

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR DALHATU SARKI TAFIDA, OFR, NIGERIAN HIGH
COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**OF THE AWARD OF HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE
ROYAL PHAMACEUTICAL SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

ON

**DR DORA NKEM AKUNYILI, HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**AT THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

**Mr Steve Churton
President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Council,**

**Dr Hemant Patel
President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,**

Distinguished Members of the Council and the Society,

Distinguished Recipients of various Awards of the Society,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dr Dora Nkem AKUNYILI, Honourable Minister of Information and Communications of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has asked me to accept the honour that has just been bestowed on her as Honourary Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. She certainly would have loved to be here, to personally receive this honour, but could not do so because of pressing official commitments back at home. It is, therefore, with great pleasure and deep sense of gratitude that I stand here today to receive the distinct award on behalf of Dr AKUNYILI.

The award of Honourary Membership of your Society to Dr AKUNYILI is a rare mark of recognition of her professional competence as a Pharmacist and her outstanding contributions to the campaign for the control of dangerous and counterfeit drugs, food and cosmetics in her previous job as the Director General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Nigeria. Her unflinching commitment to the enforcement and regulation of the practice of pharmacy as it relates to production, distribution and marketing of drugs in Nigeria was beyond reproach. Through her

exemplary leadership, courage and iron-willed determination, Dr Akunyili succeeded in curtailing drug counterfeiting and the dangers it poses to the health of our people.

The Federal Government of Nigeria was convinced that Dr AKUNYILI would bring to bear on her new Ministerial portfolio, her knack for hard work, professional dexterity, openness and transparency; virtues that she so ably demonstrated in her previous capacity. The honour done to Dr AKUNYILI is, therefore, not for her alone as a professional pharmacist. It is also for the Government and people of Nigeria as well as the millions of Nigerians in the United Kingdom who have continued to make significant contributions, not just to Great Britain but also to the national development efforts in Nigeria.

Dr AKUNYILI is humbled and deeply inspired by this Award, and has further asked me to assure you that she will continue to give of her best, not only in the practice of the profession of Pharmacy which remains dear to her heart, but in her public service career. For me as a Physician-turned diplomat, I cherish occasions like this with nostalgia as they connect me back to Medicine and its associated disciplines such as Pharmacy.

On behalf of Dr AKUNYILI, her family, close associates, the Government and people of Nigeria, I wish to express my deep thanks and appreciation for this award. Also wish the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and its members, the very best in your future endeavours.