

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF DAME GLADYS OLAJUMOKE MOYOSOREOLUWA AYINKE SIMPLICE ON HER INVESTITURE AS THE 14th PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION OF NIGERIA

PROTOCOL:

ECCLESIASTES 3:1- A TIME FOR EVERYTHING- "TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN".

Please Note: To misunderstand this chapter is to misunderstand the purpose of God. And what is the purpose of God? Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know the thoughts I have towards you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end". And what is the expected end for the Chartered institute of taxation of Nigeria; **Its Vision:** "To be one of the most referenced professional associations in Africa and beyond": and **Its Mission:** "To be an institute which will be a citadel of taxation in Africa and contribute to advancement of the science and practice of taxation in all its ramification world wide. Creating a strong manpower base for a professionally driven taxation system in Nigeria".

For me, my expected end as a member of this great Institute is this moment, today, at this point in time and place. As I stand before you all to acknowledge the awesomeness of God , with complete humility and a heartfelt gratitude to God and our founding members, past and current council members, all members of our Great Institute, including well-wishers and stakeholders, I promise on my honor to take this mandate and trust given to me very seriously .

The enormity of this responsibility is not lost on me, but I know with your cooperation and support, things can only get better. I feel indeed honored to serve in the capacity of the 14th President and Chairman of Council of this Great Institute. You have my sincere assurance that I will not take this for granted and will continue to demonstrate my commitment and dedication to what the institute stands for and for which we have all worked over the years.

HOW DID I GET HERE?

August 1982, I joined the service of the FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE DEPT (FIRD) and shortly after, I got to know about an ongoing conversation between Practicing Accountants and Tax Administrators. This later metamorphosed into the Nigerian Institute of Taxation (NIT).

Somewhere along the line, the Doyen of Taxation, Chief David Ajibola Olorunleke co-opted me into the activities of the Institution. The founding members that I got to know were:

From the Federal Inland Revenue Department (FIRD)

- 1) Chief David Ajibola Olorunleke (then Chairman of FIRD)
- 2) Rev(Late) J. O. G Sodipe
- 3) Mr. Isaac Oni
- 4) Mr. Adekanbi M.A
- 5) Pa P. S. A. Layade (Late)

From Accounting Practice:

- 1) Prince Adebajo Babington-Ashaye (Late)
- 2) Mrs. Morenikeji Babington-Ashaye
- 3) Mr. Emmanuel Itoya Ijewere
- 4) Mr. Sam Unuigbe
- 5) Alhaji Dangana
- 6) Dr. Abdulahi Ahmed (Legal Adviser (Late))

These were the men and women of Honor that God used to plant that mustard seed that has grown into that unshakable “IROKO” tree that the Institute has become.. Were things easy in those days? -ask me, and I will tell you that membership drive was as tough as sponsorship drive. But these men and women of highly committed pedigree stood the test of time. They were the solid tap root that held and are still holding the Institute firmly.

The culture of good corporate governance they developed and handed over to us cannot be faulted. We do hope to archive your collective achievements for posterity. I remember with nostalgia, other great men and women that I later worked with at FIRD/FIRS, some with whom I am still fully bonded. Past presidents Titus Aiyewunmi, who served as Secretary at a time, Dr. J. K Naiyeju, my Mentor, Mr.Emmanuel Osemene(late), Mrs. Bimpe Balogun, **Asiwaju J. F. S Jegede**, Mr. M. A. C Dike and Prof. Teju Sodipo-Somorin. We were all from FIRD/FIRS. We have all paid our dues over the years. Alas! See where the invisible hand of Providence has taken me. I AM THE LAST MAN STANDING FROM THIS SET. It is the Lords doing and it is marvelous in my eyes. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

OUR PROMISING FUTURE

I would like to congratulate all the newly elected members of the council. The council is a family and I would like to encourage you to be ever ready to take up challenges and work assiduously so that collectively, we will take our Institute to a greater level and bear in mind that tough times do not last but tough people do..

NEXT STEPS:

Corporate Governance:

To widen our corporate horizon, we have reviewed our vision and mission statement and we hope to pursue the actualization of both with a lot of vigor.

Our Vision to be the leading Institute in training world class Tax Professionals:

Over the years this has been driven through various capacity building programmes. Going forward it is intended that the Tax Academy will be developed to project this fundamental driving force of our vision. We have taken possession of our permanent site in Ilorin and hope to leverage on the Institutes capacity to do more. Currently courses are being run in conjunction with Regenesys. We intend to engage all stakeholders with an inclusive mindset while strengthening other capacity building programs such as the Mandatory Professional Training, International Academic Tax Conference (the next one will take place later this year at Babcock University, Ilishan Ogun State), including proactive seminars on contemporary issues and specialized training for organisations..

In furthering this vision, we have done the under mentioned:

1. The institute has signed MoUs with relevant professional bodies like ANAN, ACCA, including some tertiary institutions and is presently, in conversation with the Chartered Institute of Taxation, (CIOT), UK..
2. The Student Affairs and Tertiary Institution Committee is doing a fantastic work on the extensive inclusive drive of students from tertiary institutions, in terms of training and mentoring them. The developments of Tax Clubs at the Tertiary Institutions level and Tax Societies at Secondary School level are to build capacity and catch them young. The Committee will be strengthened and expanded to cover more zones and areas. We have reviewed downwards the cost of registration for exams to encourage more students to partake in our examination.
3. The Tax Academy will be repositioned in terms of capacity for a technically driven alternative route to membership through intensive training for revenue services staff. We also have a comprehensive professional plan to accommodate lawyers through extended period for pre induction training before they can be admitted to close the knowledge gap in their accounting and taxation knowledge.
4. We will focus on strengthening the Tutorial Houses in terms of standard and credibility by effective monitoring and accreditation. We will also consider effective spread of Tuition Houses for regional balance and integration.

5. We will equally strengthen the technical department of the Institute, including the CITN Tax Academy with more competent personnel.

6. We will inaugurate more District Societies to get closer to our members and encourage them to take ownership of CITN values, culture and activities, by encouraging more zonal conferences and effective impact and relationship with stakeholders in their respective jurisdictions.

Membership Development and Branding

As at the last induction, our membership growth has increased to 22,491. It is hoped that the membership growth rate will continue. So far we are reaching out to Universities to set up Department of Taxation. A lot has been done on this up to PhD level. We look forward to benefiting positively from the output of Graduates from such department.

With the special model being developed by the Tax Academy for revenue staff it is a question of time before all tertiary institutions offer Taxation at B.Sc level. The Tax academy will collaborate with Post Graduate awarding institutions conduct branding and acceptability training for stakeholders.

Vital Role for Tax Academy

Going forward the tax academy is expected to:

- I) Commence the publication of CTA monographs(working papers)
- II) Commence our specialized industry and sector based courses for which we have contact members of the Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN)
- III) Contact the Nigerian Education Research and Development Council (NERDC) for approval of the syllabuses for the basic Taxation course for ordinary level Taxation.
- IV) Contact the Joint University in Preliminary Education Board (JUPEB) and Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB) for a proposed syllabus for A levels in Taxation.
- V) Commence our open and distance learning Professional Diploma and Advance Diploma in Tax Administration and Management for public and private sector individuals.

VALUE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Over the years, the Institute has been clamoring for the creation of Tax Desks in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of governments. Discussions was also held with the National Assembly on the importance of creating Tax Committees .We have not had any positive response but we shall continue to push for this until it is achieved .

Secondly, the entry point for a holder of our certificate is grade level 10, this has unfortunately not been strictly adhered to. There seems to be no scheme of service of holders of our certificate. We shall continue to pursue these ideals until they are achieved.

International Tax Faculties/International Relations

The institute has over the years done a lot of reaching out to relevant International Professional Bodies. With the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Ghana we have initiated and developed the concept of West African Union of Tax Institutes (WAUTI). Members have been drawn from the West African states. This is being ably supported by ECOWAS commissions and stakeholders like the different member states, Revenue Authorities . We will continue to push for inclusiveness and full membership of member states to broaden their horizon and development with the needed expertise in the sub- region.

Other collaboration in the conversation are the South African Institute of Taxation Professionals (SAIT), Chartered Institute Of Taxation UK (CIOT), ACCA, Consideration Fiscal de European (CFE), and the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD). The essence is to develop globally recognized and thorough bred professionals who will add high quality value to the tax profession wherever they go. We will approach the above by:

1. Efforts are being made to attend relevant conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops organized by International and Local Institutes and Organisation..
2. Extending invitations to relevant organizations to our conferences and other activities.
3. Organizing and participating at Global Tax Conferences, including relevant activities by the Institutions above
4. Organize Joint Conference Summits with International Organizations by leveraging on relationship between CIOT and CITG

COMMITTEE AND FACULTIES

1. Members are encouraged to engage in committee activities by registering for the committee of their choice.
2. Membership of Committees will henceforth be based on relevant skills, experience and value adding capabilities.
3. The Faculty Systems will be reviewed and members are expected to belong to at least one Faculty.

It is important that members familiarise themselves with the workings of the Committees as experience gained in the membership of Committees goes a long way in understanding the governance model of the institute.

SUSTAINABLE REVENUE GROWTH/EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT

Events in the recent past concerning our finances have not been encouraging. We have been able to turn this around and this has shown positive impact on our Balance Sheet.

