



FirstBank's Goodwill Remark at the Nigeria Association of the Blind White Cane and Safety Day Celebration, Wednesday October 15, 2014.

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2014 White Cane and Safety Day Celebration on which FirstBank is partnering for the fourth consecutive season.

We thank the Nigeria Association of the Blind for sharing this day once again with us, and we commend you for your keen organisation of this annual event, which is meant to create public awareness about the blind and visually impaired in the country and also to promote the social acceptance of the white cane as the symbol of blindness and tool of independence of the blind and visually impaired persons.

FirstBank's partnership with the Nigeria Association of the Blind through the sponsorship of the 2014 Blind White Cane and Safety Day Celebration is a continuous and sustainable exercise, not only for friendship and leisure, but also to serve as an inspiration, as we walk together to share our various life experiences whilst walking and showing empathy for one another.

As we walk with the Nigeria Association of the Blind today, which coincides with Global White Cane and Safety Day Celebration, we have learnt more about the daily needs of the visually challenged, and we are individually and collectively inspired to support the mobility needs of our brothers and sisters who are visually challenged with the special need to live more independently and live an appreciable life.

At FirstBank, our core Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability values are woven around **Passion, Partnership, and People+**, and this is the reason we would continuously engage in sustainable value-adding initiatives like this, for the benefits of our host communities, customers and staff.

We would like to especially recognise Mr. David Okon, the current president of the Nigeria Association of the Blind and a staff of FirstBank; who is a practical evidence of FirstBank's

support for persons living with disability, to empower them to blossom in their dreams and contribute their quota to national development. This also emphasizes one of our key areas of social responsibility which is empowering our people.

We are here today, to support the 5 to 7 Kilometre charity walk of the Nigeria Association of the Blind, which is tied to FirstBank's platform of Employee Volunteering Programme (EVS). The EVS is designed to encourage our employees to individually and collectively contribute to social responsibility projects, to further entrench social responsibility, as well as FirstBank's support in furtherance of its Hope Rising Initiatives aimed at providing health and welfare support for indigent persons and persons living with disabilities, as a core component of our organisational culture in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability.

We appreciate you all for coming out to show support for our visually impaired brothers and sisters. We will leave you with the words of Mary McAleese, who served as the eighth President of Ireland from 1997 to 2011; she said: *"People with disabilities have abilities too and this is what this course is all about, making sure that those abilities blossom and shine so that all the dreams you have can come true"*. The joy and fulfillment of today's walk with the visually challenged the world over would go a long way in actualizing their dreams and contribute to a peaceful and prosperous world.

We congratulate the Nigeria Association of the Blind once again for a successful 2014 White Cane and Safety Day Celebration.

We wish you happy celebrations!

Thank you.

Representative

First Bank of Nigeria Limited