

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. JUSTICE R. P. I. BOZIMO, OFR, ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, AT THE 2016 REFRESHER COURSE FOR SECRETARIES, PROTOCOL OFFICERS, COURT REGISTRARS, PROCESS CLERKS AND BAILIFFS, HELD AT THE ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM, NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, MOHAMMED BELLO CENTRE, ABUJUA ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016**

**PROTOCOL**

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion of the 2016 Refresher course for Secretaries, Protocol Officers, Court Registrars, Process Clerks and Bailiffs.

There is no doubt that this category of participants occupy key positions and undeniably perform very vital roles in the judicial process of the Country. Consequently, the searchlight must continuously be on them to ensure that they are adequately empowered to discharge their duties diligently.

This Course is part of the statutory curriculum of Continuing Education Programme for Court support staff as required by the Institute's enabling Act. Section 3(1) of the National Judicial Institute Act, Cap N55 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, provides as follows:

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

My Lords, let me place on record that this category of participants are indispensable to the judiciary. Their roles are supportive and complimentary to the role of Judicial Officers. They are charged with the onerous tasks of the overall day to day running of the Courts. The participants carry out a retinue of duties and responsibilities such as the reproduction of Court Records, Orders, Rulings, Judgments, among others. Without them, the process of producing, transmitting and retrieving record of proceedings and communication as directed by the Magistrates, Judges, Chief Judges, Justices or other Heads of Courts, will not be possible. Without doubt, their performance, directly impacts on the effective, efficient and expeditious dispensation of justice.

The theme for this year’s Workshop is **“Building Capacity of Court Employees for Optimum Performance”**. This in my view, is apt as it is tailored to address pertinent issues of training and retraining of

support staff, poor attitude to work and a host of other relevant issues that stand as impediments to the success of the Judiciary.

It is worthy of note, that this category of participants are the first point of contact by court-users. Consequently, their proficiency and propriety in their respective courts determine the first impression in, and also inspire confidence to every court-user that approaches the court to seek for remedy and justice. Therefore, your capacity building for optimum performance cannot be compromised. Thus, this Workshop is not only intended to broaden your knowledge, but also packaged to enhance productivity and performance.

As the first point of contact with the public, you are the face of the Judiciary. Note that the success of any institution depends on the efficiency of the people manning it. You are therefore enjoined to always strive to do better at your jobs and to seize opportunities such as this to enrich your knowledge and be acquainted with global best practices for optimum performance.

I am well aware that many of you work under tremendous pressure to meet strict deadlines. If the Judiciary today is enjoying a pre-eminent

position in the society, it is because of the sincerity, honesty and hard work put in by you. At this juncture, I would like to congratulate all officers and staff of the Judiciary for their relentless efforts which has made it possible for the Judiciary to maintain the high standards of excellence that the Judiciary is known for.

The axiomatic fact in the entire Country today is the policy of change of attitude in all human endeavours. The Judiciary as an arm of Government should be at the fore front in conveying such constructive change in order to build an optimistic society. As Secretaries, Protocol Officers, Court Registrars, Process Clerks and Bailiffs, you should understand the core function of your office and also complement one another's efforts. All hands must therefore be on deck to ensure that the ultimate goal of the Judiciary is achieved.

Against this background, the Education Committee of the Board of Governors of the national Judicial Institute, under the able Chairmanship of Honourable Justice Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, *CFR, FNJI* (JSC) prudently and carefully selected topics and assembled skilled Resource Persons to share their knowledge and experiences with you.

My Lords, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me at this juncture to place on record the National Judicial Institute's profound 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 Workshop. Without His Lordship's support, this Workshop would not have been possible.

I also wish to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of Heads of Courts from various jurisdictions for constantly honoring our invitation and for working hand-in-hand with the Institute to make this Workshop a resounding success.

I must express my immense appreciation to our Resource Persons and Chairmen of Session who are proudly Directors and Fellows of this Institute, for their gracious acceptance to take on various functions assigned to them concerning this Workshop. The interest you have shown in the build up to this Workshop is inestimable and heartwarming.

I should not forget to acknowledge members of the Press for finding time to grace this occasion. Your presence is highly appreciated.

As for the participants, please endeavour to participate actively in all deliberations and rub minds with your colleagues from other jurisdictions.

Finally, it is now my singular honour and privilege to invite 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, to deliver his Keynote Address and to the 2016 Refresher Course for Secretaries, Protocol Officers, Court Registrars, Process Clerks and Bailiffs, open.

I wish you fruitful deliberations. Than you and God bless you all

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