



**ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION, SENATOR GEORGE AKUME, CON, AT THE LAUNCH
OF THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE (CPSG)
HELD AT THE TRANSCORP HITLON HOTEL ABUJA ON TUESDAY
19TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

PROTOCOLS

I feel very honoured to address you today at the official launch of the Centre for Public Sector Governance (CPSG) which is committed to improving good governance practices in the public sector. This is a way of contributing to the development of our dear country, Nigeria.

Leadership is a key component of governance that involves influencing and facilitating the system. According to the report of the Commission on Global Governance CGG, (1995), governance is described as the sum of many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, leaders and followers manage their common affairs. This implies that Governance is an evolutionary process of reconciling interests and a collective responsibility of all citizens to manage their country's affairs at all levels.

It is on this note, I wish to commend the efforts of the leadership and members of the Society for Corporate Governance, Nigeria (SCGN) for furthering the value of national development by promoting initiatives like the **Centre for Public Sector Governance** which is dedicated towards best practices reforms in the public sector, administration, governance and leadership in Nigeria.

The CPSG represents a significant milestone in our collective pursuit of national progress and I commend its mission which includes the creation and implementation of innovative governance models to address the unique challenges faced by our public institutions thereby empowering them to operate more effectively and fulfill their mandates.

The theme of this conference, ***Strengthening Leadership and Ethics for Public Sector Institutions***, resonates well with our national priorities under the **Renewed Hope Agenda**. I therefore urge that in your **conversation, attention should focus on the** critical role(s) that public institutions play in driving a nation's prosperity and advancement.

As a nation, Nigeria stands at a critical cross road in our development history because we are faced with both significant challenges and

extraordinary opportunities.. This is a phase in which leadership must be decisive, visionary and must be open to partnership for growth.

Through collaboration among the public and private sectors, civil society, and international partners, we would be in a position to establish an ecosystem that promotes a well rounded growth. This gathering of experts, tested and committed Nigerians should explore the unique opportunity to actively play in that space.

I consider it necessary to mention that leadership and governance are similar to a marathon race in the life of a nation. At the commencement of the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Renewed Hope Agenda was unveiled with eight priority areas, emphasizing sustainable economic growth and social development.

To achieve its objectives, government identified effective policy coordination and performance tracking, among others, as twin challenges to successful implementation and enhancement of governance. Accordingly, Government established a high level office for Policy and Coordination to further strengthen the institutional arrangement for performance management, coordination and implementation of presidential priorities. The OSGF in conjunction with the Policy and Coordination Office have continued to drive service wide engagement,

partnership with critical local stakeholders and development stakeholders, as well as harmonization of sectoral policies for effective governance.

Recently, the His Excellency, the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria demonstrated that selection into leadership positions is a dynamic process and remains key to overall success in governance. He has therefore continued to make necessary changes required at all levels including the cabinet, for optimization of performance.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, I wish to assure you that the Federal Government shall remain committed to enhancing the environment for collaboration on instituting best practices on good governance. As you are aware, this is already been carried in a number of legitimate ways, including policies, legislation, Executive Orders, institutional reforms, leadership selection, performance tracking, and a host of others.

Finally, let me emphasize that government shall continue to count on the partnership with every stakeholder represented here today to achieve our national goals of development. I therefore urge all of you to view this launch of the CPSP and the Conference as windows of opportunity for the exchange of ideas, to forge partnerships, and to drive meaningful change. I will look forward to receiving the outcomes of this conference,

as your informed contributions to a brighter future for Nigeria and Nigerians.

Together, let us redefine what is possible for our nation.

I thank you all for listening and I wish you fruitful deliberations.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you.