



CAPTIONS

1. BIA Chief Executive, D. Majinda at the graduation giving a vote of thanks
2. AAT, London's Steven Drew directing the ceremony
3. BIA President, Priya Iyer giving her opening address
4. Boemo Gaeletha, reading out the names of the graduates
5. AAT, London Chief Executive, Jane Scott Paul addressing the graduates
6. AAT, President Timothy Light sharing his experiences with the audience
7. Graduates receiving their certificates and posing for a picture with both AAT & BIA Presidents
8. Audience listening attentively to deliberations
9. J. Lukona, D. Cropper and Mike Lesolle (Executive Director) of BAC gracing the occasion
10. Reginah Ramantaba (BIA), Ronsang Modikana (Awards Committee Chairperson) and Tiro Orpelege (AAT Botswana branch) at the graduation



BIA/AAT recognizes achievers



Botswana Institute of Accountants (BIA) and AAT has recognized the achievements of former students who completed AAT Accounting qualification, and gained election to AAT full membership.

Delivering an opening address at the graduation held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) on October 30, the BIA President, Priya Iyer told graduates that Accounting Technician qualification is important because it is a launch pad for their progression in Accounting.

She said they are graduating at a time the country is experiencing a boom in the economy and there is high demand in the market for Accountants. "At the moment there are lots of opportunities for you to tap into in this country," adding that more companies also need auditors.

Priya encouraged graduates who are non-members of AAT that this is also a good opportunity for them to become full members.

For his part, the AAT President, Tim Light told graduates that they are on a journey and the fact that they have attained the AAT qualification should be the beginning of a long journey with AAT. He encouraged them to take up full membership as it will give them recognition and status. "You have all worked

hard to get where you are today and I urge you not to stop here but take the next step and become part of the big AAT family across the world," he said.

Light further said when graduates become full members they will be able to get support in their accounting endeavours from the professional body. "This qualification opens doors for you to progress," he said.

He congratulated graduates and urged them to be proud of their achievement and not to underestimate what they have attained.

Sharing a few thoughts with graduates, AAT Chief Executive Officer, Jane Scott Paul said AAT is the largest body of accounting technicians world wide with 105 000 students, affiliates and members, adding that in Southern Africa, Botswana has the largest AAT student base.

Scott Paul told graduates that the institution is recognized worldwide as adding value to the accounting profession. She further said AAT Accounting qualification offers entry to higher levels and therefore graduates should take advantage of that.

Scott Paul told graduates and those in attendance that

the qualification has been able to support employers to raise the standard of Accounting in the world. "You have just attained a worldwide achievement and it is your passport to future career development," she said.

Scott Paul revealed that a wide range of employers world wide depend on AAT to improve their staff, for instance, Ernst & Young and Manchester United Football Club. In Botswana she said Bank of Botswana, Grand Palm, DHL, Debswana and the Ministry of Health are some of the organizations that depend on AAT for their staff development.

She further said AAT does not only offer theory and principles but also trains students to apply them. "This qualification has great potential to enhance accounting in Botswana and to help people develop and go forward," she said.

AAT's Membership Services Manager, Steven Drew reiterated on the benefits of being an AAT full member. He said AAT goes beyond studies but it's a long life journey that provides members with status and the recognition they deserve.