

**An Address by the National President of the Counselling Association of Nigeria Professor Alfred A. Adegoke
at the National Delegates Conference (NDC) holding at the University of Ilorin Auditorium
between the 3rd and 5th April 2014.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the National Delegates Conference (NDC) for the year 2014. Since the delegates conference was instituted and enshrined in our constitution several years ago it has become a very important annual event of the Counselling Association of Nigeria.

The NDC not only gives us the opportunity to take State Chapters Reports and the report of other stake holders, it also gives us the opportunity to assess and understand the challenges and opportunities facing Counsellor training and practice in Nigeria. The NDC is therefore a very important organizational arrangement of the Counselling Association of Nigeria, and I am glad to note that this year's National Delegates Conference is very well attended.

For the avoidance of doubt, let me remind us as stipulated in our constitution that the National Delegates Conference NDC shall comprise all members of the National Executive Committee, State Chapter Chairpersons and one other representative, Professional Fellows and Icons of the Association, Representative of the public sectors and stakeholders organization/establishments including the Federal Ministry of Education, Members of Standing Committees, Professors of Guidance and Counselling/Counselling Psychology, and Heads of Departments of Guidance and Counselling/Counsellor Education Programmes in tertiary institutions with accredited programmes.

Let me use this opportunity to inform delegates of an important feat that the Counselling Association of Nigeria has just recorded. As a result of tireless effort since we assumed office two years ago, this executive under my leadership, succeeded in getting ready a bill for an act to establish "The Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria" to conduct qualifying examinations, regulate the counselling profession and other related matters. This bill was presented for first reading on the floor of the National Assembly on the 19th of February 2014. Our bill is now listed in the books of the National Assembly, and work is ongoing on the bill. The information I have is that our bill is making steady progress and will soon be ready for the second reading. I must put on record my immense thanks and appreciation to the distinguished Senator Ita Enang, the Chairman of the Rules, Ethics and Business Committee of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who sponsored the bill on our behalf.

Finally let me draw your attention to the fact that our country is presently hosting a National Conference which is an attempt at national stock taking after 100 years of nationhood. This conference among other things is an attempt to freely discourse and agree on the terms of our coexistence as the Nigerian nation. The conference if properly handled has the potential of being therapeutic in the sense that for the first time representatives of the people can honestly talk about the problems bedeviling this country under one roof and seek to proffer common solutions to the several problems of this country. The Nigeria nation and the different ethnic nationalities need this kind of therapy at this time. This is why we are utterly surprised that the Counselling Association of Nigeria is not invited to this national Confab. We are however watching the proceedings very closely.

Once again I welcome all delegates to the historic city of Ilorin and wish you all a very fruitful delegates conference.

Thank you ALL.