IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONALIZING THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION

VICKSON NCUBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PAFA

ICGFM 28th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONALIZING THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION

AN OVERVIEW OF AFRICA:
• 54 countries (plus 2 disputed ones)
• 34 have PAFA members
• 24 IFAC members or associates (two not in PAFA)
• Of 20 (or 22 without PAFA members) 4 have an accountancy body.
  ➢ Africa an important investment destination with huge potential (anchored on the public sector).

FOCUS
• Strengthen existing accountancy bodies
• Establish accountancy body where none exist
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CHALLENGES FACING AFRICA GENERALLY

• Historical challenges :- Linguistic (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Swahili? And others

• Weak capacity in public and private sector: Human and institutional. (PFM, PEFA, ROSC, IFAC Member Body Compliance and other diagnostic tools)

• Sub- optimal funding models not focusing on total picture

• Short term quick – fix for structural faults

• Governance challenges

• Uncoordinated donor support

• Failure to address whole supply chain – technicians and professional levels (public and private)
The Pan African Federation of Accountants – PAFA.

• launched in May 2011
• to accelerate the development of the accountancy profession in Africa
• strengthen the voice of the accountancy profession within Africa and worldwide.
PAFA believes:
• good governance,
• accountability,
• good financial management
• transparency
  ➢ principal pillars in the acceleration of economic growth and reduction of poverty
• Professionalization of accountancy profession in public and private sector key.
• Paramount in African context in view of role played by government
THE STRATEGIC THEMES

LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY TOOLS TO PRIORITISE SERVICE EXCELLENCE TO ITS MEMBERS – THROUGH A WELL-RESOURCED SECRETARIAT

DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION IN AFRICA

FACILITATE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICE

RAISE THE PRESENCE AND PROFILE OF THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION IN AFRICA [ADVOCACY AND COMMS]

IMPLEMENTATION [COLLABORATIVE]
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Good stories

- Zambia
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Lesotho
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
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Good story: The Zambian Experience

• Cooperation among stakeholders:
  ➢ Government, Donors and Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants - ZICA
• Zambia Centre for Accountancy Studies –ZCAS
• Government and its institutions, private audit firms
• Local ownership and leadership
• Cooperation was long term (No quick fix)
PAFA priorities

• Partner with stakeholders to establish dialogue with countries without accountancy body.
• Commence process of establishing accountancy body.
• Create partnerships between the strong and the weak
• Source funds to enable strong to capacitate weak
• Application capacity building at local institute level (standards and best practice)
• Promote regional cooperation to achieve economies of scale
Partnering for results: Learning from the past, building the future
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Current initiatives

• Members subscriptions and other resources (not adequate)
• Partnering with AFROSIAI and INTOSAI
• MOU with African Union
• Partnering with the African Development Bank, World Bank.
• Seeking to deepen partnerships;
  ➢ European Union
  ➢ International Monetary Fund – IMF
  ➢ USAID/DFID
  ➢ PEFA
  ➢ Other like minded development partners.
THANK YOU

Vickson Ncube
Chief Executive Officer
PAN AFRICAN FEDERATION
OF ACCOUNTANTS – PAFA

Email:vicksonn@pafa.org.za
Telephone +27 (011) 479 0602/4
Website: www.pafa.org