PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WORKS, ARC. MIKE OZIEGBE ONOLEMEMEN, FNIA; FNIM; FNSE AT THE 2014 SERIES OF THE PILOT NEWSPAPERS/NEWSWORLD LEADERSHIP FORUM

INTRODUCTION

I am glad to address this gathering of critical stakeholders of our nation on the performance of the federal ministry of works in 2013 in accordance with its mandate of delivering better roads to Nigerian road users. I wish to thank the organizers of this forum for their sustained evidence-based approach to evaluating the performance of the President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan’s Administration. For me, it is yet another opportunity to give account of my stewardship to the good people of our great country, and showcase the achievements of the Federal Government in the improvement of the road sector for enhanced economic activities and social integration in the country.

It would be recalled that on assumption of office, the President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan’s administration inherited federal roads which were generally described as “death traps” as many road projects were either abandoned or moving at snail speed due to paucity of funds. Travelling on Nigerian Roads was a nightmare as commuters were made to stay overnight in transit, oftentimes falling into the hands of ubiquitous armed robbers. It was indeed a nightmare to travel on Nigerian roads by 2011.

Today, Nigerian Roads can no longer be described neither as “death traps” nor “robbers den” due to the remarkable progress in the federal government’s ongoing massive rehabilitation, construction, expansion and maintenance of major arterial highways across the country. From about 5,000 km of fair roads in 2011, today about 25,000 km of the 35,000 km of federal roads are now in good and motorable condition, with some of the road alignments comparing favourably with roads in the developed part of the World. From the North to the South; and from the East to the West, the story is the same: Travel times have been reduced between origins and destinations, cost of vehicle maintenance have been drastically reduced, accidents and carnage on our road have been reduced due to better pavement design and construction, and economic goods are now better distributed through our arterial roads with better turn-around times that lead to more profits for entrepreneurs. Consequent on this positive turn-around in the road sector, citizens now enjoy better services in road transportation and at reduced fares. Some of the transport companies have slashed their transport fares in response to the remarkable improvement and expansion of the National Road Network.
SURE-P Intervention

Ladies and Gentlemen, the objectives of the transformation agenda in the road sector have been largely achieved these past three years of the Jonathan presidency. The advent of the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) that ensured additional funding of selected projects in the road sector has resulted in enhanced service delivery in the sector. It led to the remarkable progress witnessed in 2013 on the dualization of four (4) key arterial roads across the six geopolitical zones of our country. These include the Dualization of Abuja-Abaji-Lokoja Highway, Kano-Maiduguri Highway, and the rehabilitation of Onitsha-Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway, Benin-Ore-Shagamu Expressway, Lagos-Shagamu-Ibadan Expressway, as well as the construction of the new Loko-Oweto Bridge over River Benue in Nasarawa and Benue States, and the early works on the 2nd Niger Bridge in Anambra and Delta States. We will continue to collaborate with SURE-P for the early completion of the aforementioned projects across the six geopolitical zones of the country.

Projects Distribution

The Federal Ministry of Works under my leadership has continued to make concerted efforts to complete all major on-going road and bridge projects, and scale up maintenance works on Federal Roads across Nigeria to ensure that federal highways become better and safer. I make bold to say that the six geo-political zones of the country in 2013 felt the impact of road infrastructure development, as improved federal roads continue to serve as a platform to enhance socio-economic integration in Nigeria.

By the end of 2013, each geo-political zone in Nigeria witnessed enhanced construction activities, covering a total corridor of 6,500 km. From Lagos to Ibadan, Benin to Ore, Kano to Maiduguri, Gombe to Yola, Kano to Katsina, Sokoto to Makera, Abakaliki to Ikomb, and from Enugu to Port Harcourt, among others, the entire country was turned into a huge construction site in 2013, as the transformation of the road sector reached a cruising level.

The cumulative summary of projects in the six (6) geo-political zones is given in the table below:
Achievements of the Ministry

The ministry recorded impressive performance in 2013 and cumulatively these past three years:

Completed Projects

Despite the daunting challenges in revenue inflow experienced in 2013 and the consequential lean budgetary releases, the Federal Ministry of Works completed nine (9) road projects nationwide, totalling 421.6km at the cost of about 57 Billion Naira. The projects include the rehabilitation of:

(a) Oturkpo-Oweto Road in Benue State
(b) Otukpa-Ayangba-Ajaokuta-Okene Road in Kogi State
(c) Ningi-Yadagumgume-Fuskar Mata Road in Bauchi State
(d) Yana-Shira-Azare Road in Bauchi State
(e) Wukari-Takum Road in Taraba State
(f) Benin-Ore Road Expressway in Edo/Ondo States
(g) Enugu-Abakaliki Road in Enugu/Ebonyi States
(h) Ogoja Junction-Ikom Road in Cross River State
(i) Ado-Illumoba-Agbago-Ikare Road in Ekiti State

Other roads completed by the President Jonathan’s administration since 2011 include the following 47 No. Projects across the country:

- Completion of the Dualization of Ibadan-Ilorin road section I (Ibadan - Oyo)
• Completion of the Reconstruction of Vom-Manchok road in Plateau State.
• Completion of the Repairs of Third Mainland Bridge Phase II, Additional works for the repairs of 8No. Expansion Joints in Lagos State C/No. 6125 (This was completed 10 days ahead of scheduled completion date.)
• Completion of the Dualization of Onitsha-Owerri Road (Section I) and Onitsha Eastern Bypass, in Anambra State.
• Completion of the Rehabilitation of Uba-Mbalala road.
• Completion of the Rehabilitation of Funtua-Gusau-Sokoto road (section II: Gusau-Talata Mafara)
• Completion of the Rehabilitation of Obiozara-Uburu-Ishiagu Road.
• Completion of the Access road to Kaduna Refinery.
• Completion of the Construction/Rehabilitation of Gbogan-Iwo road in Oyo State.
• Completion of the Rehabilitation of Owerri-Aba Road in Imo/Abia State (37km)
• Completion of the Rehabilitation of Katsina-Daura road in Katsina State (45.5km)
• Completion of the Rehabilitation/Construction of Ijebu Igbo-Ajegunle-Araromi-Ife-Sekona Road, Section II, in Ogun State (44km)
• Emergency reinstatement of collapsed section of Gombe-Potiskum Road, (KM 12) in Gombe State.
• Rehabilitation with Spur from Onitsha-Owerri road to Okija-Ihembosi-Afor Ukpor-Ebenator-Ezenifite in Anambra State.
• Construction of Jalingo-Kuna Lau Road (Section 11) in Taraba State.
• Rehabilitation of Access Road to Kaduna Refinery in Kaduna State (4.43km)
• Completion of the Rehabilitation of access roads to Warri Refinery in Warri, Delta State.
• Completion of the Dualization of Access Road to Onne Port in Rivers State (8.35)
• Construction of Gombe-Bypass in Gombe State (13km)
• Rehabilitation of Odo Oba-Takie-Gambari-Otte-Oyo State border along Ibadan-Oyo Ogbomosho-Ilorin road in Oyo State.
• Emergency reinstatement of collapsed section of Wukari-Mutum Biyu road in Taraba State.
• Reinstatement of Washouts at km6+750(LHS) on Onitsha bound carriageway and two others on Enugu bound carriageway km30+400 and km35+325 along Onitsha-Enugu dual carriageway in Anambra and Enugu States.
• Emergency reinstatement of Washout/Gully erosion at KM127+000 (Auchi), along Okene-Benin road and Km14+000 along Auchi-Agenebode road in Edo State.
• Construction of Langtang-Lalin-Tunkus-Shendam Road in Plateau State.
• Rehabilitation of old Oyo-Ogbomoso road in Oyo State (50km)
• Rehabilitation of Omuo-Ifaki road in Ekiti State.
• Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Lafenwa Bridge in Abeokuta.
• Rehabilitation of Gombe-Numan-Yola road section II: Numan-Gombe in Adamawa/Gombe States.
• Rehabilitation of Otta–Owode road in Ogun State.
• Rehabilitation of Mararaba-Pambeguwa-Saminaka-Jos road section I (Mararaba-Panbeguwa in Kaduna State)
• Rehabilitation of Anka-Daki Takwas-Gummi road in Zamfara State.
• Reconstruction of Abakaliki-Ogoja Junction Road in Ebonyi/Cross Rivers States.
• Reconstruction of Ikom-Mfum (Boader town with Cameroon) in Cross Rivers State.
• Periodic maintenance of Jebba-Lafiaji Road in Niger State.
• Periodic maintenance of Takai-Albasu-Gaya Road in Kano State.
• Periodic maintenance of Nafada-Gombe Abba Road in Gombe State.
• Periodic maintenance of Hong-Mubi Road in Adamawa State.
• Periodic maintenance of Okpala-Igwurita Road in Imo State.
• Periodic maintenance of Ado-Illumoba-Agbado-Ikare Road Section A in Ekiti State.
• Periodic maintenance of Dingaya-Galambi-Rungo Road in Sokoto State.
• Periodic maintenance of Rumukurushi-Chokocho Road in Cross River State.
• Periodic maintenance of Akure-Owo Road in Ondo State.
• Periodic maintenance of Ado - Ilumoba - Agbado - Ikare Road Section B in Ekiti State.
Periodic maintenance of Kurfi-Chiranchi Road in Katsina State.
Periodic maintenance of Lafiagi-Mokwa Road in Niger State.
Periodic maintenance of East-West-Odi Road in Bayelsa.
Periodic maintenance of Lafia-Doma Road in Nasarawa state.

Projects Awarded in 2013

In line with the Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government and our strong determination to make Nigerian Roads better, safer and effectively support economic growth and national integration, the Federal Ministry of Works in 2013 awarded 32 No. road projects nationwide, including:

(1) Rehabilitation of Ilorin-Kabba-Obajana Road in Kogi & Kwara States.
(2) Dualization of Kano-Katsina Road Phase I: Kano Town at Dawanau Roundabout to Katsina State Border in Kano and Katsina States.
(3) Rehabilitation & Reconstruction of Enugu-Port Harcourt Dual Carriageway Section I: Lokpanta-Umuahia Tower in Abia State.
(4) Rehabilitation & Reconstruction of Enugu-Port Harcourt Dual Carriageway Section II: Umuahia Tower-Aba Township Rail/Road Bridge Crossing in Abia State.
(5) Rehabilitation of Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Section II, Phase II in Lagos State.
(6) Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Expansion Works on Lagos-Ibadan Dual Carriageway Section I (Lagos-Shagamu) in Lagos State.
(7) Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Expansion Works on Lagos-Ibadan Dual Carriageway Section II (Shagamu-Ibadan) in Ogun and Oyo States.
(8) Design & Construction of Adumagbae-Egba-Akure Road in Ondo State.
(9) Completion of Igboile-Okin Connector Road in Surulere LGA in Oyo State.
(10) Rehabilitation of Mokwa-Bida Road in Niger State.
(11) Rehabilitation of Akure-Ilesha Road in Akure and Osun States.
(13) Construction of Bida-Sacci-Nupeko-Pategi Road in Niger State.
(14) Rehabilitation of River Ebba Bridge at Cheche in Niger State.
(15) Rehabilitation of Ilorin-Jebba-Mokwa-Birnin Gwari-Kaduna Road in Niger State.
(16) Rehabilitation of Jarmai-Bashar Road in Plateau State.
(17) Rehabilitation of Mubi-Maiha-Sorao Road with Spur from Mubi-Bukula in Adamawa State.
(18) Rehabilitation of Yashi-Duguri-Digare-Yalo Road (Duguri-Yalo-Dogare Section) in Bauchi State.
(19) Rehabilitation of Tumu-Pindiga-Kashere (Gombe State) – Futuk-Yalo (Bauchi State) – Bashar-Dengi (Plateau State).
(20) Rehabilitation of Wukari-Akwana Road in Taraba State.
(21) Construction of Takum-Dogon Gawa Road (15km: Katsina Ala-Takum) in Taraba State.
(22) Construction of Kankara-Gurbi Road in Katsina State.
(23) Construction of Ihiala-Orlu Road in Isseke Town-Amafuo-Ulli with Spur (Ihiala-Orlu-Umuduru Section) in Anambra State.
(24) Construction of Ikemba Drive with Spur on Oba-Okigwe Road, through Permanent Site of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital in Anambra State.
(25) Rehabilitation of Amugo Uno-Oriemba market-Amugo Isiorji Onuani Road in Enugu State.
(26) Rehabilitation of Amanwaozuzu-Uzoagba-Eziama Orie Amaohia Road in Imo State.
(27) Reconstruction of Nung Udoe-Etinan-Ekom Iman Federal Highway in Akwa Ibom State.
(28) Construction of Overhead Pedestrian Bridge in Mosogar and Oghara in Ethiope West LGA, Delta State.
(29) Construction of Isoko Rind Road in Delta State.
(30) Rehabilitation of Abalamabe (Allison Hart) 65m Bridge in Bonny, Rivers State.
(31) Rehabilitation of Burnt Marina Bridge and Maintenance of Eko (Akpongbon) and Iddo Bridges in Lagos State, and
(32) Construction of Access Road to Federal Facilities at Antorun-Temidire in Ogbomosho, Oyo State.

On-Going Arterial Road Projects

The Ministry is currently executing 184 No. contracts across the Country, majority of which were inherited by this Administration. We have made progress with the rehabilitation, construction and expansion of key arterial projects, including but not limited to the following:

- Dualization of Abuja-Lokoja–Benin Road in FCT, Kogi & Edo States.
- Dualization of Kano-Maiduguri Road in Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe & Borno States.
- Dualization of Suleja-Minna Road in Niger State.
- Reconstruction of Onitsha-Enugu-Port Harcourt Highway in Anambra, Enugu, Abia & Rivers States.
- Reconstruction of Benin-Ore-Shagamu Expressway in Edo, Ondo & Ogun States.
- Reconstruction of Lagos-Shagamu-Ibadan Expressway in Lagos, Ogun & Oyo States.
- Construction of Loko-Oweto Bridge over River Benue in Nasarawa & Benue States.
• Construction of the 2nd Niger Bridge in Onitsha/Asaba in Anambra & Delta States.
• Reconstruction of Mokwa-Bida Road in Niger State.
• Reconstruction of Akure-Ilesha Road in Ondo/Osun State.
• Reconstruction of Vandeikya-Obudu Road in Benue & Cross Rivers States, among others.

Road Sector Reforms

The Federal Ministry of Works recorded some progress in its efforts to reform the road sector. I am glad to inform you that the two Road Sector Reform Bills (i.e. the Federal Road Authority and the National Road Fund) have been presented to the Federal Executive Council and are being reviewed by a Cabinet Committee of Council. I am certain that the draft bills will soon be approved and transmitted to the National Assembly for further consideration and enactment into Law. When this happens (and I know it will), the road sector in Nigeria would have been put on the path of sustainable growth.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects

The President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, personally flagged-off the 2nd Niger Bridge linking Onitsha/Asaba in Anambra and Delta States, during the period under review, and early works have commenced at the site of the second Niger bridge where the EPC Contractor, Messrs Julius Berger Nig. PLC has substantially mobilised and has in fact commenced the early work phase of the project.

On the Apakun/Oshodi-Murtala Mohammed International Airport Road in Lagos, the ministry is currently at the detailed project development stage in the planned expansion of the Road to an 8-lanes Expressway with Flyovers and Pedestrian Bridges to ensure a befitting gateway to our Country’s foremost commercial city. Early works on this project is expected to commence soon.

Road Asset Management System (RAMS)

In view of the challenges faced in the management of our roads due to road abuse, the Ministry is in the process of establishing a Road Asset Management System (RAMS) with assistance from the World Bank. When in place, it would be a Decision Support System that will create a database on the Federal Highway such as traffic, axle loading, road conditions, right of way, etc and enable the Ministry to plan, budget and prioritize its
projects scientifically, leading to improved performance, monitoring and value for money at all times.

Road Abuse

Ladies and Gentlemen, with the enormous resources the Federal Government is putting into the development of roads across the country, it is pertinent to draw your attention to some of the social challenges we have had to contend with since assumption of duty in the road sector. Axle load of trucks beyond acceptable tonnage on our highways, indiscriminate cutting across the highways, burning of tyres on the roads, erection of bumps on our roads, destruction of our road furniture, encroachment on our right of ways, etc are issues that attract sanction by Government. We enjoin all Nigerians to desist from all forms of road abuse. The ministry is in the process of rolling out a Right of Way management and enforcement template that will guarantee the longevity of federal roads nationwide.

Road Maintenance

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) is directly responsible for the maintenance of the federal road network. With its Mobile Pothole Patchers, Cold Asphalt Production Plant in Kuje, Lagos and Katsina, as well as other modern equipment, FERMA now has the capacity for prompt and regular intervention on federal roads.

In 2013, a total of 14,800km and 67 No. bridges of different lengths were maintained. Some of the notable corridors maintained by the Agency include but not limited to the following:

- Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road
- Jos-Bauchi Road
- Asaba-Benin Road
- Okene-Auchi-Benin Road
- Sapele-Agbor-Uromi Road
- Mbiama-Yenagoa Road
- Lafia-Makurdi Road
- Katsina-Dutsinma-Kankara Road
- Okene-Kabba-Omuo-Ekiti Road
- Gusai-Talata Mafara-Sokoto Road
- 9th Mile-Obollo Afor-Otukpa Road, etc.
In addition, all the 7,179 Youths that were mobilized, trained and engaged by FERMA for road maintenance under the SURE-P, were retained in the year under review for aggressive maintenance of federal roads across the country.

Conclusion

Distinguished stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, is on an irreversible mission to ensure that Nigerian roads are not only better and safer, but also comparable to roads in the developed parts of the world, as to promote the happiness of the greater number of our citizens, who rely on federal roads for social and economic engagements. As we progress with the transformation of the road sector, I call for the understanding and co-operation of all Nigerians to support the sincere desire of the President Jonathan’s Administration to bequeath better and safer roads to Nigerians, not only to serve as a veritable tool for economic empowerment, but also a tool for enhanced national integration.

I thank you for your attention.

Arc. Mike Onolememen, fnia; fnim; fnse
Honourable Minister of Works
Federal Republic of Nigeria

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