



# 42ND CATA DAILY

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## WELCOME TO *Naiija*

A publication of the 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference LOC

[www.nigeriacata2022.com](http://www.nigeriacata2022.com)



# A WELCOME MESSAGE

*From Muhammad Nami, President CATA*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 42nd Annual CATA Technical Conference, 2022 holding in Abuja, Nigeria—one of Africa's most beautiful cities.

I am delighted to be your host. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and boasts the largest economy in the continent. We have 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, which is a serene, yet boisterous and sophisticated city. Abuja is Nigeria's administrative and political capital. It is host to some magnificent edifices and a hub of a multitude of cultures drawn from all parts of the country, and even the world.

Our Technical Conference promises to be a platform that produces the kind of potpourri of ideas and solutions, in a world that is fast changing and requiring sophistication in strategy for problem-solving.

There is a bundle of questions that keep many a tax administrator seeking answers to.

One reverberating question is this: how do we align our mandates in tandem with the technological advancements of these times? Others follow. Before us as tax administrators is the burden of bringing the informal economy into the tax net. What is the nexus between technology and this challenge?

We are bound by regulations and codes that seek to safeguard how we manage, confidentially, the data we process as tax administrators. The world is in flux. The character of data and its management is changing day by day. How are we faring? What lessons do we have for each other?

Harmonization of tax systems is on the front burner of the fiscal conversations many governments are having. It is a reform that must happen for these governments to plug leakages and shore up revenue. Some have achieved this and testify to its profit. Others need to learn how and why. What do jurisdictions that have harmonised their tax systems have to teach us?



And the questions keep coming. Yet they are not without answers.

It is for this reason that our conference has been themed: "Tax Administration in the Digital Era."

This conference would provide an avenue to not just ponder on the questions above and more, but to listen to tax experts and administrators discuss solutions to the issues that the digital era present to us tax administrators in the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators.

I assure you that this Conference would be valuable to every attendee.

Nigeria looks forward to receiving you!

*Muhammad Nami,*  
**President, Commonwealth Association  
of Tax Administrators (CATA) and  
Executive Chairman, Federal Inland  
Revenue Service (FIRS)**



# EDITOR'S CORNER

*The next 4-days  
are going to be  
thrilling—we can  
promise you that!*



Nigeria is not just a geographical entity, it is a feeling, a mood, a swag and an attitude. Representatives of the 47 member-countries of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) are gathered at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, Nigeria for the 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference. It promises to be an occasion worth attending. Tax administrators, representatives of multilateral institutions, heads of government parastatals, would sit to discuss crucial issues relating to taxation and the emerging challenges in these four days.

On 10th May 2022, the management of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) accepted to host the 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference for the year 2022 in Nigeria. It thereafter proposed the theme: Tax Administration in the Digital Era.

### **Why this theme?**

The talk about digitisation is more commonplace than ever. Tax administrators cannot afford to take the backseat as it has become the burning issue of the time. Digitisation has the power for both good and

evil. Tax administrators must ensure that it brings them the former, and not the latter.

In these four days, they would discuss the scope of all there is about digital disruptions across the world and how they can make it work for their countries' revenue authorities.

The 42nd CATA Daily, our daily newsletter for the period of this conference will keep you updated on the deliberations, debates, chatter & banter and sights of the tax administrators from the 47 Commonwealth countries attending the 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference, in Abuja, Nigeria.

We hope that even while you take notes, put on thinking caps, engage in technical conversations and share knowledge at the conference, you would find time to enjoy the tantalising views of Abuja, Nigeria. We wish you an amazing conference ahead.

*Johannes Oluwatobi Wejuola*  
Editor-in-Chief, 42nd CATA Daily

28th November, 2022



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# WELCOME TO NIGERIA

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NAIJA



The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a country in West Africa; situated between the Sahel to the north and the Gulf of Guinea (by the Atlantic Ocean) to the south. Nigeria covers an area of 923,769 square kilometres (356,669 sq. mi), it is the most populous country in Africa and the sixth most populous country in the world.

Nigeria is a federal republic comprising of 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, which is the capital – Abuja. And is further categorised based on six geopolitical zones: North-East, North-West, North-Central, South-East, South-West, South-South. The largest city in the country is Lagos, which is also one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world and the second largest in Africa. Nigeria has a population of two hundred and sixteen point seven (216.7) million people, over two hundred and fifty (250) ethnic groups, with Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo, Ijaw, Kanuri, Ibibio, Tiv being the most populous and politically influential. It has over five hundred (500) languages, with the English language being the official language.



