

Saica apologises for challenges experienced during the 1 December 2021 APC examination sitting

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The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (Saica) deeply regrets the challenges experienced by Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) examination candidates around the country.

Saica has launched an immediate investigation into the technical difficulties experienced during yesterday's 2021 APC sitting. The Institute is deeply sensitive to and regrets the impact these difficulties have had on candidates. Saica would further like to assure all affected candidates, as well as the Institute's stakeholders and the general public that we are assessing all available options to ensure that candidates will be given every chance to be fairly assessed. We will also consider how this will affect some of the Saica examination processes.

"It is with deep regret that Saica acknowledges that the December APC sitting was marred by a myriad of technical challenges around the country which had a negative impact on candidates writing the assessment. The challenges included leased hardware and ancillary equipment as well as Internet connectivity issues at examination venues which compromised the APC eWriting software," says Freeman Nomvalo, Saica chief executive.

"Saica sincerely apologises to all examination candidates, their families and other affected stakeholders for the significant stress that these difficulties have placed on candidates, and would like to assure all our stakeholders that this matter is receiving priority attention by the Saica Board based on recommendations by the relevant governance structures. Saica understands the impact this has had on the psychological well-being of candidates and their ability to demonstrate the required competencies. Saica would further like to assure candidates that all these circumstances will be taken into account when assessing candidates' competencies. Once the full extent of the matter is understood, Saica will communicate further details on how we will address the impact to candidates," Nomvalo adds.

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