



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

BRIEFING BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES ENGR. SULEIMAN H. ADAMU FNSE, FEng, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST QUARTER LUNCH TIME FORUM: DISCUSSION ON ENDING OPEN DEFECATION AND MILESTONES ON WASH FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS (NEWS) IN ALL THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA HOUSES AND OPS – WASH HELD ON MONDAY 2ND MARCH, 2020 AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT ABUJA.

PROTOCOL

I am delighted to address you all at this first quarter lunch time seminar forum for Executive Directors (News) in the Electronic Media and members of Organised Private Sector in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (OPS-WASH). This platform has been created to enable greater visibility of our work in progress for a step- by – step inclusive governance as we place before you the burning issues on ending Open Defecation (OD) and milestones recorded in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector of our country. Working with the Media, we have noted, is a crucial component of our work.

2. You all know that after my re – appointment as the Minister of Water Resources, on 21st August, 2019 by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, the Ministry under my watch has had a very busy itinerary and we have been striving very hard to consolidate on the gains we made on my first tenure and work towards touching the lives and well - being of the good people of Nigeria in many positive ways particularly in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector in consonance with the parlance that “ Water is Life” . Our focus is premised on contributing towards the realization of Mr. President's promise of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

3. Immediately after my re – appointment, I met with the management and staff of the Ministry, where we agreed to get back to work with renewed vigor to enable massive delivery of services in line with the Water Sector Roadmap we had instituted during my first tenure in office.

4. It is imperative that I restate that the mandate of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources is to develop and implement policies, projects and programmes that will enable sustainable access to safe and sufficient water to meet the social, cultural, environmental and economic development of all Nigerians.

5. Policy, Legislation & Institutional Matters

As at 2015, it was obvious that the absence of important policy documents and legal instruments posed a serious threat to the development of the water resources sector. The National Water Resources Bill and National Water Resources Policy were in limbo, there was no Irrigation and Drainage Policy and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy adopted in 2000 needed critical review. It became imperative that there must be in place the appropriate water resources legislation and that all relevant policy documents are current and active.

Institutional lapses and inadequacies were also evident in the Ministry as at 2015, especially in the deployment of human resources, technical capacity, planning, design and contract administration of Projects, and in areas of data generation and management. Important departments such as Planning, Research & Statistics and River Basin Development Operations & Inspectorate were headed by non-technical personnel and could not therefore adequately deal with the challenges at hand.

6. On 3rd September last year, I was invited to the Faculty of Engineering, University of Abuja, to deliver the First public lecture on the topic "STOPPING OPEN DEFECATION". I used the occasion to tell the University Community that Open Defecation free Nigeria is a must. I also told the audience about the danger that the country is exposed to, if adequate measures are not taken to stop the practice. I highlighted dangers such as: increased child mortality rate, diarrhea, and increase in medical bills for the country to mention but a few. I therefore enjoined them to see Stopping Open Defecation as everybody's business.

7. In my attempt to give more impetus to the campaign to end open defecation in Nigeria before the year 2025, I embarked on vigorous advocacy visits to many states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to secure their buy-in regarding the fight against Open Defecation. I equally made a presentation at the National Economic Council on the need to stop Open Defecation in Nigeria.

8. Then, on 19th November 2019, Mr. President represented by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbanjo, officially flagged – off the National Campaign to End Open Defecation in Nigeria. Some State Governors who were present at the ceremony signed a commitment to take the message home to their respective states for implementation.

9. As we are assiduously driving the work of moving our country towards open defecation-free status by 2025, Nigeria on 20th November, 2019 received the great news of the biggest commitment of the Federal Government and highest political will to support the extensive work of the campaign against open defecation (OD). President Muhammadu Buhari on that day signed Executive Order 009 on Open Defecation-Free Nigeria by 2025. This is indeed an icing on the cake for the Federal Ministry of Water Resources which has been in the vanguard of campaigning to stop open defecation in Nigeria.

10. So far 20 LGAs in Cross River, Bauchi, Jigawa, Benue and Osun States have achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status up from one LGA in April 2017. The Ministry through the Dept. of Water Quality Control and Sanitation has constructed 106 Sanitation and Hygiene facilities in the North East, North Central and South West Regions, domesticated the production of Hydrogen Sulphide vials at the National Water Quality Reference Laboratory, developed and submitted the Country Report on Global Analysis and Assessments of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

11. To recap, we have recorded the following achievements on the Campaign Against Open Defecation:

- Development and launch of National Open Defecation Free (ODF) Roadmap (23rd November, 2016).
- Development of National WASH Action Plan and Declaration of State of Emergency in the WASH Sector with a strong statement to end open defecation in Nigeria by 2025 (8th November, 2018).
- Study tour to India in February, 2019. Key learning developed into Clean Nigeria campaign project.
- Adoption of a National Proposal to End Open Defecation in Nigeria (Retreat, 15th March, 2019).

