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**NEC MEMO NO**  
**( ) September 2023**

**COPY NO:....,**

**NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

**MEMORANDUM FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON**  
**THE OUTCOME OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON**  
**NUTRITION AND DECISIONS ON STATE OF NUTRITION TO ADDRESS THE**  
**EMERGENCY ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

By the Honourable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning

The purpose of this Memorandum is to update the National Economic Council on the outcome/resolution during the inauguration of the National Council on Nutrition by H.E Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, held at the Vice President's Conference Room on 5th September 2023.

2.0 The Objectives and Responsibilities of the National Council on Nutrition and Membership of the National Council on Nutrition are as follows:

**A. The National Council on Nutrition is tasked with the responsibilities to:**

- i. Identify, analyse, and ascertain the problem of nutrition in Nigeria.
- ii. Identify the efforts already in place for tackling child malnutrition in Nigeria.
- iii. Review strategies and their impacts on households, communities, local governments, states, national, and international levels as regards nutrition.
- iv. Assess further action to be employed in dealing with malnutrition based on regular reviews of monitoring and evaluation reports and periodic surveys.
- v. Coordinate and harmonize efforts, strategies, and programmes of nutrition.
- vi. Ensure adequate resource mobilization and allocation to address nutrition issues.

**B. Membership of the National Council on Nutrition:**

- i. The Vice President, Chairman
- ii. Hon. Minister for Budget and Economic Planning
- iii. Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food Security
- iv. Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare
- v. Hon. Minister of Education

- vi. Hon. Minister of Information and National Orientation
- vii. Hon. Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy
- viii. Hon. Minister for Women Affairs
- ix. Hon. Minister of Finance & Coordinating Minister of the Economy
- x. Hon. Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology
- xi. Hon. Minister of Water Resources & Sanitation
- xii. Hon. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
- xiii. Hon. Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment
- xiv. Director General National Institute of Medical Research
- xv. Executive Director National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)
- xvi. Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning - Secretariat
- xvii. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning - Secretary to the Council
- xviii. President, Paediatric Association of Nigeria
- xix. National Institute of Food Science and Technology
- xx. Director General National Agency for Food Drug Administration & Control (NAFDAC)
- xxi. Chair Board of Trustee, Nutrition Society of Nigeria
- xxii. President, Nutrition Society of Nigeria
- xxiii. Country Representative, UNICEF
- xxiv. Country Representative, WHO - Representing UN Agencies in Health
- xxv. Country Representative, FAO
- xxvi. Country Director, World Bank - Representing UN Agencies in Food and Agriculture
- xxvii. CEO, Aliko Dangote Foundation - Representing Multilateral Development Banks
- xxviii. Mission Director, USAID - Representing Philanthropic Foundations
- xxix. Country Representative, Civil Society-Scaling Up Nutrition Nigeria (CS-SUNN) - Representing Bilateral Donors
- xxx. Sahel Consulting - Representing Civil Society
- xxxi. Chairman, Governors Forum - Representing Private Sector
- xxxii. Nigerian Member of Council of Federation of African Nutrition Societies

3.0 The inauguration of the Council was followed by a presentation by the Nutrition Division of the Social Development Department in the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning on the state of nutrition in Nigeria. The presentation elicited concerns about the need to prioritize nutrition at both national and sub-national levels of Government and to implement the Presidential directive on the creation of a Nutrition department in key Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDA). *Attached are copies of the presentation and Presidential directive.*

4.0 The Vice President enjoined the National Council on Nutrition to see nutrition as an abysmal situation in the country. To this end, the Vice President volunteered to lead the advocacy of the Council on awareness creation and sensitization campaign to States beginning with the North-East Governor's forum in Maiduguri on Friday and Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup>



and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023, and later pay a courtesy visit to Sokoto and Kebbi States on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

5.0 Council is invited to kindly note the Observations and Recommendations on the State of Nutrition in Nigeria Council as follows:

- i. There is a high level of malnutrition in the country with variation among regions and within regions (stunting, wasting, anemia in pregnant women and children), leading to high rates of mortality in children under five years of age, and limited progress on human capital accumulation arising from child stunting and deaths. The Malnutrition Crisis needs to be declared a national emergency;
- ii. Nutrition is chronically underfunded among all relevant MDAs at the national and subnational levels of government and urgently needs prioritization in line with State-Specific multi-sectoral plans and commensurate to the magnitude of the challenge in the 2024 budgets across all tiers of government in Nigeria;
- iii. Budgetary allocations need to be backed by releases, especially at the subnational level; and
- iv. Commitment to the implementation of the Food System Transformation Pathways.

