



42ND CATA DAILY

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*We Came We Saw
We Conquered*

A publication of the 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference LOC

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EDITOR'S CORNER

*“We Came,
We Saw, We
Conquered.”*

“We Came, We Saw, We Conquered.”

This famous quote of Julius Caesar—if not more famous than he himself—were the final words Mr. Muhammad Nami said to seal the end of the 3-day long 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference. The words were apposite for the occasion.

Over 60 delegates from across the world, left their respective countries to attend this conference. Has it been a profitable trip? I can bet it has. Like the lyrics of the famous “Buga” anthem, we can proudly say “... so far so good koni baje o ...”

It has been profound Conference indeed.

Yesterday, marked the end of the debates, discussions, panel sessions and meetings. Delegates were shared into Syndicate Sessions to discuss the sub-themes of the conference, and proffer solutions and ideas to topical questions. Thereafter the Heads of Delegation met, and soon after the Management Committee did too. Next was the report from the Syndicate Session where their rapporteurs shared the outcomes of their discussions on the conference sub-themes.

Many ideas were put forward by the presenters. One thing we can learn from this conference is that sharing and talking to one another is fundamental if we must build better advanced and resilient tax systems.

Countries put forward their experiences to the challenges they faced. And others picked lessons from there. Every country delegate would return to their countries with a bundle of takeaways.

The meetings were indeed successful. And indeed, We Came, We Saw, We Conquered!

The Closing Ceremony was peaked by the signing of two Memorandum of Understanding between ATAF and CATA and between ATAF and WATAF. This was highly symbolic, especially that the President of CATA, Mr. Muhammad Nami has noted that one of his objectives as President would be to forge stronger partnerships for the Association that would benefit member countries.

Like Mr. Femi Edgal said, there is no CATA Conference without the CATA Night. And he was proven right. As the tradition goes, every country came forward to make a presentation by dancing to a song of theirs.

The Malaysian delegation stunned us with their well choreographed steps. They were spectacular. It is hard to say who gave us the favourite dance steps between the Ghanian, Mauritian, Kenyan, Zambian or the Indian delegations—You be the judge.

Johannes Oluwatobi Wejuola

Editor-in-Chief

December 1, 2022



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THE DAY IN BRIEF

By Aisha A. Jega



Day 3 of the 42nd Annual Technical Conference included parallel syndicate group meetings, and a meeting of Heads of Delegation to discuss the issues of “Taxation and gender”, and “Tax and the environment”; as well as a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CATA, and African Tax Administrators Forum (ATAF) and African Tax Administrators Forum (ATAF) and true West African Tax Administrators Forum (WATAF) which took place at the closing ceremony.

Participants were divided into 5 groups for the syndicate meetings. Each group discussed one of a sub-theme of the conference and presented the reports/results of their discussions:

- Digitalization and the Informal Economy
- Digitalization and Taxpayer Information Security and Confidentiality
- Change Management Process in a Digitalized Tax Administration
- Digitalization and the Challenges of the Digitalized Economy
- Digitalization and the Harmonization of the Tax System



Reports from the syndicate group discussions addressed issues like:

- How to balance the need to raise revenue and the need to support the small and struggling businesses to be able to grow in developing economies.
- How jurisdictions can access data that will help in the taxation of the informal sector.
- The dangers that digitization poses to Taxpayers Information Security and Confidentiality and how they can be mitigated to enhance taxpayers' confidence.
- How tax administrators can manage technological changes and automation to ensure effective transition.
- Change management support for tax administrations.
- Options for developing economies for effective taxation of the digitalized economy, to enable them generate sufficient funding for government activities.
- Suggested ways for taxpayers and tax authorities, especially in the developing economies, to manage and navigate through the complexities of the OECD two pillar solution.
- How digitization and technology can support harmonization of the tax system.

The day ended with closing remarks by the Chairman of CATA, Mr. Datuk Mohd Nizom as well as the President of CATA, Mr. Muhammad Nami. Mr. Nami reminded everyone of the need to brace up for the challenges ahead and declared the technical session closed.



WHO SAID WHAT

"The report of the syndicate group meeting sessions will be circulated and implemented appropriately."

"As president of CATA, I reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that we collectively drive the process to improve our domestic revenue mobilization through continuous synergy and collaboration among member countries and both with other tax bodies."

"I strongly believe that together we can do more than we are able to do in isolation"

Mr Muhammad Nami,
President CATA/Executive Chairman FIRS

"It is important that we uphold this engagement, this commitment towards our taxpayers to make them sure that information that we receive is kept safe and secure away from criminals."

Mr Kisten Lodassen,
Team Leader.
Fiscal Investigations Department, Mauritius Revenue Authority.



“Communication is the name of the game in this change management process.”

“We must develop client centric systems. We should not be only inward looking. We should be considerate of the clients out there that are going to use the systems.”

Vusi Ngcamphalala,
Eswatani



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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.



GALA NIGHT







MOU SIGNING





PARALLEL SYNDICATE GROUP DISCUSSIONS









PHOTOS FROM THE SIDELINES

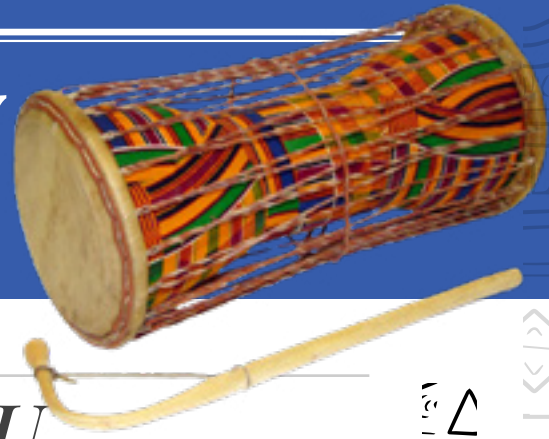






OKANGA DAILY

by Kelechi Okoronkwo



Inside the MoU

Wednesday evening, day three of the CATA Technical Conference gave birth to a lot of things, including the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU).

You may recall that CATA President, Muhammad Nami, upon his election in 2021, promised to reach out to other international tax organisations and expand the horizon for CATA.

Well, the CATA President midwifed the MoU involving WATAF and ATAF.

The first to be signed was the one between CATA and ATAF. The second, ATAF and WATAF.

Normally, signing of MoU between or among partners heralds the beginning of fresh things. For CATA, ATAF and WATAF, it heralds the beginning of a robust collaboration and exchange. The MoU is about sharing and exchange of data and information that would ultimately deepen tax compliance globally and consequently bring global economic prosperity.

The MoU also heralds a collaboration for capacity building.

At the last count, CATA has 47 countries as members. ATAF has 42 member-countries while WATAF has 15 member-countries. Although these organisations share some mutual membership, we can be rest assured that collaboration amongst them is a surefooted strategy of reaching out to the world.

When the CATA President mounted the stage to give his closing remarks and vote of thanks for the denouement of the Technical conference, he simply alluded to the famous quote by Julius Caesar: "I came, I saw and I conquered." In Latin, Veni, vidi, vici.

The success of the CATA 42nd Technical Conference which included the successful signing of the MoU amongst CATA, ATAF and WATAF is an enabler for future victories. In Nami's words: "We have come, we have seen and definitely, we have conquered".