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TALKING POINTS

Protocols.....

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Opening Statement

On behalf of the Board, management and staff of the CLEEN Foundation, I warmly welcome you all to the formal opening of the CLEEN Foundation Resource Centre in Lagos.

About CLEEN

- When was CLEEN Established?
- What is the mission of CLEEN Foundation?
- What are the programme Areas of CLEEN Foundation

About the Resource Centre

When did the idea begin?

We began planning for a befitting building to serve as the headquarters of CLEEN Foundation and a resource centre for public safety and security studies in Lagos about five years ago when we were developing our first strategic plan. At the time we had no clue where the funds were going to come from. All we had was the vision and determination that at the end of the planning period in 2007, we would have own office building.

And to the glory of God and determination of our management and staff, today we not only have this resource centre we are commissioning today but also our own office building in Abuja.

How did it materialize?

- Macarthur Foundation Award for creative and Effective institutions
- Proceeds from selling of our stocks before the stock market crash
- Savings from our projects/consultancy services
- Support for the Abuja office was partly provided by the Ford Foundation

What are the components of the Resource Centre?

The Centre has four major components:

- Office section that accommodates our 14 staff in Lagos
- Conference hall that can comfortably forty participants
- Three bedroom guest house for our interns and visiting scholars
- and an Ambitious library that we are still developing, which on completion will house over 20, 000 hardcopies of books and journals as well as online access to over a million publications across 47 disciplines through our partnership with the JSTOR online library/archives.

Appreciation

Our achievements over the past 10 years would not have been possible without the support of our partners and donors such as:

- MacArthur Foundation
- Fund Foundation
- Cordaid
- Open Society Institute
- DFID
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Union

I also want to use this opportunity to thank our board, ably led by Ambassador Lamidi Maliki, for their exemplary services over the years, without which today's event would not have been possible.

Our partners civil society organizations.

Finally and by no means the least are my colleagues in the offices in Lagos and Abuja, with whom we have worked tirelessly these past ten years to make CLEEN Foundation a leader in the Nigerians civil society movement. Without them there would have not been anything to celebrate today as they are the un-sung heroines and heroes of everything we have achieved.

Thank You.