The nation runs a democratic system of governance, with a President (Muhammadu Buhari GCFR), a bi-cameral legislature (Senate & House of Assembly), State Governors & State Assemblies and Local Government Councils.

Nigeria operates a mixed economic system, with the Naira as its monetary unit.



## ABOUT ABUJA

Occupying an estimated area of one thousand, four hundred and seventy-six (1,476) square kilometres, Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria is situated in the middle of the country. It is one of the few purpose-built wealthy capital cities in Africa. It is Nigeria's administrative and political capital. An important capital on the continent of Africa, owing to Nigeria's geopolitical influence in regional affairs. It has some tourist attraction and leisure spots, amongst which is the photogenic Abuja crushed rock situated in Mpape, the Arts and Crafts village, the Zuma rock etc.

Abuja is multilingual, with every ethnic group of Nigeria residing in it. While English is the official spoken language, the Gbagyi, Amwamwa, Ganagana, Bassa, Egbira, Gade, Gbari, Gwandara and Koro are the indigenous tribes of the FCT. Abuja consists of six Area Councils namely: Abaji, Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje and Kwali.

It is one of the safest and most peaceful cities of the country to live in.





## PROFILE:

# NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI

President Muhammadu Buhari was elected President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in June 2015 and is currently serving his second term as President of Nigeria. He is a retired Army Major General who also served as the country's Military Head Of State from 31 December 1983 to 27 August 1985.

Born on 17th December, 1942, President Muhamadu Buhari attended Provincial

Secondary School Katsina Between 1956 – 1961. He commenced his preliminary military training at the then Nigerian Military Training College Kaduna in April 1962 and proceeded to the United Kingdom to complete his cadet training at Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot. He attended relevant military courses including the United States Army War College in Pennsylvania and Defense Services Staff Course in Wellington India.



## PROFILE:

### **NIGERIA'S MINISTER OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING, HAJIA AISHA ZAINAB SHAMSUNA**

Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed CON is a Nigerian accountant and the current Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria since 2019. She is the fourth female Finance Minister in Nigeria, the only country to have reserved this position for women in the last decade.

She has served the Nigerian public in various high ranking positions, including as Managing Director of the Kaduna State of Nigeria's investment company. She served as the Executive Secretary and National Coordinator of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and she was also a member of the last two NEITI boards, having worked in the NEITI and global EITI.







# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



The Commonwealth of Nations, simply referred to as the Commonwealth, is a political association of 56 member states, the vast majority of which are former territories of the British Empire. The chief institutions of the organisation are Commonwealth Secretariat, which focuses on intergovernmental aspects, and the Commonwealth Foundation, which focuses on non-governmental relations amongst member states. Numerous organisations are associated with and operate within the Commonwealth.

It was originally created as the British Commonwealth of Nations through the Balfour Declaration at the 1926 Imperial Conference and formalised by the United Kingdom through the Statute of Westminster in 1931. The current Commonwealth

of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community and established the member states as “free and equal”.

The head of the Commonwealth is Charles III. He is king of 15 member states, known as the Commonwealth realms, while 36 other members are republics and five others have different monarchs.

The Commonwealth Charter defines their shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as promoted by the quadrennial Commonwealth Games.

Gabon and Togo joined the Commonwealth on 25 June, 2022, becoming the latest nations with no history ties to Britain to enter the Commonwealth headed by King Charles III.



## **ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATORS (CATA)**

The Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) is an Associated Organisation of the Commonwealth, established in 1978 by a decision of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers. Forty-seven Commonwealth countries are currently active members of CATA. These are: Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, the Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Eswatini/Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zambia.

The organisation helps member countries through conferences, training programmes,

publications and knowledge sharing to develop effective tax administrations that promote sustainable development and good governance.

The CATA constitution provides for a general meeting to hold every three years. The affairs of the Association is governed by the general meeting. It is at such meetings that the election of a President, Chairman of the Management Committee, Vice Chairman and six Regional Directors take place.

