



A WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL, BPSR, MR. D. I. ARABI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNING BOARDS OF FEDERAL PARASTATALS, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTRES, HELD AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA ON MONDAY, 29th OCTOBER, 2018.

PROTOCOL

It is indeed my honour and great pleasure to welcome you all to this occasion, which is the Joint Opening Ceremony for Batches 2, 3 and 4 of the Induction Programme for Chairmen and Members of Boards of Parastatals, Federal University Teaching Hospitals and Medical Centres.

2. I wish to extend a warm welcome to our Special Guest of Honour for today's occasion, Mr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, and Chairman, National Steering Committee on Reforms (SCR) for his presence at this occasion, to personally present the keynote address and also declare open the induction programme.

3. It also gives me great pleasure to particularly welcome the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mrs. Winifred E. Oyo-Ita, Vice-Chairperson of the National Steering Committee on Reforms (SCR); Permanent Secretaries; Retired Permanent Secretaries; Chairmen/Chief Executive Officers; Boards Members of Parastatals; Federal University Teaching Hospitals and Medical Centres and the Representatives of our partner, DFID-PERL all to this occasion.

4. We are glad, and feel very much honoured to all of you, to be here, and for us at the Bureau to be hosting the Joint Opening Ceremony for Batches 2, 3 and 4 of the Induction Programme, which could not have come at a better time than now, especially against the background of continued major concerns expressed about the weak corporate governance practice in most Federal Parastatals and increasing dispute between Chief Executive Officers and Boards Members.



5. It is a known fact that while top-level Federal Civil Servants, such as Permanent Secretaries grow through the Federal Civil Service and acquire wide public service knowledge and experience in the conduct of government business, most Chief Executive Officers and Governing Boards members of federal agencies, to some extent, lack such knowledge and experience. This is because most of them are appointed from outside public service, and assume duties in their respective agencies with limited knowledge of public service corporate governance practices and conduct of government businesses.

6. An area that the Federal Public Service must look at is how to properly induct and orientate newly appointed Chairmen, Members of Boards and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Federal Parastatals into the Federal Public Service before assumption of office. The failure to do this has proven costly to the country, sometimes with disastrous consequences resulting in the mismanagement of huge human and financial resources.

7. In order to address this concern, as well as respond to the numerous concerns from federal Parastatals on matters relating to good corporate governance practices, the Bureau, as part of its overall mandate of reforming and repositioning federal agencies, has institutionalised the process of inducting Governing Boards and Chief Executive Officers into the Federal Public Service immediately they are appointed by Mr. President.

8. This process of inducting the Chairmen and Members of Boards is also underscored by the vision of the National Strategy for Public Service Reforms (NSPSR) of making our agencies **a world-class public service delivering government policies effectively and implementing programmes with professionalism, integrity, excellence, and passion to secure sustainable national development**. It is within this context that the 1st Batch of the Induction Programme took place in July, 2018.

9. The overall objective is to enable Governing Boards members, Chief Executive Officers gain an understanding of their roles, key responsibilities and the behaviour required of them in their organisations, both as individuals and as part of the board's collective responsibilities, and how they can contribute effectively to promote corporate governance practice in their agencies. This is the background to our gathering here today. Let me say that we have very high expectations of the outcome from this induction programme.



10. In order to ensure that the objectives of this programme are achieved, we have assembled distinguished and eminent speakers to address topics that are relevant to the objectives of the programme, and guarantee to get you thinking about promoting good corporate governance in your parastatals. The pace of this programme, may be a little tasking and thorny. An important component of the programme is the breakout session. As you well know, a breakout session provides opportunities for clear examination of issues and, therefore, constitutes the engine room for deeper reflections of the issues at stake. I would, with due respect like to appeal to you to give this aspect of the programme your utmost attention, enjoy the experience and make it a worthwhile endeavour.

11. At this juncture, it should be appropriate enough for me to express our profound appreciation to all our eminent Resource Persons for accepting my request to kindly make themselves available for the delivery of this programme. I believe I will be speaking their minds if I say that the best way we can show our appreciation for this sacrifice they are making is to give this programme our full attention and unstinted commitment. I am certain that nothing will make them feel better than to know that by the end of the day, we would have been able to promote good corporate governance practice in our parastatals.

12. I wish to express the collective appreciation of BPSR, to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chairman, Steering Committee on Reforms for all the support he has given to the programme and the Bureau. Without his support, it would have been practically impossible to organise this programme. We also thank the Head of Civil Service of the Federation/Deputy Chairperson (Steering Committee on Reforms), Permanent Secretaries in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and other Permanent Secretaries for their continuous support and encouragement. I also thank our development partners, DFID-PERL, Mac Arthur Foundations, European Union, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and members of the Press as well as all our invited guests who have graced this opening ceremony.

11. Once again, let me warmly welcome you all to this event.

12. Thank you.