**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL NATIONAL PENSION COMMISSION, CHINELO ANOHU-AMAZU ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FOR HONOURABLE JUSTICES, JUDGES AND SENIOR LEGAL OFFICERS AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA ON 3-4 OCTOBER, 2013**

The Honourable President, National Industrial Court

Honourable Judges of the National Industrial Court present

The Honourable Chairman of the Investments & Securities Tribunal

Honourable Members of the Investments & Securities Tribunal

Learned Senior Advocates of Nigeria present

Learned Professors of law

Staff and Management of National Pension Commission

Learned Colleagues

Distinguished Participants

1. It is my honour to welcome you, on behalf of the Management of the National Pension Commission, to this very important Interactive Workshop on the Contributory Pension Scheme. You are no doubt aware that the Federal Government, as part of its on-going Economic and Governance Reform Programme, enacted the Pension Reform Act, 2004 which established the Contributory Pension Scheme and introduced major changes to our pension system. The Act also established the National Pension Commission that is charged with the responsibility of regulating and supervising all pension matters in Nigeria. In order to ensure that the new scheme achieves its primary goal of providing an enduring, self-sustaining and effective pension system, the understanding, cooperation and support of stakeholders is crucial.

1. The Commission acknowledges that the judiciary is a critical stakeholder in the pension reform. Consequently, we recognized the need for a forum that would promote dialogue and proper appreciation of the legal and regulatory framework involved in the adjudication of pension matters. Accordingly, this Workshop is designed by the Commission to provide the forum where Honourable members of the Judiciary would take a critical look at the provisions of the PRA 2004, and the legal and institutional frameworks of the Contributory Pension Scheme. The Workshop also aims to provide an opportunity for interaction and exchange of ideas on the proper strategies and methods of implementation of the PRA 2004.
2. Specifically, the Workshop will focus on a number of subjects such as the rationale and objectives of the pension reform, the role of the Commission in ensuring compliance with the Act, implementation framework, corporate governance practices and challenges in the Pension Industry, the processes of administration of benefits under the Contributory Pension Scheme and the investment of pension fund assets under the Act.
3. The Commission is aware that as with all reforms, there are bound to be some concerns and misunderstandings. That is why this seminar is fitting and timely, as it will go a long way in enhancing the appreciation of participants on the Contributory Pension Scheme. We hope that at the end of the Workshop, Honourable Justices and Judges here present would be ambassadors and advocates of the Contributory Pension Scheme.
4. My Lords, Distinguished Participants, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you fruitful deliberations.
5. Thank you for your attention.