

CURRICULUM VITAE

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SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Currently in charge of the Office Burundais des Recettes (Revenue Authority of Burundi)
- Over 33 years' experience in tax administration, tax policy development, trade promotion and regional integration.
- Substantial experience in managing revenue administrations and revenue enhancement projects
- Initiated major income tax reforms in Africa, the Pacific and the Middle East.
- Advised on tax incentives for investment promotion.
- Active in tax policy formulation in developing countries, particularly in the areas of tax simplification and revenue enhancement measures.
- Strong experience in planning such as preparation of strategic business plans, business process re-engineering plans, computerisation plans, training plans, inception plans and communications strategies.
- Background of institutional development, systems and forms design, improvement of procedures, development of training programmes and preparation of manuals.
- Participated in negotiating 6 double taxation agreements.
- Facilitated preparation of basic induction courses for tax department personnel.
- Member of the I.M.F. (Fiscal Affairs Department) Panel of Experts.
- Member of the World Bank Tax Thematic Group.
- Consulted for I.M.F., World Bank, E.U., UNDP and DFID.

QUALIFICATIONS

London School of Journalism (<http://www.lsj.org/>): -

- "Improve Your English" – Completed to a high standard and in short time
- "Freelance and Feature Writing" – Currently studying

Completed **Management of Change** Course in December '97 leading to certification from Pepperdine University School of Business, Los Angeles, and the International Register of Organisation Development Professionals. This was a 10-month course covering transitional and transformational alignment in South Africa, organisational change, intervention skills and transformation strategy development.

Fully-Trained Inspector of Taxes. Awarded "Commission" from the Minister of Finance of Ireland (1983).

BA Mod (Econ) Honours. Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland (1977).

COMPUTER SKILLS

Computer literate in Microsoft Office and other major business packages.

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT

JULY 2010 TO PRESENT

**COMMISSIONER GENERAL,
OFFICE BURUNDAIS DES RECETTES**

I am responsible for the day-to-day management of the OBR including planning, coordinating and implementing procedural and operational changes as well as developing and maintaining strategic partnerships and relationships with the government, the OBR Board, the private sector and regional and international tax bodies.

I am expected to mentor and train local counterparts, one of whom will take over the duties of Commissioner General at the expiry of my contract.

My main activities are to: -

- I. Establish the OBR as an effective tax administration;
- II. Ensure that budgeted revenue targets are achieved and that the OBR operates within the approved expenditure budgetary limit;
- III. Participate in Board meetings and be responsible for implementing Board decisions;
- IV. Implement fiscal policies approved by Government;
- V. Prepare a business plan for the OBR;
- VI. Advise the Ministry of Finance as required with respect to fiscal policy;
- VII. Oversee and manage the OBR Senior Management Team;
- VIII. Submit regular reports to the Board containing financial statements and performance indicators;
- IX. Ensure an appropriate management and organisational structure and terms and conditions of employment so that sufficient staff of suitable calibre are motivated and disciplined;
- X. Establish and maintain liaison with other government agencies, private sector organizations, regional and international tax bodies and organizations in order to exchange information and deal with common problems;
- XI. Make recommendations on tax policies, reforms, regulations and legislation;
- XII. Ensure that the OBR adheres to its planned budget and that the optimum amount of revenue is collected;
- XIII. Establish an effective anti-corruption and tax evasion investigation Unit in the OBR;
- XIV. Set performance targets for all members of the Senior Management Team, to be reviewed quarterly;
- XV. Establish an effective communications programme to create a public awareness on tax issues and compliance by stakeholders;
- XVI. Build the capacity of staff to meet the mandate of the OBR
- XVII. Perform other related activities for the smooth functioning of the OBR by:-
 - Setting delegating authority levels for all management and supervisory staff;
 - Establishing a Management Information Systems (MIS) to enable meaningful reporting information from all units on their overall performance;
 - Supporting the introduction of new IT systems;
 - Interpreting and enforcing revenue laws and regulations, regional agreements and international conventions;
 - Preparing and submitting reports to the Board and Ministry of Finance.
 - Advising taxpayers and other persons on revenue laws and regulations;
 - Drafting proposals for changes in tax and other revenue legislation;
 - Ensuring OBR representation at local and overseas conferences;
 - Providing statistical data for policy formulation to be published in the OBR Annual Report.

