

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R.P.I. BOZIMO, OFR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2017 INDUCTION COURSE FOR NEWLY APPOINTED JUDGES AND KADIS HELD AT THE ALOYSIUS KATSINA-ALU SEMINAR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, MOHAMMED BELLO CENTRE, ON 3RD JULY 2017

PROTOCOL

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 Induction Course for Newly Appointed Judges and Kadis.

My Lords, distinguished participants, let me begin by expressing my heartfelt congratulations on your appointments to the higher Bench. I believe it is an honour well deserved.

You would have realized that, going by the rigorous nature of the various exercises leading to your appointment, it certainly did not come easy. As you are all aware, only a few were chosen out of the many qualified candidates; your appointment is indeed an expression of trust and confidence in your ability to discharge the duties expected of you.

It is my prayer and expectation that you justify the trust and confidence so reposed in your Lordships by this appointment.

Induction Course for Newly Appointed Judges and Kadis is one of the statutory courses that must be conducted by the National Judicial Institute for newly appointed Judges and Kadis.

The importance of this Course cannot be over emphasized, as it is an avenue for newly appointed Judicial Officers of the Superior Courts of records to be formally inducted.

This programme is designed to take you through the rudiments of Judicial Ethics and Comportment which is key to inculcating Judicial Excellence.

The theme for this year's Course: ***“Inculcating Judicial Excellence in Newly Appointed Judicial Officers”*** is apposite as it embodies the essence of this course which is aimed at adequately equipping and preparing new Judicial Officers for the challenges on the higher bench regarding the task of adjudication.

The Induction course is also of immense importance, as it may be the first interaction that your Lordships will be having with your colleagues from other jurisdictions. No doubt the duration of this Course will afford you avenues for greater interaction, enabling you to freely share ideas and build lifelong friendships, which are pertinent in the discharge of your responsibilities.

My Lords, distinguished participants, at its finest, the judicial office offers its privilege of placing Judicial Officers on higher pedestal to sit in adjudication over disputes that are brought by litigants. Along with this comes the usual stress of the job, its challenges and responsibilities such as having to deal with difficult litigants and their counsel, as well as recognizing that there are constraints on your conduct as Judicial Officers, which reflect both on and off the bench as a result of your acceptance of this privileged appointment.

Let me use this medium to caution you to refrain and shun all forms of corrupt practices bearing in mind the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Judicial Officers and the Oath of Office which you have all sworn to.

Distinguished participants, please join me in saluting the vision, drive and commitment of the Hon. the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute Hon. Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen *GCON, FNJI* and all members of the Board of Governors of the Institute for their interest and unalloyed support for the various capacity building programs of the Institute. His Lordship has also graciously granted the request of the Chief Justice of the Gambia to allow Nine Newly Appointed Judges of the Gambia to be part of this Induction Course. We welcome our brother and sister Judges from the Gambia.

I wish to commend the Chairmen of Sessions and Resource Persons for their invaluable support and for accepting to share their wealth of knowledge and experience with us.

Let me also convey my appreciation to the members of the fourth estate of the realm, the Press. The Nigerian Judiciary and members of the Press have become allies in the struggle to enthrone a modern, transparent and a vibrant Judiciary.

My Lords, distinguished participants, I urge you to pay rapt attention and participate actively in this Induction Course. You should raise vital issues for discussions, as this will go a long way in helping you in your adjudicatory function.

It is now my honour and privileged to humbly invite the Honorable the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen, *GCON, FNJI* to deliver his keynote address and declare the Course open.

Thank you all and may God continue to bless Nigeria.

Hon. Justice R.P.I Bozimo, OFR

Administrator

National Judicial Institute