

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, HON. JUSTICE R.P.I. BOZIMO, OFR, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2017 REFRESHER COURSE FOR JUDGES AND KADIS, HELD AT THE ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM, NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, ABUJA ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**PROTOCOL**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Opening Ceremony of the “**2017 Refresher Course for Judges and Kadis**”. This course is organised by the National Judicial Institute in fulfilment of its statutory mandate of providing Continuing Education for all categories of Judicial Officers, as captured under Section 3(2)(b) of the NJI Act Cap N55 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

As you all may be aware, this Refresher Course is the first programme of the Institute in the 2017 Calendar of its activities, and I am pleased to mention that this Refresher Course is the first outing of my Lord, the Hon. the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon Justice Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, GCON, FNJI as substantive Chief Justice of Nigeria to the Institute. I sincerely congratulate your Lordship, and I am indeed excited and wish my Lord all the best as you pilot the affairs of the Nigerian Judiciary. My Lord, the Honourable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, is ably represented by Hon. Justice I. T. Muhammad, *CFR, FNJI*, the Chairman, Education Committee of the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute.

My Lords, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the theme of this Refresher Course; “**Modernising Judicial Practice and Procedure**”, is directed towards adopting new trends and judicial best practices and procedures in adjudication of cases at our various courts, thereby assisting our Judges to enhance the performance of their constitutional responsibilities.

For the Nigerian Judiciary to remain the hope of the every man, we must be dynamic by keeping in-tune with modern techniques in the administration of law and justice. A Judicial Officer well versed in modern practice and procedure, is of great benefit to the judiciary and the larger society. It is important to note that the judiciary has moved towards establishing programmes and policies necessary to ensure access to justice which will improve the general administration of the courts.

On this premise, the Institute remains committed in discharging its mandates of organizing and conducting training programmes and courses that would update the knowledge base of Judicial Officers on new trends in law, practice and procedures.

In a modern judicial practice, there is the need for a better coordination and cooperation among the major players or stakeholders in the justice sector administration. Hence the inclusion of the topic “**The Need for Justice Sector Coordination: Role of Stakeholders.**”

The use and effect of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the modern world has come to stay. Thus there is a need for our Judicial Officers to be abreast with current topical issues in the field of ICT. This necessitated the inclusion for discussion of topics like “**Overview of Internet**”

**Eco System and Law” and “Emerging Issues in Copyrights and Information and Communication Technology”.**

My Lords, distinguished participants, I respectfully urge you all to pay keen attention to the discussions and participate actively in the deliberations so that at the end of it all, you will go back to your respective jurisdictions better informed. It is important to state that this Refresher Course serves as an opportunity to interact and exchange ideas among participants.

May I also urge you, my Lords, to explore the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism as a modern trend in administration of justice particularly in civil matters, including commercial cases, land and family cases among others. This will go a long way in curtailing delays in our courts.

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, let me at this juncture, sincerely express my deep appreciation, on behalf of the

Management and Staff of the National Judicial Institute, to the Honourable, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen, GCON, FNJI, for giving approval for this Course to be held; I also thank most sincerely the members of the Education Committee of the Board of Governors under the able chairmanship of Hon. Justice I. T. Muhammad, CFR, FNJI, JSC.

Likewise, I sincerely appreciate all the members of the Board of Governors of the Institute for their support towards the Institute's programmes and activities.

Finally, let me also express my gratitude to all invited dignitaries in attendance, the Chairmen of Sessions, Resource Persons and members of the Press for accepting our invitation to

be part of this opening ceremony and for coming to share their wealth of experience and knowledge with us.

It is now my singular honour and privilege to invite the Honourable the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice W.S.N. Onnoghen, *GCON*, *FNJI*, ably represented by Hon. Justice I. T. Muhammad, *CFR*, *FNJI*, Chairman, Education Committee of the Board of Governors of the Institute, to deliver his keynote address and declare the Refresher Course for Judges and Kadis, open.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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