

ACQF 2024 Final Webinar – 20/12/2024

Closing Remarks and Best Wishes

Speaker: Ms Fiona Ernesta, Chief Executive Officer of Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA)

As we bring this chapter of our ACQF journey to a close, it gives me great pleasure to share a few heartfelt words.

When we at SQA first embarked on this journey, our initial goal was to seek support for a few projects and enhance certain aspects of our NQF. Little did we know that we would uncover a wealth of opportunities—countless pathways to strengthen not just our Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) but also the broader education sector in our country.

The road was not always easy. Many late hours were spent beyond our regular duties. Yet, it was Eduarda’s unwavering dedication and words of encouragement that fueled us, inspiring us to keep striving, to keep improving, and to aim higher than we had ever imagined.

When we learned of Eduarda’s retirement, it naturally brought concern. We wondered whether we would still be able to access the opportunities, vast knowledge, and invaluable connections that we had come to treasure through the ACQF. But Mama Africa, as always, did not leave us stranded. Instead, she provided us with a legacy—the ACQF Network. Upon learning about this network, we seized the opportunity with no hesitation. Breaking the bonds we had formed with our colleagues from across Africa was never an option, nor was letting Africa down.

My wish—one that I hope we all share—is that we continue to grow and thrive as a continent. Let us push our education systems forward, ensuring that one day Africa will stand strong and proud, comparable to the best in all sectors—not just education.

As Charles Bernard Rangel once said, **“A quality education grants us the ability to fight the war on ignorance and poverty.”* Together, let us wield our pens, our voices, and our digital tools to fight the challenges we face—so Africa can shine as it truly deserves to. Let us work towards improved health systems, strengthened financial frameworks, and empowered people across our nations.

To our ACQF colleagues, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support and for the warm hospitality shown during our visits to your countries.

To our one and only Eduarda: There are truly no words grand enough to express our appreciation. So, as you always remind us, we will keep it simple—THANK YOU. Thank you for your unwavering support, for your wisdom, for your passion, and for your love for Africa.

I believe I speak for all of us when I say that we could not have come this far without your vision and dedication. You have laid a strong foundation for the ACQF, and it is now our collective duty to keep it alive and thriving for the generations to come.

And finally, I extend thanks and deep appreciation to European Commission and all other sponsors and contributors to this unique and first ever project for Africa. We remain forever indebted.

Thank you, and may the ACQF and legacy and that of Eduarda endure.