

### **Minister's Speech**

I welcome you all to this all-important event intended to consolidate the institutionalisation of the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) in the Nigerian Construction Industry; the Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON) has been the standard-bearer in that regard for the past seven years. It supported the Government to kick start and sustainably undertake this skills development.

I wish to commend the Council for contributing to knowledge and skills development in the Construction Sector. The National Board of Technical Education (NBTE) also deserves commendation for midwifing the NSQF. NSQF aims to reverse the effects of decades of neglects of skills development. Consistent neglect became the bane of crucial issues in the skills supply quality.

There is no better time than now for other stakeholders to be on the broad-based Council to be inaugurated today. Given that the Sector Skills Council (SSC) is an independent and strategic employer-led organisation, it has the responsibility for skills and workforce development of all those employed in that sector, professional staff to the tradesmen/women, and ancillary workers. This covers all sizes of the employer from the large firms to micro-businesses and not without the self-employed.

Skills, as we all know, is the bedrock of every nation's developing economy. The construction sector provides the basis for the aggregation of National Economic Performances of individuals and corporate organisations. The establishment of this Sector Skills Council is a deliberate decision of the Federal Government to address the skills gap; skills supply, skills, quality and skills demand of the Building Sector in the construction Industry.

By this inauguration, you are inheriting the core mandate of tackling the industry's skills and productive needs. The scope covers the following:

1. Establishment and maintenance of strategy for the coordination and incorporation of emerging trends in skills development:
2. Development of competency standards and qualifications:
3. Developing a sector skill development plan & maintain skill inventory:
4. Influence how training is delivered in Nigeria
5. Productivity improvement
6. Consistency in reducing skills gaps and shortages

In addition to the mandate, you shall be inheriting from CORBON:

- i. National Occupational Standards in some critical trades
- ii. A Labour Market Information System

- iii. A Secretariate with modest personnel

These should provide a launching pad for:

- i. The development of additional National Occupational Standards
- ii. Further development of a sector skill development plan and maintenance of skill inventory,
- iii. Organisation of training of master trainers,
- iv. The designing and sustainability of apprenticeship frameworks for the absorption of persons into building trade skills,
- v. Brokering Sector Skills Agreements
- vi. Creation of Sector Qualification Strategies

Let me conclude by stating that we all require you to build cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders to deliver skills that will impact on the national economy. Strive to develop artisans and tradesmen with skills that will enable them to compete in the global market.