



28TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WORKS (NCW)

THEME: "INFRASTRUCTURE, THE SEASON OF COMPLETION"

COMMUNIQUE

**AT BRISTOL PALACE HOTEL
54-56, GUDA ABDULLAHI ROAD, FARM CENTRE
TARAUNI, KANO**

THURSDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 2022

28th Meeting of the National Council on Works (NCW)

The 28th Meeting of the National Council on Works, with the theme ***“Infrastructure, the Season of Completion”***, was held on Thursday, 25th August, 2022 at Bristol Palace Hotel, 54-56, Guda Abdullahi Road, Farm Centre, Tarauni, Kano.

The Meeting was preceded by the Technical Meetings of the Directors/Other stakeholders and the Meeting of the Permanent Secretaries, held from Monday, 22nd - Wednesday, 24th August, 2022.

2. The purpose of the Council Meeting is to assemble all the relevant stakeholders in the Road Sector from the thirty-six (36) States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory to deliberate and adopt policy measures towards addressing key challenges of the Sector for accelerated Road and Bridges infrastructure development and eventual job creation, social inclusion and economic development. The outcome of the deliberations would reinforce the efforts of Government towards providing improved standards of living for Nigerians.

3. The Meeting reviewed a total number of forty-nine (49) Memoranda submitted by the stakeholders of which twenty-four (24) were actionable while two (2) were informative and twenty-three (23) were stepped down because they fall short of Council consideration. Progress of Implementation of the conclusions of the key decisions, reached at the 27th Meeting of the Council on Works, held on 20th – 24th September, 2021 in Bauchi, Bauchi State were also reviewed by the Council.

4. The 28th Meeting of the Council was attended by:

- i. The Honourable Minister of Works and Housing (Chairman of the Council)
- ii. The Honourable Minister of State Works and Housing
- iii. The Governor of Kano State
- iv. The Deputy Governor of Kano State
- v. The Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriation

- vi. The Chairman, House Committee on Works
- vii. The State Commissioners for Works & Infrastructure
- viii. The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing and States
Permanent Secretaries of Works from the 36 States of the Federation and
representative of the FCT;
- ix. Surveyor General of the Federation
- x. State Surveyors General
- xi. MD Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)
- xii. State Maintenance Agencies
- xiii. Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)
- xiv. Department of Road Traffic Services (DRTS)
- xv. The Heads of States Road Maintenance Agencies
- xvi. The Academia
- xvii. The Heads of Regulatory and Professional Bodies
- xviii. Federal Ministry of Budget & National Planning
- xix. Representative of State House

5. The representatives of the following institutions also participated in the meeting:

- i. Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN)
- ii. Surveyors Registration Council in Nigeria (SURCON)
- iii. Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE)
- iv. Quantity Surveyors Registration Board of Nigeria (QSRBN)
- v. Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON)
- vi. Nigeria Institute of Architects (NIA)
- vii. Nigeria Institution of Surveyors (NIS)
- viii. Nigeria Institute of Transport Technology (NITT)
- ix. Federal Fire Services
- x. Roadtop Traffic Facility Limited; amongst others.

6. The Opening Ceremony of the Council Meeting featured the followings:

6.1 Opening Remarks by the Honourable Commissioner of Works and Infrastructure Development Kano State, Engr. Idris Wada Saleh, MNSE

The Honourable Commissioner of Kano State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Idris Wada Saleh, MNSE considered as great honour to host the 28th Council Meeting for the very important purpose of brainstorming on the issues around road Infrastructure and completion of projects across the country and showed appreciation to the Governor of Kano State for accepting to host the Council meeting and releasing funds in ensuring a comfortable stay of the participants.

He noted that the theme of the Council meeting, "**Infrastructure, the Season of Completion,**" is particularly pertinent, given that Nigeria is currently approaching a new political administration in 2023. In this regard, he reported that the current administration in Kano State, led by Executive Governor Dr. Abudullahi Umar Ganduje OFR, decided to continue the execution of projects inherited from the previous administration. Construction of Aminu Alhassan Dantata's 1.79-kilometer flyover with nine cloverleaf interchange along Murtala Mohammed Way, Construction of Janguza – Karaye Road/Bridges, etc. are among the affected projects.

He invited the Honourable Minister and other delegates to visit some of the project sites in Kano State to witness and appreciate the excellent efforts of the current administration and enjoy the beauty, calm, and tranquility of Kano city, wishing them a productive meeting.

6.2 Special Remark by the Chairman House Committee on Works Honourable Abubakar Kabir Abubakar

The Chairman House Committee maintained that this year's theme, "Infrastructure: The Season of Completion," is proper and prompt, as this administration is currently in the season of project completion and inauguration. He stated that highly commendable are this

government's efforts to complete as many projects as possible, both those it inherited and those it started.

He praised Mr. President for fulfilling his promise to improve Nigeria's road infrastructure sector. He noted that his administration has invested more in road infrastructure than any previous administration because he views the development of road infrastructure as a tool for economic growth, poverty alleviation, food security, and the protection of lives and property.

He pointed out that innovations and interventions like SUKUK, HDMI and the Tax Credit Scheme were introduced by President Buhari's administration to complement the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing Budget, Providing Funds to develop road Infrastructure across the country.

Speaking further, he stated that the National Assembly is working on policy reforms to enhance institutional capacity to combat corruption, strengthen due process, and promote business transparency in order to attract private investors and foreign direct investment.

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

The Honourable Minister stated that prior budgets showed that the last time Nigeria budgeted more than N200 billion for roads in a single year was in 2002. Over the past decade, it appears that while our income from oil prices grew, our investment on roads fell.

He stated that the Federal Government budgeted N18.132Billion in 2015 and the Ministry of Works received N13Billion for all roads and highways in 2015, despite having contracts for 206 roads covering over 6,000km at a cost of over N2 Trillion. He added that the ability to connect roads depends on 2016 capital expenditures to pay contractors and bring them back to work.

The Honourable Minister said that enhanced resources, such as the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing Budgetary Expansion, Alternative Sources of Funding, such as the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund, SUKUK fund, Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme (RITCS), Multi-lateral Loans/Grants, and Collaboration with Other Government Agencies, e.g. The North-East Development Commission facilitated the achievement of the desired outcome in terms of road infrastructure development under this administration.

The Minister did not neglect to address the difficulties the Ministry faces in protecting road quality and standards, such as Right-of-Way invasion, compensation issues, and axle-load abuse. He added that these obstacles have had a negative influence on road maintenance and that the Council must identify and discuss ways to address them.

The Honourable Minister expressed his gratitude to the Governors of the States of Bayelsa, Kaduna and Kano for their significant contributions to the successful resolution of compensation issues. According to him, this made the job of the Ministry of Works and Housing easier and sped up the process of constructing roads.

The Honourable Minister further remarked that the provisioning and construction of roads across the board has helped to improve travel time by fifty percent, which is a positive development towards facilitating the movement of people and products across the country in the shortest amount of time feasible.

6.4 The Opening Address presented by the Special Guest of Honour/Chief Host, Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR (Khadimul Islam)

The Executive Governor of Kano State expressed pleasure to be in the Council meeting holding in the historic city of Kano and welcome delegates to the meeting where

issues and problems related to the Nigerian Highways and other relevant infrastructures are discussed to build appropriate policies in order to advance the overall development of the country.

He noted that the present administration in Kano State has put up myriads of Public-oriented infrastructural projects across length and breadth of the state for the welfare of its citizens and free flow of traffic in the city and across the state. Some of the projects he said are Tijjani Hashim (Galadiman Kano) Underpass at Kofar Ruwa/Bukava Barracks, Aminu alhassan Dantata Flyover along Murtala Mohammed Way and Sheikh Qariballah Nasiru Kabara Flyover.

The Governor thanked the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammed Buhari, GCFR and the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing for the provision of various Federal Governments interventions across the State and assured the federal Government of the State's support in handling right of way and compensation issues to create a conducive environment for Federal Road projects in the state

Furthermore, the Governor spoke on the need for collaboration between the Federal and State Government to ensure that Federal and State roads are properly linked to provide full and proper service to Nigerian People. He cited the example of the construction of Mohammed Buhari Interchange at NNPC Mega Station, Hotoro along Maiduguri road as an intervention to link the State and Federal road in the State.

Finally, he urged the Council to deliberate exhaustively on weigh bridges and take proper decision to ensure that they are built and well managed to check haulage and overloading so as to save the roads and expand their life span and wish the Council a successful deliberation and forward a request to National Assembly for legislation

7.0 The proceedings of the Council Meeting covered the following issues in line with the theme of the Meeting ***“Infrastructure, the Season of Completion”***. The following sub – themes were adopted to guide the deliberations;

- i. Policy Formulation and Implementation;
- ii. Completion of Infrastructure and Economic Growth; The Role of Maintenance;
- iii. Institutional Strengthening;
- iv. Completion of Infrastructure as a priority Policy and Funding of Ease of Doing Business;
- v. Sustainable Funding as a Catalyst for Completion of Infrastructure in Nigeria; and
- vi. Socio-Economic Impacts of the Completed Infrastructure.

