



# OSGF

## SERVICE BULLETIN

...the people's right to know

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION

SECOND QUARTER, JUNE 2019



**I WILL BE  
PRESIDENT FOR ALL  
- Muhammadu Buhari**



June 12 is Fitting  
Honour for Heroes  
of Democracy -SGF



Welcome to another edition of *OSGF SERVICE BULLETIN*, a quarterly supplement specially designed to inform and educate Nigerians on the activities, functions and impact of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. It is an attempt to enable all concerned to better appreciate how the office works as the 'engine room' of the administration of President Buhari Muhammadu Buhari.

The period under focus has witnessed a lot of significant events. For the readers who want to know the plans of the Buhari administration for the next four years, this is an edition for you.

In this edition, President Buhari says he will be President for all as he takes the oath of office for another term of office. The Bulletin avails the reader a complete speech of the President. The President also inaugurated the North East Commission and outlined the tasks before it while Vice President Yemi Osibanjo tasks the youths on skills acquisition as no fewer than 11,000 trainees graduated under the National Industrial Skills Development scheme.

A special section features a full-length interview with Boss Mustapha, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation who has been in the saddle of leadership since November, 2017. In the package, titled *Excellence in Stewardship*, the SGF explains the dynamics of his office and how President Buhari has fared in the last four years.

The anniversary of June 12 also took a fitting place in this edition.

The Permanent Secretary, Political and Economic Affairs, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Gabriel Aduda at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Export Import Bank held in Moscow, canvassed stronger ties with Russia as an alternative development partner of Africa.

The activities of a few agencies under the supervision of the OSGF came under focus, among them the Federal Road Safety Corps which acquired new operational vehicles, namely 74 units of Innoson IVM 4x2 Double Cabin Picks-Ups and three ambulances; a decision applauded and recommended by the SGF as a good example in promoting local industries.

Olusegun A. Adekunle Esq.  
Editor-in-chief

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# Editor's Note ▶



Inauguration and Democracy Day 2019 were the two major events of this edition. Elections were won and lost and all eyes were fixed on the inauguration and swearing-in Ceremony of the President and Vice on May 29th, 2019.

At first, it was not very clear whether the Inauguration and Democracy Day would both be declared as Public Holidays. As days went by, the Presidential Inauguration Committee got to work to ensure a seamless transition from the Inauguration programme to the Democracy Day event and to ensure success of both national events.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, alongside committee members largely made up of the then Honourable Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of select ministries worked round the clock, visited **Eagle Square** venue for both events, several times and even got an international construction giant, Julius Berger, to fix the dilapidated section of the venue. There was harmony, cohesion and display of love of country on display. Members displayed uncommon patriotism and loyalty in the execution of the assignment- successful inauguration on May 29th, 2019.

On the said date, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, led his team members to the venue. Arrangements went as planned. The President, Muhammadu Buhari and his Vice, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo were successfully inaugurated in the full glare of invited guests. All in attendance gave credit to the organisers for a successful event.

Attention then shifted to the Democracy Day on 12th June, 2019. The President declared the day a Public holiday and the assumed winner of that election Moshood Kashimawo Abiola, received not just a well-deserved attention but had a national monument - the Abuja National Stadium named after him as **Moshood Abiola**

## **National Stadium.**

The President's speech on the occasion was hope rising for Nigerians. The nagging issue of poverty was given a red card in the country. It was loud and clear that the Federal Government has mapped out plans to lift 100million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years. This brought great relief to many Nigerians as he pledged that he would be President for all. Details in the section "**For the Record**" wherein the unedited version of the speech is captured.

In this edition, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, scored President Muhammadu Buhari, high in the first term. He made it clear that the administration will continue to consolidate on the achievements of the past years and intensify efforts to fix the economy, fight corruption and eliminate insurgency in the country.

Boss Mustapha granted an extensive interview in this edition in which he addressed a team of journalists in his office wherefore he explained the dynamics of his office, its interface with the larger bureaucracy and overall performance of the Buhari-led administration in the last four years. **It is a must read!**

This edition is replete with photographs ranging from the official events of the Inauguration and Democracy Day to **social diary** involving the SGF and his family at the daughter's (Hannah) convocation at Babcock University, Ilesan-Remo, Ogun State as well as the investiture of the Permanent Secretary, General Services Office, OSGF, Mr. Olusegun Adekunle as Knight of John Wesley by the Methodist Church of Nigeria in Abuja. This section also includes the retirement of Mr. Ugbeda Bello of the Cabinet Affairs Office of the OSGF.

**Enjoy your reading!**

**Willie Bassey**  
Editor

# June 12:

## Nigeria's Democracy Now on Sustainable Path - Buhari



President Muhammadu Buhari

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has said that the nation's democracy has been further entrenched and strengthened over time even as he promised to consolidate on the achievements of the last four years, correct any lapses, tackle new challenges and chart a bold plan for transforming Nigeria.

At an elaborate ceremony on Wednesday, June 12, to commemorate the new Democracy Day and signpost the beginning of his second term, Buhari thanked God for sparing the lives of Nigerians to witness the occasion and for allowing democratic process to be well rooted in the country as well.

The president, who went on the memory lane back to 1999 when democracy returned to Nigeria after years military rule, gave himself a pat on the back for allowing the country's electoral umpire to operate independently without any interference in its duties since his assumption of office in 2015.

"Twenty years ago, a democratically elected government took over from the military in a historic transfer of political power for our country. Today, we are privileged to mark the longest period of unbroken democratic leadership and 5th peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected government to another in Nigeria.

