

**WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE HEAD OF BRANCH (HOB) MRS ISA R. S. AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, NATIONAL READERSHIP PROMOTION CAMPAIGN IN NASARAWA STATE WITH THE THEME: "READING AS A PENACEA TO NIGERIA'S SOCIETAL PROBLEMS ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022 BY 10AM – 1PM**

I am delighted to be in your midst and to give God the glory for making this day a reality for us in peace and in good health to witness the National Library of Nigeria's 2022 Readership Promotion Campaign in Nasarawa state with the Theme: "Reading as a Penacea to Nigeria Societal Problems".

This is the 6 series of the campaigns simultaneously planned in all the 36 states of the federation including FCT. I hereby acknowledge the presence of the members of the high table with respect and honour to our National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Chinwe Veronica Anunobi. My colleagues, Press men, the MC and every one present here.

The main objective of this national campaign is to encourage reading among Nigerians by way of carrying out sensitization activities and the provision of good reading materials to schools, hospitals, motor parks and correctional centers and the communities. This effort is geared towards proffering solutions that would ameliorate the poor reading culture in Nigeria. However, the poor reading culture is the societal phenomenon that cut across all the strata of Nigerian society especially with the advent of Information Communication Technology (ICT) facility like Internet, Handsets, Computers, Television etc that is diverting the attention of people from reading or using the Libraries. Therefore the campaign is purposely to:

- Ensure lifelong reading in Nigeria
- Inculcate reading from the womb to the grave
- Ensure that reading becomes part and parcel of life and not only for utilization and examination
- Encourage the establishment of model reading clubs, Libraries in schools and the communities
- Also encourage the use of Libraries which stores a lot of information materials in every field etc in order to ensure the building of an informed and enlightened citizens for personal and national development.

Considering these objectives and the cost implication, this reading sensitization and promotion should not be left for National Library alone but should involve all of us here present and other stakeholders in the book chain. We should make sure we enforce it everywhere at all times, Schools, Offices, and everywhere in the society. This is because knowledge is power and when you read you will be informed but deformity will be the outcome of failure to read.

Once again I appreciate your presence here all for honouring our invitation and I wish all of us blissful deliberations for this event.

Thank you all for listening.