

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF THE 21ST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN, ICAN LAGOS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY – JUNE 17, 2023.

Dear Distinguished Professional Colleagues,

I look around this room today and I see the faces of astute professionals. I see the faces of people who have made great contributions to the growth and development of the accounting profession in Nigeria and the world. I see the faces of a peculiar people who have demonstrated capacity and courage to build our Institute, our district, and our country unto greatness.

Thank you for this esteemed honor and the opportunity to serve as the Chairman of ICAN Lagos and District Society. I am deeply humbled by the trust you have placed in me to lead this Prestigious District.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the Past Chairmen of Our District - I stand on established Protocol, for the legacy they have bequeathed to the membership and the new leadership of the District. Thank you for your overwhelming support and confidence in my abilities. It is your dedication to the accounting profession and your unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethics and integrity that makes our Institute a beacon of excellence. I am committed to continuing your legacy and further advancing our profession.

I want to thank every member of the 2022/2023 Executive Committee for supporting and giving me the courage and will to accept the mantle of leadership.

I want to thank our over five hundred strong, supportive, dedicated financial members. Thank you for believing in the District. Thank you for building the District into what we have today.

I want to express my gratitude to the accounting community at large. Your unwavering commitment to professionalism and the pursuit of excellence inspires us all. We are part of a noble profession that plays a vital role in upholding financial integrity, fostering economic growth, and promoting trust in the business world. I am honored to serve as the Chairman of a District that champions these values and actively contributes to the advancement of the accounting profession.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Investiture Committee Chaired by Mrs. Tai Oshisanya, FCA, the 2023/24 Executive Committee - as constituted, and the District's Secretariat. Your tireless efforts behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of our District and enable us deliver exceptional value to our members. Together, we will strive to enhance the resources, support, and opportunities available to accountants, both aspiring and experienced, throughout their careers within and beyond our catchment area.

It is with great delight, sense of responsibility and immense gratitude to the Almighty God that I stand before this distinguished audience, today, to accept my election and formal investiture as the 21st Chairman of the Premier District, ICAN Lagos and District Society. We, the 2023/24 Executive Committee, are committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, promoting excellence in the field of accounting, and advancing the interests of our members.

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of business and finance, we must embrace innovation and stay at the forefront of emerging trends and technologies. The challenges we face require us to adapt, evolve, and continuously expand our knowledge and skills.

Dreams are nice but visions require work.

As Chairman, I am dedicated to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and professional development, ensuring that our members have access to the resources and support they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

This I hope to do by focusing the mission of the 2023/24 Exco and the distinguished members of the district on the following:

1. Membership Drive

Based on our preliminary research, the data shows that our members constitute less than 5% of the Chartered Accountants within our catchment area. We will embark on an intense membership drive through attendance at various Institute events, high quality programs, timely information, interventions and feedback from the Institute and demonstrating unparalleled value to every member of the District.

2. Training

The quality of our facilitators for Technical Sessions at the monthly Members General Meeting will be strictly experts, technocrats, public figures and respected professionals. We will not compromise the quality of the facilitator nor the content of discussion. This we will do while we explore more in-house training opportunities with companies and firms within our catchment area. It is important to note that we have extraordinary accounting professionals within our district many of which are in this room right now and the time has come to engage them to strengthen our capacity.

3. Events

There are a large number of events that are set to take place during the course of this Chairmanship year. Some of which are, the Presidential Visit, the upcoming Annual Accountants Conference, the Western Zonal Conference, Catch Them Young, an evening with the Registrar, an evening with Council Members, an evening with our Patrons & Elders, End-of-year Party, Sharing Experience Day, International Accountants Day and many more.

It would be such an honor and a source of extraordinary joy to the entire 2023/24 Executive Committee and Membership of this District to see everyone here, at those events.

Our 2023/24 Executive Committee is made up of technocrats with cumulative experience in excess of two hundred years. We are comprised of Partners in professional services firms, executive and non – executive members of the boards of reputable companies and hold key executive roles in reputable public and private institutions.

Be assured of our commitment to stand strong in harmony while building our dear ICAN Lagos & District Society together. We are confident of a pleasant year as we continue to build on the good foundation of our past chairmen.

Additionally, I believe in the importance of collaboration and partnership. Our District will actively seek opportunities to collaborate with organizations, regulatory bodies, and academia to strengthen the profession, advocate its interests, and shape the future of the accounting profession in Nigeria.

In conclusion, it is said that “No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.” Henry Ford also said, “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success.”

ICAN Lagos & District is ICAN’s Premier District, and we need to take our rightful place as we continue to consolidate on our 56 years of legacy.

This is your District. This is my District. This is our District.

Together, let us embark on this journey to shape the future of the District, inspire the next generation of accountants, and continue to build a legacy that we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

Mrs. Toyin Abiola-Salami, FCA
21st Chairman, ICAN Lagos and District Society