

FICAN WORKSHOP 2011 COMMUNIQUE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The 11th edition of the annual workshop for Business Editors and Finance Correspondents Association of Nigeria (FICAN) with the theme “Banking Reforms” Role of Deposit Insurance System (DIS)” was held in Dutse, Jigawa State from 28th to 29th December , 2011. Participants from various media organisation totaling about 100 were represented at the event. A total of seven papers were presented by eminent experts on banking, finance and the media.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE WORKSHOP

- (A) Mergers and Acquisition in the Nigeria Banking System: Issues and Challenges**
- (B) The Regulatory/Supervisory Framework for Non-Interest Banking**
- (C) The Impact of Microfinance Sub-Sector in Promoting Financial Inclusion in Nigeria**

- (D) Islamic Finance In Nigeria: Benefits, Characteristics, Principles and Practice.**
- (E) Bank Failure Resolution in Nigeria: The Bridge Bank Option.**
- (F) Issues in Financial Inclusion in Nigeria**
- (G) The Role of Media in Promoting Financial Literacy as a Tool for Enhancing Public Confidence.**

The following represents the communiqué emanating from the seven syndicate groups that discussed the papers:-

- (1) Regulatory bodies should strengthen their regulatory roles in view of the Merger and Acquisition in the banking industry.**
- (2) Banks should improve on corporate governance, good internal control and improve o services (training and development).**
- (3) Banks should lend to the real sector in order to improve on their contribution to the GDP.**
- (4) To forestall high level of fraudulent and sharp practices, particularly at the top and middle management levels, there is need to establish special courts for banking crimes in the country.**

- (5) The workshop noted that Micro finance subsector has helped in promoting financial inclusion in Nigeria, and has contributed to socio-economic development of the country.**
- (6) The workshop recommended Increased sensitization of citizenries.**
- (7) Adoption of right model**
- (8) Capacity building**
- (9) Infrastructural development**
- (10) Enhanced supervision**
- (11) Encourage communal and grassroots participation in the ownership of MFBs.**

On Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for non interest banking, the workshop noted:

- (12) Nigeria's demographic and geographical spread call for the establishment of non interest finance and therefore there should be no agitation on the establishment of such finance institution in Nigeria.**
- (13) The establishment of non interest finance in Nigeria is clearly backed by the BOFIA**

- (14) There is no provision for sharia council rather it calls for establishment of council of experts to be drawn from all spheres as contained in the framework issued by the CBN.**
- (15) Islamic banking in Nigeria like the conventional banks are to comply strictly with all the accounting principles, conventions and standards**
- (16) The media should carry simplified financial reporting to the fore front.**
- (17) Media should educate and not titillate and to provide positive tips for wise investment to the general public.**
- (18) The media write up should discourage all forms of fraud and related fraudulent activities in the system.**
- (19) A national agenda should be set on financial inclusion.**
- (20) There should be collaboration among all the stakeholders in the financial system.**
- (21) The need to explore and leverage profitable means to service the large market o the benefit of the society.**
- (22) There should be continuous public enlightenment/literacy education by all the key players in the financial system.**

- (23) Incentives should be given to operators that opt to operate in our rural areas.**
- (24) There should be adequate security for channel of service distribution.**
- (25) There is need for stakeholders to work around the challenges to facilitate the implementation of Islamic finance in the country.**
- (26) NDIC should be more proactive in nipping the issue of bank distress in the bud before it graduates from a banking crisis, to systemic crisis to economic crisis then political crisis as we have seen happening in the developed economies.**
- (27) There should be more collaboration between the NDIC and the law enforcement agencies in investigating financial crimes and bank fraud.**
- (28) There should be much more stringent punishment for financial crimes and confiscation of assets**