

SPEECH BY NBA PRESIDENT, OLUMIDE AKPATA, AT THE SPECIAL COURT IN HONOUR OF DR. HAUWA EVELYN SHEKARAU

I received the news of the demise of Dr Hauwa Shekarau, with shock. The suddenness of her passing once more reminded me of the ephemeral nature of life. Like grass we are here today and gone tomorrow. I am consoled

I admired Hauwa for her sincerity, her quiet strength, her unwavering commitment to the Bar and all that concerns it.

She was decent and honourable and in my dealings with her I was always assured of her bona fides. I am deeply saddened by her sudden departure particularly at a time when she and I had unfinished Bar business.

HAUWA will always be remembered for the good she had done . Her commitment to the cause of Justice and protection of women, weak and vulnerable members of the society will forever be remembered and greatly missed.

Indeed the words of that old hymnal by Horatius Bonar, not only reminds us of our mortality but of the fact that in the end what really counts is the good we have done. Permit me to quote some of the lines :

Fading away like the stars in the morning,

Losing their light in the glorious sun.

Thus would we pass from this earth and its toiling,

Only remembered for what we have done.

Shall we be missed, though by others
succeeded,

Reaping the fields we in spring- time have sown

Yes, but the sowers must pass from their labours,

Ever remembered by what they have done.

3. Only the truth that in life we have spoken,

Only the seed that on earth we have sown ;

These shall pass onward when we are forgotten,

Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

She has run her race and is waiting for a crown of glory on judgment day.

I pray for the repose of her soul and that her family will find the fortitude to bear this huge loss.

Good night madam.