

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ALH.  
MOHAMMED SABO NANONO AT THE SPECIAL INTERACTIVE  
MEETING ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION, HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY, 2020 AT CHIDA HOTELS, UTAKO, ABUJA**

**PROTOCOL**

1. I am delighted to join you today on this auspicious occasion of an interactive meeting on the monitoring and evaluation of the 2019 capital projects and programmes.
2. The interactive meeting as I have been briefed, has in attendance Line Directors, Zonal Directors, State Coordinators, Heads of Units including most senior project/planning officers from the 6 Zonal and 36 State offices and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).
3. As you are aware, priority projects and deliverables were set by the present Administration for all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) including the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development which is saddled with the mandate of implementing Government policy on agriculture and providing enabling environment for the attainment of food security. Reports are expected to be submitted to Government at intervals on the level of implementation. The expanded version of this priority projects, programmes and deliverables was signed by my humble self, the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture, and the Permanent Secretary in demonstration of the commitments of leadership of the Ministry to vigorously pursue this mandate.
4. This interactive meeting is therefore apt as it provides opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the 2019 priority projects of the Ministry in line with current Government emphasis on implementation reports to enable us strategize as we commence the implementation of the 2020 capital projects following the signing of the Budget by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari.
5. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, encumbrances to effective monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes is a challenge that

must be surmounted if we must attain the mandate assigned to us as a Ministry. Therefore, there is need for an integrated approach to project monitoring and evaluation. Collaboration is also necessary among projects and programmes Departments, Zonal and State offices as well as the Department (Policy and Planning Coordination) saddled with projects monitoring and evaluation in the Ministry among others. I wish to observe that the Zonal Directors and State Coordinators as foot soldiers of the Ministry have critical roles to play in facilitating the realization of this mandate.

6. I am confident that as we continue to vigorously and conscientiously pursue our mandate as a Ministry, better strides will be recorded in the months ahead. I therefore charge you all to strive and work as a team to provide the enabling environment for the realization of our mandate to consolidate the gains recorded by the current administration in the agriculture sector.

7. I wish you all a very fruitful interaction.

8. Thank you and God bless.