

**SECRET**

**JUNE, 2018**

**NCH/61/003S**

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON “THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON FOOD SAFETY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY”**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the council on the level of implementation of the National Policy on Food Safety & Its implementation Strategy (NPFSIS) that was adopted for implementation at all levels during the 58th National Council on Health (NCH) as well as to seek further approval for the creation of a State Food Safety Management Committee championed by the State Ministries of Health.

**2. BACKGROUND**

In 2015, WHO estimated that food borne related diseases affect one of ten persons especially in children less than 5 years old. In recent years, preventable foodborne disease outbreaks such as Lassa Fever, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Methanol Poisoning have plagued different States with varied impact levels. These diseases are generally the consequence of poor Food Safety culture and poor hygiene practices in the country.

This necessitated the need to have a Food Safety policy that will address the disjointed, chaotic and inefficient Food Safety governance in the country. The NPFSIS was therefore developed to modernise the food safety governance system to be more inclusive, effective, efficient and coordinated. One of the instruments established to ensure the proper implementation of the policy at all levels and across various stakeholders (public & private) was the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC).

The policy focused on building the capacity framework of both public and private sector for the overall aim of:

- Reducing the incidence of foodborne related diseases;
- Increasing acceptability of Nigerian foods in the international market, thereby, boosting the economy of the country;
- Ensuring consumer confidence in Nigerian foods.

**3. ISSUES**

Council in 2016 had approved the following:

- I. Adoption and implementation of the National Policy on Food Safety and its Implementation Strategy at all levels;
- II. Provision of adequate budgetary allocation for its operation;
- III. State Ministries of Health are to institutionalise Office of State Coordinator on Food Safety.
- IV. Provide a Desk Officer(s) at the State Ministry of Health to coordinate all the activities of food safety at the State level.

#### 4. PRAYERS

***Council is invited to note as follows:***

- I. That the Federal Ministry of Health is currently implementing the NPFSIS, and this require the urgent involvement of the states in escalating the overall national implementation towards attainment of desired goals and objectives at all levels.
- II. That the Federal Ministry of Health, through the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) has since 2016 been conducting awareness and sensitisation campaigns on Food Safety as well as the NPFSIS at geo-political zones across the country, and this has taken place in 13 States namely: **Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Kwara, Osun, Oyo and Rivers;**
- III. That efforts are being made to visit and/or communicate with other States yet to be visited;
- IV. That only few States have constituted or are in the process of constituting a State Food Safety Management Committee that will coordinate Food Safety activities across relevant MDAs in the State;
- V. That only few SMOH have a food safety desk as well as a State Coordinator on Food Safety.

***Council is further invited to approve:***

- I. That adequate budgetary provisions are made available by FMOH and every SMOH for Food Safety activities as required by the NPFSIS;
- II. That all State Ministries of Health take the lead in establishing a State Food Safety Management Committee by securing appropriate approvals;
- III. That all States should have a food safety desk to ensure proper implementation of the NPFS and its implementation Strategy at all levels.

**Honourable Minister of Health**

June, 2018