

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WORKS HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE OF KEBBI STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, BIRNIN KEBBI, KEBBI STATE ON THURSDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Council on Works with the theme: “**Ensuring Value for Money in Highways Development**,” was held at the Conference Centre of Kebbi State Government Presidential Lodge, Birnin-Kebbi, Kebbi State, on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. The Council Meeting was preceded by a three-day Meeting of Directors and Permanent Secretaries responsible for works from the thirty-six (36) states of the Federation and the FCT from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

2. The meeting was declared open by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kebbi State, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Mutawallen Gwandu. The Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, presided over the meeting which was also attended by the Honourable Minister of State I, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri, Honourable Commissioners responsible for Works in the States of the Federation, the Corps Marshal, Federal Roads Safety Corps, Dr. Boboye Oyeyemi, *MFR*, as well as senior officials of relevant Federal and State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), regulatory professional bodies and other stakeholders.

3. A total of Twenty-Nine (29) Memoranda were presented for deliberations under the following thematic areas:

- i. Effective Policy Coordination in Nigeria Highways - 12
  - ii. Institutional Strengthening and Professionalism - 5
  - iii. Effective Monitoring and Evaluation, and Sustainability - 3
  - iv. Adequate Highways Financing - 4
  - v. Standard and Safety Provision - 5
4. Council considered the issues raised in the Memoranda presented at the Meeting and resolved to:
- i. **encourage** procurement entities to strictly adhere to procurement procedures and ensure that only contractors with track records on capacity and competence are engaged to execute Highways projects to ensure value-for-money;
  - ii. **advise** Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) responsible for award of contracts on road works to tap into the wealth of experience of resourceful retired professional public officers through engaging them in consultancy services with a view to maintaining standardization, quality as well as save time and cost on projects execution;
  - iii. **urge** Government at all levels to encourage capacity building through relevant training and retraining of Highways staff;
  - iv. **encourage** Government at all levels to give prominence to the application of value-for-money principle in the planning and execution of highways and other roads projects;
  - v. **mandate** the enforcement of Immigration Laws relating to expatriate quota, work permit and contract obligations for construction companies as regards

- to employment of Nigerians in order to ensure implementation of Presidential Executive Order 005;
- vi. **encourage** adherence to National SERVICOM Charter to ensure value-for-money and good governance especially in highways development;
  - vii. **encourage** the use of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) in capturing geospatial data in particular, and for other aspects of road works for the immense benefits of the technology which include accuracy of data, economy of time, funds and other resources;
  - viii. **urge** the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) to take steps to regulate and enforce compliance of laws and other pre-conditions for aerial survey by working in conjunction with other relevant Government agencies;
  - ix. **advise** that Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure that they obtain and keep records of as-built-survey for road construction and in the interest of national security;
  - x. **encourage** the use of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in highways projects and highways management to ensure value-for-money;
  - xi. **encourage** the use of CORS by stakeholders in providing survey data for road design, road asset management, profiling, curve setting, cross-sectioning and other necessary data for real time data capturing, cost effectiveness and value-for-money in highways development;
  - xii. **urge** Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure that Registered Surveyors execute survey for preliminary engineering road designs;

- xiii. **urge** the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to set up a National Committee on Harmonization and Standardization of road signages as resolved at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the National Council on Works;
- xiv. **urge** the relevant authorities at Federal, States and Local Governments to involve local communities in monitoring and safeguarding road signages;
- xv. **encourage** road contractors to patronize the locally produced road signages by the Federal Roads Safety Corps and other Government Agencies that conform with the 1968 UN Convention;
- xvi. **call** on relevant Government agencies to prosecute those involved in damaging, defacing and removal of road signs on Nigerian roads;
- xvii. **urge** the Federal and State Governments to develop science and technical education in secondary and tertiary institutions to provide the much needed manpower in the works sector and encourage professionalism;
- xviii. **urge** Government to improve the conditions of existing Technical Training Schools of Ministries, both at the Federal and the State levels to allow for efficient staff training and development, including newly recruited and existing Craftsmen and Technicians for optimal performance;
- xix. **encourage** stakeholders in the transport and logistics industries to partner with the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology, for the development of the manpower requirement of the nation's transport industry through the Transport Technical and Technological Accredited Certification;
- xx. **approve** that the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing should drive the process for the development of Guidelines and associated Toolkits for

- the application of value-for-money principles in road sector, in line with global best practices;
- xxi. **encourage** sustained advocacy to make the general public more interested in Government projects and activities with a view to inculcating sense of ownership by the public, thereby facilitating protection of the projects and feedback to decision makers;
  - xxii. **encourage** Government at all levels to outline and enforce appropriate sanctions against persons who abuse road assets;
  - xxiii. **approve** the adoption of service level-based route categorization, performance and value-for-money indicators to engender greater visibility and accountability in the utilization of the appropriated road fund;
  - xxiv. **approve** the development and implementation of key performance and value-for-money indicators linked to the different service levels;
  - xxv. **urge** all tiers of Government promote Asphalt Recycling as a cost-effective and sustainable road maintenance and rehabilitation methods to ensure value-for-money in the development of highways and other roads;
  - xxvi. **encourage** the incorporation of Quality Assurance certificate as a requirement for approval and payment of interim certificate which is in line with global best practices to ensure value-for-money;
  - xxvii. **encourage** the introduction of PERCENT WITHIN LIMIT (PWL) specification by Federal and States Governments and in one Nigerian University from each Geo-political zone as a pilot study and quality factor for payment of interim certificates and categorization of contractors;

- xxviii. **urge** for the effective use of the already established weigh bridges across the country;
- xxix. **urge** the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to arrange for the deployment of appropriate personnel to manage weighbridges nationwide;
- xxx. **approve** that relevant Government institutions establish a vehicle overload database management unit;
- xxxi. **urge** Departments of Works of the Federal, States and Local Governments to strengthen the framework for the management of crash-barriers in both old and new projects;
- xxxii. **urge** government at all levels to make sufficient budgetary provisions for adequate and proper management of crash barriers;
- xxxiii. **approve** that Government at all levels employ geospatial data provided by Surveyors and other relevant parameters to determine well ahead of time, failure on our roads by use of instrumentation;
- xxxiv. **increase** the enforcement of rules, regulations and standards on the use of highways by articulated vehicles as well as sanctions against non-compliance;
- xxxv. **encourage** that more relevant professionals should be injected into the Public Procurement process to have better assessment of projects and reduce the time taken in the process;
- xxxvi. **encourage** periodic road safety audit by states to enable timely identification of potential accident prone areas towards implementation of cost effective counter measures;

- xxxvii. **urge** Federal Government to fast track the process for obtaining approval for as well as reimbursement to State Governments for intervention on Federal Roads;
5. Council expressed its appreciation to the Government and people of Kebbi State for the excellent arrangements for the Council Meeting and the hospitality accorded delegates during their stay in Kebbi State.
  6. Council also accepted the offer of Cross River State to host the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Council on Works to hold in 2019;
  7. Thereafter, motion for the adoption of the Communique was moved by the Honourable Commissioner State, Adamawa State and was seconded by the Honourable Commissioner, Kaduna State.
  8. Council also noted that the motion for the adjournment of the Meeting was moved by the Honourable Commissioner, Ondo State and seconded by the Honourable Commissioner, Anambra State. Thereafter, the Meeting was adjourned.

**DONE THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2018 AT  
BIRNIN-KEBBI, KEBBI STATE**