"Throughout the last four years, I respected the independence of INEC. I ensured that INEC got all the resources it needed for independent and impartial management of elections in the country.

"All interested parties agreed that the recent elections, which except for pockets of unrest, were free, fair and peaceful," Buhari pointed out. Indeed, before 2019, May 29 was designated as Democracy Day and public work-free holiday until 2018 when President Buhari announced moves to 'right the wrongs' visited on the presidential election on June 12, 1993, presumed to have been won by late business mogul, Chief Moshood Abiola, but annulled by the then military junta headed by General Ibrahim Babangida.

Late Abiola was initially awarded a posthumous highest

national honour of GCFR last year. Abiola's running mate, Amb. Babagana Kingibe and human rights lawyer, late Chief Gani Fawehinmi got the second highest national honour of GCON. Earlier on June 10, 2019, Buhari signed the June 12 Democracy Day Bill into law thereby designating the day an official public holiday.

Meanwhile, the President at his inaugural announced the change of the name of the Abuja National Stadium to M.K.O. Abiola National Stadium in honour of Abiola. He also promised to provide infrastructures in rural areas to boost the micro-economy across the country.

Buhari also pledged to continue the fight against corruption, insecurity and economic development, as he promised to "enshrine a Nigeria that works for Nigerians and not just a few people."

He thanked his party members for working for the victory of the All Progressives Congress at the 2019 general elections including those who consistently voted for him since his voyage into politics in 2003, telling them "victory is your reward; peace, unity and greater prosperity will be our collective legacy."

The President also thanked the members of the Armed Forces and other security agencies for their sacrifice in making Nigeria and Nigerians safe. "Terrorism and insecurity are worldwide phenomena and even the best policed countries are experiencing increasing incidents of unrest and are finding things hard to cope," he said.

Buhari recalled the contributions of Nigeria to the liberation of other African countries and the price it paid to sustain democracy in those countries. "Without Nigerian influence and resources, the liberation of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and ultimately South Africa would have come at greater cost. This fact had been attested by none other than the late Nelson Mandela himself.

"Elsewhere, Nigeria is the Big Brother to our neighbours. We are the shock-absorber of the West African sub-region, the bulwark of ECOWAS and Lake Chad Basin Commission. We can therefore be proud to be Nigerians. We must continue to be Good Neighbours and Good Global Citizens," the president emphasised.





Late Chief M.K.O. Abiola

## June 12 is Fitting Honour for Heroes of Democracy, says SGF

**T**he 2019 anniversary of June 12 provided a fitting platform to celebrate 20 years of uninterrupted democratic rule in the country.

Indeed, the SGF, Boss Mustapha, at a dinner and gala night marking the event, saluted all heroes of democracy, dead or alive, for laying the foundation and for upholding the democratic tenets.

He also recognised the contributions of President Muhamamadu Buahri and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo for their contributions to sustaining democratic principles even as he noted that “the road to our present station in democratic rule has not been an easy one. It is marked with struggles, mistakes, successes, determination and resilience for which Nigerians are well known.”

He recalled President Buhari's

pronouncement of June 12 of every year as the national democracy day, a gesture he described as a bold initiative of the President to honor icons of democracy.

Mustapha recognised the roles of visiting foreign presidents and heads of governments some of whom he described as “friends of Nigeria stood with us during our difficult times on this democratic journey and have continued to support this country from administration to administration.”

The commemorative gala night witnessed the unveiling of a pictorial compendium of historical value in the last four years.

Earlier the June 12 anniversary had witnessed several activities aimed at promoting national cohesion and inclusiveness involving the youth, women and school children.

# MUSTAPHA Scores BUHARI High in First Term

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari is progressing in keeping faith with promise to tackle insecurity, fight corruption and diversify the economy, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, has expressed.

Mustapha who bared his mind in an exclusive interview with select media executives at the twilight of the Buhari's first term in Abuja, recently said the Administration was on the right track.

Highlighting on major policy areas the Buhari Administration had performed creditably, Mustapha applauded the Federal Government for liberating every communities erstwhile held in the grips of Boko Haram terrorists in the northeast.

"We should not forget that when we came in, a substantial part of the local government in the northeast were under the Boko-Haram insurgency. As a matter of fact, I got a new figure that shocked me when the Governor of Borno (State) at a meeting, mentioned that 22 out of 27 local governments in Borno State in 2015 were under Boko Haram. Today, I can tell you, not a single of those 22 local government are under the Boko Haram," Mustapha stressed.

He explained that although the region was not totally free from insurgency, but the affected communities have been liberated with people returning to their homes and families getting united although insurgents still carry out attacks on soft targets using indoctrinated innocent girls.

Although he expressed worry at the rate banditry was becoming commercialized, Mustapha said the Federal Government was trying to deal with the crises.

His words: "There are many aspects of this crisis that are manifesting but I can tell you that we have tried as much as possible to deal with those crises. You can see relative calm even in the Southern part of the country, and South-South which was a major challenge in the time we came in 2015.

"But because of the interface, mediation, negotiation and extending a hand of fellowship and assuring people that they are part of Nigeria, and they can make claims for which the government is obligated to listen to them, there has been relative peace even with the issues of self-determination as exhibited in South Eastern part of the country," the SGF said.

In order to guarantee peace in the country, Mustapha explained that his office has consistently engaged traditional rulers as the first respondent in most communities through the National Council of Nigeria Traditional Rulers and the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council to engender measures for sustained peace in Nigeria.

"I had to do a lot of spadework to convince the leadership that we needed to go back to the negotiation table and begin to talk. When the people outside begin to see the leaders of different faith talking, it encourages them to have a sense or feeling that our problems will be sorted out. And that has helped us tremendously and we have had segregated meetings in all the six geographical zones where NIREC could be meeting at different levels," the SGF narrated.

