



OSGF

SERVICE BULLETIN

...the peoples' right to know

A Publication of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation

September 2018

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Investing in Nigerians

• **FOCUS LABS:**
**Accelerating
Nigeria's Growth
Momentum**

• **The
BOSS
at Work**

• **Creating
Synergy In
Service Delivery**

• **Remembering
ABIOLA, Promoting
National Healing**

From the Editor-in-Chief



The inauguration of the administration of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari on 29th May, 2015, was received by the populace with high expectations of an instant, rapid amelioration of the socio-economic challenges facing the nation.

Since then, the administration has embarked on wide ranging policy initiatives and programmes to address general insecurity; diversify and grow the economy, while also tackling the monster of corruption. Many of these policies are already yielding the desired and expected outcomes and impacts, while others are undergoing the needed reviews and fine-tuning to ensure that they achieve the set goals and objectives. The commitment and resolve of Government to the realization of all programmes and projects will ultimately ensure their accomplishment. The responsibility for overseeing this outcome rests with the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, OSGF.

The Office was established under Section 157, Subsection 2, Article A and B, of the 1979 Constitution. The Office has over the years transformed from only three offices namely: Political Affairs, Economic Affairs and Cabinet Secretariat to the current six departments of General Services, Ecological Fund, Political and Economic Affairs, Special Duties, Special Services and Cabinet Affairs Offices, all headed by Permanent Secretaries.

These creations arose from the expansion of activities of the OSGF, and the desire of the successive Governments to strengthen policy implementation and linkage with Ministries, Departments and Agencies which are saddle with implementing government policies. The OSGF has continued to provide the necessary support on the formulation, coordination and implementation of various government policies and programmes including monitoring and evaluation of such policies and programmes.

The revival of this bulletin is to provide basic information on the activities of the OSGF, enhance communication with the stakeholders and the public and leave the record for the evaluation of posterity.

We welcome your reactions and comments to enable us serve you a richer and better package in our subsequent editions.

Olusegun A. Adekunle Esq.
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Editor-in-Chief

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Our Mantra is Change, with Diligence

On the eve of his inauguration Muhammadu Buhari, the populist leader whose election had raised great expectations from the people faced huge and bewildering problems. Insecurity in the land and the Boko Haram insurgency were in their heydays, with their effective occupation of over 12 local government areas in the North East, and sporadic attacks across the entire northern region, including Abuja the Federal Capital and seat of the Federal Government.

The economy was reeling from the consequences of decades of profligate spending, brazen corruption and opulent lifestyle of the ruling elite. No wonder it went into recession after the slump in oil prices, aggravated by reduced oil production also triggered by widespread restiveness and agitation in the Niger-Delta. Industries starved of power had gone under. Power generation stood at less than 5,000MW. The Human Development Index of 2015 had placed Nigeria in the 152th position on the global scale.

The inauguration of President Muhammadu Buhari on Friday, May 29, 2015, marked a significant milestone in the fortunes of the country. In his inaugural address, he outlined the priorities of his administration as security and defeating Boko Haram, addressing falling oil prices, diversifying the economy, and ridding the country of corruption.

To galvanise the nation to achieve these lofty goals, he required an effective, efficient administrative machinery which would transform electoral pledges into impactful, beneficial programmes and projects. This administrative hub is the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, OSGF.

Engineer Babachir David Lawal was the first Secretary to the Government of the Federation under the current dispensation. He was sworn into office by the President on Monday, 31st August, 2015. It was his responsibility to ensure a smooth transition from the departing PDP-led administration to the new era premised on the Change Mantra.

Following his departure from office on Wednesday, 19th April, 2017, the Permanent Secretary, Ecological Fund Office, Dr. (Mrs) Habiba M. Lawal, being the most senior Permanent Secretary in the OSGF, was appointed Acting Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

In discharging her duties as the acting SGF, Dr. Lawal brought to bear on the job, her distinction for diligence, integrity and patriotism. The result was a marked improvement in the coordination and implementation of Government policies.

Mr. Boss Mustapha, lawyer, management consultant and politician, was sworn in as SGF by President Buhari on Wednesday, 1st November, 2017. At that event, he pledged to implement programmes and policies that would uplift the quality of lives of all Nigerians. He promised to ensure effective coordination of the activities of government, to fulfil the promises of his party and President Buhari to the electorate.

He set out promptly to carry out his resolve with demonstrable dignity, charisma and commitment to work on the foundations of wider consultations, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, service delivery, political sensitivity, cooperation and national mobilisation.

On a visit to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Monday, 6th November, 2017, he stretched his hand of fellowship to the leadership of the National Assembly, soliciting their cooperation.

Similar overtures and solicitations for cooperation and team work were made to State Governors and the leadership of the various Political Parties, Traditional Rulers and Religious Leaders in his quest to forge a stronger unity of purpose and amity amongst the leadership elite in the drive to realising Mr President's promises and objectives.

Thereafter, he embarked on a series of deft administrative interventions to restore traditional public service ethics and norms in the management of government affairs. He reinvigorated and energised the Bureau for Public Procurement, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the Bureau for Public Service Reforms, amongst others, to promote ethical and service delivery norms in Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

He has fraternised with the Organised Private Sector and Labour in furtherance of the administration's commitment to economic revival, diversification, growth and enhanced productivity; supporting the introduction of a new national minimum wage to motivate the workforce.

Mr. Mustapha has brought his social democratic instincts and background to bear on the discharge of his duties. In the process, he has humanised the administration, built bridges across political, administrative and other socio-cultural divides to stabilise the polity, enhance the fortunes of the party and put the re-election of President Buhari in 2018 on a predictable trajectory. His coming into office has without doubt left positive and enduring imprints.

This edition of the OSGF Service Bulletin is an attempt to capture for records some of the bold steps taken in the OSGF since November 2017 to translate the promise of change into reality through the coordination of government affairs from the office.

The verdict is that some positive and lasting impact has been achieved under the successive leaderships of the Office. Welcome and enjoy reading.

Lawrence Ojabo
Director of Information, OSGF
Editor.





The **BOSS** **AT WORK**

He came prepared for the job, so it appeared. Indeed he flaunts eminent qualifications for his new assignment.

November 1, last year, a meticulous President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated Boss Mustapha - lawyer, management consultant, tested politician and administrator – as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF.

A politician of the progressive mould, the Boss assumed office with clear vision on the huge responsibility of the OSGF, the political melting pot of government's policy directions and democracy dividends. Not the stomach infrastructure dividends, but plans, policies, steps and strategies in driving programmes and policies aimed at uplifting the quality of lives of all Nigerians.

“We are prepared to serve the people of Nigeria. This is about mid-term and I can assure you that we have achieved so much and in the very near future we will begin to enrol and unfold a lot of other programmes that would be for the benefit of people of Nigeria. President Buhari sought the mandate of the people of Nigeria and he is going to give the desires of their life and meet the basic expectations of our people.

“We know that within the time frame there is a lot

to be done because of the rot and decay that had taken place in the past. But I can assure that he is a resolute person. He is a very determined person; a well focused person and he is going to achieve that”, Mustapha told newsmen shortly after he got the matching orders from the President.

As a tested administrator, the SGF recognises the critical link provided by the civil service in ensuring the smooth running of government. That conviction speaks to his open-door policy and willingness to harness all manpower, skills and inputs for the success of the job at hand. While receiving hand over notes from his predecessor, Mustapha emphasized the fact that all agencies and organs of government must work in synergy for success.

Indeed, he believes that in every agency of government, there are competent and zealous people, who are ready to work even though they feel stunted in their place of work due to lack of incentives and motivation. He appreciates that the success of his tenure depends on the support and cooperation of members of staff of the OSGF. With a unified vision they can proffer solutions to the problems of the country, Mustapha reiterated.



“The OSGF is the engine room of government and we can't shy away from our responsibilities. We have the responsibility to ensure that this government succeeds and if it doesn't succeed it means we have not done our job. We are supposed to energize the policies of President Muhammadu Buhari so that the yearnings of citizens to live a better life will be achieved,” he reasoned.

Conscious of the enormity of his tasks, Mustapha didn't bury his head reading files only. A deft politician must reach out to all stakeholders. Barely a week on seat, he dashed to the National Assembly, seeking the cooperation of the legislature in assisting President Buhari to drive his programmes and policies. He described the visit as a mission to solicit the support of the National Assembly in delivering the campaign promises of President Buhari.

“As SGF, my responsibility is to coordinate the implementation of government policies and to ensure that the policies are synergised in such a manner that will enable us deliver to the good people of Nigeria the good things of life which they rightly deserve. I won't be able to succeed in that task if I do not get the cooperation of the National Assembly. I'm here today to extend a hand of friendship; to solicit the cooperation of the National Assembly,” he said at the office of the Senate President.

Mustapha was conscious of the role of the legislature in



The SGF addressing participants at the 2018 Nigeria's Diaspora Day in Abuja.

Boss at work

successfully delivering the three cardinal promises of the President, namely to ensure general security and defeat insurgency in every part of the country, to diversify the economy and fight corruption. “None of these three can be achieved if we do not get the support of the National Assembly, particularly the Senate,” he emphasized.

While gradually restoring confidence and esteem in the OSGF, Mustapha has opened his doors or deliberately reached out to many interest groups, organizations and strata of government. It was his lot to restore sanity after the uproar which trailed the selection of boards of government agencies. He has personally settled disputes between board and management and management and staff of several government ministries, departments and agencies and received sundry religious, political

and social groups seeking to present grievances or show solidarity with the Buhari Administration.

In all encounters, Mustapha has not failed to preach strict adherence to accountability while seeking good governance in the country. At a thanksgiving service organised by the Arewa Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria in Hong, Adamawa for himself and 14 others appointed to public offices, he preached prudence and accountability among political office holders. But they must first have the fear of God, he also emphasised.