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

- i. **encourage** all States and Federal Agencies involved in roads and related construction to issue notice to telecommunication utilities, other Telecom Service Providers and other relevant stakeholders prior to commencement of road projects for relocation of services not later than the last quarter of the year preceding when the project is to be executed;
- ii. **encourage** the review and update of the existing Guidelines for Grant of Access for Right of Way (Row);
- iii. **encourage** States and Local Governments to adopt or modify the national tolling policy or initiate their own in their respective States and issue statements on road infrastructure funding;
- iv. **encourage** States that have not set up their State Maintenance Agencies to do so;

- v. **encourage** road contractors to procure standard road signs from FRSC Signage Plants, Agencies and other producers;
- vi. **promote** policy review mechanism and the inclusion of private sector in the management of roads infrastructure development in Nigeria to reduce financial burden on government and create jobs, thereby boosting the economic potentials of the government;
- vii. **advocate** for review for the national procurement law and guidelines to bring them in conformity with recent policy objectives on local content and indigenous participation taking into cognizance local content, eligibility criteria and threshold for local and indigenous companies;
- viii. **approve** that relevant Government Road Agencies review and adopt from 50km / hr to 30km / hr speed limit in Urban and Built-up areas and construction zones to capture heavy duty trucks in line with United Nations (UN) Second decade of Action 2021 – 2030;
- ix. **approve** that all relevant MDAs (Federal and State) should develop maintenance service level linked to performance indicators that would be monitored throughout the life span of the asset which will engender greater visibility, accountability, and optimal utilization of fund; and
- x. **approve** that Government must lead the provision of basic infrastructure as a social service to drive economic activities and productivity by the private sector and where possible, enunciate policy that facilitate private sector participation.

9.0 The Council resolved that a virtual meeting be conducted between the Honourable Minister and all the Council Members on resolutions of previous Councils in order to track implementation and performance which should be arranged by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing before the end of October, 2022 on a Thursday and

notice to that effect to be issued two weeks before the due date by the secretariat of the Council.

10.0. Vote of thanks by the Honourable Minister of State;

On behalf of the Honorable Minister, Management and entire Staff of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, I wish to express our profound gratitude to His Excellency, Dr, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR (Khadimul Islam), the Executive Governor and good people of Kano State for hosting the 28th edition of the National Council on Works with theme “Infrastructure, the Season of completion”.

The theme of this year’s meeting is very apt considering the Roads projects and Bridges constructed and/or completed by this Administration are being commissioned and handed over. It is in view of this that the theme was also carefully chosen with the intent of setting up new economic trend that would fast-track economic growth and prosperity in our society through the provision of quality infrastructure. The role of infrastructure in an evolving economy can no doubt be overemphasized, hence the need for this year’s theme “Infrastructure the season of completion”.

Distinguished Guests, it is my belief that the recommendations made at this meeting will re-enforce our resolve to complete and deliver more infrastructure that will not only have far-reaching impact on the socio-economic well-being of the citizenry but also generate employment and stimulate economic growth.

It is pertinent to state that ten (10) major road projects were completed, commissioned and handed over in the last eight (8) months and many more like the Abuja – Kaduna – Kano Roads, Lagos – Ibadan Expressway, and 2nd Niger Bridge and Bodo-Bonny Bridge will be completed and commissioned before the end of this Administration. I make bold to state that this is unprecedented and unparalleled in the history of this nation. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all the States of the Federation to key into this laudable Federal Government initiative to complete and commission road

projects within their purview to ensure delivery of good and quality infrastructure. This will not only contribute to the socio economic development of our citizen through easy movement of people, goods and services, reduced traffic time, transport cost and vehicle maintenance cost as well as create employment but it will also serve as a bulwark against the prevailing global economic meltdown.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me once again express our profound gratitude to all the delegates from the States, Regulatory and Professional Bodies for your tireless effort in making this Meeting a memorable and successful event.

Needless to state that all the deliberations and efforts been put together can only be practicalized through strong commitments of Governments at the Federal, State and Local Governments level in collaboration with other stakeholders and the private sector.

At this Juncture, permit me again to specially thank the Government and people of Kano State, for taking on this responsibility of hosting us all, and to our dedicated and tireless staff who stood their ground to ensure that the Council is successful.

Once again, I want to state that we are most grateful to participants, stakeholders' Staff of the Kano State Ministry of Works and Housing, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, all the 36 State Commissioners of works the FCT representative, all the State Permanent Secretaries, the media, and others for the success of the Council. Wishing you all safe journey to your respective destination.

11.0 The 29th Meeting of the National Council on Works will take place in Benin City, Edo State. The motion for the hosting was moved by Edo State Commissioner for Works, seconded by Plenary and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Done this Thursday, 25th day of August, 2022

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His Excellency, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN

Honourable Minister of Works and Housing