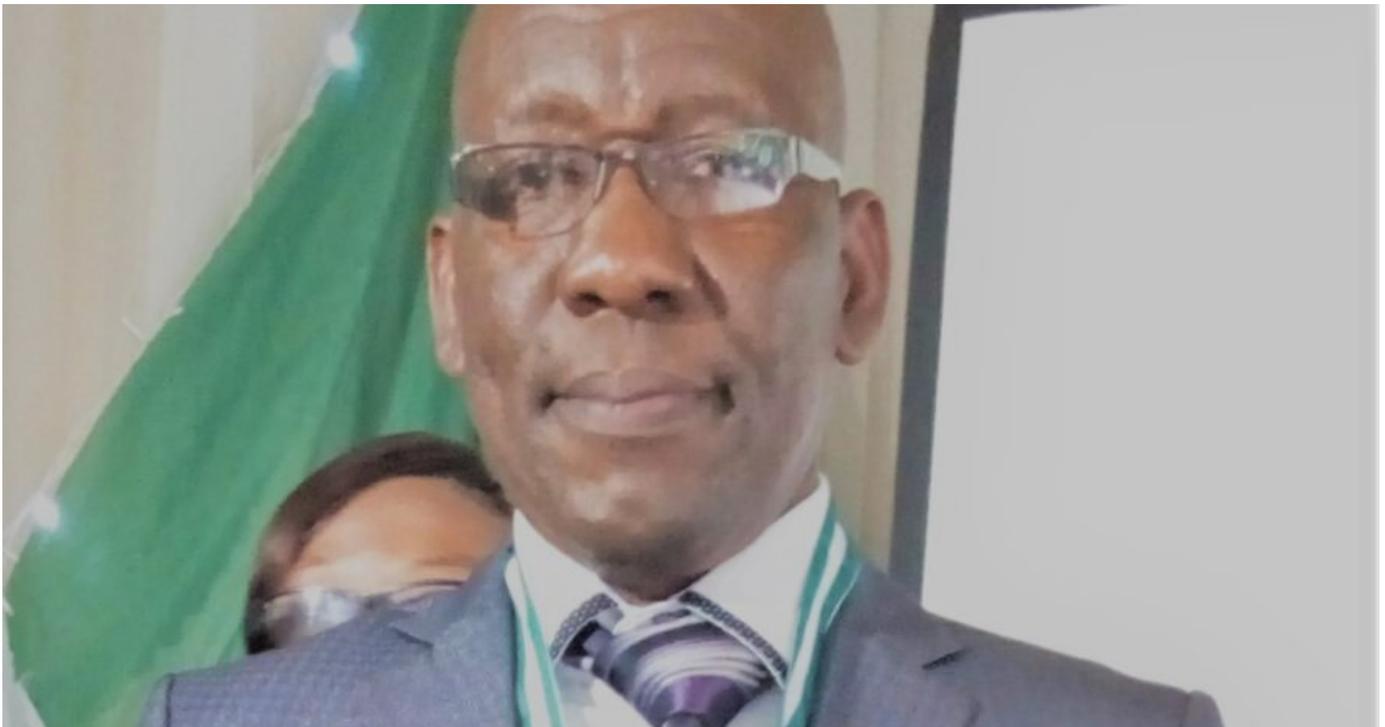




Solicitor, experts call for enlarged tax net at CITN's investiture

Posted By: [Ernest Nwokolo](#) On: October 2, 2017 In: [Business](#)



It was a glamorous call for service last Saturday in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital as foremost tax practitioner, Taiwo Waheed Raji, was installed as the sixth Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria(CITN), Abeokuta and District Society.

The formal investiture and oath of office was administered on him by the National President of CITN, Cyril Ikemefuna Ede, at the National Union of Teachers (NUT) hall, Abeokuta, Ogun State, amid applause and excitement

from friends and business associates including former Deputy Speaker, Ekiti State House of Assembly, Hon. Tunji Orisalade.

Cyril hailed Raji for his new status but reminded him that every opportunity to serve comes with lots of sacrifices and challenges and urged the new executives of Abeokuta and District Society to live up to expectations.

In his acceptance speech, Raji pledged to intensify public awareness about the District Society activities, establish insurance welfare package for members and foster strong cohesion among members.

Aside the investiture and swearing – in of other members of the Executive Council to assist Raji pilot the affairs of CITN, it was also a time for solicitor and tax practitioners to make case for the inclusion of many of taxable age into the nation's tax net.

The experts argued that enlarged tax net is part of measures to raise revenue base required to run the machinery of government and provide essential service to the people.

The chairman of the occasion, Olusola Idowu, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), and Dr. Gbenga Adeoye, an authority on taxation and tax management, decried the 'penny wise, pound foolish' disposition of many in leadership positions in the country who ask people of taxable age to pay taxes while not creating enabling environment for tax payment.

Adeoye who was guest lecturer at the occasion, argued that no government or tax authority should expect citizens to pay taxes promptly if little or no efforts were taken to provide required infrastructure that enhances socioeconomic growth and development.

Speaking on "Morality of Tax Evasion: The Immorality of Good Governance in Africa," Adeoye noted that government is only quick to collect taxes, but doesn't know how to use the money judiciously to better the well-being and social lives of citizens.

"If those paying taxes are not enjoying what those that are collecting it enjoy, then there will be tax evaders.

"Turning the nation's assets to personal ones, rigging of election results and all sorts of evils perpetrated by people in power and ultimately, poor or absence of required infrastructure account for tax evasion," he said.

For Idowu, a "revolution has to be taken in tax administration" while the issues of taxation have lots of responsibilities for socioeconomic development of the country.

"It is very difficult for informal sector to pay tax and reason is not farfetched, since the government seems to be irresponsible and irresponsive to people's yearnings.

"That is why tax agency must continue to sensitise people, and it is also important for government and revenue board to tell people every time what they generate, how they spend it and what they do with it, and also guard against multiple taxation," he said.