



REMARKS MADE BY MRS. BIMBO OLOYEDE, CHAIR OF THE PANEL OF JUDGES OF THE FILEX AWARDS AT THE 2017 AWARD CEREMONY, HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH JULY, 2017 AT THE RADISSON BLU ANCHORAGE HOTEL, OZUMBA MBADIWE AVENUE, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS.

PROTOCOLS

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here this morning to the second annual Filex Awards. I'd like to say a few words on behalf of the panel of judges, which include Mrs. Toki Mabogunje, Mr. Bolaji Okusaga, Mr. Rotimi Olukorede and myself.

Let me begin by congratulating the Executive Director of Development Initiatives Network, Dr. Bola Fajemirokun and her team, for making this huge effort to recognise those who themselves are going out of their way to bring financial literacy to the front burner of our consciousness. The truth is that only a small percentage of Nigerians really appreciate or practice the nitty gritty of financial literacy, which enables us to understand how money works, how it is earned or made, how it is invested and increased and how ultimately it can be used to help others. Even those of us gathered here today may be aware of or party to one aspect or the other of financial literacy but how many of us are actively involved in every feature?

So congratulations to those who are passionate about spreading the gospel of the benefits of financial literacy, formally, informally, individually or corporately - all whose efforts have not yet been recognised, all the nominees for these awards and of course all of today's winners – you all deserve a big round of applause.

Secondly, let me say that organising awards is as frustrating as it is rewarding. From the onset, getting people to buy into a vision that only you can see is made more difficult when it is a development rather than a commercial or social award. Development is not a popular concept and unfortunately in Nigeria, many who should support the growth of our nation's collective capacity, prefer to spend their money on projects that offer immediate gratification to the senses rather than long term advancement to the mind. With that kind of mind set, garnering support and publicity for awards like this is usually an uphill task, so I also want to applaud the commitment of the FILEX Team and say that the judges panel will continue to stand by them and hope that in the near future, this laudable objective will get the support it so richly deserves.

On that note, I am happy to inform you all, that the panel of judges is satisfied with the process that has brought us to this point today. We received the nominations individually, scored according to the criteria set for us and returned our marks to the secretariat for totalling and final recording. Consequently, we can endorse the winners of the FILEX 2017 AWARDS as having been selected through a fair and credible process and we congratulate them all.

Finally, let me say that it is instructive that the categories and winners today, are a reflection of the tenets of financial literacy and I urge us, before it is too late, to adopt and imbibe them so that we can get the best value for our hard earned money by setting financial goals. That way we can avoid the debt trap as well as the 419ers and live confident and more qualitative lives.

Perhaps more importantly we can also teach our children to be money smart from an early age, or expose them to those who can, so they don't make the same mistakes some of us have made along the line.

I was happy to read recently that the Central Bank of Nigeria and the National Educational Research and Development Council are partnering to train teachers to handle the inclusion of financial education in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools in the 2017/2018 session. That was indeed very good news which is sure to make the required impact on our economy in the near future.

Once again, on behalf of the panel of judges, I wish us all a pleasant morning.

Thank you for listening and God bless.