CATA has had fourteen Presidents so far, with the fifteenth - Muhammad Nami, Executive Secretary, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), elected on Friday, 12th November, 2021 at a meeting that held virtually, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. He took over leadership from Sudhamo Lar, the Director General of Mauritius Revenue Authority.

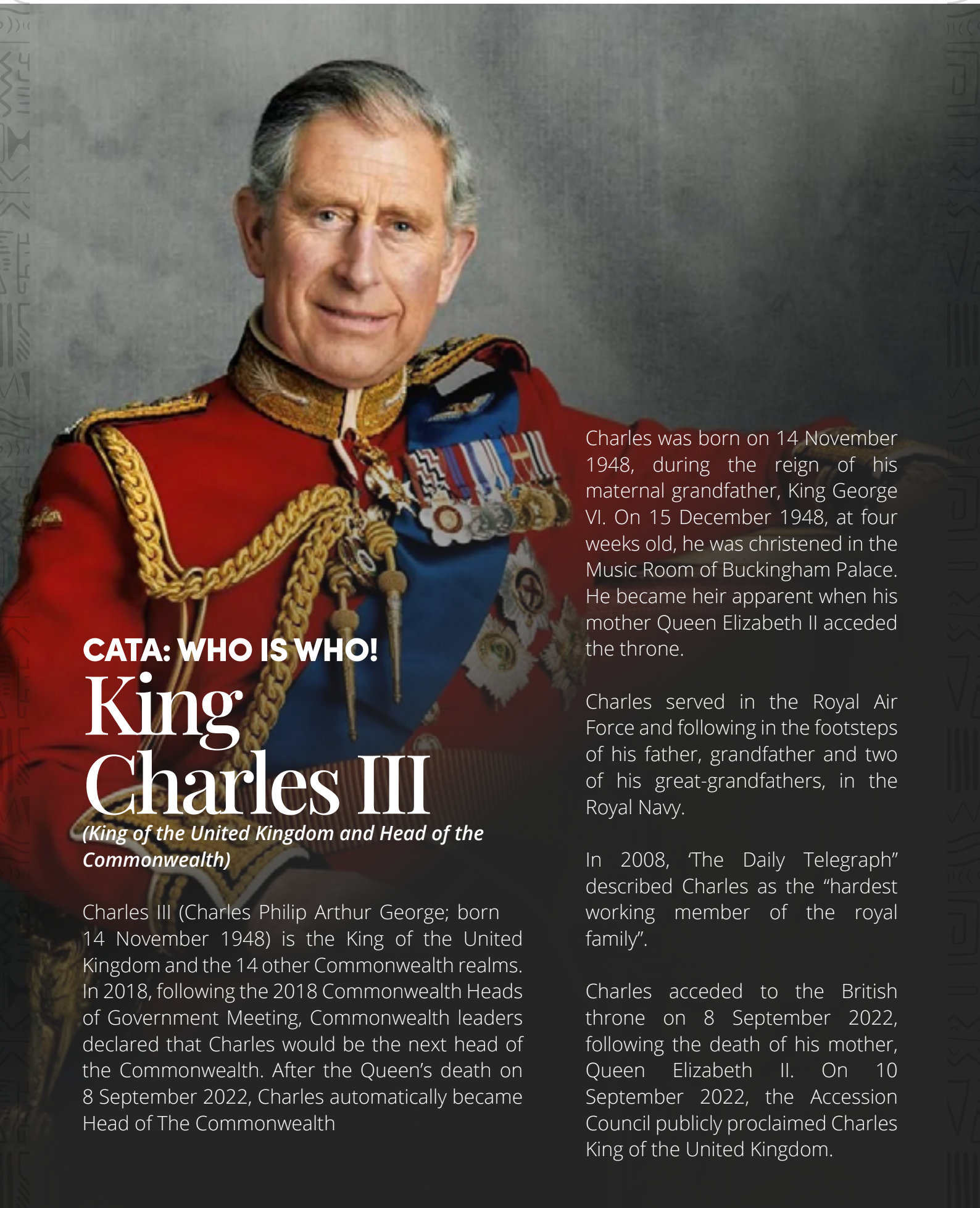


# ABOUT THE FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS)

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is the agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria responsible for assessing, collecting and accounting for tax and other revenues accruing to the Federal Government. Tax revenue collected by the FIRS is shared amongst the Federal, States and Local Governments.

