

**OPENING REMARK BY THE GOVERNOR, CHIEF
(DR.) J.O. SANUSI (CON), AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
WORKSHOP ON “THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA IN CBN” ON 15TH
APRIL, 2004**

THE DEPUTY GOVERNORS HERE PRESENT
DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS
EXECUTIVE STAFF OF CBN
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I am highly delighted to be here to flag off this workshop tagged, “The Dawn of a New Era in CBN”. You will all agree with me that the central theme of this workshop is quite important and germane to our current efforts to evolve a new Central Bank of Nigeria that will rank among the best in the world.

2. In common parlance, “the dawn of an era” signifies a new beginning, which ushers in a new range of opportunities and the attendant challenges. In our own particular situation, the dawn comes with a very eloquent warning that the time for sleeping and slumbering is over, and it is time to wake up and be productive and creative. Perhaps, the theme of this workshop has been carefully chosen to usher in the third and final phase of the CBN’s restructuring and re-engineering programme, otherwise known as Project EAGLES, in order to stir the zeal in us to take up the challenge of being the flag-bearers and pacesetters for the change that will promote excellence and proficiency of central banking in the country.
3. When we envisioned making the CBN as one of the world’s most efficient and effective central banks we recognized that, a critical component of this vision was that our workforce should become one of the world’s most efficient and professional teams in delivering high quality services. Thus, the core responsibility for realizing our vision lies with us all. Our current efforts at restructuring, re-engineering, and adopting changes arising from developments in information technology are, therefore, geared towards repositioning every staff for the anticipated challenges. This workshop represents another giant step towards repositioning the various Departments for the task ahead in the new CBN. In this endeavour, our Governors, as the owners of the change, must champion this great course; the Executives, as strategic agents of change, must demonstrate their commitment to this course while the Senior and Junior staff as change agents, must reflect the high value we place on this course.

4. The task may seem enormous, but I believe that they are not insurmountable. The road to success may seem long and rough, but there is enough light to lead us to our destination. I, therefore, encourage every member of staff to initiate necessary personal adjustments and develop the right mindset that will enable him/her fit in properly as an active member of our winning team. This is the factor that will help distinguish the successful from the unsuccessful worker.
5. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am, of course, confident of your abilities. You, therefore, have every reason to believe in yourself as I believe in you. There is a concept I will call “positive pride”. By this, I mean, having confidence in one’s own ability and capabilities that ultimately translates to core competencies, which stimulate positive actions in the right direction for collective good. I enjoin you to develop “positive pride” as members of the CBN team, and see yourselves as proud stakeholders in the actualization of the Bank’s corporate vision by closely identifying with our shared values.
6. Finally, I have no doubt that this workshop will positively help you to advance in the right direction in the new CBN. I, therefore, urge you to listen attentively, and learn and participate actively at this workshop in order to derive maximum benefits.
7. On this note, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my honour and privilege to declare the workshop open.
8. Thank you and God bless.

Chief (Dr.) J. O. Sanusi (*CON*)
Governor
Central Bank of Nigeria

15th April, 2004