On the fight against corruption, the SGF boasted that the Buhari Administration's loot recovery success was unprecedented with such recoveries being diverted to fund useful projects.

"No government has ever recovered the kind of money that we have recovered, the kind of properties that have been seized. We are now going through the processes of temporary forfeiture and eventually permanent forfeiture, and after they



# Mustapha Scores Buhari High

are disposed, the funds generated will be ploughed into treasury account because of the single treasury system that has been put in place, so much money can be accumulated and be used to fund a project, provide for social services for the people of this country,” enthusiastic Mustapha said.

Giving a clue about the direction of the fight in the second term, Mustapha hinted that government would strengthen the institutions and put in place mechanism that will help stop corruption from taking place at all, one of which is the creation of safety nets for the people in the work place.

“Nobody wants to be stigmatized with corruption which is the truth, but I know it is this fear of the unknown that normally propels people into doing that. Going forward, we should strengthen the institutions and build capacities for them; make sure too that we create safety nets around the whole places so that people can have a bit of comfort,” he stated.

The SGF said government has tremendously succeeded with the economic diversification policies of the Buhari Administration, particularly in infrastructural development, saying road and rail development will increase influx of business and open up government as it is obtainable in other nations.

In addition, Mustapha praised the intervention in the agricultural sector where government has invested more than N86billion into the Anchor

Borrowers' Programme which in turn has produced millionaire farmers in the country.

“The Anchor Borrowers Scheme has provided so much resources. As at the time we went to campaign it was about N86 billion already expended and from that you know how many millionaires have come out through the Scheme, particularly in the area of growing of rice. We grew the rice farmers population from 4 million to 12 million. So, it's a mass of people that have benefitted from that Scheme.



SGF, Boss Mustapha

“Then the National Social Investment Programme has in the last two years done so much in creating wealth for the small and medium scale business people. Is it the Farmer Money or the Trader Money, Market Money, and so many of those programmes that have helped generate employment for the people.

“The School Feeding Programme in the south has created wealth for a lot of people so much that many people have gone back to the farm,” he stressed.

He explained that these social intervention programmes have similarly created wealth through the chain process and huge resources required to feed the students on a daily basis.

“I believe that to a large extent we have diversified the economy. We realized that we came at a time when there was a major drop in crude oil prices but we were able to navigate the economy despite that to come out of recession, and I think we have done so well and therefore we can do better for the people of this country,” Mustapha said.

## BOSS MUSTAPHA: Excellence in Stewardship

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, **Boss Mustapha**, has been in the saddle since November, 2017, directing the workings of the 'engine room' of the Federal Government. In this interview, he explains the dynamics of his office, its interface with the larger bureaucracy and how the Buhari Administration has fared in the last four years. Excerpts:

**O**n the dynamics of the OSGF, working with six departments and 22 agencies.

One of the responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, OSGF, is to co-ordinate policies formulated by ministries, departments and agencies. Twenty-two agencies report directly to the OSGF. Six permanent secretaries are charged with the responsibility of overseeing these offices. It's quite a lot of responsibility to co-ordinate government policies and to ensure their implementation. This office provides the secretariat for the Council of State, Federal Executive Council and other committees chaired by Mr. President.

We provide secretariat services to track policies, projects and programmes that have been approved and put in place to ensure that the policies are properly implemented. Generally, we provide co-ordination for government and we ensure that government does not work at cross-purposes; that synergies are provided and they inter-link.

### Relationship and synergy with state governments.

When I assumed office November 2017, I realized that so many things that were decided at the Federal level never took hold in the states. There was a big communication gap. Since we provide secretariat services to the Federal Executive Council, we decided to extend it to the cabinet affairs offices of the various

states. We developed a handbook on how to manage a cabinet affairs office which was launched a few months ago. So we have been going about to ensure that my colleagues here in this office gets at least a link between the federal and state governments for the purposes of pushing the change agenda.

State governments now realize that there was so much that was going on at the federal level that states were not appropriately benefitting from. For example, when we got the Central Bank to speak about the Anchor Borrowers Scheme, a lot of the secretaries to the government at the state were amazed that there was so much money available that their people could access. When we started to talk about the School Feeding Programme, a lot of them were reluctant. They asked: what are you talking about? Some states that had logged into that programme began to explain what was happening in terms of school enrolment with the nutrition and health of the children. It helped them in convincing their state governments that they needed to key in and began to appropriate those benefits that were coming to their states. Initially, the perception was that this is a political move to have a hold in the states, but by the time they realized that it was for the benefit of their people, they jumped in to be on the truck.

### Political differences as possible hinderance.

In the OSGF, you have the Special Services Office which provides the secretariat to the office of the National Security Adviser. It deals with security matters. We have a meeting of permanent



## No Single Local Government Under Boko Haram

secretaries at the different levels of different states with their permanent secretaries that oversee that there will be synergy in dealing with security matters of this country. We all agree, when it comes to looking at architecture of security, that if there is no synergy then the security machinery, security personnel, security apparatus will operate at cross purposes. That can spell danger for the country. So we try as much as possible to create that synergy by having this office co-ordinate a routine meeting as often as possible, sometimes monthly, sometimes quarterly depending on the need, so that we can discuss the security implications of what is happening all over the country. We are being threatened by different dimensions of security challenges. So, this office co-ordinates that, provides information, logistics support in terms of intelligence with the different components of our nation so that we can effectively deal with the security challenges.

