



SWIT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN IN TAXATION
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Vol 3 No 1



Mrs Bosede Florence
IKHANNOBA FCTI

**Takes the baton
as the 5th National
Chairperson of SWIT**



SWIT

NEWSLETTER

• EDITOR IN CHIEF •

"EMPOWER, LEAD & IMPACT - *we can achieve this together*"



I was entrusted with the responsibility to lead the amazing SWIT Women as the **5th National Chairperson** following the investiture and inauguration of the National Executive Committee which held on 22nd July 2023. The focus of this administration is "**Empower, Lead & Impact**". It has been a great honour and pleasure serving you as your National Chairperson through your inflitching support and encouragement.

Economically, the year 2023 posed some significant challenges for the Nigerian economy stemming from the naira redesign policy under the CBN's guidance and the shift in the foreign exchange window policy which marked critical changes in our economic terrain but we have made positive progress in line with our mandate through the support of the 16th President and the Council of our great Institute and this gave us the needed push to lift up the SWIT flag to shine as the female arm of the Institute.

It is indeed a great honour to be the SWIT Newsletter **Editor in-Chief** for the immense re-launch and release of the **Volume 3 first edition** for this tenure coming out in January 2024.

I would like to congratulate the 16th President and Chairman of Council; Mr Samuel Olushola Agbeluyi, mni, FCTI on the successful completion of SEC 45, 2023 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru and conferment of the prestigious title of mni. It is indeed a testament to your dedication, hardwork and commitment and the support for everything you have accomplished. I am confident that under your leadership, CITN will continue to reach greater heights.

The year 2023 was full of activities. In this edition, we will recount the various projects and activities in which the SWIT National EXCO and various Chapters' members were actively involved from June 2023 to December 2023.

Two main points are in focus: the investiture of the 5th National Chairperson, some State Chapters Coordinators where there were election of new Executive Committees



and the participation of Chapters in various activities as stated in the **"SWIT Action Plan for 2023-2024"**.

The SWIT Action plans and resolutions may seem like big hairy goals at first but as we break them into smaller manageable chunks and focus on the process flow, this has made our goals achievable less of a chore and more of a game for us.

Some of the Chapters implemented the tax awareness campaign program to schools and markets which is one of the objectives of SWIT, conducted capacity building training for members as well as CSR events and all these recorded huge successes.

As part of SWIT flagship programs, we organized a successful 2023 Family meeting and Leadership Retreat for all National Officers, State Coordinators and their Vice Coordinators. This helped to strengthen the SWIT team spirit with a renewed focus on our core mandate.

The event was capped with the hosting of the 16th President and Chairman of Council to Dinner. It was tagged an **"African Night"** of fun, clicking of glasses, glamour and dancing all in honour of the President in appreciation of his love and support for SWIT.

Two new chapters namely Ondo and Kano were inaugurated within the space of six months into the new administration. This brings to twenty -three (23) the number of State Chapters in fulfillment of the Institute's objective of ensuring the presence of SWIT Chapters in all Districts to encourage active participation of female members in the Institute activities.

Long-committed SWIT Life Patrons consistently say that what is so special about us is that **"we must live the SWIT mission, vision and values"** and contribute to creating positive change in our "Tax Space" thus find the true benefits of our roles as tax administrators, consultants and advocates.

Every month, the National Technical and Education Committee of SWIT organises webinars which featured discussion on topical issues and of great learning and benefits to members. Feedback have been positive and we look forward to such sessions this year.

As we reflect on the successes, the knowledge and skills gained, it is worthy to note that there are actions that still need to be taken, projects still to be done, things still to be learnt and we therefore have today to make it happen! I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our Facilitators and members who shared their thoughts, experiences and contributed during the the technical webinars.

We also appreciate the immense support of the CITN Registrar/CEO for assisting us to host our events and his administrative guidance always.

We came into this year 2024, with an objective; which is to impact our Communities and give more visibility to SWIT and I believe **"we can achieve this together"**. I hope to uphold with the legacy left by our successful and dedicated past Chairpersons.

SWIT has much to be proud of; a strong foundation and support of SWIT Life Patrons, past chairpersons; exceptional members and our partners that collaborated with us in our activities.

The vision and mission is paramount as well as the commitment to a focused, efficient and effective service, targeted at attaining the noble objectives and ideals of the Society remains key in all matters.

We have achieved beyond our expectations during the first 6-months of this administration in terms of membership growth and empowerment, through the support of the leadership of CITN, partnerships of IBP and other community development partners, Institutional Patrons, FIRS, FCT-IRS, LIRS, UBEC, Office of the Accountant General of Bayelsa State Government amongst others. We say a huge thank you. We will continue to create the dynamics of trust and collaboration over the long-run and strive with dedication and passion to achieve our set objectives.

My advice to members would be to keep the sisterhood and team spirit alive. I encourage members to participate not only in their chapter events but also in activities of the National organization and create time to attend international conferences as well to build network, enrich your knowledge and create better impact.

A huge thank you to all the SWIT National EXCO, Chapter Coordinators, Publicity Secretaries and members who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring reports, without which there would not have been this newsletter issue.

Before ending this message, I will like to give special thanks to the Editor; Mrs Olaitan Babatunde, her team and other members for the wonderful job done in the creation of this edition.

Let us all work towards the betterment of SWIT and the Institute in general.

Please sit back and enjoy this beautiful packaged Volume 3, 1st edition of 2024 SWIT Newsletter created for your reading pleasure.

UP SWIT, UP CITN!

UP SWIT, WOMEN TALKING & PAYING TAX!!

