



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION, BOSS MUSTAPHA, AT THE 2ND QUARTER 2018 EDITION OF FORUM OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION WITH SECRETARIES TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS, HOLDING AT IBOM HOTEL & GOLF RESORT, UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2018**

**His Excellency, Governor Akwa-Ibom State**

**His Excellency, Deputy Governor Akwa-Ibom State**

**The Permanent Secretaries from OSGF**

**The Secretary to Akwa-Ibom State Government**

**Distinguished SSGs from the various States**

**All officials of Akwa-Ibom State Government**

**Other officials from OSGF**

**Gentlemen of the Press**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2018 edition of the SGF/SSGs Forum here in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Let me start by appreciating His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State Udom Emmanuel, for accepting to host this edition of the meeting and his immense support towards its actualisation. I sincerely believe our stay in Uyo will be a memorable one.

2. You will all recall that this Forum is intended to give us the much-needed avenue for sharing ideas, comparing notes and peer assessing one another on the implementation of national and sub-national policies and programmes of government. The national government is saddled with the responsibility of setting the agenda for governance and socio-economic development, but the states and local governments remain invaluable partners. This Forum therefore provides us with the platform to create linkages that will drive our socio-economic growth and national development.

3. You will recall that the last edition of this Forum held in Yola, Adamawa state capital, focused on the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) and the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP). We discussed the opportunities and challenges of both interventions, commended government and made recommendations on how to further advance the gains. The communique from that meeting has been presented to the Federal Executive Council and the Governors Forum for consideration.

4. Today, we have come together to amongst others, discuss important issues of development under the theme **“Improving Access to Social Services at National & Sub-National levels”**. Some of the emerging issues listed for discussion include two interventions of government namely, (i) the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs); and (ii) the Primary Health Care Programme (PHCP). You will observe therefore, that we have in our midst the Senior Special Assistant to the President (SSAP) on SDGs and the Executive Secretary, (NPHCDA) to enlighten us on the national policy and the status of implementation.

5. Similarly, we have invited experts on economic and development issues from Non-Governmental Organisations, development partners and the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) to be part of this Forum as discussants and facilitators, in order to provide private sector perspectives and global views on how to improve on implementation.

6. Eminent colleagues, as the speakers and discussants share their wealth of experience with us, it is expected that we will make this session very robust and interactive.

7. Let me also inform you that in 2017, the UNDP collaborated with the Department of States and Local Government Affairs in the OSGF on the strengthening of SDGs in selected LGAs in Nigeria. The project covered 24 LGAs in 8 States of the Federation as well as 3 Area Councils in the FCT. Two documents were produced from that exercise, the Mapping Survey Report and a Training Module was developed to assist policy makers to deliver on the critical objectives of SDGs at the grassroots level. As we make efforts to proceed to the second phase of that project with the support of the UNDP, steps are being taken by the OSSAP-SDGs to produce the two important documents on strengthening SDGs at the grassroots level for all State Governments in order to scale up their human and institutional capacity. It is worthy of note that Akwa Ibom State is one of the states that has been able to train their officials in some Local Governments

Areas using the training module. I therefore urge you all to get copies of both documents as soon as they are produced.

8. Ladies and Gentlemen, at the syndicate session later on, we will have the opportunity to discuss extensively, the challenges of implementing SDGs and NPHC programmes in our various States and proffer solutions.

9. It is my hope that at the end of this meeting, we will come up with recommendations that will promote national development and deliver the dividends of democracy.

10. Once again let me welcome you all to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, the Centre of tourism and wish you a fruitful deliberation.

11. Thank you for your attention and God bless our country, Nigeria.

**BOSS MUSTAPHA**

**SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION**