

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUREAU ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT, ISMAILA MAI-ADAMU FCNA, ON THE OCCASION OF SIGNING OF CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AS WELL AS INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCUREMENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION IN LINE WITH OPEN CONTRACTING DATA STANDARDS (OCDS) FORMAT FOR THE STATE, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DG, BPP.**

It gives me great pleasure this morning to sign on behalf of the Yobe State Government Contract Agreement for a Consultancy Services for the development of Regulatory framework as well as the institutional capacity for the implementation of Procurement Information Management and Dissemination in line with Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) reporting format for the State.

2. You will all recall our achievements in the SFTAS 2019 APA (Annual Performance Assessments) and AF States Assessments conducted in 2018 fiscal year. You will all recall also that Yobe State achieved eight (8) out of the fourteen (14) DLI's (Disbursement Linked Indicators) for the 2018 performance year of which we earned and were entitled to the Naira equivalent of USD6.3 million which was subsequently disbursed accordingly.

3. Sequel to these achievements and the need to step further ahead in meeting our aspirations for 100% achievement, we have based on the recommendations of the World Bank, sought competent Consultants to assist us develop the Regulatory framework as well as the Institutional Capacity to develop OCDS reporting format for the State. For now only Kaduna and partly Jigawa States are at the threshold of implementing this format. Having reviewed the final APA 2018 Reports, we have come to terms with our gaps and weaknesses which requires urgent solution to strengthen our performances especially as assessment for 2019 is around the corner. Two important issues on the front burner include the deployment of E-Procurement which is being handled by the Nigerian

Governor's Forum (NGF) with Kaduna State as the lead state, while States are to complement these initiatives with the OCDS phenomena.

4. The main objective for the deployment of OCDS is to improve Accountability and Transparency of the procurement processes through the implementation of open contracting and public participation in the open contracting process. Yobe State decided to adopt OCDS in order to enhance transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in public procurement and fiscal transparency. For now, priority will be given to at least 5 MDA's at the heart of Government development priority (Works, Health, Transport & Energy, Education and Agriculture). The development of this on-line portal would enable citizens of the state and elsewhere to understand that the public contracting process is not for only friends and allies of Government that are being awarded contracts. It will increase knowledge of civic rights and responsibilities to effectively engage the contract process and track its implementation to the latter. This implementation will certainly help to improve public service integrity, trust and ensure that a greater amount of public resources are managed more effectively and efficiently to derive optimum value for money. This will further provide level playing ground, competitiveness and improved perception of citizens in public contracting processes.

5. The Consultants for this contract, **T.K. Udeh and Associates**, are a household name in the procurement cycle. They are a World Bank registered consultants whose experiences span a period greater than 15 years. It is worth mentioning that the firm just completed the OCDS format for Jigawa State's Due-process and Project Monitoring Bureau. It is expected that they will utilize the experiences garnered to speed up our processes and develop formats acceptable to the World Bank and us. The Bureau wishes to extend its profound appreciation to His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Yobe State, Hon. Mai Malah Buni for graciously approving this exercise at the cost of Forty seven Million Naira (₦47,000,000.00) only. We shall do everything within our power to succeed in this assignment,

6. At the conclusion of the entire exercise, the Bureau is to embark upon a public sensitization whilst test running the portal, addressing feedback, and acting upon responses. Also, we intend to scale up the

compliance with the open contracting principles, rules and guidelines in these priority MDAs towards full compliance with public procurement guidelines and generating records for OCDS. We shall increase the use of media and community engagement platforms for sensitization of stakeholders.

7. I wish to seize this opportunity to extend my huge appreciation to all Staff and Council Members and our amiable Governor for giving us the opportunity to serve our State. Now that we are the Star in the North-East Sub-Region and our State is being used as a template, we need to catch up with Kaduna and Jigawa States. We are certainly on the right track to earn for the State more SFTAS/World Bank funds by meeting our obligations as and when due.

8. May Allahu SWT continue to be our guide always.

9. Thank you.

YOBE STATE BUREAU ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT