

**ADDRESS BY HON. JUSTICE EMEKA AZUBIKE NZEGWU, OFR,
THE HON. CHIEF JUDGE OF ANAMBRA STATE AT THE
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE JUDICIARY
RESEARCH CENTRE ON MONDAY THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2009,
AT THE JUDICIARY HEADQUARTERS, AWKA**

Essentially, we are here today to commission the Judiciary Research Centre located at the Judiciary Headquarters, Awka. The Centre which is one of the items in the agenda contained in the Anambra State Action Plan developed at the Integrity Meeting held at the Sun City Hotel, Regina Caeli Road, Awka on the 22nd and 23rd November, 2007, was jointly built by the Anambra State Judiciary and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the sponsorship of the European Union (EU).

May I use this opportunity to welcome all of you to this ceremony and in particular His Excellency, Mr. Peter Obi, the Executive Governor of Anambra State, the Speaker of the Anambra State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Anayo Nnebe, the Administrator of the National Judicial Institute, Hon. Justice Umaru Eri, OFR, His Excellency, Mr. Denis Thiculin, E.U. Acting Head of Delegation, Ms. Dagmar Thomas, the Representative of UNODC, Country office, Nigeria and Mrs. Ugonna Ezekwem, the UNODC National Project Officer.

Our ultimate goal is to accomplish all the items contained in our said Action Plan. So far, we have been able to accomplish the following:

- (i) A Town Hall meeting was organized and held here on 16th February, 2009;
- (ii) A training programme for Magistrates and staff of the State Judiciary was carried out here at Awka from 10th to 13th March, 2009. It was sponsored by the UNODC through a grant made to the National Judicial Institute (NJI);
- (iii) Preliminary steps are being taken and a seminar had been organized towards the establishment of the Awka Court-Connected Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre.

Today, being the 1st day of June, 2009, the establishment of the Judiciary Research Centre (JRC), High Court of Justice, Awka has become a reality. It is with great joy and happiness, and indeed with deep gratitude to God Almighty, that I find myself having to commission this project.

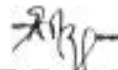
When I came into office as the Chief Judge of this State, one of the projects I considered a priority was the establishment of an internet facility in the premises of this High Court. I had to abandon the project when I became aware of the fact that a Research Centre providing for internet facility and much more was one of the projects the UNODC would help us to establish. You can then appreciate how deeply grateful I am to the UNODC, the European Union, the NJI and other associated bodies and individuals for making this project a reality. On our part, we were prepared, and indeed we had to spend whatever

amount that was necessary towards making this project a reality. Thank God, it is today a reality.

There is no doubt that this Research Centre with its sophisticated facilities will provide an avenue for research and a rich source of knowledge and information to its users. It will also facilitate quick dispensation of justice.

I hereby formally commission the Anambra State Judiciary Research Centre to the glory of God.

Thank you very much indeed and may God bless you all.



*HON. JUSTICE E. A. NZEGWU, OFR
CHIEF JUDGE
ANAMBRA STATE*