



THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA

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Welcome Address by the President/Chairman of Council, the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, Dr. Uche Olowu, Ph.D, FCIB at the 53rd Annual Bankers Dinner, held at Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, Friday, November 30, 2018.

Protocols

Good evening distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Governing Council, Management and Staff of the Institute, I have a great honour and privilege to offer a warm welcome to you all for sparing time out of your busy schedules to be with us tonight inspite of other activities competing for your attention. Your presence means a lot to us.

Today's Dinner is a special and emotional one for me, our founding fathers and indeed other members of the Institute. For me, this is the first time in my role as the President/Chairman of Council to address this annual event which brings together the finest banking professionals and other key stakeholders in the economy.

For our founding fathers and other members, this week, to be precise November 28 was the 55th Anniversary of the convergence of one hundred and twenty four (124) Bankers at Randle Hall, Surulere to pass the resolution for the establishment of the Local Centre of the Institute of Bankers, London, the progenitor of the present Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria.

We have, gathered here, tonight an impressive array of distinguished and accomplished stakeholders from the different segments of the economy. I am particularly pleased to welcome to our midst the Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, CON, FCIB. As you are aware, the Governor is continuing the tradition that was established since the beginning of the Dinner, fifty three (53) years ago. Indeed the CIBN Annual Dinner is seen as the "CBN Governor's Day" which affords stakeholders the rare opportunity to wine and dine with the Governor and examine critical issues affecting the banking industry in a relaxed setting.

I am aware that the Governor had given priority to this event over several other engagements especially when we had to change the date to enable us get this befitting venue and he still accommodated us in his ever busy diary.

Let me also appreciate the Managing Director/Chief Executives of Banks who have co-sponsored this Dinner especially those who have made time to be here tonight. Your presence is a testament to the support you have always extended to us.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Adhoc Committee on 2018 Annual Bankers Dinner under the able leadership of Mr. Kennedy Uzoka, FCIB, the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive, United Bank for Africa Plc for their tremendous efforts over the past few weeks to make this Dinner a success. As you can see, we have an improvement in the quality and number of stakeholders who have attended this Dinner tonight which would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the members of the Committee. Thank you for a fantastic job.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, since May 19, 2018, when the mantle of leadership of our Institute was handed over to me, we have been able to continue with the giant strides of my predecessors, building on the foundation and momentum laid for the future of the Institute. In view of this, I wish to share some of the key initiatives embarked on in 2018 and lined up for 2019 in the following areas:

Ethics and Professionalism

We will continue to foster ethical conduct in the banking industry in furtherance of the fact that bankers have a fiduciary responsibility and duty to protect the integrity and reputation of the banking industry, to underwrite continuing public trust and confidence in the financial system. To ensure this, we will continue to work with the Sub-Committee on Competency and Industry Standards of the Bankers Committee to make the Ethics Compliance Certificate a reality in the first quarter of the next year. This is consistent with our belief that a high standard of professionalism with strong ethical values and integrity is the prerequisite for the creation of a new generation of bankers.

Capacity Building

We are investing substantially in equipping our members with the required skills sets and knowledge needed to compete, think and innovate. Specifically we have embarked on the following:

- **Review of ACIB Syllabus:** We are currently developing content for the new structure of the Syllabus of Banking Professional Examinations which our Governing Council approved in September 2018. The Syllabus has been aligned to the needs of the banking industry in order to better meet the expectations of the more discerning customers and market place.

To arrive at the Structure, a Practice Analysis Survey was conducted to ascertain the skills sets the employers of labour expect the Chartered Bankers to possess. The new Syllabus will be in operation from April 2020.

- **Commoditisation of Competencies:** We have designed strategies for the upskilling and reskilling of our members through the review of the existing Certification Programmes targeted at sectoral competencies.

In the same vein, we are building Communities of Practice across the key operations of banking to allow members to interact among themselves and with subject experts on emerging trends in any of the subject area.

Lastly, we have commenced discussion with the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) to run a Certification on Agriculture Finance to equip the various actors along the value chain with comprehensive knowledge of full range of activities required to expand their portfolios. By extension, it is expected that this will aid Government in its economic diversification efforts.

Advocacy

We have continued with our role as the conscience of the industry by paying more attention to constructive stakeholders' engagements for the benefit of our corporate and individual members.

In view of this, we organised, through our USA Branch a Conference with theme Investing at Home (Imploring Nigerian in Diapora), Atlanta to encourage Nigerians abroad to invest more in the Country's economy for the good of the greater number of the populace.

Also, our Governing Council recently introduced a quarterly discussion to examine pertinent issues affecting the banking industry and come up with Institute's position for the benefit of the various key stakeholders.

Standardisation of Training Programmes in the Banking Industry

As the Accreditation Agency for the implementation of the Competency Framework, we have to date accredited fifty (50) Education Training Service Providers and seventeen (17) Bank Academies and entered into Linkage arrangement with fifty-eight (58) tertiary institutions to standardise their training programmes to foster specialisation in various areas of banking operation.

The exercise had given the assurance that the Programmes of these institutions are relevant, required and have met international standard and benchmarks.

Efforts are being intensified to accredit the remaining institutions in the three (3) categories.

Conclusion

Our Annual Dinner is renowned to be a night with excellent fun and fraternity and I hope that you will, have a most enjoyable time on this joyous and memorable occasion.

Lastly, may I therefore take this opportunity to wish you a splendid and prosperous new year in advance.

Thank you for your rapt attention.

God Bless.

Uche M. Olowu, Ph.D, FCIB

President/Chairman of Council

The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria

Friday, November 30, 2018