In 1943, the Nigerian Inland Revenue Department was carved out of the Inland Revenue Department of British West Africa which performed its role prior to that time. It was renamed the Federal Board of Inland Revenue (FBIR) in 1958 under the Income Tax Ordinance No.39 of 1958.

In 1993, the Finance (Miscellaneous Taxation provisions) Act No.3 of 1993 and Decree 104 of 1993 were passed. While Decree 3 reviewed the composition of the FBIR, and established the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) as an operational arm of the FBIR. Decree 104, among other things, reviewed the functions of the Joint Tax Board. FIRS gained autonomy with the passing of the FIRS (Establishment) Act 13 of 2007. The FIRS has gone through several changes and reforms. In 2021, under Muhammad Nami, FIRS recorded the highest tax revenue collection figure in history.



**CATA: WHO IS WHO!**

# King Charles III

*(King of the United Kingdom and Head of the Commonwealth)*

Charles III (Charles Philip Arthur George; born 14 November 1948) is the King of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms. In 2018, following the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Commonwealth leaders declared that Charles would be the next head of the Commonwealth. After the Queen's death on 8 September 2022, Charles automatically became Head of The Commonwealth

Charles was born on 14 November 1948, during the reign of his maternal grandfather, King George VI. On 15 December 1948, at four weeks old, he was christened in the Music Room of Buckingham Palace. He became heir apparent when his mother Queen Elizabeth II acceded the throne.

Charles served in the Royal Air Force and following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and two of his great-grandfathers, in the Royal Navy.

In 2008, 'The Daily Telegraph' described Charles as the "hardest working member of the royal family".

Charles acceded to the British throne on 8 September 2022, following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. On 10 September 2022, the Accession Council publicly proclaimed Charles King of the United Kingdom.



# MUHAMMAD NAMI

President, CATA (Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service)

Muhammad Nami is the President of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) as well as the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS). He is a seasoned Tax, Accounting and Management professional with highly rated qualifications and professional practicing licences from various professional bodies including the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigation Professionals in Nigeria, Association of National Accountants in Nigeria, Institute of Debt Recovery Practitioners of Nigeria among others. Mr. Nami has over three (3) decades of practical working experience in Auditing, Tax Management and Advisory and Management Services to clients in the Banking, Manufacturing Services and Public Sectors as well as Non-Profit organizations.

Before his entry into public service, Mr. Nami was renowned for his expertise in rendering advisory support services to investors in respect of new businesses especially those in the trading, service and manufacturing sectors.

Mr. Muhammad Nami attended Bayero University, Kano and Ahmadu Bello University where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology (1991) and a Master's degree in Business Administration (2004) respectively.

He started his career with PKF Consulting in 1993 and rose to the position of a Senior Consultant in charge of Tax Management and Advisory Services before he left to set up Manam Professional Services (Chartered Tax Practices and Advisers), based in Kaduna, Abuja and Minna, where he served as the Managing Partner from October 2018 to December 2019, before his appointment as Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service.

Mr. Nami has served on the board of many companies as well as on many Statutory Board Audit Committees. He was appointed as a member, Presidential Committee on Audit of Recovered Stolen



Assets in November 2017 by President Muhammadu Buhari.

He was thereafter appointed by President Buhari as the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) on 9th December, 2019. In addition to this role, Mr. Muhammad Nami is also the Chairman, Joint Tax Board (JTB) and the immediate past Chairman of African Tax Administrators Forum (ATAF). In November 2021, he was elected the President of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) for a three-year tenure. These roles have invariably conferred on him the platform to contribute to the growth and development of taxation in Nigeria, Africa and the Commonwealth nations.

Mr. Muhammad Nami has since proved bookmakers right that he is more than equal to the task. In 2021, under his leadership the FIRS achieved a collection of N6.405 trillion Naira—the highest collection it has ever recorded in its history, and its first time ever crossing the six trillion mark. He is celebrated to have introduced unprecedented reforms in Nigeria's tax administration, including the deployment of technology, data and strategic intelligence for improved revenue generation.

Mr. Nami has attracted a number of awards and recognition to the FIRS and himself. In October 2022, Mr. Nami was conferred by President Muhammadu Buhari with the Excellence in Public Service Awards for Fiscal Reforms at the FIRS.

Mr. Muhammad Nami is happily married with children.



