



GOODWILL MESSAGE

BY

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AT THE

**INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNING
BOARDS OF FEDERAL PARASTATALS RECENTLY
INAUGURATED UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION**

HELD AT

TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA

THURSDAY, 26 JULY, 2018.

PROTOCOLS

It is indeed my privilege and honour to present a goodwill message at this auspicious occasion of the Induction Programme for Governing Boards of Federal Parastatals recently Inaugurated under the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. This programme has been put together to give us the opportunity to discuss freely and proffer solutions to issues that had been observed to create tension among Stakeholders in Public Sector Administration, such as Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Board Chairmen and Members, and Directors-General/Chief Executive Officers. It has been observed that there are gaps that need to be filled to minimise areas of conflict.

2. Permit me to commend the efforts of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms for organizing this induction programme. I am enthused by the quality of this programme which has been carefully designed and packaged with presentations by notable veterans of the Public Service to address the knotty concerns while giving the Chairmen and Members of the Boards the opportunity of interacting in a relaxed atmosphere. Most importantly, the Keynote address by

Barr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation will speak to the topical issues of concern with appropriate direction on the way forward in line with time-tested provisions governing the Public Service.

3. The Boards are assured of the support of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) towards the success of the enormous responsibility assigned them by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari. The OHCSF has three major roles of Training and Manpower Development; High Morale and Welfare of Public Service; and Career Development. Some of the functions of the OHCSF include:

- i. Providing leadership and direction to the service, maintaining high morale and esprit-de-corps and a favourable image of the Service including the observance of the code of Conduct;
- ii. Co-ordination of the activities of Federal Ministries and Extra-ministerial Departments;
- iii. Advising Mr. President on appointment and deployment of Permanent Secretaries;

- iv. Formulation of policies on and allocation of office accommodation;
- v. Provision of staff for newly established and ad hoc bodies;
- vi. Management of the careers of officers in the administrative cadre and all senior management staff;
- vii. Liaison with Heads of State Civil Service;
- viii. Review of machinery of Government, restructuring and re-organization of Federal Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments;
- ix. Promotion of good relations between Ministers and Civil Servants; and
- x. Relations with the Federal Civil service Commission on appointments, promotions and disciplinary issues.

4. The Minister is the political head of the Ministry and is responsible for submitting major proposals on policy issues to the Cabinet and Mr. President for a decision. The Minister takes public responsibility for the policy. The Permanent Secretary is the Chief Adviser to the Minister and controls the machinery that operates the

entire system of the Ministry. The Governing Boards of parastatals are to liaise with the supervisory Ministry through the Permanent Secretary.

5. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, although the Board is responsible for the management of the affairs of the Parastatals, the day-to-day management is handled by the Chief Executive (to be assisted by Executive Directors, where provided). The Board is therefore expected to restrict itself to issuing broad policy guidelines, approving operational targets and ensuring efficient management of resources to achieve the approved targets. The Chief Executive by whatever name is known i.e. Executive Secretary/Director-General/Managing Director etc. is the Accounting Officer of the Parastatals, charged with the day-to-day management of human, financial and material resources of the Parastatal in accordance with the objective and targets set by the Board.

6. At this juncture, I call on you all to be focused and make salient contributions during this programme that will dawn a new vista of cordial and harmonious relationships and increased productivity in

the Public sector especially in the Boards where you hold sway. The OHCSF which is the conscience of the Service, enjoins you to adhere to the rule of law, abide by the provisions of guidelines and circulars that guide the operations of the Service. Let us as a matter of urgency rebuild mutual trust and confidence amongst all parties concerned for enhanced efficient service delivery to Nigerians.

7. I wish you all happy and successful deliberations. Thank you and God bless.

**Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.
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