



**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF A HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS'
RETREAT ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS HELD ON THE 11-12
JANUARY 2019 AT THE IBOM HOTEL AND GOLF RESORT UYO, AKWA
IBOM STATE**

The Office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation with facilitation support from the Nigeria Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Summit Group and the Nigeria Economic Summit Group organized a High-Level Stakeholders Retreat on Public Private Partnerships.

The event was well attended by 84 delegates from the public and private sectors, development finance institutions and other stakeholders. It was convened to build on the political will demonstrated by the Federal Government and harmonise the wide range of government initiatives underway and to develop a roadmap for recalibrating the framework for the delivery of infrastructure through Public Private Partnerships ('PPP').

The Retreat focused on the following set of objectives:

- a) Review and agree on proposed reforms to resolve the policy and institutional conflicts, overlaps, issues and constraints that undermine investor confidence, and timely delivery of PPP projects in Nigeria.
- b) Review and agree on proposed mechanisms to improve coordination, funding, integration and delivery of PPP projects, which will crystalize into a roadmap with short and long-term objectives to look at the regulatory and delivery functions and where best to situate them.
- c) Review and agree on the boundary of responsibilities between key government agencies involved in the development and delivery of PPPs in Nigeria including Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Bureau of Public Enterprises, Bureau of Public Procurement, Federal Ministry



of Finance, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Federal Ministry of Justice, National Assembly, Federal and State Ministries Department and Agencies.

- d) Review and agree on the criteria and mechanisms for evaluating priority PPP projects.
- e) Produce a roadmap for identified enhancements to Nigeria's PPP delivery framework.
- f) An agreement on the required framework to achieve the above objectives.

Interactions and discussions during the retreat centred around 3 broad themes namely:

- i. Project identification, preparation and development
- ii. Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework
- iii. Coordination and alignment of the roles and responsibilities of Federal and Sub-national Ministries Departments and Agencies.

OBSERVATIONS

Delegates at the Retreat observed that:

1. Nigeria's current PPP delivery framework can benefit from international best practices.
2. There is need for a political champion for PPPs.
3. There is need for continuous capacity building amongst government officials with key roles to play in the PPP delivery cycle.
4. The Ministry of Budget and National Planning is recognized to play the role of coordinating, assessing and prioritizing projects in line with the Nigerian Integrated Infrastructure Master-Plan and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.
5. The Federal Ministry of Finance has a statutory role in the PPP delivery process from project preparation to negotiation and delivery.



6. There is a clear distinction between the roles of the Bureau of Public Enterprise and the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, as stated in their Establishment Acts.
7. The role of MDAs involves project identification, preparation, prioritization and implementation.
8. Project identification and prioritization by MDAs must be in line with the Nigerian Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan ('NIIMP').
9. The Federal Ministry of Finance is developing policies on Viability Gap Funding and Management of Contingent Liabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above observations, delegates made the following recommendations:

1. MDAs should collaborate amongst themselves through a properly coordinated framework.
2. The Federal Government should streamline the processes involved in the PPP delivery cycle to eliminate constraints and bottlenecks.
3. The Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission should continue to play the leading role in Public Private Partnerships.
4. A line item should be included in the budget for PPP project development.
5. The Federal Government should diversify financing sources for infrastructure projects.
6. The Federal Government should build and retain PPP capacity in the Public Service.
7. The Federal Government should establish a career path for PPP professionals in the Public Service.
8. There is a need to review and revalidate the National Integrated Infrastructure Master-Plan.
9. The Federal Government should consider the issuance of guarantees and other forms of incentives, where appropriate for PPP projects.