

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE LADIES
ASSOCIATION (PILA) ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS – 21ST JUNE, 2023**

- HE The Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu
- Distinguished Senator and Chairman House Committee on Insurance & Actuarial Matters, Senator Darlington Nwokocha
- The Honorable Commissioner for Insurance, Mr. Sunday Oluwadare Thomas
- The Chairman and Chief Launcher, Olola Olabode Ogunlana
- Co-Chairman of the Occasion, Mr. Eric Idiahi
- HRM Oba Dr. Olufolarin Olukayode Ogunsanwo JP
- The honourable guest speaker, Mrs. Ibukun Awoshika
- President/ Chairman in Council, Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria, Mr. Edwin Igbiti
- President, Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers, Barrister Rotimi Edu
- Chairman, Nigerian Insurers Association, Mr. Segun Omosehin
- President, Institute of Loss Adjusters of Nigeria, Mr. Dipo Olanrewaju
- Council of Elders and Past Presidents of PILA
- Elders and Captains of the Insurance Industry
- Special Guests
- Our dear sponsors
- Honorable Insurance Professionals and colleagues
- Seasoned Fortright Ladies
- Gentlemen of the Press
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
- All other protocols duly observed.

A very good day to you all.

It is an honour and a privilege to stand before you today, on behalf of the Professional Insurance Ladies Association (PILA) to welcome you all to this momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of PILA.

This event signifies a significant milestone in the journey of PILA to empower and uplift women in the insurance industry in Nigeria by creating a platform for women to thrive, excel, and shape the future of our industry.

Today, we stand together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women and to recognize their invaluable contributions to our growth and success. We

gather to honour the exceptional individuals who have been piloting the affairs of PILA in the past five decades. Their dedication, expertise, and vision have charted a course towards greater inclusivity, gender parity, and professional advancement for women in the Insurance industry in Nigeria and Africa.

The Professional Insurance Ladies Association is the first female professional Association to be established in Nigeria, in 1973. It is the umbrella body of female insurance professionals in Nigeria and has as her motto: "Promoting Forthright Insurance Ladies"

PILA is a non-religious, non-political and non-ethnic Association of all professional ladies in insurance in Nigeria. Membership of the association is open to all ladies who are duly elected by the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria as Insurance Professionals or who are Associates/ Fellows of the Chartered Insurance Institute, London and who identify with PILA's aims and objectives.

The key mission of PILA is to provide a forum for developing and promoting forthright professional insurance ladies who are dedicated to upholding and projecting the practice and growth of the insurance profession in Nigeria.

It is noteworthy that the association promotes insurance knowledge with a commitment to the principles of good business ethics, professionalism, integrity and excellent service in the insurance industry in Africa through chartered professional insurance ladies while building friendly interactions which encourage members in the advancement of their career goals.

PILA has been blessed with resourceful and hardworking founding members, elders, past presidents and executives over the years, leading to several accomplishments among which are the promotion of the virtues of forthrightness, professionalism and adherence to ethical practice by its members, continuing professional education through national and international exchange programs with the magnificent PILA House.

In 1999, the Association found verve and became more active because of the positive interest shown in its activities by Mr. Ogala Osoka the then President of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria and during the tenure of our past president Mrs. 'Seyi Ifaturoti.

The 2022 – 2024 Executive Team who adopted the Theme: '**TIME TO THRIVE**' Time to move from awareness to action' from knowing what to do to actually doing

it, are blessed to have our great Association's Golden Jubilee during our tenure. This calls for hard work, as we need to mirror all the efforts of the past administrations and take the Association to the next level bringing on board the following initiatives being our thrust of office:

1. PILA AFRICA

The idea of PILA Africa was mooted during the first international exchange program in The Gambia in May 2013, during the tenure of past president Olufemi Ogun with Past President Jocelyn Ogbuokiri as Education Secretary. A committee was then set up to directly work out modalities for the advancement of this cause, led by our past President Dr. Mrs. Tonia Smart of blessed memory. 10 years later, this has metamorphosed into Africa Insurance Women Association (AIWA) with the investiture of her first president, Lady Margaret Moore on the 31st of May in Algiers, Algeria during the AIO conference and general Assembly 2023. AIWA also became an Associate Body to the African Insurance Organisation (AIO). PILA's vision of having a unified Association of Insurance women across Africa is done.

2. PILA NIGERIA

PILA chapters are up and running with Abeokuta and Enugu getting set for inauguration

3. PILA BOOK

In commemoration of PILA's 50th anniversary and in line with one of the tripod policies of National Insurance Commission (Naicom) namely to develop a tag Team of Actuarial Capacity regime, My Team set out to produce a well-researched Insurance Textbook which will be handy and useful to practitioners, Insuring public and an invaluable gift to students during PILA's annual career talk shows. A committee of core professionals ably led by Mrs. Ekeoma Ezeibe was set up to work out the modalities and deliver a text book on Insurance to be launched today. We are immensely grateful to PILA Book committee, the chapter contributors and the six Insurance Companies who sponsored the production of the textbook.

