

What Is the Role of the Accountant?

To:

- Collect data
- Aid in decision making
- Provide information to business owners and stakeholders
- Review performance of the company
- Lead and manage individuals

Competencies

- Professional ethics in accounting and business
- The business organisation, its stakeholders and the external environment
- Business organisation structure, functions and governance
- Leading and managing individuals and teams
- Personal effectiveness and communication
- Accounting and reporting systems, controls and compliance

Financial Accounting

- This is a specialised branch of accounting which focuses on the company's financial transactions.
- Accountants need to be able to record, review and present their results in a financial report/statement such as a balance sheet or an income statement
- The information provided by the accountants for the business is used to aid in economic decisions making
- This information may also be presented to external parties, such as investors, tax authorities and financial sources (e.g. the bank)

Management accounting

- provision of financial data and advice to a company for use in the organisation and development of its business
- they advise managers on how the business will benefit or lose when making a big decision in the business
- they also manage people and teams and also provide leadership
- the financial reports produced are used more in the business so stakeholders can use them when making decisions in the business

The difference between financial accounting and management accounting is that financial accounting is used to produce statements for publishing, as well as in the business itself whereas in management accounting the accountant works in the leadership of the employees as well as aiding in decision making by producing financial statement for the business itself.

Accounting Information Systems (AIS)

- **AIS**=collect, store and process financial and accounting data and produce informational reports that managers or other interested parties can use to make business decisions

- Accountants oversee and develop AIS to provide reliable and relevant information for both financial and management purposes
- Accountants also oversee the work of bookkeepers and ledger clerks