

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



"We must each adopt as much responsibility as possible for individual life, society and the world. We must each tell the truth and repair what is in disrepair and break down and recreate what is old and outdated. It is in this manner that we can and must reduce the suffering that poisons the world. It's asking a lot. It's asking for everything."

– Jordan B. Peterson, 12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos

SAIBA has set itself a goal. One that we will pursue with unwavering dedication. We will redraft the boundaries of the profession, removing obstacles to entry as we march towards a unified profession that provides access and opportunity, equally and for all.

We are still in our infancy, but the slow meandering of our progress will overtime converge into a roaring mass of unstoppable force.

In our quest for equal access we have taken initial strides –

- registering our designations with the qualification authorities;
- obtaining international recognition and member mobility;
- working with Government to improve the compliance of the NPO sector;
- demonstrating our ability to host international events;
- expanding the development opportunities for members through our UNISA partnership.

However, if I must choose our biggest accomplishment for the 2016/2017 financial year, it surely must be the CFO World Congress that we hosted during November 2016. In this year, SAIBA became the first African professional accounting body to become a member of the International Association of Finance Executive Institutes (IAFEI). Our members are now part of a global body of finance executives that spans 22 countries stretching from Brazil to China, with more than 22,000 members. The conference received formal recognition by the City of Cape Town with the keynote presented by the Mayor, Patricia de Lille and SARS Commissioner, Tom Moyane. In addition, with our international body (IAFEI) being appointed by the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) as a member of the Consultative Advisory Group, we now participate in influencing and monitoring the work of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

Ultimately, for our achievements to be of any value, we must move the foundations upon which the profession is built. Our profession is still monopolised to the favour of the few. Legislation favours the established organisations and funding patterns continue to entrench the status quo. The efforts of SAIBA will continue to be directed at changing the face of the profession, removing barriers to entry and ensuring that all accountants share equally in the support and funding provided by Government and universities.

With the continued and dedicated support provided by our members, both in fees and in reputation, we will be able to maintain our current course.

I pledge to you, our members, that as Chairperson, together with my fellow Board members and the SAIBA Secretariat, we will work relentlessly to create new opportunities within which you can fulfil your potential. As an organisation we don't ask for hand-outs, just a fair playing field.

With best wishes,
Prof. Dovhani Thakhathi
Chairman