**Ensuring concord among the three arms of government, especially with the National Assembly.**

Upon assumption of office, I went to the National Assembly to knock at the door of the Senate President and the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives. I extended a hand of fellowship and partnership and I said 'look you know that we can't do this business alone; we need your support, in as much as whatever we want to do we need money to be able to do that.'

Many government policies require legislation. If you don't have a very good working relationship with the National Assembly, how do you get the legislation to back the policies? The President has signed a couple of executive orders but the executive orders are different from proper legislations that will drive policies, create establishments or agencies to push a particular agenda. So, you need the legislature. I have tried as much as possible to do what needs to be done with the legislature and even the judiciary so that we have all the relationships that are mutually beneficial to all.

**On the objectives behind the new guidelines from the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit.**

The NFIU law empowers it to monitor withdrawals, movements of funds, everything that deals with finances as it affects our

nation. We have to keep a watch on the movement of funds all over the world. The tendency is for Government to be interested on how funds are used because funds have become instrument of destabilization in most countries. So, it is important that as Nigerians we are to follow up and keep in mind how funds are moved within the system. It can destabilize the economy and the security architecture of the nation, so we have to be very careful. That unit that used to be part of the EFCC has now receded and it is now trying to do its job. But what I am saying is that in doing their job, we have to manage it in such a way that we are all partners. We are working for the same system to ensure that our people will get the benefits of whatever policies or establishments that are put in place. We would try as much as possible to create a platform for the resolution of whatever issues that will arise.

**Evaluating the performance of Buhari Administration on three key promises.**

When President Buhari assumed office, a substantial part of the local governments in the North East were under Boko Haram insurgents. As a matter of fact, today I got a new figure that shocked me when the Governor of Borno at a meeting mentioned that in 2015, 22 out of 27 local governments in Borno State were under Boko Haram. Today, I can tell you not a single local government is under Boko Haram. We are not completely out of the woods yet, but I can tell you substantially all the local governments that used to be under the occupation of the Boko Haram have been liberated. People have returned to their homes.

We have had incidents of banditry which have taken a new dimension altogether. It is no more kidnapping just for the sake of it. Kidnapping is becoming a commercial enterprise and the banditry in the North West, if care is not taken, will be another insurgency because they come in and take territories and declare lordship over those territories and they dare even authorities and securities agencies.

There are many aspects of this crisis that are manifesting, but I can tell you that we have tried as much as possible to deal with them. You can see there is relative calm even in the Southern part of the country. The South-South was a major challenge at

# We'll Strengthen Institutions to Fight Corruption

the time we came in 2015, but because of the interface, mediation, negotiation and extending a hand of fellowship and assuring people that they are part of Nigeria and they can make claims for which the government is obligated to listen to them, there has been relative peace even with the issues of self-determination as exhibited in South Eastern part of the country.

So much is being done in terms of interface with the governors, with the leadership of the South East trying to dissuade people from towing that part which will not be of benefit to anybody. So as much as possible, in the area of securing the nation, issues of security as they manifest in different dimensions, we are doing as much as humanly possible to ensure we contain it. We have tried as much as possible to interface with the traditional rulers being the first respondent in most communities through the National Council of Nigeria Traditional Rulers which is co-chaired by the Ooni of Ife and the Sultan of Sokoto.

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council existed before I came into office, but for a period of about six years held no meetings. I had to do a lot of spadework to convince the leadership that we needed to go back to the negotiation table and begin to talk. When the people outside begin to see the leaders of different faiths talking, it encourages them to have a sense or feeling that our problems will be sorted out. That has helped us tremendously and we have had meetings in all the six geo-political zones at different levels. The same thing with the National Council for Traditional Rulers which is part of what the government is doing as well as the OSGF because we are responsible for public safety and security.

In the area of fighting corruption, so much has been done in terms of recoveries. As we go into 2019-2023, government will be looking at strengthening the institutions; putting in place mechanism that will help stop corruption from taking place at all because it comes with a lot of expenses which I know requires a lot of paradigm shifts. One thing we can do is to begin to create safety nets for the people in the work place. One thing that is a motivation for corruption is the fear of the unknown. You're working today where by you don't know the future, and you will be 60 very soon. The worker says: 'I don't have a home, a good car, still have kids in school; how will I cope with that kind of life'. That propels you into quest for wealth and generally that is the thing that propels people to want to acquire more money as much as possible. But once you are able to create a safety net; something that can take care of them in terms of any major accident, insurance packages that can cover them and their families, people will have less tendency in indulging in corrupt practices. Nobody wants to be stigmatized with corruption, which is the truth, but I know it is this fear of the unknown that normally propels people into doing that. Going forward, we should strengthen the institutions and build capacities for them; make sure too that we create safety nets around the whole place so that people can have a bit of comfort. No Government has ever recovered the kind of money that we have recovered, the kind of properties that have been seized, now going through the processes of temporary forfeiture and eventually permanent forfeiture.

The other aspect of it is the diversification of the economy. I think we have done very well in that area, particularly in the area of development of infrastructure. Most countries long time ago knew that if they could provide roads, provide rail, then they would open up their countries, there will be influx of businesses and I think in that area we have succeeded tremendously. Not only that, so much investment has gone into agriculture. The Anchor Borrowers' scheme has provided huge resources. As at the



time we went to campaign, about N86 billion was expended and you know how many millionaires have come out through the scheme, particularly in the area of growing rice. We grew the rice farmers' population from four million to 12 million. So, it's a mass of people that have benefitted from that scheme.

