

**ADDRESS OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
POWER AND STEEL AT THE WORKSHOP ON
ELECTRICITY UTILITY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC
INVESTMENT HOLDING IN ABUJA 1st –5th
DECEMBER. 2003**

Observe Protocol!

USAID;

IIE;

Ministry of Power & Steel;

Official of BPE;

Utilities Charges Commission;

Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC);

Ministry of Economic Planning;

The Bureau of Public Enterprises;

Workshop Participants;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be invited to open this Workshop jointly organized by USAID/IIE for capacity building for the emerging power sector.

This Workshop couldn't have come at a more auspicious time than now when the Federal Government of Nigeria is poised to reform the Power Sector.

The reform programme of Government is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To liberalize the Power Sector.
2. To Unbundle NEPA into Strategic Business Units for efficiency in preparation for privatization.
3. To attract Investors into the Power Sector.
4. To facilitate the Economic Development of the Nation.

I will expect that participants will benefit immensely from this workshop which Agenda I have perused and found very appropriate.

Let me use this opportunity to thank USAID for the various support they are rendering the Power Sector amongst others. This is not to say that we will not come back for further support.

I also thank IIE, for I have been informed that this particular workshop was at the instance of NEPA, having benefited from your previous programme.

In line with my assignment, I hereby declare this Workshop open. I wish you all fruitful deliberations.