Record number of candidates register and pass the final CA(SA) assessment

Johannesburg, Friday 18 March 2016 – In November 2015, a record number of candidates (2015: 2 709 candidates compared to 2014: 2 050) sat for the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), the second in the new format of assessment launched in November 2014. Today, 88% (2 396) of candidates who wrote the assessment have reason to celebrate.

It takes a minimum of seven years to qualify as a Chartered Accountant [CA(SA)]. This long and challenging path requires talent, diligence and commitment. Today, SAICA takes great pleasure in releasing the names of the 2 396 aspiring CAs(SA) who passed their final qualifying assessment, the APC.

For many of these successful APC candidates, this result represents the final hurdle in their rigorous journey towards becoming a CA(SA). For SAICA, it represents the culmination of a high quality qualification process that continues to deliver high calibre, competent individuals to the profession as well as to the economy of South Africa.

SAICA’s nation building programme has given the profession similar cause for celebration

This year, the number of African and Coloured candidates who sat the APC grew by a staggering 58% (1 138 candidates in 2015 up from 722 candidates in 2014). This means that 42% of the APC writing population in the 2015 assessment comprised of African and Coloured candidates – a direct result of the significant resources that have gone into transforming the profession through SAICA’s various Thuthuka initiatives. Their combined 81% pass rate illustrates the positive impact SAICA is having on transforming the demographics of the CA(SA) profession.

Seven candidates honoured as top of the class of 2015

This year, SAICA’s APC Honours Roll recognises seven candidates who performed exceptionally well in the case study and showed the greatest insight in the way they completed the tasks. These candidates, in alphabetical order (by surname), are:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Training Office</th>
<th>Professional Provider Programme</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michele</td>
<td>Coppola</td>
<td>PricewaterhouseCoopers</td>
<td>APT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jashine</td>
<td>Dheda</td>
<td>Grant Clinton &amp; Associates</td>
<td>APT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darryl</td>
<td>Margolis</td>
<td>KPMG Inc</td>
<td>APT</td>
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<td>Marco</td>
<td>Pinheiro</td>
<td>Shoprite Checkers</td>
<td>APT</td>
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To all the successful candidates, Mandi Olivier, Senior Executive of Professional Development at SAICA, has the following to say: ‘Well done class of 2015! You are the living proof of soccer player, Pele’s belief that “success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and, most of all, love of what you are doing”. We are very proud of your achievement and look forward to see you grow into your career and become our future business leaders.’

What is the APC and what does it measure?

The APC assesses a candidate’s ability to use and apply their technical knowledge in a real world context by setting tasks that can be expected of entry level CAs(SA). The assessment, which takes the form of a written examination, places emphasis on pervasive skills (ethics, personal attributes and professional skills) and seeks to assess whether a candidate can demonstrate their competence both through their behaviour during the case study period, as well as through the application of their acquired skills and technical knowledge to a realistic multi-disciplinary case study.

For the first time, candidates who wrote the 2015 APC were also able to complete their assessment using a laptop (with secure software to lock down access). This further emphasises the nature of the assessment as one that simulates the real world. 283 candidates took part in this e-Writing pilot.

Due to the success of this e-Writing pilot candidates may, going forward, elect to write the APC electronically for the next two years. By 2018, it will be compulsory for all candidates to complete the assessment electronically.

SAICA assures candidates that the APC’s integrity is not in question

While the release of the APC results was postponed in February due to the start of an investigation into a possible breach of the APC’s regulations, SAICA is satisfied that the assessment itself has not been compromised in any way. To this end, SAICA congratulates the successful candidates who have received their results.

A small minority of candidate’s results have been withheld pending the outcome of the SAICA investigation and disciplinary processes into the conduct of these candidates. Candidates are therefore advised that the disciplinary process outlined in the SAICA by-laws is still underway. As such, SAICA reserves the right to retract a candidate’s APC result should they subsequently be found in contravention of any of the APC regulations, SAICA by-laws and/or Code of Professional Conduct insofar as it relates to this assessment as SAICA’s processes are still in progress. The outcome of these disciplinary processes will be communicated at the end of these processes.

In conclusion, Olivier says, ‘SAICA is extremely pleased with this years candidates’ successes. They positively illustrate that SAICA is leading the process of transforming South Africa’s chartered accountancy profession and economy as a whole.’

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ABOUT SAICA:
The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), South Africa’s pre-eminent accountancy body, is widely recognised as one of the world’s leading accounting institutes. The Institute provides a wide range of support services to more than 40000 members who are chartered accountants [CAs(SA)] and hold positions as CEOs, MDs, board directors, business owners, chief financial officers, auditors and leaders in their spheres of business operation. Most of these members operate in commerce and industry, and play a significant role in the nation’s highly dynamic business sector and economic development.

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