

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R. P. I. BOZIMO, *OFR*, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE REFRESHER COURSE FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS ON CURRENT TRENDS IN LAW AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, HELD AT THE ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE ABUJA ON 14TH MARCH, 2016

PROTOCOL

I am honoured and elated to welcome you all to the 2016 Refresher Course for Judicial Officers, which particularly focuses on the current trends in Law and Administration of Justice. The Refresher Course is an annual event on the calendar of Programmes of the National Judicial Institute and the Course is intended to serve as an avenue for Judicial Officers from different Jurisdictions to exchange ideas on grey areas of the Law, enrich and consolidate their experience, and enhance their professional skills.

The theme for this year's Refresher Course for Judicial Officers is: "***Promoting Judicial Performance through Innovations and Reforms***". What determines the advancement of any society is its ability to pay attention to innovations and reforms because a static system is nothing but a sleeping dog, inactive and unattractive.

Law Reforms and innovations in the Judiciary are a necessity for the purpose of enhancing and promoting judicial performance. The Nigerian Judiciary has experienced innovations and reforms in recent times, prominent among which is the passing into Law the Administration of Criminal Justice Act in 2015.

The high point of this Act is the merger of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) into one principal Federal Act, which apply uniformly in all Federal Courts. While preserving the existing criminal procedures, it introduces new innovative provisions that will enhance the efficiency of the Justice System. The main purpose of the Act include preventing unlawful arrest which had been one of the major problems

of our criminal justice systems. By Section 10(1) of the CPA the Police could arrest without a warrant, any person who had no ostensible means of sustenance and who could not give a satisfactory account of himself. By this provision, people were arrested indiscriminately. The administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 has deleted this provision. We look forward to more reforms and innovations in areas such as internet software patents, defamation in cyberspace, civil and criminal litigations on the internet, copyright, child rights protection, anti-corruption measures and prosecution of public office holders on charges of corruption, etc.

For this Workshop, we have carefully selected experienced and erudite Personalities as Chairmen of Sessions and Resource Persons to deal with topics, which are germane as well as current. The topics for this Course are:

***1. The Bar-Bench Relationship: Maintaining the Balance
(Perspective from Bench and the Bar).***

- 2. An Overview of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.***
- 3. Commitment to Excel as Judicial Officers: Transparency, Ethics and Code of Conduct.***
- 4. Administration of Estates and Succession Under Islamic Law.***
- 5. Interlocutory Applications: Pertinent Issues for Consideration.***
- 6. Enhancing the Productivity of Judicial Officers: Performance Management and Evaluation.***
- 7. Access to Justice: Exploiting the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Systems.***
- 8. Emerging Issues in Civil and Criminal Proceedings.***
- 9. Admissibility of Electronic Evidence in Civil and Criminal Proceedings.***

My Lords, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to use this opportunity to thank His Lordship, the Honourable the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial

Institute, **Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, *GCON, FNJI***, for his tremendous support to the Institute in the organization of this Workshop.

His Lordship's commitment to capacity building and improvement on the welfare of Judicial Staff is legendary and must be commended. I also thank all the Chief Judges who are the Members of the Board of Governors of the Institute for their unflinching support to the programmes of the Institute.

I thank all the Chairmen of Sessions and Resource Persons for honouring our invitation.

To the Management team and Staff of the National Judicial Institute, I say thank you for your support and hard work.

I cannot take my seat without thanking you, dear Participants for attending this Workshop. You are truly our greatest assets because without you, this Workshop would not have been possible. Thank you very much and I wish

you a wonderful stay in the City of Abuja. To the members of the Press who are here with us, I say a big thank you.

May I, at this juncture, respectfully and most humbly call on my Lord, the Honourable, The Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, **Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, GCON, FNJI**, to deliver his keynote address and declare the 2016 Refresher Course for Judicial Officers on Current Trends in Law and Administration of Justice open.

Thank you for your attention and God bless you all.

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