Indeed, in speech and action, Mustapha has displayed the character of a surefooted boss. The Adamawa-born technocrat was the immediate-past managing director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Inland Waterways Authority.





CREATING SYNERGY IN SERVICE DELIVERY

Regardless of political leanings, perhaps the most pervasive challenges facing any country as a developmental state is the need for government to redress underdevelopment, marginalisation of people and communities.

The complexity of the challenge places a huge emphasis on the quality of leadership and emphasizes the responsibilities of all (particularly administrative and political leaders) to find synergy and interface between political and administrative processes and work together to serve the citizens better.

To this end, the adoption and domestication of policies that directly impact on the lives and welfare of the Nigerian people in terms of security and economic survival cannot be left at the mercy of political predisposition.

Certainly, no tier or an arm of government can stand detached from, or survive independent of others. Therefore, it is essential that certain fundamentals of nationhood be driven along the path of respecting the unambiguous identities among Nigeria's federating units.

Co-operation and integration of actions in government depends on a stable and effective system of intergovernmental relations, one in which each of the spheres respect the relative autonomy of the other whilst appreciating the interrelatedness and interdependence of the three spheres.

Denied or admitted, the challenges faced by states and local governments may appear diverse but it is enough to situate rightly, that there is not one single jurisdiction without its peculiar crisis; from insurgency in some parts of the north, down to other forms of insecurity in the south; or the dwindling earnings which have exposed the fiscal weaknesses of most states of the federation as well as the government at the central.

Undisputedly these affect and weaken the bases for delivery of good governance since government would not be adjudged responsible except it effectively guarantees the safety and provides for the welfare of those governed.

Bearing this in mind and in line with the mandate of his office to liaise with Secretaries to State Governments, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha at a retreat held in Abuja with state secretaries on December 18-19, 2017, emphasized the need for deeper cooperation and synergy among the federating states in the areas of policy adoption and implementation from the central government right down to the grassroots.

“The Principle of federalism is founded on separation of power between tiers of government, while at the same time seeking to attain a balance in powers and responsibility sharing between the tiers.

“The retreat is aimed at creating a forum where we can better achieve that balance that allows for full



OSGF Promotes Cooperation

effective and efficient function of the state structure for the good of all,” the SGF said.

This is reassuring for a system that is often agitated on the true delineating lines among these tiers, where suspicion had always dominated the perception about a seeming overbearing influence of the central government to the disadvantage of the rest.

Often, the Federal Government is seen to be the 'big bully' that has undermined the states, regardless of the constitutional autonomy enjoyed by each as federating units; this is often worsened by political differences in some instances.

But President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration, acting through Mustapha believed there was need for such interactions between his office and that of his state counterparts towards consciously charting a path for collaboration, cooperation and interdependence in the implementation of the central socio-economic development plans and agenda.

At the end of the two-day summit, the gathering issued a communiqué recommending that federal and state governments should cooperate to ensure the resuscitation of the local government system as the third tier and one that is closer to the people – that is undoubtedly good governance.

Also, in order for states to live up to their financial obligations to run government and deliver on democratic dividends, participants at the retreat sought for states to adopt strategies to increase their internally generated revenues by adopting some measures which include expanding the tax net, blocking leakages, punishing tax evaders, among others.



Part of the resolutions at the interaction was recognition of states as an integral part in the promotion and implementation of the ease of doing business which was propounded by the Federal Government but believed to have the potential to stimulate economic growth in the country.

The need for continued cooperation was further restated at the March 25-26, 2018 meeting of the forum which had agreed to meet quarterly during the December meeting.

However, to highlight the benefits of the meeting and differentiate it from becoming ineffective routine, the Yola, Adamawa meeting isolated the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) and the Central Bank of Nigeria-funded Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) as its talking points.

Both programmes were conceived by the Federal Government with the NSIP directed at alleviating poverty among Nigerians through direct cash disbursement, school feeding programme and other social intervention initiatives. The Anchor Borrowers Programme was a bold attempt to revive agriculture, especially the production of rice and other crops for food security and job creation.

As laudable as these programmes seem, some states often complain about bureaucratic hurdles preventing state beneficiaries from accessing and benefiting from these initiatives.

In order to resolve these, the retreat sought measures aimed at removing these challenges by restructuring and strengthening them in affected states. States also hoped to be involved in the planning and implementation of NSIP and similar other programmes in order to benefit recipients across the nation.





How **BUHARI'S** **SOCIAL INVESTMENTS** **oil INFRASTRUCTURE** *Revolution*

The facts and figures are on paper and on the field. Contrary to accusations of inactivity and poor performance by the Federal Government, sectoral data and performance reports show that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has in the last three years initiated and implemented an impressive infrastructure revolution. Indeed, discerning Nigerians appreciate the social investments scheme designed to tackle hunger and poverty in the land.

The administration had embraced an economic policy that places the citizens and their well-being first even while reconciling the need for infrastructural growth to bridge facility deficit and propel national economic growth and prosperity. A check on both sides of infrastructure and social investments reveals a giant leap whereby social investments programmes are being implemented side by side with massive infrastructural development in the country.

National Social Investments Programmes

The Federal Government established the National Social Investments Programmes (NSIP) in 2016, to tackle poverty and hunger across the country. The main objective is ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations, including children, youth and women.

Records indicate that these programmes have supported no fewer than 4 million people country-wide through a fair and transparent process supervised by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and other relevant MDAs with aligned goals.

The N-power Programme is designed to assist young Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 35 to acquire and develop life-long skills for becoming change makers in their communities and players in the domestic and global markets. They receive N30,000 monthly.

The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme directly supports those within the lowest poverty bracket by improving nutrition, increasing household consumption and supporting the development of human capital through cash benefits to various categories of the poor and vulnerable.

Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) is a micro-lending intervention that targets traders, artisans, enterprising youth, farmers and women in particular, by providing loans between N 10,000 and N100,000 to beneficiaries.

The Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) aims to deliver school feeding to young



School Feeding Creating New Jobs

children with a specific focus on increasing school enrollment, reducing the incidence of malnutrition (especially among the poor and those ordinarily unable to eat a meal-a-day), empowering community women as cooks and supporting small farmers that help stimulate economic growth.

On January 2, 2017, the Buhari administration announced the kick-off of the payment of N5,000 each to one million Nigerians under its Conditional Cash Transfer scheme. It is a component of the Social Investment Programme that also included the payment of N30,000 monthly stipends to 200,000 youths under the N-Power initiative (which began in December 2016), and the school feeding programme.

The first payment of the N5,000 began with nine states. Beneficiaries started receiving the stipends in December 2016. Payments to beneficiaries in Borno, Kwara and Bauchi states through the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System, the

platform that hosts and validates payments for all government's SIP. Disbursements to Cross

Rivers, Niger, Kogi, Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states completed the first batch of beneficiaries.

These nine states were chosen for the pilot stage because they had an existing social register that successfully identified the most vulnerable and poorest Nigerians.

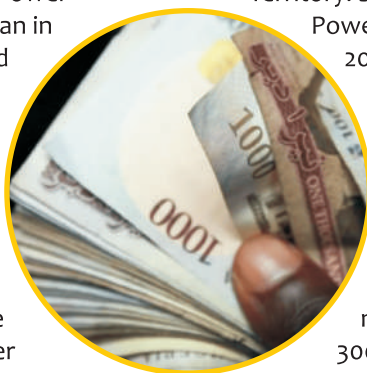
The intervention schemes have recorded 7.9 million direct beneficiaries since inception and now cover all the 36 states of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory. Starting with the N-

Power initiative, about 200,000 graduate beneficiaries are enrolled and working in various institutions in the country. The selection of the next batch of 300,000 beneficiaries has been completed and those selected will be engaged soon; 20,000 more beneficiaries in the non-graduate category are set

to commence training in 34 states. In addition, 259,541 (GEEP) beneficiaries belonging to 4,784 cooperatives have been paid in all states and the FCT; and the next batch of 148,611 loans has been approved for disbursement. 2,495 community facilitators have been trained, whose responsibility it is to engage the caregivers in the households being paid, facilitate the forming of cooperatives, basic financial training, skills and support.

Available statistics indicate that some 7,054,687 children in primary 1 to 3 are being fed daily in 21 states. In driving the school feeding programme, the government hired and empowered 72,510 cooks in the 53,541 schools being serviced. The feeding programme will reach 28 states this year as it also aims to link farmers to school feeding markets.

Several milestones were recorded in the NSIP in 2017 in terms of tackling poverty, hunger, and creating jobs. About 40,000 direct jobs were created from the school feeding programme; and in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health a de-worming programme was initiated for pupils in all public primary schools from classes 1 to 6 in 17 states.





Roads, Rails and Power to Boost Economic Activities

The Federal Government, last year released over 1.2 Trillion Naira as capital component of the 2017 Budget. Early this year, government approved a framework for mobilizing additional investment to expand electricity distribution capacity to enable consumers access 2,000MW of power currently available but not distributed owing to capacity issues. The country presently generates about 7,000MW of electricity. Following extensive grid expansion in the last two years, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) now has the capacity to wheel the 7,000MW. Bottlenecks however exist at distribution stage, with only 5,000MW of distribution capacity, hence the need for the expansion.

On January 4, 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari commissioned the first Inland Dry Port in Nigeria—the Kaduna Inland Dry Port, in Kakuri, Kaduna State. Also on January 4, President Buhari commissioned 2 additional locomotives and 10 additional passenger coaches for the Abuja-Kaduna standard-gauge rail service. The 12 stations on the Phase 1 corridor (Blue and Yellow Lines) of the Abuja Light Rail Transit system have now been completed. In addition, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Administration has taken delivery of 3 coaches meant for operations of the Light Rail—the first to be completed and operational in West Africa. The project was commissioned a few weeks ago by the President.