Bosede F. Ikhanoba, FCTI
Editor-in-Chief

Contents

EDITOR IN CHIEF	1
Executive, CITN	5
National Executive Committee	6
State Chapter Cordinators	7
Editor Note	8
Editorial Members	9
Grand Investiture of The 5th National Chairperson	10
Newsflash from the National	13
Mr. Samuel Olushola Agbeluyi,mni,FCTI	16
Newsflash from the National	20
At the CIT Ghana Conference In August 2023	21
SWIT Kano State Chapter	23
Newsflash from the National	24
SWIT Anambra State Chapter	29
SWIT Lagos State Chapter	31
SWIT Bayelsa State Chapter	35
SWIT Oyo State Chapter	38
SWIT Benue State Chapte	39
SWIT Kwara State Chapter	40
SWIT Osun State Chapter	43
SWIT River State Chapter	45
SWIT Ogun State Chapter	47
SWIT Ondo State Chapter	49
FCT Tax Practitionals end of yerar dinner event	51
Newsflash from the National	52



MR. SAMUEL O. AGBELUYI, mni, FCTI
16th President/ Chairman of Council
The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria



MRS AFOLAKE OSO, FCTI
Ag. Registrar/CEO, CITN

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EX OFFICIO



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EX OFFICIO

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FCT CHAPTER COORDINATOR



SANDRA CHINEDU-MOMAH, FCTI
LAGOS CHAPTER COORDINATOR



Haj. MAIDAMBE HALIMATU SA'ADIYA FCTI
PLATEAU CHAPTER COORDINATOR



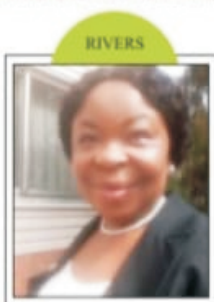
AMURE-ODUWAIYE SIMBIAT, FCTI
OYO CHAPTER COORDINATOR



OLATUNBOSUN PATIENCE OLUWATOYIN, FCTI
OGUN CHAPTER COORDINATOR



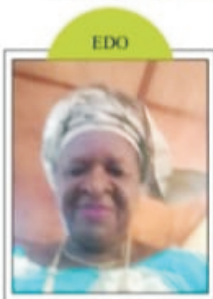
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Editor's Note

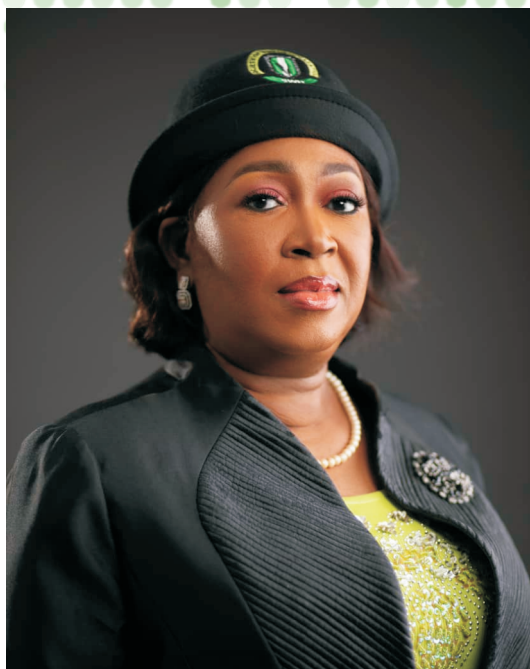
I am delighted to welcome you to the inaugural edition of our SWIT Newsletter for this tenor. As we embark on this journey together, I am filled with excitement and pride in the remarkable progress SWIT has made in fostering a community of exceptional women in the field of Taxation. The creation of this newsletter comes at a momentous time for SWIT, as we witness the investiture coordinators of some chapters. It is with immense joy that I take on the role of editor, and I am honoured to contribute to the narrative that celebrates the achievements, talents, and experiences of our chapters. SWIT stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of women in our Institute. Each member's diverse expertise and perspectives enrich our collective knowledge and empower us to thrive in an ever-evolving landscape. This newsletter serves as a platform to showcase the brilliance within SWIT and to highlight the incredible journeys of our chapters. As we navigate

the challenges and opportunities ahead, I am confident that this newsletter will play a crucial role in fostering connection, inspiration, and collaboration. Through updates on the accomplishments of our chapters, we aim to strengthen the bonds that make our professional body a thriving and supportive network. I encourage every chapter to actively engage with the newsletter by sharing your stories, insights, and achievements. This platform belongs to all of us, and your contributions will undoubtedly shape the success and vibrancy of future editions. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated team who has worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life. Together, we embark on a journey of celebrating excellence, supporting one another, and shaping the narrative of SWIT. Thank you for participating in this exciting chapter in our collective history.

Olaitan

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SWIT

Grand Investiture of The 5th National Chairperson Of the Society Of Women In Taxation

Mrs Bosede Florence Ikhanoba FCTI.

The investiture of the 5th National Chairperson of the Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT), Mrs Bosede Florence Ikhanoba FCTI, and the inauguration of the Executive Committee which held on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at Palme D'or Gardens/Hall, Area 1, Garki, FCT- Abuja was a grand success, filled with joy and excitement.

Mrs. Bosede Florence Ikhanoba FCTI, stated in her acceptance speech that SWIT will carry out enlightenment on tax matters during her tenure. Furthermore that during her tenure, SWIT would help to advocate for women in businesses. She remarked that everybody is expected to know why they should pay their tax because Tax is an obligation. She reiterated that "every one must understand that you are obligated to pay part of your income to the government. It is what you pay that the government uses to fix infrastructure. So, once you pay your tax, you can hold the government accountable."

The 16th President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria and the Chief host of the event, Mr Samuel Agbeluyi, mni, FCTI conducted the oath of office for Mrs Ikhanoba. In his remarks, the President said he expects that the society would carry out laudable projects during Mrs Ikhanoba's tenure. The former Executive Secretary, Joint Tax Board (JTB), Hajia Nana-Aisha Obomeghie, FCTI in her remarks stated

that the Board would collaborate with SWIT to help enlighten women in businesses on their obligation in terms of tax filing and the benefits they would get when they are tax-compliant.

