



**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 PARASTATALS, AGENCIES AND
COMMISSIONS, HELD AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA
ON THURSDAY, 26TH JULY, 2018**

PROTOCOL

It is indeed my honour and a great pleasure to welcome you all to this occasion, which is the Opening Ceremony for the Induction Programme for Governing Boards of Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions under the supervision of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. 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 for his presence at this occasion to personally present the keynote address and also declare open the induction programme.

2. It also gives me great pleasure to particularly welcome both the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mrs. Winifred E. Oyo-Ita, *nni*; and Ms. Amal Pepple, Former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, *CFR* to this occasion. Let me also with great pleasure, welcome the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen; the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Rachid Benmessaoud and DFID Governance Adviser, Ms. Ekanem Bassey all to this occasion.

3. Let me say that 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 inaugural edition of the Induction Programme for Governing Boards of Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions, which could not have come at a better time than now, especially against the background of major concerns expressed about the weak corporate governance practice in most Federal Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions.



4. Permit me to briefly put today's occasion in a better perspective. 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 the federal public service, and assume duties in their respective agencies with limited knowledge of public service corporate governance practices and conduct of government business. Parastatals are important institutions because most Nigerians experience Governance and Service Delivery directly through them.

5. An area that the Federal Public Service must look at is how to properly induct/orientate the newly appointed Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Governing Boards of Federal Parastatal on the Federal Public Service ethics before or after assumption of office. The failure to do this has proven costly to the country, sometimes with disastrous consequences resulting in the mismanagement of human and huge financial resources. 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 functions of reforming agencies, planned to institutionalise the process of inducting Governing Boards and Chief Executive Officers into the Federal Public Service immediately they are appointed.

6. It is within this context of institutionalising the process of inducting Governing Boards and Chief Executive Officers of Federal Parastatals into the Federal Public Service that the 1st Batch of the Induction Programme is taking place between Thursday, 26th to Saturday, 28th July, 2018. The overall objective is to enable Governing Board members 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 responsibility, 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 the inaugural edition of the induction programme.



7. 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 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.

8. 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.

9. I do not intend to make this a long address, however, I do have one important task to perform before I take my seat. This is to express once again, 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 the programme. We also thank the Head of Civil Service of the Federation/Deputy Chairman (Steering Committee on Reforms), Permanent Secretary GSO, Office of Secretary to the Government of the Federation and other Permanent Secretaries for their continuous support and encouragement.

10. Once again, let me warmly welcome you all to the 1st Batch of the Induction Programme for Governing Boards of Federal Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions.

11. Thank you.