

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NTUFAM FIDELIS UGBO, ESQ, SECRETARY,  
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AT THE JOINT PLANNING  
BOARD/NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING HELD  
AT NIKE LAKE RESORT, ENUGU, ENUGU STATE FROM  
22<sup>ND</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012.**

Protocol,

I am delighted to welcome you to this very important occasion of the meeting of the Joint Planning Board, being organized by the National Planning Commission in collaboration with the host State, Enugu State Government. The theme of this meeting is **“Development Planning and Transformation: Key to National Economic Growth and Development”**.

2. As you may have noticed from the programme, a new structure has been adopted for the meetings of the Joint Planning Board and the National Council on Development Planning. This is in response to the conclusions reached at the JPB meeting held in Ekiti State in December 2010. It will be recalled that members has proposed a two level meeting, with the first day, devoted to technical level discussion with the Permanent Secretaries and key Directors from the States and selected Federal MDAs. This is expected to be followed on the second day, by the meeting of the Honourable Minister of National Planning with the Honourable Commissioners responsible for Planning at the State level. This approach is expected to deepen the quality of recommendations, arising from the Joint Planning Board (JPB) and National Council on Development Planning (NCDP) meetings. The new structure adopted, is in line with the proceedings of other National Council meetings, held by Ministries.

3. The importance of today’s meeting, therefore, cannot be over emphasized. Members are urged to accord priority to the deliberations of all the items on the agenda. The outcome of the meeting is expected to serve as input into the meeting of the National Council on Development Planning to be held tomorrow under the chairmanship of the Honourable Minister/Deputy Chairman of National Planning Commission. Let me therefore reiterate that, as technocrats and experts, much is expected of us on development planning and economic management in Nigeria. I also expect that far reaching recommendations with respect to the modalities for deepening the implementation of the Federal Government’s Transformation Agenda and State’s plans will be reached at this meeting.

4. Our gathering here today, therefore, provides a great opportunity for us to learn from your collective experiences and other development experts, especially in the area of deepening the plan implementation process. I am also confident that the deliberations will be intellectually stimulating and rewarding, especially as the rest of the agenda have been devoted to technical level presentations on major topical issues which include:

- (i) National Development Planning and Transformation Agenda; The Malaysian Experience;
- (ii) Collaboration Towards NV20: 2020 Implementation: The Required Synergy between Federal and State Governments;
- (iii) Subsidy Re-Investment Funds: A Veritable Avenue for Infrastructure Provision;
- (iv) Internally Generated Revenue for effective Development: Experience from Lagos State;
- (v) The Institutionalization of M&E Framework at the Sub-National level – Lessons from the Performance Evaluation Experience of Federal MDAs, 2010 and 2011;
- (vi) Data Generation: An Effective Tool for National Development;
- (vii) Stimulating Economic Transformation through Vision 20:2020 – The Human Resources Agenda;
- (viii) Donor Intervention in Nigeria's Development: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learnt from the German International Cooperation (GIZ) in Sustainable Economic Development.

5. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I will like to assure you that this is a new dawn in collaborative planning at the Federal and State levels. The ultimate is to facilitate effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our performance at all levels of Government with a view to improving the management of the economy.

6. Once again, I welcome you to this important Technical Session and wish you very successful deliberations.

7. I thank you for your attention.