

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FEDERATION, MR BOSS MUSTAPHA, AT THE HIGH-LEVEL
STAKEHOLDER RETREAT ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS,
HOLDING AT IBOM HOTEL & GOLF RESORT, UYO,
AKWA IBOM STATE ON 11TH – 12TH JANUARY 2019.**

PROTOCOL

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the High-Level Stakeholder Retreat on Public Private Partners here in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Let me start by appreciating all who have contributed to the hosting of this event – particularly our sponsors and key note speakers – who have travelled some distance to bring their considerable experience on Infrastructure delivery to bear, in helping us finetune our PPP Delivery Framework. And our esteemed guests from across Government, our development partners and the organised private sector. I sincerely believe that this will be a defining point in the history of our nation.

2. Nigeria’s infrastructure deficit is the leading constraint to economic growth and the ease of doing business. Nigeria’s under-investment in overall infrastructure, historically sits at around 1.5% of GDP, which, according to the McKinsey Global Institute is about one-fifth of the investment level needed to keep economic growth at an appreciable 7% and above. And is significantly below the investment levels made by comparator economies like China (8.6%) and India (5%) between 1992 and 2013.

3. According to the World Economic Forum rankings on overall infrastructure quality in 2016, Nigeria sits near the bottom at 132nd out of 138 countries surveyed.

4. Despite the weak performance, some progress has been made since 2015. The Federal Government has increased the capital allocation for the development and delivery of key transport and energy infrastructure, a number of ongoing activities and initiatives are focused on building the capacities of various MDAs across board, developing PPP Manuals to clarify the processes and enhance transparency, synergising with various Federal MDAs and sub-national governments to harmonise activities, amongst others all aimed at improving the ease of doing business, and infrastructure delivery.

5. Given the scale of the challenge, however, it is widely recognised that the human and financial resources required to address this deficit, will require significant private sector participation to augment Government’s annual budgetary allocations. In this regard, the National Integrated Infrastructure Masterplan estimates that 48% of the US\$3 Trillion required to address Nigeria’s infrastructure deficit will come from the private sector. However, much more needs to be done to engender the private sectors interest and confidence required to deliver the much needed levels of investment.

6. There can be no doubt that the composition, transparency and predictability of Nigeria's Infrastructure Delivery Framework, will either be a hindrance or an enabler to attracting and harnessing the private sector's engagement in the financing, delivery and management of critical public-sector infrastructure. Despite recent momentum; it is presently seen by most, as a major constraint.

7. This is our challenge to fix; and our purpose for convening this High-Level Stakeholder Retreat on Public Private Partnerships, to build on the political will demonstrated by the Muhammadu Buhari administration to harmonise the wide range of government initiatives underway and deliver a roadmap for recalibrating Nigeria's Infrastructure Delivery Framework. That is why we have invited you – decision makers and key influencers from across the public, private and donor community in Nigeria to critically examine best practice Delivery frameworks, against the issues and constraints undermining the delivery of PPPs in Nigeria.

8. In your deliberations, I invite you to keep in mind the urgency and importance of this expedient task. To explore the issues principally in view of the critical need to address Nigeria's infrastructure delivery deficit, and the considerable cost of doing nothing.

9. The investment community typically channel their investments to economies with clear, transparent, efficient, predictable and investor-friendly institutional environments. Given the number of agencies involved at various stages of the PPP project development lifecycle; you may come to the view that some structural changes are required to improve the coordination integration and institutional alignment of MDA roles and responsibilities. Do however bear in mind that Nigerians can not wait for changes in legal frameworks to run its parliamentary course. They are counting on us to come up with practical solutions that can be implemented in the short term within the existing legal framework; which you may also consider in view of medium to long term regulatory recommendations to improve Nigeria's Infrastructure Delivery Framework.

10. Finally, I want to urge you to make the most of the experience and knowledge of our facilitation team, and in particular Prof John Davey and Mr James Aiello – who have come some distance to contribute to our deliberations. They have been flown in to coach and guide us, as we commit to developing enhancements to Nigeria's PPP Delivery Framework.

11. Thank you once again, for responding to our invitation to help recalibrate Nigeria's Infrastructure Delivery Framework. I want you to know that government is committed to implementing the recommendations that will emerge from this High-level Stakeholder Retreat on Public Private Partnerships.

Thank you and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.