



# BOTSWANA INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS

## The Career Video Orientation Workshop



Botswana Institute of Accountants Chief Executive Officer, Mr Duncan Majinda, in his element, giving background information on the accountancy profession and on the career video



Botswana Institute of Accountants President Mrs. Priya Iyer giving the welcome remarks



ACCA Botswana Branch President and BIA member Ms Tshegofatso Modise fielding questions from the ever-energetic audience



Mrs. Lillian Kolantsho, CIMA Botswana Branch Representative, was in attendance to answer some of the questions from the audience



The workshop was quite interactive. Here Mr Seane, a Career Guidance Teacher from Kgari Sechele Senior Secondary poses a question to the facilitators



Mr Majinda interacting with the audience, taking them through all the requirements needed for one to become a professional accountant



The audience enjoying the career video show



Part of the participants attentively listening to the proceedings

Lunchtime marked the end of an eventful and interactive workshop



Participants applauding an answer from the workshop facilitator, Mr Majinda



The marketing of the Accountancy profession through the Career Video moved to another level on March 21, 2009. A well attended workshop organised for the orientation of Career Guidance Counsellors in schools attracted more than seventy-five (75) counsellors from the southern part of the country. It is intended that a similar workshop would be organised in Francistown for those in the Northern region.

The presentation at the workshop by the Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Institute of Accountants, Mr Duncan Majinda gave an overview of the Accountancy profession in Botswana and its contribution to economic development. He cited some statistical data on the number of professional accountants in the country which showed significant shortages of professional accountants in Botswana and he said that the profession, Government and the private sector all faced a demanding task in trying to address the shortage. He explained that it is estimated that

only 20% of the demand for professional accountants is currently being satisfied of which about 66% is provided by non citizens. "With the move by government, the biggest employer in the economy, to attract and retain professional accountants evidenced by the introduction of a 40% scarcity allowance, these statistics were quite conservative", he added.

He told the counsellors that 'The making of an Accountant' was a long journey which took years of hard work to pass the professional examinations and also the accumulation of the requisite practical experience. He emphasised that this task could be made much easier by involving students at an early stage in their lives through career guidance so that they could choose the subjects that complement their chosen careers. "This is what the career video is all about", he said.

On their part, the Career Guidance Counsellors had the following comments to make:

- There was a problem with getting examination results with adequate numbers of students with passes

in Mathematics as this was one of the subjects recommended.

- While most of the schools have subjects like commerce and accounting in their curricula, the schools were facing problems with getting teachers for these subjects and therefore in some years these subjects were not taught at all.
- The Institute should also influence the curriculum of Pre-Tertiary Educational Institutions not just for institutes of higher learning.
- The Institute should attend career fairs organised by the schools to assist Career Guidance Counsellors to educate students on the importance of the Accounting profession in the economy and also why students should choose it as a career rather than other careers.
- Unlike other professions like Doctors and Lawyers, accountants were not easy to identify, by for example, their apparel. This made them inconspicuous compared to their counterparts with long fancy

robes and white overcoats and stethoscopes hanging around their necks. They wondered if anything could be done about this.

- The career guidance counsellors expressed interest themselves in becoming professional accountants and wondered if it was too late.

The workshop was graced by the President of the Institute Mrs. Priya Iyer who officially opened the workshop. In her opening remarks, the President underscored the importance of producing adequate numbers of professional accountants to cope with the needs of our growing economy. Ms Tshegofatso Modise, the President of ACCA, Botswana Branch, and member of the Education and Training and the Practice Review Committees, gave a vote of thanks.

At the end of the workshop, all those who attended were given a copy of the Career Video to take back to their schools. The Career Video will be distributed to all schools in the country free of charge.