

GOODWILL MESSAGE DELIVERED BY MR. BABAJIDE OLUSOLA SANWO-OLU, GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE, AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CREDIT ADMINISTRATION (NICA) POST-CHARTERED BUSINESS NETWORKING AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER NIGHT, HELD AT THE PODIUM, LEKKI, ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2023.

Protocol,

It is a distinct pleasure for me to join the President of NICA, Mr. Andy Ojei, the Vice President, Dr. Mrs. Makie Idowu and other executives of the National Institute of Credit Administration NICA to celebrate the National Institute of Credit Administration's 30th anniversary.

It is an honor to be here among such distinguished guests, including Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, and esteemed captains of industry to celebrate more than just

three decades of the National Institute of Credit Administration. It is almost one year since I myself was conferred with an honorary Fellowship of this esteemed Institute and I am very proud to be counted as one of you.

I congratulate the Institute on the achievement of this milestone which is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment of its leadership and members to promoting excellence and professionalism in credit management.

Over the past three decades, this institute has played a pivotal role in shaping the credit industry, and equipping professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the ever-changing landscape of finance.

We are also here to commemorate the transition of the institute into one of the crucial

professional bodies with powers of control, supervision, and regulation of credit management in Nigeria.

The empowerment of the institute at this time is very crucial due to our rapidly evolving economic landscape, where the need for responsible credit management and lending practices is greater than ever, and has made the role of NICA to become pivotal.

It means that by regulating credit management and offering professional qualifications, NICA will not only shape the credit industry, but also safeguard the interests of business credit providers across the nation, and ensure a strong and vibrant credit ecosystem that will support the growth and development of Nigeria's economy. It will also empower individuals and businesses to access

the capital they need to thrive and innovate, thus driving our nation's prosperity, promoting economic growth, improving financial inclusivity, and fostering entrepreneurial spirit.

As a government, my administration is wholly committed to continuously create an enabling environment that fosters financial stability, and ensure the design and deployment of policies and regulations that encourages responsible lending. I call on all Industry leaders and financial institutions to innovate, and adopt modern credit practices that ensure efficiency and security.

Our administration is always ready to Collaborate with you and Institutions like yours to encourage the education and certification necessary for members to advance in the field

of Credit administration so that we can realize a vibrant, credit-based economy that will benefit all Nigerians.

It gladdens my heart to know from Prof Chris Onalo's speech that NICA's headquarters will be located in Lagos. It is a very welcome development and I assure you of the State Government's support towards realizing this objective.

I would like to express my appreciation to the leadership of the Institute keeping alive and achieving the aims and objectives of the founders of NICA. I would also like to particularly commend Professor Onalo whose drive, tenacity, doggedness and resilience kept the dream alive in spite of the obstacles and failures on the journey that finally led to this passage and signing into law last year, the

National Institute of Credit Administration
(Establishment), Act, No 26 of 2022.

While wishing you a jolly celebration, I urge the leadership of NICA to reflect on the accomplishments of the institute, and build it up into one that will own a place in an increasingly interconnected and dynamic world.

I thank you for listening.

**Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-olu,
Governor of Lagos State.**

25th October, 2023.