

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN, NNMA GOVERNING BOARD AT THE 3RD AWARD WINNERS' LECTURE OF THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2008 AT THE TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA.

I am delighted, on behalf of members of the Governing Board of the Nigerian National Merit Award to welcome you to another moment of celebration of our national intellectual achievements. Today's Award Winners' lecture is the 3rd of its kind this year, having had previous Lectures at the University of Lagos and Gombe State University in March and August 2008, respectively.

The objectives behind the establishment of the Nigerian National Merit Award are among others to:

- i. Conduct the Award of the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM) for the promotion of intellectual and academic excellence among Nigerians;
- ii. Accord proper and due recognition to outstanding intellectual and academic attainments as well as

contribution to the growth and development of the nation.

In this regards, the NNMA aims at evolving a system that provide opportunities for networking with government, the industry, the private sector, Nigerian scientists, the Academies, and research organizations as well as Nigerian academics in the diaspora, with a view to generating ideas that can foster national development. We also hope to harness all the intellectual properties in the nation towards our national development, maintain the desire for the younger generation to embrace intellectualism as a pivot to national development.

The Award winners lecture becomes one of the avenues to achieve these laudable objectives, most especially to give our Laureates the opportunity to contribute their quota to our nation's development. Every Award Winners' lecture that have so far been delivered always focused on issues affecting our nation's development, with a view to generating ideas and policy frame work that are capable of solving the issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will agree with me that no nation can develop without contribution from its intellectual class because there are always intellectual dimension to any development. It therefore becomes the duty of the Laureates of the NNOM to contribute positively to our nation's development.

Just as the Head of Civil Service of the Federation mentioned in her speech, the title of the Lecture is not better than now, especially as a part of the requirements for achieving the Vision 20-20 of the Government. Nigerian need accountability both from the Governors and the Governed if the nation is to move forward.

It is my hope that you will all enjoy the lecture and at the end of it be able to learn one or two things on how to be accountable in whatever position we find ourselves towards making Nigeria a great nation.

Thanks for your presence and I wish you God's blessing.

PROFESSOR O.S. ADEGOKE, FAS, NNOM
Chairman, NNMA Governing Board.

