



27TH MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WORKS

THEME: “Infrastructure Delivery, The Maintenance Economy and National Prosperity”:

COMMUNIQUE

Virtual and Physical Meeting

AT COMMAND GUEST HOUSE, BAUCHI, BAUCHI STATE

23rd September, 2021

27th Meeting of the National Council on Works

The 27th Meeting of the National Council on Works was held on Thursday 23rd September, 2021. This is preceded by the Technical Meetings and the Meeting of Permanent Secretaries held from Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd September, 2021.

2. The objective of the meeting is to bring together all relevant stakeholders in the Road Sector from the thirty-six (36) States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory to discuss and adopt policies to address the challenges in the works sector and develop policies that will lead to enshrinement of maintenance economy to ensure sustainability of assets and create jobs for teeming Nigerians.
3. The Meeting reviewed 66 Memoranda submitted by stakeholders. Council also reviewed the progress of implementation of the conclusions of the 26th Meeting of Council on Works held in Port Harcourt, River State in November, 2020.
4. The 27th Meeting of Council on Works was attended by:
 - i. Honourable Minister of Works and Housing;
 - ii. The Executive Governor of Bauchi State represented by the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State;
 - iii. Commissioners of Works from States of the Federation;

- iv. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing and States Permanent Secretaries of Works from 36 States of the Federation;
 - v. Heads of Federal and States Agencies in the road sector,
 - vi. Heads of Regulatory and Professional Bodies
 - vii. Representatives of the Federal Roads Safety Corp (FRSC) and Department of Roads Traffic Services (DRTS), amongst others.
5. Representative of the following institutions also took part in the meeting:
- i. Federal Roads Safety Corp (FRSC)
 - ii. Department of Roads Traffic Services (DRTS)
 - iii. Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN)
 - iv. Surveyor Registration Council in Nigeria (SURCON)
 - v. Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE)
 - vi. Nigeria Institute of Transport Technology (NITT)
6. Technical partners and experts from the following organizations were also present:
- i. Lafarge Africa Plc. – on soil stabilization technology, roadcem tailored based solution to optimize performance of pavement based/sub-base materials; and
 - ii. Gradient Emulsion and Polymers Limited- on Polymer Modified Bitumen meant to improve the life-span of Asphalt.

7. The opening ceremony was marked by statements as follows:

a) **Welcome speech by the Honourable Commissioner of Works and Transport Bauchi State.**

The Honourable Abdulkadir Ado Ibrahim, the Bauchi State Commissioner for Works and Transport welcomed the delegates to the 27th Meeting of National Council of Works and expressed gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing, His Excellency, Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN and His Excellency, Executive Governor of Bauchi State Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, CON (Kauran Bauchi) for accepting to host this year's Council on Works and providing the enabling environment for the event in the beautiful city of Bauchi, **"The Pearl of Tourism"** and wished all delegates fruitful deliberation and a peaceful stay in Bauchi.

b) **Keynote Address by the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing, His Excellency, Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN**

In his keynote address the Honourable Minister highlighted the significant progress recorded in road development in the year under review in line with the Ministerial Mandates set for the Ministry through the execution of 895 contracts in 795 projects spanning over 13,000km of roads and bridges nationwide and urged States and other stakeholders to compliment the effort in the development of road infrastructure in Nigeria; we must maintain the infrastructure we build to preserve their lives and get the best value for the money we spent on it.

He added that maintenance economy is a critical contributor and driver of GDP in many economies around the world and that there is

need to develop policies to stimulate the economy of maintenance by looking into the state of our existing infrastructure and decays identified will lead to the engagement of all categories of artisans, this in itself, will generate an economy of wealth for Nigerians;

He emphasized that maintenance is not a cultural thing but an existential matter of survival, bread and butter and income.

He also further added that substantial number of Nigerians have been engaged and employed directly (1,157) and indirectly (3,309) through the maintenance of 41 bridges recently and have contracts for facility management of 25 Federal Secretariats across Nigeria with a potential of each engaging 40 people;

He therefore called on all levels of government to embrace maintenance economy led by Government as a panacea for sustainability of our roads infrastructure and job creation due to its multiplier effect.

c). Opening Address by the Chief Host, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, His Excellency, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, CON (Kauran Bauchi) represented by the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State, His Excellency, Senator Bala Tella.

He informed delegates that His Excellency, the Governor is unavoidably absent due to other official engagement. He however sent his greetings and well wishes to all delegates, assuring them the continual support of the state in the achievement of the National aspirations of government particularly in the road sector.

He highlighted efforts of the state in infrastructural development and in ensuring the repairs of damaged roads in and around the state and called

on the Federal Government to support the construction of Federal roads that traverse the state to guarantee socio-economic benefits of such projects.

