

**AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME READ BY HON. JUSTICE T. U. OBOH
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRE-RETIREMENT VISIT TO EDO
NORTH JUDICIAL DIVISION OF EDO STATE JUDICIARY BY THE
HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUDGE, HON. JUSTICE C. O. IDAHOSA,
TODAY THE 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2017**

With the permission of the most senior Judge in Edo North Judicial Division I welcome

The Honourable, The Chief Judge of Edo State, Hon. Justice C. O. Idahosa.

I am full of joy to be one of those to welcome our illustrious Chief Judge, Hon. Justice C. O. Idahosa, to the Edo North Senatorial District on his pre-retirement visit to Auchi, one of the divisions where he worked and made his mark as an incorruptible and a distinguished jurist.

A look at the gathering here today is a testimony to the fact that he was very well appreciated when he was here as a Judge. This is not an opportunity for long speeches. I do not think I am competent to comment on his role as a Chief Judge in Edo State. If out of deep respect I cannot say any thing about him, repeat what he has said of himself or say what he does, I believe nothing will be heard of him from me. An occasion of this nature would not have arisen at all. I am competent to say one or two things I personally know about him.

This draws me to the comments of two characters in one of William Shakespeare's Works - Julius Caesar. The characters are Cassius and Brutus. I quote;

Cassius:

"Tell me good Brutus, can you see your face

Brutus:

No, Cassius; for the eye sees not itself
But by reflection from some other thing

Cassius:

.....

And it is very much lamented, Brutus
That you have no mirrors as will turn
Your hidden worthiness into your eye,
That you might see your shadow".

(underlining is mine)

From the quotation above, I can deduce that a man cannot access himself. The dance steps of a dancer are better appreciated by the on-lookers, not the dancer himself. Another area is that a man may have some good qualities in him that he may not be conscious of unless someone else tells him about them.

I personally see our Chief Judge as a planter who plants perennial crops, not annual crops. When he was living in the Judge's Quarters at Auchi, he planted cashew crops. When he was doing this, he was conscious of the fact that those crops will out-live his stay in the quarters. When you take a critical look at his various achievements, they bear the same look.

He successfully launched Edo State Judiciary into the ICT super highway by creating the Edo State Judiciary Website. It was in his time that the 1988 Edo State (Civil Procedure) Rules was jettisoned. In its place, the Edo State High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2012, was brought into being. He created the High Court Criminal Division from the existing High Court, that has drastically reduced the numerical strength of

the inmates in the various prisons in Edo State. Very recently, the Edo State Family Court was inaugurated and the Edo State Family Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2017 was launched. This was done to make the implementation of the Child Rights Law possible. This is an additional feather to his cap. I did not vow to mention all his landmark achievements in this speech.

The courts in Edo North have one common and lingering problem. It is the devastating effect of termites. Apart from the Court Halls, the very limited quarters are not spared of this devastation.

The Magistrate Court directly opposite this venue is in complete ruin. The first prayer point of every staff every morning is "May the collapse of the ceilings in my office tarry till I leave office today". In view of the activities that are lined up for today, time will not permit this body to have a look at the devastating effect of termites on our ceilings.

There is no quarter at Igarra. My brother Judge here at Auchi has no quarter. The only quarter at Auchi is now a shadow of its former self. It is not in doubt that if a workman is given the necessary tools the best result will come out of him.

All the Judges, Magistrates, President of Area and District Courts and the entire staff of Judiciary wish our out-going Chief Judge God's blessings, a healthy, rewarding and blossoming retirement life in Jesus name, Amen.

I thank you all for your patience.

Hon. Justice T. U. Oboh