The Executive Committee inaugurated by the SWIT National Chairperson comprised of Dr Caroline Ndubuisi (Vice Chairperson), Dr Odunayo Ani (DVC), Oluwaseun Olajube (General Secretary), Dena-Rose Ajayi (Treasurer), Ruth Arokoyo (Financial Secretary), Olaitan Babatunde (Publicity & Publication Secretary), Dr Virginia N Udeh (Social & Welfare Secretary) Janet O. Olaoye (Membership Secretary) Angelina Chinonso Ajoku (Assistant General Secretary, Buseri Tonye (Assistant Membership Secretary, Dr Eunice Odum (Assistant Publicity Secretary), Esther Nyam (Assistant Social/Welfare Secretary), Dr Ruth Abiola Adimula (Immediate Past Chairperson), Dr Justina Okoror (Pioneer Chairperson), Barr Ezinwa Okoroafor (Ex-officio) and Kudirat Abdul-hamid (Ex-officio).

Some of the dignitaries present at the event included Dr Kayode Naiyeju, FCTI (PP), Dame Gladys Simplice, FCTI (PP), Haj. Queensly Seghosimhe, mni, FCTI (DVP ICAN as special guest of honour), Council members: Dr Titi Fowokan, Prof Godwin Oyedokun, Dr Yemi Sanni, Dr. Nwabuzor Emeka, FCTI and the former Registrar/CEO: Dr Lanre Olasunkanmi.



Decoration of NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

By Mr. Samuel Agbeluyi, mni, FCTI (CITN President) assisted by Dr Kayode Naiyeju (Past President), Dame Olajumoke Simplice (Past President), Dr Justina Okoror (Pioneer Chairperson). Hajia Q.S Seghosimhe, mni, FCTI (Special Guest of Honour) and Lanre Olasukani, PhD (Registrar/CEO, CITN)



**National Chairperson with
some members of CITN**





**The National Chairperson
reading her acceptance speech**



**The National Executives taking their oath of
office, administered by the National Chairperson**



The National Chairperson addressing the Media on her Tenure Action Plan



The investiture cake inscribed with names of all Executive members



With the Executive Chairman, FCT- IRS
Alh. Haruna Abdullahi, FCTI

2023 SWIT FAMILY MEETING, LEADERSHIP RETREAT AND DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT



SWIT organized a 2-day event tagged "SWIT Family meeting and Leadership Retreat" for all National Officers, State Chapter Coordinators and their Vice aimed at building capacity of these officers, review/reflect on what have done so far with a view to planning for 2024. It was a successful event. Friday was dedicated to taking reports from Chapters while the Leadership Training held on Saturday 16th Dec 2023. The 16th President and Chairman of Council was in attendance and delivered a keynote address on the theme: "Making Nigeria's Tax system more gender sensitive- the role of SWIT" and thereafter declared the Retreat opened. In the evening, SWIT hosted the President to dinner tagged African night. It was fun, laughter and dancing to African drumming from the President's native town of Osun State. SWIT greatly appreciates the honour of hosting the 16th President.





Photoclips from the Dinner in honour of our dear 16th President and Chairman of Council



Mr. Samuel Olushola Agbeluyi, mni, FCTI

16th President/ Chairman of Council (CITN)

speaks on the impact of the Federal Government's tax reforms and the need for government to utilize tax fund appropriately to engender public trust to spur more voluntary payment of tax. He spoke with John Osadolor, on the sidelines of the annual retreat of the Women in Taxation (SWIT) held in Abuja.

How has your journey as CITN President been since you took over?

In June 2023, during our Annual General Meeting, I took on the role of CITN President. This coincided with a change in the Nigerian government with Bola Tinubu succeeding Muhammadu Buhari as the 16th President of Nigeria.

President Tinubu, in his inaugural speech at the swearing in ceremony, highlighted the need to streamline taxes. Eliminating tax multiplicity is crucial for Nigeria's success, and we are committed to achieving that.

How is the government addressing the issue of multiple taxes, and what progress has been made in this regard?

The government has taken decisive steps to tackle the problem of multiple taxes. Firstly, President Tinubu has recognized the issue and established a committee, led by the capable Taiwo Oyedele, to address it. This committee has been actively working on solutions. In fact, specific deliverables were outlined for the first three months, six months, and one year of their mandate, and the first three-month deliverables have already been submitted to the government for review.

A significant development in this effort was the recent circular issued by Zacch Adedeji, the Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), approximately three weeks ago. This circular effectively exempts companies from paying interest and penalties on their tax liabilities, suspending such charges until the end of the year. This action represents a substantial relief for businesses burdened by multiple taxes and demonstrates a tangible step toward alleviating this issue.

For taxpayers, this means that if you have a tax liability, the exorbitant interest rates of around 21 percent and penalties at about 9 percent have been temporarily waived. This is a substantial financial relief for businesses and individuals alike. People can now take advantage of this opportunity to settle their outstanding tax liabilities by the end of the year, thanks to the recommendations of the committee, which the government has promptly started implementing.

With the government pushing for higher taxes while citizens express concerns over the insufficient impact of existing tax revenues, what do you believe is the key to resolving this dilemma?

This situation is akin to the classic "chicken and egg" scenario. Citizens hesitate to pay more taxes until they see tangible improvements in infrastructure and services, yet the government often relies on these taxes to fund such developments. The alternative, which involves borrowing, comes with the burden of interest payments, making it a less desirable

option compared to financing through tax revenues.

Therefore, a more practical approach would be for citizens to fulfill their tax obligations first. This initial step, however, should not be the end of their involvement. It's crucial for citizens to actively engage with the government, holding it accountable for the efficient and transparent use of their tax contributions.

In a thriving democracy, the responsibility of the government to judiciously utilize tax revenue becomes more pronounced. This is essential for Nigeria's progress, considering the substantial infrastructural deficits that need addressing. The government's effective use of tax revenues can significantly improve living standards, lower production costs for factories, stimulate further investments, and ultimately lead to greater prosperity.

Nigeria has immense potential, and getting taxation right is pivotal. If we can effectively manage our tax system, ensuring that it's fair, transparent, and leads to visible improvements, Nigeria is poised for a significant upward trajectory. This is not just about collecting taxes; it's about fostering a sense of collective responsibility and partnership between the government and its citizens.

