



PUBLIC NOTICE

ON ILLEGAL PRACTICE BY NON-PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Rwanda (ICPAR) is the sole professional accountancy organization in Rwanda, established by law No. 11/2008 of 06 May 2008. As part of its mandate to protect the public interest, ICPAR hereby notifies the public that it is illegal and prohibited to practice or engage a non-professional accountant for any accounting services.

WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT?

A professional accountant is a person who has expertise in the field of accountancy, achieved through successful completion of a professional accountancy qualification or its equivalent; has relevant practical experience, and who complies with the following requirements among others:

- ▶ Demonstrates and maintains competence;
- ▶ Adheres to a code of ethics;
- ▶ Is subject to a high professional standard and enforcement by ICPAR or other regulatory mechanism;
- ▶ Is registered with ICPAR and is in good standing.

Being in good standing means that an individual has paid annual membership subscription fees, obtained 40 hours of Continuous Professional Development (CPD), and has no ongoing disciplinary case, among other criteria. Only a member in good

standing of ICPAR is allowed to use the designation of CPA(R): Certified Public Accountant of Rwanda, or CAT(R): Certified Accounting Technician of Rwanda.

ICPAR graduates and any other individual are not allowed to use these designations until they have fulfilled the membership requirements and have been admitted by ICPAR. The list of ICPAR members is published on the institute's website and can be accessed by the public.

WHO IS A PRACTITIONER?

A practitioner is a member in good standing of ICPAR who is authorized to offer audit and assurance services, among other activities. He or she must have a practicing certificate (PC) under an ICPAR licensed firm. The list of practitioners and licensed firms can also be accessed on the ICPAR website.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF ENGAGING A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT?

Engaging a professional accountant offers numerous benefits, such as:

- ▶ Ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements for record keeping, tax planning, assessment and declaration;
- ▶ Providing support in preparing and interpreting financial statements and other management reports;
- ▶ Helping in checking and correcting any financial inaccuracies;
- ▶ Providing insight and advice on strategic analysis and decision making.

The public is advised to verify the status of any individual or firm claiming to be a professional accountant or a practitioner before engaging them for any accounting services. The public is also encouraged to report any person who is not registered with ICPAR and purports to be a professional accountant or a practitioner. Such impersonation is a criminal offense and punishable by the Rwandan law determining offenses and penalties in general. ICPAR will take necessary steps to ensure that such individuals are investigated and prosecuted by the relevant authorities.



SCAN CODE

For more information or clarification regarding a professional accountant or a practitioner

please contact ICPAR at pds@icparwanda.com

or call us on 0784 103 930.