

# Chartered Accountants in Business

By  
A. A. ASEIN

**“CAB has the prime objective of setting, monitoring and enforcing professional standards for industry such that members will always render value-laden services facilitated by current advancement in information technology”**

The spate of corporate failures recently witnessed in the financial sector has brought into sharp focus the role of chartered accountants in the efficient management of corporate resources. The pervasive impact of these failures have spurred some analysts to question the adequacy of the generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards in the face of emerging complex business scenarios occasioned by the advancement in information technology, globalisation of the economic environment, increasing sophistication of the average consumer, innovation in production processes, etc. Their anxieties are justifiable given that accounting is universally accepted as the language of business while its practitioners are viewed as financial engineers who possess the magic wand needed to tide business dynamics over.

In fact, in the emerging complex economic scenario, the reliance on the chartered accountant has assumed greater significance particularly as a provider of financial information which enable resource owners to make economic decisions, assess the impact of managerial decisions on their investment portfolios and efficiently select the critical success factors from a maze of investment data. The increased number of chartered accountants being made directors and chief executive officers attests to this renewed confidence.

## The Institute's Responsiveness

The Institute is not oblivious of these expectation and the challenges posed to the chartered accountants as they daily strive to allocate resources, maximise returns and minimise regrets in the midst of fierce competitions and inevitable business fluctuations. In its efforts to sustain and reinforce their prized position in corporate governance therefore, the Institute has evolved strategies that will enable it appropriately identify, analyse and address the unique needs of chartered accountants irrespective of the areas where they function.

Thus, beyond its pioneering statutory

rights to set standards and regulate the practice of accounting in Nigeria, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria is desirous of not only delivering satisfaction to its entire membership that will guarantee their commitment to the worthy professional ideals but also to ensure that the leading edge of the chartered accountant in business and commercial relations is not attenuated as we approach the next millennium.

One of such strategies is the creation of Sections that will provide technical support to members based on their peculiar needs. The Public Practice Section of the Institute which blazed the trail for members in professional practice have started to make its mark in setting of standards which will significantly guide practitioners and ensure the sustenance of the Institute's revered virtue of professional excellence.

## Chartered Accountants in Business

As part of its responsiveness to the needs of its members who manage corporate resources and have statutory responsibility for financial statements, the Institute has created a Section which is known as **Chartered Accountants in Business, CAB**. This Section was created in order to establish a two-way communication channel between the Institute and its members in finance,

industry and commerce such that the unique needs of these silent majority members are promptly identified and addressed.

## Objectives

Pursuant to this, the CAB has the prime objective of setting, monitoring and enforcing professional standards for industry such that members will always render value-laden services facilitated by current advancement in information technology. The Section will provide professional information that will enhance the goodwill of the Institute and impact positively on members' capacity to achieve positive results and remain in business. It will also continuously educate members on their statutory duties and responsibilities as directors, non-executive directors, chief finance officers, internal auditors, etc., such that a culture of good corporate governance is evolved by the Institute.

Survival and prosperity in competitive environments demand that resource managers raise their risk management competence, ability to scan environment, and also take advantage of leverages in their business and commercial relations. While the acquisition of these skills may be through formal education, the role of shared experiences in the industry is not less important. In appreciation of this, CAB will also serve as an interactive forum for professional peers in business such that they can evolve solutions to common industry problems. In fact, such interactions will help to breakdown the barriers that mitigate against the easy consummation of contractual relations.

As conceptualised, the Section will organise seminars, workshops, cocktails, and print newsletters. It is envisaged that district societies will serve as mechanism for reaching out to members outside Lagos. To facilitate the realisation of these goals, CAB will maintain a desk at the Institute that will coordinate its activities. The Section, which held its inaugural cocktail recently, is presently run by a committee of Council under the leadership of Mr. Fola Adeola, FCA, and is expected to be self-financing.

**Mr. A.A. Asein is the Secretary of CAB.**