



**AN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF
CROSS RIVER STATE, SENATOR LIYEL IMOKE ON THE OCCASION OF
WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DUE PROCESS
FOR KEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AT THE STATE LIBRARY
COMPLEX ON MONDAY, 7TH JULY, 2008**

Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Barr.
Efiok Cobham

Members of the State Executive Council here present

Permanent Secretaries

Chairmen of Boards and Commissions

Chairmen of Local Government Councils here present

Local Government Functionaries

Distinguished Invited Guests

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by thanking the organizers of this workshop for their kind invitation requesting me to be at this event. It is indeed a privilege to address you all on matters directly related to our overall performance while in office.

Due process has become a generally accepted norm in the onerous process of governance because of its wide implication for service delivery. We are all witnesses to the haphazard way in which policy directions were unduly impeded, resulting in loss of revenue and slow implementation of government projects. Official mails were either not properly routed or projects were awarded without regards to laid down rules and regulations.

Today however, we have put in place the Due Process Mechanism through which public officers are reminded on the need for proper procedure. Our strict adherence to the tenets of the Due Process Mechanism will no doubt save precious time and ensure quick implementation of directives and policies of government

It has been a deliberate policy of this Administration to improve on the lot of our rural populace and this we can do by ensuring that our rural communities have access to electricity, potable water and other social amenities. It was in a bid to achieve this noble objective that the Rural Development Commission, the Rural Electrification Agency and the Border Communities Development Commission, among others, were set up. I do know that these commissions were

specifically charged with these responsibilities and they have kick started their operations.

However, for these agencies to achieve their goals, the Local Government Councils are expected to work in synergy and partner with the State Government. This therefore calls for the prudent management of funds at your disposal and strict adherence to the tenets of accountability, transparency and the application of the principle of value-for money on all matters related to procurement.

It would not therefore be out of place to remind us all that the prudent management of resources makes it easier for government to provide the much-needed social amenities and intervene in other crying areas that deserve attention. The presence of these amenities will no doubt, make businesses to thrive and create the right environment for more social interaction and political development.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me urge you all to take a second look at our development strategies and see which areas we may be lacking for possible redefinition. This will enhance our overall productive capacity and create more employment and investment

opportunities, which can only be achieved by embracing our ongoing reforms, part of which this workshop will highlight.

As functionaries of government, your acquaintance with the reform agenda will not only enhance your job but will also enable you to acquire the necessary skills and capacity to institutionalize the Due Process in your various areas.

Let me emphasize here that no contract should be paid for without a Due Process Certificate issued and signed by the Due Process Office in the Local Government Areas. You will be educated further on the operations of the Due Process Mechanism as you tune your minds towards the objectives of this workshop.

Finally, let me urge all of you, the participants to take the workshop seriously even as I expect that the Resource Persons, carefully chosen on merit will do enough justice while making their presentations.

It is on that hopeful note that I now declare this workshop **on Due Process for Key Local Government Personnel**, officially open.

I thank you all for your attention.