The Social Investment Programme has done so much in creating wealth for the small business people. Is it the Farmers Money or the Trader Money, Market Money, so many of those programmes have helped generate employment for the people? The School Feeding Programme has created wealth for a lot of people that so many people have gone back to the farms; millions are required to feed the students on a daily basis, so many food vendors, women that have been employed as cooks servicing that particular industry. I believe that to a large extent we have diversified the economy. We realized that we came at a time when there was a major drop in crude oil prices but we were able to navigate to come out of recession and I think we have done so well and therefore we can do better for the people of this country.

## Accusation of lethargy in tackling herders-farmers conflict and the banditry in the North West.

I think for anybody to accuse this government of being lethargic in dealing with herders-farmers conflict is quite unfair because we have been very decisive. The categorization of the Fulani as herdsman is improper. I am a herdsman but not a Fulani. So, particularly in the northern part of the country, saying all herdsman are Fulani is a lie. We are all herdsman, we are all farmers; some are arable farmers, some are herdsman and all this farming in the agricultural sense is one. One is animal husbandry, the other one is arable farming or crops.

The farmers-herdsman conflict is not new. They have a pattern in resolving their conflicts in a particular location. If the herdsman allows his animals go into a farmers plot and there is



# People's Trust Earned Buhari Re-election

destruction, the local community use to sit down; there will be an assessment of the level of destruction, then the herdsman will be asked to pay. If unfortunately the farmer kills an animal that belongs to a Fulani man or herdsman, then the community will sit and establish the justification for that action and if there's no justification you will be asked to pay. So, we have a communal way of resolving conflicts.

Ranches and reserves have been in existence. In Adamawa, where I come from, there are several reserves established by law dating back to the days of Northern Nigeria with defined cattle routes. Abuja is a cattle route defined and gazetted in laws of Northern Nigeria and similarly in several parts of this country. There is a major contention going on now; partly economic with the growth in our population. With the growth in urbanisation, we have taken some of those reserves and turned them into residential areas. We have a belt across those cattle routes because there is a traditional pattern of movement that was established over the years. We have taken the grazing reserves and apportioned them among elite farmers. We have fenced over the places, and these animals will have to feed and would have to get to a source of water in a seasonal movement. That's why they are called nomads.

We have nomadic fishermen. We have nomadic herdsmen. In the early part of the 70's, the military thought it fit to build nomadic schools. There is a commission for nomadic education. Most of us do not think that is important. People move across a certain area at a certain time, so we needed to establish schools that will go along with them. We did that and even set up a commission but we did not look at the economic aspect that is now rearing its head. There is a competition over land, over control of resources. So much has happened as a result of climate change that was not factored into the whole thing. So, for anybody to say that the government has been lethargic in dealing with that crisis is totally being unfair.

By and large, there must be a systematic way of dealing with that conflict. It requires the inputs of the traditional rulers, of religious leaders, community leaders to confront that particular conflict. So, it's a complex situation and I know that government is decisive in putting apparatus in place to deal with it.

## **Managing disputes between heads of agencies and management boards.**

When I came into office, most boards were already constituted. I had the responsibility of releasing the list of board members and chairmen. We partnered with the Bureau of Public Service Reforms and other regional agencies to organise retreats for the board members and the management. There is the perception of a politician that has just been given a position as a member or chairman of a board; sometimes you come with a sense of entitlement. So we decided that we needed to put everybody in their rightful compartment and the retreats were meant to acquaint chairmen and board members with their responsibilities. The first is to formulate policies in terms of day-day management of the organisation that is vested in the management team. Often time it is the managing director or a DG. We had a lot of skirmishes here and there and we have tried as much as possible to resolve them by asking them to go back to their notes that they took during the retreats which clearly defines the two arms of the same organisation.

We have issued several circulars, even before I came to office as SGF, with clear demarcation between the functions of the board and the functions of management. So, we have tried as much as possible and often times the office of the permanent secretary, general services, is involved in the mediation. We have tried as much as possible to resolve those issues and where any issue is such that we cannot resolve, we seek for direction from the



President on how to resolve it.

## **Reacting to the re-election of President Buhari.**

It was a thrill because it was a hard-earned victory. We worked very hard for it. In 2015, I was his Director, Contact and Mobilisation, so I know the amount of work that was put in then. We had certain assurances because of how well he had done in the last three and half years leading to the last general election. We were confident that he was going to win. I was pleasantly surprised that he won with a much larger margin this time than in 2015. That gives me the satisfaction that the people of this country are quite happy and thrilled about his leadership style, his integrity, sincerity of purpose. He is a man that has no other agenda but the pursuit of better things for the good people of Nigeria. I am happy that he was re-elected. It is a thing of joy for us.

## **Keeping pace with demands of his office.**

When I assumed duty on 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2017, I didn't come with any special skills of my own. The only thing that I believed brought and sustained me where I was coming from, and by extension to where I am, is the grace and favour of God upon my life. I felt that no special skill will be able to sustain me in this office except if I trust in God and ask for enablement on daily basis as to how to operate.

I came with a leadership skill that if you are ready to work, you can work easily with me. For more than one year, I have not changed the secretaries and security staff I met in office, even the directors and permanent secretaries except for the new ones that were brought. I have not requested for anybody to be changed because I believe in the ability of every Nigerian to put in his/her best if the enabling environment is created.

They have performed tremendously well and that is why they can cope with my work ethics. It is simple. I am here to work, so if I stay until 2 am I don't see any reason they cannot stay. They are much younger than me so I don't see reason why they can't except for staffs that are housewives that I allow to go at about 8pm so they can attend to their families. For anybody that has a

## INTERVIEW



### There Are Challenges With Every Work Place

privilege, out of 180 million Nigerians, to serve as Secretary to the Government, it is such an honour and privilege; not because you are qualified but probably because like I said, the favour of God upon my life is what drove me to this office using the instrumentality of the hands of the President to select me from among the lot of people that are eminently qualified to occupy this office. So I see it as an honour and trust which is the way I applied myself in this office. I work any time of the day, anytime of the week, anytime that there is anything to do, I just have resolved in my heart to give it the best.

#### The challenges of the office.

The truth about it is that in every working place, you come across challenges. Probably the speed at which you want to move might not be the speed that is allowed by the system. You know we have a bureaucratic system that helps, which is not bad because it puts checks and balances to enable you use your discretion well. Most government activities are done based on the information that is available to you. But if you do not seek for the information, which sometimes takes time, you will not get the information. And whatever decision you decide to take may not be the right decision, it will be decision based on facts or information that are not available to you. So sometimes I get a little bit constrained, sometimes a little bit frustrated, but I have learnt to be a process man. The truth is that the Nigerian project is a very complex project and because of the complexity of the Nigeria project, sometimes it brings to bear on what you can and cannot do in office. That I do not consider a challenge because that is the only way you can build a nation, by going through the intractable problems that confront the country and finding solution. That is the job I have been given to do and I am glad doing it.

#### Counting his major achievements in office.

When I came on board, I noticed that there was so much I needed to do to create synergy, to create coordination with my colleagues in council, with the ministries and agencies. I can tell you that to a large extent we have succeeded in doing that. Also, to help Government track its policies and programs, last year I had the courtesy of launching a compendium of about 1,042 pages of council memos initiated by this administration from the assumption of office in 2015 all the way to December 2017.

I got the President to authorize that for the first month to three months of 2019 every cabinet member will do a presentation of what he's been able to do since his appointment as a minister. All

the cabinet ministers, including myself, had to do physical presentation of the policies that were initiated by the ministries, the contracts that were approved by the cabinet and the programmes that were executed in order to give details and at the end of the exercise we saw where we were.

It was like a mid-term report and the compilation of what this government has been able to achieve, how much money is expended, what was the status of the projects, what were the outstanding and what were the challenges. That for me was a big sense of satisfaction of some

of the things that we were able to achieve and because of that I'm able to look at plans to see how the government was moving. In the history of this country, in one week we held three Federal Executive Council meetings last week as we were coming to the end of the tenure. I got the President to approve Wednesday which is our statutory day, Thursday and Monday and within that process, we considered well over a hundred memos and sealed up the first stage of the President in a grand way.

I find that quite satisfying that I was able to drive my colleagues in that way and achieve the kind of end we were able to achieve. I believe that most of the ministers that will be leaving the cabinet like the President said in his speech that they should be proud of themselves because of what we have been able to achieve. Never in the history of this nation has any Federal Executive Council been able to achieve within a short period of time what we were able to achieve in our last sitting. It was so amazing and I believe that these are some of the things I give myself a pat on the back. The general thrill is the seamless transmission of information and document in coordinating government activities and creating a very favourable atmosphere of work between this office and the National Assembly. These are some of the things I will look back on and say "probably I could have done it better but I did my best". And I think I can appreciate some of the achievements and the response that we get.

#### Expectations of Nigerians from May 29.

I can tell you that I am one Nigerian that is very optimistic and full of expectations that looking into the future, there are great things that will come to the people of Nigeria. I know that President Muhammadu Buhari, in his second term, will keep his focus on the three things that he had promised because we have not gotten over all the issues. He is going to concentrate on that and probably drive it even much harder so by the time he leaves in 2023, there will be legacies that you say, because of what he did, this has become sustainable as a future and as a hallmark of our nation.

I am confident, really expectant, that as our resources improve in the area of revenue generation, rise in the crude prices, making more money available, the tax net expanded to bring in more resources, I believe that we will be able to deliver substantially on some of the promises that he has made and I am very confident that the people of Nigeria will not regret their actions of giving him a second mandate.



SGF, Boss Mustapha with some Permanent Secretaries in the OSGF and committee members of NIPPS.

## Make Nigeria Safer, SGF Tasks NIPSS Committee

Nigeria's search for enduring security architecture to meet emergent challenges is a task for key stakeholders, especially those saddled with policy formulation and execution.

This view was expressed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, while inaugurating the Inter-Agency Committee on Strengthening Internal Security Framework and Community Policing in Nigeria.

The committee was raised to provide a roadmap on the implementation of the report submitted to government by the Senior Executive Course 40, 2018 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru.

Mustapha said members of this committee were carefully chosen and implored them to eschew personal interest and because they have “the golden opportunity to contribute to the reversal of the trend that has mischaracterized Nigeria from the repute of a peaceful, united and prosperous country.”

He also tasked the committee to produce “new, innovative and pragmatic ways of resolving our internal security challenges and enthrone a robust culture of community policing”.

The SGF said members must be conscious of the spate of agitation for state police in the last one decade. He noted that the topic which dominated discussions at the National Conference convened in

2014, still remained an issue regardless of the resources deployed into tackling the various hydra-headed security challenges in the country.

Mustapha justified the assignment of the committee, saying that despite the high level of successes recorded by the government, agitators do not predicate their arguments on empirical study.

“The recommendations of the report you are going to study, is a result of painstaking research, study and comparative analysis. The report was based on broader consensus and that is why Government deems it necessary to prioritize the study of its recommendations for implementation,” he told the committee.

The Senior Executive Course 40, 2018 had submitted its report, titled Strengthening Policing in Nigeria: Policing Options and Strategies as commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari with the mandate to focus on ways of invigorating the internal security system, covering 1999 to 2018.

