

Welcome Address

*C. E. Nkwonta**

Deputy Governor (Economic Policy),
Director of Research and Statistics,
Other Directors present,
Branch Controllers,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am highly honoured to welcome you all to this occasion of the 2007 CBN Executive Seminar. I am particularly delighted with the choice of Enugu as the venue of this seminar. The seminar serves as a forum by the executives of the Bank to brainstorm and exchange views on major topical economic issues that affect Nigeria's economic development. The theme of this seminar “Monetary Policy in a Changing Environment” is not only apt, but also very central to the current national policy thrust as embodied in the Vision 2020 and FSS 2020 initiatives. As Nigeria aims at becoming Africa's financial hub and among the 20 largest economies in the world by 2020, the need for a thorough brainstorming on monetary policy in this changing environment cannot be overemphasized. With the recent advances and developments in our financial system, coupled with the role monetary policy plays in any economy, it is pertinent that we position ourselves to take full advantage of the opportunities in line with FSS 2020 and Vision 2020. This underscores the significance of the seminar coming at this time. It is my sincere hope that the serene atmosphere of Enugu will promote a healthy discourse towards the articulation of appropriate policy measures to achieve the desired objective(s) of this seminar. I, therefore, enjoin all the participants to use this forum to enhance their general understanding of the critical issues of the subject matter.

The Deputy Governor, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to mention that Enugu is a city of peace and tranquility with recreation centers for relaxation.

**Mr C.E. Nkwonta is the Branch Controller, Central Bank of Nigeria, Enugu*

Being the seat of the old Eastern Region, the city has numerous tourist and historical sites. I, therefore, enjoin you all to avail yourselves of the educational and memorable moments these sites would offer. The venue of this seminar, Roban Hotels is conducive for both academic work and relaxation. You are also invited to avail yourselves of its facilities.

On this note, I, on behalf of the entire staff of CBN Enugu Branch heartily welcome you all to this momentous event. While wishing you successful deliberations, we pledge to assist the Department in every possible way to ensure the success of this very important seminar.

I thank you all for your kind attention.