



ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, MALAM MUHAMMAD MUSA BELLO, AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE/AGM OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERING IN NIGERIA HELD AT THE NAF CONFERENCE CENTRE, KADO, ABUJA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

PROTOCOL

1. It is indeed my pleasure to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of the Association for Consulting Engineering (ACEN) holding here in Abuja, our nation's capital city.
2. Your choice of Abuja as the host city of this Annual General Meeting is quite noteworthy, considering the significant role members of your Association have played over the years in the construction and overall development of the FCT.
3. Indeed, when the history of the FCT is written, the names of engineers and consulting engineering firms will stand tall and be counted amongst individuals and organisations that did the heavy lifting in the quest of bequeathing our country a befitting capital city.
4. The construction and engineering industry, like many others in Nigeria suffered tremendously following the recession of 2015 orchestrated by the crash of global oil prices. Just as nations had begun to gradually recover from that, the world

was once more deeply impacted by the advent of COVID-19.

5. Particularly hard hit was the construction and engineering industry where sites were closed, workers furloughed and contracts cancelled, leading to economic hardship for firms and their employees.
6. Thankfully, our resilient economy under the steady guidance of President Muhammadu Buhari is once again regaining its strength. That is why the theme for this AGM which is "Engineering Consulting and Infrastructural Development in a recovering Economy" is not only relevant but could not have come at a better time.
7. Ladies and gentleman, with dwindling revenue from oil and Mr. President's focus on diversification of the economy, we cannot but look up to your profession to lead the search for innovative technology and resources to drive our developmental needs.
8. I therefore believe that the outcome of this conference will contribute in helping the government evolve effective policy framework for positioning Consulting Engineering in Nigeria as one of the main drivers of Nigeria's industrial and infrastructural development for such a time as this.
9. I like to assure you that here in the FCT, our commitment towards building a first-class capital remains irrevocable. Undeniably, so much has been achieved, but also, so much remains to be done. The task of building a befitting capital still remains a big challenge in the face of financial constraints.