
Welcome Address

E. O. Alilonu

The Governor, ably represented by,
Deputy Governor, Economic Policy, Dr. O. Mailafia
Departmental Directors,
Executives of the Bank,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I on behalf of the Management and Staff of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Calabar Branch, warmly welcome you all to the ancient city of Calabar, the capital of Cross River State for the 2006 Research and Statistics Department Executive Seminar. We are grateful to God Almighty for journey mercies granted all of you and wish you fruitful deliberations and peaceful stay in the Canaan City.

The choice of Calabar for this year's seminar is very appropriate. The ancient city is serene, clean and her people very hospitable. Since the seminar is a forum for exchange of ideas and brainstorming, Calabar is an ideal choice for this type of exercise. I am quite aware that your stay this time around is bound to be short. Nonetheless, you can still make out time to visit some places of interest. There are quite a number of interesting sites within Calabar and its environs. Tinapa, Africa's premier free trade resort is worthy of visit. It might also interest you to know that the National Museum which holds the relics of the historic African slave trade, information about the great kings of Old Calabar and the great arts and customs of the Efik people is a stone throw from here.

Please permit me at this juncture to mention the importance of the annual Executive Seminar which has become the bedrock for a number of socio-economic policies and reform agenda in the Central Bank of Nigeria and the nation. The theme of this year's seminar 'Capital Account Liberalization:

Issues, Problems and Prospects' is indeed very auspicious as it comes on the heels of the recapitalization of deposit money banks. The onus therefore falls upon this great gathering to discuss exhaustively and come up with adequate policy recommendations for management. I am convinced that this team of highly informed executives of the Bank is more than capable of handling this assignment.

I wish to commend the Management of the Bank for sustaining this seminar. My appreciation also goes to the Research & Statistics and Human Resources Departments for maintaining the executive policy in their respective annual calendar of events. It has always provided the highest conglomeration of executives in a single programme of the Bank. Once again, I want to thank the organizers on the choice of Calabar as the venue of this year's seminar.

I wish you all a fruitful deliberation and a very pleasant stay in Calabar.

Thank you and God bless.