

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE STAFF OF THE
LEGISLATURE BY THE CHAIRMAN, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SERVICE
COMMISSION HON. (COL.) JIMOH TIJANI (RTD), MSS, Fwc ON THE
EXPIRATION OF 4 – YEAR TENURE OF THE PIONEER BOARD MEMBERS
ON THE 17TH FEBRUARY, 2016 AT THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS, SECRETARIAT
IBADAN.**

The Board Members and my Colleagues in the Commission,
Permanent Secretary/ Clerk of the House,
Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Commission,
Directors / Principal Officers,
Staff of the Legislature,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Members of Fourth Estate of the Realm

On 19th February, 2016 we have a date with history. On this date, the 4 -year tenure of Members of the Commission will expire, therefore the Members will disengage from office. House of Assembly Service Commission Law 2007, Section 9 is very clear on the tenure of a Member of the Commission. The appointment of a Member is for four years subject to reappointment for another four years after which the Member will vacate office. However, appointment or reappointment is at the instance of His Excellency, the Government of Oyo State.

Four years ago, precisely 19 February, 2012, we came on board as pioneer Members of the Commission. I want to believe that all of us here are conversant with the purpose of the establishment of the commission. Let me quickly add that the job the parliamentary Commission is doing now was being carried out by the Civil Service Commission prior to the appointment of the Legislative Commission. Simply put, the House of Assembly Service Commission was established to ensure

separation and balance of power in the performance of its functions in supporting the Legislature, the Legislature as a separate Arm of Government.

From available record, our Commission was the 24th to be established in the Country. On assumption of office after inauguration of Commission Members, you could remember that we addressed the Staff and set the scene and the direction in which we were to perform our functions. We visited some Commissions and learnt a lot from them. Today in the same vein, we are addressing you and taking stock of our activities in the past four years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to be conversant with the law that established the Commission. This is the basis of your understanding of your right under the Law and will reduce possible acrimony in the performance of your duties.

For avoidance of doubt, the Commission is an independent, corporate body that retains the ultimate responsibility for appointment, promotion, discipline and appeal of Legislating Staff. The Commission is neither under the operational control of the Executive nor the House of Assembly.

Be that as it may, during our 4 – year tenure, the Commission made remarkable progress, in areas of Staff Administration, Capacity Building and Human Capital Development.

Among the major activities carried out were:

- a. Adoption of National Assembly Service Commission Schemes of Service.
- b. Production of Commission's Regulations.
- c. Production of Annual Reports.
- d. Staff employment to fill existing vacancies.
- e. Acquisition of e-mail address for the Commission.

- f. Work is in progress on the Commission Website.
- g. Work is in progress on the Commission Newsletter.
- h. Legislative Standing Orders will soon go into production.

Other areas the Commission is working on are:

- a. Legislative Salary Structure
- b. Legislature Loan Scheme
- c. Legislature Pension Scheme

Hopefully, these will be realized for the benefit of our Staff when financial autonomy is granted the Legislative Arm Government.

Ladies and gentlemen during our 4 – years tenure, we worked with many Staff and I want to say unequivocally that we are satisfied with the commitment and discipline of our Staff. I want you to continue in this manner as the sky is the limit.

Legislative Services is a special arm and you must be seen to be special in all you do. You must be distinct from the Civil Service. Legislative Service is elite service of the Public Service. You must be proud to belong to Legislative Service. In all you do, the way you dress and perform your functions must reflect you as a member of Legislative Service with special peculiarities. In line with this, we have started working on some accoutrement that will differentiate you from your peers in the Public Service.

Within the period of our service, we worked with four secretaries of the Commission and three of them became Permanent Secretary under our hands. This shows the level of commitment and their Leadership qualities that supported their elevation to the post. We also worked with the Clerk and Head of the management of House Service. A thorough bred individual who performed his duties without

blemish. No doubt he was nominated to attend the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS). I hope and pray that with dedication and hard work every staff will attain greatness.

I want to seize this opportunity to thank His Excellency for given us the opportunity to serve the State. We also thank the former Speaker, Oyo State House of Assembly, Senator Monsurat Sunmonu for her interest in the Commission. The present Speaker, Rt. Hon. Micheal Adeyemo is a jolly good fellow. The short period he came on board witnessed remarkable relationship with the Commission. We cherished his contributions to the progress of the Commission.

The unalloyed cooperation that existed among the Board is worthy of mention. We are like brothers and sisters, I appreciate them all. They contributed immensely to the success of the Commission's activities.

I want to thank the PS/Clerk of the House, the Secretary/PS of the Commission, Directors/Principal officers, all the staff of the Commission for making our tenure hitch free and development oriented.

I do hope and pray that in no distant future, the following among others will be realized for the benefit of all of you:

- a. The need for the Commission to take charge of the training of all the Legislative Staff.
- b. The need for the Commission's Secretary to be appointed by the Commission among Legislative Staff and not by the Executive as is presently the case.
- c. The need for all Commission's Board Members to be on fulltime appointment as is the case in other Commissions.

There is no beginning without an end. We have finished our first 4 - Year term on a very high note. We feel fulfilled and happy that we have achieved and attained a legacy of dedication, discipline and hardwork

On this note, once again, I thank you all and may God bless.