

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R.P.I BOZIMO, *OFR*, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT FOR JUDGES ORGANISED BY THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCE LEGAL STUDIES (NIALS) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE HELD AT THE ALOYSIUS KATSINA-ALU SEMINAR BLOCK, NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE ON 16TH APRIL, 2019**

**PROTOCOL**

I am delighted to welcome you all to the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act for Judges, organised by the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) in collaboration with the National

Judicial Institute (NJI) and with the support of the MacArthur Foundation.

This workshop has been organised in fulfilment of the mandate of the Institute as outlined under Section 3 (1) of the National Judicial Institute Act, Cap N55 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004; which provides as follows:

***“The Institute shall serve as the principal focal point of judicial activities relating to the promotion of efficiency, uniformity and improvement in the quality of judicial services in the superior and inferior Courts.”***

This forum which is designed to acquaint participants with emerging issues and developments on the implementation of the ACJA, 2015 will serve as an

avenue for participants to discuss prospects and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Act.

The workshop is unique as its aim *inter alia* is to enrich the capacity of Judges towards the implementation of this laudable piece of legislation that has given respite to criminal trials in the justice sector. In light of the foregoing, this forum has been convened sequel to the gains recorded from the workshop on the ACJA organised for Judges of the FCT in 2018.

It cannot be overstated that criminal trials in Nigeria had before this innovative Act, been a source of worry to every stakeholder in the justice sector. The need to get criminal matters quickly dispensed with, as well as an alternate means of sentencing, aimed at preserving human

dignity, has now been cured with the enactment of this Act.

The desire to ensure that our criminal justice sector is at par with global best practices remains a task that all stakeholders must close ranks to tackle, as it is the desire of Nigerians that this hydra-headed monster of delay in criminal trials be curbed.

Let me state at this juncture, that topics bordering on: Understanding the ACJA: An Introduction to tools developed under the Project, Case Management in Anti-Corruption Cases under the ACJA, Stay of Execution and Interlocutory Applications under the ACJA and Effective Plea Bargain System in the Administration of Justice,

particularly in Corruption cases among others shall be discussed at this forum.

Permit me at this point to express my appreciation to the Honourable, the Ag. Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Dr. Justice Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad, *CFR, FNJI*, for his support for all the activities of the Institute.

I wish to also extend my gratitude to the Director General of NIALS, Prof. Adedeji Adegunle, SAN, his management team and the Mac-Arthur Foundation for collaborating with the National Judicial Institute. I must also express my profound gratitude to the Chairmen of

Sessions and Resource Persons, who have been chosen to share their wealth of experience and knowledge with us.

I wish you all very fruitful and rewarding deliberations.

Thank you and God bless us all.

**Hon. Justice R.P.I Bozimo, OFR**  
*Administrator,*  
*National Judicial Institute, Abuja.*