

BEING THE SPEECH OF THE COMMISSIONER/CEO OF AIB-N, ENGR. AKIN OLATERU TO AIB-N STAFF ON THE OCCASION OF HIS REASSUMPTION OF DUTY

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Honourable Minister of Aviation for the trust and confidence reposed in me to continue to lead the AIB: and to all my colleagues and staff. You are an amazing and hardworking team, and I thank you for your support and hard work over the last four years.

At the start of my tenure in 2017, I set out to make AIB an enviable place to work.

As I stated from the beginning of my appointment in 2017, it is not necessarily about size, but efficiency and effectiveness. When we work together, under the right leadership, with a common vision and focus, it is possible to achieve great things.

In the last four years, with your help, hard work and commitment, we have taken the Agency from relative obscurity to its rightful place. I am very proud of what we have achieved, and I hope that you can all take pride in your individual and collective contributions to realising this feat.

We improved our infrastructure, equipment, human capital, and staff welfare. We also reviewed and improved our systems, processes and procedures.

We originated collaborations and cooperation agreements with several countries and institutions such as Republic of Benin, US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Singapore Transport Safety Investigation Bureau (TSIB), Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile (BEA-France), University of Ilorin (UNILORIN), University of Lagos (UNILAG) and the Nigerian Air Force (NAF).

We initiated the expansion of scope of work of the AIB-N by making efforts to ensure that it becomes a multi-modal agency, which would carry out accident investigation in all modes of transport, thereby enhancing transport safety in the country.

In the last four years the bureau's Flight Safety Laboratory has been transformed from a non-functioning lab to one of the top 5 in the world in terms of equipment and capability.

I am humbled by the progress we have achieved at AIB. I am even more humbled by the recognition and acknowledgement of these achievements by our Honourable Minister, my colleagues, staff, and the media.

Everyone who has ever worked with me will know that I am passionate about what I do.

I must appreciate the Nigerian Media for helping to spotlight the important work we do at AIB: and to effectively communicate how critically important our work impacts the matter of safety within the industry.

I want to thank you, my exceptional team at AIB, for accompanying me on this journey so far. Nonetheless, we still have work to do.

It is always good if people learn from mistakes, and sometimes it is even true that they do. However, in the Aviation industry as we must all by now be aware, mistakes can cause irreparable loss and damage.

Therefore, the work that we do at AIB is not only important but also critical, historic and is for posterity.

At AIB, it is our mandate to investigate incidents and accidents, report on them, and make relevant recommendations. The purpose of this whole exercise is to ensure as much as is possible that these accidents do not ever occur again. Our work also forms the bedrock for innovation in the industry.

Through these investigations, manufacturing flaws are also identified, as has been the case more recently in the recent incidents with the Boeing 777, and can be rectified before they lead to much larger tragedies.

It has been an honour to work with you all over the last four years, and I look forward to the next four with great expectations for how much more we will achieve together.

I invite you now to look back on the last four years, at the events, the challenges, our successes and aspirations: and work with me to continue the path of **innovation and strategic development**. We must continue to deliver on our mandate with the highest standards of professionalism as we always have, and to continue to grow thereon.

Although the last year has been fraught with uncertainty in the wake of the pandemic, I assure you that the journey ahead will be as rewarding as it is challenging; but together, we will achieve our mandate. We will continue to innovate and establish the AIB even further, to align with the best in class globally.

I plan to improve our infrastructure and equipment, strengthen our human capital, further simplify our processes, and eliminate bottlenecks in our procedures, making AIB a highly reputable institution.

As we embark upon this phase of our journey, I solicit your maximum cooperation, diligence, conscientiousness, professionalism and hard work as these are essential to achieving our goals.

I appreciate and sincerely thank you all.