing, accounting, education and ethics standards, including the eagerly anticipated international sustainability standards. It's about getting countries and their professional accountancy organisations to adopt standards that we take for granted in South Africa, but which help to make SAICA one of the world's leading accountancy institutes."

Bruce emphasises that it is critically important for more CAs(SA) to work in the public sector as they ensure that funds for public services, such as education, healthcare, and sanitation are managed and accounted for. "By taking on a career in the public sector, you have the chance to do top quality work for your fellow citizens and communities in line with codes of professional ethics. Given the level of fraud and corruption on our continent, chartered accountants have a vital role to play in ensuring that public funds are used for their intended purposes."

He encourages CAs(SA) to dedicate a portion of their careers to the public sector. "You don't have to do it forever. Think of it as a three-to-five-year service to your country. You will learn more than you ever thought possible, and you may find that you never want to leave."

SAICA'S PUBLIC SECTOR OFFERING

SAICA has a dedicated public sector division to support members in the public sector. Members receive support as follows:



1 Thought leadership

Members receive regular thought leadership articles on emerging issues in accounting, assurance, governance, risk management, technology and other developments that may affect the future of the profession..

2 Technical Update

Members receive regular updates on SAICA social media platforms and a monthly newsletter outlining recent developments in standards and legislation.

3 Technical Resources

Members have access to guides, handbooks, tools, templates, and other resources to support them in the public sector.

4 Technical Support

Members are able to log technical queries on the [SAICA Online Technical Query System](#) and receive guidance from SAICA staff.

5 Seminars and Events

Complimentary and discounted access to [SAICA seminars and events](#).

6 The division is also responsible for:

- Advocating, lobbying and influencing for fit-for-purpose legislation, standards, policies, processes and systems in the public sector.
- Public Finance Management Capacity building projects to support the professionalisation agenda in public finance management.

Meet the team



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