

**THE INAUGURATION OF THE PANEL FOR THE ASSESSMENT
OF UNCOMPLETED PROJECTS, SUPPLIES AND SERVICES**

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**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, GCFR
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE PANEL FOR THE ASSESSMENT
OF UNCOMPLETED PROJECTS, SUPPLIES AND SERVICES
ON MONDAY, 21ST JUNE, 1999 AT THE STATE HOUSE, ABUJA
AT 11.00 A.M**

Your Excellency, the Vice-President of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria,

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation,

Chairman and Members of the Panel,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my inaugural address to the nation, I stressed the determination of this Administration to ascertain the true state of things particularly our finances and the economy. I also promised to concentrate on issues that can bring urgent relief to our people. I believe it is timely for us to now turn our attention to critical economic issues affecting our polity, including the assessment of uncompleted projects, supplies and services. Initially this exercise is meant to cover from the period January 1984 to December 1998. That period delineates the end of the democratic government and the beginning of military rule. This has been misconstrued as probing the past governments or the past government leaders. This is far from the objective. It is to give us first and foremost an inventory of uncompleted projects, supplies and services no matter when commenced. And now to allay fears as to the objective of the exercise, we have extended the period to cover from January 1976 to December 1998. If then it is to probe past governments or government leaders, then I am being probed and my previous government is being probed by the panel.

We need to know where exactly we are to be able to know how to move forward. To this end, government has decided to set up a Panel made up of men and women of proven integrity and record of good performance like your good selves to handle this rather onerous, sensitive and important assignment.

Members of the Panel include :

(a)	Alhaji Iguda Inua	..	..	..	..	Chairman
(b)	Arch. A. Anyansi	..	..	..	..	Member
(c)	Alhaji Abba Bashir	..	..	..	..	Member
(d)	AIG S. A. Daura (rtđ)	..	..	..	..	Member
(e)	Engr Jerry Ovuewhorie	..	..	..	..	Member
(f)	Engr Adamu Ibrahim	..	..	..	..	Member
(g)	Alhaji Isa Tahir	..	..	..	..	Member
(h)	Arch. Ahmed Dasuki	..	..	..	..	Member
(i)	Mr Wole Banjo	..	..	..	..	Member
(j)	Alhaji Mohammed Salihu Aremu	..	..	..	..	Member
(k)	Ms Tina Iyoha	..	..	..	..	Member
(l)	Mrs Eniola Alakija Sagoe	..	..	..	..	Member

The terms of reference are as follows :

(a) To take inventory of all uncompleted projects, supplies and services for which contracts were awarded by the Federal Ministries, Departments and Parastatals between 1st January, 1976 and 31st December, 1998.

(b) Examine all records and documents relating to the uncompleted projects, supplies and services having due regard to established procedure and guidelines for the award of such contracts.

(c) Assess in each case the level of work executed, the amount of money paid to the contractors by the client up to the time the work stopped and determine whether the actual work executed was commensurate with the amount of money paid out at that time taking into account the time of award and the stage of completion of the contract.

(d) Examine the reasons given, if any, why the projects, supplies and services were not executed in accordance with the terms of the Contract Agreement between the client and the contractors at the time of the award.

(e) Consider and make appropriate recommendations regarding any action that might have been taken by the client Ministry, Department or Parastatal as a result of the contractor's inability to complete the work or render such other services as may have been required.

(f) Determine the projects that are not viable.

(g) Make appropriate recommendations in order of priority, which of the uncompleted projects, supplies and services should be completely finished and work out the estimated total cost to complete each of the recommended projects, supplies and services.

(h) Recommend to Government any other measure(s) that may be taken to prevent the recurrence of such lapses in the future.

In carrying out your assignment, I wish to assure you that government would place all necessary facilities and assistance at your disposal to enable you complete your task within a period of nine calendar months. There is no doubt in my mind that, in the course of this sensitive assignment, you may come across some difficulties and unforeseen bottlenecks which I trust that your experience and determination will see you through.

I wish to remind you that, abandoned and uncompleted projects, supplies and services which are common features in the country in part arise as a result of the abuse of the open competitive tendering system. Instead of adhering to existing rules, most Ministries/Extra-Ministerial Departments deviated from lay-down procedures leading to corruption and abandonment and uncompletion of the projects. Your assignment will be expected to be accomplished with thoroughness so as to form the foundation on which a solid economy can be rebuilt.

Finally, let me congratulate you on your appointment and wish you success in your assignment.

I have the honour to inaugurate the Panel for the Assessment of Uncompleted Projects, Supplies and Services.

Thank you and God bless.

