

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HON. JUSTICE E. A. EDIGIN AT THE
FAREWELL VISIT OF HON. JUSTICE CROMWELL O. IDAHOSA
CHIEF JUDGE OF EDO STATE, TO THE COURTS OF EDO
CENTRAL**

ON MONDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2017.

(Protocols)

My Lords,

WELCOME

On behalf of the Court of Edo Central, comprise of the High Courts in Ekpoma, Irrua, Uromi and Ubiaja as well as the Magistrate Courts, Area Customary Courts and District Customary courts, I welcome the Hon. Chief Judge of Edo State, Judges of Edo State Judiciary here present and all invites to this occasion.

INTRODUCTION /PURPOSE OF VISIT

This is an auspicious occasion marking the exit from active service of a judicial Colossus of our time: Hon. Justice Cromwell Osamwonyi Idahosa, who will be formally retiring from service on the 25-1-2017.

Hon. Justice C. O. Idahosa does not need introduction, but for those who may not know him, Hon. Justice C. O. Idahosa was appointed a Judge of the High Court after many years of successful active private legal practice. Thereafter, he rose through the ranks to become the Chief Judge of Edo State.

As Chief Judge, he served as member of Board of Governors, National Judicial Institute, member, National Judicial Council and member body of Benchers, without blemish. In his time as Chief Judge, Edo State Judiciary witnessed growth and development. The criminal division of the High Court commenced in his tenure as well as the inauguration of the family court. The Inspectorate Division of the High Court was also re-invigorated in his tenure.

The Courts in Edo Central Senatorial District comprising of High Courts in Ekpoma, Irrua, Uromi and Ubiaja Judicial Divisions as well as the Magistrate

Courts, Area customary Courts, Districts Customary Courts there under use this opportunity to appreciate His Lordship for his sterling leadership qualities.

In the Ekpoma Judicial Division, his impact was felt in the renovation of the Judges Quarters, which had been in decay for several years. Ekpoma Judicial Division can now boast of having a residence for the presiding Judge. The High Court at Irrua was also established in his tenure.

CONCLUSION/APPEAL

However, the Courts in this senatorial district are in dire need of more government attention as most of them have fallen into disrepair due to years of neglect by successive governments. We pray that greater attention be paid to them in terms of infrastructural development as regards renovation of the court buildings, staff quarters, equipment and machinery as well as increase in the number of staffs for the courts.

We wish my Lord and his entourage, safe trip as he traverses through the length and breadth of Edo State and a healthy and restful retirement from active service.

We pledge not to depart from the ideals you exemplified whilst in service.

Thank you and God Bless.