Still on Rail, work is ongoing on the Lagos-Ibadan leg of the standard-gauge rail line between Lagos and Kano, and may be completed by December 2018 if all bottlenecks are promptly removed. The first section, Abuja-Kaduna has been commissioned by President Buhari.

Milestones in the Power Sector

Last January, the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing announced significant improvements in power generation. The milestones include:

1. Increase in power generation from 3,000 MW in May, 2015 to 7,000 MW.
2. Boost in Transmission Capacity from 5,000 MW to

6,900MW.

3. Peak Distribution now averaging 5,000 MW from 2,690 MW in 2015.

4. In 2018, an additional 1,600MW of power is scheduled to be added to the national grid.

Also last year, the Government raised 100 Billion Naira in Sukuk Bond. The proceeds of the Bond were allocated to major road projects across the six geo-political zones.

Work in Progress... Updates from the Power, Works & Housing sectors

The Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing is pushing many projects, interventions and restructuring as part of the bold steps of the Buhari Administration to modernize the national infrastructure profile. The following milestones are



President Muhammadu Buhari commissioning the Abuja Light Rail...recently.



Rehabilitation of the Abuja - Kaduna Highway.



Big Boost for Roads, Rails and Power



Ongoing works on the Lagos - Ibadan Expressway.



worthy of mention:

A. Financial: The World Bank has approved \$486 Million TCN transmission expansion funding, while progress is being made with the Bank for the Rural Electrification and Distribution Expansion Funding.

B. Operational: TCN has completed the sub-station transmission expansion to improve capacity to supply power to Discos located in Uyo, Calabar, Keffi, Karu, Abeokuta, among others.

C. Distribution: The Ministry has been meeting with the Manufacturers Association of

Nigeria, DisCos and GenCos on how to implement the new Eligible Customer Regulations of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission and connect industrial consumers to the 2,000 MW extra capacity that is available for distribution.

D. Off-Grid Power: In terms of off-grid supply, Nigerians are already embracing the mini-grid policy and regulations to provide power for different uses. Specifically, in Ogun State, a renewable energy project was commissioned in February; in Kano State, the Minister of Power, Works and Housing commissioned

a 73KW Solar Hybrid System developed by Rumbu Industries to support its mat production in a factory that employs 1,400 people. While in Kano, the Minister also inspected the Solar system being deployed at Sabon Gari Market to cover the Market's 12,000 shops. About 3,000 shops have registered, and 486 shops have been connected to cheaper and more efficient solar power. 120 technicians employed by the project are wiring more shops. Also in Abia State, work has commenced to connect and meter 31,000 shop owners in Ariaria Market to cleaner and more efficient power.

The Ministry is moving away from theorizing about power to actual provision of efficient power to support trade and business, especially small and medium enterprises, who are the drivers of our economy. NERC has concluded the guidelines that will provide the framework to license a new class of meter asset providers to complement the efforts of DisCos to supply meters to citizens.

AZURA in Benin

The 450MW Azura Independent Power Plant in Benin, Edo State, was synchronized to the national grid last December, seven months ahead of schedule. In March, the last of the Plant's 3 turbines was synchronized to the grid. The Plant is expected to hit full generation capacity by the middle of 2018.

Azura, the first fully privately financed power plant in Nigeria, is expected to considerably boost national supply when plugged to full capacity.





Youth on the Run

Around the world, there is a growing recognition of the need to strengthen policies and investments impacting young people. Their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pace of development and security of a nation. Through their creative talents and labour power, a nation makes giant strides in economic development and socio-political attainments. The energy and brightness of the minds of youth act as torch-bearer for a nation. There is indeed a connection between the prosperity of a nation and its youth development system.

In Nigeria, the youth hitherto do not have a voice in the scheme of things. However, the young people ought to be better focused, creative and disciplined if they are to actually become real agents of change in the country. The ICT sector, in particular, is one area where the youth could truly make enormous impact in the country, if only they are galvanized to be more daring.

ICT Entrepreneurs are much needed in Nigeria for two reasons. First, it is widely accepted that digital industries, where an individual can electronically provide services and products regardless of geographic location, are significant drivers for economic growth – simply put, a trained web designer with a laptop and Internet access can quickly and readily earn a decent living, no matter where he or she is located. Secondly, the entrepreneur mindset is concerned with assessing problems to quickly and effectively solve them – taking action over talking about it. Design specialists, graphic designers, marketers, web developers, mobile application developers, database developers and software

engineers are trained to deliver the most effective, comprehensive and unified solutions.

Raising funds for a startup operation is always a difficult challenge especially for those without a deep pocket Venture Capitalist or Angel Investor support. The Start Up Friday, powered by the National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, aims to encourage and support efforts at finding IT Solutions to problems in the society. Seed funds enable participants raise funds for their business through pitch competitions, judges from the hub and investors are the ones to select the best three startups to be considered for the seed funding.

In realization of the positive value that the youth could add to the growth and development of any society especially in the area of ICT, and the difficulty that the youth face in raising capital, the Office for ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIIE), a subsidiary of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) initiated the commendable effort to empower the youths. Given the mandate of NITDA as an agency saddled with the responsibility of developing ICTs in Nigeria, its extra efforts in empowering Start-ups with funding is one key panacea to many challenges of ICT in Nigeria.

As a demonstration of the Federal Government's commitment to strengthening indigenous ICT entrepreneurship to reduce joblessness and create wealth for the people, the OIIE under NITDA disbursed N50 million grants to tech-driven start-ups last year. The Coordinator of OIIE, Bunmi Okunowo, disclosed that the office gave the grants to incubators and



Harnessing Youthful Energies

accelerators that have proven records of nurturing and producing start-ups with growth potential.

“One of the major challenges facing start-ups is the seed funding. That early stage funding that helps the start-ups to get the idea off ground to prototype, to working product and commercialization stage. Seed funding is very scarce despite the increased rates of ICT products and services springing up every now and then. “What is being done is to assist thriving incubators and accelerators with grants in bankrolling the cost of incubating or accelerating promising tech-driven startups to successful businesses,” Okunnowo explained.

The programme which commenced in Abuja on February 19, 2015, berthed in Lagos September 26, 2016, Kaduna on April 5, 2017 and Gombe on December 8, 2017. Akwa Ibom State on March 8, this year, hosted the programme.

Having more of the youth engaged is simply one assured way of positioning the country to take full advantage of today's disruptive technologies. This is why NITDA's efforts should be praised for the strategic move to expose Nigerian innovations and solutions to the world. Kudos to NITDA & OIIE for providing young Nigerians with an experience that will help some of them shape their business in many ways than one.

What is in a website?

By Adah Daniel

A few months ago, an unnecessary argument surfaced in the media on the cost of building a website at the OSGF. In the case in point, no website can be that costly even with the best of design. What then happened to raise the cost to that level was the focus of investigation. Then the details started popping up- we will buy servers; we will equip a computer room; we will purchase networking materials; we will train staff. Going through all the papers associated with the project, it is clear that the problem is not the cost but the naming and description of it by the executors themselves. What the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation executed is not a website project but an integrated ICT infrastructure designed to enhance interaction and interface of government with the citizens. The project has five components with the website being the sixth item. For the hub of governmental coordination, it was ordinarily an innovative programme executed within the lowest costing range. Clearly, the N64 million is not

for the website alone but for six mini-services and acquisition within the ICT infrastructure field. The ‘devil’, is always lack of details in budgeting language. Most ICT projects under the budget simply have Website or ICT as heading. No attempt is made at specificity. At times, there are duplications while so many items are simply repeated on annual basis. Neither the Budget Office nor the legislative committee act to correct the practices. The whole confusion is traceable to the misleading headline for the project under the Appropriation Act. While it was named as ‘Website’, the details showed that six items were simply lumped under the package. It is an ICT Infrastructure project rather than a mere website as erroneously repeatedly reported. Something I discovered again is that the project was initiated long before Boss Mustapha was appointed into office. I was told he insisted on the right being done by ensuring that all the six components are implemented to the letter. The completion was reportedly delayed owing to the SGF's insistence on quality and due process.



OSGF

Communities Must Own and Protect Ecological Projects - Hon. Chukwukere

This is a memorable occasion; the commissioning and handing over ceremony of the laudable project of the Erosion/Flood and Road Improvement works, at Uvu, Askira Uba Local Government, Borno State, executed by the Federal Government through the Ecological Fund Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for the benefit of the teeming population of the communities and its environs. This project is one of the ecological intervention projects approved by Mr. President in 2017 and later awarded by the Ecological Fund Office. The project is expected to check flooding, erosion menace and improve the condition of roads in some areas of the Uvu Township after years of untold hardship and neglect. I have no doubt in my mind that the Federal Government intervention is apt and timely given the previous devastating experience in the area.

The approval of this project by Mr. President is a testimony to the present Administration's promise that no part of the country will suffer any neglect owing to its geographical location or political consideration. To further consolidate the gains of this giant stride, the Federal Government is executing projects across the country to demonstrate the sincerity of purpose of the Buhari led administration towards entrenching justice, equity and fair play to all and sundry.

Uvu town has vast arable land very rich for agricultural purposes and its potential remained grossly underutilized due to improper drainages and other related challenges. The accelerated erosion which compounded the inherent problems has been continuously ravaging many farmlands, lives and properties. Most of the structures could not handle the volume of the runoff arising from disrepair.

The emergence of the present administration rekindled hope in the minds of the inhabitants that aside of the restoration of peace and stability in the region, the intervention came as one development package, not only to salvage the ecological challenges but also meant for productively engaging the Uvu Community back to farm in line with the policy thrust of Government on agriculture and food security.

Undoubtedly, the intervention will result in a new network of drainage system and upgraded roads that will be facilitating smooth movement of people, goods and services as well as further stimulating socio-economic activities of the citizenry.

Let me reiterate that the present administration policy on diversification of the economy could be complemented with provision of infrastructural framework that will go a long way in addressing the challenges and threats to lives and properties.

It is a matter of joy that the people appreciated the Federal Government's intervention; therefore, I want to seek your indulgence to reciprocate our kind gesture by optimizing the reclaimed land for other developmental purposes. At the Federal Government level, we will

continue to remain resolute on our aggressive policy stand on agriculture. Uvu stands to derive tremendous benefit given its agricultural and mineral potentials.

I wish to use this medium to congratulate the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha and his team in the Ecological Fund Office; the Project Contractor, Messrs Mo-tex Nigeria Ltd as well as the Project Consultant, Messrs Equal Engineering Consult Ltd for their doggedness in ensuring timely and speedy completion of the project. I must also extend the appreciation of the Federal Government to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Borno State, and good people of Uvu Community for the co-operation and support accorded the project.

By this symbolic commissioning, I wish to urge the Community to cherish this laudable project and safeguard it against indiscriminate dumping of refuse and other unwholesome acts that will undermine its benefits. I must conclude by reminding you that it is the responsibility of the Community to own and maintain the project to ensure its sustainability.

“

The approval of this project by Mr. President is a testimony to the present Administration's promise that no part of the country will suffer any neglect owing to its geographical location or political consideration. To further consolidate the gains of this giant stride, the Federal Government is executing projects across the country to demonstrate the sincerity of purpose of the Buhari led administration towards entrenching justice, equity and fair play to all and sundry.

”

Excerpts of the remark by Hon. **Austine Chukwukere** (KSC), member representing Ideato North/ Ideato South Federal Constituency, at the commissioning and handing over of erosion, flood and road improvement works at Uvu, Askira Uba Local Government, Borno State.





Senator Abdulfatai Buhari (in red cap), Perm Sec, General Services Office, OSGF, Mr Olusegun Adekunle (in glasses) and other stakeholders at the commissioning of erosion control works executed by the Ecological Fund Office at Odo Alamo, Ogbomoso.

Govt Adopts Inclusive Method in Tackling Ecological Challenges

Departing from the past, the Ecological Fund Office, an arm of the OSGF, on the instruction of President Muhammadu Buhari, has conducted a comprehensive national survey of ecological zones, variations, scope, and the impact of sites across the country.

The survey, which updated the Federal Government data bank on ecological problems across the country, was aimed at providing the government with a holistic, pragmatic and reliable source of information on ecological challenges in the country. It is a transparent manner to ensure an evidence-based and strategic project selection and management process.

About 2890 sites were visited during the exercise, carried out in three phases from August to December, 2017.

While the Federal Government continues to judiciously deploy its share of the Ecological Fund to problems across the country, it is hoped that rather than rely completely on the Federal Government, States and Local Governments would demonstrably apply their own shares of the Fund to the amelioration of some Ecological problems in their areas.

This comprehensive approach requires that every tier

of Government plays its part well with whatever resources are available to it. If the entire problem were left to the Federal Government alone, much less impact would be seen, because of the extent and severity of ecological problems across the country.

Since the inception of this administration in May 2015, 88 projects were awarded, 45 were completed while 43 are still on-going.

An innovation that was recently introduced is the practice of handing over and commissioning completed intervention projects. Stakeholders including the State and Local Governments and traditional rulers were invited to project sites and handed over the projects. These commissioning/handing over ceremonies were meant to entrust the projects to the benefitting communities in ensuring their maintenance and sustainability.

The trend hitherto had been for the contractors handling such projects to complete the projects, get paid and move their equipment out of site without any official handing over of the projects to the benefitting communities. This had often led to such projects being neglected and allowed to dilapidate very rapidly from lack of care and maintenance with their negative consequences.



IMAGES

ACTIVITIES

of the

OSGF



Secretary to the Government to the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha receiving hand over notes from Ag. SGF, Dr. Habiba M. Lawal during his Inauguration in Abuja.



From left: Perm. Sec, Special Duties Office, Mr William Alo, former Perm Sec. Special Service Office, Dr. Umar Mohamed Bello, Perm Sec CAO, Barrister Georgina Ehuriah, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, Perm Sec. Ecological Fund Office, Dr. Habiba M. Lawal, Perm Sec, Political and Economic Affairs Office, Mr. Gabriel Aduda and former Perm Sec General Services Office, Dr. Roy Ugo during the inauguration of Mustapha.



(From left) Permanent Secretary, Political & Economic Affairs Office, OSGF, Mr Gabriel Tanimu Aduda and other participants at the Nigerian Local Government Summit in Abuja...recently.



IMAGES

ACTIVITIES of the OSGF



APC National Executive Committee members on a courtesy visit to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha.



Executive staff of the EFCC led by Ag. Chairman, Mr Ibrahim Magu on a courtesy visit to the SGF.



SGF at the inauguration ceremony for Chairmen and members of Board of Parastatals in Abuja.



Participants at a sensitization workshop on Public Service Reforms for officers on GL 08 - 13.



IMAGES

ACTIVITIES of the OSGF



When a delegation of the Nigeria - Ukraine Trade and Investment Roundtable visited the OSGF.



The Minister of the FCT, Mal. Mohammed Bello with top government officials at the Retreat on Public Procurement for Senior Accounting officers organised by the OSGF.



Secretaries to State Governments at a retreat organised by the OSGF and hosted by the Adamawa State Government.



IMAGES

ACTIVITIES *of the* **OSGF**



The SGF, Boss Mustapha commissioning the Erosion and Flood Control Works at Jikwoyi, Abuja.



Participants at the Retreat on Public Procurement for Senior Accounting officers.



The SGF with leaders of the Nigerian Inter-Religious Council at a conference in Abuja.





Remembering **ABIOLA** Promoting **NATIONAL HEALING**

Barely a week after marking the 2018 Democracy Day, nothing was on the horizon to suggest a shift in policy; a monumental one for that matter that will obliterate the military-imposed May 29 anniversary on Nigerians.

Wednesday, June 6, the country woke up to a unique Press Statement signed by the President himself. "...in the view of Nigerians, as shared by this administration, June 12, 1993 was far more symbolic of democracy in the Nigerian context than May 29 or even the October 1st", the five-paragraph statement said in part.

Indeed, the event of last June 12 was a defining moment. The old banquet hall at the seat of power in Aso Villa, Abuja assumed a carnival-like atmosphere. There was plenty of back-slapping; palpable nostalgia marked by the re-union of old political associates and comrades in the June 12 Movement.

The feeling was akin to attending the swearing-in ceremony of Moshood Abiola, the colourful politician who won the June 12, 1993, presidential election but denied his mandate by the then military junta led by Gen. Ibrahim Babangida. There were royal fathers, religious clerics, sports enthusiasts, artistes, business gurus and politicians of all persuasion. It was indeed like an 'Oyingbo' market where the Yorubas will say no one notices who is absent.

Perhaps, leading the clapping party, Prof. Humphrey Nwosu, chairman of the defunct National Electoral Commission, praised President Buhari for

recognizing June 12 as Nigeria's Democracy Day and for honouring the memory of Chief Abiola. In a letter to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, Nwosu said the conferment of national honours on Chief Abiola and his running mate, Amb. Babagana Kingibe "will rekindle the national consciousness of all Nigerians for a better nation."

Boss Mustapha, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, set the tone for proceedings on what he described as "a historic day in the life of our dear country, Nigeria. This is a particularly significant event as it marks Government's proclamation of June 12 as Democracy Day and its public acknowledgement of our heroes past whose supreme efforts laid the foundation for our nascent democracy.

"Today marks a new dawn in the Nation's political and democratic advancement signaling the deepening of our belief in the democratic principles of inclusiveness in governance and hope for a greater Nigeria. The monumental election that took place on June 12, 1993 represented the first time in the history of our nation that Nigerians voted not for tribe or creed or region but for their convictions, affirming their common heritage and unity of purpose," said the SGF.

Mustapha, himself a member of Abiola's defunct Social Democratic Party, noted that "June 12, which more than any other day, symbolizes the varied struggles and sacrifices made by fellow citizens of





June 12 now Democracy Day

this great nation, established democracy as our political system of governance, and opened a new chapter in the political history.

“It is in commemoration of this day, the spirit of which should be internalized in the consciousness of Nigerians of all ages and taught to our children and generations of Nigerians yet unborn, that this Administration has, in placing history in the right perspective, declared June 12 of every year as Democracy Day and as a national holiday,” he explained.

President Buhari stamped the occasion as the “official Federal Government recognition of June 12 as National Democracy Day” even as he reiterated that the gesture “was not an attempt to open old wounds but to put right a national wrong,”

Indeed, the President agreed that “we cannot rewind the past but we can at least assuage our feelings; recognize that a wrong has been committed and resolve to stand firm now and in the future for the sanctity of free elections. Nigerians would no longer tolerate such perversion of justice. This

retrospective and posthumous recognition is only a symbolic token of redress and recompense for the grievous injury done to the peace and unity of our country.”

For those seeking to attach meanings to his gesture, the President said: “Our decision to recognize and honour June 12 and its actors is in the national interest. It is aimed at setting national healing process and reconciliation of the 25 year festering wound caused by the annulment of the June 12th elections.

“Our action today is to bury the negative side of June 12, the side of ill-feelings, hate, frustrations and agony. What we are doing is celebrating and appreciating the positive side of June 12... which restarted democracy and freedom... that overcome our various divide... that produced unity and National cohesion. This is the June 12 we are celebrating today and we will nurture it to our next generation,” President Buhari declared.

The climax came when President Buhari said: “on behalf of the Federal Government, I tender the

nation's apology to the family of late Moshood Abiola, who got the highest votes and to those that lost their loved ones in the cause of June 12 struggle.” The ovation was thunderous as Nigerians watched and heard a genuinely reconciliatory tone of a leader that delivered a political bombshell!

President Buhari later called for a minute silence in honour of the memory of Chief Abiola and Chief Gani Fawehinmi and all those who lost their lives in the turmoil generated by the annulment.

In a rare departure from tradition, 16 people spoke after the President. Listed were Nobel laurette, Prof, Wole Soyinka; Kingibe; Kola and Hafsat Abiola; Fawehinmi's widow, Hajia Ganiyat; Asiwaju Bola Tinubu; former governors and lawmakers of the old SDP and representatives of “allied combatants”- the press and civil society organizations.

Despite divergent opinions on the timing of the President's gesture, few people would disagree on the need to heal old wounds and set the country on the part of national reconciliation.



Buhari's Focus on Investment Labs

SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI AT THE LAUNCHING OF ERGP FOCUS LABS ON 13 MARCH, 2018 AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE OF THE STATE HOUSE IN ABUJA



I am delighted to be here today to formally launch the Focus Labs for our Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP). Many will recall that almost a year ago, I made a promise that this Administration will be committed to its full implementation.

2. The Labs we are flagging off today constitute one of the many strategies this Administration is taking to ensure that the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan is effectively implemented.

3. Our key goals in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan are focused on:

- a. achieving sustainable, diversified and inclusive growth, becoming self-sufficient in basic commodities to curtail our food imports,
- b. diversifying our economic base from crude oil dependence,
- c. empowering local businesses to create

thousands of jobs and,

d. improving the general wellbeing of our people.

4. Focus Labs have been successfully used in other countries. The Labs in Nigeria are designed as closed-door investment platforms to identify and accelerate high-impact projects with significant impact on GDP and job creation.

5. In the past ten months, we have achieved several noteworthy milestones. As you are aware, economic growth returned in second quarter of 2017 due to a clear follow-through of some of the economic initiatives we set out to implement. Since then, we have consolidated on the recovery path reaching a Real GDP growth of 1.92% by the fourth quarter of 2017.

6. We have also restored stability in foreign exchange market and have recorded improvements in our foreign reserves which have



Focus Labs Will Attract High Impact Projects - Buhari

grown from 24 billion US dollars in September 2016 to 42 billion US dollars by mid-February 2018 and now 46 billion US dollars. This has been achieved partially because of the recovery of oil prices on the international market.

7. We have made remarkable strides in creating a conducive business environment for investors, earning the World Bank's ranking as one of the Top 10 most improved economies in 2017. This has encouraged both local and foreign investments in the last few months.

8. We remain committed to working hard to attain our target of moving up in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings by 2020.

9. We are also investing billions of naira in fixing infrastructures across the country. Significant progress has also been made in the Agricultural sector with the expansion of the Anchor Borrower's program to more beneficiaries to boost our local production.

10. We plan to build upon the success of the Presidential Fertilizer Initiative to double the 500,000 metric tons of fertilizer delivered to States, agro-dealers and farmers in 2017, by achieving production output of 1 million metric tons in 2018.

11. Today, our local food production, particularly rice, has witnessed a remarkable growth and has saved the nation millions of dollars of foreign exchange.

12. However, we are not relenting on our efforts until these improvements in economic indices translate to visible improvements in the lives of our citizens.

13. Our labour force growth rate exceeds our population growth. We must therefore continue working to attract both local and foreign investments to ensure we continue expanding economic activities thereby creating additional jobs for our people.

14. The Labs will also enable pre-screened private sector investors to have access to senior government officials, regulators, and cabinet ministers. The goal is to efficiently and effectively resolve the most pressing bottlenecks delaying their proposed investments.

15. Accordingly, I have directed the relevant Ministers and heads of government agencies to be available to the participants at the labs to respond to their inquiries and issues.

16. Let me commend the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and other relevant agencies for piloting this process, which is being used for the first time in Nigeria. I am confident that the Labs will open up new investments to complement our existing efforts in agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructural development across the country.

17. I look forward to receiving regular updates on the progress of the Labs. On this note, I am pleased to launch the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan Focus Labs formally.





From left: Chairman, Senate Committee on Federal Character and Inter Governmental Affairs, Senator Tijjani Kaura; SGF, Boss Mustapha; Perm Sec, General Service, Olusegun Adekunle, Perm Sec, Special Services, Dr. Amina Bello Shamaki and Perm Sec. Special Duties, Mr. Alo Williams ...at the Stakeholders Forum on Haulage Transportation in Nigeria in Abuja.

FG Raises **RED FLAG** on Road Carnage

Tuesday, 28 June, the nation was jolted by a disaster foretold. On the Otedola Bridge, Lagos, a compromised petrol-laden tanker rolled over spilling its contents. The resultant inferno killed 12 people, consumed 54 vehicles and a tricycle.

Road crashes involving articulated vehicles cannot be wished away soon, but this particular incident was quite gruesome, sending policy makers and operators back to the drawing board. Records indicate that articulated vehicles, trailers and tankers, account for about 50 percent of road traffic crashes and fatalities.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha promptly convened a stakeholders' meeting to think through the sore point. The summit was an eye-opener for a country that derives so much revenue from the oil and gas sector and yet reaps great agony owing to bad policies, half-hearted implementation of programmes and outright circumvention of procedure by unscrupulous elements in the value chain system.

The continued transportation of flammable petroleum products on dilapidated roads, across long distances by unskilled and careless drivers underlies the crises. Statistics from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, indicates that no fewer than 1,255 trailers ply Nigerian roads daily ferrying 41 million litres of petroleum products. Perhaps, no other country in the world matches this sordid record.

Indeed, records indicate that articulated vehicles, trailers and tankers, are causing enormous drain on the economy. In the first quarter of 2018 alone, 1,120 tankers were involved in road crashes, costing the nation about ₦7.157 billion, beside loss of lives, injuries to persons, damage to the roads, farmlands and the environment.

Corps Marshall, Boboye Oyeyemi listed a litany of reasons for this trend. The government, regulatory agencies and truck owners/ operators were all fingered as complicit in allowing the cancer of road carnage to fester. The negative indicators include non-adherence to road traffic safety practices, inadequate drivers' training/certification and re-training leading to drivers' errors, inadequate provision of tanker/trailer parks across the country, non adherence to safety practices and standards by stakeholders; non-functional weighbridges to assist in enforcement of axle load compliance.

Boboye also listed ageing trucks and lack of fleet renewal programmes, non-cooperative attitude of drivers and other stakeholders, non-adherence to standards by operators and by tank builders including alteration of original design value of truck heads and trailers. Also to blame are bad roads, parking on unauthorized locations along the road, failure to install speed limiting device as well as lack of cooperation of private tank farm owners on Safe-To-Load programme.

Although the FRSC had organized several advocacy





Red Flag On Road Carnage

sessions to address this worrisome issues, Mustapha emphasized that the federal government felt a “deep concern on the rising spate of road traffic crashes involving articulated vehicles in recent times and the consequential high casualty rate in both human and material resources.”

The forum was conceived as a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share information and chart a new course for safer road environment in the country. Mustapha recalled that the FRSC, in 2015, convened a National Summit on Tankers and Trailers Haulage Operations to deliberate with key stakeholders in the haulage business and proffer lasting solutions. That effort threw up a Plan of Action predicated on four platforms, namely: Standards, Enforcement, Institutional Capacity and Legal.

The SGF listed the FRSC Safe-To-Load programme; building partnership with relevant stakeholders; training and re-certification of tanker drivers by the Petroleum Tankers division of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers as efforts to ensure effective implementation of the resolutions.

Despite the initial success recorded, the nation has not been spared the agony of road crashes induced by articulated vehicles. Participants blamed apathy among stakeholders in keeping to safety standards and the flagrant abuse of traffic safety rules by operators.

At the highly engaging forum, participants blamed road traffic crashes on non-adherence to standards and flagrant abuse of regulations. The Director General of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria, SON, Dr. Osita Aboloma debunked insinuations on absence of national standards. He said there are specifications for Bulk Road vehicles, open body, closed body and flat

deck vehicles as well as code of practice for cargo securing in road transport. “There are specifications for the design and construction of mobile horizontal tanks for the transportation of bulk petroleum tanks, including specification for the storage of tanks and the basic requirements for the semi-trailer,” he explained.

“Compliance to standard has been a major issue with the fabrication of these vehicles starting from material specification to construction and fittings and accessories,” said Aboloma. He also suggested compliance monitoring of fabricating process, especially ensuring requisite fittings such as manholes and valves to prevent leaks when vehicles roll over as experienced on Otedola Bridge.

Mr. Salam Taiwo, the permanent secretary at the Lagos Transport Ministry, bemoaned the culture of conspiracy among regulators and operators which manifests in haulage vehicles carrying loads beyond their pulling capacity; possession of fake documents by truck drivers; overstaying of vehicles at the ports and on overhead bridges and non-adherence to vehicle maintenance requirements.

Mustapha affirmed government's concern. “This situation is unacceptable to Government and therefore calls for affirmative action to reverse the trend”. He also promised an Inter-Ministerial Committee to ensure faithful implementation of the outcome of the summit. President Buhari has promptly endorsed the Action Plan drawn by Stakeholders.

Participants are confident that their suggestions would not be locked in one dusty archive. “It is a continuing dialogue among stakeholders towards ensuring an efficient, effective and beneficial haulage transport system in Nigeria,” Mustapha assured.



Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation

Action Plan to Curb Road Crashes

STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM FOR HAULAGE OPERATORS IN NIGERIA WHICH HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JULY, 2018 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION: A PLAN OF ACTION

Introduction

Arising from the recent Road Traffic Crash (RTC) on Otedola bridge of the Lagos-Ibadan expressway where over 55 vehicles were burnt and multiple fatalities recorded, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation convened a consultative forum of all stakeholders from the private sector and Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies on Monday 9th July, 2018 at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Shehu Shagari Office Complex, Abuja.

The objective of the forum was to evolve an all-inclusive strategy that will bring about a lasting solution to the menace of RTCs involving haulage and other related vehicles on Nigerian roads. At the end of the meeting, the following Action Plan was endorsed for immediate implementation.

Plan of Action

- i. Mandatory certification of all haulage vehicles to be carried out twice in twelve calendar months;
- ii. Importation of haulage vehicles exceeding ten years (10) from date of manufacture would be stopped with effect from 01/01/2020;
- iii. Standard speed limiters must be installed in all haulage vehicles in Nigeria;
- iv. Tankers without safety valves and the required number plates will henceforth be disallowed from loading;
- v. The Safe-To-Load programme would continue to be enforced by relevant Agencies at all loading points;
- vi. Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and other relevant Agencies should immediately harmonize operating safety requirements at all Tank Farms;
- vii. Periodic checks of haulage vehicles must be carried out at relevant loading points;

- viii. Payment of National Transportation Allowance (NTA) and bridging claims to tanker operators will henceforth be contingent on compliance to minimum safety standards;
- ix. Single operators of haulage vehicles MUST be duly registered with National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and comply with RTSSS provisions;
- x. FRSC should establish appropriate command and control centers to monitor and ensure safety on the highways;
- xi. Continuous public enlightenment by FRSC and other relevant stakeholders should be conducted at all loading points of haulage vehicles and their Rest Areas;
- xii. Federal Highways (Control of Dimensions, Weights and Axle Load of Heavy Duty Goods Transport Vehicles) regulations (2018) will be enforced;
- xiii. Loading limits as approved by Government will be enforced;
- xiv. Government will work closely with the Bank of Industry and other financial institutions towards the establishment of a Fleet Acquisition Renewal Scheme for haulage operators;
- xv. Haulage vehicles conveying hazardous materials must be clearly labelled in conformity with the highway code;
- xvi. The Forum endorsed the convocation of bi-annual meetings in order to sustain Government engagement with stakeholders to exchange ideas and share information for the sustenance of safer road management in the country;
- xvii. The Forum equally agreed that an Inter-Ministerial Stakeholders Committee should be set-up to ensure the effective implementation of the Plan of Action; and
- xviii. The Inter-Ministerial Stakeholders Committee must brief Government on the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action on a monthly basis.

Boss Mustapha

Secretary to the Government of the Federation
9th July, 2018



OSGF

Cabinet Affairs Office Requires Dedication - Ehuriah

Constant training of the workforce forms a strong basis for effective service delivery. Training and capacity building remains a process through which individuals and organizations increase their abilities to successfully apply their skills and resources towards the accomplishment of goals in line with stakeholders' expectation. The Cabinet Affairs Office, CAO, prides itself as the 'delicate eye' at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, OSGF. It is unflattering to hear that for five years it was unable to mount any specialized training for its staff. But that now belongs in the past with the strings of capacity building measures embarked upon by the present administration.

Indeed, it is the mandate of the CAO to coordinate, monitor and ensure full implementation of the policies and programmes of Government in serving as the



Perm. Sec. Cabinet Affairs Office, OSGF, Barr. Georgina Ehuriah, MON

frontline advisory institution of the Presidency. The office also defines the mandate of the SGF as the office holder serves as the eye of the President-in-Council.

To be sure, efforts have been made to revive training as part of measures aimed at sustaining

efficiency, promote professionalism, tact, dedication and forthrightness by staff at the CAO.

One of such is the workshop organized in partnership with Galaxy Backbone Ltd in August, last year for staff on Grade Level 08-14. The forum was on Electronic Document Management System, EDMS - a veritable instrument for effective service delivery as a first step towards achieving paperless automated work processes.

The system enhances handling of vast volumes of information, provide access and communicate on an end to end basis. It is a collection of technologies working together to provide a comprehensive solution for managing the creation, capture, indexing, storage, retrieval and disposition of records and information assets of the CAO.

In January, the CAO also organized a three day capacity building forum facilitated by the Centre for Management Development on "Effective Council Documentation for Evidence Based Decision Making". It was designed to sensitize participants on the essentials of rendering Council conclusions in approved format; equip them with requisite knowledge and skills for report writing as well as granting them the opportunity to exchange ideas on their hands-on experiences in memo-writing and notes taking for the Federal Executive Council's documentation.



Participants at the 2018 Women in Management & Leadership Conference organised by the Nigerian Institute of Management in Abuja.



OSGF: Giving Impetus to Government Bureaucracy

Four essential tasks define the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, OSGF. It requires a strategist, a conciliator, an organiser and a networker.

Boss Mustapha has brought essential attributes and skills to the important job of managing the most critical bureaucracy in Africa, south of the Sahara. He fits like a glove and took off with practised steps and a clear vision and mission.

The SGF is the head of the federal bureaucracy, ensuring that it functions to support the execution of government policies. The SGF also leads the think-tank in advising the President on policy, governance and ethics. The scope is broad and multifarious and requires skill and cognitive agility.

He is the engine room of the Cabinet, drafting the agenda for meetings and keeping records of decisions of Government.

The Secretary to the Government is the guardian of propriety and ethics, the conduct of ministers and the Civil Service and the coordination and monitoring of the pledges of the Federal Government to citizens.

Boss Mustapha, lawyer, management consultant, politician, and entrepreneur has run the Cabinet Office of the Nigerian presidency since last November; bringing his vast cross-cutting experience in the public and private sectors to bear on the running of the OSGF.

The Vision of the office is to lead and serve as an active engine room for policy formulation, harmonization, implementation and monitoring of the institution of governance, while its mission is to deploy political will, administrative expertise, professionalism and the value of loyalty and commitment in support of the attainment of the goals of the Federal Government.

As Secretary to the Government, Mustapha leads a team that coordinates 21 government agencies. Six offices drive the work of the OSGF. They are General Services, Special Services and Political and Economic Affairs. Others are Ecological Fund, Cabinet Affairs and Special Duties. Supporting Units are Legal, Internal Audit, and Servicom, there are also Procurement, Press and Information and Stock Verifier.

The Boss was driving the implementation of a change

programme at the National Inland Waterways Authority before his elevation to bring drive and consistency to government bureaucracy under President Muhammadu Buhari. He made a significant impact as a member of the Interim Management Committee of the defunct Petroleum Special Trust Fund from 2000 to 2007.

Mustapha understands the imperative of connecting the political with the administrative. He is at home in local and national politics, yet keenly aware of the imperatives of best practice in corporate governance and statecraft.

As a politician, he was a member of the Constituent Assembly (1988-1989), Chairman People's Solidarity Party-Gongola State (1989-1990), State Chairman, Social Democratic Party-Gongola State (1990-1991) and gubernatorial candidate for SDP in Adamawa State in 1991.

He was the Deputy National Chairman of the defunct Action Congress of Nigeria from 2010 to 2013, he also played a prominent role, serving as the Deputy Director General of the party's Presidential Campaign Organization. He played even more active roles following the fusion of parties to berth the All Progressives Congress, serving in the Presidential Campaign Organisation (2015) and the Board of Trustees.

Mustapha is at home with the Bar, serving in various positions in the Nigerian Bar Association, from his home Adamawa State to the national level.

Notable steps of the SGF include efforts to smoothen relationships between the Executive and the Legislature, with courtesy visits to both arms of the National Assembly immediately he assumed office. He has worked closely with the labour movement to ensure harmony between the Government and workers.

Barely a year in the saddle, Mustapha has re-energized the engine room of the Buhari Administration. His notable imprints include leading advocacy for strengthening the institutional bases for the anti-corruption programme of the Government; counselling chairmen and board members of government parastatals to shun corrupt practices and ensure high standards of corporate governance in overseeing the organisations to which they were appointed; as well as directing ministries, departments and agencies of Government to comply with budget implementation plans and the Procurement Act.



Focus Labs: Accelerating Nigeria's Growth Momentum

The successful execution of the Focus Labs launched last March by President Muhammadu Buhari is indeed an ingenious strategy to ensure the quick delivery of some of the outcomes in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, ERGP, and accelerate the growth momentum of the country.

The labs, which ran for six weeks, were designed to set the agenda and ensure final syndication and sign offs on projects capable of impacting on the economy and creating jobs for Nigerians.

Specifically, the objective is to re-focus investments in Agriculture and Transportation, Manufacturing and Processing, and Power and Gas sectors. Expected deliverables are the identification of projects followed by detailed implementation plans for each project with identified budgets and Key Performance Indicators.

Government's target is to mobilize at least US\$25 billion in private

ECONOMIC RECOVERY & GROWTH PLAN FOCUS LABS



investments. Indeed, no fewer than 240 projects were identified at the well-attended sessions. Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Udoma Udo Udoma described the labs' process as strategic going by government's commitment to the achievement of the primary objective of the ERGP, which is restoring the health of the Nigerian economy.

“We cannot rest until we achieve the ERGP's vision of a new Nigeria. A Nigeria that is transformed from a consuming nation to a producing nation, from an import dependent

nation to an export oriented nation, from a nation that survives on one single commodity to a nation that runs on multiple engines of growth”, said Udoma.

The ERGP is the Administration's blueprint aimed at building a new Nigeria where the country seeks to minimize imports and become self reliant for consumer goods. Indeed, the labs are necessary in ensuring a faster implementation of the ERGP.

The key objective of the labs is to bring in private capital to finance projects across the country by raising the level of productivity in Nigeria. Government is targeting massive job creation through manufacturing and value addition in food and crop processing. These are reflective of the execution priorities of the ERGP.

The expected outcome is to achieve new investments for critical projects by resolving inter-agency problems that may inhibit, or slow down private sector investments in the identified sectors.

FG Scales Up Job Creation Effort

The Federal Government has taken the fight against unemployment a notch higher with the inauguration of a multi-sectoral task team on the implementation of the Public-Private Round Table on youth employment and skills development.

The 20-member team is led by the Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Chris Ngige as chairman. It also has representatives from the National Social Investment Programme, Office of the Vice President and the private sector.

The Minister of State, Labour and Employment, Prof. Stephen Ocheni has emphasized government's determination to reverse the ugly trend of youth unemployment through

collaboration by stakeholders. The African Development Bank Group is facilitating the Roundtable on youth employment and skills development.

“The task team is saddled with the responsibility to convene a private sector round table engagement as an exchange platform towards the identification and financing of eight priority projects for accelerated youth employment and skills development. Further expectations are that the work of the team would key into the aspirations of the Economic Recovery Growth Plan of the present administration and also boost the rate of attainment of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals in the country”, the minister explained.





When Workers Turn Service Privileges to Absolute Rights

The International Labour Organization at its Asian Regional Conference in 2008, defined Labour welfare as encompassing such services, facilities and amenities as may be established in an organization to enable the persons employed in them to perform their work in healthy, congenial surroundings and to provide them with amenities conducive to good health and high morale.

Staff welfare in the Federal Civil Service has always been accorded much importance. To begin with, workers in the Federal Service, have a secure, predictable tenure and conditions of service constitutionally guaranteed and superintended over by the Federal Civil service Commission. At the apex of the service, in the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the Service Welfare Office, led by a permanent secretary, has been created to ensure effective service welfare coordination and delivery. Down the line, every ministry, department, or agency has a dedicated department, division or unit headed by a designated very senior officer, who is a member of the management team in the establishment.

The office usually deals with a whole range of staff motivation and development issues, including training and career development, staff entitlements, benefits, pension and compensation, privileges, allowances, insurance, housing, transportation, sporting and general staff welfare matters. Budgetary provisions are usually made to enable the welfare offices discharge

their duties in the listed areas in a seamless manner as to engender a contented workforce, ensure industrial harmony and promote steady and enhanced productivity.

However, instead of industrial harmony in the workplace arising from collective bargaining and mutual respect and decorum between union leaders and management, an emerging worrisome trend is the penchant of a new crop of leaders to subject accounting officers in MDAs to pillorying, heckling and hostage-taking. Permanent Secretaries have been reportedly locked in/out of their offices in the quest by union leaders to compel them to succumb to their demands, whether such demands were legitimate or otherwise. Such approach has not only proven to be counterproductive, but appear overzealous. Often, Union leaders gloss over or show utter disdain for civil service etiquettes/norms, which require all civil servants to exhibit high standards of discipline, courtesy, kindness, loyalty, a good image of the service, flexibility in decision making and cooperation in their official conducts.

Union leaders have been quick to defend their actions as reflective and deriving from the trade union sub-culture, which usually couches its utterances in militant and aggressive rhetoric.

Although civil service unions are affiliates of the larger trade union umbrellas, the ethos of the Federal Civil Service precludes them from adopting and practicing



When Workers take Privileges as Rights

the brand of unionism that plays to the gallery tending to hooliganism. The methodologies of the umbrella bodies are not consistent with the demands, tenor and temperament of civil service unions. Where efforts have been made to provide an environment conducive to good productivity, including the provision of staff transport services among others, it is unjustifiable to further task management to redress the fallouts of bad choices of some employees!

Let the point be stressed that staff welfare is an incentive and a means of motivation for the workforce to encourage efficiency and productivity. It is no longer news that virtually all the MDAs provided transportation for their different employees to commute to and from work on a daily basis. The case of any staff living far away from his/her work place finding it difficult to commute or feigning lateness to work for the sake of

location has been laid to rest via the availability of staff buses. So, staff bus service by government is part of welfare. As are the provisioning of constant power supply, sanitary facilities, air-conditioning and internet broadband service in offices.

At festive seasons/periods, different MDAs ensure that assorted foods as groundnut oil and rice are made available to staff to cushion the burden of extra financial demands on their salaries. In cases of members of staff losing their loved ones, especially their fathers/mothers and the need for burial arises, it is at the discretion of management to extend some assistance to such individuals to help defray some of the expenses he/she may incur during the funeral. And this can only happen when funds are available. One may therefore argue from the point of view of knowledge that the annual Fiscal Year Budget has welfare as a subhead but must not be taken for granted as all-encompassing to entitle every employee to every kind of help!

Staff welfare is designed out of government's magnanimity to assist employees of government in the areas where their regular remunerations, especially salaries will not be able to handle. The provision of welfare is discretionary, at the instance of the management of the MDAs, even though welfare is in the budget.

Notwithstanding the existence of perhaps a very robust and dynamic staff welfare institutional mechanism and delivery scheme in the Federal Civil Service, continuing improvements and enhancements are on the drawing board. A reciprocal attitude from the unions will ensure a win-win, mutually beneficial and continually



Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita

satisfactory outcomes to workers and employers.

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita, recently inaugurated a technical committee to develop the Federal Civil Service Welfare Policy as part of the implementation of the 2017 to 2020 Federal Civil Service Strategy and Implementation Plan.

A major priority area for consideration is the improvement of welfare benefit packages for civil servants; specifically a framework that would ensure that all issues of welfare of federal government employees are fully developed and institutionalized.

"The policy will ensure that MDAs are committed to providing a caring and supportive work environment that is conducive for the welfare of all employees which enables them to develop to their full potentials," Mrs. Oyo-Ita explained.

Committee chairman, Mrs. Didi Walson-Jack, Permanent Secretary, Service Welfare Office, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, promised to be diligent and turn in a report in September.

Let the point be stressed that staff welfare is an incentive and a means of motivation for the workforce to encourage efficiency and productivity.



Board Members of Parastatals in the Office of the SGF Inaugurated On Feb 27, 2018

National Commission For Refugees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Hon. Peter Biye	Chairman	Borno (NE)
2. Sgf Rep. By Perm. Sec. (SDO)	Vice-chairman	
3. Fed. Commissioner For Refugees	Member	
4. Ambassador Muntari Abdu Kaita	Member	
5. Tijjani Inuwa Babura	Member	
6. Mr. Antonio Jose Canhandula	Observer/ Member	

Nigerian Christian Pilgrims Commission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Rev. Yomi Kasali	Chairman	Ogun (SW)
2. Emmanuel Ebomuche	Member	Imo (SE)
3. Ezekiel Agazu	Member	Nassarawa (NC)
4. Dr. Israel Akanji	Member	FCT (NC)
5. Pst. Anthony Fasipe	Member	Ondo (SW)
6. Rev. Jidda Musa	Member	Gombe (NE)
7. Rev. Yusuf Biniyat	Member	Kaduna (NW)
8. Forgiven Amachree	Member	Rivers (SS)
9. Secretary To The Commission	Member	
10. Rep. of Fed. Min. of Aviation	Member	
11. Rep. of CBN	Member	
12. Amb. Gladys M. Quist-Adebiyi	Member	
13. Rep. Fed. Min Of Health	Member	
14. Nkiru Ejiofor (Mrs.)	Member	Rep. Fed. Min. of Internal Affairs.

National Lottery Trust Fund (NLTF)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Hon. Christopher Eta	Chairman	Cross River (SS)
2. Hon. Emma Sale	Member	Taraba (NE)
3. H.E. Lucky Imasuen	Member	Edo (SS)
4. Barr. Fabian Okonkwo	Member	Abia (SE)
5. Ope Salami	Member	Oyo (SW)
6. Godwin Makeeri	Member	Nassarawa (NC)
7. Rifkatu Habu Mari	Member	Kaduna (NW)
8. Rep. of Fed. Min of Finance	Member	
9. Rep of Fed. Min. of Sports & Youth Dev.	Member	
10. Chief Kesington A. Adebutu	Member	Chairman of the Licencees

11. Ajibola Bankole Adebutu	Member	Rep. of Major Shareholders Rep. Licencees
12. Debisi Abidemi Adebutu	Member	Rep. of Major Shareholders Rep. Licencees
13. Olanipekun Orekoya Adebutu	Member	
14. Chief Matthew Nwaobasi	Member	

National Lottery Regulatory Commission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Alh. Fatai Ibikunle	Chairman	Oyo (SW)
2. Hon. Bode Ogunleye	Member	Kwara (NC)
3. Boniface Waziri	Member	Adamawa (NE)
4. Chief (Mrs.) Yemisi Oni	Member	Osun (SW)
5. Obo Awusa	Member	Cross River (SS)
6. Abdulbasit Abdallah	Member	Jigawa (NW)
7. Abubakar Y. Rajab	Member	Kogi (NC)
8. Salisu Kura	Member	Rep. Of Fed. Min. Of Commerce
9. Rep. of Fed. Min. Of Finance	Member	
10. Rep. of Fed. Min. Of Sports	Member	

Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Prof. Simon P. Mallam	Executive Chairman/CEO	Chairman
2. John Anucha	Member	Rivers (SS)
3. Prof. A. S. Sambo	Member	Kaduna (NW)
4. Prof. L. Bilbis	Member	Zamfara (NW)
5. Dr. Maurice Ebon	Member	Akwa Ibom (SS)
6. Emmanuel Chikealoe	Member	Anambra (SE)
7. Ade Adetimehin	Member	Ondo (SW)
8. Hon. Mamman Alkali	Member	Gombe (NE)

