

What is South Africa saying about Chartered Accountants - Doctors in Finance?

“Is a bit tongue-in-cheek,” This means that there are no limits to what you can do once you get your CA. You can start your business, become one of the Fortune 1,000 companies, make a difference with a non-profit organization, or have your own business.” Whether you choose to follow the route to one day become a Chief Financial Officer of a major JSE listed company, a partner in one of the big 4 Audit firms or the founder of a leading Corporate Finance Entity, a CA qualification is definitely the crème de la crème of what young South African’s are choosing as career paths, which is excellent news as there is a shortage of financial professionals in South Africa.

Cassel and Company have a broad range of clients who have really made conscious endeavors to build centre’s of excellence in their Financial departments, as these individuals are seen as highly regarded assets. Any company spread across our nation, due to Cassel and Companies personal market research and business relationships, have found that there is a CA in at least one of their top positions, such a CFO, CEO and COO.

To become a Chartered Accountant in South Africa, it requires 7 years of studying, the same amount of time it takes our medical professionals to complete their PHD!

South African chartered accountants have an excellent global reputation. There is a global market for talent and a local need for skills, for change and for economic development. Chartered accountants are well placed to contribute and participate in all of these areas. Yet we must always ensure we remember where we came from and create opportunities for the next generation of Chartered Accountants to qualify and to achieve.

Which brings me to my next point: Are our newly qualified Chartered Accountants going into the commercial world with the attitude of really gaining the experience that they need, or are they simply money driven?

Cassel and Company hosted an evening for the APT students completing T.O.P.P articles, to ascertain where these individuals see themselves 5 years down the line. Why they chose to become Chartered Accountants, and of course for them to be informed of what they can expect from the commercial world. Cassel and Company invited some key guests who were at EXCO level to report back on how they see our newly qualified Chartered Accountants; and of course a call for us to educate them on how they should be conducting themselves to sustain their great reputations moving forward in a developing South Africa

The key element here is that if you are a newly qualified Chartered Accountant or have just been appointed CFO, the point is to remember the fundamental importance of skills and development in your role. At Cassel and Company we are not only committed to placing our candidates in positions, but are also committed to educating and reminding our clients and candidates that it's not all about the money. The money of course will come in this profession, but it is about being an investment to an organisation, and not a premium. Being a Chartered Accountant in any industry, on any level, is to save the company money in one way or another, so this naturally should start with you. At Cassel we advise our candidates who are searching for career growth, new opportunities, and a new challenge, whatever the reason for leaving your previous employer; that one should have a minimum of three year tenure within an organisation. Your 1st year is learning all about your new role. Your second year is implementing what you have learnt and your third year is putting to the real test that what you have learnt and what you have implemented has actually been mastered and have you been an investment to your company? We at Cassel and Company pride ourselves in conducting recruitment in an entirely different way to our competitors by educating our candidates and clients that it's not just about filling that post. It's about finding that individual that will increase revenue in your organisation, it's about finding that individual that aligns not only from their technical and competency point of view, but from a culture fit. Are the individuals that we are investing in, aligned to the company's mission statement and do they share similar values and morals? With this in mind, and a conscious decision to pay special attention to these key points in growing our economy, the reputation of our Chartered Accountants will continue to manifest into something remarkable. That old saying "They

Don't make them like they used to" will be something of the past and we can only prepare our country and economic climate for greatness!

Cassel and Company's successful partnerships with many of South Africa's top organizations have resulted in us placing many a candidate within these organisations, thus making Cassel and Company a constant advisor in their resourcing strategies. At Cassel and Company, our core business is to provide employment for quality candidates in Finance and Accounting with employers of choice. To join our elite network of finance professionals upload your CV now ([Upload CV](#)), mail us (nmnguni@cassel.co.za) or visit us on www.cassel.co.za

Clare Manning

Team Leader

CA & Audit