

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 ORIENTATION COURSE FOR NEWLY APPOINTED MAGISTRATES HELD AT THE ANDREWS OTUTU OBASEKI AUDITORIUM OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, ABUJA ON 24TH JULY, 2017

PROTOCOL

I am delighted to welcome you all to the *2017 Orientation Course for Newly Appointed Magistrates* and to congratulate you on your recent appointments.

This Orientation Course is organized by the National Judicial Institute in furtherance of its statutory mandate of providing continuing education for all categories of Judicial Officers by undertaking, facilitating and conducting courses related to judicial education. Your worships, it is trite to state here that capacity building for Judicial Officers is crucial for the efficient and effective administration of justice, hence the need for the Orientation Course.

The objective of this Orientation Course amongst others is to acquaint you with the task ahead as newly appointed Magistrates. There is no gain saying that the Magistrates' Courts occupy an important position in the administration of justice as they handle substantial number of cases at the grassroots.

The theme for this year's Course "***Promoting Judicial Excellence in the Administration of Justice***" is most appropriate and in tune with the current drive by the Nigerian Judiciary in attaining excellence in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities through innovative approach in the administration of justice. It is also heartwarming to note that the Nigerian Judiciary is taking giant strides at judicial reforms and it is therefore your responsibility to align with this current drive.

Let us all appreciate the fact that an effective administration of justice is a corner-stone of good governance, which in turn is a requisite for development. We must imbibe best practices that ensure smarter and better ways of dispensing justice. I urge your worships to pay rapt attention and make useful contributions in all the deliberations during this workshop.

The Institute has carefully selected the topics for this course and the resource persons to present the topics. The inclusion of the following topics on *Judicial Ethics and Conducts for Magistrates, Judgment Writing, Case Management* and *Improving the Quality of Justice Delivery in the Magistrate Courts* are deliberate and meant to guide you in the performance of your adjudicatory duties.

Permit me at this juncture to extend my most sincere appreciation 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***, and members of the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute for their continuous support for all the activities of the Institute.

Let me also extend my gratitude to the Resource Persons, Chairmen of Sessions, our invited guests and members of the press for honouring our invitation.

My appreciation also goes to the Management and Staff of the National Judicial Institute for their support and hardwork.

I now have the singular honour 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***, to deliver his keynote address and declare the *2017 Orientation Course for Newly Appointed Magistrates* open.

Thank you for your attention and God bless us all.

Hon. Justice R.P.I. Bozimo, OFR
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