

**AN ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION, MR. BOSS MUSTAPHA AT THE CEREMONY FOR THE SIGNING
OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE ICT FOR
CHANGE PROGRAMME PHASE 2 BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF
NIGERIA AND HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY NIGERIA LIMITED ON
THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2018**

Protocols:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this occasion that exemplifies Government's partnership with Private Sector Organizations to drive the implementation of its policies and programmes.

2. Today marks another historic day in the annals of the current Administration and the Federal Civil Service as we are gathered for the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the second phase of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) for Change Programme between the Federal Government of Nigeria and Huawei Technologies Company Nigeria Limited.

3. It will interest you to know that the first phase of the Programme tagged **"Seeds for Future"** that commenced implementation in January, 2017 and concluded early this year, achieved the training of 2,000 Nigerian youths by Huawei Technologies as part of their contribution to national development. This empowerment programme complements Government's Youth and Students' development initiatives and job creation. This laudable project has directly impacted the Nigerian youth in the following key areas amongst others:

- i. Human capacity building and cultivating ICT talent;

- ii. Provision of further advanced training in China to 10 high performing students and their subsequent engagement by Huawei Sub-contractors in the Telecoms sector;
 - iii. Issuance of globally recognized HUAWEI certificates to 1,345 Nigerian trainees based on performance;
 - iv. Benefits of added advantage in job placement and competence of Nigerians in their careers with the Nigerian Telecommunication Service Providers (MTN, 9mobile, Airtel etc) due to possession of Huawei certificate;
 - v. Equipping the students with necessary skillset to begin their own ICT startups and partner with Huawei in the Telecoms and ICT industry;
4. The ICT for Change Programme is also in alignment with the Federal Civil Service Strategy and Implementation Plan (2017 -2020) to enhance the capacities and capabilities of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) performance and delivery systems. In this regard, the Programme supports the area of automation of processes and bureaucratic procedures to make them more efficient by implementing an Enterprise Content Management (ECM) solution.
5. This signing of MOU between the Federal Government of Nigeria and Huawei Technologies signifies the commencement of the second phase of the Programme to train and empower **1,000 Federal Civil Servants** across MDAs on capacity building. It is a further demonstration of the strengthening of the existing partnership between Government and the Private Sector, represented by Huawei Technologies. This phase of the programme shall be jointly anchored by Huawei Technologies Company Nigeria Limited and Galaxy Backbone.

6. Participants will be trained and empowered with basic ICT knowledge and skills so as to equip them with the capacity to handle the increasing demand for digital economy transformation, e-governance and smart city management. The training sessions which will be conducted at Huawei Training Centers in Abuja and Lagos targets officers below 55 years of age.

7. This phase of the programme will commence with the constitution of an Implementation Task Team comprising officials from the OSGF, OHCSF, Galaxy Backbone and Huawei Technologies, that will be responsible for the following:

- i. Screening and selection of the best suited officers across MDAs;
- ii. Regularly monitor and report on the conduct of the programme to the Permanent Secretary (General Services Office); and
- iii. Conduct post training evaluation to ascertain that the desired objectives have been achieved.

8. On behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, I wish to sincerely thank Huawei Technologies for this partnership in fulfilling their corporate social responsibility as a reputable global organization. This gesture is highly commendable and we look forward to more of such programmes.

9. I now invite the Senior Vice President of Huawei Technologies, Mr. Xue Man for the signing of the MOU between the Federal Government of Nigeria and Huawei Technologies to kick start Phase 2 of the ICT for Change Programme.

