

TEXT OF A WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY OLALEKANFATAIAYODIMEJI, PRESIDENT, KWARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES & AGRICULTURE (KWACCIMA) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES & AGRICULTURE (NACCIMA) ON THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022 AT DE PEACE HOTELS AND SUITES, ILORIN, KWARA STATE.

Protocols,

Your Excellences, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and welcome to this all-important conference. I warmly welcome our Special Guest of Honour and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President MuhammaduBuhari, GCFR, Chief Host and Executive Governor of Kwara State, MallamAbdulRahmanAbdulRasaq, Guest of Honour and Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, OtunbaAdeniyi Adebayo, National President of NACCIMA, Ide John Udeagbala, our esteemed Royal Fathers, Chamber leaders, very important dignitaries here present, Chairman of session, Mallam Yusuf OlaoluAlli (SAN), Guest Speaker, panelists and delegates from across Nigeria, I welcome you all to the 62nd Annual General Meeting/Conference of Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA). The theme of this particular conference is: *The Petroleum Industry Act and related policies – the future of Nigeria Energy Sector.*

First let me start with expressions of gratitude. I am grateful for the presence of the Chief of Staff to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, CFR. I am also grateful and delighted to see so many Chamber leaders and members here today. You represent what is best in the Chamber movement in Nigeria. I want to also specially thank our National Second Deputy President, AlhajiJani Ibrahim and National Vice-President/President of Coalition of Northern States Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (CONSCCIMA), Dr. Hezekiah Adediji for their contributions to the hosting of this AGM/Conference. Join me to appreciate and applaud all our sponsors, media persons and of course distinguished KWACCIMA members for their moral, financial and spiritual support towards this conference.

Thank you to NACCIMA for the privilege of hosting your 62nd AGM/Conference with over 300 delegates and participants.

Recognition and gratitude also go to the Chairman and members of the Host Organising Committee. Your consistent commitment, despite the heavy responsibilities of your regular jobs, to devote time and energy to serve is very much appreciated.

Finally, an event like this doesn't come together over night. That is why I also want to express my deepest gratitude to KWACCIMA Council members, Director-General and the Secretariat team who coordinated this extraordinary event over several months; our

media team, led by the hardworking and selfless Public Relations Officer, Mrs. MadinatAdigun-Oladotun; the Ag. DG of NACCIMA, Mr. OpeyemiAlaranand his team; and others that time will not permit me to mention. Thank you all.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to welcome you all here, and for Kwara State to be the host to such a distinguished gathering of government, business and industry leaders here in the State of Harmony and city of peace.

For those who have not been here before, I encourage you to use your free time to explore our beautiful, welcoming, adorable city of peace. There is an International Aviation College, The Lake resort, the popular Oja-Oba Market, The Palms Mall (Shoprite), Dada PotterySettlement, Sobi Hill, among others. I am sure you will find those places interesting and fascinating.

Today, we will have discussions on the theme of this Conference, thus, we have designed this Inter-sessional as a forum to exchange ideas, propose solutions, and as a window of opportunity to focus the wealth of experience and expertise each of you can provide on addressing the challenges of the Nigeria's energy sector. I expect your active participation so that we can have one of the best possible communique from this conference.

I urge you all to also pay a visit to the exhibition stands and patronize the exhibitors. I am sure there are lots of take-away awaiting you.

I wish you all the best and hope you all have a pleasant stay in Ilorin- the city of peace. Thank you all for your presence and participation. It is a privilege for us to host you all in our city. I sincerely hope you all will enjoy the conference and the opportunities of business networking.

Thank you all for your attention.

Olalekan Fatai Ayodimeji, FCA, FCTI, MNIM
President, KWACCIMA