

# FG approves N470.5bn for 17 roads, bridges

Olalekan Adetayo, Abuja

THE Federal Executive Council on Wednesday approved different contracts for the construction and rehabilitation of 17 roads and bridges across the country to the tune of N470bn.

The Supervising Minister of Information, Dr. Nurudeen Muhammed; the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Bala Muhammed; the Minister of Works, Mike Onolememen;

and the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Stephen Oru, briefed State House correspondents at the end of the meeting presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Muhammed said there were budgetary provisions of N11bn in the ministry's 2014 appropriation and N10bn from SURE-P for the projects, while the balance would be provided for in subsequent budgets.

He said, "Council noted with delight that this is a major

push in consolidating and implementing the National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan in the road sector.

"It further observed that the projects will have salutary effect on the economic and social life of Nigerians along these corridors across 14 states.

"Accordingly, council approved the award of contract for the construction and rehabilitation of 17 roads and bridges (Categories A and B) in the 1st batch of roads and

bridges projects contained in the ministry's 2014 budget implementation in the total sum of N430.56bn."

Answering a question on why the government would be awarding such huge amount of contracts at a time there was drop in oil price, the minister said the nation was not broke.

He said, "In terms of falling oil prices like you said, that is a global phenomenon and Nigeria is not broke, despite the fact that oil prices are falling we have not reached a stage that Nigeria cannot continue to fund infrastructure project in our country.

"Infrastructure projects themselves help to catalyse economic growth because people must be busy, there are Nigerians who would be engaged to do these jobs and all that."

Breakdown of the project costs and the benefitting states are as follows: Rivers (N120.6bn); Bayelsa (N26.4bn); Delta (N64.8bn); Delta (N47.9bn); Enugu (N32.3bn); Abia and River (N34bn) and Ogun (N100bn).

Others are Niger (N17.5bn); Bridge in Cross River (N6.5bn); Yobe and Borno (N8.1bn); Kaduna and Zamfara (N15.6bn); Nasarawa (N14.2bn); Benue (N9.9bn); Kogi (N7.4bn); Gombe (N7.2bn); Cross River (N7bn) and Cross River (N9bn).

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