OPENING REMARKS BY MR. D. I. ARABI, DIRECTOR GENERAL BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS (BPSR) ON THE OCCASION OF THE LUNCH TIME REFORM SEMINAR HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE ON 28TH MARCH, 2019

PROTOCOL

It is an honour and privilege for me to welcome you to the March, 2019 Edition of the Lunch Time Reform Seminar. Regrettably, the February edition was not held because of the elections. This edition has the theme "**The need for Active Engagement of Public Institutions in the Implementation of IT Regulatory Instruments in Nigeria".** At this juncture, permit me to extend my warm welcome to our distinguished Guest Speaker for today's Seminar, the Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami.

2. As you may all be aware, Information Technology (IT) is the bedrock for national survival and development in a rapidly changing global environment, and challenges us to devise bold and courageous initiatives to address a host of vital socio-economic issues such as reliable

infrastructure, skilled human resource, open government and other essential issues of capacity building. Under the NITDA Act, 2007 it has the mandate to Develop and Regulate Information Technology in Nigeria and its major mandate. As an IT regulatory Agency in Nigeria, in January 2019 it created the following five IT Regulatory Instruments which are:

i.   Rule making process of NITDA;

ii. Nigeria Data Protection Regulation;

iii. Guidelines for clearance of Information Technology;

iv. Framework & Guidelines for Public Internet Access; and

v.   Framework & Guidelines for the use of Social Media Platform

3.   It is hoped that, these Instruments would help to further deepen IT practices and would give local manufacturers of IT equipment and software developers an edge over their foreign counterparts in terms of patronage. The importance of the Instruments can be traced to Executive Order No.5, which involves, Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Contracts and Science, Engineering and Technology. In view of the aforementioned, the need for active

engagement of Public Institutions in its implementation cannot be unheeded.

4. We are also glad to note that, BPSR, in collaboration with NITDA, Galaxy Backbone and other Government Agencies developed a scorecard for ranking of MDAs' websites which now serves as a peer review mechanism among Ministries and Agencies to boost compliance to standards for government website.

5. It may interest you to note that, the Lunch Time Seminar series are important components for capacity building, by promoting exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices around core reform areas in Federal Public Service. Issues discussed and suggestions offered at this Seminar are very useful in re-adjusting policy development and implementation.

6. In accordance with the mandate of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms to perform the broader functions of conducting research on reform implementation efforts and providing best practice models across the Public Service, the Bureau is organising this all important Seminar to provide the platform to educate Public Servants on the activities of National Information Technology Development Agency, with emphasis on the

need for active engagement of Public Institutions in the implementation of IT Regulatory Instruments in Nigeria.

7. This Seminar is part of the BPSR's function of disseminating information on all aspects of Public Service Reforms and to also complement the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) in enlightening Public Servants on new innovations, Policies and Programmes of Government.

8. Let me conclude by saying that, this Seminar will bring about new insights into the activities of NITDA and as usual, you will find it rewarding, educative and beneficial.

9. Finally, I look forward to your comments, questions and recommendations at the end of the presentation. Thank you.