

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS

A REPORT

ON:

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION (SOUTH EAST) IN 2017

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(Construction and Rehabilitation) South-East Unit**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing (Works Sector) is charged with several statutory responsibilities among which are: Federal Highways (Planning, Design, and Construction & Rehabilitation), Supervision of the monitoring and maintenance of Federal roads nationwide and Provision of engineering infrastructure on Federal Highways. Structurally, the Ministry has undergone some changes in recent times aimed at ensuring the effective discharge of its mandate.

2.0 FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Department of Highways Construction and Rehabilitation (South-East) are in line with the task (mission) assigned to the Ministry of Works and they include:

- Manage the network of roads in all states within the zone, to ensure optimal level of service;
- Check progress of roadworks both physically and financially;
- Vet interim statements and issue Engineer's Certificate;

- Vet proposals for variation and augmentation of contracts for the consideration of the Hon. Minister;
- Vet interim statements and issue Engineer's Certificate Submit Monthly Progress Reports, Engineer's certificates etc to the Hon Minister;
- General administration of the projects in the zones.

The department consists of: a Director, two Deputy Directors, an Assistant Director (whom are experienced Highway Engineers) and Nine Engineers (comprising of the young and the experienced ones). There are also Fourteen administrative (non-engineering) staff working under this department (find attached as appendix "A" nominal roll of staff).

3.0 REVIEW OF OPERATIONS/ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The department of Highways South-East has about Fifty-Two (52) road projects that is under the supervision of the department. In spite of the limited funds from the budgetary provision of the year, the department has ensured that the contractors handling these road projects worked at near optimal level so as to ensure good and serviceable roads within the South-East zone of Nigeria. Find attached as Appendix "B" status of ongoing projects under the department in 2018.

4.0 CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES

There were some challenges being faced with the management and supervision (operation) of road projects. The major ones are highlighted below:

- a. **Inadequate Budgetary Provision:** Some contracts under the South-East zone have no budgetary provision while other budgetary provisions were inadequate for most contracts in order to achieve the desired milestones for each road project.

- b. **Non-Performance by Contractors:** Some contractors (especially the indigenous ones) are not performing as well as they should on site. They base their reasons of non-performance on either the rainy season or non-payment of previous works executed on the contract. However the actual reason, for some contractors, is based on their lack of technical and financial competency.
- c. **In-Effective Correspondences with other Departments under Highway:** The departments that correspond regularly with this department include Department of Highways (Planning and Development) Department of Highways (Design Roads), Department of Highways (Design Bridge), Department of Public Procurement and Department of Highways (Materials & Geotechnics, and Quality Control). In some instances where requests are made (through memos) to any of the department mentioned, they take time to respond and this normally leads to delay in the progress of work for the contract.
- d. **Inadequate Personnel for supervision:** Although the Ministry has recently recruited over 500 Engineers in 2012 (in which this department benefited from), there may still be need to recruit more Engineers, especially now that there is massive retirement of Engineers who have either attained 35 years of service and/or 60 years of age.

5.0 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

There are as follows:

- a. Improved Budgetary provision for 2018 is desired in order to achieve higher milestones in work execution of the contracts
- b. There is need to engage more competent Contractors in the near future. Also there is need to assertively supervise contractors who are not delivering on site.

- c. Follow-up to various correspondences with other departments is essential.
- d. Training of Engineers is vital to work output. Trainings (formal or informal) can be done in the areas of: Project Management, Highway Construction, Report Writing and Cost Estimation among others. In cases where some Engineers from the department go for a particular training, they should be able to transfer the knowledge acquired to other Engineers who did not go for such training. Also a kind of reward incentive (not necessarily financial) can be put in place (or improved upon) to further motivate the staff to improve on their individual work output.

If the above is done, it is expected that there will be a general improvement in efficiency of operation within the department and to the Ministry at large.

6.0 CONCLUSION/REMARKS

The mission statement of the Ministry is “to use the intellectual, management and material resources available to the Federal Ministry of Works to make Nigerian Roads functional all the time” while the vision statement is “to elevate Nigerian Roads to a Standard where they become National Economic and Socio–Political Assets, contributing to her rapid growth and development; to make Federal Roads functional, pleasurable and an avenue of re-inventing Nigerians’ trust and confidence in government”.

It is the desire of the department that the execution of its operation is in concurrence with the mission and vision of the Ministry. By implementing the above proposed solutions, the department will be performing its role more efficiently in the delivery of good and serviceable roads