



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, MR YAKUBU CHONOKO MAIKYAU, OON, SAN, DELIVERED AT THE VALEDICTORY COURT SESSION HELD IN HONOUR OF THE LATE CHIEF GEORGE NWOKOCHA UWECHUE, SAN, FNIALS ON 25 JANUARY 2024 AT THE HIGH COURT OF DELTA STATE, ASABA

PROTOCOLS

1. My Lord, the Honourable, the Chief Judge of Delta State, Honourable Justice Theresa O. Diali, and My Lords, the Judges of Delta State Judiciary herein sitting *en banc*, it is with a heavy heart that I stand today on this solemn occasion to pay tribute to a distinguished member of the legal profession and my elder brother at the inner bar, **the late Chief George Nwokocha Uwechue, SAN, FNIALS (the Owelle of Ogwashi Uku)**.
2. Valedictory Court sessions, irrespective of the circumstance, are sober and solemn moments; they both speak to the transience of the positions we are privileged to hold in life and the fleetingness of life itself. When it is about death, it comes with it an additional feeling of sadness for an irreparable loss. Although the learned silk could be said to have lived to a ripe old age, his passing is nonetheless painful for his friends and loved ones.
3. Owelle George Uwechue was an active and committed Bar man. He was a representative of the Nigerian Bar Association in the Body of Benchers for 17 years, before his appointment as a Life Bencher. He also served our nation to the best of his abilities and in varying capacities, having served as Chairman of the Body of Benchers; Member, Rules Advisory Committee that drafted the Supreme Court Rules, 1985 (as Amended) and Member, Federal House of Representatives representing Aniocha Federal Constituency, in the old Bendel State. Truly, he was a statesman to the core. He distinguished himself as a true professional who practiced law with dignity, honour, displaying regard for the highest standard of professional ethics and discipline.
4. The learned silk will be remembered for his commitment to the Bar and to the cause of the nation at large.
5. As we commemorate the end of a life that was birthed 86 years ago, I will not fail to remind us here today, to take the opportunity of our father's passing to contemplate our mortality, our sincerity, and our eternity. We should reflect on our own lives, our fading moments, and the coming day of reckoning. Let us see to it that we walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, making the most use of time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5: 15 – 16). We must remain conscious of the transient nature of life and

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daily rely on God to “... *teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*” (Psalm 90:12). We must not, as the Scripture admonishes, mourn as those without hope.

6. On behalf of the Nigerian Bar association (NBA), I commiserate with the learned silk’s children – 4 of whom are our learned friend, members of the extended family and the entire people of Ogwashi Uku. I also extend my condolences to the lawyers and staff of G. N. Uwechue & Co. on our collective loss. My prayer is that God will comfort the hearts of all members of his family, his colleagues, and friends. May the peace of God which is beyond human understanding, protect our hearts and minds through Christ our Lord, Amen.
7. I thank you all for your attention.
8. May it please My Lords.

Yakubu Chonoko Maikyau, OON, SAN
PRESIDENT