“This period was chosen primarily because the country witnessed unprecedented upsurge in crime and criminality. Accordingly, the Course participants analyzed various works of notable international and domestic scholars relating to the theme. Additionally, they embarked on study tours of some states within the country, some selected African countries and a few others outside the

*Continues on page 24*





L-R: Deputy Chief of Staff to the Osun State Governor, Mr. Adeyanju Binuyo; Governor Adegboyega Oyetola; SGF, Boss Mustapha and Ms Idiat Babalola.

## SGF Implores Oyetola to Build on Aregbesola's Legacy

**B**oss Mustapha, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, desires a high tempo of development in the State of Osun. This much he said while hosting the state governor, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola in his office recently.

Specifically, the SGF wants the new helmsman in the state of the living spring to improve on the legacy of his predecessor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola in terms of dividends of democracy to the people of the state.

Mustapha said that in spite of the enormous challenges faced by the state, the All Progressives Congress' administration under the immediate past governor witnessed tremendous infrastructural development.

“The state under Aregbesola, put in place programmes that have direct impact on the

lives of people of Osun, which include social investment programme, security of lives and property as well as infrastructural development”, Mustapha observed.

The SGF implored the new governor to consolidate on the developmental strides in the state by giving priority to youth empowerment with the aim making them productive and preventing crimes.

He recalled the interventions by President Muhammadu Buhari's government through bail-out funds and the Paris Club refund to the state in order to make it stable.

Governor Oyetola told the SGF that he came to express gratitude to the Federal Government through the OSGF for the support he received during his election and congratulate President Buhari for his re-election.



Head of Service, Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita

## FG Raises Team to Adjust Wages

**T**he Federal Government has re-affirmed its commitment to the welfare of workers and the sanctity of the new national minimum wage signed into law last month by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha while inaugurating the committee to negotiate the consequential adjustment in salaries arising from the new wage, assured workers that government would not renege on its promise to pay N30,000 as minimum wage.

The committee, chaired by the Head of Service of the Federation, Mrs Winifred Oyo-Ita, is expected to work for four weeks and negotiate the issue of relativity/consequential

adjustment arising from the new national minimum wage with the relevant labour unions.

Mustapha recalled that the President had in November, 2017 inaugurated the Tripartite Committee on National Minimum Wage when he noted that the Nigerian Worker was vital to the growth and development of a modern nation even as he underscored the need to ensure a fair and decent living wage for workers, anchored on the principle of social justice and equity.

“To further demonstrate Mr. President’s unwavering commitment to the welfare of all Nigerian workers, he signed into law, the new National Minimum Wage bill which recommended N30,000,” said Mustapha who also

emphasised the role played by the Presidential Technical Advisory Committee which advised on revenue optimization and a seamless implementation of the new wage and its consequential cost.

The SGF urged the Committee to “consider the issue of relativity and consequential adjustment with thoroughness, bearing in mind the welfare of the nation’s workforce vis-à-vis the current economic reality”.

Mrs Oyo-Ita said the committee “is expected to work out the most suitable way to deal with the implementation” of the new national minimum wage following the advise of the Rewane Technical Committee on how to meet the additional cost arising from salaries and allowances of workers earning above the new minimum wage.

The committee has, from government side, ministers in charge of finance; labour & employment; budget & national planning; health; education and justice. Also on the team are the Director General, Budget Office of the Federation; Secretary, Federal Judicial Service Commission; Secretary, National Assembly Service Commission; and the Chairman, National Salaries, Incomes & Wages Commission who will serve as its secretary.

Ten representatives came from the trade unions and were nominated by the Joint National Public Service Negotiation Council.



Mr. Gabriel Aduda, Perm. Sec, Political and Economic Affairs Office, OSGF.

Closer ties between Nigeria and Russia will strengthen South-South economic cooperation and support a win-win partnership in the challenging global environment.

Besides, developing countries could benefit from Russian technology to accelerate the transformation of African economies while its expertise in railways and energy can rapidly close infrastructure gaps, and promote the development of local content in natural-resource endowed countries across the region.

These ideas were canvassed by the Permanent Secretary, Political and Economic Affairs, OSGF, Mr. Gabriel Aduda, as member of the Nigerian delegation to the 26th Annual Meetings of the African Export-Import, Afreximbank held recently in Moscow.

While tracing the historical ties between the former Soviet super power and Africa, Aduda described the

forum as a significant milestone in the life of the Bank and in deepening partnership between the continent and Russia. He recalled the roles played by Russia in the struggle for liberation in Africa, supporting several African states in their quest for political independence and self-determination.

“Its most lasting contribution was the important role it played in the end of colonialism that set the African continent on a path to economic development and integration into the global economy. The Nigerian Government worked closely with the Soviet Union in the fight against apartheid in Southern Africa,” the permanent secretary recalled.

Aduda, on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, expressed gratitude to the Russian Government and President Vladimir Putin for their friendly disposition and the sustained commitment to Africa's development. He also expressed confidence that “the renewed and deepening



## Aduda, at Afreximbank Forum, Canvass Stronger Ties with Moscow

friendship between Africa and the Russian Federation will further expand opportunities in the area of trade and investment and mitigate the risks associated with excessive dependency on any single country.”

The permanent secretary painted a rosy picture of the effects of an integrated African economic market. Growth prospects are increasingly positive, especially after the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement which Aduda said will “bring together 1.2 billion people and create a single continental market for goods and services with free movement of goods and investments.”

