

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. JUSTICE R.P.I. BOZIMO OFR, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, AT THE BIENNIAL WORKSHOP FOR JUDICIAL LIBRARIANS HELD AT ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM ON 8TH MAY, 2017.

PROTOCOL

I am pleased to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 2017 workshop for Judicial Librarians. This Workshop is a Biennial event organized by the National Judicial Institute (NJI) to enable us collectively review, assess and enhance the potentials of Judicial Librarians.

The theme of this year's workshop to wit: **“Repositioning Judicial Libraries to meet the Challenges of Administration of Justice”** could not have come at a better time than now.

The Judicial Librarian has been called the technological gatekeeper of the learned men because he serves as the catalyst that stimulates the brain of Judges by assisting and providing them with the right information at the right time and in the best way possible.

It is important to state that the law library is the bedrock of the Judiciary. It is a very essential tool for the administration of

justice. It has been described as the laboratory of the legal profession. Access to a good Library is important to Judges and lawyers because in order for adjudication to be sound and well grounded, it needs to be assisted by recourse to judicial authorities from law reports and Reference books on Law.

The laudable benefits of modernizing our Judicial Libraries are overwhelming, as it promotes confidence not only in the libraries and its users, but also in the public at large. It is therefore our collective responsibility to remain committed in promoting our Judicial Libraries and ensure that they attain a level where they can be inclusive in the impartial administration of justice in our country. We must all put our hands on deck to maintain and observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and respect for the Judiciary is sustained.

Judicial Librarians are faced with various challenges due to the advancement in technology which has birthed amongst other things the proliferation of information. Nowadays, information is published rapidly in a variety of formats which include hard and electronic copies.

In realization of the role of judicial librarians as distinct from that of other Librarians, the Education Committee of the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute under the

Chairmanship of Hon. Justice I. T. Mohammad, *CFR, FNJI* approved this Workshop to further equip and remind you that as Judicial Librarians, you have to be professional in developing your own tools and expertise to provide the desired information instantly.

In consequence of this, I urge you to remain steadfast in tackling the challenges of ineptitudes in library operations and inadequacies, for an excellent repositioning of Judicial Libraries in the administration of Justice.

We have assembled experienced Resource Persons and Chairmen of Sessions who will take us through the affairs of the 5-day programme. I call on you all to pay rapt attention to all presentations as to share from the experience of the Resource Persons and Chairmen of Sessions as well as your co-participants. I urge you to develop pragmatic solutions that will improve the administration of justice and help to strengthen and stabilize the judicial system.

My Lords, distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me at this point express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon Justice W. S. N. Onnoghen, *GCON, FNJI* and other members of the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute for their continued support of the activities of the Institute.

My appreciation also goes to the management and staff of the Institute for their hard work in putting this Workshop together.

It is now my singular honour and privilege to humbly and most respectfully invite the Chief Justice of Nigeria, **Hon. Justice Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, GCON, FNJI** to deliver his Keynote Address and declare the Workshop open.

Thank you and God bless us all.

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