He expressed hope that far reaching resolutions would be attained at the end of the meeting

8. The Honourable Minister of Works indicated that:

- i. significant progress recorded in road development in the year under review in line with the Ministerial Mandates set for the Ministry through the execution of 895 contracts in 795 projects spanning over 13,000km of roads and bridges nationwide and urged States and other stakeholders to compliment the effort in the development of road infrastructure in Nigeria;
- ii. we must maintain the infrastructure we build to preserve their lives and get the best value for the money we spent on it;
- iii. a maintenance economy is a critical contributor and driver of GDP in many economies around the world;
- iv. there is need to develop policies to stimulate the economy of maintenance by looking into the state of our existing infrastructure, decays identified will lead to the engagement of all categories of artisans, this in itself will generate an economy of wealth for Nigerians;
- v. maintenance is not a cultural thing but an existential matter of survival, bread and butter and income;

- vi. substantial number of Nigerians have been engaged and employed directly (1,157) and indirectly (3,309) through the maintenance of 41 bridges recently and have contracts for facility management of 25 Federal Secretariats across Nigeria with a potential of each engaging 40 people;
 - vii. all levels of government should embrace maintenance economy led by Government as a panacea for sustainability of our roads infrastructure and job creation due to its multiplier effect;
 - viii. the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing will circulate Highway manuals to strengthen and support State Governments in the implementation of road infrastructure development in areas of Rights of Way (RoF) Management, Axle loads Regulation, Highways Manual and Tolling Policy for adoption.
- d). The Permanent Secretary, Babangida Hussaini thanked delegates for their commitment and robust contributions which contributed to the success of this year's Council Meeting.
8. The proceedings of the Council Meeting covered the following issues in line with the theme of the Meeting “***Infrastructure Delivery, The Maintenance Economy and National Prosperity***”:
- i. *Policy Formulation and Implementation;*
 - ii. *Alternative Funding for Sustainable Road Infrastructure Development;*
 - iii. *Institutional Strengthening;*
 - iv. *Enhancing Professionalism in Road Infrastructure Development;*

- v. *Maintenance as an Emerging Economy in Infrastructure Development;*
- vi. *Tolling and Weigh-Bridges as Catalyst in Road Infrastructure Development and Sustainability;*
- vii. *Private Sector Investment in Road Infrastructure Development;*
- viii. *Local Content and Alternative Technology in Road Infrastructure Development; and*
- ix. *Skill Development and Job Creation for National Prosperity.*

9. The status of implementation of the conclusion of the 26th Meeting of the Council on Works held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, was presented with highlights on the results achieved and challenges encountered.

9. Council further deliberated on the key recommendations of the Technical Report and;

- i. **approved** policies that will encourage private sector involvement in road infrastructure development to meet increasing transportation demands;
- ii. **approved** that a Stakeholder's engagement be convened by the Federal Ministry of Works & Housing for a holistic review of all professional consultancy fees relating to preliminary engineering design of Highway projects;
- iii. **approved** the implementation of the Highway Development Management Initiative (HDMI) as alternative source of financing road development and advised States to adopt and modify as applicable;

- iv. **approved** that States and Federal Government Agencies strengthen their public infrastructure asset maintenance through adequate funding and capacity building to function efficiently.
- v. **approved** that Governments at all levels should domesticate and operationalize maintenance of public assets as a pathway to job creation;
- vi. **approved** the creation of maintenance services and supply-chain network suitably structured and designed to positively impact and grow the maintenance economy.
- vii. **approved** that Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to develop protocol for Road Data transfer and also share as a technical governance framework for value addition for the benefits of States and other stakeholders ;
- viii. **approved** commitment to the protection of the environment and to ensure the enforcement and delivery of Environmentally Sustainable Infrastructure through enforcement and implementation of the EIA Act, CAP E12 LFN 2004 and NESREA Act.
- ix. **resolved** that Federal and State Governments should protect the road assets by enforcing Axle load compliance by operationalizing the use of weighbridges and also encourage the construction of warehouses to store excess cargo;
- x. **resolved** that all States should take note of the Tolling Policy recently passed by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) and modify to suit their local needs;
- xi. **approved** the incorporation of tolling and weigh bridges in the design and construction of road projects.

- xii. **resolved** that Federal and State Governments work together to expand and develop rural economy by investing in infrastructure that open up and connect rural areas
- xiii. **approved** the Council Of Engineering Regulation In Nigeria (COREN) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Guidelines for implementation of Engineering Practitioners and Firms in Nigeria (expatriate inclusive), and other Regulatory Bodies;
- xiv. **approved** the inclusion of apprenticeship placement of Students in Technical Colleges and all Students in Tertiary Institutions of all tiers of Government Contracts for effective implementation of Outcome Based Education in Engineering (OBEE) and repositioning the educational sector;
- xv. **resolved** to continue to innovate in the use of materials for road construction such as concrete and other materials in the country; and
- xvi. **approved** construction of Rest Point Facility (RPF) / Parking Complex at strategic locations on major highways.

10. The next meeting of the National Council of Works will take place in Kaduna, Kaduna State. The motion for the hosting was moved by the Commissioner for Works, Kaduna State and seconded by the Commissioner for Works, Bayelsa State.

Done this 23rd day of September, 2021

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His Excellency, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN
Honourable Minister of Works and Housing