There is an assertion that a lot of Nigerians don't like to pay tax. Tell us the role CITN is playing to help create enlightenment on their need to pay tax?

I don't want to agree with that assertion that Nigerians don't like to pay tax and if anything, nobody ordinarily wants to pay tax globally. There is a saying that nobody pays tax with a smile on their face. The question could be, why are Nigerians not willing to pay their tax?

The reasons are not far fetched, the attitude of the leaders must change. If you put yourself forward to be a governor, president or a lawmaker, it is because you want to serve the people. It's all about service, it's not about you. The leaders should pay less attention to themselves and more attention to the populace. That is the spirit of service. Once this is done, Nigerians are good people and law abiding people. Once they can see the evidence of what the leaders are doing with our money, they will pay tax.

Are there steps taken by CITN to help create the awareness of the need to pay tax?

I will start with the just concluded Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT) annual retreat. The essence of the programme is to build the capacity of leaders at this level amongst the women. You can't do advocacy without knowledge, you must have the knowledge before you can do advocacy. And taxation is so dynamic that you need to keep updating your knowledge of it from time to time.

The Institute will continue to do a lot of advocacy and tell the government, whatever you collect, you can use it in such a way that citizens can relate with it. For instance, in universities, can you improve the standard of hostels? How do you explain professors collecting N450, 000 per month and not having accommodation on the campuses?

How do you intend to develop when you are not paying attention to the educational system? That means we need to spend money in these areas. But CITN will continue to do her part, we will keep on bringing out the point and doing advocacy. The essence is to tell the taxpayers, if your tax obligation is N100 naira, pay N100 don't pay N50. And for the government on the other hand, if the person's tax is N100, don't make him N120. Once we have this respect for each other and professionalism at display, the system will be sanitized and Nigeria will move forward.

How do we bring more people into the tax net?

I think the government has started something but it needs to do more. The government has all the power. They have the instrument to do a lot. I think the government is not taking the



steps they need to take because of the moral burden otherwise, it does not take more than six months to bring everybody to the banking system. You can make it in such a way that people will not spend outside the banking sector. I think Charles Soludo as CBN Governor started that, when he began the cashless policy. One of the fall out of the cashless policy, is to migrate everybody to the banking sector. Once you do that, people have BVN and technology will tell you what each spends.

Other means of getting people is through our mobile phones. If you are spending N30,000 making calls in a month and the minimum wage is N30,000, then you cannot be spending all the N30, 000 you earn on phone calls alone. We call that expenditure profiling. People can be profiled in such a way that we know where you belong. And if there is a mistake in the process of profiling, then you bring the facts forward and there will be reconciliation

One of the objectives of CITN is to set standards for those who want to practice the tax profession, to what extent are you ensuring that these standards are complied with?

It will interest you to know that we have over 28,000 members across the country. That is to tell you that CITN is one of the biggest professional institutes in the country. Just last week, we had an induction with about 1,050 people. This is to tell you we have the members properly trained across the country. But because of the nature of taxation, it's not just that I am qualified, and I am a fellow, what you know keeps on changing. I expect this government to come up with a Finance Act, anytime from now.

That means some of the dynamics and laws will change. Some of the things we know in 2023 by way of practice will change in 2024. The institute is aware of that, so we have what we call the Mandatory Professional Training Programme whereby we train our members from time to time, telling them new things, not just in Nigeria. We have a lot of faculties where we look at international tax, indirect tax, personal tax and company tax. So CITN is ready, I just pray that the government is ready.

How are you supporting the Society of Women in Taxation in Nigeria to attain their goals and objectives?

The Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT) is an arm of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria that we are so proud of. While speaking to the women at the retreat I spoke about the valuable role that women play in any society. So any society that wants to move forward, needs to first of all appreciate the place of women because they have been wonderfully made. Women can take up several tasks at the same time.

So, this is not the set of people you put aside. If we actually want to get to our full potential, then we need to recognize them. But in CITN, we have started doing that. We are sensitive to their needs and in CITN, we don't need to lower the standard for the women to do well. If anything, they could surpass the capacity of the men. Even in our management team, we have the registrar who is a man, and the next four sets of directors working under him are women.

How do you cope as a practicing lawyer and President of CITN?

The good thing about professional institutes, especially the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria is that you don't become the president overnight. You would have gone through the system and tutelage, and you will see how your leaders have done it. I am the sixteenth President, meaning I have 15 people that have gone ahead of me and I have studied them and I can tell you that they are great people who can hold their own anywhere in the world. I have been privileged to understudy these people. So, I know how to juggle my job as a practicing lawyer and the role as CITN President and being a family man as well. And nothing suffers.

As the President of CITN, what do you aim to achieve that would mark a significant milestone for the organisation?

Our primary goal at CITN is to significantly boost Nigeria's tax-to-GDP ratio, moving it from 10.8% to 18%. This is a challenge set by the President, and we're fully committed to meeting it. We're focusing on comprehensive training, not just for our members but also for taxpayers, because understanding leads to compliance. Our belief is that with the right knowledge, people will be more willing to contribute their fair share. Partnering with the government is key in achieving this 18% target, which we're confident we can even exceed. By eliminating wasteful expenditures and fraudulent practices, and ensuring focused and honest leadership, we believe Nigerians are capable of surpassing expectations. Achieving this would not only be a significant milestone for CITN but also a personal point of pride for me as its President.

How will these new tax reforms affect the average Nigerian?

There's a common misconception about the committee's role in tax reforms. The President's directive was clear: don't tax poverty and help businesses thrive. The goal isn't to increase taxes; rather, it's to streamline and reduce the current overload of over sixty different taxes. By consolidating them into a more manageable number, like nine or ten, we can bring clarity and efficiency.

The real issue here is the elimination of confusing taxes that don't even benefit the government, as non-state actors often end up with the revenue. The focus should be on empowering official bodies like the Federal Inland Revenue Service and state revenue services to effectively collect taxes, cutting out these non-state collectors.

