

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, BENIN BRANCH DR ATU-OMIMI EJOOR OSARETIN KINGSLEY ON THE OCCASION OF THE COURTESY VISIT OF THE ASSOCIATION TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF EDO STATE, HON JUSTICE FRANCES ESEOHE IKPONMWEN ON THE 22ND DAY OF MARCH 2017.

It gives me great joy and honour today to identify and felicitate with a worthy lioness whose roar has been so loud and ferocious that the government and her profession could not but accord her the honour she deserve. My lord, I speak for everyone when I say that every lion in the Benin pride is proud of you.

The university of Nigeria Alumni Association (UNAA) is the umbrella body that brings together every alumnus and alumna of the university to ensure their welfare individual and collectively, as well as to support the growth of the university. All these are geared towards the fulfillment of that famous motto of the university – To Restore the Dignity of Man.

At this point in our nation’s history, where the self-respect and self-esteem of the common Nigeria has come under severe attack from a myriad of socioeconomic, sociocultural and sociopolitical uncertainties prevalent in the society, it becomes imperative that men and women of proven integrity, with a track record of excellence in service are appointed into key offices to salvage what is left of the Dignity of the average Nigerian. Little wonder the searchlight picked up one of our own.

There is no doubt in our mind that you will discharge your duties with veracity and the fear of God. We pray that your tenure as Chief Judge of Edo State will mark a watershed in the judicial space of the state, nay the nation.

We implore you to identify with and support your alma mater. While we are aware of the hermitous and reclusive lifestyle your position demands, we hope you can at least help galvanize UNN graduate in the legal profession who practice in Benin. This is because the number of lawyers who are financial members of the Association falls awfully short compared to the number that practice in Benin. With your influence and input, we are sure the trend will be reversed.

Once again, we congratulate you on this great honour and wish you a very successful tenure.

Yours,

Dr. Atu Omimi Ejoor Osaretin Kingsley
President, UNAA Benin Branch.