

# ABASA NEWS

Newsletter of the Association of Black Accountants  
of Southern Africa

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## Accounting Technicians Bursary Programme (ATBP)

ABASA has pleasure in announcing the establishment of a new scholarship Programme for Accounting Technicians. The objective of the Accounting Technician Bursary Programme is to encourage black High School graduates throughout South Africa to become Accounting Technicians. There are about 60 Black Accounting Technicians out of approximately 3 500.

An Accounting Technician is a member of the Institute of Accounting Technicians of Southern Africa. To qualify for membership of the Institute, a person must first complete a three year National Diploma Accounting at a Technikon and also work under the supervision of a qualified Accountant for 3 years. Members of the Institute are qualified for appointment as accounting officers to close corporations.

## Visit to Canada and Britain:

Ms Imogen Mkhize and Mr Mashudu Ramano returned from their visits which took them to Britain and Canada. I. Mkhize is a member of the Board of Management of ABASA and M. Ramano Executive Director of ABASA.

## The purpose of the trip was threefold:

- \* To make contact with professional organizations and associations in the field of financial Management and Accounting.
- \* To identify potential sources of support for ABASA's goals including financial training and organizational development.
- \* To make a preliminary review of British and Canadian resources in terms of training in Britain and Canada in the area of financial Management.

## Itinerary

The ABASA delegation met with approximately 60 organizations and 200 people in a period of about 20 working days. These included 14 Universities, 5 colleges, 11 professional organizations and accounting Institute, 8 companies, 4 firms of Chartered Accountants, 4 Business Associations, 5 Community and service organizations, 3 International Organizations, 4 Local government bodies and government departments.

## Forthcoming Events:

After conducting a series of successful seminars in 1989, ABASA wishes to sustain the same momentum in 1990 through a number of thought

provoking seminars.

The first seminar in 1990 will kick off on Wednesday January 25 and the Topic under discussion will be "benefits of working as an assignee.

On Wednesday February the 21st 1990 , another seminar will be conducted under the theme "Credit Management".

The Public will be notified in due course about the venues and times.

#### Closure of the Centre for Accounting and Management Studies (CAMS)

The Centre for Accounting Management Studies was set up by ABASA to provide Black students with appropriate educational qualifications in the accounting field. It was a centre established to redress the inadequacies of Bantu Education in Black matriculants who aspired to become accountants.

A painful decision to close the Centre had to be made by ABASA as a result of diminishing funds to finance and maintain the Centre. However, all the students who registered for the academic year 1989 will not be left in a lurch. Provision has been made for them to gain entrance and continue their studies for the National Diploma Accounting at a Technikon. Means will also be made by ABASA and other interest groups to financially assist where possible needy students.

It is an open secret that ABASA appeals seriously from all quarters of the business community to come forward with pledges aimed at funding the costs of studying at a Technikon by these students.

#### Year - End Message:

The year 1989, has been one that we would like to believe as a year in which ABASA finally made its presence felt not only in the accounting profession but as well as in other quarters of our business, academic and political communities.

A serious introspection within the organization resulted in "dead wood" being left behind. Despite many challenges on the way, ABASA did not forget the rationale for its existence as encapsulated in the mission statements viz:

- To assist all South Africans who are not white (and are thus not fully catered for) in obtaining access to educational and employment opportunities that will enable them to achieve their highest ambitions and realise their fullest potential regardless of race colour sex or creed.
- To facilitate the entry of Blacks (the so-called "Coloureds, Indians and Blacks") into the accounting profession and to promote their academic and professional excellence.

On the surface, ABASA has managed to induce enthusiastic responses from all concerned parties wishing to form a unified base in the development of accounting skills from disadvantaged communities. However, the underlying reality manifests unwarranted resistance to change which consciously subverts meaningful progress in the Profession. It is for these reasons, as we enter a brand new decade that ABASA should as



determined as ever before in hoisting the flag aimed at developing the accounting profession in the Black Community.

It is also our wish that by the turn of the 20th century the organization's main goals would have been achieved. These goals are to achieve an increase of 8 500 Accountants by the year 2 000 including 2 000 new C.A's 1 000 cost and Management Accountants, 5 000 accounting Technicians and 500 Government and Municipal Accountants from the Black Community.

On behalf of the Board of Management and staff I would like to wish you a well - deserved rest over the festive season and a very bright new decade.

Mr Mashudu Ramano  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR