



VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ON

NATIONAL ETHICS AND INTEGRITY POLICY

WELCOME REMARKS

By

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Protocols and recognitions - SGF, Minister of State, ICPC Board, PS, DGs of NOA, FCCPC Leaders of OPS, Religious and Traditional Leaders, CSOs, media, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to our virtual meeting room. This activity hosted in collaboration with NOA and the OSGF.

Background is that a draft Ethics Policy was produced 2014 after wide research and consultation with some stakeholders. Thereafter the process stalled. The Commission decided that as part of its 20th Anniversary activities this year we would try and advance the process. This step is an addition and follow up to the acclaimed National Values Curriculum for the teaching of ethics and civics in Nigerian educational institutions, developed by the Commission in 2003, and adopted and implemented by the National Council on Education. In 2012, a Teachers' Guide was launched by ICPC to assist instructors deliver the subject in schools across the country. The curriculum is presently infused in about 6 different subjects an taught at primary and junior secondary schools across the country. On account of this the Commission annually plays host to children from different schools on excursion.

Since 2014, some things have changed and the document needed updating and it is timely because the government of PMB pledged in its policy and programs roadmap 2019 -2023 to focus on the decline of ethics and integrity in our society.

This Meeting is to discuss the structure of the ethics and integrity policy not just in fulfillment of that pledge but because many people in this virtual meeting room and more outside are gravely concerned that ethics and values in the Nigerian society have completely collapsed. We struggle to find role models.

This event is not a discussion about what led to collapse of ethical values. It is not a discussion on what activities and sanctions will be applicable for violations

of ethical standards. It is not about what should be done to mobilize citizens. All these and much more including how to deal with unethical conduct that is not fully covered by existing laws and regulations will be widely discussed after government adopts a framework to guide the process and many of you here will be actively involved in that process.

Today's conversation is about what pillars should government base its National Ethics & Integrity Policy upon. Although we are not entirely in the dark as you will find out today that the Constitution and some laws actually provide a framework that could have made today's conversation unnecessary. But we though we should interrogate ourselves on the framework for an inclusive ethical revolution framework; the core values of the ethics and integrity policy and the synergy and expectations from state and non-state actors of society.

Please feel free to tell us what you will like to see considered or included in those pillars. We have four distinguished panelists and experts in their own right and people very familiar with the issues to lead the discussions.

In consonance with the reality of modern social interaction your participation in this event will be suited to the digital and virtual mode of our meeting. A few people will be able to make interventions but most of us can only contribute by sending chats.

If you are familiar with zoom and other virtual meeting platforms you will realize that you can be recognized to speak by raising your hand electronically. As moderator I cannot see everyone on one screen but I can see any hand raised electronically so please if you wish to speak raise your hands electronically not physically.

Secondly all microphones will be muted except if you are recognized to speak. If you have to move around we urge you to block your video so we are not distracted by your movement.

Virtual meetings are a new reality for many of us thus some people are still learning the ethics and etiquette of it. Despite Covid19 we hope to live our lives as comfortably as possible as we grapple with the new normal.

Participation in this meeting is broad spanning CSOs, media, religious leaders, traditional leaders, private sector, public institutions, and a team of activists focused on behavioral change metrics. We hope to have an active and vibrant conversation with your support.

Thank you and Welcome..