We hope to sustain this development by:

1. Improving the Income model of the Tax Academy in terms of programs and trainings for consistency in Income.
2. The E- learning programs will be expanded to stimulate interested researchers, students and other stakeholders. Members can take advantages of this platform and get their credit hours, if they are unable to physically attend the MPTP and other Programs.
3. Capacity Building and In house training will continue to be conducted for Organizations. State Internal Revenue Services and Federal Inland Revenue Service.
4. We will embark on expenditure management by reducing the expenditure on printing of journals and newsletters by making such available online. To this end members details will be analyzed to aid reduction in the cost of printing.
5. We intend to address the issue of members database to ensure effective profiling and address the issue of subscription in arrears based on a sanitized members database

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

1. We shall endeavor to develop and deepen our use of technology by ensuring a full-fledged ICT Department. This is going to be the backbone of the operations at the Institute. It will also be the backbone of the of a parallel e-learning platform for all our trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences for members and other stakeholders who would prefer such platforms.
2. We need to place on record and appreciate members of ICT committee for the accelerated development witnessed in this Unit in the last two years with the hope that as it transits into a full Department, more will be achieved..

SOCIETY OF WOMEN IN TAXATION

Since 2009, our Women have been talking Tax. I want to appreciate the initiators of this idea, which has happily come to stay and is waxing stronger by the years. I am however not too happy that whenever we have a gathering of members, the femal members are very insignificant when expressed in terms of our total membership strength. We intend to change this by encouraging more participation from our female professionals and share experience together.

I recently had an encounter with a female member of CIOT who is interested in having collaboration with SWIT as CIOT equally has such arm of its membership..UP SWIT – WOMEN TALKING TAX

THE SECRETARIAT

We are not oblivious of the fact that the institute has a continuously upwardly mobile staff who are conscious of professional qualification and are directing their efforts in acquiring this in terms of self-development We appreciate this fact and intend to encourage such members of staff with the right certification and attitude in order to ensure that we keep retaining the right mix of personnel.

I am counting on the collective focus and cooperation of my Council members, the wisdom of my Past Presidents and the well-meaning suggestions from members of the Institute , not only to achieve the above but to surpass them.

We appreciate the fact that they work sometimes so much under pressure and still get good results.However we expect more commitment and bridge some of the gaps we have seen , experienced and suffered from. This is and will continue to be the point of the conversation and we shall have to tackle and eliminate from the system.

On our part , we promise to continuously build capacity in relevant area as the quality of our outfit as an institute depends highly on the vibrancy of the secretarial staff.

At this point , may I appeal to the Registrar Chief Executive of the institute to improve on the corporate governance standard of the institute starting from him cascading down to the staff. This council will stand by you and give you all reasonable empowerment to succeed.

CONCLUSION

I want to thank God for giving me this EXPECTED END. Next I want to thank my parents especially my mother Mrs Christiana Oluremi Abati Simplicite for tolerating all my idiosyncrasies from childhood till date. I tell you I gave her a very tough time growing up as a child , as a student, as an adult even now . I think she is just thanking God for the grace.

To the Doyen of Taxation, thank you very much for the confidence reposed in me for 35 years. It's your day sir . Thank you.

My Great Mentir Dr. James Kayode Naiyeju , you are a great builder and supporter of of capacity building. I have benefited immensely from your push and consel. I am ever grateful.

Today , couldn't have been but for the encouragement of my friend of 55 years Prof. Abiola Olateju Sodipo-Somorin who initiates the thought of my working with FIRSway back in 1982.You said categorically that I would not regret it , and here we are. We have both enjoyed the abundant grace of God .

To HIM only be all HONOR and GLORY.

To my very good friend and former boss Mrs Ifueko Omoigui-Okauru , you may not realize it but you gave me a new lease of life as I was exiting FIRS . That contract employment you gave me , and the opportunity you handed to me on the FIRS

Museum project exposed my spirit to things I never knew I was capable of doing. The experience was beautiful and endearing. I am most grateful.

FIRS family past and present . When next I come to this Mother Earth, I will ask God to take me back to FIRS. From day one it has been pleasurable as we all work as a family. Thank you for your support all the way I am very grateful.

No matter how long this my Thank you is , it will not suffice if I do not specifically mention the Big Masquerade of our time Mr Babatunde Fowler. We are grateful for your constant support in sponsoring our great Institution. We are grateful for your guidance and advice when we call on you. We are grateful for most of the policies you are implementing because they are actually making our job a lot easier. Now a lot of people discuss taxation every where. People are complying more, People are asking questions , people are aware of their rights when they pay tax, your amnesty programs have helped people understand the importance of taxation in the development of a nation. We shall continue to support you and also bring to your knowledge where necessary new ideas where we can to further enhance taxation.

From a personal level I want to thank you for gracing us with your presence today . I shall be forever grateful.

As I look through this gathering of great men and women , distinguished in every sense of it , I believe I am truly , really abundantly blessed to have you as family, friends , colleagues ,and partners in progress. God bless you . Thank you very much.

Finally , I pledge and give unflinching assurance on behalf of Council, that we shall do our best to diligently serve you and take the Institute to greater heights than we met it.
SO HELP US GOD.

Thank you and God Bless.