

SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE WRITERS FORUM ON THE SPECIAL OCCASION OF AN AWARD PRESENTATION TO ALHAJI ABDULLAHI MUKU DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ON WEDNESDAY THE 21ST OF DECEMBER 2011.

Sir we are very grateful **for** you to have given us this opportunity to present this award to you as the **MOST DISTINGUISHED, CREATIVE AND RESULT ORIENTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE YEAR 2011**. This award is a true reflection of the efforts you have put in to reposition Arts in Nigeria.

As the name of our organization implies, our organisation is a forum of professionals from various print media in the country who have come together with the goal and determination of contributing our quota towards nation building. We have through our efforts, given in-depth, objective and unbiased reportage of programmes and activities of government, individuals, business and political class alike in the National Assembly and the various chapters of our organisation in the states. This forum is made up of people with proven integrity, good moral credentials and above all, zeal and determination to put things right and address issues of national importance.

Track records have always been our guide and watch word which has also reflected in the caliber of our members who have huge experience of practice little wonder the late Dr. Ibrahim Talba referred to us as the òchronicle of hopeö. Going by the caliber of Distinguished Senators and Honourable members that accepted to identify with us as Grand Patrons and Patrons, we have also gone a long way to show our prudence in management and dissemination of information in the Nigerian Parliaments.

Some of our achievements and contributions are the full coverage as well as the reportage of the controversial tenure elongation of 2006; the present issue of removal of fuel subsidy has also been addressed by our members. We also cover the various Committee meetings / oversight functions and public hearings of the National Assembly. We have recorded considerable success in the coverage of the Hon. Ndudi Elumelu past Committee on Power Public hearing on the \$16 billion dollars failed electricity project as well as the Sen. Sodangi Committee on Land allocations in the FCT, Sen. Ahmed Lawal Committee on the Investigation of the Privatisation and Commercialisation process by the BPE amongst others. We also give Nigerians insight on the screening and confirmation of Ministers, ambassadors, Chairmen and members of various boards and parastatals. Above all, we keep the Nigerian populace abreast of the business and performance of the Nigerian Parliament. This makes the electorates to be aware of the

performance of their elected representatives. We do create platforms for members of the Parliament to meet selected Nigerians to discuss issues of national interests which makes it possible for the legislators to impact positively on their constituents.

As any other Organisation, we have our challenges which include our Permanent Office with facilities, mobility for day to day running and effective information dissemination as well as national coverage. At present, our activities have been restricted to the National Assembly Abuja, Lagos State, Kaduna, Port Harcourt just to mention a few. In a little way of demonstrating our social responsibility to the Nigerian public, we do give free services to the oppressed and deprived in the society. We equally visit orphanages, prisons and hospitals to share and care for those in need. We equally try as much as we can to take care of some pressing needs of our members which have always been necessitated by the very risky nature of our job which exposes our members to harassment, intimidation and in some cases, death.

We are appealing sir that you use your wealth of magnanimity to see how you can contribute towards empowering and strengthening us to help us perform better for National growth and development.

Finally, we call on well meaning and progressive minded Nigerians like you to see service as a sacrifice and trust as a burden to which one day we will all account for our deeds.

Thank you and may God Almighty bless you mightily.