

THE WHY AND FUTURE OF ATQ AS CATALYST FOR ACCELERATING INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY: THE ATSWA EXPERIENCE

ABEL AIG. ASEIN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANCY BODIES IN WEST AFRICA (ABWA)



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA



FASE



**ASSOCIATION OF
ACCOUNTANCY BODIES IN
WEST AFRICA (ABWA)**

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance



WHY ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS QUALIFICATION(ATQ)

- West Africa population: Circa 400m people.
- 43m MSMEs and dominant public sector.
- Professional Accountants: Approximately 100,000.
- Cause of region's under-development: Manpower shortage.
- ABWA introduced ATSWA program in 1997 to:
 - produce skilled middle-level manpower;
 - provide a recognized qualification for middle-level personnel; and
 - provide an additional pathway into the professional accountancy qualification.

Current Status: ABWA has, till date, produced over 35,000 AAT holders since 1997.



ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS AS CATALYSTS FOR ECONOMIC AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

- ❑ AAT holders add value to businesses and the economy.
- ❑ Private Sector:
 - As Audit/Finance Clerks/supervisors handling
 - Bookkeeping tasks
 - Attestation-related assignments in Accounting firms
 - Internal Audit jobs
 - Cost accounting tasks
 - Payroll assignments
- ❑ Public sector:
 - Facilitate financial data collection
 - Assist in budget preparation
 - Prepare/Validate Tax returns
 - Aid accountability and transparency: impact reports



THE FUTURE & HOW TO ACCELERATE THE TRAINING OF ATQ

THE FUTURE OF ATQ IS BRIGHT:

- High global demand for their services.
- Increase in enrolment is sure: 4,950 average in the last 10 diets.

ACCELERATION OF TRAINING

- Support more PAOs to embrace the ATQ initiative.
- Replace paper-based exams with Computer-based ATQ exams.
- Subsidize tuition services in rural areas
- Develop and deploy learning applications to enhance access
- Establish e-library centres in rural areas to enhance access
- Encourage Tertiary institutions to implement ATQ
- Aggressively market the skills of ATQ to stakeholders: e-newsletter; engage SMEs/employers/government.
- Create visibility & networking opportunities for ATQ: forum of ATQs, organise conference/ CPD programs, licence them to practice tax