

**THE PRESIDENCY
BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS
OVERVIEW OF ITS FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**VISITING DELEGATION FROM AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLE'S RIGHTS**

By

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Ag. Director-General, BPSR**

Date: 24th September, 2018



Establishment



- BPSR was established on 26th September, 2004 as the lead Agency and 'Engine Room' for integrated reform implementation, coordination and harmonization.
- BPSR serves as the secretariat of the Steering Committee on Reforms (SCR) and reports to the President through the SGF who is the Chairman of the SCR on Reforms.
- The SCR provides technical leadership for reform, in terms of planning, design and implementation; and initiating reform activities across the public service.



Establishment Contd...



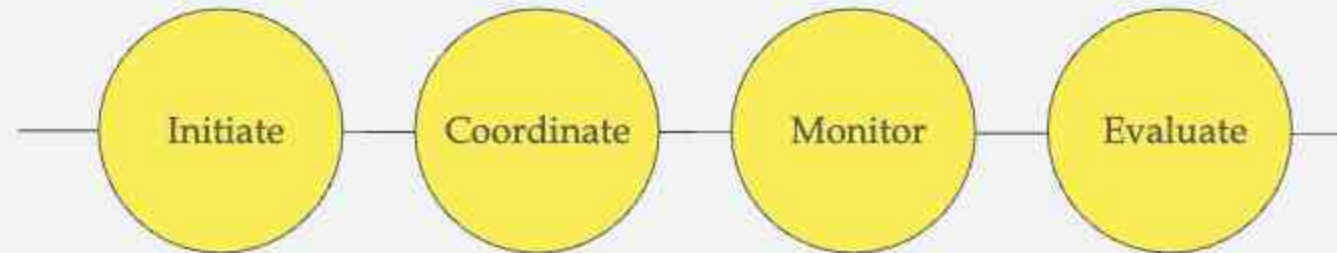
Rationale for the establishment of BPSR was centred around the following three main concern:

- The need to create a clearing house, a one-stop-shop of a sort, where all stakeholders could receive information and guidance on all the reform programmes of the Federal Government;
- The strong conviction that the reform objectives will not be realized in the long term, through an ad-hoc committee or task force; and
- The need to have an “engine room” that is enabled with the required capability and resources to leverage on local and international knowledge networks and communities of public administration best practices, to support policy, institutional and governance reform processes with required expertise, and good practices on an on-going basis.



Mandate of BPSR

The Mandates of BPSR are to Initiate, Coordinate, Monitor and Evaluate implementation of reform programmes and policies, Conduct research on implementation efforts and present 'best practice' models





Mission

- To have an Integrity and Merit-based Professional Public Service, driven by National Interest and Efficient Management of Resources and Talents

Vision

- Facilitates the building of Nigeria's Public Service into a highly functional, professional, customer-focused and result-oriented institution.



ACHIEVEMENTS - NSPSR



- The NSPR is a comprehensive and long term strategy towards achieving a world class public service and making Nigeria one of the 20 leading economies in the world by year 2020.
- NSPR is sectioned into four (4) pillars viz:
- An enabling institutional and governance environment;
 - An enabling socio-economic environment;
 - Public Financial Management Reform and; and
 - Civil Service Administration Reform.
- It is delighting to note that part of the recommendations have been implemented in various sectors of the economy.



ACHIEVEMENTS Contd...

- Institutionalization of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS).
- Restructure the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and Mr. President's approval of our recommendation.
- Consultancy Support for the Development of Governance and Operational Guidelines for the Solid Minerals Development Fund (SMDF)
- New Structure and Mgt. Framework for the Atomic Energy Sector
- Institutional assessment and Review of the Police Service Commission,
- Institutional Assessment and review of National Human Rights Commission.



ACHIEVEMENTS Contd...



Governance Reforms:

Developed an automated Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) an on-line tool, accessible through the BPSR website (www.bpsr.gov.ng/assessment-test) to provide a picture of the current state of an agency or Parastatal. This is a flagship of BPSR governance reform

Implemented SAT (SAT) in NEITI, NCC, NASC etc.

Currently implementing SAT for National Investment Promotion Council (NIPC)

Conducted Institutional Assessment in:

❖ UBEC

❖ Police Service Commission

❖ Police Complaint and Rapid Response Unit

Study on Bail is Free in Nigerian Police Stations

Conducted monthly Lunch time Seminar Series on reform critical issues such as: Challenges in Accessing Housing Finance Mortgage; obtaining Tax Clearance Certificate; Implementation of National Health Insurance Scheme; Improving Police Efficiency (SARS) and many others



ACHIEVEMENTS Contd...

Service Delivery:

- Conducted Study on Governance constraints and bottlenecks to service delivery in Nigeria: in selected agencies; Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigerian Immigration Service, National Identity Management Commission, Federal Road Safety Commission. The implementation of the outcomes of this study are now being implemented in FIRS, NIMC, NIS, FRSC and other relevant government agencies
- Conducted Study on reducing waiting time to see Doctors in government hospitals
- Conducted induction training programme for incoming Chairmen and Members of Board of Federal Parastatals and Agencies to improve corporate governance and management efficiency



ACHIEVEMENTS Contd...

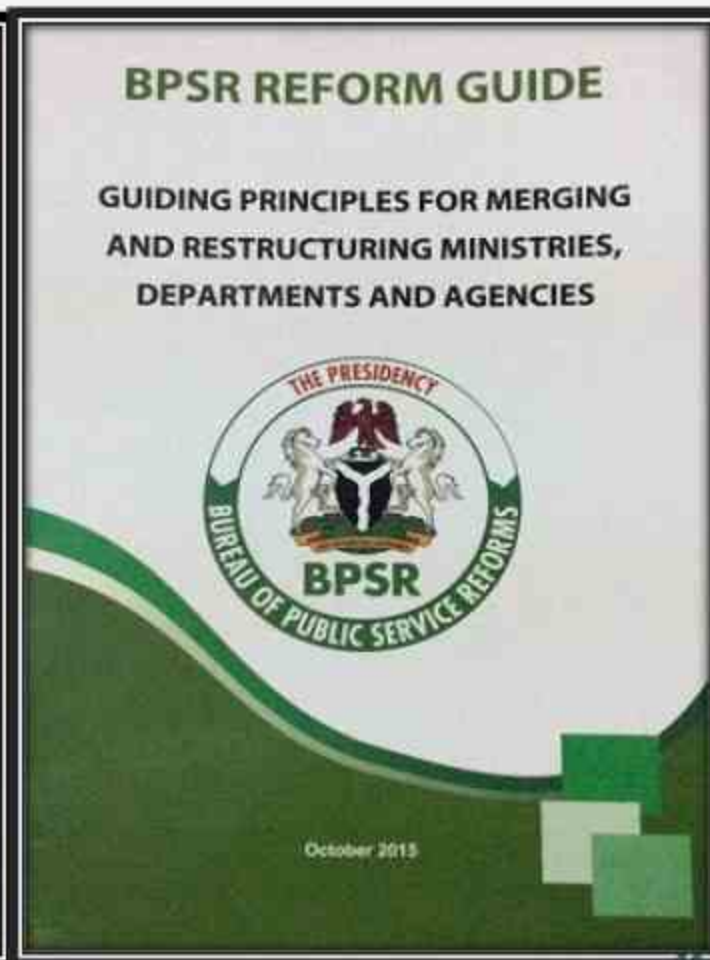
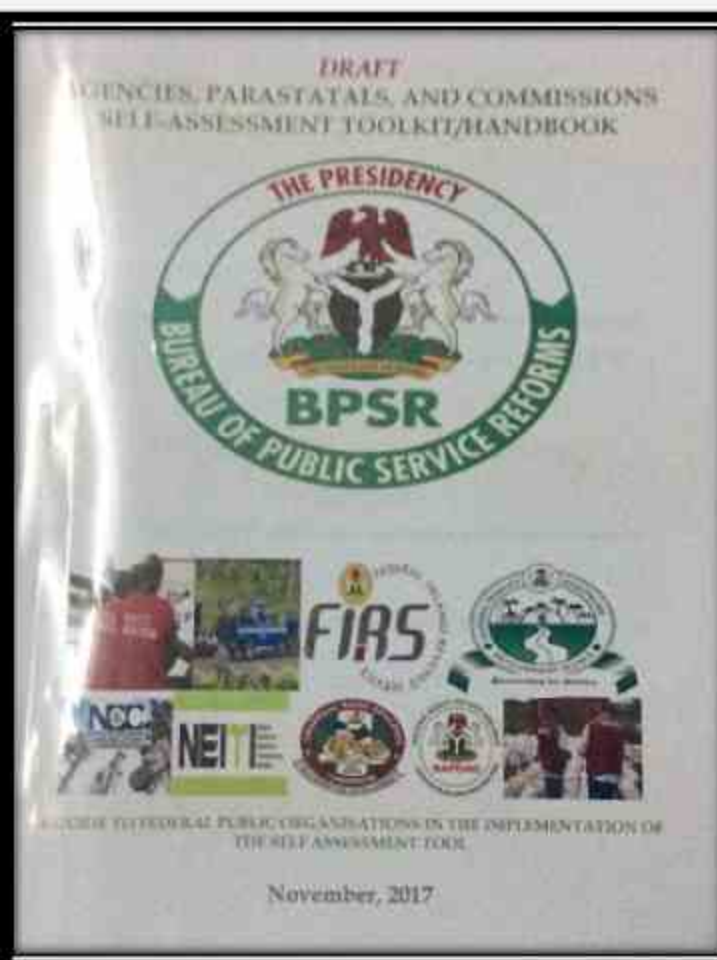
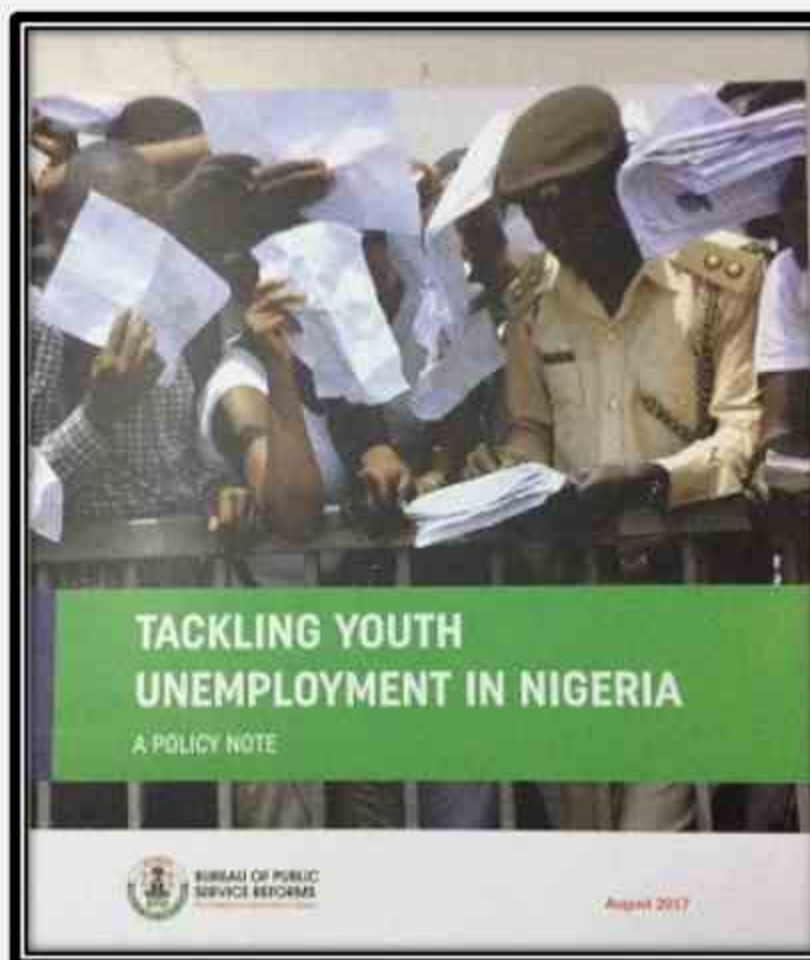


Publications:

- Reform Guides on Developing Medium Term Sector Strategies and Job Evaluation
- BPSR Guidance on the Strategic Mgt., Governance of Agencies and Parastatals' – strengthening Agencies and Parastatals for better service delivery
- Public Service Reforms in Nigeria from 1999 to 2014 – A Comprehensive Review
- Compendium of Public Service Reforms in Nigeria 2015 – 2017
- BPSR Reform Guide: Guiding Principles for Merging and Restructuring Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Tackling Youth Unemployment in Nigeria – A Policy Note
- How Nigeria contained Ebola: Lessons for Institutional Reforms
- How to Manage and Reform Agencies and Parastatals
- Lessons learnt from 2015 General Elections
- Corporate Governance Manual



BPSR Publications on Display





BPSR Publications on Display





ONGOING ACTIVITIES



- Working with the VP's Office to identify and implement recommendations in Federal Government White Paper on Rationalization of Government Agencies and Parastatals
- Renewal of MoU with PERL-DFID/UKAID
- Conduct of 2nd National Public Perception Survey on government reform efforts (Administrative burden on Executive Order on Ease of Doing Business policy of the Federal Government)
- To conduct monthly Lunch time Seminar Series on Open Government in Nigeria



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT



- The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was signed into law in May, 2011.
- The Act is an extension of the Freedom of Expression as provided under Section 39 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- It overrides laws and regulations which inhibit civil servants from divulging official information and records held by public Institutions; Such as Official Secret Acts and Public Service Rules



BPSR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR FOIA

As part of BPSR's mandate to initiate reform activities, the Bureau commenced a ground breaking set of initiatives to implement the FOIA. To act the lead, therefore, the Bureau enshrined the following strategy to institutionalised the Freedom of Information Act as follows:

- ❖ Collaborating with the Right to Know [R2K] initiative and Mac Arthur Foundation, the Bureau deployed Nigeria's first electronic FOI portal on its website. The e-portal has the facilities to receive and respond to electronic FOI applications within the timelines of the Act.
- ❖ Developed scorecard for ranking the websites of Government institutions to mitigate the challenges of access to information and enhance service delivery to citizens.
- ❖ Creating platforms for interface with CSOs, NGOs , partners, and public institutions on topical issues of Government policies



**BPSR
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FOR FOIA
Contd...**



- Deployment of Information Technology infrastructure to provide innovative means of improving record keeping and management in the implementation of FOI through intranet system and Electronic Data Management System [EDMS].
- We are glad to note that in view of its viability, the Freedom of Information e-Portal has been replicated by NEITI, Federal Ministry of Justice and we hope that other MDAs will follow suite.
- Engaging Reform Desk officers across MDAs to articulate information on reforms.



CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOIA

- Seven (7) years after the passage of the FOIA, full implementation is still being hampered by the following:
- Lack of awareness of the existence of the Act by public institutions
- Unwillingness by public officials to engender paradigm shift to information disclosure and ICT due to limitations contained in the Public Service Rule
- Capacity challenges in many public institutions in record keeping, maintenance and retrieval of information as well as funding constraints
- Bandwidth and connectivity challenges and absence of robust ICT platforms



INTERVENTIONS BY BPSR



- Institutionalisation of FOIA under the pillar one of NSPSR as powerful tool in enforcing transparency and fighting corruption.
- Initiate review of the Public Service Rules
- Deepening citizens awareness through the Bureau's interactive platforms
- Encourage Government to adopt e-govt as an instrument for service delivery at all levels
- Engage Reform desk officers to propagate the principles of the FOI Act
- Building capacity across public institutions.



**BPSR
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGY FOR
FOIA Contd...**



- The BPSR FOI portal is an interactive, automated database driven site with the following features:
- Electronic Copy of the FOI Act
- Electronic Sample Application Form and Guidelines
- Online Automated Application Form
- Automated window to View Previous FOI Requests and Corresponding Responses
- Guide on Proactive Disclosure
- Related Reports on FOI implementation in the Bureau

Related Link:

<http://bpsr.gov.ng/index.php/publications/external-resources/foi-act>



THANK YOU

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