



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
PROF. O.O. ADEWOYE DURING THE FAMILIARIZATION VISIT BY THE
HONOURBLE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MRS GRACE
EKPIWHRE TO NATIONAL AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
INFRASTRUCTURE ON THURSDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 2007**

The Honourable Minister, Mrs Grace Ekpiwhre, JP, mni
Directors in the Ministry
NASENI Directors and Management Team
Members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm
All NASENI Staff
Ladies and Gentlemen

1.0 It is with a deep sense of honour and privilege that I welcome you and your entourage to this Agency today. Let me start by congratulating you on your recent appointment as the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology. The appointment, no doubt, symbolizes a demonstration of the confidence reposed in a distinguished technocrat like you by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua (GCFR). It is indeed a well deserved appointment. We consider your visit to the Agency as auspicious barely few weeks after your assumption of office. To us as a family, it is a signal of many good and wonderful things to come. I personally feel proud about your visit and on behalf of management and entire staff of National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, I wish to welcome you once again to our midst. In particular, we wish you a very successful and result-oriented tenure in office.

It is evident that the worldly acclaimed international “currency” is knowledge and the highest value of that currency is science, engineering and technology. Its application would determine who would rules the world.

While welcoming you to the system, the Agency wishes to assure you of its unconditional and unflinching cooperation to ensure that you succeed in this honorius task and endeavor. As a parastatal under the ministry, we shall deploy all available

resources within our limit to ensure not only your successful tenure but also to a better future for our nation within the shortest period of time.

2.0 Honourable Minister, this Agency was established by Decree No. 33 of 1992 as a first stop government institution for technology development in Nigeria. Suffice to say that the mandate of NASENI was primarily to fast-track home-initiated and home-grown industrialization achievable through local machine design and machine building capabilities, resulting in general provision of such capital goods and equipment which encourage the proliferation of viable small and medium enterprises. We are to empower small and medium scale industries, through impartation of technologies, engineering principles and practices for the production of equipment that will meet international standards as well as flourish local capital goods industry. Under the Decree, NASENI was to operate as a corporate entity outside the Civil Service with the President and Commander-in-Chief as Chairman of the Governing Board of the Agency. NASENI enjoyed this extra-ministerial status until 1996 when the supervision of the Agency was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology following the report of the Ayida Panel that looked into the rationalization of Agencies and Extra-Ministerial Departments under the Presidency. Accordingly, we have complied with the **statutory policy supervisory** role of the Ministry and have always taken policy directives from it, knowing fully well that the statutory functions of the Ministry are distinct from the mandate implementation and corporate objectives of NASENI as a parastatal enjoined to run a corporate management structure by law. I want to assure you that the congenial atmosphere of cooperation and synergy that exist between the Ministry and NASENI will continue under your leadership.

3.0 In executing its mandate, NASENI has, since its coming into existence, successfully established or acquired seven Development Institutes in the various fields of Science and Engineering. The names and mandates of each of the Institutes is contained in the PowerPoint presentation.

4.0 Honourable Minister, you will be fully acquainted with the programmes and activities of these Centres in a PowerPoint presentation that has been packaged for your visit. Suffice to say that NASENI has become a household name in Nigeria. There has been a noticeable paradigm shift in the Agency with emphasis on Advanced

Manufacturing Technology and Reverse Engineering which have become the bedrock of sustainable industrial and technological growth and development all over the world today.

5.0 We have diligently and painstakingly undertook the reform of the Agency in line with extant guidelines and approval by your immediate predecessor in office. The staffing and manning level has been transformed and repositioned from a hitherto moribund, ineffective and inefficient structure into a knowledge-based and responsive workforce of professional and highly trained workforce. The Agency has also been irrevocably committed to staff welfare programmes carefully designed to boost staff morale and improve productivity in the work place within extant rule and regulation.

6.0 I will not end this address without touching on the Agency Headquarters Building where we are today. The Agency inherited the building from the FCDA being its abandoned Central Soils Testing Laboratory. At the time of the handover of the building in 1994, it was invested with all kinds of reptiles and rodents. After an initial savaging action, the Agency moved into the building in January 1998 following its relocation from Lagos to Abuja. By careful management of resources and proper planning following my assumption of office in July 2003, we have been able to bring the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the building to the stage which you see today. I am happy to confirm that we have succeeded in bringing the building to a standard that readily provide a most conducive atmosphere for staff and public alike.

7.0 Honourable Minister, an alumnus of the prestigious National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, thank you for your rapt attention as I wish to take some more of your time to listen to the PowerPoint presentation which details our achievements and interventions in major sectors of our national growth. All of this touches on all areas of NEEDS, MDG and the 7-Point agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Thank you and God bless.