



WELCOME ADDRESS BY OTUNBA (MRS.) 'DEBOLA OSIBOGUN, FCIB, PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL AT THE 2014 ANNUAL INVESTITURE OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA, AT FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL, AHMADU BELLO WAY, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS ON OCTOBER 18, 2014.

I welcome you all very warmly to the 2014 Investiture Ceremony of The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) on behalf of the Governing Council, Members, Management and Staff. I wish to acknowledge the presence of our Special Guest of Honour, His Excellency, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, the Governor of Lagos State. We are happy to be associated with the laudable initiatives of your Government in the delivery of dividends of democracy especially infrastructural development and renewal of hope to the teeming population of Lagos State. With us here, is also, a woman of substance and an erudite scholar. Our Guest of Honour, Prof. (Mrs.) Comfort Ekpo, the Vice Chancellor, University of Uyo.

Our Guest Speaker at this event, Mr. Richard "Dick" Kramer, Chairman, Capital Alliance needs no introduction. Mr. Kramer has for over 34 years of his being in Nigeria made tremendous contributions to the development of the Nigerian economy. Many foreign companies successfully gained entry into Nigeria during his tenure as the Managing Director of Arthur Anderson & Company Nigeria, a corporate entity which he started in 1978. We are delighted to have someone of his stature, experience, exposure and intellect to do justice to the topic of today's presentation.

In the same vein, I wish to welcome Mr. Godwin Emezie, CON, HCIB, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, one of the two distinguished bankers who will be conferred with Honorary Fellowship at this ceremony. The Governing Council had approved his conferment since March 2013 when he was the Managing Director of Zenith Bank Plc. However, it was not convenient for him to be present during the Investiture on August 24, 2013. I am therefore happy that God has made it possible at His appointed time for him to be present today to receive the award, even on a higher pedestal as the Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria.

The Institute, every year, sets aside a day to admit a selected few of its eminent and distinguished members into the coveted Fellowship and Honorary Senior Membership status. Dear Members, today's event is therefore in continuation of that tradition but this is unique in the sense that two hundred and fifteen (215) key operators in the Banking, Finance and Allied Industry as well as the Academia are being admitted simultaneously to the Fellowship and Honorary Senior Membership categories. This number is the highest ever and an indication that more qualified members are making outstanding and noticeable contributions in their chosen profession of banking.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, these men and women, we are about to honour, are individuals who have out of the dint of hardwork, perseverance, patience and commitment carved out enviable niches for themselves in their various careers and are highly respected in the various sectors of the economy including the Public Service. We found them to have exhibited high professional skills, competence and



expertise in the various organisations that have been fortunate to engage their services. On behalf of the entire Membership of the Institute I wish to congratulate them for achieving this significant milestone in their careers.

I want to remind all the awardees that success in life is being the best you can possibly be. Your families, friends, communities and even the Institute need you to continue to manifest your unique selves. It was Benjamin Disraeli, the 18th Century British Prime Minister and Novelist who said “the legacy of heroes is the memory of great names and the inheritance of great examples” I therefore trust that you will not fail in your responsibilities to create a living legacy for those coming after you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Institute remains in the vanguard of best practice, with the recently launched Code of Conduct for the Nigerian Banking Industry being the major step taken to ensure that our members observe sound ethical standard both in and off the job. In the last few months I visited some banks to propagate the gospel according to the Code and elicit the support of the Managements of these banks.

I am pleased to inform you that at all the banks visited, the Managing Director/ Chief Executives attested to the Code and directed their members of staff to do so. This is a clear demonstration of their resolve to support the building of the banking profession to drive economic growth and development in Nigeria in particular and Africa in general.

I thank the Managing Director/ Chief Executives and their teams for showing the required leadership. I also specially thank the Central Bank of Nigeria and indeed the Bankers Committee for throwing their full weight behind the implementation of the Code. I want to request all bankers who are yet to attest to the Code of Conduct to do so before the expiration of the deadline. My hope is that going forward, no banker would work at cross purposes with the ideals, customs and practices of this noble profession.

For greater and continued impact, in the word of Helen Ketter “the world is moved along, not only by the shoves of its heroes but also the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker”. I therefore like to commend and urge you all to do your absolute best in your sphere of influence to ensure that our Institute and great country Nigeria live to realize its potentials.

Once again please accept my appreciation for being a part of this epoch making event while thanking you for identifying with the Institute in our continued quest for promoting professionalism in the banking industry.

God bless you all.

Otunba (Mrs.) 'Debola Osibogun, FCIB
President/ Chairman of Council
The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria
Saturday, October 18, 2014.