

**ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS**

*by*

**Hajiya Queenssley Sofuratu Seghosime, mni,  
M.Sc., FCA**

*on the occasion*

**Her Investiture as the  
62<sup>nd</sup> President of The Institute of Chartered  
Accountants of Nigeria**

*at*

**The Institute's Council Chamber  
Victoria Island, Lagos State**

*on*

**Tuesday, June 2, 2026**

## **PROTOCOL**

Your Excellency, The Executive Governor of Lagos State, **Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu**

Your Excellency, The Executive Governor of Edo State, **Senator Monday Okpebholo**, ably represented by the Chief of Staff, Edo State Government, **Honorable Yakubu Musa Oshiorenuwa**

Your Excellency, **Comrade Adams Oshiomole**, mni, **CON**

Your Excellency, **Senator Ibikunle Amosun**, **OON**, **FCA**

The Special Guest of Honor, **Alhaji Aliko Dangote**, **GCON**, ably represented by the ED Dangote Group **Fatima Dangote**

The Honorable Minister of Education, **Dr Morufu Olatunji Alausa**, ably represented by the Minister of State for Education, **Mrs Suwaiba Ahmad**

The Honorable Minister of National Development, **Engineer Abubakar Momoh**

The Honorable Minister of Power, **Mr Joseph Olasunkanmi Tegbe**, **FCA**

The Accountant General of the Federation, **Mr Shamsudeen Ogunjimi, FCA**

The Group Managing Director, NNPC Ltd, ably Represented by the Chief Financial Officer, **Adedapo Segun**

The Director General, Securities & Exchange Commission, **Dr. Emomotimi Agama**

The Majority Leader Edo State House of Assembly, **Honorable Jonathan Ibhama**

His Royal Highness, **Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, FCA**,  
The Ikelebe the 3<sup>rd</sup>, The Otaru of Auchi, ably represented by the Amir Mumineen of Auchi Sacred kingdom, **Alhaji Dr Prince Chief Abdulkareem Momoh, FCA**

His Royal Highness, The Aidonogie of South-Ibie, Oba Danesi III, **Alhaji Aliyu Kevin Danesi**

Other Representatives of the Federal, State, and Other Government Agencies

The 61<sup>st</sup> President, **Mallam Haruna Nma Yahaya, mni, PhD, FCA**

The Chairman, Body of Past Presidents, **Sir Herbert Agbebiyi, KJW, FCA**

The First Deputy Vice President of ICAN, **Dr Etofolam Osuji, mni, FCA**

The Second Deputy Vice President of ICAN, **Chief Oye Akinsulire, PhD, FCA**

My Esteemed Colleagues on the Governing Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria

The President, Pan-African Federation of Accountants, ably represented by the PAFA Vice President, **Mrs R. G. Govender**

The President, Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria, **Mallam Ismaila Muhammadu Zakari, mni, FCA, PP**

Presidents of Sister Professional Bodies

The Chief Executive Officer, Pan African Federation of Accountants, **Alta Prinsloo**

The Executive Secretary, Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa, **Dr. Abel Aig Asein, FCA**

The Registrar/Chief Executive of ICAN, **Dr Lanre Olasunkanmi, FCA**

Past Registrars present and online

Chairmen & Secretaries of ICAN District Societies here present and those online

Fellows, Associates and Registered Accountants

Members of my Immediate and Extended Family

Members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm,  
Custodians of Public Information and Accountability

Our Esteemed Friends and Well-Wishers

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

## **PREAMBLE**

Today marks the climax of the process required to perfect my unanimous election by the Governing Council, on March 26, 2026, as the 62nd President of our great Institute.

Words are truly inadequate to express the depth of my gratitude to Almighty Allah for preserving our lives, ordering our steps, and making this historic moment possible.

For more than six decades, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria has stood as one of our nation's most enduring institutions of professional excellence, integrity and public trust.

Through periods of economic expansion and recession, military and democratic transitions,

technological disruption and global transformation, ICAN has remained steadfast in its commitment to accountability, professionalism and nation-building.

From its establishment in 1965, our Institute has grown from a bold vision into a globally respected professional body whose members serve in leadership positions across Nigeria, Africa and the world.

Today, we celebrate not merely a change in leadership, but the continuing journey of an institution whose story is inseparable from the story of modern Nigeria.

