

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 26TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WATER RESOURCES (NCWR) HELD FROM 20TH TO 23RD NOVEMBER, 2019 IN MINNA, NIGER STATE.

The 26th Regular Meeting of the National Council on Water Resources (NCWR) was held at the Hon. Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi International Conference Centre Minna, Niger State from 20th to 23rd November, 2019. The Council Session commenced about 9:10am and was declared open by the Executive Governor of Niger State, His Excellency Alhaji (Dr) Abubakar Sani Bello, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Ahmed Matani and chaired by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu FNSE, FAEng, who is also the Chairman of the Council.

2. The Council meeting was attended by 27 Commissioners and 1,047 others in attendance, comprising: Permanent Secretaries, of Federal and State Ministries responsible for Water Resources, Directors of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Managing Directors of River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), Chief Executives of both Federal and State Agencies responsible for Water Resources; Representatives of the Federal Ministries of Science and Technology, Health, Education, Agriculture and Environment, Representatives of some Development Partners; World Bank, UNIDO, UNICEF, Bank of Industry, members of the Academia, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, gentlemen of the Press and the general Public.

3. The Theme of the 26th Regular National Council Meeting on Water Resources is '**Water, Sanitation and Job Creation**'. The Theme was suitable and appropriate as it focused on the mechanisms by which the three levels of Government, the Private Sector and Development Partners can leverage on more collaborative efforts that will provide funding for critical investments in water and sanitation infrastructure/programmes across the country. Two key position papers presented and which bear direct impact on the theme were 'Accountability and Transparency in the conduct of Government business' by Mr. Olayinka A. Aiyegbayo, fsi, CMED, ICPC; which focuses on the role of key pillars of Integrity – transparency and accountability in the workplace and how to adapt /incorporate these pillars into

the organizational culture to enhance good governance, efficiency, effectiveness and productivity in the public service. The 2nd paper 'Sustainable Water Resources Management: A solution to Attainment of Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation' by Prof. O. D. Jimoh of the Federal University of Technology, Minna; highlighted the poverty index in Nigeria which revealed that 90 million people in Nigeria live in extreme poverty and are deprived of access to basic necessities such as food, healthcare and sanitation; positing the need for adequate utilization of sustainable water resources development to lift people out of poverty.

4. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Water Resources in his Keynote Address stated that the Ministry had taken critical policy steps through the issuance of the Executive Order No. 009 on Wednesday 20th November, 2019 by Mr. President, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, entitled "The Open Defecation Free Nigeria by 2025 and other related matters Order". The Order mandates the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to coordinate all activities towards ensuring an Open Defecation Free (ODF) Nigeria by 2025 through the National Clean Nigeria Secretariat, and directed all MDAs to join the Campaign. It also authorises the Secretariat to ensure that all public places have accessible toilets within their premises and to enforce compliance. The Order also called for legislation against open defecation by both Federal and State Legislatures. The Clean Nigeria Campaign Secretariat was established on 27th May, 2019 and the national campaign was officially launched by His Excellency the Vice President on Tuesday, 19th November, 2019. The Hon. Minister urged all State Governments to key into the campaign with all necessary commitments to ensure that Nigeria becomes Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2025.

5. Finally, the Honourable Minister stated that one of the major challenges militating against the optimum performance of the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) in recent times was the issue of land acquisition and encroachment by States and community owners and implored Council members to prevail on concerned State Governments to free RBDA acquired land holdings for accelerated agricultural activities in line with their mandate.

6. The Council Meeting was preceded by the National Technical Committee on Water Resources (NTCWR), chaired by the Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Mrs Comfort C. Ekaro; where both Action and Information Memoranda were presented for consideration of Council. A position paper was presented by Mr. Timeyin Uwejamomere- Managing Partner/CEO Mangrove & Partners Ltd, Abuja, entitled "Inclusive Water Resources Management: A Panacea to Job Creation". During the two-day meeting, a total number of 44 Nos Memoranda were presented comprising 16 Action and 28 Information. Council thereafter considered all the presented Action memoranda and approved 16 while 28 nos Information Memoranda were noted.

7. Having considered all the presentations and memoranda submitted, Council therefore resolved as follows:

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS :

1. **Council** was properly briefed on the adverse effects of the Recent Flooding Incidences in Nigeria and their probable causes as both natural and unnatural, and therefore urged the Federal Government to systematically construct more dams especially on the major rivers Niger and Benue and their tributaries to sustainably control floods.

2. **Council** considered the need for effective collaboration between the Federal and State Governments to optimise the use of dams and reservoirs and urged the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to seek cooperation of the National Economic Council (NEC) for effective utilisation of the nation's water impounded in dam reservoirs by Federal and State Governments as well as the Private Sector, for the socio-economic development of the country.

3. **Council** noted the need for institutionalization of capacity development programmes in the water sector to enhance the skills of manpower as well as improve productivity, and therefore urged all Stakeholders to adopt the NWRI approved programmes for enhancing capacity and productivity in the Water Sector.

4. **Council** recognized the need for the conduct of an Institutional Assessment survey as it will significantly contribute towards strengthening institutional capacity and facilitate implementation of the National Action Plan for Revitalization of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the Water Sector, and therefore approved that the NWRI carry out a comprehensive Institutional Assessment for Capacity Development of State Water Agencies throughout Nigeria.

5. **Council** commended the efforts of the Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) in the establishment of a Modelling Centre at its headquarters to facilitate collation and processing of Hydrological and Hydrogeological Data in all basins and watersheds in the country and urged the Agency to take requisite steps towards the acquisition/procurement of further equipment to enhance the capacity of the Agency in processing large hydrological data for improved water resources management.

6. **Council** noted that a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions would minimize greenhouse effect and global warming resulting from climate change, and therefore approved the commencement of initiatives towards reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emission in the water sector through the deployment of renewable energy sources for irrigated agriculture, water supply, boreholes and operation of other water infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing schemes with renewable energy sources and inventory of all GHG emission in the water sector.

7. **Council** approved the need for a National Stakeholder Sensitization Programme to bring on board all stakeholders with a view to increasing the knowledge and understanding of the Water Resources Bill to give room for robust Stakeholders inputs and enrich its form and therefore directed that all States Commissioners to accompany the Honourable Minister of Water Resources to defend the Water Resources Bill at the National Assembly and for NIWRMC to facilitate the implementation of the national sensitization and engagement programme on the Bill.

8. **Council** noted the need for a comprehensive National Irrigation Development Plan which is essential towards ensuring

a truly sustainable national food security, poverty alleviation and employment generation and therefore urged State Governments and the Private Sector to be actively involved and make input for the development of a comprehensive National Irrigation Development Plan for Nigeria.

9. **Council** noted the necessity to protect all acquired lands for irrigation from encroachment as well as the need to curb the menace and therefore urged all the stakeholders (Federal, State and Local Governments) to collaborate with a view to protecting all acquired irrigable lands against encroachments.

10. **Council** noted the request by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage for the constitution of National Groups to coordinate and compile 'History of Irrigation' for regions in Africa and for Nigeria to coordinate that of West Africa, and therefore urged the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to fully support financially, logistically, materially and update the production and publication of the History of Irrigation and drainage in Nigeria between 1999 and 2019.

11. **Council** recognized the need for the development/review of WASH Policy at Federal and State Ministries to address current issues on safely managed sanitation and water supply services and urged the Federal and States Ministries charged with WASH to complete the development/ review of WASH Policy and costed Plan in place to enhance efficient service delivery and to attract WASH investment in the States in order to create jobs and economic empowerment.

12. **Council** noted the need for the establishment of a National Water Resources Sanitation and Hygiene Indicators Coordinating Centre. (NWRS-HICU) and approved the setting up of a Nine (9) member implementation steering committee among Council member States comprising, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, AMCOW-IWRM Focal centre, NWRI, NIWRMC, NIHSA, WRCC-ECOWAS focal centre, State Commissioners of water resources and LGAs representatives whose primary role is to work out exclusive partnership and funding arrangements for smooth take off of the Unit.

13. **Council** gave support for the harmonization of efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the water sector, the Creation of SDG Data Basket that enjoys inputs from water resources data producers across the sector with its management centrally done at the Ministry to facilitate performance measurement and progress report on SDG goal 6.

14. **Council** recognized the need for states to have effective WASH in Emergency Response Working Group by providing budgetary lines for WASH Emergency and prompt response during disasters and approved that States step up contingency plan for emergency preparedness, prevent risk factors and predict disaster by providing budgetary lines for effective WASH Sector Emergency Response Working Group in order to ensure timely intervention as well as bring succour to the vulnerable and restore livelihood to the displaced persons.

15. **Council** encouraged the PEWASH focal states to establish separate budget lines to enable them draw funds from their annual States' budgetary allocation towards funding the programme in 2020 and beyond and to take urgent steps to establishing separate budgetary line for the PEWASH programme in RUWASSAs, to enable States to draw from Federal budget for the programme, as well as the setting up of other enabling environment.

16. **Council** noted the need to recognize the existence of WASHCOMS as statutory organisations at community levels and approved the institutionalization of WASHCOM at community levels and for Local Governments to establish WASHCOMs in communities where they do not exist.

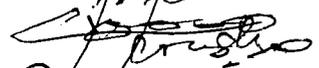
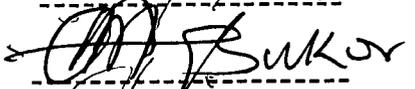
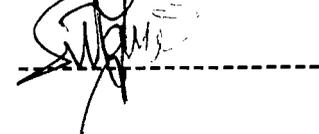
17. Finally, **Council** conveyed its unalloyed gratitude to His Excellency the Executive Governor of Niger State Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar Sani Bello, the Government and the people of the

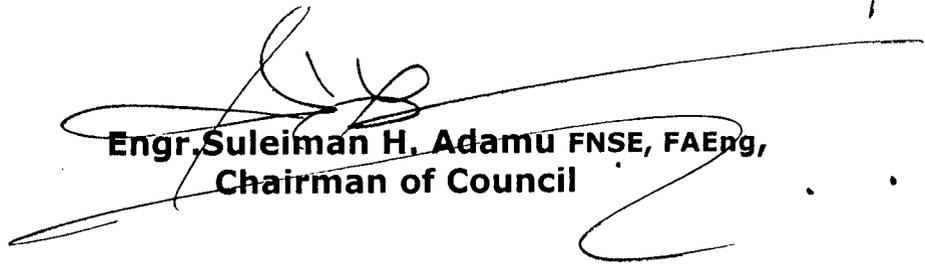
Power State, for their hospitality and successful hosting of the 26th Regular Meeting of the National Council on Water Resources.

18. **Council** agreed that its 27th Regular Meeting will hold in Abuja in 2020 .

Done this 22nd Day of November, 2019 at Minna.

We append our Signatures:

- 1. Representative Commissioner - South East 
- 2. Representative Commissioner - South West 
- 3. Representative Commissioner - South South 
- 4. Representative Commissioner - North East 
- 5. Representative Commissioner - North West 
- 6. Representative Commissioner - North Central 



**Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu FNSE, FAEng,
Chairman of Council**