



OVERVIEW

CHIEF FOLAKE SOLANKE, SAN
PROFESSOR OLANREWaju A. ONADEKO, SAN

- *The Contribution of Chief Folake Solanke, SAN*
- *Presentation of Certificates and Plaques*
- *Notes of Appreciation and Closing Remarks*

CAVEAT: TEXT ALREADY EDITED

**A Congratulatory Goodwill Message “in absentia”
by
Chief Folake Solanke SAN, OON, CON
to the Induction Ceremony of the New Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs)
on Wednesday the 22nd day of November 2023 in Lagos, Nigeria**

I acknowledge with appreciation the letter of invitation dated the 10th day of November 2023 sent to me by Prof. Fabian Ajogwu SAN and Professor O.A. Onadeko SAN asking me to be a Facilitator at the above-named Induction Ceremony.

I salute the Chairman of the occasion, the Chief Justice of Nigeria the Hon Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, all the other Justices, the Hon Attorney General Prince Lateef Fagbemi SAN and the NBA president Mr. Yakubu Maikyau SAN, the BOSAN Secretary Olumide Sofowora SAN and the Leadership Committee Chairman Chief Felix Fgbohunbe SAN.

It is likely that the Hon Justice Eko JSC is present. I salute His Lordship who always attends this yearly strategic event

I now applaud the efforts of all other organizers and also greet the veteran SANs for their support.

Now, the last but not the least, I congratulate and rejoice with the newly-minted Silks. You are extremely fortunate to join the prestigious rank of the Inner Bar. I wish you every singular success and pray that your euphoria of becoming Silks will last forever. Amen. My own euphoria of 42 years ago at the Supreme court in Lagos in 1981 when I had the good fortune of becoming the first female SAN, still abides with me. The rank carries with it huge prestige, and simultaneously, heavy responsibilities. I wear my own Silk robe as a toga, a garment which constantly reminds me of my responsibilities to, and for the rank which rank the Supreme Court itself describes as “prestigious”.

I am constrained to say, with great distress, that some of our rank betray our status by engaging in egregious activities which pollute the “Silk” environment and give us a bad name. I pray that God will bestow upon each one of you exemplary leadership attributes to perform as a credible SAN. “Deo Volente”.

I ask every one of you to wear your Silk robe as a garment of honour to remind you of your stupendous professional obligations as a SILK. All members of the NBA and BOSAN must engage in self-introspection, self-analysis and self-examination . . . to help to

restore the golden age of our one and only learned profession. It is a daunting task, but if everyone of us is corruption-free, the entire profession will be corruption free. Thus, the obligations of righteousness and rectitude belong to each one of us.

I digress for a moment.

Now, I respectfully invite the NBA and BOSAN, in collaboration, to help start a national conversation against the bug called "Japaism". Whenever it is mentioned, people laugh. **It is not a laughing matter** because our national assets and professionals are fleeing the country to relocate to foreign lands. It is a colossal loss because we use our precious resources to train them. I have not heard of any move by government to admit that "japaism" is a national catastrophe to be confronted by making our work terrain less hostile for our young brilliant professionals who must develop our country. Nobody will develop our country for us.

I repeat, Japaism is not a laughing matter. Let us discharge our professional mandate as the voice of the people to advocate what is best for our country by starting the national conversation against "Japaism". We must create remunerative jobs for the youth, either graduates or artisans.

Now, back to the topic of this Message.

In peroration, I appeal to you

- please, do not fall down,
- please, do not have an accident and sustain a fracture.

Why? The reason is that the astronomical cost of treatment of an illness in our beloved country is an invitation to bankruptcy!

I thank you all and I look forward to next year's Induction Ceremony. "Deo Volente".

I applaud the articulate Reader of My message. I ask you all to thank God for my survival. I am profoundly grateful for your concern, affection, support and prayers.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2023

Chief Folake Solanke SAN ,OON , CON
B.A.,Dip.Ed., FNIALS,LL.D (h.c), LL.D (h.c)
HLF, D.Litt (h.c) ,D.Litt (h.c),D.Litt (h.c), LLD (h.c)
First Lady SAN
"Matriarch of the Bar"