

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD (3RD) RETREAT FOR TOP
MANAGEMENT STAFF AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER, WORKS AND HOUSING HELD AT
BRISTOL PALACE HOTEL, KANO FROM FRIDAY, 9TH AND
SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2018**

The Third (3rd) Retreat for Directors, Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Units of the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing was held at the Conference Hall of the Bristol Palace Hotel, Kano, Kano State on 9th and 10th March, 2018 with the theme, ***“Planning for Team Work Delivery”***.

2. The Retreat was declared open by the Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, who presided over the two-day event. Also in attendance were the Permanent Secretary, Works and Housing Sector, Mohammed Bukar and that of the Power Sector, Louis Edozien, Directors, Chief Executive Officers of Parastatals and Heads of Units in the Ministry.

3. The Permanent Secretary, Works and Housing, Mohammed Bukar, gave the welcome address. In his speech, he remarked that the purpose of this Retreat, like the previous ones, was to brainstorm and strategise on how to sustain energy growth, provide and maintain good, motorable roads as well as affordable housing to Nigerians through proper planning and committed manpower. He recalled that the 2nd Retreat centred on the

importance of building a team that delivers on its target as a major factor in the delivery of the Ministry's mandate. He stated that the choice of the theme for this Retreat was informed by the need to put in place, appropriate plans and strategies for the implementation of the programmes of the Ministry. He assured participants that with the crop of staff available in the Ministry and the commitment made during management meetings, the objectives of the Ministry would be achieved.

4. In his keynote address, the Honourable Minister, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, stated that the Retreat was to enable participants brainstorm and review the progress made on the implementation of the projects, programmes and policies of the Ministry through Teamwork approach.

He noted that the Ministry, pursuant to its mandate of road construction and maintenance, and the provision of houses nationwide has created employment opportunities to millions of Nigerians. He disclosed that the work of the Ministry has impacted positively on the nation's economy as attested to by the recent statistics on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 4th quarter of 2017, which indicated growth especially in the three sectors of the Ministry.

The Honourable Minister emphasized the importance of owning the public space by improving our attitude and work ethics. He further reminded the participants that ***“we are here to solve problems, the end goal is how***

we improve the lives of our citizens... the work never ends.” He therefore admonished all the participants to rededicate themselves for hardwork as well as to serve as the Ambassadors of the Ministry.

5. The meeting had a recap of the 2nd Top Management Retreat which took place at the Arthur Mbanefo Hall, Golden Tulip Hotel, Lagos on the 29th and 30th September, 2017 to address actionable decisions taken.

6. The Retreat received and discussed five (5) presentations as follows:

- i The Power of Great Communication;
- ii Demonstration of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation CPR/First Aid Tips;
- iii Presentation/Demonstration on the Use of Fire Extinguishers;
- iv Ensuring Speedy Closure of the Metering Gap through the Meter Assist Provider (MAP), Regulation/Instructive Session; and
- v Health Talk: 2018 and Beyond – Are you Acidic or Alkaline?

7. The Retreat concluded that participants should make deliberate effort to take care of themselves and their immediate environments, acquire additional knowledge, increase passion for their work and disseminate positive information about the Ministry’s activities. **Accordingly**, the Retreat resolved as follows:

A. THE POWER OF GREAT COMMUNICATION

- i **Stressed** the need for application of coherent and cohesive communication approach by top management officers in the running of government business;
- ii **Emphasized** the need to equip civil servants with the tools to effectively communicate with consistency, clarity, authority and confidence within and outside the Ministry;
- iii **Advised** on clarity of expression in thought and writing understanding of issues, development of listening skill and proper engagement with others;
- iv **Highlighted** the extra tools for effective communication to include the ability to keep discussion and writing short, simple and truthful.

B. CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)

- i **Noted** the benefits of the administration of First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CRR) at the right time in response to emergency situations in the work place/home environment;
- ii **Identified** the immediate need for the provision of First Aid Kits in the work place and the need for training of First Aiders in the event of emergencies;

- iii **Advised** on the need for provision of phone numbers of contact persons in the event of any emergency and the importance of demobilizing pin codes when embarking on a journey;
- iv **Encourage** members to adapt the right attitude towards their health and the need for regular medical checkups at least twice in a year to improve their well-being;
- v **Resolved** to ensure that water supply is regularly provided in the Ministry;
- vi **Resolved** to provide defibrillators and First Aid Kits in the Ministry and train personnel to operate them.

C. FIRE-FIGHTING

- i **Noted** the potential damage fire outbreaks could cause the government and the Ministry if firefighting equipment are not in good working conditions;
- ii **Resolved** to install appropriate fire-fighting equipment in our offices and ensure regular servicing, in addition to training selected members of staff on their usage.

D. ENSURING SPEEDY CLOSURE OF THE METERING GAP

- i. **Noted** that Nigeria's power generation in megawatts has increased, but the capacity of the distribution system has not increased at the same pace;
- ii. **Noted** that the expansion of the distribution system and financial viability of the entire power system is constrained by losses in the distribution system; and that one of the major drivers of losses is the metering gap which creates mistrust between customers and DISCOs and does not allow customers to pay for only what they consume and gives rise to estimated billing;
- iii. **Noted** that there are an estimated 10 million customers but only three million meters;
- iv. **Noted** that Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has issued the Meter Asset Providers (AMP) regulation to enable investors provide meters to close the metering gap over the next three (3) years;
- v. **Noted** that under the MAP Regulation, interested MAP are to get No Objection from NERC then enters into agreements with customers and DISCOs to provide meters and recover their investment from the tariff;
- vi. **Noted** that meter bypass remains a serious challenge which must be addressed by DISCOs and the entire public;
- vii. **Advised** DISCOs to function as a business by putting in place, maintenance and monitoring process that would prevent meter bypassing by some customers;

viii. **Noted** that the conversion of the judgment debt of N190 Million to N39 Billion judgment credit in favour of Nigerian Meter Manufacturing Companies with the resource of the MAP regulation, Yola DISCOs and related other DISCOs are taking advantage of the metering fund to quickly roll out meters and reduce the metering gap.

E 2018 AND BEYOND – ARE YOU ACIDIC OR ALKALINE?

- i. **highlighted** the need for everyone to undergo full medical checkup twice a year;
- ii. **encouraged** the practice of wellness, spiritual balance, mindset of goodness and a balance alkaline nutrition; and
- iii. **encouraged** the consumption of organic food as much as possible.

Appreciated participants for the full attendance at the Retreat and wished them journey mercies to their various destinations.

**ISSUED TODAY, SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2018 AT THE
AL-MURJAN HALL, BRISTOL PALACE HOTEL, KANO, KANO STATE.**

**Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing,
Mabushi, Abuja.**