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ATAF MEETS WITH KEY AFRICAN MEDIA TO SET CONTINENT’S TAX AND DIGITALISATION AGENDA

March 06, 2019, Kigali, Rwanda - Over 60 selected media from across Africa have converged in Rwanda’s capital, Kigali today to discuss their role in addressing emerging tax issues that affect the continent’s development.

Organised by the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and hosted by Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), this meeting – the second one since 2018 - underscores media’s critical role in unpacking the benefits of tax on citizens and in holding governments to account when it comes to corruption and tax matters. Over the next three days, participants will also be discussing the impact of the fourth industrial revolution on Africa’s growth.

ATAF’s series of Media engagement workshops are yearly gatherings which seek to promote and enhance media coverage of tax matters in Africa, by strengthening the capacities of African journalists, promoting collaboration and facilitating exchange of knowledge on tax-related matters.

Speaking on behalf of the Rwanda Revenue Authority, *Aimable KAYIGI HABIYAMBERE*, the Commissioner of Domestic Taxes, said “*We are honoured to host this second media engagement and training programme. As a Member of the ATAF Council, Rwanda shares with ATAF the common vision*

of building strong revenue authorities in Africa, as a key strategy towards domestic resource mobilisation. Through its many capacity-building initiatives, ATAF has helped several African tax administrations, including RRA, improve their revenue collection performance over the years. Without doubt, there are unresolved issues such as digitalisation that still need to be unpacked, which is why partnering with continental media remains central to our strategy to promote equitable development for the benefit of our citizens. This event, therefore is timely as we move into the “Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

According to Mary BAINE, Director of Tax Programmes at ATAF: *“The era of digitalisation is upon us, and we can no longer ignore the fact that Africa’s much-needed tax base is being eroded simply through unrecorded revenue. Our continent, now more than ever, needs all the resources if it is to promote its socio-economic growth and the wellbeing of its populations. We see the media as partners in our journey to advance the discourse on tax and development.”*

The participants – drawn from both public and private media - will delve into conversations around how media can unpack the significance of tax issues, and how simplifying these matters can allow citizens to better understand their obligations and their contribution to development in their countries as well as their role in holding states accountable. They will also identify ways through which authorities can work with the media in making citizens more active in terms of holding states accountable.

About ATAF

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) is an organisation which was established by African revenue authorities in 2009, in order to improve the performance of tax administrations in Africa. ATAF believes that better tax administration will enhance economic growth, increase accountability of the state to its citizens, and more effectively mobilise domestic resources. Now in its 10th year of existence, ATAF has positioned itself as Africa’s homegrown solution to improving revenue collection, advancing the role of taxation in governance and state-building and providing a voice to the continent on international tax issues.

Visit www.ataftax.org for more information.