

## HUGE SHORTAGE OF BLACK ACCOUNTANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

In a recent article in the Association of Accounting Technician magazine with the heading “Opening doors in the Rainbow nation,” it was reported that there was a huge shortage of black accountants in South Africa. The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) is an awarding body that offers professional accountancy qualifications which carries international recognition and status.

Although the AAT qualification is a professional qualification in its own right, it can also be used as a stepping stone for students to become Chartered in SA and be an asset to any organisation employing them anywhere in the world.

In the same article it was stated that earlier this year the AAT accounting qualification was introduced in SA to replace the Global Accountancy Proficiency Programme which had previously been offered and was similar in nature to the AAT course.

The AAT has no set entry requirements and therefore the introduction of the AAT qualification in South Africa gives people including previously disadvantaged learners the opportunity to qualify with the AAT and either build a career from that basis, or continue to study for a senior accountancy qualification by taking advantage of the progression routes which recognise the achievements and skills of those who have completed it.

The AAT qualification will not only offer students a professional qualification but also equip them with a skills range from basic bookkeeping to achieving full Chartered status or a degree in accountancy.

Many students do not have the desire to become or possibly do not have the ability to gain full Chartered status especially with the present lack of good quality training at this level in South Africa.

Additionally, many employers do not require all of their accountancy staff to be Chartered but they say they desperately need well trained qualified Accounting Technicians. The combination of the AAT qualification coupled with the new funding available will certainly go a long way in serving their needs.

RSH ASSOCIATES LTD, which trades as Premier Training and is one of the UK's leading providers in Accountancy training, has discovered throughout its intense market research that there is presently a skills shortage for AAT qualified Accounting Technicians in South Africa.

Premier Training has identified South Africa as an economy with a dynamic growth potential for the training of Accounting Technicians for government, industry and commerce.

On her recent visit to Cape Town, Rose Crockett, Director of Overseas Development for Premier Training said that “ Premier Training will launch in South Africa as Premier Accountancy Training (Pty) Ltd later this year which will offer a wealth of opportunities by providing an introduction to accountancy for all South Africa that will allow them to make informed decisions regarding following a career in accountancy”.

One of the reasons for this was the recognition that there is presently a skills gap for qualified Accounting Technicians and it will assist the South African government, employers and students address this skills gap which was partly created because potential Accountants in South Africa have not previously had a formal route to qualification that fills the middle ground between the basic Bookkeeper type qualification the Chartered Accountants

The AAT qualification offered by Premier Training will address this skills gap and shortage.

In agreement with the article in the AAT magazine, Rose Crockett further stated that “there is a lack of good Accountancy training that can be accessed on a flexible basis but she insisted this will be fully addressed once Premier Training launches its training centre later this year in time for registered students to write examinations in June 2007.

Referring specifically to recent comments by the Deputy President on the shortage of skills in SA, Rose Crockett explained that Premier Training which trains accountants globally to all levels by distance learning would be able to customise all of its accountancy courses for individual and corporate needs.

The AAT qualification will offer students a skills range from basic Bookkeeping to a professional route to achieving full Chartered status. The AAT qualification will offer the opportunity to fill the current skills gap, many students do not have the desire to become or possibly do not

have the ability to gain full Chartered status especially with the present lack of good quality training.

The availability of the programme in SA gives people the opportunity to qualify with the AAT and either build a career from that basis, or continue to study for a senior accountancy qualification by taking advantage of the progression routes which recognise the achievements and skills of those who have completed it.

Premier Training has recognised through its intense market research that there is a skills shortage for AAT qualified Accounting Technicians in SA.

To assist the SA government, employers and students address this skills gap, Premier Training are opening a training centre in SA later this year in time for registered students to write examinations in June 2007

Additionally many employers do not require all of their accountancy staff to be Chartered but they say they desperately need well trained qualified Accounting Technician. The combination of the AAT qualification coupled with the new funding available will certainly go a long way to serving their needs.

The AAT qualification is primarily for anyone who wants to improve their skills, understanding and knowledge in line with employer's needs and can also be designed in partnership with employers to equip their employees with the knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to their current or future employment.

Premier Training will also be providing training for additional accountancy qualifications namely The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

All of these professional qualifications are UK based, internationally approved by the relevant SETAs and FASSET in South Africa which will now allow employers and students easier access to funding to achieve professional qualifications and relevant quality training.

All of Premier Training's qualifications can also be achieved from anywhere in the world on a distance learning basis which will suit many students and will allow employers to have their staff trained more cost effectively and students to study at their own pace and in their own time.

Furthermore, students who do not presently have an accountancy position but want a career in Accountancy at any level will find this method of study to be a great advantage in gaining meaningful employment once they have begun training or achieved any level of any course.

For an information pack or an informal discussion, please contact Premier Training 0944 1469 515444 or visit their website on [www.premiertraining.co.uk](http://www.premiertraining.co.uk)