I therefore give all glory, honour and gratitude to Almighty Allah whose mercy, favour and divine orchestration have made this historic day possible. With humility and a profound sense of responsibility, I accept the privilege of serving as the 62nd President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

I stand on the shoulders of giants. I honour our founding fathers and mothers, our distinguished Past Presidents and all those whose sacrifices built this great Institute. I particularly acknowledge the Immediate Past President, Mallam Haruna Nma

Yahaya, mni, PhD, FCA, whose stewardship during the Diamond Jubilee era further elevated the prominence of our Institute.

I am deeply conscious of the significance of this moment. I approach this office with a determination that history will record this Presidency not for symbolism alone, but for substance; not merely for representation, but for transformation; not simply for occupying an office, but for advancing a vision.

That vision is captured in three simple but powerful words: **WE ARE ICAN.**

These words are more than a slogan. They are a declaration of identity, purpose and responsibility. They define who we are and who we must become. We are not merely a membership organisation; we are a national asset.

Nigeria stands at a defining moment in its economic history. Our nation seeks sustainable growth, fiscal resilience, expanded investment, improved governance, enhanced productivity and greater global competitiveness. None of these ambitions can be fully realised without strong institutions, transparent

financial systems and, of course, trusted professionals.

ICAN must therefore lead.

We must be bold enough to preserve what is timeless, wise enough to reform what is outdated, and courageous enough to build what the future demands.

We are not spectators in Nigeria's economic transformation. We are participants. We are partners. We are contributors. We are guardians of the systems that create confidence, attract investment and sustain economic progress.

ICAN must not merely respond to change. ICAN must lead change.

Over the next year, our agenda will be driven by the nine pillars of **WE ARE ICAN**.

One, we will **widen** access and inclusion in the profession by expanding opportunities for students, strengthening ATSWA and professional pathways, supporting women and disadvantaged groups, and deepening ICAN's footprint across Africa. Talent must never be limited by geography or circumstance.

Two, we will **enhance** professional excellence and education. We shall implement modernised learning frameworks, strengthen specialist certifications, support small and medium practitioners and pursue the establishment of an ICAN Executive and Business School. Our mission is not merely to train accountants, but to develop leaders.

Three, we will **advance** accountability and public-interest leadership. Through research, advocacy, thought leadership and strategic engagement, ICAN will continue to champion transparency, fiscal responsibility, sound governance and national development. We will strengthen the ICAN Accountability Index and deepen our contribution to public policy.

Four, we will **reinvent** the profession through digital transformation. Artificial intelligence, data analytics and emerging technologies are reshaping the world. We shall equip our members with future-ready competencies, modernise our systems and ensure that ICAN remains at the forefront of innovation.

Five, We will **expand** strategic partnerships and global influence. We shall deepen engagement with international professional bodies, development institutions, regulators, universities and strategic partners so that the voice of ICAN continues to shape global conversations about the future of the profession.

We will strengthen our **institution**. Governance, operational excellence, performance management, data-driven decision-making and service delivery will receive renewed attention. A great vision requires a great institution, like ICAN.

We will **champion** sustainability and value creation. We shall promote ESG reporting, integrated reporting, sustainable finance and responsible business practices. Our members must become leaders in creating long-term value for organisations and society.

We will **advance** member value and welfare. Membership of ICAN must continue to be both prestigious and beneficial. We shall strengthen engagement, mentorship, professional mobility,

recognition and career development opportunities for our members.

Finally, we will **nurture** ethics, integrity and professional discipline. Integrity remains the foundation upon which everything else stands. We will strengthen ethical compliance, professional discipline, quality assurance and continuous ethics education.

These are not merely programmes. They are commitments. They are responsibilities. They are our promises.

The future will not be shaped by those who merely witness change. It will be shaped by those who have the courage to lead it.

Every thriving economy is built on confidence.

Every strong institution is built on accountability.

Every sustainable organisation is built on integrity.

As Chartered Accountants, we sit at the intersection of business and governance. We stand between resources and responsibility. We transform information

into insight, compliance into confidence and accountability into public trust.

Our relevance must never be measured only by the number of members we produce, but by the value we create, the confidence we inspire and the impact we make.

To our students, I say: your future begins now.

To our young professionals, I say: the profession needs your energy and innovation.

To our practitioners, I say: your expertise remains critical to national development.

To our senior members and Past Presidents, I say: your wisdom will continue to guide our journey.

This is not my vision.

This is our collective vision.

This is not my responsibility.

This is our responsibility.

This is not my moment.

This is our moment.

