

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY SIR PETER OSEGHLE EDEOGHON, FNIM, 16TH PRESIDENT AND CHIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, ON FRIDAY, 28TH DECEMBER 2007.

AN ATMOSPHERE FOR ACHEIVEMENT

I thank God for His grace to ascend to this position of the 16th President and Chairman of Council of the Nigerian Institute of Management. And I thank members of Council for the trust in electing me into this exalted office. I deeply appreciate the honour. And I shall do my best to merit the confidence reposed in me. That is why I want to plead for unity of purpose in Council as I do not want to preside over a factionalized Council. We are one family that should speak with one voice for our over 70,000 members. On my part, I assure you of true service above self in our collective effort to attain the vision of our Institute.

The founding fathers of our Institute established a niche in their decision to develop Nigerian managers. They also crafted a code of conduct to emphasize and entrench selfless service. In a famous statement, our pioneer President, Dr. C.E. Abebe, OFR, CNIM, stated “as Managers whether in the public or private sector, our decisions or actions, in the management of resources, go a long way in determining the well-being of our citizens.”

The Institute has come a long way pursuing this objective in various ways. A major milestone was established in the enactment of an Act of the National Assembly in June 2003 to confer a “Charter” status on the Institute. This landmark event demanded the repositioning of the Institute which was done by a process of strategic transformation as now easily expressed in the vision of the NIM as “the Source and Symbol of Management Excellence”. In the recent past, we have worked very hard to upgrade the capabilities of our staff, and have also made considerable investment in IT. I cannot, therefore, re-invent the wheel. We can only continue on the defined path and contribute our bit to the process so as to fully realize and bring to full maturity the stream of dividends that should flow from a strategically transformed, IT-compliant and internally restructured NIM. It follows that the contending imperative is to create an **ATMOSPHERE FOR ACHIEVEMENT.**

Nigeria is a country of latent abilities in human and material resources, but under-achievement has been our major hindrance in our quest for economic development. The strength of a nation is a measure of the aggregate accomplishment of its citizenry and the full development of the citizenry, therefore, is the proof that the society has had its greatest triumph. The key issued here is the proverbial “common man” that must be the pivot of our nation’s development. As aptly put by Crawford Greenewalt, “some men are uncommon to extraordinary degree, some to a lesser. And perhaps, most uncommon of all is the common man whose achievements are exalted beyond the expectation of his circumstances. All organizations, nations, societies and civilizations will prosper and advance only to the extent that they can encourage common men to perform uncommon deeds”. The uncommon challenge we now confront in the NIM is to create an atmosphere in which people, whatever their level of talent, gain through their association with one another; for, geniuses are good and desirable but they are only golden flowers in a garden.

In the next two years, we shall strive to:

- Provide the leadership that will put the Institute in a strong position to really regulate the practice of professional management in all its ramifications as provided for in the Act. The process, which has started will be taken to a logical conclusion.
- Work on programmes that will deal with under-achievement both within the Institute and the nation’s body of Managers. This would require increasing the internal managerial and organizational competence of our Institute in order to deliver on its statutory mandate to develop, promote and regulate management practice in Nigeria for maximum proactive impact on public policy formulation, plus interventionist remedial initiatives to mitigate derailment.
- We will continue to invest heavily in our Human Capital development, as our people constitute our strength. I take this opportunity to commend all NIM staff for their loyalty, steadfastness, and assure them that we will never cease to explore ways of making NIM the preferred employer.

- In the course of time, Council shall address, with more vigour, the issue of acquiring or developing a property of our own in Abuja and also the best options for the Ikorodu land.
- Very importantly, I must emphasize the fact that NIM is a membership organization. The Institute should reach out and be of immediate valuable benefits to its teeming and especially, younger members. In this regard, the NYSC/NIM programme will be thoroughly maintained.

I cannot end this address without saluting the Past Presidents, who apart from being founders of the Institute, have stood strongly and consistently for what is right, what promotes core values and best practice in the conduct of the affairs of our Institute. I therefore pledge to do my level best to justify the confidence that was so absolutely demonstrated in my election as the 16th President of the NIM.

Finally, I want to appreciate the members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm, the Press and to assure you that we shall form a viable partnership in promoting management excellence in Nigeria.

To all our guests, I say a big thank you for your presence here at this festive period when most people are engrossed in family get-togethers, most of the time outside Lagos.

Thank you and God bless you. Wishing you a Prosperous 2008.

**SIR PETER EDEOGHON, FNIM
PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, NIM**