*Chairman, CATA Management Committee and Chief Executive Officer / Director General, Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia, Datuk Mohd Nizom Sairi.*

Datuk Mohd Nizom Sairi, the Chief Executive Officer / Director General, Inland Revenue Board (IRB) of Malaysia was elected Chairman of CATA Management Committee on November 12, 2021. He was appointed the Chief Executive Officer / Director General, IRB of Malaysia, effective October 19, 2021, taking over from Datuk Seri Dr Sabin Samitah. Prior to his appointment, Sairi was the IRB's Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Taxation Operations). Nizom, 59, who holds a master's degree from Lawrence Technological University, in the United States, joined IRB on Nov 13, 1985 and has extensive experience in direct taxation including tax operations, tax compliance and collection, international taxation and tax training.

Prior to holding the portfolio of deputy CEO, Nizom held several important positions at IRB including Director of the Investigation Department, Director of the Malaysian Taxation Academy, Director of the Tax Compliance Department, State Director of Perak IRB.



# WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

**THE 42ND ANNUAL CATA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE HOLDING  
AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA 28TH NOVEMBER TO 1ST  
DECEMBER 2022**

The rapid growth of e-commerce globally has raised concerns as to whether tax administrators are equipped to deal with this new phenomenon. The shift from a physically oriented commercial environment to one that is electronic and information-based poses serious and substantial issues in relation to the adequacy of existing taxation regimes.

Tax Administrators face the daunting task of protecting their revenue base without hindering either the development and use of new technologies or the involvement of the business community in the emerging e-market place.

***Theme: “Tax Administrations in the Digital Era”.***

## **5 SUB-THEMES:**

- i. Digitalization and the Informal Economy
- ii. Digitalization and Taxpayer Information Security and Confidentiality
- iii. Change Management Process in a Digitalized Tax Administration
- iv. Digitalization and the Challenges of the Digitalized Economy
- v. Digitalization and the Harmonization of Tax System

## **WHO IS ATTENDING?**

Delegates have been drawn from the tax organizational bodies, tax authorities, tax Institutes, tax administrations in all Commonwealth Member States, policy makers and other special guests.

**Methodology:** The conference will be made up of sessions of paper presentations, panel discussions and meetings of CATA Heads of delegation, Regional Directors and Country Correspondents.



# 9

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF MTN, AIRTEL & DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS AS VAT WITHHOLDING AGENTS

1

VAT is a consumption tax charged at 7.5% and every taxable registered person remains an agent of collection.

2

Section 14(3) of the VAT Act gives the FIRS powers to appoint any person as further agent to withhold the tax from whoever invoices that person and remit to the Service. By implication, such persons have roles to play as VAT agent.

3

The Federal Inland Revenue Service has, in the exercise of its powers, under section 14(3) of the VAT Act, appointed MTN, AIRTEL and Deposit Money Banks as agents to withhold VAT and remit to the Service. (Note that this is in addition to Lottery Operators previously so appointed)

4

This appointment is with effect from January 1st 2023.

5

This arrangement is not new as Section 13 of the VAT Act already mandated every Ministry, statutory body or other agency of Government and companies in the oil and gas sector to deduct at source and remit the VAT to the Service in the stimulated manner.

6

Customers of MTN, Airtel and Deposit Money Banks will not be affected in any form, and the prices of telecom and banking services should remain the same. However, suppliers whose VAT has been withheld by appointed agent are required to declare other VAT due whilst filing on Taxpromax and make payment as usual.

7

Suppliers who are on boarded on the VAT automation platforms must remain connected to ensure transparency of their own VAT.

8

This appointment does not affect the obligation of Taxable Person to render returns or any part of the VAT Act.

9

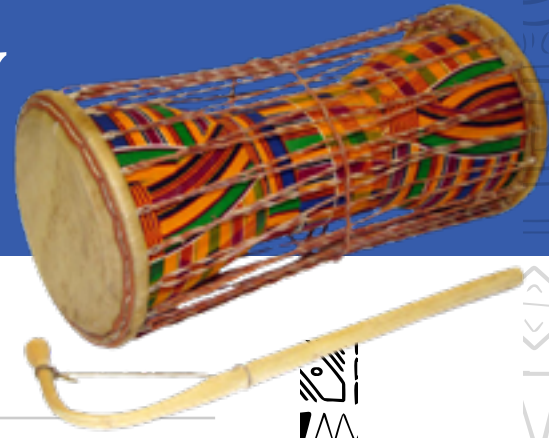
The Service will release detailed guidelines soon.