Progress is evident – for instance, VAT filings can now be done from home, showcasing the advancements in digital tax administration in states like Lagos. However, the government must address the issue of various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) imposing unofficial levies, which particularly hamper the growth of small businesses.

I'm hopeful that with strong political will, these reforms can be successfully implemented. If done right, Nigeria could exceed the President's target of an 18% tax-to-GDP ratio, significantly boosting our economy.

Culled from Business Day December 30, 2023



NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



During the maiden SWIT Ghana Conference, with WAUTI President



AT THE CIT GHANA CONFERENCE IN AUGUST 2023





SWIT National Chairperson inaugurates SWIT Kano State Chapter





NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



**At the investiture of the 2nd
Plateau State Chapter
Coordinator**





NEWSFLASH FROM
THE NATIONAL



**At the IBP 2nd Reflection and Review Session
with SWIT members from Cross River,
Lagos, Kano and Taraba State Chapters**



SWIT

Newsletter / 25



NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



Advocacy visit to Bayelsa State With the Accountant General, Bayelsa State Madan Tokoni Ifidi, FCA, FCTI



With Bayelsa SWIT Ladies



Nat Chairperson with the Executive Chairman, BIRS, Bayelsa and top management



Nat Chairperson with AGS, Bayelsa and her top management staff



**With Sabina Okechukwu
Head of Audit, FIRS Bayelsa**



During visit to the Tax Controller, FIRS Bayelsa State

**SWIT National Chairperson paid a courtesy visit to the
Accountant General of the Federation
Dr.Mrs. Oluwatoyin Madein,FCA.**



**National Chairperson &
VC with the AGF**

SWIT was fully Represented at the Investiture of the 16th President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria

On the 10th of June 2023, Mr Samuel Olushola Agbeluyi was invested as the 16th President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN). The event, which took place at the Lagos Continental Hotel in Victoria Island, Lagos, was well attended by SWIT National Executives, chapter coordinators and member

The SWIT delegation was ably led by the National Chairperson, Mrs Bosede Ikhanoba FCTI



Cross session of members at the event



Our SWIT Life Patron, Mummy Olajumoke Simplice with the National Chairperson and her VC Vice.

SWIT ANAMBRA STATE CHAPTER

VISIT TO ONITSHA MARKET

The chapter's visit to Onitsha market's sector leaders had a clear mission: to emphasize the importance of proper record-keeping. This effort aimed to empower businesses by promoting financial transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

It encouraged the adoption of modern tools and practices while fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility within the marketplace. The visit marked the beginning of a transformative journey towards a more efficient and trustworthy business environment in Onitsha market. Attached are copies of some of the pictures, which speaks volume.



SWIT ANAMBRA STATE CHAPTER

Collaborates with Anambra State Internal Revenue Service on Enlightenment Campaign

It was a very interesting outing as the Anambra chapter of SWIT, in collaboration with the Anambra State Internal Revenue Service, enlightened the public on tax matters, emphasising Personal Income Tax. The Chapter Coordinator, Dr. (Lady) Ifeoma Obieri and Mrs. Ify Josephine Okafor represented SWIT. It ended very well. We thank God for the privilege.



SWIT LAGOS STATE CHAPTER

THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF THE 5TH CHAPTER CORDINATOR, SANDRA CHINEDU MOMAH FCTI

The 2nd of September 2023 was a memorable day for everyone who graced the occasion of the investiture ceremony of Mrs Sandra Chinedu-Momah, FCTI as the 5th State Coordinator of SWIT Lagos State Chapter. The Ceremony was held at the prestigious Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja. The occasion was graced by renowned dignitaries who flocked in their number to render support to the incoming State Coordinator and her executives.

The investiture was conducted by the National Chairperson, Mrs. Bosede Ikhanoba FCTI who was the mother of the day, other dignitaries are Past President Prince Rasaq Quadri, CITN Deputy Vice President Mr. Simon Kato, Council members present include Dr. Titilayo Fowokan and Pro. Godwin Oyedokun, Chapter Coordinators from other State's like Oyo, Ogun, Kwara, Osun, and Ondo were also present to give solidarity to their college, representatives of the revenue authority, the most significant tax consulting firms in the country and

the industry. The program was a huge success and was well executed by the Chairman of the Investiture Planning Committee, Mrs. Jenifer Gbalajobi, who is serving as the Lagos State Vice State Coordinator.

Mrs. Sandra Chinedu-Momah is a fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW), a Member of Nigeria Institute of Management (Chartered), Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT), Society of Women Accountants of Nigeria (SWAN), Pioneer President, Professional Women's Network (PWN) and Founder of Insightful Ladies Forum (ILF). Currently, she is running her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Finance at Babcock University, Nigeria.

She is an Associate Partner with Ernst and Young (EY) Nigeria, where she leads the Financial Services sector in the Tax Unit.



Sandra is also a Pastor at Mercyseat Tabernacle International. She is happily married to Pastor Chinedu Momah with children.

Some of the focal points which Mrs Sandra Momah promised to deliver on during her tenure include:

- Fostering continuous learning and professional growth through seminars, workshops, and networking events
- Initiating taxpayer outreach programs to enhance tax awareness among market communities and enlighten taxpayers about their civic rights and duties.
- Collaborating with fellow professional bodies across Lagos to convene a symposium addressing pivotal issues affecting our members.
- Publishing a comprehensive compendium titled 'Nigerian Women in Tax and their Achievements' celebrating the incredible contributions of women in our field.

In her acceptance speech, she expressed her gratitude to all those who had stood by her and or supported the success of the SWIT Lagos Chapter. She promised to leverage the existing foundation of the Chapter in empowering women within the tax industry to effect



positive contributions within the broader communities.

In her interview with the mass media houses, Mrs. Sandra Momah spoke about the Tax to GDP ratio and the importance of tax revenue to the government. She emphasised that research showed organisations managed by women were more profitable. Hence, she called for women to be at the forefront of the tax reform process in Nigeria and for the SWIT Lagos State Chapter to contribute its quota in tax reforms.



