CLOSING REMARKS

by

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62nd President
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria

at the

Closing Ceremony of the 56th Annual Accountants' Conference

Theme

Beyond Numbers: Strengthening the Economy, Securing the Nation

on

Thursday, October 22, 2026

The Special Guest of Honour

Your Excellencies, the Governors of …… and other States

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal

Our Royal Fathers here present and joining online

The Vice President of ICAN, Mazi Etofolam Osuji, mni, DBA, FCA

The Chairman, Body of Past Presidents, Senator Felix Kolawole Bajomo (Chief), mni, FCA

The Revered Past Presidents here present and joining online

The 1st Deputy Vice President of ICAN, Chief Oye Akinsulire, PhD, FCA

The 2nd Deputy Vice President of ICAN, Mr Tajudeen Adewale Olayinka, FCA

The Immediate Past President of ICAN, Mallam Haruna Yahaya, mni, PhD, FCA

The Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Njum Uma-Onyemenam, FCA

Members of the Governing Council of ICAN

Distinguished members of the National Assembly here present

Representatives of all the Professional Accountancy Organisations here present or joining online

The Guest Speakers

Presidents of Sister Professional Institutes from within and outside Nigeria

The Registrar/Chief Executive, ICAN, Lanre Olasunkanmi, PhD, FCA

Members of the Planning Committee of the 56th Annual Accountants' Conference under the leadership of Dr Tobi Ayodele Abiola, mni, FCA

Distinguished Professional Colleagues here present and joining online

Eminent Invited Guests

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, with hearts full of gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose, we have come to the close of our 56th Annual Accountants' Conference. To Almighty God, we give all the glory. To the 11,870 delegates, comprising 8,910 physical and 2,960 virtual participants, including 517 young accountants, I say a heartfelt thank you. You have made this the most attended Annual Accountants' Conference in the history of our Institute, and you have shown once again that when ICAN calls, our members answer.

2. When we gathered here, I challenged us to look beyond economic indicators and consider the lives behind the numbers. I asked three questions: What must we do differently? What must we do better? And what must we begin doing together? Over the past few days, our speakers, panellists and participants have confronted these questions with uncommon depth and clarity.

3. We have been reminded that economic reforms must become enduring institutions; that prosperity cannot flourish without security; that enterprises must outlive their founders; and that technology must strengthen, rather than diminish, accountability. Above all, we have reaffirmed one fundamental truth: a nation's progress depends not merely on the resources it possesses, but on the integrity of its institutions and the quality of its decisions.

4. One challenge stood out clearly from our deliberations: ICAN must deepen its contribution to national development through sustained, evidence-based engagement on issues of public importance. We accept that responsibility. Our influence must be felt not only in boardrooms and financial statements, but in public policy, institutional reform and the everyday lives of Nigerians.

5. Distinguished colleagues, no professional body in Nigeria is better placed to meet this challenge, because our members are everywhere. You are in the Executive, managing public finances and shaping fiscal policy. You are in the Legislature, making laws and holding government to account. You lead and steer our industries, banks, regulatory agencies and enterprises, large and small. You teach and research in our universities and polytechnics, and you serve in the security services, in the public service, in civil society and across the diaspora. That members of our Institute today serve as Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy and as Executive Chairman of the Nigeria Revenue Service speaks eloquently to the confidence this nation places in our profession. Wherever you serve, you carry the ICAN name, and you have carried it with distinction. I am proud of every one of you.

6. Yet the nation expects even more of us, and so I charge you to do more. To those in government, be the conscience of the public purse and ensure that every naira is accounted for. To those in the Legislature, bring the discipline of our profession to the laws you make and the oversight you provide. To those in industry, build enterprises that create jobs, pay their fair share of taxes and outlive their founders. To those in academia, raise a generation of accountants equipped for a digital and data-driven world. And to our young accountants, the future of this profession is in your hands; seize it with courage and integrity.

7. The Conference may be ending, but our responsibility is only beginning. As we leave the Conference and return to our offices, businesses, institutions and communities, let us translate these conversations into action. Let us strengthen controls where they are weak, challenge practices that compromise integrity, embrace innovation responsibly and insist that public resources deliver public value. Let every delegate depart with at least one commitment capable of making a measurable difference.

8. On behalf of the Governing Council and the entire ICAN family, I express our profound appreciation to our Special Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony, Dr Zacch Adelabu Adedeji, FCA, Executive Chairman of the Nigeria Revenue Service, for formally declaring the Conference open. We are equally grateful to …….., the distinguished Governors, Honourable Ministers, legislators, royal fathers and other eminent personalities whose support and participation enriched this gathering.

9. I particularly appreciate our distinguished speakers and panellists, including His Excellency, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu; the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Taiwo Oyedele, FCA; the Honourable Minister of Defence, General Christopher Gwabin Musa (Rtd), mni, OFR; the Group Managing Director of Sahara Group, Mr Kola Adesina; the Chief Executive Officer of Joy Transformation International Leadership Academy, United Kingdom, Joy Ogeh-Hutfield; and our other eminent resource persons, for their excellent presentations. Your insights have challenged our thinking and strengthened our resolve to serve the nation more meaningfully.

10. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the leadership of the international and regional professional accountancy organisations, our revered Past Presidents led by Senator Felix Kolawole Bajomo (Chief), mni, FCA, members of Council, our partners, sponsors and exhibitors. Your continued confidence in ICAN strengthens our collective capacity to serve the profession and society.

11. To the 56th Annual Accountants' Conference Planning Committee under the leadership of Dr Tobi Ayodele Abiola, mni, FCA, the Registrar/Chief Executive, Lanre Olasunkanmi, PhD, FCA, the Secretariat, volunteers and everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, I offer my sincere gratitude. You have shown what dedication, teamwork and a shared commitment to excellence can accomplish.

12. It is my pleasure to announce that the 57th Annual Accountants' Conference will take place from Sunday, October 17 to Friday, October 22, 2027. We look forward to receiving you again.

13. Distinguished professional colleagues, the true legacy of this Conference will not be found in the speeches we applauded, but in the decisions we improve, the institutions we strengthen and the lives we help transform. Our nation does not need accountants who merely explain yesterday's figures. It needs professionals who will help shape a better tomorrow. That is our calling. That is our responsibility. That is our opportunity. And together, we must rise to it. **We are the conscience behind the confidence. We are the profession behind progress. WE ARE ICAN.**

14. To those travelling, I wish you safe journeys to your respective destinations, and to all of us, a fruitful return to our duties. May Almighty God bless our Institute, bless our profession and bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

15. Thank you, and God bless you all.

16. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is now my honour and privilege to respectfully invite our Special Guest of Honour at this closing ceremony, His Excellency, ……., to formally declare the 56th Annual Accountants' Conference closed.

17. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

Hajia Queensley Sofuratu Seghosime, mni, MSc, FCA
President and Chairman of Council
October 22, 2026