



---

*Welcome Address delivered by Dr. Bola Fajemirokun at the inaugural Filex Awards Presentations held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the Four Point by Sheraton Hotel, Oniru Estate, Lagos*

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, partners, friends and representatives of the media, on behalf of the Filex Awards Committee, I would like to warmly welcome you to the debut of the Financial Literacy Excellence (Filex) Awards. This event is the first of its type in the field of financial literacy in Nigeria and we are particularly humbled by the fact that all the leading players who are on the frontlines of this work, designing and delivering financial education programmes to different communities and groups across Nigeria, are represented in this room today.

This is not the time or place for lengthy speeches so allow me to briefly touch on a few important points. First, when we talk about financial literacy, we are not just concerned about improving awareness or knowledge of financial subjects. That is of course worthy and desirable but we also consider as equally paramount having the right attitudes, behaviour and practices when it comes to money management, savings, investments and other financial matters. Secondly, financial literacy matters for our individual and national prosperity and entry points for financial education exist from early childhood and at different times throughout a lifetime right up to and including when active work or employment ceases.

Briefly, what we are celebrating today are the significant and outstanding contributions that have helped to improve financial literacy in Nigeria. We have described them as the *Footprints of Distinction*. For the 2016 Awards, the selection process began with nominations through the Awards website during November and December 2015. The decision of the judges was subsequently announced during the Global Money Week celebration that takes place in the second week of March every year.

We strongly believe that the Filex Awards will also help to foster collaborations. This is against the background of financial education activities expanding and

deepening as we now have in place the National Strategic Framework on Financial Literacy. This is an important development that will undoubtedly bring more players into this space and public scrutiny. In addition, the results of the national baseline survey on the levels of financial literacy in Nigeria have been recently published. The expectation is that by drilling down to its detailed findings, financial literacy initiatives will now be evidence-led and targeted to meet specific identified needs.

Just time to mention that as part of today's event, we will be showing for the first time a short documentary titled *Footprints of Distinction* in order to provide context for the Filex Awards and to highlight the work of the 2016 winners for the two Corporate Achievement Awards; the Innovation Award; and the Consumer Champion Award.

Please sit back and enjoy the sights and sound of Filex Awards 2016!

Thank you once again for your interest and support!