



**Welcome Address at the Inaugural Hosting of “The Procurement Evolution” By Dr. Adebowale A. Adedokun, FCIPS (Chartered), ACFE, FCILT, Director-General, Bureau of Public Procurement Afreximbank Africa Trade Center, Abuja – June 4, 2026**

**Theme: *The Procurement Evolution – Honouring the Past, Powering the Future***

Your Excellency, **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,**  
Distinguished Guests,  
Esteemed Leaders of our Nation,  
Former Presidents,  
Former Directors-General of BMPIU and BPP,  
Respected Staff of the Bureau,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with profound joy and deep humility that I welcome you to this historic celebration of Nigeria’s procurement evolution. Established 19 years ago as the fruit of the struggles of our leaders and founded on ethos of excellence, hard work, integrity, honesty and patriotism, what is today known as the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) has been nurtured to adulthood by the efforts of my predecessors and that of my humble-self.

In these 19 years, BPP has gone through thick and thin, and has pulled through with enduring resilience to turn challenges to testimonies.

We have won laurels as symbols of success and become **one of the most outstanding agencies of the Federal Government of Nigeria.**

On behalf of the entire staff of BPP, I pay respect to our visionary leaders, who led the struggle for the birthing of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) in 2001 and the later establishment of BPP on June 4, 2007. I duff my cap to them. I salute their vision, resilience and sacrifices.

In the same vein, I deeply appreciate my predecessors, both at the BMPIU and BPP, for providing leadership and guidance in a manner that has earned the agency its deserved recognition and reputation over the years.

Words are inadequate to appreciate our numerous staff—both serving and retired, **as well as those treasured colleagues who have sadly passed on**—whose skills, talents, contributions, competencies and unalloyed loyalty have forever etched the BPP onto the global map. **We hold the memory of our departed colleagues in the highest esteem, recognizing that the foundations we build upon today are sanctified by their enduring dedication and service to our fatherland. In their honour, and in deep appreciation of their systemic impact, I respectfully request that we all stand to observe a moment of silent reflection.**

**Thank you. Please, be seated.**

We have organised this Procurement Evolution Day to catalogue our success stories, reflect on the journey so far and glean lessons for the journey ahead so as to move Nigeria forward.

The world over, procurement has evolved into a powerful instrument of economic transformation, industrial development, innovation, social inclusion and institutional accountability. In our national context, we must view public procurement not merely as an administrative clearinghouse, but as a potent, **unifying tool for our collective national development**—a strategic lever that bridges regional divides, harmonizes our economic aspirations and binds our diverse talents to a single, prosperous future.

In Nigeria today, this understanding no doubt, aligns strongly with the policy direction of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and the Renewed Hope Agenda. At the heart of the Renewed Hope Agenda is the commitment to build stronger institutions, improve public service delivery, deepen economic productivity, expand opportunities for indigenous businesses and ensure that public resources are deployed efficiently for the benefit of citizens.

### **The Genesis: President Olusegun Obasanjo and BMPIU**

Our journey began under the foresight of **President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR**, who established the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU). It was a courageous experiment — a determined effort to curb waste, instil discipline and ensure that public funds were spent wisely. BMPIU was the seed that grew into the mighty tree we are celebrating today.

### **The Defining Moment: President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and the Public Procurement Act**

Then came a defining moment in 2007, when **President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR**, of blessed memory, signed into law the Public Procurement Act — the very first law he assented to upon assuming office.

The joy that greeted this moment was profound. For the first time, Nigeria had a legal framework enshrining fairness, competition and transparency in the use of public resources. That Act transformed BMPIU into the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), giving life to the aspirations of reformers and citizens alike.

## **The Challenges and the Torchbearers**

Implementation was never without obstacles. Entrenched practices resisted change; capacity gaps tested our resolve. Yet, successive Directors-General of BMPIU and BPP carried the torch with courage. Each one — from the pioneering days of BMPIU to the present leadership — contributed uniquely to strengthening our procurement system. To them, and to the dedicated staff of the Bureau who laboured tirelessly, we owe a debt of gratitude.

## **Honouring Stakeholders**

We salute the Presidents whose foresight gave us vision and law. We honour the former Directors-General whose leadership guided the Bureau through trials and triumphs. We also recognize the pioneering leadership of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU), particularly the foundational contributions of **Dr. (Mrs.) Obiageli Ezekwesili, CFR (2001 – 2005)** and **Prof. Kunle Ade Wahab (2005 – 2007)**, as well as the invaluable input of sector specialists whose expertise laid the groundwork for the reforms we sustain today. We extend our profound appreciation to the National Assembly, **particularly the Senate and House Committees on Public Procurement, whose rigorous oversight functions**, legislative stewardship and enduring commitment to statutory excellence remain indispensable to the integrity of our procurement architecture. We celebrate the **staff of BPP**, whose

diligence and professionalism continue to advance our mandate. Finally, we appreciate our stakeholders — civil society, the media, development partners, professional bodies, and indeed constructive critics — whose engagement has sharpened our resolve and refined our processes.

### **The Renewed Hope Era: President Bola Ahmed Tinubu**

Today, under the Renewed Hope Agenda of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Bureau stands at yet another turning point. **Since my resumption as Director-General, Mr. President has extended his absolute and unwavering executive support, characterized by a principled stance of non-interference and a strict, unyielding insistence that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) must completely comply with due process.** With the President's unwavering support, we have advanced reforms that are reshaping procurement in Nigeria. Since assuming office as the DG, our administration has pursued an ambitious reform agenda to deepen transparency, improve efficiency, promote digital transformation, strengthen compliance, enhance professionalisation, while expanding economic opportunities for indigenous enterprises.

One of the major milestones recorded under this reform programme has been the review of procurement thresholds across the Federal Public Service. These revised thresholds were introduced to reflect present economic realities, inflationary pressures, changing market conditions, and the need to accelerate budget implementation. Crucially, as a direct consequence of these upwardly revised thresholds, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has been significantly unburdened from routine contract approvals. **The FEC rarely meets to deliberate on contract awards anymore, shifting its executive focus instead toward high-level policy discussions and strategic national governance.**

By delegating more procurement responsibilities to appropriate Ministerial and Parastatal Tenders Boards and Accounting Officers, the government has significantly reduced unnecessary bottlenecks while preserving transparency and accountability. The objective is simple. Procurement processes must remain compliant, but they must also be responsive, efficient and capable of supporting timely project delivery.

We have equally strengthened compliance enforcement. Reform without accountability cannot succeed. Public procurement must be governed not only by rules but also by consequences for violations. We have, therefore, reinforced monitoring mechanisms and compliance reviews across procuring entities.

Permit me to highlight some of the landmark achievements, systematically structured around our strategic pillars of legal fortitude, fiscal oversight, technological advancement, local empowerment and institutional capacity-building:

### **Legal Fortitude, Institutional Integrity and Oversight**

- **Legislative Modernization** – Advancing the comprehensive amendment of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, bringing a highly anticipated, agile legal framework to the brink of enactment to decisively match dynamic economic realities.
- **National Procurement Transformation Strategy** – Formulating a visionary roadmap for long-term reform sustainability.
- **Rigid Variation Controls** – Mr. President has directed that all contract variations must be explicitly reviewed and approved by the BPP to curtail fiscal inflation.

- **Standstill Period Activation** – Institutionalizing a mandatory standstill period of 14 working days to allow for the ventilation of grievances and dispute resolution prior to contract execution.
- **Collaborative Enforcement** – Partnering with anti-corruption bodies, development partners, CSOs, and professional bodies to reinforce transparency.
- **Debarment Policy** – Safeguarding public integrity by decisively sanctioning and blacklisting erring contractors.

### Fiscal Accountability, Monitoring, and Data Transparency

- **Joint M&E System** – Co-developing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework between the BPP and the Budget Office of the Federation to sync procurement with budgetary allocations.
- **Enhanced MDAs Disclosures** – Enforcing the mandatory monthly publication of contract awards alongside comprehensive quarterly performance reports by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
- **Price Intelligence and Benchmarking** – Deploying precise market analysis tools to safeguard public funds and ensure maximum value-for-money.
- **NAPOMS Deployment** – Launching a centralized, national platform for automated asset, project monitoring and absolute accountability.

### Digital Ecosystems and Modern Procurement Platforms

- **Digital Procurement Platforms** – Automating core operational processes, reducing human interference and drastically minimizing corruption risks.

- **Nigeria E-Market** – Establishing a secure, digital marketplace designed to foster healthy market competition and cross-sector transparency.
- **CCSP Database Upgrade** – Revamping the categorization and certification platform to guarantee unmatched vendor credibility and processing efficiency.

## Economic Nationalism, Inclusion and Grassroots Empowerment

- **Nigeria First Policy** – Putting indigenous businesses at the forefront of high-yield opportunities across strategic sectors:
  - Automobile Industry
  - National Infrastructure Development
  - Textile and Garments
  - Information and Communication Technology
  - Renewable Energy and Solar Power
  - Agriculture and Agro-processing
- **Community/Affirmative Procurement** – Structuring distinct guidelines to empower local communities, women-owned enterprises, and vulnerable demographics.
- **Community-Based Public Procurement Policy** – Successfully introducing tailored procurement policies to traditional institutions across all local governments to decentralize grassroots economic inclusion.
- **SME Capacity Modules** – Designing and developing targeted, simplified training modules to seamlessly integrate Small and Medium Enterprises into the public vendor pool.
- **Sector-Based Frameworks** – Designing bespoke procurement guidelines tailored strictly to the unique terrains of IT, Roads, Health, Education, and Services.

- **Food Procurement Streamlining** – Redesigning specific procedures to aggressively support and protect national food security.

### **Professionalization, Career Mobility and Specialized Education**

- **Executive-Backed Career Mobility** – Solidifying the professional cadre where the BPP is explicitly mandated by Mr. President to direct the recruitment, promotion, institutional mobility, continuous training and career discipline of Procurement Officers.
- **Nigeria Procurement Certification Programme (NCPC)** – Elevating professionalism by standardizing certification metrics for officer validation and skill development.
- **Academic Mainstreaming via SPESSE** – Establishing specialized undergraduate degree courses in Sustainable Procurement, Environment, and Social Standards across six (6) distinct University Centres of Excellence. (Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Lagos, University of Benin (UNIBEN), Benin City, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Bauchi, Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) and Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (formerly FUAM), Makurdi)
- **Trainer Licensing Framework** – Instituting a statutory framework for the registration, certification and licensing of professional procurement trainers in Nigeria.
- **Structured Capacity Building** – Facilitating continuous, targeted training programs for public and private sector stakeholders alike.
- **Ethical Standards** – Enforcing a strict, non-negotiable code of conduct to guide institutional integrity.

- **National Repository of Procurement Experts** – Harnessing elite local and international expertise to continuously guide procurement reform.

### **Sub-National Synergy, Public Advocacy, and Youth Engagement**

- **Sub-Nationals Engagement** – Extending the frontiers of federal procurement reforms directly down to state and local government administrations.
- **National Procurement Celebrations** – Introducing the National Public Procurement Day and the Nigeria Public Procurement Evolution Showcase to commemorate transparency milestones and foster public trust.
- **National Public Procurement Clubs** – Launching dedicated youth engagement programs to cultivate a culture of fiscal integrity and accountability in the next generation.
- **Revised Guidelines and Standard Bidding Documents** – Continuously aligning public templates with evolving global best practices.

These are not mere policies; they are victories for Nigeria. They are proof that when leadership is visionary and support is unwavering, reforms thrive.

A defining milestone in our recent trajectory is the deepening strategic alliance between the Bureau and the **Federal Ministry of Justice**—a formidable partnership united in defending the absolute integrity of Nigeria’s procurement ecosystem. Recent landmark judicial precedents and legal victories, forged through this seamless inter-institutional synergy, have decisively reinforced the statutory authority of

procurement laws while reaffirming due process, transparency and rigid regulatory compliance as non-negotiable pillars of national governance.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we celebrate today, let us remember that procurement reform is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end — a Nigeria where public **resources are used judiciously**, where **citizens trust their government** and where **development accelerates** because corruption is curtailed.

### **Closing**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Bureau of Public Procurement stands tall today because of the collective efforts of our leaders, past and present, the dedication of our staff, the support of stakeholders and above all, the commitment of Mr. President to the Renewed Hope Agenda.

As we look to the future, we do so with renewed hope, renewed strength and renewed determination to make Nigeria a shining example of procurement excellence in Africa and beyond. The journey to building a stronger BPP that will deliver value for money, and value for life with greater resolve and hope begins from here. I invite you all on board.

**May God bless the Bureau of Public Procurement.**

**May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and may God bless Mr. President!**

**Thank you.**