

SPEECH DELIVERED BY HON. JUSTICE H. A. COURAGE-
OGBEBOR CHAIRMAN FAMILY COURT IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE EDO
STATE FAMILY COURT (CIVIL PROCEDURE) RULES 2017 AND THE
INAUGURATION OF THE FAMILY COURT OF EDO STATE AT THE
HIGH COURT COMPLEX ON THE 9th DAY OF JANUARY, 2017

Your Excellency, the Governor of Edo State,

The Rt. Honourable speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly,

The Honourable, the Chief Judge of Edo State,

Other Judges of the Edo state Judiciary here present,

The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice,

Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SAN) here present,

Your Worships, Magistrates of Edo State Judiciary,

Your Honours, President and Member Customary courts,

Chairmen of Nigerian Bar Association Benin, Auchi, Ekpoma,
Igarra and Uromi Branches,

Members of the Bar,

Our Chief Launcher and Other Launchers,

Our Invited Guests,

Members of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure, honour and privilege to welcome you to this epoch making event of the Launching of the Edo State Family Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2017 and the formal inauguration of the Family Courts of Edo state.

The Honourable, the Chief Judge of Edo State set up a committee sometime in 2013 pursuant to section 158 of the Child Rights Law 2007 of Edo State giving the committee the mandate of making rules to regulate the procedure in the court to be designated Family Court.

The committee members are:

1. Hon. Justice N. A. Imoukhuede - Chairman
2. His Worship Mrs. M. C. Ojobo - Member
3. His Worship Mrs. F. I. Oghoator - Secretary
4. O. I. Asenoguan Esq. (N. B. A Chairman Benin Branch) - Member

It is the product of that committee that we are launching today as the Edo State Family Court Procedure Rules) 2017. The Rules will operate to guide lawyers and the court in the dispensation of justice in the Family Court. The Child Rights Law is a body of Laws enacted to take care of the Rights of Children and young persons in the determination of their rights and how to seek remedy and protection from the courts. Upon the launching of the Rules and the inauguration of the court today, all matters relating to children's rights, custody and welfare shall be exclusively handled by the Family Courts which are constituted at the Magistrate and High Court levels You will agree with me that there is no better time than now for the coming on stream of the family court to meet the modern day realities of increased violations of the Rights of Children.

I must commend the Hon. Chief Judge, Hon. Justice C. O. Idahosa who, even as he winds up as the Chief Judge of Edo State, ensured that this laudable feat is achieved during his tenure, just like other very pragmatic achievements witnessed in the judiciary during his time as Chief Judge. My Lord we salute you and we say we are proud of you.

His Lordship, Honourable Justice N. A. Imoukhuede was chairman of this committee only until 1st November 2016 when she was transferred to Sabongidda-Ora High Court of Division.

I want to seize this opportunity to appreciate the committee headed by the Honourable Justice N. A. Imoukhuede for the marvellous job done in the drafting of these Rules. I took over from His lordship Honourable Justice N. A. Imoukhuede as Benin the family court implementation committee upon my transfer to the Judicial Division and under my watch we were able to print the Rules which we are launching today and the eventual inauguration of the family court, to the glory of God.

Finally, it is my belief that, Members of the Public, Lawyers, Non-Governmental Organisations, Human Rights Groups and International Organisations will join Edo State in this struggle to protect the Rights of our children in Edo State. This is just the beginning, a lot more still needs to be done and we are counting on the support of every stakeholder in achieving these goals.

Finally, I thank everyone here present for finding time to be with us today. I specially thank and welcome our Chief Launcher and other Launchers to this event.

We are aware that there is recession in the country and Edo State is not left out. However, what needs to be done must and should be done, particularly when such action is aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of our children.

Thank you so much for coming.

God bless you

HON, JUSTICE H. A. COURAGE-OGBEBOR
CHAIRMAN, FAMILY COURT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE