

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY OLUSEGUN A. ADEKUNLE ESQ. PERMANENT SECRETARY
(GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE) AT THE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING OF THE MDAs UNDER
PILLAR ONE (I) OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM IN THE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION

Protocol

I am pleased to formally welcome all participants again to this very important stakeholders meeting on reforms today. As you may be aware, the Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation (OSGF) is the Lead Agency of Pillar One (I) of the National Strategy for Public Service Reform. In this capacity, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) is charged with the responsibility of implementing key Reform Initiatives as enumerated by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms on the theme **"Enabling Governance and Institutional Environment"**.

2. In this capacity also, OSGF chairs the Steering Committee on Reforms, and coordinates the activities of members of Pillar I and provides technical leadership for reforms in terms of initiation, planning, design implementation of reform activities across the public service.

3. For paucity of funds, since the initiative was conceptualized, the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) has not been able to implement the policy. To this end, it has become imperative to invite all stakeholders under the pillar for this important technical stakeholders meeting with a view of promoting understanding of the concepts by MDAs for ease of implementation and overall ownership.

4. OSGF attaches a lot of importance to reform initiatives not only because the two leading reform agencies in the country are parastatals under the OSGF, but also because the National Strategy for Public Service Reforms provides a common vision and a long term agenda to guide the rebuilding and transformation of the Public Service. It is also important because it aligns with Nigeria's Vision 2020 as well as with the implementation of the 2017-2020 Federal Civil Service Strategy of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.

5. It is important to note that effective implementation of key reforms in various critical sectors in Public Service is the only way whereby our persistent very low rankings on various international development indices such as the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report, UNDP World Human Development Index, the UN World Happiness Report as well as Mo Ibrahim Africa Governance Report can be reversed.

6. Reversing this would obviously require enormous technical and financial investment and for this purpose OSGF is partnering with Africa Global Partnership Support Framework to organise international resources for implementation of Nigeria's key reform initiatives.

7. In the same vein, it is my delight to introduce participants to the SERVICOM Help Desk Radio Programme championed by National SERVICOM Office and structured to heighten public awareness over the damaging effects of service failure to the society, social structures as well as Nigeria's international image. The programme which is hosted on Human Rights Radio is meant to promote quality and timely service delivery nationwide by empowering service recipients with the right attitudes

whereby citizens are not only to be recognised but also confident enough to challenge service failures as their civil rights and responsibilities.

8. As a Coordinating Agency of Government Policies and Decisions, and in the spirit of Reforms and Service Improvement, the need for a robust website capable of showcasing various activities and policies of Government cannot be over emphasized. In this direction therefore, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) website is being enhanced with links to accommodate various MDAs. It is the expectation of the OSGF that you as participants will promote this development in your MDAs for necessary linkages.

9. While Bureau for Public Service Reforms (BPSR) will give a Lead Paper as the Anchor on the "Overview of the National Strategy of the Public Service Reforms (NSPRS): The role of OSGF and Stakeholders in the Implementation of the Pillar One (I), FIRS, National SERVICOM Office, ICPC, Federal Ministry of Justice and Institute of Conflict Resolution as members of the Panel of Discussants will give highlights of governance and institutional environment that will enable them to deliver public goods and services in accordance with their mandates and with integrity, transparency and accountability.

10. On the overall, I have strong confidence in BPSR technical competence to deliver a lead paper on the overview of the subject matter as well as anchor the panel of able discussants assembled at this meeting.

11. It is therefore my hope that at the end of the day, participants will acquire interpretative understanding and become masters and technocrats on what

"Enabling Governance and Institutional Environment" means for each and every MDA represented here in terms of delivering of public goods and services in accordance with their specific mandates and with integrity, transparency and accountability.

12. In conclusion it is my joy and privilege to once again welcome you all to this meeting and to declare this epoch gathering, on behalf of the SGF Boss Mustapha open for the promotion of reforms in all our MDAs and for the development of our dear native land, Nigeria.

13. May God bless us all.