**A Speech Delivered by the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Udoma Udo Udoma on the Occasion of the Inauguration of the Governing Board of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Thursday, 9th May, 2019 at the Honourable Minister’s Conference Room**

**Protocol:**

I am delighted to be with you this morning to preside over the formal inauguration of the newly constituted Board of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), a Parastatal under the supervision of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

2. It would be recalled that last year, President Muhammad Buhari, GCFR, approved the constitution of the Boards of some Federal Government Agencies/Parastatals to provide a proper governance and oversight structure for them as well as drive general policy formulation for the implementation of their management Teams. The Boards of the Centre for Management Development (CMD) and the Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER), were inaugurated by me on Thursday, 8th March, 2018, but that of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), which requires Senate confirmation, was postponed to await that confirmation. That has now been obtained and I congratulate each of you for having secured that confirmation.

3. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you are aware, the NBS is the government agency charged with the responsibility for data generation and dissemination in Nigeria. The agency facilitates sectoral development in updating, monitoring Nigeria’s socio-economic indicators and advises the government as well as relevant stakeholders including the public and private sectors on our social rankings, etc. Considering the important roles that the NBS plays in nation building, the need for a supportive Governing Board cannot be over-emphasised.

4**.** However, it is important to point outthat your appointment is on a part-time basis. You are required to work with the management of the NBS to, inter alia, determine its mission and long-term strategy roles and responsibilities and develop strategies to promote sustainable and cost-efficient activities of the Bureau. Full details of your duties and responsibilities are prescribed in the enabling Act of the NBS which will be handed over to you at the end of the inauguration ceremony. I urge you to become familiar with it.

5. Distinguished Chairman and members, ladies and gentlemen, let me restate that the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Boards of Parastatals and Agencies as provided in their respective establishment Acts are quite distinct from the day-to-day administration of Parastatals and Agencies under the leadership of Chief Executives who doubles as Accounting Officers. Strict adherence to statutory provisions by both parties will enhance harmonious relationship devoid of bickering and other unhealthy occurrences.

6. Let me congratulate all of you, once more, for this appointment.

7. On this note, Distinguished Board members, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Mr. President and Commander-In-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I hereby inaugurate the 15-member Governing Board of the National Bureau of Statistics comprising 6 Political Appointees and 9 Institutional members under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kabiru Nakaura and the Statistician-General as Secretary/Member.

8. I wish you all a successful tenure. Thank you.

**Welcome Address by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Ernest A.Umakhihe, *FCA,* Ministry of Budget and National Planning on the Occasion of the Inauguration of the Governing Board of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Thursday, 9th May, 2019 at the Honourable Minister’s Conference Room**

**Protocol:**

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to this august gathering of the inauguration ceremony of the Governing Board of the reconstituted National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), a Parastatal under the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

2. I want to specially welcome all the appointees on the Board of the NBS, especially, the Chairman, Dr. Kabiru Nakaura. I am also pleased to recognize all Institutional members who are here representing their various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

3. Let me first of all felicitate with you on your appointment, which is based on the recognition of your good track record. Today’s event has been long awaited because the Boards of two other agencies being supervised by the Ministry had been inaugurated a year ago, leaving out that of the NBS. We are all happy because it has come at this auspicious time.

4. As you take up this appointment today, I urge to be focused and be selfless in the discharge of your duties, bringing you various wealth of experiences to bear because your appointment is a call to the service of your fatherland.

5. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all once again to this historic event and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

6. Thank you and God bless.