Federal Road Safety Commission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Bukhari Bello Esq	Chairman	Kebbi (NW)
2. Abdullahi Sifawa	Member	Sokoto (NW)
3. Capt. Tunde Adedim Eji	Member	Oyo (SW)
4. Hon. Chibuzo Obiakor	Member	Anambra (SE)
5. Amb. Saidu Moh'd (OON)	Member	Gombe (NE)
6. Bashorun David Oyewole	Member	Ondo (SW)



Board Members of Parastatals in the Office of the SGF Inaugurated On Feb 27, 2018

Galaxy Backbone Limited

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Boss Mustapha	Chairman	Sec. to the Govt. of the Fed.
2. Mr. Ahmad Balarabe	Member	Rep. Pet. Tech. Dev. Fund
3. Mr. Mohammed Kudu Usman	Member	Rep. Min. of Finance Inc.
4. Mr. Yusuf Kazaure	Member	Rep. Galaxy Backbone Ltd.
5. Mr. Tope Fashidemi	Member	Rep. Min. of Communications
6. Mr. Olagoke Agbakosi; Mni	Member	

National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Zone/State</u>
1. Pauline Tallen	Chairman	Plateau (NC)
2. Dr. Simon O. Imuekemhe	Member	Edo (SS)
3. Emmanuella Izunwa	Member	Rivers (SS)
4. Barr. Adebola Oyeneyin	Member	Ondo (SW)
5. Sen. Dipo Odujinrin	Member	Ogun (SW)
6. Inyamah Patience N.	Member	Imo (SE)
7. Pharm Kabiru Aliyu	Member	Kaduna (NW)
8. Abbati Rasheed	Member	Katsina (NW)
9. Dr. Hazael Chechara	Member	Gombe (NE)
10. Dr. Zainab Kwanchi	Member	Adamawa (NE)
11. Mr. Victor Omotsehin	Member	Rep. of People Living With HIV/AIDS
12. Rep. of Fed. Min. of Health	Member	
13. Rep. SGF-PS (GSO)	Member	
14. Mrs. Ifeoma Anagbogu	Member	Rep. Fed. Min. Of Women Affairs
15. Dr. Walter Ugwuocha	Member	President, CISHAN

AGENCIES UNDER OSGF

The following Agencies are directly
under the supervision of the SGF:

1. National Identity Management Commission
2. Federal Road Safety Corps
3. Nigerian Christian Pilgrim Commission
4. National Energy Council
5. National Hajj Commission of Nigeria
6. National Lottery Trust Fund
7. Nigeria National Merit Award
8. National Lottery Regulatory Commission
9. Bureau of Public Enterprises
10. Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission
11. National Agency for the Control of AIDS
12. New Partnership for Africa's Development
13. National Commission for Refugees
14. Service Compact with Nigerians, ServiCom
15. Federal Character Commission
16. Mobilization, Allocation & Fiscal Commission
17. Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
18. Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission
19. National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission
20. National Pension Commission
21. Border Communities Development Agency



FG Promoting Digital Literacy for Global Recognition - Shamaki

The Federal Government is promoting digital literacy to make the country competitive in global digital economy through the application of digital knowledge in socio-economic development. Also, with the establishment of the Digital Literacy Council, adoption of a national literacy policy and an ICT roadmap, the government is actively preparing Nigeria's youthful population to take advantage of multiple opportunities in the digital ecosystem, the Permanent Secretary, Special Services Office, OSGF, Dr. Amina Muhammed Bello Shamaki, has observed.

The permanent secretary, guest speaker at Al-Muneerah Institute of Technology, Abuja, emphasized the synergy between the government and the private sector in building a digitally literate society even while listing the role of government as formulation of the requisite policy to drive the digital literacy agenda; creating the enabling environment and the provision of relevant ICT infrastructure.

"One of the ways that government is creating an enabling environment for the private sector is through the enforcement of a local content policy in the ICT sector. In implementing the local content policy, we also ensure that preference is given to indigenous



The Permanent Secretary, Special Services Office, Dr. Amina Muhammed Bello Shamaki with students of Al-Muneerah Institute of Technology, Abuja at its recent outreach programme.

companies when government is executing any project.

"This way we enable the private sector to build their financial, infrastructural and human capacity, thus increasing the number of Nigerians that are digitally literate and increasing the number of Nigerians that can provide digital literacy training to others," Dr. Shamaki explained.

Besides, she listed the establishment of Digital Job Creation and ICT Knowledge centres as part of efforts by the the government in actively deploying ICT infrastructure across the country to boost digital literacy.

"These efforts make it imperative that the resourcefulness of our

youth and their latent talents are unleashed not only for the good of our economy, but to penetrate foreign markets as well," Dr. Shamaki emphasized.

She also affirmed government's determination to support efforts that will channel young people's resourcefulness and creativity to productive ends.

While identifying the benefits of the digital revolution, the permanent secretary warned young people to shun engagement in internet fraud and other forms of cyber crimes.

She praised the institute for providing a platform to equip Nigerian youths with digital literacy skills which are invaluable in the 21st Century.



Permanent Secretaries in the OSGF



Dr. Habiba Muda LAWAL,
PS, EFO

She has served as Perm Sec at the Federal Ministry of Women & Social Development; Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ecological Fund Office. She was Acting SGF between April and October, 2017. Dr. Mrs. Habiba Lawal has also served as PS in Special Duties Office at the Office of the Head of Service.

Barr. Olusegun Adeyemi ADEKUNLE, PS, GSO

He served in the directorate cadre at the ministries of Agriculture, Aviation, Finance, Petroleum and Industry, Trade & Investment. He was director PRS at the Nigerian Copyrights Commission; (Commercial Law Department) & Registrar (Trademarks, Patent & Designs) in the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade



Mr. William Nwankwo ALO, PS, SDO

He has served as Perm Sec, Economic Affairs Office at the OSGF; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. Mr. Williams Alo similarly served as a Director, Reform Coordination and Service Improvement in the Ministry of Interior, Abuja.



Dr. Amina Muhammed Bello SHAMAKI, mni, PS, SSO

She was previously Perm Sec, Special Duties Office at the Office of the Head of Civil Service. She had served at the Federal Ministries of Health; Women Affairs and Social Development; Special Duties in the OSGF and the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.



Barr. Georgina Ekeoma EHURIAH, MON, PS, CAO

Barr. Georgina Ehuriah worked in the Ministry of Defence and Information. She has served in the Ecological Fund Office, OSGF and the Federal Ministry of Education. She is the first female to be appointed as Perm Sec, Cabinet Affairs Office since its creation in 1960.

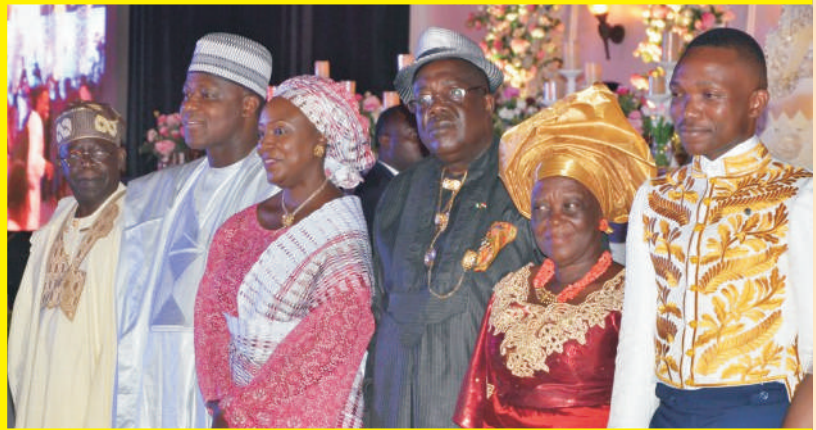


Mr. Gabriel Taminu ADUDA, PS, PEO/Chairman NAC & BWC

He has served as Director, Civil Service Transformation Department in the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation; Director, Economic Research and Policy Management with the Federal Ministry of Finance. He was once the Head, Strategy and Reorientation at the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.



When
AMANDA
bade the
MUSTAPHA
FAMILY
Goodbye



Miss Nigeria 2017

EHIGUESE

Mildred Peace

Pays a Courtesy Visit to SGF

Boss Mustapha



From left: Perm. Sec; General Services Office, Mr. Olusegun Adekunle; Miss Nigeria, Ehiguese Mildred Peace; SGF, Mr. Boss Mustapha; Perm. Sec., Cabinet Affairs Office, Barr. Georgina Ehuriah; Perm. Sec., Political & Economic Affairs Office, Mr. Gabriel Aduda and Legal Adviser, Mr Emmanuel Akisa.

Keeping fit, Getting Recognition



Former Director, HRM, Mrs. Jummai Idakwo presents a trophy won by the OSGF Sports Club at the Federation of Public Service Games, August Edition to the Perm. Sec, GSO, Mr Olusegun Adekunle.



The OSGF Sports Club at the Federation of Public Service Games, August 2018 Edition.



Images from SGF Forum with Secretaries to State Governments at Uyo, Akwa Ibom



BOSS MUSTAPHA *at* 62



The SGF, Boss Mustapha turned 62 recently. Here, workers in his office felicitate with him as he receives a birthday card from the Perm Sec, Ecological Fund Office, Dr. Habiba M. Lawal.

50th Birthday
Anniversary



Mrs. Helen Okeleka
ADESANYA



Mrs. Helen Okeleka Adesanya, Secretary to the Permanent Secretary, GSO, marked her 50th birthday in June. Management staff at the OSGF were their to grace the occasion in Abuja.

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