



SPECIAL REMARKS DELIVERED BY GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON, GCFR AT THE FIRST EVER EXTRA-ORDINARY FELLOWSHIP INVESTITURE OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA HELD AT FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS ON MAY 16, 2019

Protocols

Dear esteemed audience, I am greatly honored and pleased to be part of this auspicious occasion of the Fellowship Investiture of these accomplished professionals and to deliver this special remarks. I am indeed grateful for the Institute's invitation to chair this occasion of the admission of these leading minds in the highly respected and ethical industry into the coveted Fellowship of the Institute.

I am told that, The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) is the umbrella professional body for banks and bankers in Nigeria with the mandate to among others, determine the standard of knowledge and skills to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the banking profession and ensure the furtherance, maintenance and observance of ethical standards and professionalism among practitioners of the banking profession in Nigeria. In the discharge of the mandate, the Institute organises developmental and social activities for its members including Conferences, Continuous Compulsory Professional Development (CCPD), induction of newly qualified members, fellowship Investiture etc. This explains why we are here this evening to witness this Extraordinary Fellowship Investiture which is one of the statutory activities of the Institute.

The Nigerian banking and finance industry has in recent time been plagued with frauds and unethical practices. No day passes without reports of frauds and other unethical practices in the industry. This constitutes a big threat to the values of trust and professionalism which ought to be the basic principles of the banking industry. By this Investiture programme and its theme **“Ethical Dilemma in Financial Institutions: The Way Forward”**, the Institute seeks to achieve two mandates at one event, one being the award of Fellowship status to the deserving members of the profession and the other being to ensure the furtherance, maintenance and observance of ethical standards and professionalism among practitioners of the banking profession in Nigeria.

To stress the importance of the subject of discussion this evening, the Institute has brought to this gathering, a perfect gentleman and a thorough bred banker, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, CON, FCIB, Chairman, Coronation Capital Nigeria Limited & Africa Initiative for Governance as one of our distinguished guest speakers. Mr. Aig-Imoukhuede is a seasoned banker and philanthropist with over 30 years of experience in the finance industry. We are glad to have him here this evening, and



I assure you all that this gentle man will do a great job tonight because I have never known him to under deliver.

Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to introduce the second Guest Speaker, **Mr. Soji Apampa**, the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Convention on Business Integrity Limited will share deep insight acquired from his over two (2) decades of knowledge on anti-corruption, ethical business practices and corporate governance in both Private and Public sectors. Having served on various high profile Groups globally, including the Working Group of the UN Global Compact on the tenth (10th) principle and the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference Committee, I am certain that at the end of his speech, we would be able to chart a way out of this hydra-headed monster called ethical dilemma which is threatening to reduce our once buoyant banking and finance industry to rubbles.

My dear awardees, I wish to congratulate you all for being considered worthy of this prestigious award. If it were in the Army, what you are about to receive today is equivalent to your being decorated as a **General** and being a General means that you have reached the zenith of your profession. There are many of your likes in the industry but the Institute in its wisdom has considered you worthy of this award. I need not be told that there are many other people whose applications may have been stood down due to one reason or the other while yours were considered worthy. I say kudos to you all. The reward for good work they say is more work, so I encourage you all to keep up your good works and join hands with your Institute, to ensure that the Nigerian banking and finance industry becomes safe again for all stakeholders. Permit me to quote **Warren Buffett** who said “ **Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree long time ago**”. So I enjoin you to join hands to wage war against unethical practices in the banking and finance industry today for the future to be bright for generations to come.

The President/Chairman of Council, the Registrar/Chief Executive, the Management and staff, as well as members of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), while I congratulate you for adding to the number of **Generals** you have today, please accept my appreciation for being a part of this epoch making event

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen let me end this remarks by wishing you all a wonderful and fun filled event.

I thank you all for your kind attention.



General Yakubu Gowon, GCFR

Former Head of State

Federal Republic of Nigeria

May 16, 2019