

**SPEECH INTRODUCING CPSG BY PROFESSOR FABIAN AJOGWU, OFR, SAN AT  
INAUGURAL CONFERENCE AND LAUNCH OF THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR  
GOVERNANCE (CPSG) , TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024  
TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA**

**Salutations:**

- **Dr. Ernest Ndukwe, OFR**, Chairman, MTN and Board of Advisory Board, The Centre for Public Sector Governance -CPSG
- Our Keynote Speaker, **Professor Adetunji Olaopa**, Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission
- President, Society for Corporate Governance, Nigeria – SCGN, **Mr. Muhammad K. Ahmad OON**
- **Board Members, SCGN**
- **Members**, Board of Advisory, CPSG
- Our distinguished Speakers and Panelists
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

**Introduction: Why the Center for Public Sector Governance?**

The Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle once said, *“The end of the state is the good life, and these are the means towards it; a state exists for the sake of a good life, and not for the sake of life only.”* This quote reflects his belief that the purpose of governance is to help people thrive, with the state’s role being to ensure a well-developed, prosperous society.

For the past 20 years, the Society for Corporate Governance, Nigeria has committed to advancing corporate governance in Nigeria and across Africa. Our primary focus has been supporting and collaborating with the private sector to promote best practices across Nigeria and the continent. Similarly, we have partnered with the public sector in Nigeria in crafting codes that enhance policy development, execution, and implementation. Through these initiatives, we aim to foster sustainable growth and development that benefits society as a whole. Hence the need for a new arm of the Society — **the Centre for Public Sector Governance (CPSG) – The Centre**, dedicated to promoting best practices and enhancing governance within public sector institutions.

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## **Why the Centre for Public Sector Governance?**

The answer lies in the critical role that governance plays in shaping the social, economic, and political landscape of Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa especially through the public sector. We recognise that strong governance frameworks are the bedrock of a resilient society, that ensures government institutions remain transparent, efficient, and accountable to the people they serve.

Today, our public institutions face myriad challenges. From navigating complex policy landscapes, diverse interests and advancing technological integration to meeting increasing demands for transparency and addressing critical social inequalities—the need for effective governance has never been more urgent. This is where the CPSG comes in. We are committed to supporting governments, public sector organisations and institutions in tackling these challenges head-on.

Here are three core reasons why the Centre for Public Sector Governance is both timely and essential:

### **1. Strengthening Governance Structures**

CPSG is here to enhance governance structures as we recognise that effective governance depends on robust, adaptable frameworks. We are dedicated to developing, testing, and supporting innovative governance models that respond to today's realities. Through research, crafting of codes, policy recommendations, and practical guidance, we aim to equip public sector institutions and their leadership with the tools needed to operate effectively and fulfill their mandates.

### **2. Building Capacity for Better Service Delivery**

An empowered and well-trained public sector workforce is essential for achieving effective governance. CPSG's programs focus on developing the skills and capacities of public service leaders, offering training on best practices in governance, decision-making, and public service management. By investing in public sector institutions, we ensure that our citizens receive high-quality services and that government functions efficiently and transparently.

### **3. Promoting Accountability and Transparency**

Without transparency, there can be no trust. Without accountability, there can be no justice. CPSG is committed to championing policies and practices that ensure public sector institutions remain accountable to the people. We strive to foster an environment where public sector leaders act with integrity/ excellence and citizens can have full confidence in their government.

As already mentioned by the CPSG Advisory Board, Chairman, Dr. Ernest Ndukwe, OFR, we embark on this journey we recognise that governance is a shared responsibility. Thus, CPSG aims to facilitate partnerships across sectors and borders. We believe that through collaboration with our main stakeholder– **public sector institutions** and the academia, private sector, civil society, and international bodies, we will harness diverse perspectives and resources to amplify our impact. Together, we can tackle the most pressing issues and forge a future where good governance is a guarantee for all.

In closing, the Centre for Public Sector Governance - the Centre is not just an organization—it is a movement, a commitment, and a call to action. A call for integrity, for progress, and for effective public sector governance that truly serves the people. Let us seize this moment to strengthen our institutions, uplift our communities, and create lasting positive change.

Thank you for being here today and for your commitment to advancing public sector governance. Let us go forward together with purpose, conviction, and a shared vision of a transparent, accountable, and resilient public sector.

Thank you.