

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, HON. JUSTICE R.P.I BOZIMO, OFR, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR HEADS OF COURTS HELD AT THE ALOYSIUS KATSINALU SEMINAR BLOCK ON 8TH APRIL 2019

PROTOCOL

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the maiden edition of the Roundtable for Heads of Courts.

This forum is germane as the Education Committee of the National Judicial Institute has identified the Heads of Courts as a special category of Judicial Officers heading the administration of Courts in Nigeria, therefore, the importance of the office of the Heads of courts and their role in maintaining standards and coordinating efficiency of the system of justice throughout Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized.

My Lords, this forum will among other things avail you the opportunity to exchange ideas and proffer solutions to the common challenges, which you face in your various jurisdictions. This Roundtable will expand and improve your knowledge and leadership skills in court administration.

My Lords, the position of a Head of Court comes with enormous challenges, therefore one must use wisdom, intelligence and above all perseverance in handling situations first as Head of Administration and second as a Judicial Officer. As Heads of the Courts, establishing a clear vision and sharing it with other Judicial Officers and Court Staff is key to successful running of the courts.

Furthermore, it is imperative that as Heads of Courts, you should provide a conducive environment for the

actualization of the vision you set out to achieve. Notwithstanding the challenges you may encounter in this process, the much needed coordination and balance of all conflicting interest of stakeholders must be taken into consideration. This undoubtedly requires leadership skills, which this forum seeks to harness.

My Lords, it is trite that the Judiciary as an arbiter of justice must come to terms with expectations of the general populace and international community in the delivery of its services, leveraging on information technology and global best practices in the conduct of the business of the court.

My Lords, Distinguished Participants, to remain relevant in this ever-changing judicial landscape, the courts must provide excellent judicial services efficiently, speedily and must be just in its decisions which should be devoid

of any external influence or compromise. To this end, the Heads of Courts must ensure that all Judicial Officers and Court Staff adhere strictly to their respective Code of Conduct.

My Lords, in the course of this programme, topics bordering on independence of the Judiciary and adherence to Code of Conduct by Judicial Officers have been slated for discussion. They are relevant and insightful to enlighten you on the current challenges of court administration. I can assure your Lordships that you will gain more insight in court administration at the end of this Roundtable.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me at this juncture thank the Honourable, the Ag. Chief Justice of Nigeria, **Hon. Dr. Justice I. T. Muhammad, CFR, FNJI**, for his unflinching support to the programmes of the Institute.

My gratitude also goes to all the Heads of Courts for their continuous support to the Institute's activities.

It is now my honour and privilege to invite My Lord the Honourable, the Ag. Chief Justice of Nigeria, **Hon. Dr. Justice I. T. Muhammad, CFR, FNJI**, to deliver the Keynote Address and declare the maiden edition of the Roundtable for Heads of Courts open.

I wish you all very fruitful and rewarding deliberations.

Thank you and God bless us all.

Hon. Justice R.P.I Bozimo, OFR
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