And so, as we begin this new chapter in the life of our great Institute, let us remember that every generation is called upon to leave a legacy greater than the inheritance it received.

The founders answered that call.

The leaders who followed answered that call.

Today, that responsibility rests with us.

Let future generations say that when our moment came, we rose to it.

Let them say that we strengthened the profession.

Let them say that we expanded opportunity.

Let them say that we defended integrity.

Let them say that we advanced accountability.

Let them also say that we elevated the voice of ICAN across Nigeria, Africa and the world.

Most importantly, let them say that we justified the confidence placed in us.

For institutions endure only when each generation accepts responsibility for the next.

That responsibility is now ours.

And we shall not fail it.

Let it therefore be known, in every boardroom, every classroom, every office, every community and every nation where our members serve:

We are not merely accountants.

We are custodians of trust.

We are guardians of accountability.

We are architects of sustainable value.

We are partners in national development.

We are ambassadors of integrity.

We are the conscience behind confidence.

We are the profession behind progress.

We are ICAN.

And together, by the grace of Almighty Allah, we will shape a future that history will remember.

## **APPRECIATION**

I did not arrive at this point by myself. I have been guided, lifted, encouraged and lovingly corrected by many mentors, colleagues and friends; too numerous to mention individually, yet each one deeply etched in the fabric of my memory.

I wish to appreciate our revered Past President, **Mr. Chidi Ajaegbu, FCA**, whose persistence and encouragement drew me into ICAN Council in 2014 and helped open a defining chapter in my journey of service to the Institute.

I am equally grateful to **Dame Joy Onome Adewuyi, FCA**, Past President of our great Institute, for her encouragement, and support. Your distinguished service to the profession, gracious disposition, and commitment to the advancement of ICAN continue to inspire many of us. I appreciate your support and the honour of your presence on this memorable occasion.

I also deeply appreciate Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, mni, CON, former Governor of Edo State and distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for his friendship, goodwill, encouragement and invaluable role. Sir, your support has added exceptional honour to this occasion, and I remain profoundly grateful.

I would like to appreciate our Special Guest of Honour, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, a man of high integrity for honouring us today.

Your attendance today is more than a gesture of goodwill; it is a powerful affirmation of the values we cherish, the institution we serve, and the shared

aspirations that unite us. Your presence has enriched this ceremony, elevated its importance, and made this moment even more memorable.

I must also specially acknowledge and appreciate Mr. Paul Dunia and Mr. Peter Dunia, fondly known as “**Mr. Initiator**” and “**Mr. Project**,” respectively, for their remarkable commitment to the advancement of our Institute. Their pledge to support the building and furnishing of an ICAN Learning Centre is a profound demonstration of generosity, vision and institutional goodwill. This noble gesture will strengthen professional learning, expand access to knowledge, and leave an enduring legacy for generations of ICAN students and members.

I also want to acknowledge my BBC family, (formerly BDO) a firm of Chartered Accountants, where I was trained. Incidentally, that Firm has produced three (3) Past Presidents of this great Institute and I stand here today as the fourth ICAN President from the same Firm.

I also want to appreciate my NRS family (formerly FIRS) where I had the opportunity to contribute to national development. I particularly want to thank the Executive Chairman for his support.

To my Quebaan Family, I say thank you.

I also thank all members of our great Institute, at home and in the diaspora, including our District Societies, Committees, Faculties, students and young professionals, for your confidence, commitment and belief in the future of ICAN.

I must also place on record my sincere gratitude to my distinguished colleagues on the Governing Council of our great Institute. Their support, encouragement, constructive engagement, and commitment to the ideals of ICAN have made my task considerably easier. I am deeply grateful for the trust they reposed in me and for the opportunity to stand as the 62<sup>nd</sup> President.

I remember, with deep love and eternal gratitude, my late parents, Hajiya Lametu Seghosime and Alhaji Kadiri Momoh Seghosime, who nurtured me, shaped my character and instilled in me the enduring values of faith, discipline, humility, hard work and service. Though they are no longer with us physically, their prayers, sacrifices and teachings continue to live in me and guide this journey.

I also thank my children among whom are Saeed, Ramat, Rasheeda, Ismail, whose love, and

encouragement have remained a constant source of strength and joy.

To my beloved family, immediate and extended, I owe a deep debt of gratitude for your love, sacrifice, patience and prayers. No one rises alone, and your support has been one of the quiet pillars of this my journey.

Thank you, and may Almighty Allah bless the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and bless us all.