- Launch of the “Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet” campaign WEBSITE www.cleannigeria.ng (22nd March, 2019).

- Adoption of Implementation Plan for WASH Action Plan (26th March, 2019).

- Inauguration of the Planning Committee for the national launch of the “Clean Nigeria” Campaign, chaired by the Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Water Resources.

- Approval of the Clean Nigeria Campaign by the Federal Executive Council. (08th May 2019)

- Establishment of a National ODF Secretariat (27th May 2019).

- National Launch of Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet Campaign on the 19th November, 2019 by Vice President.

- Signing of Executive order 009 to end OD by Mr. President with effect from 20th November,2019.

- As at today 20 ODF LGAs have been recorded. Cross River State (6), Benue State (4), Osun State (1), Bauchi State (2), Akwa Ibom (1)) and Jigawa State (6).

- Partnerships with entrepreneurs resulted in Latrines constructed in 105 markets and motor parks (23 more are on-going).

- Active collaboration with Organised Private Sector to end Open defecation with the formation of the Organised Private Sector forum on WASH (OPS-WASH).

- Increased media engagement for advocacy and public awareness to end Open Defecation (OD) in Nigeria.

- Increased advocacy to States and all stakeholders.

- Increased partnership with private sector through OPS-WASH collaboration.

- States flag-off Campaign to end OD.
 - 3 States so far have flagged off their Campaign to end open defecation (Osun, Benue, Ekiti).
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12. From 20th to 22nd November, 2019, the Ministry organized the 26th Meeting of the National Council on Water Resources, with the theme **'Water, Sanitation and Job Creation'**. In this regard, our deliberations 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 for funding critical investments in water and sanitation infrastructure/programmes across the country; this is in the realization that job creation is everyone's responsibility.

13. Water Supply

Nigeria was unable to meet the MDGs target on access to water supply, particularly with decline in access in the rural areas. It became necessary that concerted effort must be put in place to improve the trend towards achieving 100% access to water supply by 2030 (at a time when the population is estimated to grow to 257 million), in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The dismal situation of Water Supply and Sanitation as revealed by available statistics is now being addressed and the recent progress includes:

- i. Securing the highest level of political commitment and attention to the WASH sector.
- ii. Commitment and attention demonstrated by President Muhammadu Buhari in launching the National WASH Action Plan (NAP) for the revitalisation of the WASH Sector and declaration of a 'State of Emergency' on the WASH sector on 8th November 2018.
- iii. Implementing a reform programme for State Water Agencies to improve capacity, revenue generation towards efficient operations and management of facilities with the support of Development Partners including World Bank, African Development Bank, French Development

Agency, etc. About 15 States are currently participating in this reform programme.

iv. Creation of a new budget line by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to support States that meet set conditions with up to 30% Federal Government contribution for Urban Water supply projects initiated by the States.

14. The WASH Action Plan approved by the Federal Executive Council was followed up with a national workshop on 25 - 26 March 2019 that prepared the needed platform for its implementation. The Action Plan includes a 13-year revitalisation strategy with the aspiration of “Ensuring access to water and sanitation for all” by the year 2030 through a strengthened Federal-State Partnership.

The Ministry in November 2016 had launched the “**Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene** (PEWASH)” to attain universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in rural areas. This new approach is aimed at galvanizing all stakeholders, including states and Local Governments, Communities, Developments Partners and the Organized Private Sectors to invest more in the provision of water supply and sanitation particularly in rural areas. The implementation of the programme has commenced and 23 state Governments have endorsed the PEWASH Protocol. So far, we have constructed/rehabilitated over 700 Water Schemes in Kano and Ogun States who were the pioneer States to sign the PEWASH Protocol. Going forward in Water Supply and Sanitation, we intend to:

- i. Pursue and vigorously implement the Action Plan on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as approved by the Federal Executive Council and the PEWASH programme, to attain the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Access to Water Supply and Sanitation for all by 2030
- ii. Sustain a budget line to support States that meet set conditions for Urban Water Supply Projects by up to 30% Federal Government contribution.
- iii. Pursue vigorously the “Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet” Campaign towards ending Open Defecation in Nigeria by Year 2025.

15. Dams and Reservoir Operations

The activities of the Department of Dams and Reservoir Operations are specially targeted at increasing per capita availability of water for all uses through construction of Dams and other facilities to provide bulk water for drinking, irrigation and hydro-electric power generation. Dam Construction is a long-term activity and highly capital intensive. The Ministry has recorded appreciable progress in the construction of Dams, of which 7 Nos. have been completed under this Administration (Kashimbila in Taraba State, Amla-Otukpo in Benue State, Ogwashi-Uku in Delta State and Amauzari in Abia State, Gimi in Kaduna State, Sulma in Katsina State and Ibiono Ibom in Akwa Ibom State.). Additional 10Nos are expected to be completed between now and 2021. For effective utilisation of the completed dams, some are in the process of being handed over to relevant State Governments or River Basin Development Authorities for operations and maintenance, as well as for development of other downstream components for optimum utilisation of the stored water.

