

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R. P. I. BOZIMO, OFR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2016 ORIENTATION COURSE FOR NEWLY APPOINTED MAGISTRATES HELD AT THE ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM OF THE INSTITUTE ON THE 11TH JULY, 2016

PROTOCOLS:

It is my privilege and honour to welcome you all to the 2016 Orientation Course for Newly Appointed Magistrates. This Workshop which is the first of its kind, has been organized in further realization of the main objective of the National Judicial Institute, which is to train and retrain Judicial Officers in the superior and inferior Courts in Nigeria, in order to promote efficiency and uniformity in the administration of justice.

The main objective of this Course is to afford the opportunity for participants to get inducted into the Magistracy and fully acquaint themselves with the task therein. The theme of this Course: **Promoting Excellence in the Administration of Justice at the Lower Courts** is no doubt deliberate, timely and quite

instructive in today's world. This has become imperative because the Magistrate Courts are vested with summary jurisdiction and the Judiciary, as an arm of Government, whose functions and responsibilities are enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), is vested with the responsibility of social engineering and nation building. Consequently, exhibiting excellence in the administration of justice is of paramount importance.

This Orientation Course for Newly Appointed Magistrates is considered a fundamental step in making you understand the enormity of the responsibility of achieving excellence in the discharge of your duties. As Magistrates, it is also necessary for you to imbibe the ethics and conducts of the profession in the administration of justice. I also wish to remind you that strict observance of Judicial Ethics and Code of Conduct, comportment, fairness, impartiality, accountability and independence, amongst others are indeed the attributes of a good Magistrate.

I enjoin your Worships to shun all forms of corrupt practices and tendencies as the various Judicial Service Commissions/Committees frown at such and would not hesitate to deal decisively with any erring Magistrate.

I must reiterate that not only are you to achieve excellence in the administration of justice, but also sustain same through continuing judicial education. Thus you must strive to attend all the sessions slated at this Orientation Course, pay rapt attention to the presentations and contribute freely and fruitfully during the discussion sessions.

The concern and commitment of the National Judicial Institute is to raise the quality of your performance through adequate training and exposure. This will no doubt improve the competence and performance expected of you in discharging your statutory responsibilities. There is no doubt that a sound Judicial Officer is an asset in the administration of justice which is in line with the theme of this Course.

Distinguished participants, the National Judicial Institute has added a new dimension in the delivery of its Statutory Mandate of training and retraining of judicial officers. Currently, the Institute is not only concerned with ensuring that the set objectives of her responsibilities are effectively realized and sustained, but much more determined to be more proactive and innovative in discharging its functions. This is fundamentally so in order to ensure that necessary skills and knowledge are provided,

performance substantially improved and outcomes visibly and more felt by the public.

My Lords, Your Worships, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me at this juncture to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, GCON, FNJI for granting the Institute the permission to organize this Course.

It is now my honour and privilege to invite My Lord the Honorable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, *GCON, FNJI* to deliver the Keynote Address and declare the 2016 Orientation Course for Newly Appointed Magistrates open.

Thanks and God bless us all.

Hon. Justice R. P. I. Bozimo, *OFR*
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