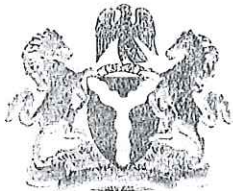
## **6.0 PRAYERS**

The National Economic Council is hereby invited to consider and approve:

- i. Creation of a budget line for nutrition in relevant MDAs and possibly increase budgetary allocation in the 2024 Appropriation by both the Federal and State Governments;
- ii. Increased support for the implementation of the priority actions/recommendations in the Food System Transformation pathways at the State level; and
- iii. The strengthening, buy-in, and engagement of the Sub-Nationals by amending the membership of the National Council on Nutrition to include one Governor from each geopolitical zone, rather than only the Chairman, Nigerian Governors Forum.

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**Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning**  
**September, 2023**



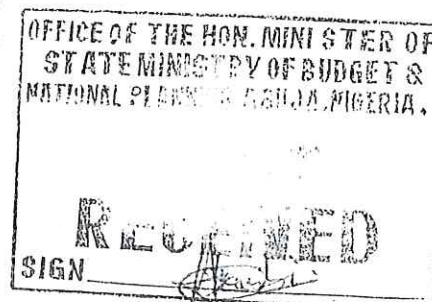
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Reference:

31 March 2022

**Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan**

Head of the Civil Service of the Federation  
Office of the Head of Service of the Federation  
Federal Secretariat, Phase II  
Shehu Shagari Way  
Abuja



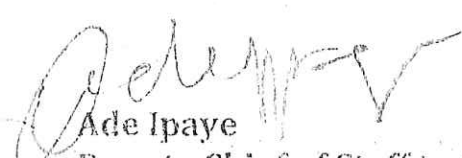
**RE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUTRITION DEPARTMENTS AND CREATION OF BUDGET LINE FOR NUTRITION IN ALL LINE MINISTRIES**


Reference:

A. Conveyance letter No: PRES/143/VP/102 dated 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2022

I am directed by the His Excellency, the Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, to forward to you the attached (Reference A) on the above-stated subject for your necessary action.

2. I am to also inform you that the Technical Advisory Group of the National Council on Nutrition is set to collaborate with the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation in developing the operational structure as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework to guide the establishment of the departments.
3. Please accept the assurances of His Excellency, the Vice Presidents' best regards.

  
Ade Ipaye  
Deputy Chief of Staff to the President  
Office of the Vice-President

  
DD(FAM)  
DLSI SPARK  
D(CD)  
F/H/22

Enclosure

Copy of reference A

Copy:

- i. Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF)
- ii. Honorable Minister of Finance Budget and National Planning
- iii. Honorable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning ✓

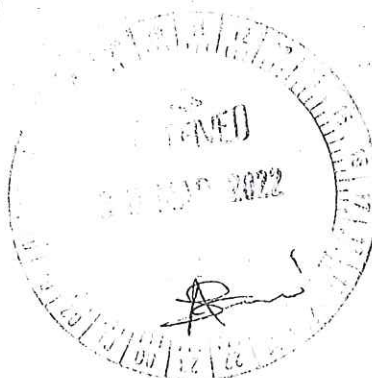


STATE HOUSE,  
ABUJA,  
NIGERIA

Reference: PRES/143/VP/102

March 29, 2022

His Excellency,  
The Vice President,  
Presidential Villa,  
State House,  
Abuja



*Your Excellency,*

**RE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUTRITION DEPARTMENTS AND CREATION OF BUDGET  
LINE FOR NUTRITION IN ALL LINE MINISTRIES**

**Reference:**

A Memo SH/VP/PRES/NGN/2021/2 dated 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

I am directed to forward Reference A to Your Excellency and to convey to you Mr. President's approval of your para. 7(a - b) on page 3.

