

South African Institute of Professional Accountants
28 March 2017

Applications for May 2017 PE Exam close end of March

Interested persons with a BCom or equivalent tertiary qualification have until 31 March to register for the May 2017 Professional Evaluation (PE) examination that is regulated by the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA).

New entrants to the professional accountancy profession are mandated to pass the PE examination, which ensures they adhere to international education standards. This is done by assessing whether an aspiring professional accountant meets the minimum competence or proficiency level to be assigned the designation of Professional Accountant (SA).

Those wanting to write to PE examination will also have to adhere to the practical requirement, which is a three year SAIPA learnership or six years verifiable working experience in a financial environment (recognition of prior learning).

“Prior to writing the exam, candidates need to prove compliance to a strict set of academic and practical requirements,” states Zobuzwe Ngobese, Marketing and Communications Executive of SAIPA.

The designation is one of the few authorised by the South African Revenue Service to provide services as a tax practitioner. A Professional Accountant (SA) can also perform numerous functions, including issuing reports in terms of the Companies Act, Close Corporations Act, and Micro lending industry regulations, Sectional Titles Act, Non-Profit Organisations Act, and Schools Act.

The PE examination is further aligned with the International Education Standards 6 (IES 6) Assessments, with an emphasis on the principles of competency-based assessment.

“The benefit for future employers or clients is that they will benefit sooner from the combined competence and expertise of the Professional Accountant (SA) beyond the preparation of financial statements for compliance purposes,” explains Ngobese.

Transformation in accountancy on track

Of the almost 400 candidates who were declared as competent in the November 2016 PE examination, 202 or over 50% were Black, of which 140 or 35.1% were Black African.

“This suggests that we are truly making headway in terms of making the industry more diverse,” says Ngobese.

Those who passed the professional evaluation examination were tested on the application of technical knowledge, cognitive skills with the focus on analysis and synthesis, and attributes or soft-skills with greater emphasis on analytical reading skills, critical thinking skills, and writing skills.

Project Achiever

The success rate for candidates attending SAIPA’s Project Achiever Programme and who attempted the November 2016 PE examination was 81% or 131 from the total of 160, representing 32.8% of the total number of candidates who wrote the examination. Muhammed Alli from Johannesburg was not only the top achiever in Gauteng, but nationally as well.

The Project Achiever joint venture was initiated in 2015 to address the question of transformation in the financial services industry by providing the assistance where it is most needed – among black professionals.

The initiative is funded in majority by the Sector Education and Training Authority for Finance, Accounting, Management Consulting and other Financial Services (FASSET) to help bridge the skills gap.

Project Achiever Online went live on the 21 January with the objective of widening its reach to persons in outlying areas of the country.

To apply for the May 2017 PE examination please click [here](#).

ENDS

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