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## Welcome Address by Mr. Abimbola Adeseyoju, Founder, DataPro Limited at the 2023 International Rating Webinar on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

All Protocols Observed.

Let me start by extending my gratitude to all our participants that have joined us from all over the world for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our International Credit Rating Webinar.

Some are actually attending for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in a row and had made the webinar part of their annual calendar of events. Let me reiterate that we hold the Webinar annually on the second Thursday of every October every year. So it is safe to mark your calendar for subsequent editions. Sustainability, continuity and succession are part of what have kept DataPro going for 28 years. We therefore promise you that we will continue to deliver on this webinar annually.

At this juncture, I want to appreciate our Regulator, the **Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC)** and the Director General, Mallam Lamido Yuguda for the continued support given to us.

The goal of the Webinar, for those joining us for the first time is to provide an annual platform for all stakeholders within the Capital Market and others in affiliated sectors of the economy to brainstorm on how the African continent and by extension the West African countries and Nigeria can utilize the value proposition of the Credit Rating Industry as an enabler of economic development and prosperity.

We know we still have a long way to go for us to fully reap the benefit from the veritable financing options available to Entities, Sub-nationals and Sovereigns when it comes to infrastructure development.

The issue of infrastructure development is closely tied to the quality of life.



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The truth is that the faster we accelerate infrastructure development on our Continent the quicker we can stop the brain drain and lift our people out of poverty.

We have therefore carefully selected the theme for this 2023 edition of the webinar to focus on the ***"Role of Sub-nationals and Credit Rating Agencies in Infrastructure Development"***

It is our belief as a company that we can do better all across Africa when it comes to infrastructure development. What other financing options do we need to utilize? What type of development partnership is faster? How do we improve the quality and sustainability of our infrastructure projects? How do we safeguard the Return On Investments (ROI) for participants in infrastructure projects?

These and many more will be adequately addressed today by our carefully selected panel of experts.

We are grateful to the ***African Development Bank (AfDB)*** for being part of the panel discussion.

We equally appreciate our eminent panel discussants that will be unveiled shortly by the event anchor.

To our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Kehinde Ogundimu, we are indeed privileged to have you deliver the keynote address at this occasion.

I enjoin us all to please sit back and listen carefully as I officially declare the webinar open.

Thank you

Signed

Abimbola Adeseyoju