



A WELCOME ADDRESS

DELIVERED

BY

**BOSS MUSTAPHA
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION**

AT THE

**INVESTITURE CEREMONY FOR THE CONFERNMENT OF NATIONAL
HONOURS ON HEROES OF DEMOCRACY AND THE
COMMMEMORATION OF JUNE 12 AS DEMOCRACY DAY**

HELD AT THE

**STATE HOUSE CONFERENCE CENTER,
ABUJA**

TUESDAY 12 JUNE, 2018

PROTOCOLS

I consider it a great privilege to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion and historic day in the life of our dear country, Nigeria. This is a particularly significant event as it marks Government's proclamation of June 12 as "Democracy Day" and its public acknowledgement of our heroes past whose supreme efforts laid the foundation for our nascent democracy.

2. Today marks a new dawn in the Nation's political and democratic advancement signaling the deepening of our belief in the democratic principles of inclusiveness in governance and hope for a greater Nigeria. The monumental election that took place on June 12, 1993 represented the first time in the history of our nation that Nigerians voted not for tribe or creed or region but for their convictions, affirming their common heritage and unity of purpose.

3. Your Excellencies, as you are all aware, nation building requires the sacrifice of all citizens. We must therefore imbibe the moral rectitude to look into our past with pride and take lessons from our rich history to draw a roadmap for the present and future development of our great country. We must also recognise the effort of our heroes of democracy.

4. These efforts as we know, were emboldened by some key personalities and groups that included the personages that we celebrate posthumously today. Late Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola, the presumed winner of the election, while trying to actualize the mandate freely given to him, paid the supreme sacrifice. Late Gani Fawehinmi fought his battles in the law courts, on the streets as an activist and deprivation of liberty in detention.

5. It is therefore worthy of note, that June 12, which more than any other day, symbolizes the varied struggles and sacrifices made by fellow citizens of this great nation, established democracy as our political system of governance, and opened a new chapter in the political history.

6. It is in commemoration of this day, the spirit of which should be internalized in the consciousness of Nigerians of all ages and taught to our children and generations of Nigerians yet unborn, that this Administration has, in placing history in the right perspective, declared June 12 of every year as Democracy Day and as a national holiday.

7. At this juncture, let me recognize the pivotal roles played by various groups and individuals for their resilience in the struggle for the enthronement of an uninterrupted democratic process in the past Nineteen

years. These groups and individuals include Civil Society Organisations, Organized Labour, the Political Class, members of the Press Corps, etc.

8. Today, some of the heroes of June 12 will be recognized and invested with National Honours. Late Chief M. K. O. Abiola will be awarded the Grand Commander of the Federal Republic (GCFR) posthumously, likewise late Chief Gani Fawehinmi, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON); while Ambassador Babagana Kingibe will be awarded the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON).

9. It is also my privilege to announce the approval by H.E. the President, of the conferment of National Honours on more distinguished Nigerians who also contributed immensely to the enthronement of democratic governance in the country. Their names and investiture date will be revealed later.

10. These awards serve as a public acknowledgement of their pivotal contribution to nationhood and a further demonstration of this Administration's commitment to upholding the ethos of democratic governance.

11. Let me once again warmly welcome you to this August event in June and congratulate you all on the attainment of our preferred choice of political system of governance. May we not forget the labours of our heroes past.

12. Thank you and God bless Nigeria.