# OKANGA DAILY

by Kelechi Okoronkwo



## *Naija for Nigeria*

If you look at the front page of this newsletter, you would see, Welcome to Naija. Oh Yes! You are in Naija. It is not a mistake.

Naija is the Pidgin English speakers' word for Nigeria. Pidgin English, as we all know, is a mixture of English and local slangs and languages which enables local people who do not share a common language to communicate easily.

The word Naija started on the streets some ten years ago when speakers sought a short, funky and breezy word for Nigeria. Due to the popularity of Pidgin English in Nigeria, the word Naija has become a popular word for Nigeria that it is now being used in some official communications.

The word Naija provides escapes from the seriousness of the day; it offers unique form of relaxation of the mind and the body. It makes one feel at home. Today, Nigeria is proudly Naija.

In this issue of the 42nd CATA Daily, the Editorial Team decides to welcome our esteemed guests to Naija—the funky, blissful and breezy parts of our Nigeria. It is our intention to welcome our guests to the best parts of Nigeria; to offer you all the best Nigeria could afford.

What else do we say to our very dear guest rather than to say, Welcome to Naija.



## PHOTO NEWS:

# FIRS EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN AND CATA PRESIDENT, MUHAMMAD NAMİ HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING WITH CATA SECRETARIAT

Date: November 26, 2021.



Mr. Muhammad Nami, Federal Inland Revenue Service Executive Chairman and Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators' (CATA) President (fourth from left) flanked by members of his team, alongside members of the CATA Secretariat and representatives from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Muhammad Nami, Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Nigeria and President of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), on Friday 26th November 2021 held his first face-to-face meeting with the CATA Secretariat at the United Kingdom's Treasury House. The meeting had in attendance executives of the CATA Secretariat, including Mr Duncan Onduru, the Association's Executive Director, Mr. Jon Swerdlow, the Vice Chairman, and Ms. Megan Jones.

Muhammad Nami was accompanied to the meeting by Mr. Olufemi Olarinde, Nigeria's CATA Country Correspondent, Mr. Johannes Wojuola, Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman on Media and Communication, and Mr. Jibrin Salihu, Personal Assistant to the Executive Chairman.

The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the UK Government's Tax Authority, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), including Ms. Fiona Hay, Head of Capacity Building and International Relations, Mr. Mahtab Hashim, Capacity Building Unit, and Ms. Jasmine Taylor, Director of Senior Leadership Programme.



Mr. Muhammad Nami, Federal Inland Revenue Service Executive Chairman and Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators' (CATA) President with the Capacity Building Unit Transparency Lead, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and Vice Chairman, CATA, Mr. Jon Swerdlow.



[L-R] Mr. Olufemi Olarinde, Nigeria's Country Correspondent to CATA; Ms. Antonia Strachey, UK Public Finance and Tax Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); Mr. Muhammad Nami, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Executive Chairman and Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) President; Mr. Jon Swerdlow, Capacity Building Unit Transparency Lead of Her Majesty's Revenue and Custom (HMRC) and CATA Vice Chairman; Mr. Jibrin Salihu, Personal Assistant to the Executive Chairman FIRS; Mr. Johannes Wojuola, Special Assistant, Media and Communication to the Executive Chairman FIRS.

The CATA President and his team were briefed on the governance structure of CATA, current efforts by the association to serve the common interest of member nations, and future opportunities, especially in capacity building and creating networks for CATA members.

Mr. Nami in his comments stated that his tenure, which spans for the next three years, will seek stronger relationships with developmental partners to achieve the short and long term goals and objectives of the association.

You will recall that on Friday, 12th November, 2021, Muhammad Nami, was unanimously elected by the 47 member countries of CATA at the association's General Meeting as its 15th President.



Mr. Muhammad Nami, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Executive Chairman and Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) President flanked by Mr. Jon Swerdlow, CATA Vice Chairman, (left), and Ms. Megan Jones of the CATA Secretariat.



**PHOTO SPLASH**

# GETTING SET FOR THE 42ND CATA ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE (ABUJA, NIGERIA)







## PHOTOS FROM THE COCKTAIL EVENT TO WELCOME DELEGATES TO THE 42ND CATA ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE









