



SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION, BARR. BOSS G. MUSTAPHA, AT THE SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI'S ACHIEVEMENTS, YOUTHS ATTITUDINAL CHANGE AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMME, HELD IN BAUCHI ON SATURDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2017.

PROTOCOLS

I feel highly honoured to be called upon to speak on President Muhammadu Buhari's achievements as they relate to Youth's attitudinal change which is informed by the commitment to enormous economic and social welfare intervention programmes of the present Administration. This appears to be my first major outing since assumption of Office.

2. I am glad to remind you that while this administration is determined to bring our nation to self-sufficiency and self-reliance, it has also been sensitive to the plight and wishes of the Nigerian masses. This is demonstrated in the unrelenting efforts to restore peace to our Communities to enable the needed development to thrive.

3. Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, the promise to win the war against the Boko Haram insurgents in the North East Zone is no longer political campaign propaganda as was being speculated by some ill-will Nigerians. The Government of President Muhammadu Buhari, through the indefatigable efforts of the Military and Security Agents, has broken the siege of the insurgents in the Sambissa Forest which led to the release of **106 Chibok School Girls** along with other uncountable innocent citizens who were held captive by the insurgents. I also make bold to say that all the **14 Local Government Areas and territories** under the Boko Haram control have been recovered and millions

of displaced persons in the North East have returned to their homes within the two years of this Administration. The reconstruction of homes and infrastructures in the devastated areas is presently one of the priorities of Government.

4. In the case of insecurity in the southern and eastern parts of the country, may I remind you that the strongholds and cells of kidnappers' gangs have been dismantled. Permit me to remind you that while a kidnap kingpin of international notoriety had been arrested and is being prosecuted, there is some degree of safety in the affected areas. Also, Government was able to bring under control, the activities of secessionists in the South East zone, thereby saving the nation an unnecessary unrest and blood bath.

5. The effort of Government in diversifying the economy has paid off as the country is being taken of its worst recession in 29 years despite the fall in price of oil. The areas of agriculture and manufacturing have received some boost. Consequently, there is projection for food sufficiency in no distant time. Also, some of our agricultural products are already being packages for export, thereby improving the GDP.

6. The feat of achievements of this Government has paid off. Consequently, Nigeria has moved 24 places in the World Bank ranking, giving rise to placement of Nigeria among the top 10 Reformers of economy globally. This is a true reflection of efforts of Government through passage and implementation of Executive Orders to facilitate foreign business investors to obtain Visas on arrival to do business.

7. In the area of Social Investment Programmes, the N-Power Volunteer Scheme has so far created over **200,000** jobs for unemployed graduates nationwide. The Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) Scheme which commenced in 2016, has been issuing soft loans ranging from **₦10,000 – ₦100,000** to Artisans, Youth, Entrepreneurs, Traders, Market Women, etc. across the different States. Also, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Scheme is currently paying the sum of **₦5,000** monthly to about **25,000** less privileged Nigerians across the nine (9) Pilot States. The Home Grown School

Feeding Programme in which about **3 million** School children are being fed has provided jobs for thousands of Cooks in the States.

8. In the area of infrastructure, the President Buhari's Administration has so far spent the sum of **₦1.2 trillion** on capital/infrastructural projects nationwide such as transportation (rail/road), the Niger Delta road map for improved livelihood as well as the allocation of **\$5.6 billion** for the execution of the Mambila Power Plant project, the 2nd Niger Bridge project which has been in the plan for over 45 years.

9. In the area of agriculture, I make bold to inform you that Government has concluded arrangements to resuscitate 11 out of the 33 moribund Fertilizer production plants for a meaningful impact on the Sector. In addition, this Administration has put in place Anchors Borrowers Programme to improve local agricultural production and improve fertilizer distribution and access across the States through the Presidential Fertilizer Initiative.

10. On the issue of herdsmen/farmers clashes which have adversely affected the national economy and threatened the peaceful co-existence we enjoyed over the years, I am glad to inform you that Government has resolved to acquire expansive areas of land for grazing reserves in strategic locations all over the country with a view to stemming the menace.

11. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, these can go on and on ... But the few mentioned are enough to convince you that this Government means well for the Nigerian Youth. We believe that these programmes have helped reduce unemployment among our teeming Youth and address other challenges which have made our society vulnerable to crimes and social vices.

12. Finally, as you continue with this Workshop, it is my prayer that God should guide and endow you with wisdom and knowledge that will make the Youth, and indeed all Nigerians, instruments of peace and positive change.

13. I thank you all and wish you the best of the Programme.