SENSITIZATION OUTING BY THE SWIT LAGOS STATE CHAPTER

On Tuesday, the 19th of September 2023, the Taxpayers Outreach Committee of the SWIT Lagos Chapter held a Taxpayers Sensitization Awareness Campaign to cover the Lagos Mainland West Region and its environs. The venue was at the Eko Club, Surulere, Lagos State. The theme of this program was "Taxpayers Education: Tax Innovations in the Nigerian Tax System".

In delivering this objective, SWIT Lagos partnered with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Surulere and environs during its One-Day Taxpayers sensitisation program to provide taxpayers with valuable insights on:

- Finance Act as an Innovation to the Nigerian Tax System
- Recent updates to Tax Pro Max.

Some key moments from the event have been captured below:



SWIT BAYELSA STATE CHAPTER

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MENTORING, SKILL ACQUISITION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME.



A one-day entrepreneurship, mentoring, skill acquisition and empowerment programme was organized by SWIT Bayelsa state Chapter on Saturday 29th July 2023, at the CITN Yenegoa and Distinct Society Secretariat.

The Chapter Coordinator, Mrs. Tonye Buseri emphasized on the importance of having a skill set in her welcome address, she encouraged all participants to pay rapt attention to the programme.

About seventy participants were in attendance of the programme, Mrs Tonye Buseri also remarked that among the objectives of the programme was to empower ten of the participants to be well grounded in catering skills by ensure payment of their training fees to have a three-month intensive training in Catering services.

The first paper presenter; Mrs. Ebiladei Okoto demonstrated a practical session on how to prepare small chops, which includes Puff-Puff, Samosa and Spring Roll. The second session was anchored on how to make drinks such as Chapman, Yoghurt, Greek Yoghurt and Fruits parfait. The third Lecture was on how to Combine fruits for fruits Juice and Smoothies including Avocado peer & Beetroot + Banana and Water Melon & Pineapple etc. It was an impactful programme.

SWIT BAYELSA STATE CHAPTER

ORGANISED A ONE-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON TAX REGULATIONS AND REFORMS.

SWIT Bayelsa Chapter organised a day training titled "Tax regulations and Reforms". The programme was held on June 20th, 2023

The main objective of the programme was to further enrich participants with adequate knowledge on tax reforms.

The coordination of the programme was done by a committee, chaired by Mrs. Rosemary K. Alafegha, the chapter Vice Coordinator with other committee members include Madam Blessing T. Tebepah, Madam Violet Obubo, and Barr. Blessing Nnaemeka-Nwonu and Madam Matilda D. Tamunokare.

The programme was supported by the Federal Inland Revenue Service Yenagoa MSTO, the Bayelsa State Board of Internal Revenue (BYSBIR) and the Office of the State Auditor-General Bayelsa State.

It was an engaging, resourceful and insightful training as Mr. Brown Serigha Seriyai ACTI, a Manager of Tax in FIRS presented a lecture on Tax regulation and reforms. Madam Doubra Ineye Bozegha from VAT



unit FIRS Yenagoa MSTO also lectured participants on the step-by-step procedure on using the Tax Promax Portal, a tax reform to file Value Added Tax & companies income tax. Another Resource person from the BYSBIR, Mr. Reuben Lugard, an Inspector of Taxes lectured on Tax Reforms procedures adopted in Bayelsa State Board of Internal Revenue which cut across reforms on Automation of Tax Payment for the informal and formal sectors and online process of Tax Clearance.

The programme was a huge success, at the end of the training, participants were more informed and exposed to tax reforms especially to reforms adopted by Bayelsa State Board of Internal Revenue and the procedures to achieve ease of tax payment.

SWIT Bayelsa state coordinator, Mrs. Tonye Buseri appreciated all stakeholders that contributed to the successful delivery of the programme.



SWIT OYO STATE CHAPTER HELD 5TH INVESTITURE IN IBADAN



The Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT), Oyo State Chapter invested Chief Mrs. Simbiat Olayinka Amure-Oduwaye as the 6th Coordinator on July 13, 2023, in Ibadan, hosted by Mr. Samuel Olushola Agbeluyi.

Mrs. Bosede Ikhanoba, SWIT's National Chairperson, EMPHASISED on expanding the tax net and gender-inclusive tax laws.

Prof. Olayinka Adenikinju delivered the investiture lecture.

Chief Executive Mrs. Amure-Oduwaye accepted the role and

inaugurated the committee which includes.

Mrs Olaitan Babatunde (Vice Coordinator), Mrs Adeniran (Deputy Vice Coordinator), Mrs. Bisi Adeleke (Treasurer), Mrs. B. K. Aderemi (General Secretary), Mrs Akinfaye Adepoju (Social/Welfare), Mrs Soremekun Olateju (Financial Secretary), Mrs Adewoyin Mojisola (Membership Secretary) Mrs Akinbowale Sileola (Publicity Secretary) Alhaja Adedeji (Assistant Social/Welfare), Mrs Olagunju Stella (Assistant General Secretary) and Mrs Arinde Rosemary (immediate past Coordinator).

SWIT BENUE STATE CHAPTER

SENSITISATION VISIT TO BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY

SWIT Benue State Chapter paid a Courtesy Call on the Dean faculty of Management Sciences/HOD Accounting and Taxation at Benue State University on 16 August 2023. The Benue Chapter coordinator, Madam Shiva Rae Kondoun led the team,

The purpose of the visit was to partner with the school to promote CITN and encourage the setup of a tax club in the institution. Also, to seek approval for introducing the Association of Nigeria Taxation Students (ANTAS) in the department. The visit was a huge



Investiture of **3rd**

SWIT KWARA STATE CHAPTER Coordinator and Inauguration of Executive





The investiture ceremony of the 3rd SWIT Kwara Chapter Coordinator was a momentous occasion that celebrated the empowerment and leadership of women in taxation. Held at the prestigious Rotana Hotel Hall in Kwara State, the event brought together notable dignitaries, including the National Chairperson of SWIT, Mrs Bosede Ikhanoba, as the Host of the event, the immediate past president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), Chief Adesina Adedayo, mni FCTI, and Council Member, CITN, Dr. Titi Fowokan, FCTI. Also in attendance were the Executive Chairman, Kwara State Internal Revenue Service (KW-IRS), Mrs Shade Omoniyi, ACTI, as the Special Guest of Honour and her predecessor, Prof. Muritala Awodun, FCTI as a Guest.

