

Opening Speech of the NIALS 4th Inaugural Lecture

Delivered by

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I am exceedingly delighted to welcome you all to this 4th Inaugural Lecture of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Over the years, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies has made giant strides in shifting the frontiers of legal scholarship in this country. This automatically has earned us the accolade of the hub of legal research in Nigeria and Nigeria's law abode.

Inspite of our intimidating achievements and accomplishments, we have remained resolute and focused in the pursuit of execution of our mandate and more significantly in trying to work out a synergy between the activities of the Institute and the wider society in such a way that we can impact positively on the growth and development of the nation . We can beat our chest that we have excelled in this regard through our relentless conversations and engagements geared towards societal growth and national transformation.

In our Inaugural Lectures, we have also raised the bar of legal scholarship in that our three preceding inaugural lectures have formed the cornerstone for policy

formulation and execution by the Federal Government in the areas of External Borrowing and Management, Handling of Proceeds of Crime and lastly Investment Treaty Arbitration and the Emerging Markets. That these Inaugural Lectures have successfully transformed the thinking of government and redirected the policy thrust of government on the subjects is not only a tribute to the eminent Professors but an unquestionable index of the depth and breadth of scholarship that abounds in the Institute.

Today, we are here to showcase yet another of our brilliant products in the person of Professor Olarenwaju Fagbohun. Permit me to say that to the best of my knowledge, in the field of Environmental Governance, Professor Fagbohun is not just one of the best in Africa, but easily recognized as one of the best in the world. That is why his Inaugural Lecture today is a signpost of our drive towards becoming a truly world class Institute that Nigeria and Africa will be deeply proud of. That is why Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is easily the preferred destination of brilliant young minds both locally and internationally and the assembly of the best and brightest in legal scholarship.

Let me assure our distinguished invited guests, friends of the Institute and our dear colleagues that we are irrevocably committed to our mandate that enjoins

the Institute statutorily to provide information, supervision, guidance and advice to post-graduate students and other researchers who are working for post-graduate degree of any University in the field of law and related subjects. Our College of Professors are aware of this statutory responsibility and working diligently and assiduously to deliver on the mandate.

I want to congratulate Professor Fagbohun for the academic feat of delivering his Inaugural Lecture today and by so doing discharging his academic obligation to the Institute as well as ventilating to the world at large his major and invaluable contributions to the development of Environmental Law and Governance.

Once more I warmly welcome you all to this 4th Inaugural Lecture of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Thank you and God bless you.

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