

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R. P. I. BOZIMO, OFR, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ANNUAL WORKSHOP FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES ON LEGAL ISSUES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS HELD AT THE IBETO HOTEL ABUJA, ON THE 20TH JULY, 2017**

**PROTOCOL**

It gives me great pleasure to address you, distinguished participants, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 2017 workshop organized by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in collaboration with the National Judicial Institute. This workshop is one of the important collaborations that exist between the National Judicial Institute and the Nigerian Communications Commission. It is designed to avail Judges from different strata of the bench, of legal issues in telecommunications and to cross fertilize ideas with experts in the telecommunications sector on gray and emerging areas in the telecommunications industry.

Interestingly, the National Workshop for Judges on Legal Issues in Telecommunications has been a leading event for the Judiciary and the Telecommunications Industry since its inception. I make haste to say that it is waxing stronger; given the increase in the enhanced quality of the event over the years. I must therefore commend the efforts of both the Commission and the Institute in sustaining this synergy.

In the last couple of years, Nigeria as a country has witnessed a lot of transformation in the telecommunications sector; and this is not without some legal issues emanating thereof. In the recent past the country has witnessed developments such as Number Portability among Network providers and the e-payment policy introduced by the government among others. No doubt, the proliferation of the e-payment system following the Federal Government's adoption of the cashless policy has led to

massive increase in mobile and online transactions in recent time. Number proliferation no doubt came with a resultant increase in financially – related cybercrimes. It is on record that cyber criminals have continued to develop new strategies to circumvent cyber- security models, regardless of their sophistication.

While ICT has assisted in dealing with security issues, it has also compounded security is well because the criminals are also very conversant with ICT. There is therefore need to be dynamic in security issues in order to be ahead of the criminals as they always deploy advanced technology in their criminal craft.

It is on this note that I will like to add that the workshop would not have come at a better time than now. Nigeria’s model of e-payment and other ICT advancement in Telecommunications is not without some challenges as often recorded by the various network users.

I have no doubt in expressing my confidence in the ability of the NCC to rise up to the occasion in making sure that all network providers serve and protect the best interest of the consuming public.

Distinguished participants, the workshop topics have been designed in such a way that most of the topics revolve around issues such as: SIM card registration and prevention of crime, the protection of customers from Banking Fraud, Criminal and Civil liabilities in Cyber space among others. This is aimed at keeping your lordships abreast with the workings of the telecommunications industry. I am confident that a better understanding of the workings of the NCC will enable Judges deliver more landmark judgments.

My Lords, Ladies and gentlemen, as stated earlier, I have perused the programme of this workshop and I am convinced that the topics and the assembled faculty members are of high quality. It is my humble opinion that the faculty members will bring their wealth of experience to bear during the course of this workshop. I appeal to you all, to pay rapt attention believing that this workshop will have positive impact on your work of adjudication.

Distinguished participants, let me on behalf of the Institute, thank His Lordship, Hon. Justice W. S. N. Onnoghen, GCON, FNJI, the Honourable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman of Board of Governors at the National Judicial Institute, for the inestimable interest in the activities of the Institute. I also cannot but express our profound appreciation to the members of the Board, faculty members assembled and the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communication Commissions, Prof. Umar Danbatta, for seeing to the success of this workshop.

My lords, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my singular honour and pleasure to invite the Honourable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman of Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice W. S. N. Onnoghen, GCON, FNJI, to deliver his keynote address and declare the 2017 workshop for Judges **on Legal issues in Telecommunications** open.

I wish you all a fruitful and beneficial deliberation.

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