



OPENING REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS NIGERIA (CIBN), UCHE M. OLOWU, Ph.D., FCIB AT THE DINNER OF THE 11TH ANNUAL BANKING AND FINANCE CONFERENCE, HELD AT CONGRESS HALL, TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2018.

Protocol

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I warmly welcome you all to the 11th Annual Banking and Finance Conference Dinner. I am highly elated to see so many distinguished guests present. To all who have made the trip from far and near to be here with us today, I offer my sincere gratitude.

I would also once again like to extend my appreciation all distinguished dignitaries who made the first day of the 11th Annual Banking and Finance Conference such a resounding success. We are grateful to have had the presence of eminent personalities such as; His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President, Republic of Ghana, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, GCON, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, CON, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, ,His Excellency, Mr. Okezie Ikpeazu , FCIB, Governor, Abia State; His Excellency, Mr. Willie Obiano, Ph.D., FCIB, Governor, Anambra State His Excellency, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, the Governor of Ondo State, and Mrs. Aisha Abubakar, Honourable Minister of State for Industry, Trade & Investment, among many others. Your Excellencies, we are greatly honored by your presence here with us today and hope for your continued support of the Institutes activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure you would agree with me that the sessions held today based on the theme for the Conference: **MSMEs: Game Changer for Economic Growth and Development** were quite informative and enlightening. I have no doubt that participants have gained a significant amount of knowledge on the topic which would in turn be utilized for value added activities.

This evening, we would feature success stories from two seasoned entrepreneurs, Mr. Shola Akinlade, Co-Founder/Chief Executive, Paystack and Mr. Bolaji W. Balogun Co-Founder/Chief Executive, Polysmart Packaging Group. Participants are expected to further gain as they would share with us their paths to success as well as their vital lessons learnt along the way. In featuring these remarkable men, we wish to inspire up and coming entrepreneurs to follow their dreams no matter the setbacks they may encounter. We are also privileged to have with us, Mr. Dike Chukwumerije, Mr Chukwumerije is an award-winning author, spoken word and performance poetry artist. Tonight, he would stimulate this august with a thought provoking performance sure to grab the attention of the millennials among us and the young at heart.



Distinguished guests, I could not end these remarks without appreciating the efforts of the Consultative Committee of the 11th Annual Banking and Finance Conference as well as the organizing team who have collectively ensured a world class event. With such a hard-working and dedicated team, only bigger and better successes are sure to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we settle down to enjoy the merriments and presentations of the evening, I encourage you to all interact with each other and network. Who knows, the next big ideas, multi-million-dollar partnerships, start-ups and innovations may be seated in this room waiting happen

Once again, I thank you for making out the time to dine with us. I look forward to interacting with you further over the course of the evening.

Thank you for the kind attention.

Enjoy your meal and other fixtures.

Uche M. Olowu, Ph.D, FCIB

President/Chairman of Council

The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria

September 11, 2018.