

**OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL OF THE
FEDERATION, ABUJA**

**Being an Opening Remarks by the Accountant-General
of the Federation, Alhaji Ahmed Idris, FCNA at the
Stakeholders' Retreat on 'The Harmonisation of Public
Finance Management (PFM) Reforms into Legal
Framework' held on Thursday, 19th April, 2018 at
Chelsea Hotel, Abuja**

Protocol:

I wish to welcome all of you to this one-day retreat which is organised to finalise action on a draft Bill on the Harmonisation of Public Finance Management (PFM) Reforms into a legal framework. It is imperative to note that society is dynamic and changes are bound to occur in the course of our daily living. It is for this reason that we all gathered here to perform one of the key responsibilities of the Treasury in PFM, which is to ensure an effective management of public funds.

2. Since my assumption of office, I noticed that the Office has undertaken series of PFM Reforms initiatives. These include, Treasury Single Account (TSA), International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS), Government Integrated Financial

Management Information System (GIFMIS) to mention but a few. The reforms have received accolades by all Stakeholders.

3. Some of the visible benefits of the reforms include budgetary savings on salaries payment through the introduction of IPPIS, a unified Budgetary and Reporting System for all the Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) through the use of uniform Chart of Accounts and reporting format. Further benefits are, ensuring electronic revenue collection, accounting and reporting to mitigate fraud, effective expenditure control through GIFMIS, among others. These have further assisted the Treasury in efficient and effective reporting to the relevant stakeholders including National Assembly and general public.

4. Though the reforms are yielding very positive outcomes as stated above, there is no legal backing to institutionalise them. The present law governing the PFM was enacted 60 years' ago that is the Finance (Control and Management) Act 1958 and the current PFM were not envisaged in that Act. Also, the current

Financial Regulations (FR) was last revised in 2009 before the current reforms were undertaken by the Treasury. It is for this that I intend to institutionalise the reforms which will be firmly predicated on legality. If this is not done, another Government may come and discard away all the reforms.

5. Considering that you are relevant Stakeholders in PFM, that is, the pool of Directors in the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and the Professional bodies that guide the Accounting Profession in Nigeria, we thus invite you to support and make inputs on the Bill to ensure that it is robust and far reaching in content and quality.

6. At the end of this opening ceremony, you would be divided into syndicate groups for meaningful discussions to enable you to come up with positive contributions and outcomes.

7. In the light of this, I wish to declare this Retreat open and wish you fruitful deliberations in actualising our vision to have a law for public finance management in Nigeria. Thank you.

Alhaji Ahmed Idris, *FCNA*

Accountant-General of the Federation