The total volume of water impounded by the dams under the purview of the FMWR as at 2010 was 12.9 BCM. However, with the completion of more dams across the nation, there is an increase of 1.8BCM of impounded water in our reservoirs from year 2015 to date. This brings the total volume of water impounded by the Ministry to 14.7BCM with a corresponding increase in the Country's surface water resources from 32.7BCM to 34.5BCM to date.

16. Irrigation

Nigeria has about 3.14 million Ha of irrigable land. However, only 128,097Ha has been developed as at 2015 and 50,000 Ha of the developed area was lost to failed infrastructure and poor operations and maintenance.

In order to support diversification of the economy, guarantee food security and create employment, a **National Irrigation Development Programme** was initiated in 2016 as part of the Water Sector Roadmap. It is aimed to accomplish the following:

- i. Establish additional 100,000Ha of irrigated farmland by 2020 and achieve a total of 500,000Ha by 2030.
- ii. Additional 1,000,000 Ha of irrigable land to be developed by the private sector and State Governments by 2030.

Current effort has enabled the delivery of additional 41,000 Ha at the end of 2019. This will significantly contribute to Mr. President's promise of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in the next 10 years.

Furthermore, the World Bank is supporting the implementation of Transforming Irrigation Management in Nigeria Project (TRIMING) with a credit facility of US\$495million. The Project involves rehabilitation/expansion of about 42,000Ha of Irrigation land under the first phase, to be completed by 2022 as follows:

- I. Bakolori Irrigation Project (Works commenced in 2017) - **13,500 Ha**
- II. Kano River Irrigation Project (Works commenced in January 2019)
– **14,400 Ha**
- III. Hadejia Valley Irrigation Project (Works commenced following flag off by President Muhammadu Buhari on 14th May, 2018 – **6,000Ha.**
- IV. Dadin Kowa Irrigation Project (Procurement completed. Contractor mobilising) --- **3,000 Ha**
- V. Middle Rima Irrigation Project (Studies nearing completion) **5,000 Ha**

The TRIMING project also addresses rural poverty reduction through progressive management transfer of user's regulated bodies in the form of Water User Associations (WUAs).

The TRIMING concept is to be applied in the future management of irrigation schemes nationwide.

17. **River Basins Development Authorities**

There are twelve (12No.) River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources. The

RBDAs were modelled after the United States Tennessee Valley Basin development concept. Their primary function is to serve as the operators, managers and developers of water resources infrastructure within their catchments to bring prosperity as integrated rural development enablers, especially in areas of food production and employment generation. The River Basin Development Authorities have been reformed to strategically deliver on their mandate, create jobs through the Songhai Farming Model and Youth Empowerment Schemes.

Specifically, the following achievements have been made under the Buhari Administration:

- i. Development of Guidelines for Operation and Maintenance of Dams and Irrigation Infrastructure in the RBDAs.
- ii. Strategic Plans (2017 – 2020) developed by the respective RBDAs based on the Ministry's guidelines are being implemented.
- iii. The Songhai Integrated Model farming schemes has been developed in 4Nos RBDAs, while several others are at various level of development. The Songhai Model Farms will serve as training centers for the Graduate Youth programme and provide job opportunity to teeming Nigerians. The Songhai model farm will be developed in each of the 109 Senatorial Districts of the country.
- iv. Coordination of Graduate/Youth Empowerment Programme in the RBDAs.
- v. The process of partial commercialization of the RBDAs to enhance their sustainability currently at pilot stage, being implemented in 4 RBDAs.

However, one of the major challenges militating against the optimum performance of the RBDAs today is the issue of land acquisition and encroachment by States and communities.

18. Conclusion.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the press has been our major & reliable partner at the Federal Ministry of Water Resources since I assumed office in November 2015. I therefore wish to express my profound appreciation to the “fourth estate of the realm” for your patriotism and professional reportage in the last four and half years. On our part, we are aware that Government must be responsive to needs of the people within available resources and will therefore continue to protect the sacred trust of managing the nations water resources efficiently.

With the exit of India last year, from countries practicing Open Defecation (OD), Nigeria now tops the list of countries practicing OD globally. Certainly, this is an unworthy trophy for our nation. Partnership, collaboration and advocacy with and by all stakeholders is required to ensure that Nigeria attains ODF by the target year of 2025 and achieve SDG Goal 6 for WASH with “leaving no one behind” by the year 2030. We are therefore at a time when we need to sustain our partnership and advocacy with you, and I believe, as my dear friends, we are in this journey together.

I sincerely thank you all for your attention.

Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng.
Honourable Minister

02nd March, 2020.