

Keynote Address Presented at the Occasion of the Official Launch of Grand Challenges Nigeria

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**Honourable Minister of Innovation, Science, and
Technology**

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Protocols.

It is a profound honour to welcome you all to the launch of the Grand Challenges Nigeria Project. This initiative, part of the global Grand Challenges network, is designed to foster local innovations to address critical issues in science, health, food systems, and development. It aligns closely with President Tinubu's 8-point agenda, reflecting our shared vision to harness innovation as a catalyst for Nigeria's sustainable growth.

In a rapidly evolving world, innovation is essential. Today's challenges—climate change, food security, health, and technology access—require bold, creative solutions. The Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology is dedicated to building a culture of innovation grounded in sustainability and inclusivity, positioning us on a transformative path aligned with the President's agenda.

Sustainable Development and Economic Growth

Sustainable development lies at the heart of our national priorities. For Nigeria to thrive, we must develop solutions that meet today's needs without compromising future generations. Our cultural diversity and resource richness provide a unique foundation for creating a sustainable, prosperous future. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Grand Challenges Nigeria Project will advance poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, driving progress toward our nation's goals.

Fostering Inclusive Prosperity

The Grand Challenges Nigeria Project will act as a collaborative platform, uniting government, academia, the private sector, and development partners. Working together, we will identify pressing issues and harness our brightest minds to create impactful solutions. No single entity has all the answers; by combining resources and expertise, we can implement multi-dimensional strategies with far-reaching benefits, contributing to President Tinubu's goals of inclusive prosperity and strengthened national development.

Empowering Talent and Human Capital Development

Nigeria is rich in intellectual talent, with universities and research institutions full of promise. It is our duty to foster an environment that nurtures this talent and encourages innovative thinking. The Grand Challenges Nigeria Project will provide researchers and innovators with opportunities for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and inspiration. Our innovators and inventors are the lifeblood of this initiative—visionaries who

challenge the status quo and turn ideas into reality. Through this project, the Ministry will empower them with access to funding, mentorship, and essential resources, promoting human capital development at all levels.

Innovation Beyond Technology

Innovation transcends technology; it encompasses new ways of thinking, collaboration models, and approaches to problem-solving. We will promote a culture that values experimentation, encouraging resilience by viewing setbacks as growth opportunities. Inclusive innovation is vital to ensure that every voice contributes to our national narrative. Women, youth, and marginalized groups must be at the forefront, providing perspectives that create effective, equitable solutions.

Supporting Education and Awareness

Encouraging innovation starts with education. By integrating entrepreneurship and critical thinking into curricula at all levels, we prepare our youth for future challenges. Public awareness campaigns will celebrate local innovations, inspiring the next generation of creators. The Grand Challenges Nigeria Project is committed to breaking down barriers to participation, ensuring all Nigerians have the chance to shape their future.

As we launch this initiative, I call upon all stakeholders to join us in this transformative endeavour. Let us commit to collaboration, nurture talent, and cultivate an innovative landscape that champions sustainable development and supports President Tinubu's agenda for a prosperous and resilient Nigeria.

While challenges lie ahead, I am confident that with determination and collective action, we can transform Nigeria into a beacon of innovation and a model for sustainable development. Let us seize this opportunity to ignite the spirit of innovation in every Nigerian, creating a legacy of progress for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitment, passion, and belief in the power of innovation. And may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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