



Federal Ministry of Justice

SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION TASKS MEMBERS OF STAFF ON CONTINUED OBSERVANCE OF COVID-19 PROTOCOL

The Solicitor General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary of Federal Ministry of Justice, **Dayo Apata SAN**, has urged staff of the Ministry to continue to observe all measures put in place by the Federal Government Committee on Covid-19 and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control aimed at combating the pandemic, noting that the world is still awaiting an effective and safe vaccine to mitigate the spread of the virus.



In the middle, Representative of the Solicitor General of the Federation/ Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Justice, Mr Gajo Baide, to his right, National President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants, Comrade Bola Audu, Comrade Kingsley Moneke, Chairman, Association of Senior Civil Servants, Justice Chapter, Dr Akinola Dele, Director/Head, Occupational Health and Safety, Federal Ministry of Health and Mrs Modupe Ogundoro, Deputy Director, Press Unit of the Ministry at the Seminar /End of the Year Get-Together organised by the Federal Ministry of Justice Chapter of the Association of Senior Civil Servants held on Thursday 10th December, 2020 at Olusegun Obasanjo Hall, Federal Ministry of Justice.

Mr Apata, who was the Chief Host and Father of the Day made this assertion at a One Day Seminar and End of the Year Get-Together organised by the Federal Ministry of Justice Chapter of the Association

of Senior Civil Servants held on Thursday 10th December, 2020 at Olusegun Obasanjo Hall, Federal Ministry of Justice. He was represented by the Assistant Director, Staff Welfare of the Ministry, Mr Gajo Baide. According to Mr Baide, the Solicitor General was unavoidably absent due to other official engagements. “Just as we observe Covid-19 Protocol in our homes, markets and other public places, we cannot let down our guard in the office or take anything for granted. The theme of this one day seminar which is *Fundamentals of Occupational Health and Safety, a Case Study of Covid 19* is timely and appropriate. Hence, I expect everyone to listen carefully, ask questions and ensure to make use of lessons learnt from the lecture”. Mr Apata advised.



In the middle, Representative of the Solicitor General of the Federation/ Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Justice, Mr. Gajo Baide, to his right, National President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants, Comrade Bola Audu, Association National Treasurer, Comrade Rahab .A. Maigari, Justice Chapter Chairman, Comrade Kingsley Moneke, Mrs. Modupe Ogundoro, Deputy Director, Press Unit of the Ministry and Ex-Co Members of the Association

In his opening address, the Chairman of the Association of Senior Civil Servants, Federal Ministry of Justice Chapter, **Comrade Kingsley Moneke** encouraged members of staff to ensure their full and unhindered participation at the event which he reminded them was the 3rd in its series. The resource person, Dr Akinola Dele .O who is the Head

of Occupational Health and Safety, Federal Ministry of Health, revealed that the World Health Organization (WHO) encapsulates human health under four areas namely “Physical, mental, social and spiritual health. In addition to the Physical Health measures which many organizations have done creditably well, Employers of labour should pay more attention to the social health of their workers considering the high level of stress which many workers are experiencing”.

He posited that “since the work place presents a set up that typically make individuals prone to Covid-19, employers should promote and maintain the highest degree of physical, mental and social wellbeing of all categories of workers. One of the ways to ensure this is to ensure that occupational environment is adapted to physiological and psychological ability of workers”. Dr Akinola urged employers of labour and workers alike to continue to observe Covid-19 Protocol in order to control the spread of the virus. He highlighted them to include: avoid hand shaking, maintain social distancing, regular washing of hands with water or alcohol based hand sanitizer, avoid touching the face, nose, mouth or eyes, avoid touching hard surfaces and seek medical advice when feeling unwell.

Meanwhile, the National President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants, Comrade Bola Audu who was the Guest of Honour at the event poured encomiums on the Unit Chairman of the Association, Comrade Kingsley Moneke for sustaining the Annual Seminar and End of the Year Get Together. To this background, he encouraged members of the Chapter to reward Moneke’s selfless service, steadfastness and commitment to the ideals of the union by supporting him to become national officer of the Association.

Comrade Audu assured members that the Association of Senior Civil Servants under his leadership is prepared to engage government on issues that are fundamental to the welfare of workers. The National Chairman enumerated issues which need urgent attention and action to include; re-introduction of Gratuity in the Civil Service, Harmonization of Salary Structure and Eight Year Tenure for Directors among other sundry issues. According to him, “we plan to bring back our gratuity. We have already made our initial submissions to Office of the Head of Civil

Service of the Federation. This submission is part of an Executive Bill to amend the 2014 Pension Act being coordinated by the Head of Civil Service of the Federation”.

Speaking on the Eight Year Tenure for Directors, he noted that “President Umaru Musa Yar’adua introduced the Eight Year Tenure for Directors which helped eased out the congestion at the Peak of the Civil Service Pyramid. But in 2015, the present administration decided to suspend it. We will be engaging government to revisit the policy”, he assured. A minute silence was observed for late members of the association.