

Wednesday, 21 January 2026

South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) Leadership Update

Appointment of Mr. Zolani Matebese as Chief Operations Executive

The South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Zolani Matebese as Chief Operations Executive. This appointment follows a thorough recruitment process, in line with industry leading governance practices and the Institute's established processes and procedures, ensuring full compliance with SAIPA's commitment to transparency and excellence in its leadership selection.

This appointment comes at a crucial time for the Institute, as SAIPA continues to strengthen its operational capabilities and advance its strategic priorities to better serve our members and the broader accountancy profession.

About Mr. Zolani Matebese

Zolani joined SAIPA in an acting capacity, in January 2024 to help co-lead the governance and institutional turnaround facing the Institute. Since then, he has been instrumental in transitioning SAIPA towards industry-leading enterprise risk frameworks, implementing internal controls, and establishing effective operational processes.

Zolani offers SAIPA more than a conventional Chief Operating Officer within an accountancy body. His career spans infrastructure delivery, technology operations, start-ups, and large corporate institutions, providing him with a broad and pragmatic leadership perspective. With over 30 years of professional experience, he has a deep understanding of complex operational environments and the governance responsibilities required to help lead SAIPA effectively.

He holds an MBA from Rhodes University, an ELP from Oxford University, multiple certifications in leadership, risk, and technology, and is both a Certified Director (SA) and Chartered CIO (SA). Upon joining SAIPA, he commenced a Master of Science in Accountancy, which he is currently in the process of completing.

For SAIPA's members and stakeholders, this translates into leadership that genuinely understands the realities practitioners face daily, regulatory and compliance pressures, rapid technological change, and increasing client expectations. This ensures that SAIPA benefits from operational leadership grounded in three decades of experience addressing these challenges.

We wish Zolani every success in his role and look forward to his continued contribution as he helps to lead SAIPA into its next phase of growth and transformation.

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