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

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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