



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

**BOSS MUSTAPHA
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FEDERATION**

AT

**THE NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES
SOCIETY (NMGS) AND THE NIGERIAN
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AGENCY (NGSA)**

DISCOURSE SERIES ON

**'GEOHERMAL ENERGY RESOURCES OF NIGERIA: AN UNTAPPED POTENTIAL
FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'**

AT

**LADI KWALI HALL OF THE SHERATON
ABUJA HOTEL, ABUJA**

20TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

Protocols,

It gives me great pleasure to address you on this occasion of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society and the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NMSG/NGSA) Discourse Series with the theme **“Geothermal Energy Resources of Nigeria: An Untapped Potential for Socio-Economic Development”**.

2. Nigeria and indeed, many other African Countries have continued to experience energy shortages and therefore have not been able to realize their dreams of socio-economic development. The present administration inherited an abysmal energy situation in 2015, when it came to office, distributing around 2,690MW for the whole country. This was considered unacceptable and required urgent steps to redress the challenge.

3. Due to government’s concerted efforts, distribution has risen to over 5000MW while transmission and generation has also risen to 7000MW but is still a far cry from the optimal requirement for a nation like Nigeria. Despite these efforts, only 58% of Nigerians have access to electricity and this has informed the policy thrust of

Federal Government on the diversification of our primary sources of energy.

4. To tackle the energy deficit, Federal Government has put together and adopted a home-grown strategy under the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020 within which specific policies on energy and their objectives were addressed. These policies include the need to improve our Nation's energy efficiency and energy mix, with specific focus on renewable sources of energy. Government has also within the same policy, emphasised the improvement of access to electricity for the urban areas, and the provision of off-grid renewable energy sources for the rural communities.

5. Notably, there are several primary components in an energy mix which include sources derived from Coal, Oil and Gas, Hydropower, Biomass, Wind, Solar, Peat, Nuclear, Marine and Geothermal. Unfortunately, Nigeria is currently lagging in the installed capacity from many of these resources. Records showed that we generate about 80% of our power from gas fired generating

plant and about 14% from hydropower, while contributions from other sources like Solar, Wind etc remain negligible. Hitherto, we have not investigated available energy from Geothermal Sources, which is believed to be abundant in the country considering an array of warm/hot springs dotted around Nigeria.

6. It is against this background that Government is encouraging initiatives that will promote alternative power sources particularly, renewable energy et-al.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, the partnership between government and the BMGS/NGSA should therefore go beyond this workshop as you are expected to come up with clear actionable initiatives that will add geothermal energy as another component within the country's energy mix.

8. Nigeria is particularly challenged as we have been informed that East African nations have started exploiting this source of energy by leveraging on various international programmes promoting the use of geothermal energy which in some cases have the potential of yielding upwards of 4000MW of electric power.

9. I must stress that in addition to power, other benefits accruing from geothermal energy, include geo-tourism as well as medical tourisms occasioned by the presence of these hot-springs in various parts of the Country.

10. I therefore implore experts at this discourse series to come up with definite milestones and deliverables regarding the untapped potentials of Nigeria's Geothermal Energy Resources for the benefit of our people.

11. I am pleased to note that the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) is here, and I wish to strongly urge an inter-Agency collaboration with NGSA in this bold attempt to reduce our energy deficit through the provision of geothermal energy.

12. I challenge the NGSA to quickly explore our Geothermal Energy Resources with a view to actualizing our ERGP aspirations and placing Nigeria on the global map of member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA), a body of Nations promoting the use of green energy.

13. Nigeria would at this time stand to gain immensely from tapping into the potentials of her geothermal resources, which have generally remained unexploited.

14. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour and privilege to declare open the 2018 NMGS/NGSA Discourse Series on Geothermal Energy Resources of Nigeria.

15. Finally, distinguished participants, I wish you all very fruitful discussions.

16. Thank you for your attention.