

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ADAMAWA STATE BUREAU OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (ADSBPP) ABBA BELO UMAR, AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF 3-DAYS EACH, CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TENDERS BOARD AND PROCUREMENT OFFICER NOMINEES OF THE 21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS OF ADAMAWA STATE, JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE BUREAU AND THE ADAMAWA STATE PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHARTER-HOUSE CONSULTING LIMITED, ABUJA. HOLDING AT DURAGI HOTEL ALONG ARMY BARRACKS ROAD, JIMETA-YOLA, ON 24th JULY, 2017 BY 10:00AM.

It is with delight and gratitude to Allah, that I welcome you to this phase of training which is designed to equip both the Local Government Tenders Boards and the Local Government Procurement Officer nominees of the 21 Local Government Councils of Adamawa State on 'the impact of the Adamawa State Public Procurement Law/Regulations and Procedures' as it relate to the Local Government System and Administration in the State.

Your Excellency, you could recall that some time ago, the Bureau in collaboration with the State Public Sector Governance Reform and Development Project, embarked on series of capacity building trainings for key players in the Public Procurement chain of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The essence was to entrench the culture of due processes in the financial dealings of the state and ensure that even development is achieved in a more transparent, accountable, value for money and efficiency in project execution and service delivery to the people as we are experiencing in the state to day.

This is a major task that the Bureau in collaboration with other development partners is set to achieve as encapsulated in the Adamawa State Procurement Law 2013.

Gladly, your administration has been so supportive in this direction, given the recent approval for domestication of Procurement Carder in all the MDAs and the Local Government System and Administration in the state which also clearly demonstrated your personal commitment toward achieving the goals of the Bureau.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, the commencement of this training which is for Local Government Tender Boards and Procurement Officer nominees of the 21 Local Government Councils in the State, is yet another bold step taken by the Bureau towards inculcating the principles, culture and practices of due processes in the procurement of Works, Goods and Services in the third tier of government as stipulated in Part 3 section 17 and Part 5 Section 19 of the Adamawa State Procurement Law 2013.

The participants for the Tenders Board training, were carefully selected based on the guidelines and procedures laid down for the selection of members of the Tenders Board issued by the Bureau to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the Local Government Councils, while the Procurement Officer nominees were nominated by their Councils based on requisite provision of the Law which established the Bureau.

Both categories will undergo the 3-days capacity building training each, which commences today with Members of the Local Government Council Tenders Boards as first batch of trainees which will end on 26/7/2017, while that of the Procurement Officer Nominees will commence as from 27-29/7/2017.

It is expected that at the end of the training, participants would have been well equipped to discharge their duties as provided in Part IV

section 18 sub-section 19 and 20 of the Adamawa State Procurement Law 2013.

It should be noted that, the Local Government Councils in the state already have their approved threshold which is ₦3,000,000.00. This threshold, pre-dated the establishment of the Bureau but was again approved by the ADAMAWA State Board on Public Procurement in September, 2014, thus any procurement above this threshold must be forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government Affairs Tenders Board through the office of the Honourable Commissioner for Procurement Process up to contract award.

In the case of Joint Project which is agreed by the all the LGCs, such project must be determine by the Ministerial Tenders Board of the Ministry which will subsequently recommend to the Bureau of Public Procurement for issuance of Certificate of No-Objection for the award of the contract.

The Bureau on its part, will strictly monitor the compliance of all Local Government Councils to these procedures and may consider reviewing the existing threshold as provided in Sections 17(1c) and 18(1a) of the Adamawa State Procurement Law 2013.

You should also be reminded that, ignorance of the Law is not an excuse, you must do everything possible within your schedules to avoid the temptation of incurring the wrath of the Law as provided in Section 58 of the State Procurement Law.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, I will not be fair to you if I fail to comment on the recent judgment by the Appeal Court in my capacity as the Director General of Adamawa State Bureau of Public Procurement.

You may recall a conviction secured under the Adamawa State Public Procurement Law 2013, which an accused was tried and convicted on the 6th March, 2017, the entire Country applauded the Government of Adamawa State and the painstaking effort of the EFCC and the support of Adamawa State Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), which saw the timely considered judgment, as you are all aware that Court determines based on facts before it and the reasons for its judgment may differ from Lower Courts to Superior Court.

Your Excellency, the Bureau is saddened with the judgment of the Court of Appeal who did not see any reason for the conviction of the accused at the trial Court even on the glaring fact before it that the accused was in clear contravention of the BPP Law and its regulations. We remain resolute to the fight against corruption through procurement breach of process, and we assure the entire State and necessary stakeholders in this struggle that an appeal against that decision is in process which will test the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the Supreme Court.

At this juncture, may I on behalf of the Board inform you that the Bureau is fast expanding its operations in line with the provisions of the Law.

This expansion include, increase in man power to man the MDAs and the Local Government Councils as well as sustained capacity building for Board Members, Management and Staff of the Bureau. Already the Bureau has established it own website and can be access on bppadamawa.com, [facebook](#), [twitter](#) and [google plus](#).

Very soon the Bureau will send its request to Your Excellency for WAIVER, to fully absorb the about sixty Procurement Officers (POs) already shortlisted as pool staff of the Bureau from various MDAs, the POs have already under gone series of trainings and more of such

trainings are still on the way to improve their skills for effective and efficient performance.

It is in this regard, that I humbly wish to use this opportunity to appeal to Your Excellency to instruct the release of both State and the Local Government funds already approved for the building of the Bureau's office complex to fully accommodate its staff to ease the current challenges of inadequate office accommodation.

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Bureau, I want to sincerely appreciate the Adamawa State Public Sector Governance Reform and Development Project, Development Partners and the Consultant for their continue support to the Bureau.

Thank you and God bless.