

OPENING REMARKS BY IGP IBRAHIM KPOTUM IDRIS, NPM, mni, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICERS ON THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 2015, ORGANISED BY CENTRE FOR SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE, HELD AT THE MERIT HOUSE AUDITORIUM, ABUJA ON THE 12TH JULY 2017

I am delighted to welcome you to this workshop on the Effective Implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, (ACJA) 2015 organised by the Centre for socio legal studies in collaboration with the Nigeria Police. This in fact marks, yet the beginning of another series of training programmes for Police Officers but this time, on the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 for effective justice system.

On my assumption of office as the Inspector-General of Police, I stated in very clear terms, that this Police administration under my leadership will operate within the mantra of the rule of law and

respect for the rights of all Nigerians, irrespective of religion, ethnic, social or political inclinations while performing our constitutional duties of protecting lives and property. This informed my decision to lunch the Nigeria Police Force creed "titled "OUR CREED".

The creed is as follows;

- We shall Police the country based on international core values of Policing with integrity.
- We shall ensure that rule of law prevails in our action and activities
- We shall respect diversity, display courage, show compassion and demonstrate professionalism
- We shall operate within the principles of Democratic Policing.
- We shall shun corruption.
- We shall make Nigeria safer and secured

As part of our efforts to make Officers operate within the limits of our Creed, we have been organising different types of training for Police Officers to imbibe in them, a culture where the rule of law forms the bedrock of our actions and activities. In furtherance of this, the ACJA is considered an

important legislation because of its innovative provisions.

The Act was enacted in 2015 to ensure that the system of administration of criminal justice in Nigeria promotes efficient management of criminal justice institutions, speedy dispensation of justice, protection of the society from crime and protection of the rights and interests of the suspect, the defendant and the victim. This training is therefore aimed at inculcating in our Police officers across board, the need to police in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

This will eliminate all forms of illegal conducts that are not in conformity with our creed, in all Police stations and formations such as unlawful arrest, prolonged detentions without order of court, torture, commercialisation of bail Process, incivility to members of the public and victimization. These are conducts which give rise to court judgments against the Police and the consequent garnisheeing of our accounts. It is for this reason and many more that I welcome this collaboration between the Centre for Socio-Legal

studies and the Nigerian Police Force in organising these series of Training Workshops for police officers for efficient and effective criminal justice sector in Nigeria.

I am aware that the Act imposes new responsibilities on the Nigeria Police Force. These include the establishment of Central Criminal Records Registry (Data Base in Police stations, State Command Headquarters and the Force Headquarters); the use of Electronic recording devices for the taking of confessional statements, the use of modern technology and ICT in aid of our investigation, prosecution and operations. All these require additional funding if we must meet up with the responsibilities.

Just yesterday, during the Public Hearing on the Police Trust Fund Bill, at the National Assembly, I presented a paper where I echoed in very clear terms, the funding challenges of the Force. I demonstrated without any scintilla of doubts that the Regular budgetary allocation to the Police cannot fund Police operations without alternative source of funding. The

Police require an estimate of about N1.032 Trillion to run the Force annually but what was allocated in the 2017 for capital development and overhead cost is about **N31.6 Billion**. It is my sincere believe that once the Police Trust Fund Bill is passed into law, the necessary finance required to fully implement the ACJA, make the Police more effective and improve the general welfare of Police officers will be available.

Let me welcome all the participants who have come from the various divisions in the FCT and the Headquarters formations to attend this important workshop. I enjoin you to listen attentively to the various speakers and participate in the exercises which will be administered at the end of the Workshop. I urge you to put to good use the outcome of the training to improve your day-to-day operations in our police stations and formations.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to advise you to shun corruption and the abuse of the rights of the citizens, while performing your duties. This Administration has a zero tolerance on corruption and

abuse of human rights. Anybody caught engaging in corrupt practices and other unwholesome acts will be dealt with in accordance with the law. On the other hand those who demonstrate uprightness, dedication and commitment to duty will be rewarded in due season.

I assure you, that your welfare as Police officers is paramount and I must do everything possible to meet up with them.

Thank you.

I therefore declare this training workshop open and wish you successful deliberations.