

Why Are We Here?



Speech delivered by Mrs Kehinde Olubi at the reunion meeting of ex-staff of Defunct Equity Bank Limited on 25th November, 2017.

Dear colleagues,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to this historic event that we have all been clamouring to hold for more than two years since the Equity Bank Alumni platform was created.

How it started.

A couple of years ago, I received a notice from one of our members that we need to contribute to place an obituary for one of our late colleagues in one of the daily newspapers. Thinking deep, I asked myself the essence of the obituary when it would have been better to use the money to help the person or the family or even save the life of this person. What if we had been in touch with him or her and did something to help where it was hurting the most. At least we could have tried our best.

So many unanswered questions came up in my mind and I was not too happy that we who once related as a family have now allowed the relationship that we nurtured for several years to waste away just like that.

Similar requests came the second and third time. Although I contributed towards the projects I was still not satisfied because we could have done better than that. I discussed with two or three people who also shared my feelings and agreed with me. Since then I was on the lookout for opportunity to bring more of our people closer.

As I woke up on May 1, 2015, I received the motivation to set up the Alumni group on WhatsApp. As at then, not too many people were using WhatsApp as it is today. I realised we could use the platform to bring people together. So I created the group and put the numbers of some of our ex-staff that I had on the platform.

I saw the excitement and joy that our people felt as they were linked to colleagues they never knew their whereabouts and had not seen for several years. And so the interaction continued and the list of members continued to grow until we exceeded the maximum number allowed and we had to create the second group. We later merged the two groups when WhatsApp increased the allowable size of each group. As at date we have over 200 members on the platform.

It is noteworthy that some of our members outside the country are also connected to one another. You may find yourself in any part of the world thinking you don't know anybody there, yet there is a member that is close that you can connect with or can be of help to you.

Along the line people started requesting that we should organise a reunion where we will be able to see one another and relate as we once did as members of great Equity Bank family. Here we are today meeting one another, and we have cause to give glory to God Almighty who preserved our lives to witness this day.

Equity Bank was a unique bank that we all worked for and were able to achieve a lot as individuals and as a group. Even though the bank is no longer in existence, the relationships and the experiences cannot be easily forgotten.

Recapitalisation, regulations, mergers and acquisition should not stop us from relating with one another as a family. We give all the glory to God Almighty.

Equity Bank was more or less a “Happy Staff, Happy Bank”.

In Equity bank, we had no enemies, we were all united and that really helped us to stand.

People used to say to me much later that there was something unique about you these Equity people. In fact, some were lobbying to come and work with Equity people. We are indeed a unique family where love thrived, religion, tribe, gender could not divide us.

The Reunion Planning Committee

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| 1 Mr Toye Adegboye Chairman | |
| 2 Mrs Kehinde Olubi | 5 Mrs Juliet Odesanya |
| 3 Mr Yemi Adeniran | 6 Mrs Rosemary Adenugba |
| 4 Mr Femi Niyi | 7 Mr Faisal Bidmos |

Aims and Objectives of Equity Alumni

The reunion planning committee came up with the following recommendations:

- To bring together all those who passed through Equity Bank
 - o to promote the well-being of our members by showing love and care to them while they are still alive
- to foster good inter-personal and business relationships
 - o to assist each other through counselling, business networking and referrals, follow ups, moral support etc. where necessary
- to consider setting up a Trust Fund to support the welfare of our members
 - o to help and support one another financially as may be appropriate in time of need
- to have a cooperative body that will serve as a business platform for the group where our members can benefit from
- to arrange a group life insurance for our members
 - o this will help take care of the need of our family members after we are gone
- to consider a group health care programme
 - o to provide medical support for members as may be appropriate in time of need

The committee also proposed that we

1. Elect a board of trustees to serve as the governing board
2. Create a vision/mission statement for the association
3. Register the association

In conclusion, it is our expectation that we will come up with more suggestions during this event that will bring comfort and joy to ourselves by the special grace of God.

I wish all of us fruitful deliberations. Thanks and God bless you.