February 2009 to June 2010

**Government of Rwanda
Project Manager, TMEA, Regional Assistance
Project**

(This position was held concurrently with the next following one)

My job was to work closely with the Commissioner General of the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) and the new Office Burundais des Recettes¹ (OBR), the RRA and OBR Senior Management Teams, the Reform and Modernisation Unit in each revenue authority and the DFID Regional Growth, Trade and Investment Team to manage the project and ensure that the project maintained a recognised and agreed direction as set out in the project logical framework. I also acted on behalf of DFID to facilitate and adjust project inputs, in consultation with the RRA, OBR and DFID.

My main activities under the project were: -

In Rwanda, to: -

- i. Work closely with the RRA's Reform and Modernisation Unit to effectively and efficiently manage the TMEA Regional Assistance to the RRA project and the Phase VI Support to RRA project;
- ii. Mentor each and every member of the RMU to the fullest extent possible to ensure they are capable of carrying out their duties;
- iii. Work closely with the teams established for the creation of the One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) between Rwanda and neighbouring states;
- iv. Foster excellent cross and inter Government co-operation on OSBP Task Teams and assist in the formation of a regional co-ordination group with DPs and other important stakeholders;
- v. Ensure successful implementation of the TMEA regional programme with the RRA.

In Burundi, to: -

- I. Lead the inauguration of the OBR including, but not limited to, the recruitment of advisers, the establishment of a separate location for the OBR, the establishment of the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the adoption of appropriate structures and policies;
- II. Ensure strong start up of the RAB by spending 80% of the first 3-4 months in Bujumbura, especially the staffing adjustment period of October 2009 to January 2010;
- III. Work closely with stakeholders to ensure that policies are developed to ensure high levels of integrity for OBR operations and that a sound anti-corruption policy is implemented;
- IV. Represent DFID in the recruitment of the first CG and other members of the OBR senior management team;
- V. Advise the new Commissioner General and SMT on all aspects of tax administration in order to comprehensively support the OBR in its critical early stages.

August 2002 to present
Position:

Government of Rwanda
Manager, Rwanda Revenue Authority Project

My job was to work closely with the Commissioner General, the RRA Senior Management Team and the DFID Governance Adviser to manage the project and ensure that the project

¹ In English, the Revenue Authority of Burundi (RAB)

CONSULTANCIES

Jan/ Feb and September 2001 Government of Botswana

I worked on the 'Ya Rona' project, which is designed to help the Department of Taxes develop a new strategy for improving taxpayer compliance in Botswana. In this period I assisted the Department with: -

- A comprehensive review of its income tax legislation and procedures,
- The preparation of an alternative computerisation strategy, and
- The preparation of a Revenue Board Implementation strategy.

August '97 – January '98 Government of Swaziland

During this period I assisted the Government of Swaziland with –

- the finalisation of its new income tax law,
- the development of a double taxation agreement negotiating strategy,
- the development of a policy paper on revenue diversification, and
- a financing proposal for further technical and other assistance to the revenue collection departments.

DFID and the EU funded this assistance.

May - Nov 1996 Government of Swaziland

The Government of Swaziland requested my assistance with the introduction of a new income tax law. Activities included formulating effective tax incentives for investment promotion along with the legal drafter and liaising with the Tax Advisory Committee, tax practitioners, and the business community in order to achieve full acceptance and ownership of the new law. I was also required to assist the Department of Taxes prepare for the new law. The consultancy to July '96 was provided from funds made available by the EU and extended to November '96 from DFID/ODA funds.

August 1995 Government of Swaziland

I was requested to advise the Government of Swaziland on how to reform its income tax system in order to make Swaziland more conducive for the promotion of foreign and indigenous investment. The consultancy was provided under the Cross-Border Initiative from funds made available by the World Bank and the EU. My brief was to examine the tax and revenue aspects of tax holidays, low sectoral rates, investment allowances or credits and a low tax rate for all taxpayers.

June 1994 IMF mission to Jordan

As a member of the Panel of Experts I was asked to join a Fiscal Affairs mission to evaluate the income tax system of Jordan and make recommendations for its improvement. My brief was to write the income tax administration chapter of the aide memoire. I also contributed to other parts of the aide memoire, a copy of which was given to the authorities at the conclusion of the mission.

LONG-TERM ASSIGNMENTS

October 1994 to July '97.

Position:

Government of United Kingdom (DFID)

Team Leader, RAP Project - Lesotho.

I managed the Revenue Assistance Project (RAP) for DFID/ODA, which had a 1995 value of £1.6m. The RAP provided technical assistance to Lesotho in the form of income tax, sales tax, audit and computerisation advisers as well as various short-term advisers for customs needs and forms design. The goal of the RAP was to increase revenue from direct and indirect taxation in real terms.

