

**VOTE OF THANKS PRESENTED BY DR (MRS) SARAH ALADE,
OON DEPUTY GOVERNOR, ECONOMIC POLICY AT THE
LAUNCHING OF THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY HELD
AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA, ON TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 2012**

Protocol,

I feel greatly honoured to be invited to give the vote of thanks at this gathering to launch the National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

I am particularly grateful to His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria. for making out time of his busy schedule to attend this occasion.

We are humbled by the encouraging words from Her Royal Highness, Princess Maxima of The Netherlands, an acknowledged champion of the financially excluded. Your deep concern for those in the lower rungs of the economic ladder has received global acclaim.

We cannot fail to appreciate the presence of the Executive Governors of States, Chairmen, Senate and House of Representative Committees on Agriculture, the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Investment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Women Affairs at this unique event.

We are also indebted to our friends and partners, the chief executives of banks and the entire banking community for being

resolute and responsive to the challenges we face in our bid to create a stable financial system.

We must specially appreciate the Executive Director of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion - Dr. Alfred Hannig, Managing Director of Child & Youth Finance International - Jeroo Billimoria, representatives of GIZ and other development partners, donors as well as institutions and agencies that have identified with us through their efforts in making this ceremony a success. My profound gratitude also goes to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and other members of the Diplomatic Community for identifying with us and their unflinching support in our efforts at reducing the poverty in Nigeria.

I am grateful to my lords spiritual and temporal here present for their royal and spiritual blessings at this event. We also appreciate the management and staff of Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja for providing an effective and efficient service.

To the Governor and Management of the CBN, we are immensely grateful for providing the resources.

I wish to salute our distinguished participants of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion Peer Learning Programme and the Child and Youth Finance Africa Sub-Regional meeting which will continue after this event.

For an event of this magnitude, we might have inadvertently missed out some names. It is not intended to diminish or overlook your useful contributions which we appreciate immensely.

In conclusion, I express our sincere thanks to the Gentlemen of the Press for their immense support to the success of this launch and enjoin them to keep faith with the development schemes and programmes of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

We are indeed grateful to you all and may God bless Nigeria.