4. PILA COOPERATIVE THRIFT AND MULTIPURPOSE SOCIETY

PILA Cooperative Society, registered with the Lagos state Cooperative Commission was inaugurated on the 8th of December 2022 with the Lagos State Cooperative Commission staff led by Mrs. E. A. Taomu in attendance to

administer the oath of office on executive officers. Past President Yetunde Adenuga Alatisè is the President of PILA Cooperative Society.

5. JOB SEARCH PORTAL/ PROGRAM

A Job portal has been successfully set up on PILA website. Submission of CVs and posting of jobs are ongoing. Our maiden edition of job fair to launch the portal will hold by the last quarter of this year. We are grateful to the chairman of the committee in the person of past President Folashade Onanuga and her Team for an excellent job done.

6. STUDY CENTRE

In a bid to reach out to the younger generation and an opportunity for continuing education and professional development of her members, a committee chaired by Mrs. Enitan Solarin was set up. The committee is currently working on the modalities for the physical and online tutorial spaces for those preparing for the CIIN Examination. Facilitators will be drawn from PILA members and other professional colleagues who are willing to impact knowledge as a way of giving back to our Industry.

7. WOMEN IN INSURANCE (WIIN)

PILA at 50 wishes to accommodate other women in insurance in Nigeria who are professionals in their own right. The objectives are as follows:

- To accommodate other women in insurance in Nigeria who do not have the insurance professional, chartered degree but have made a positive impact in their career in insurance. They are also considered to be women who have spent at least 15 years and who are at the top management cadre or who manage their own businesses.
- To accommodate student members towards supporting and motivating them to write the CIIN examination. This will also give room to mentor them.
- To encourage women who had been in the insurance industry for a while to become members and get chartered within a stipulated period, these women must have registered for the CIIN examinations.

This committee was led by our past president Oluwayomi Onabanjo, we say thank you.

8. CANCER AWARENESS INITIATIVE

This is an initiative aimed at creating awareness of cancer as a public health issue to strengthen actions towards improving access to quality care, screening,

early detection, treatment and palliative care. Members of the committee ably led by past president Femi Ogun joined the Lagos State Government and Marcelle Ruth organization on World Cancer Day 2023 to carry out a Cancer Awareness campaign captioned: "closing the care gap. PILA appreciates the efforts of this committee.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THIS EVENT

Throughout this ceremony, we will have the privilege of listening to inspiring speeches, Book launch, Awards, recognitions, good music, good food and networking. We shall also welcome and receive our lifetime members, congratulations to you all. We encourage you to participate actively, share ideas, and connect with fellow attendees to foster a vibrant and supportive network that will endure beyond this event.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who have supported PILA and contributed to its success thus far. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in bringing us to this moment.

On behalf of the Professional Insurance Ladies Association, I would like to thank each and every one of you for gracing us with your presence today. Your belief in our vision and your commitment to gender equality in the insurance industry will be a driving force behind our collective success. Let us use this opportunity to celebrate, inspire, and pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for women in insurance.

APPRECIATION

I sincerely wish to thank my Team of Executive for the sacrifice of time, talent and treasure in carrying out this assignment. The 50th anniversary happening during our tenure has doubled the workload for us but we are grateful to God for His grace and thankful to our wonderful elders, past presidents and distinguished forthright ladies for all their support. May God bless and reward you all.

To the 50th anniversary committee led by our highly respected past president 'Seyi Ifaturoti, The 50th Anniversary Fund raising and Awards committee led by Dr. Mrs. Bola Onigbogi, the Book Production Committee led by Mrs. Ekeoma Ezeibe, The Book Launch committee led by past president Lady Isioma Chukwuma, The programmes committee led by Princess Adeyinka Adekoya, the Publicity

Committee led by Vice President Omotola Sotade, all distinguished forthright ladies, I say a very big thank you to you all.

I cannot end this address without mentioning our founding members, Chief Mrs. Elizabeth Olubusi, Mrs. Gladys Obidigbo and elder Margaret Modupe Olusanya, all our Elders, Past Presidents and Forthright Ladies, including those that have been called to rest, for their support and commitment, I say a big thank you to you all.

To my dear husband Barr. Chief Chinedu Moore who has been on this journey with me, I appreciate and honour you. Thank you.

But most of all, to our Creator and Father, Almighty God, for making everything possible, to Him be all glory and Praise forever.

Thank you all for sharing your time with us.

God bless you all.

UP PILA!! UP CIIN! UP PILA! FORTRIGHT LADIES!!!

Lady Margaret Nkechi Moore FIIN, ACII, FCIB, FNIMN

President