As Team Leader I was responsible for: -

- All income tax advice to the Government of Lesotho.
- Assistance with the examination of the accounts and returns of large taxpayers, particularly the large international consortia operating on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.
- Overseeing and supervising the preparation of P.A.Y.E. and business audit manuals.
- Evaluating the case for the introduction of Value Added Tax and proposing a timetable for its implementation.
- Developing a programme of institutional development of the Department of Customs & Excise.
- Computerising the revenue collection departments.
- Ensuring that the revenue collection departments' training programme is designed and implemented in a sustainable manner.
- Upgrading and integrating the revenue collection departments' investigation capabilities.
- Improving the design of revenue forms.

My main achievements under this project were: -

- An increase in income tax receipts from M67 million p.a. to over M300 million p.a. in five years.
- A continued reduction in income tax rates, with tax rates reduced from 53% in 1991/2 to 35% in 1996/7.
- The successful negotiation of double taxation agreements with RSA, the UK and Mauritius, which provide additional taxing rights and development incentives for Lesotho.
- Better tax legislation.
- A significant increase in the efficiency of the Department of Income Tax through better training, systems and resources.

July 1991 to October 1994

Position:

Government of United Kingdom (DFID)

Team Leader, ARCDP - Lesotho

I was Team Leader of a DFID/ODA project entitled Assistance to Revenue Collection Departments (ARCDP) of Lesotho. The project provided technical assistance to the three revenue collection departments of Lesotho and had a 1991 value of £330,000.

As Team Leader I,

- Advised the Government on fiscal legislation and tax policy,
- Advised the Commissioner of Income Tax regarding the tax affairs of the largest entities, particularly those engaged on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project,
- Developed investigation techniques and methods of encouraging tax compliance,
- Established an effective training programme.

My main achievements under this project were: -

- The re-drafting of the Lesotho Income Tax Act, with IMF assistance.
- The introduction of new tax compliance methods, vastly improved offences, penalty and distress provisions.
- A much higher public profile for the Department of Income Tax.
- A substantial increase in revenues from income tax.
- Initiated drafting of new Sales Tax law.

**November 1984 to May 1991 Government of Kiribati
Position: Inspector of Taxes.**

The Government of Kiribati employed me under assistance provided by the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID/ODA). As Inspector of Taxes I was,

- Responsible for the day to day administration of the income tax.
- Active in tax policy formulation.
- Adviser to the government on specific foreign investment projects.

My main achievements in Kiribati were: -

- A substantial increase in income tax revenues each year. By 1991, my final year, tax revenues showed a 400% increase from the commencement of my contract in late 1984.
- Implementation of a new income tax law.
- Creation of a Revenue Board.
- Identification of the need to computerise the Taxation Division and thereafter working with a computer professional to establish the data bases and develop the assessing programme.
- Successful negotiation of a Double Taxation Agreement with Australia.

**October 1977 to October 1984 Revenue Commissioners, Dublin, Ireland
Position: Inspector of Taxes, Higher Grade.**

I entered the Irish Revenue as a trainee Inspector of Taxes after graduation from college. I completed a course of full and part time training in tax law and accounting and was awarded a Commission from the Minister of Finance after successfully completing examinations in taxation and accountancy. Shortly thereafter I was promoted to Inspector of Taxes (Higher Grade). During my time in the Irish Revenue I received substantial experience in the assessment of sole traders, partnerships and companies, the handling of income tax appeals and procedures for the recovery of tax.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

I write regularly for "Revenue Magazine" published by Rwanda Revenue Authority.

I contribute to "RevInnui" published by the Revenue Commissioners, Ireland.

I was a regular contributor to "Al-Waay Al-Dhareeby", a magazine issued by the Tax Office of the Capital Secretariat in Yemen. I contributed monthly articles on topical taxation issues in Yemen.

"A discussion of recent tax reform measures proposed for Swaziland", Infotax, RSA Sept. 1997.

"*Investment Incentives emerging from Lesotho's Tax Reform*", **S.A. Tax Review**, June 1993.

"*New Order - Lesotho Tax Reform*", **Financial Mail (S.A.)**, 16 April 1993.

Many of my reports and discussion papers are available on my website <http://www.kieranholmes.com> as free downloads.

CONFERENCES

I represented the government of Lesotho at the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) Technical Conferences in Malta in August 1995 and in Port Moresby in November 1991.

I represented the government of Kiribati at the 1990 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group in the capacity of Alternate Governor to the World Bank.

I represented the government of Kiribati at the CATA Technical Conferences in Kuala Lumpur and Penang in November 1987 and in Ottawa in September 1986.