

Chairman's Opening Remarks at The Inaugural Meeting of The Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Nigerian Academy Of Medicine (NAMed) at the Board Room of the Medical & Dental Council Complex, Abuja on 1st July, 2019.

I warmly welcome the highly distinguished members of the Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Academy of Medicine. This is a great development in advancing the cause of medical and dental professions in Nigeria. I congratulate us on our strides in our profession and various specialties.

The great efforts on getting the Nigerian Academy of Medicine finally registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission are appreciated. It is a story of persistent, meticulous, and skillful planning which culminated in the successful execution of this project.

The Past Presidents' Forum of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN), notably, Professor S. Olu Oduntan, the Honourable Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole and many other individuals deserve commendation for various roles in midwifing this great Academy. I recall Professor Oduntan years ago suggesting that an Academy was overdue for the medical profession. At a stage when it was thought that the registration was a foregone conclusion, an issue cropped up at the Corporate Affairs Commission on our right to use 'Nigerian' in the name. Professor Adewole had to clarify to the Federal Government, through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, our usage of "Nigerian" in the name of the Academy -Nigerian Academy of Medicine.

Thank God that the letter of no objection/consent for registration of Nigerian Academy of Medicine was also written by the Honourable Minister of Health to the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. It is a giant step that a letter dated 15th March 2019 conveying approval of the Presidency for the use of 'Nigerian' was received. The Certificate of Incorporation dated 17th of May 2019 was thereafter released.

In all these strategic moves, Professor Oluwole Atoyebi coordinated and pushed the papers through various stages until the registration by CAC was finally done. The copy of certification was earlier circulated to all members of the BOT of NAMed.

God is great. On behalf of the new Academy, I thank our sponsors, the Management of NPMCN who also ensured smooth administrative machinery that landed us here today.

I appreciate the huge honour bestowed upon me as the Pioneer Chairman of the Board of Trustees. This is a monumental responsibility which with teamwork and divine guidance we will discharge successfully. Our major goal is to make the Nigerian Academy of Medicine relevant to the health needs of our society through research, community participation and proper advice to various government and private organizations.

The Memorandum of Association (MOA) and drafts of various documents on the new Academy are for discussion at this inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Academy of Medicine. The Corporate Affairs Commission has the names of all members of the BOT as automatic Foundation Fellows and Professor Wole Atoyebi as the Secretary effective from date of incorporation, 17th May 2019. The main issue at this meeting is to review all documents relating to NAMed especially the total number that will constitute Foundation Fellows and thereafter identify additional Foundation Fellows from other numerous deserving candidates.

Some other issues that have come to the secretariat for review are as follows:

There were Letters/comments from some of the members of the BOT who could not attend this meeting highlighting issues including attention to the importance of funding of the new Academy. There was also concern on carrying along Fellows who are not from NPMCN. Further to these concerns, we should also be gender sensitive, and be clear with demonstrable evidence for excellence in research, medical and laboratory practice.

The MOA had identified these specialties:

- “(i) Basic Medical Sciences
- (ii) Basic Clinical Sciences
- (iii) Medical Specialties
- (iv) Surgical Specialties
- (v) Dental Specialties
- (v). Community Health and Primary Care
- (vi) Medical Education/Hospital Administration”.

As much as possible, we should have Foundation Fellows in each specialty as stated in the MOA. Fortunately, these concerns were of a strong consideration at the early stages of midwifing NAMED, and the wisdom of our Elders necessitated the constitution for this inaugural meeting of BOT at Abuja to ensure that all colleges are duly recognized. This inaugural meeting would allow us chart a course for the Academy so that it will exist for all.

God bless you all.

God bless the Nigerian Academy of Medicine.

God bless our Country Nigeria.



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