The event's highlight was the

official swearing-in of Mrs. Oluwakemi Obakemi, ACTI, as the 3rd SWIT Coordinator, Kwara State Chapter, and the Executive inauguration. In her acceptance speech, she expressed her commitment to promoting gender diversity, inclusiveness, and excellence in taxation.

Distinguished guests, including Prof. Shayk Luqman Jimoh. Vice Chancellor of Kwara State University, Malete, who delivered an inspiring keynote address on the role of women in shaping the future of taxation in Nigeria. Hakeem Ajonbadi, PhD, Birmingham City University, UK, who delivered the Investiture lecture on Demystifying the Anathema of Women's career progression in the Tax Profession. This ceremony began a new leadership era for SWIT in Kwara State and emphasised the

organisation's commitment to empowering and uplifting women in taxation.

Several accomplished individuals were recognised and awarded for their outstanding contributions to society. This served as an inspiration to all attendees, highlighting the potential inherent in Taxation as a profession.

The ceremony provided an excellent platform for networking and collaboration among professionals from diverse fields. Members of Tax Clubs of various Secondary Schools and higher institutions also graced the occasion to ascertain catching

them young, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose in advancing the tax profession.

The investiture ceremony of the 3rd SWIT Coordinator, Kwara State Chapter, was a significant milestone in the journey towards gender equity and excellence in taxation. It showcased the determination and dedication of women in the field and encouraged further collaboration and support for their endeavours. With distinguished dignitaries and accomplished professionals in attendance, the event left a lasting impact on the taxation community in Kwara State.

SWIT OSUN STATE CHAPTER

HELD A HEALTH TALK FOR MEMBERS

On Thursday, August 31, 2023, SWIT Osun held a health talk for members. The program which held at Union Baptist Church Hall, Odi Olowo Osogbo was well attended. The resource person that handled the health talk was Dr. Babatunde Adeola Afolabi the CEO of Emmanuel Medical Centre, Osogbo who spoke on the topic "Overcoming The Scourge Of Depression And Diabetes In The Society".

He started his presentation by explaining the meaning of depression as a Common mental disorder that presents with depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure, feelings of guilt or low self-worth, disturbed sleep or appetite, low energy, and poor concentration.

He explained further the causes of depression, factors leading to depression, and solutions to depression. He stated that 70% of women are more likely to



experience depression than men due to the fragility of women, trouble from children, husbands, workplaces, inlaws, and emotional trauma surrounding women.



He then analysed the meaning of DIABETES as a group of metabolic disorders characterised by abnormal metabolism, which results most notably in

hyperglycemia due to defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both.

He explained the risk factors of diabetes and the correlation between diabetes and depression. He mentioned classes of diabetes, a few preventive measures, and care for diabetes. He emphasised the symptoms of diabetes and implored we all, who see any of the symptoms, should head to the hospital immediately.



He concluded by mentioning that early disease detection is a step to cure. Delay may be dangerous.

The Program was concluded with questions and answers. Many questions were asked, and the Doctor did justice to them all. A plaque was presented to the Doctor in SWIT's name in appreciation for honouring our invitation.

SWIT RIVERS STATE CHAPTER

HELD THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT THE CHRIST CHURCH INTERDENOMINATIONAL, PORT HARCOURT

It was refreshing in His presence on 25th June 2023 when SWIT-Rivers members came out to say "God, thank you" for thus far you have led us. Having gone through an election and a successful change of baton of the Executives, the chapter felt it was necessary to rededicate themselves afresh unto Him who has made it possible.

The Vicar in charge, Revd. Michael prayed and presented them to God for a fresh anointing, safekeeping and empowerment for greater exploits.



SWIT RIVERS CHAPTERS Held a Radio Enlightenment Program

SWIT Rivers held a Radio Enlightenment Program on 24/8/23, targeted at the Nano, small & medium size enterprises on the Wave 91.7 FM Port Harcourt. The team led by facilitated by the State Coordinator, Dame Eunice Odum, PhD, FCTI spoke on the benefits of Business Registration, Financing and statutory obligations (Taxes) Compliance. It was a 30-minute discussion program aimed at educating the Petty Traders and SMEs on the right way to start & grow businesses & obligations that must be complied with to operate safely & be a "going concern"



On 14 September 2023, the SWIT Rivers chapter paid a courtesy visit to the Accountant General of River State, Dr Uche Ideozu, FCA and the Director of Treasury of the State to inform them of the SWIT Enlightenment Programs & also solicit Financial Assistance to enable the chapter to carry out other activities on the action plan. The team was warmly received, and the Accountant General promised his support.



Investiture of 4th Coordinator of **SWIT OGUN STATE CHAPTER**



The Ogun State Chapter of the Society of Women in Taxation, SWIT, held the Investiture of the 4th State Coordinator and inaugurated her executive committee members on the 16th of August, 2023.

Mrs Patience Oluwatoyin Olatunbosun, FCTI, was sworn in as the 4th Chapter Coordinator by the National Chairperson, Mrs. Bosede F. Ikhanoba FCTI, who was ably represented by the National Deputy Vice Chairperson, Dr. Odunayo Ani, FCTI. The National Chairperson charged all the members to hold dear the tenets of the Society and join hands with the new administration in projecting the image of SWIT in their immediate environment and, by extension, the country of Nigeria.

In attendance were the National

General Secretary, Mrs. Oluwaseun Olajube, FCTI, and the Oyo State Chapter Coordinator, Alhaja Simbiat Amure-Oduwaiye, FCTI.

