

## PROTOCOLS

I welcome you all most heartily to this important and historic occasion.

Today marks another milestone in our modest efforts at providing for our people a strong pedestal for rapid and enduring development in all spheres and sectors of life.

As we all know by now, the operations and activities of this administration have been firmly hinged or anchored on the 4-point agenda we had conceived at the inception and which serves as our compass to providing good governance and ensuring a holistic and integrated development for the state.

The judiciary has no doubt become the cornerstone and sentinel of our fledgling democracy just as it has striven to entrench order and rule of law in the socio-economic life of the society.

As a matter of fact, this increasingly positive and active role of the judiciary in ~~only~~ bringing about stability and sanity to the society and in shaping the political and socio-economic future of the country, is also helping to bring out the best in the other two arms of the government.

These encouraging strides however need to be adequately supported to ensure sustainability and continuous advancement. It is a well known fact that apart from sufficient funding, the Judiciary thrives on solid and sophisticated intellectual resource base.

The need for research and research facilities can therefore not be overemphasized. Not only must Lawyers, Judges and Legal scholars, as a matter of course, remain up to date with developments in both domestic and international Law and practice but must continually seek ways of advancing knowledge and pushing the frontiers of legal sophistication and experience.

The Institute we are commissioning today is designed to provide the facilities for achieving these goals. It will serve as a center for the education, training, re-training and as a research facility for all judges, scholars, legal staff and employees of the Enugu State Judiciary and others around the country and even beyond the country.

The institute will also serve as a forum where judges, lawyers, and scholars from the state, the nation and the international community can convene for conferences and symposia on all facets and aspects of Law.

It is our intention to make it the best of its kind in the country to be manned by the most capable hands and equipped with the best facilities and amenities such as a well stocked ICT grounded Library, a multi-use lecture hall, classrooms, conference rooms, a business center etc.

I congratulate and commend the Chief Judge of the State Justice I. Umezuruike, <sup>UNODC</sup> the ~~Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Hon. Nduka Ikeyi, other~~ principal officers of the state Judiciary and Ministry of Justice and all other who contributed to the successful actualisation of this dream.

We are confident that our Lawyers, Judges, Jurists, scholars, and judicial staff would make optimal use of the opportunities offered by the institute to improve both their knowledge and skills and help achieve our target of making the Enugu State Judiciary the very best in the country.

And so, with pride and a profound sense of achievement, I most humbly and heartily commission this Institute and declare it open for operations.

Thank you and God bless you all.