

SPEECH BY HON. JUSTICE C.O. IDAHOSA, CHIEF JUDGE, EDO STATE AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE EDO STATE MULTI-DOOR COURT HOUSE ON FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2017

PROTOCOL

Today is most remarkable for me because Edo State is set to join the league of States in Nigeria that have embraced the A.D.R. approach in resolution of disputes.

In Edo State, our people over the years have come to identify conflict resolution with complex litigation and no other at all.

Today, we have come to present to our people another way in which conflicts can be resolved.

The Edo people will no more resign themselves helplessly to lengthy years of dispute resolution if there is a viable option. That viable option, is the multi-door court house and it is a means to quick dispute resolution as opposed to lengthy trials in our regular courts.

With the inauguration of the Edo State Multi-door court house, parties can now settle their disputes through mediation and other types of appropriate dispute resolution, including arbitration, mediation and conciliation.

The name “Multi-Door” come from the multi-door court house concept which envisions one courthouse with multiple dispute resolution doors or programmes. Cases are referred through the appropriate door for resolution. The goals of the multi-door approach is to provide

our residents with easy access to justice, reduce delay by making options available through which disputes can be resolved. With the inauguration of the Edo State Multi-Door Courthouse, disputants/parties can be assisted to reach agreements that meet their interest without straining their relationship and at the same time preserving same thereby saving time and money.

With this inauguration, I call on members of the Bar to brace up to this trending mode of dispute resolution as the Bar plays a strategic role in this regard. A lawyer who is not skilled in the A.D.R. options will soon find himself completely out of touch with no service to render to disputants who by choice will prefer the Multi-Door Courthouse to the regular Court.

On our part, Edo State Judiciary will continue to train her judicial officers in Alternative Dispute Resolution in order to achieve the set goals for which the Edo State Multi-Door Courthouse has been inaugurated.

Let me seize this opportunity to announce that it was only in October 2015, precisely 29th October 2015 that I inaugurate the committee saddled with the responsibility to fashion out the modalities for the setting up of the Edo State Multi-Door Courthouse. The Committee which has The Honourable Justice J. Okeaya-Inneh as Chairman also has the following as members:-

1. Franca Oghoato Mrs. (Chief Magistrate Special Grade)
2. Ede Asenoguan Esq. (N.B.A. Chairman, Benin Branch)
3. Oyekanmi Adewowe Esq.
4. Dele Edokpayi Esq. And
5. Johnson Agbakagba Esq. as Secretary.

The Committee was thereafter expanded to include representatives of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (I.C.M.C.) and the Negotiation and Conflict Management Group (N.C.M.G.) with Patricia Aina, Lloyed Duru Esq. and Femi Egbewole as points men. I highly commend the Committee for the good work they have done. I need add here also that the Committee also worked on a bill to established the Multi-Door Courthouse which has passed second reading on the floor of the Edo State House of Assembly. There is also in place a practice direction that will govern proceedings in the Multi-Door Courthouse. Today, history is being made and we all are witnesses to this great event.

Our success story will not complete if the media does not give this even the much-needed publicity that it deserves. Our people must be sensitised in all major dialects in Edo State as well as the official language about the inauguration of the Edo State Multi-Door Courthouse. I also appeal to government to provide all necessary logistics required for the full operation of the Edo State Multi-door Courthouse.

By the powers vested on me as Chief Judge of Edo State and all other laws empowering me in that behalf, I hereby inaugurate the Edo State Multi-Door Courthouse.

I thank you all for your attendance, God bless you.

HON. JUSTICE C.O. IDAHOSA
CHIEF JUDGE
EDO STATE