

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R. P. I. BOZIMO, OFR, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2016 NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR RESEARCH/JUDICIAL/LEGAL ASSISTANTS, HELD AT THE ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM OF THE INSTITUTE ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2016**

**PROTOCOL**

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the first National Workshop for Research/Judicial/Legal Assistants which aims to deepen your knowledge and competence in performing your duties more effectively. As is succinctly contained in the National Judicial Institute Act, the Institute is Statutorily mandated to provide continuous education for all Judicial Officers and their support staff across Nigeria. In line with the above mandate, the Institute has continued to strategically design and implement training programmes to effectively enhance the capacity of all judicial officers and their support staff in order to provide the required knowledge, skill and conduct, best for justice administration.

This workshop is therefore intended to stimulate our thoughts, and also reaffirm the judiciary's trust and recognition of the pivotal role that Research/Judicial/Legal Assistants play in the day-to-day administration of justice in our courts. It is also evident that our judges handle complex and overwhelming number of cases year in year out. As a result, your roles and responsibilities in the administration of justice cannot be overemphasized; hence the need for a platform to facilitate capacity building and further skill acquisition.

Against this backdrop, the theme of this Workshop **“ENHANCING JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANCE”** is most appropriate.

This is premised on the fact that it clearly showcases our determination to ensure judicial effectiveness, and a more synchronized justice delivery system.

The pivotal roles that Research/Judicial/Legal Assistants play in the Nigerian judiciary on a daily basis towards the quick dispensation and administration of justice is commendable and appreciated. We are very proud of you all!

Having said that, I want to acknowledge that this is not just an exciting time, but also a very challenging and crucial time for the Nigerian judiciary as we build on our past successes, while recognizing that the challenges of today such as the economic, social, political and cyber sphere are more complicated than ever before. Therefore, a Research/Judicial/Legal Assistant should be steadfast and resolute in carrying out his/her duties on a daily basis; exuding high professional and ethical standards, shunning all forms of corrupt practices that will damage the image and integrity of the Judiciary.

I am very much aware it has not always been a smooth ride because not all courts are fully equipped with the facilities that will allow you perform optimally. There are infrastructural

inadequacy, inadequate Information Technology Systems, non-availability of required and relevant literature. It is, however, instructive to note that under the leadership of his Lordship, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, GCON, FNJI, the Judiciary, through its various initiatives such as the implementation of the Judicial Information Technology Policy (JITPO) and the development of the Nigerian Case Management System, has continued to make incremental progress in these areas, so as to better deliver an efficient judicial system.

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. I believe that this Workshop will achieve its objective by effectively dealing with the various issues and ideas in the topics to be presented and if properly understood and utilized,

will enhance the performance of your duties in the administration of justice. It also offers a platform for reaffirmation of the need for a constructive relationship between our Judges and the Research/Judicial/Legal Assistants.

I am grateful to his Lordship, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, GCON, FNJI for graciously approving this workshop, and for his continuous commitment to capacity building in the Judiciary.

May I also seize this opportunity to thank the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute for their support to the programmes of the Institute. I will equally extend my appreciation to all the Chairmen of Sessions and Resource Persons for graciously accepting to share from their wealth of experience and knowledge on the designated topics.

To the Management and Staff of the National Judicial Institute, I say a big thank you to you all for your dedication, resilience and hard work.

It is now my singular honour and privilege to humbly invite the Honourable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice Mahmud Mohammed, OFR, CON, CFR, GCON, FNJI to deliver the Keynote Address and declare the 2016 Workshop for Research/Judicial/Legal Assistants on Enhancing Judicial Performance Through Effective Research Assistance, Open.

I wish you all a very fruitful and rewarding deliberation.

Thank you all and may God continue to bless Nigeria.

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