2. Submitted for your further action, Sir.

  
**Prof. Ibrahim A. Gambari**  
Chief of Staff to the President

**Enclosure:**

- Copy of Reference A

**Copy to:**

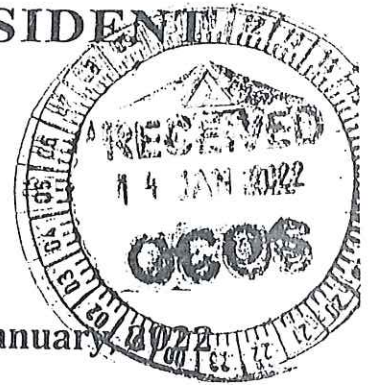
- COS - President





STATE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM



SH/VP/PRES/NCN/2021/2/

12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

Mr. President,

**RE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUTRITION DEPARTMENTS AND CREATION OF BUDGET LINE FOR NUTRITION IN ALL LINE MINISTRIES**

Your Excellency may recall that for decades, the nutritional status of Nigerians, especially child and maternal nutritional well-being, has been a major problem of public health significance. The consequences of poor nutrition include compromised health, poor learning capacity, as well as diminished mental and physical capacity, all of which impair human capital development and slow down economic progress.

2. This administration has over the years, employed several measures to address the issue of malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty through the creation of a conducive policy environment with clear strategies, focused actions and resources for implementation of nutrition actions. In furtherance of this objective, the National Council on Nutrition (NCN) was inaugurated in line with the National Policy on Food and Nutrition. The Council is the highest decision making body on food and nutrition for effective coordination and advancement of all efforts geared towards ensuring food and nutrition security for all Nigerians.

3. In December 2020, the NCN adopted the 5-year National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action on Nutrition (NMPFAN) to guide the implementation of interventions and programmes in addressing the problems of hunger and malnutrition across all sectors in Nigeria.



4. Your Excellency may wish to note that activities carried out by NCN to date include coordination and harmonization of strategies, programmes and activities on nutrition as well as ensuring adequate resource mobilization and allocation to address nutrition issues.
5. To support the implementation of this plan, the ad-hoc Technical Advisory Group of the NCN has recently recommended as follows:
  - a. A budget line for nutrition and a desk office, preferably a department for nutrition, in all the line MDAs. Consequently the NCN is proposing the creation of Nutrition Departments within each of the following ministries saddled with the responsibility of implementing Nutrition actions in the country:
    - i. Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning
    - ii. Federal Ministry of Health
    - iii. Federal Ministry of Agriculture
    - iv. Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
    - v. Federal Ministry of Water Resources
    - vi. Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
    - vii. Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment
    - viii. Federal Ministry of Information and Culture
    - xi. Federal Ministry of Education
  - b. That NCN should ensure that the 5 year National Multi-sectoral Plan of Action on Food and Nutrition aligns with all the national plans, which include the Economic Sustainability Plan, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF/FSP) 2020-2023, the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2021-2025 and the National Agenda 2050. This is to ensure the integration of nutrition into the public investment programmes.
6. In addition, to sustain the nutrition actions being implemented across the country, the Council is ready to partner with key stakeholders in defining the operational structure for the department alongside a Monitoring and





Evaluation framework. This will help the Ministries to monitor and provide feedback for the nutrition actions in the country.

7. Consequently, on behalf of the Nutrition Council of Nigeria, I seek your Excellency's kind approval for

- a) the creation of Nutrition Departments in all line ministries as indicated in paragraph 6 above; and
- b.) the creation of a budget line for nutrition activities in the National Multisectoral Plan of action for Food and Nutrition.

8. Submitted for your Excellency's kind consideration and approval, please.

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN

*Yemi Osinbajo*  
**RESTRICTED**

*V.P.*

*para 7 sub-para a and b*

*approved Buhari.*

*29-03-22.*