

**MINUTES OF THE COURTESY VISIT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA, (ICAN), UNITED KINGDOM DISTRICT, TO HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. DALHATU SARKI TAFIDA, OFR, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NIGERIA TO THE UK ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2009.**

**In Attendance**

- i) Mr. Damian E. Agwu - Minister/Head (Information)
- ii) Mr. Sola Enikanolaiye - Minister/SA (HC)

On Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at 11.15 a.m. Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, High Commissioner of Nigeria to the United Kingdom received in audience, the Executive Members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), UK District. The delegation comprised:

- i) Mr. Ladi Hammond - Chairman
- ii) Mr. Gbenga Samuel - General Secretary
- iii) Mr. Toyin Akande - Technical Officer
- iv) Mr. Gbenga Coker - Finance Secretary
- v) Ms Tinuola Adeyemi - Social & Publicity Secretary

2. The objectives of the visit according to Mr. Gbenga Samuel, who at the beginning stood in for the Chairman, were as follows:

- i) Pay homage to the Head of Mission;
- ii) The show of appreciation for the enlightenment and guidance received from the High Commissioner, particularly with regard to the social and community activities of the ICAN UK District;

- iii) To request the pleasure of the company of the High Commissioner at the 2009 annual dinner of the organization scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2009;
- iv) To ascertain from the High Commissioner how the data of individual members of the organization in the UK could be captured and placed at the disposal of the Nigerian Government back home and
- v) To request notification when any Nigerian VIP is on official visit to the United Kingdom.

3. Responding, Dr. Tafida expressed appreciation for the regular visit of the leaders of the organisation to the Mission, recalling that the visit was the third since his assumption of office as High Commissioner. He described Accountants as one of the few professionals in the UK that are readily absorbed by the host state labour market on qualification. He seized the opportunity to ascertain the pre-conditions in the UK for qualification and career progression in the profession. He also sought to know the similarities and dissimilarities between ICAN UK and ICAN Nigeria. These were explained.

4. On the issue of members data capturing raised by the visiting ICAN Executive members, Dr. Tafida explained that Nigerians In Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) UK (Europe) consisting of professionals like them notably, doctors, nurses, lawyers, engineers, lecturers, researchers etc, had formally launched in London early in the year the Global Data-Base of Nigerians in Diaspora. He noted that the High Commission, here in London was hosting that Data-Base and enjoined members of ICAN UK to register with this Data Base.

5. The High Commissioner accepted the invitation to the dinner but with the rider that it would commence promptly as indicated in the invitation card, which would be sent. He seized the opportunity to recall the recent visit of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, GCON, Vice President of Nigeria to London where the reception gate was locked thirty minutes after the commencement of activities. He disclosed that he was unruffled by the furore that it generated in the print media. He urged NigerianS to imbibe the culture of prompt attendance at social engagements. He however hinted, without prejudice to the philanthropic and charity orientations of the organisation, that he would not attend the dinner to donate Government money. Rather, he said, any donation made would come from his personal pocket.

6. On the forthcoming 49<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Celebration in the UK, Dr. Tafida intimated the visiting ICAN Executive members of the seminar scheduled for Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2009 and the larger Nigerian Community celebration in his official residence, Abuja House, on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009. He assured them that invitation cards would be sent to the visiting delegation.

7. Before the meeting ended, Mr. Ladi Hammond, the leader of the delegation presented a token of appreciation to the High Commissioner, on behalf of his organisation. Thereafter group photograph followed.

**NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION  
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM.**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2009**