

**SPEECH BY HON. JUSTICE E.F. IKPONMWEN, CHIEF JUDGE, EDO STATE,
NIGERIA AT HER INVESTITURE CEREMONY AS PRESIDENT OF EDO STATE
SCOUT COUNCIL ON 24TH MAY, 2018.**

I wish to acknowledge with thanks this honour bestowed on me this day by being entrusted with the exalted position of President of the Edo State Scouts Council. I gather the position of President of the Edo State Scout Council is as provided by the Constitution of the Edo Scout Council.

I would have backed out of this investiture if it was not so. As there has arisen an awkward development as far as I am concerned, by reason of my spouse being the deputy President. I however, thank him for his understanding, courage and humility in accepting what he obviously cannot change, all in the true sense of service to humanity which has been one of his hallmarks.

A call to serve in any capacity is to me a blessing as in one of the scriptures we use in my church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, teaches us that "when you are in the service of your fellow being, you are only in the service of God." (Mosiah 2: 17) And he whom God calls He qualifies.

According to the **Rev Prof Greg Erhabor In his book ""1001 Timeless Inspirational Quotes" at P. 423.**

"Leadership is all about the glory of God

"Leadership cannot come without endowment from above"

"Leadership should become a reflection of God"

"Leadership is not about position, programs, prosperity or the pride of men."

And in agreement I must add that to lead is firstly to serve.

I must confess that for a very long time I have watched my spouse serve in the State Scout Council in various capacities and I never dreamt I would one day serve along with him. For me this is God's will just now and I thank Him. I was a Girls Guide in my Secondary School days for a short while in the 1960's. I could not bring myself to knot all the ropes and soon dropped off! I do not know what being President of the Edo State Scouts Council entails but I know I can always rely on the past President, the Deputy President, and all other very experienced Scouts like Chief Dr. Aletor for necessary guidance.

I like to quote **Mark Twain** when he stated "The secret of success is making your vacation your vacation" Therefore as President I will relax in doing my duty with a heart full of joy. I believe though that there will be no abiding success without my commitment to the Scout movement in Edo State. I also believe that a good leader must know when to delegate power and I am grateful that I have a more efficient, knowledgeable and responsible deputy to whom would lie most times understandably the duties of the President not only for the well being of Scouting in Edo State but for peace at home. I am ever mindful of one of the laws of power which is that "you never outshine the master".

For Scouting in Edo State, I would have to reduce my power in order to allow my master who incidentally is the deputy president, to shine!

On this note I want to thank the drafters of the Edo State Scout Council for making this day, a day of destiny. They never in their wildest dream envisaged a day when the leader would be a wife to the deputy.

This is God's plan and none should question rather let us all thank God for unfolding lessons He alone can teach.

Finally, I wish to thank my colleagues for sparing time to witness this unique occasion.

I thank my Predecessor in office for being personally present. The leadership of the Scout movement, my beloved sister, my daughter, and indeed all present for this investiture which I accept with all humility.