

OPENING ADDRESS

By

Alhaji Saidu Mohammed*

The Guest of Honour, Deputy Governor (DM & BP),
Mallam I. Usman,
The Director of Research,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be invited to deliver an opening address on this year's Executive Policy Seminar with the theme titled "Creating An Enabling Environment for Economic Development in Nigeria". There is no doubt that this theme is very relevant and could not have been more timely in view of the fact that it coincides with the period when Government has taken and would continue to take concrete steps towards further improvement of Nigeria's economic environment. In this regard, I am specifically referring to the promulgation of "The Nigerian Investment Promotion Decree 16 of 1995" and "The Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree 17 of 1995". These two Decrees were, among other measures aimed at attracting foreign participation in our economic development. This seminar is therefore expected to examine the policy response of the economy and to suggest ways and means whereby the economy could once more return to the path of sustainable growth and development.

Guest of Honour, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to confidently state that in the next four days you are going to witness very exciting academic and practical sessions, going by the calibre of resource persons, who, in their respective professions, are accomplished personalities. Essentially, I consider this a great opportunity for our executives to share experiences with highly respected members of the academia and the business world. It is my sincere hope that at the end of the day we shall all leave this venue with our knowledge of the economy further enriched.

Let me quickly add that this year's number of participants is slightly lower than what is used to be in the previous years, and the number of seminar days has been

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reduced from five (5) to four (4). This development should not be seen as a sign of declining interest in this programme by the Bank. Rather it is a direct result of the financial constraint we had to contend with this year. Let me assure you that in view of the importance the bank attached to this seminar, Management will still continue to organise and uphold the quality of the seminar.

Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure therefore, to have you around for the 1996 edition of the Central Bank of Nigeria Executive Policy Seminar. I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.