The investiture featured two paper presentations. The first was titled "The Role of Women in Building the Society" by Mrs Olubisi Eniola Ajomale FCTI (2nd Ogun State Coordinator). The second paper, "Growth and Way Forward for the Society," was delivered by Mrs Mopelola Omolara Bello FCTI (inaugural State Coordinator).

In her valedictory speech, the Immediate Past Coordinator, Mrs Oluyomi Dawodu FCTI, thanked all for the support she enjoyed during her tenure and admonished that the same should be extended to the new Coordinator and her excoteam.

Investiture of the Pioneer Coordinator of **SWIT ONDO STATE CHAPTER** **and Inauguration of the Chapter**

The ceremony took place at the Revenue House Hall on Igbatoro Road, Alagbaka, Akure, on August 17, 2023. The event was a significant milestone for the newly formed chapter. The investiture and inauguration were conducted by the SWIT National Chairperson, Mrs Bosed Ikhanoba, FCTI who was ably assisted by the National Vice Chairperson, Dr Caroline Ndubuisi. Coordinators from the neighbouring SWIT chapter also graced the occasion. Other esteemed dignitaries present at the event included the Secretary to the Ondo State Government, Princess Oladuni Odu, and other top government functionaries.

The highlight of the event was the official swearing-in of the new SWIT Ondo State Coordinator, Mrs. C.A. Adigun, and her 14-member executive committee. The oath of office was administered marking the beginning of their roles and responsibilities in promoting the objectives of SWIT within Ondo State. Before the investiture ceremony, the SWIT National President met with the newly elected executive committee to provide them with essential guidance. This session covered topics



such as dress code, mannerisms, the aims, slogan, and objectives of SWIT, ensuring that the incoming leadership was well-informed and aligned with the organisation's values and mission.

The investiture of the Ondo State Chapter was a momentous event that marked the official commencement of the new leadership's tenure. With the guidance of the SWIT National Chairperson and the support of top government officials, the chapter is poised to contribute significantly to the field of taxation and empower women in Ondo State. This ceremony was a testament to the dedication and commitment of SWIT members to their cause and objectives.

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FCT Tax Practitioners End of Year Dinner Event.





NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



Traditional wedding of the son of past National Chairperson, Barr. Ezinwa Okoroafor in United Kingdom. SWIT was ably represented by the Deputy Vice Chairperson, Dr. Odunayo Ani



NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



SWIT donated customised souvenirs for presentation during the wedding of the son of former FIRS Executive Chairman (Mr Muhammad Nami)



The National Chairperson and Vice Chairperson represented SWIT at the wedding reception of the former FIRS Executive Chairman's son



SWIT

Newsletter / 53



NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



SOCIETY OF WOMEN IN TAXATION



Hearty *Congratulations* on your **RETIREMENT**

We Congratulate our dear Past. National Chairperson Hajia Kudirat Abdul-hamid, FCTI on your meritorious retirement from public service as the Auditor General, FCT Area Council.

May God bless your future endeavours. Amen.

SWIT National Executive Committee
&
Entire Members



The National Chairperson attended the 29th Nigerian Economic Summit sponsored by the Institute.

Congratulations

to the National Vice Chairperson,

Dr Caroline Ndubuisi

On her induction as an Associate, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria having passed the qualifying final of the professional examinations.





NEWSFLASH FROM **THE NATIONAL**



Swit representatives celebrate with Pioneer Chairperson, Dr Justina Okoror and the National Vice Chairperson, Dr Caroline Ndubuisi on the graduation of their children: Sarah Okoror and Ifeanyin Ndubuisi from Redeemer's University



Huge Congratulations

to our dear immediate National Chairperson,
Dr Abiola Ruth Adimula, FCTI,

who was awarded FELLOWSHIP by the Society for Peace Studies and Practice with other high-ranking security service Chiefs and the IGP. This is the highest honour in the Peace and Security profession in Nigeria. More wins, lofty heights and recognitions.



SWIT Congratulates

National Financial Secretary

Dr Ruth Arokoyo

on her 60th birthday and retirement thanksgiving Service.

The SWIT National Chairperson, IPC and FCT Coordinator were in attendance to celebrate with her.



The traditional wedding of **Barr Ezinwa Okoroafor's Son Muna to his heartthrob Rachel** on 30th Dec 2023. Congratulations.



SWIT KWARA STATE CHAPTER

SUPPORT LIFE PATRON AT EVENT IN ILORIN

SWIT Kwara Chapter, led by the State Coordinator, Mrs. Oluwakemi Obakemi, was at Whitefield Hotel on Thursday, 7th September 2023, to support one of our Life Patrons, Prof. Teju Somorin, at a discussion/workshop on Domestic Tax for North-Central Geopolitical Zonal Stakeholders organised by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning in collaboration with World Bank. Other facilitators at the event were Prof. Muritala Awodun and Dr. Bilikisu Oniyangi.

The objective of the workshop was to resolve issues surrounding domestic tax and come up with possible solutions that will be collated and presented to the Federal Government.

In attendance were tax administrators - KW-IRS, KGIRS and FCTIRS. Some local government representatives, Abuja Municipal Area Council and Kuje Area Council were also present.

Also in attendance were some stakeholders - Kwara State Association of Marketers, Kwara State Artisan Congress, NURTW, and NAPPS, among others.



ABIDEMI RUKAYAT OLAWUMI'S

Transition To Glory



Mrs. Abidemi Rukayat Olawumi, aged 63 years died on Monday 10th July, 2023 after a protracted illness.

Mrs Olawumi was SWIT Lagos Chapter Representative for CITNV/I - Lekki and District Society and an active Member of Swit Lagos Chapter Taxpayers Outreach Committee.

Members of the Chapter attended her

Wake -Keep on Wednesday, 19th July, 2023 at her residence in Lekki, Lagos and Funeral Service on Thursday, 20th July, 2023 at The Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos.

Swit Lagos Chapter sent a condolence letter to commiserate with her family and also gave cash support.

