

SPECIAL REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI, THE PRESIDENT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AT THE 2018 NIGERIA DEMOCRACY DAY LECTURE ON 28TH MAY, 2018 AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA

Protocol:

I am glad to join the array of eminent Nigerians present here today, as we celebrate the 2018 Nigeria democracy day which marks the 3rd year of our administration and to reflect on the progress we have made in our democratic journey and governance in the last three years.

2. A government elected by the people, must continually be in touch with the aspirations of the people, and work for their highest possible good and the good of the country general. The theme of this year's celebration **"Peace Building and Good Governance for Sustainable Development"** has been carefully selected to reflect our current opportunities and challenges.

3. We have indeed been through rough times, but through good governance we have not allowed ourselves to be swallowed by the myriad of challenges. Weak governance is often at the core of rising inequality and unequal

development, which has always resulted in social disruption and political unrest with negative impacts on growth and development.

4. In the full realisation of this, we have engaged in several rounds of dialogue and town hall meetings, aimed purposefully at peace building, between the aggrieved and in some cases warring factions and communities. We have worked hard to dialogue with, or decimate insurgents in various parts of the country.

5. We are still grappling but successfully, with border disputes and restoring the much needed peaceful co-existence amongst our people and neighbouring countries. The rebuilding of the North East is ongoing, to return our internally displaced brothers, sisters and children to their ancestral homes.

6. Our resolve to fight against corruption was informed by the realisation that reducing corruption and ensuring the effective and just utilisation of public resources, are crucial for achieving sustainable growth and development in Nigeria. Corruption has been at the root of all the development challenges of our country. There can be no progress in any facet of our national life without the dismantling of its pervasive grasp.

7. Good governance is completely antithetical to corruption. We will not relent in our efforts to eliminate it regardless of the opposition, because, at the roots of poverty is corruption and it manifests in several forms including conflicts and civil disturbances, as those who feel short-changed, resort to violence and other vices. The end results of all these is the erosion of peace and stability in the polity, which are basic pre-requisites for good governance and national development.

8. The security in the country today has considerably improved against the background of what we met in May 2015. There are no more incidences of bombings in Abuja and environs, and the entire country has been freed from occupation of any of its parts by insurgents. While we grieve with our compatriots, who have lost lives and properties, we are unrelenting in equipping and preparing our troops to confront the agents of violence, who have been engaging in banditry and reckless killings in various parts of the country under whatever guise, until total victory is achieved.

9. Our Economy is on the upbeat. We have achieved a good number of our set objectives, of increased food production and food security; increased economic diversification into sectors that were hitherto neglected or under-explored.

10. Our foreign reserves have reached new heights and the outcome in respect of investments in infrastructure expansion are everywhere.

11. Overall, we are on track. I thank and commend all who have worked so hard with us to achieve these successes. I assure you that our people will continue to see and experience more progress, more prosperity and greater security. I call on Nigerians to remain steadfast and to keep faith with our Administration, as we remain committed to peace building and good governance, to deliver the best of dividends of democracy to the Nigerian people.

Thank you and God bless.

PMB

28 MAY, 2018