**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, BUDGET AND DEVELOPMENT; MRS YETUNDE ESAN, AT THE JOINT PLANNING BOARD (JPB) MEETING HELD AT THE CENTRE FOR BLACK CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, BEHIND THE STATE SECRETARIAT, OSOGBO ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2023.**

**PROTOCOL.**

I am delighted to welcome Honourable Commissioners for Economic Planning and Permanent Secretaries of the thirty-six (36) States of the Federation, the Academia, distinguished participants and other stakeholders to the 22nd Edition of Joint Planning Board meeting in Osogbo, the Capital city of Osun State. This meeting would not have come at a better time than when there is a need to chart a new course for growth and development in the country. The challenges facing us as a nation are enormous, ranging from insecurity, high inflation rate, high cost of living, increased poverty rate, low productivity, civil unrest among others and these have led to increased emigration of our youths and professionals aptly tagged “japa”.

2. The recently removed subsidy on the price Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) has plunged many Nigerians into multi-dimensional poverty and harsh economic conditions. This negative situation needs to be arrested in good time through sound and robust micro and macro-economic policies that will restore the country to the path of sustainable economic growth. The theme of the meeting “**Imperatives for Restoring Nigeria on the Path of Sustainable Economic Growth and Development”** is apt and timely so that the highly cerebral participants in the Nigerian Planning Architecture can brainstorm and come up with sound policies and programmes that will set the country on the path of progress and economic prosperity. The topics to be discussed are well thought out and will be delivered by renowned scholars and those who have made tremendous impacts in their chosen careers and professions both locally and at the global arena at large.

3. The choice of Osun State for this national meeting is not by accident but strategic, considering the relative peace, development and serenity of the environment occasioned by the programmes and projects of the administration of the Executive Governor of State, His Excellency, Senator Ademola Jackson Nurudeen ADELEKE. The State has been set on a path of economic prosperity for our people through the establishment, implementation and sustenance of sound policies in the Planning and Budgeting System that focuses not on any other than Performance for Results (PforR). The system, among others, has success stories in the area of:

i. automation of Planning and Budgeting processes;

ii. one-year (January to December) Budget cycle implementation;

iii. development and implementation of the 5-point Development Agenda of Mr. Governor Long-Term Development Plan; Medium-Term Sectors Strategies, Citizens Budget, Sectors Performance Reporting and so on;

iv. institutionalization and strengthening of the system through the establishment of various policies such as the Gender Inclusion (GESI) Policy, Youths Policy, Sustainable Industrial Policy and so on;

v. improved IGR generation through the application of technology;

vi responsive and affordable health facilities;

vii effective, productive and efficient Public Service;

viii. digital Economy, etc.

4. Let me once again seize this opportunity to welcome you to Osun State, “The State of the Living Spring”, the leading peace-loving people in the comity of States, I enjoin you to feel at home, relax and enjoy your stay in the State. Wishing you successful and fruitful deliberations that would impact the lives of the Nigerian people.

5. I thank you and God bless you all.

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