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Welcome Address

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Welcome Address

*Itohan M. Ogbomon-Paul **

His Excellency the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State,
The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria,
Deputy Governors of the CBN,
Departmental Directors,
Distinguished Resource Persons,
Branch Controllers,
Executives staff of the CBN,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen

Introduction

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to the 27th Edition of the CBN Executive Seminar holding here in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital. I want to start by thanking Management for choosing the beautiful city of Uyo, as the host for this year's Seminar. We are indeed honoured and delighted to welcome the distinguished guests to this all-important gathering.

The theme of this year's Seminar is tagged **"Food Security in Nigeria: Options for policy"**. The central focus of the Seminar is to discuss policy options for tackling the challenges of food insecurity, with the resultant outcomes on poverty reduction, job and wealth creation, as well as overall growth and development of the Nigerian economy. This year's Seminar provides a unique opportunity for us all, because food holds the key to quality human existence. Indeed, food security is at the core of every nation's development agenda. The quantity and quality of food available to the citizenry is correlated with the productivity and growth of an economy.

It is my hope that this Seminar would provide the platform for intellectual input and knowledge sharing for effective policy management. The engaging sessions would also accord all, the opportunity for groundbreaking ideas which would help in proffering lasting solutions to food insecurity in the country.

Permit me, distinguished guests to inform you that Akwa Ibom was created on 23rd September, 1987 with thirty-one local government areas (LGAs) and is one of the

** Ms. Itohan M. Ogbomon-Paul is the Branch Controller, Uyo Branch, Central Bank of Nigeria.*

foremost oil producing States in Nigeria. The people of Akwa Ibom State, who are basically agrarian in nature, are friendly, peace loving and law abiding.

We want to use this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State for creating an enabling environment for the CBN and other financial institutions (OFIs) to thrive and actualise their mandates in a secure and peaceful terrain. I thank you immensely, Your Excellency, for sustaining the peace in the State.

I, therefore, sincerely urge all first-time visitors to please take time out to savour the peace, tranquility and serene environment coupled with historic sites and the exceptional culinary recipes of the State.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you are encouraged to please adhere to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) protocols throughout the duration of this Seminar.

Once again, I welcome you to Akwa Ibom State and wish you fruitful deliberations and a peaceful stay in the "Land of Promise".

Thank you for your attention.