

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NASRDA), DR. S. O. MOHAMMED, ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NASRDA; 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2009.**

**Distinguished Senators  
Honourable Members of the House of Representatives  
Secretary to the Government of the Federation  
Honourable Minister of Science and Technology and Chief Host  
Gentlemen of the Press  
Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the establishment of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA).

We are celebrating today because we have come a long way. NASRDA is one of the three agencies that were established from the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) and when it was established on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1999, we were operating from one room in the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, which in itself was a relatively young Ministry.

But a journey of twenty years, as the adage goes, starts with a step. We at NASRDA have a clear vision of our mandate. To achieve those targets as encapsulated in our roadmap, we have consciously embarked on a plan of action aimed at actualizing these targets. The attainment of the targets, such as producing an indigenous satellite or launching a rocket from Nigerian soil, apart from conferring national pride and prestige, are capable of taking the country to greater heights in terms of technological development of the country with its attendant socio-economic benefits. We can do it and we will do it. We have the will and so we will have the way.

We have repositioned ourselves to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of our country given the right mix of resources and talent that we have in this country. With the moral support and guide of our stakeholders, we shall put Nigeria in an enviable position as an active player in outer space.

Today's activities are aimed at briefly presenting to you the journey so far and our plans for the future, laying special emphasis on the benefit of space technology to Nigeria as a country and the generality of the people.

Once again, I warmly welcome you and thank you so much for your support and advice over the years.

Thank you.