The Africa trade pact, Aduda argued will ensure more liberalized trade and economic integration, unlocking potential for foreign investment against the backdrop of a rising global tide of protectionism. His words: “An integrated African market under the African Continental Free Trade Area can bolster Russian-African trade and investment and can support both Russia and Africa’s development and growth ambitions.

“At the same time, the growing interest in Africa is also part of a global trend and rising South. South-South trade has become a major driver of global trade in a world where the developing South now accounts for over about 40 percent of world trade, up from about 24 percent in 1980.”

Aduda described the theme of the 2019 Annual Meeting, Harnessing Emerging Partnerships in an Era of Rising Protectionism as appropriate and timely, given the increasing normalisation of escalating trade tensions and the competition for global leadership.

Discourse at the forum revolved around options to increase the relevance and return on investment in key strategic sectors, especially in the mining industry and infrastructure development.

The sessions, as noted by Aduda, provided a platform for participants and delegates to reflect on the role that an integrated approach in the

mining industry could play in the process of economic development and diversification of African trade.

“There was also an opportunity to share perspectives on the strategic role that the expansion of railways infrastructure could play, in the development of Africa at a time when the establishment of an integrated African market calls for efficient infrastructure, to ease the movement of goods and services across borders and regions throughout Africa,” said Aduda.

Nigeria is a founding shareholder of the African Export-Import Bank which has become the Trade Finance Bank for Africa, playing a major role, not only in the promotion of African trade, but also in the structural transformation of African economies and the provision of timely support to member countries during adverse transitory shocks.

The bank has provided the liquidity needed to finance trade and shore up foreign reserves and ultimately avert the risk of prolonged macro-economic instability and systemic crisis. Nigeria has been one of the beneficiaries of such interventions.

Indeed, Aduda thanked the managers of the Bank for being innovative, responsive and relevant to development challenges facing African countries.

“In addition to direct support to its member countries, the Bank has also been forging international partnerships, to accelerate the process of economic development within the region through a geographical diversification of its trade partners, while laying the foundation for a win-win partnership,” said the permanent secretary.

Afreximbank received the African Banker of the Year award on the side lines of the Moscow meeting which attracted senior policy makers, industrialists, business leaders, financiers, global thought leaders and experts who brainstormed on wide-ranging issues of relevance to African development and growing South-South cooperation.



MAY 29, 2019

# Inauguration Special 2019

Inauguration of President  
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR  
and Vice President, Prof.  
Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON

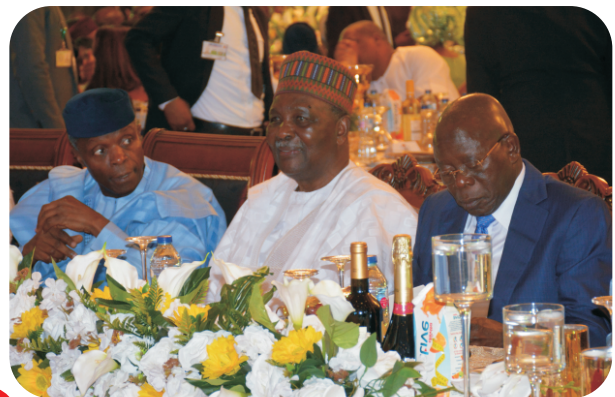




# Democracy Day Special 2019









**T**he board with management of the North East Development Commission is expected to harmonize and coordinate efforts at restoring hope to the people of the region ravaged by the Boko Haram insurgency and other deprivations.

President Muhammadu Buhari, while inaugurating the board of the commission in Abuja, said NEDC would be the focal organ to assess, coordinate and harmonize and report all the intervention programmes and initiatives of the federal government to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of scarce resources.

“You must constantly liaise with the relevant federal ministries, departments and agencies, MDAs, states and other development partners for the implementation of all programmes and initiatives and proper utilization of funds released for intervention in the zone,” the President charged the 11-member board.

The birth of the commission, he emphasized, was a fulfilment of the pledge of the administration to the people of the North East zone and part of the strategy for regenerating the socio-economic potentials of the area after the devastation wrought by insurgency.

The President recalled that the Commission was established by the North East Development Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017 which he assented to on 25th October 2017. President Buhari defined the responsibility of the board as receiving and managing funds allocated by

the Federal Government and donors for the resettlement, rehabilitation, integration and construction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency; taking care of the menace of poverty, illiteracy, ecological problems and other related environmental and developmental challenges in the North East States.

He charged the board to be judicious in applying resources at its disposal while announcing a N10 billion purse for its activities. Specifically, he suggested a comprehensive survey of all states in the zone to determine the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of all the socio-economic sectors of the zone and develop an intervention master plan based on the outcome of the assessments.

The commission's chairman is Major General Paul Tarfa, retired while Mohammed Alkali is the managing director and chief executive officer. Members include Musa Yashi, executive director humanitarian affairs; Mohammed Jawa, executive director, admin and finance; Omar Mohammed, executive director, operations; and David Kente, member representing north-east zone.

Others are Asmau Mohammed, member representing north-west zone; Benjamin Adanyi, member representing north-central zone; Olawale Oshun, member representing south-west zone; Theodore Ekechi, member representing south-east and Obasuke McDonald, member representing south-south zone.





SGF, Boss Mustapha at the graduation of trainees of Skills Development programme.

## Osinbajo Counsels Youths on Skill Acquisition

Idle hands and wasting talents have been identified as the bane of youth development in Nigeria.

Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, at the graduation of 11, 000 trainees under the National Industrial Skills Development programme in Abuja, said government is facing the challenge of harnessing the potentials of young people for national economic development.

Represented by the secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, the Vice President advised the youth to place premium on skills acquisition to enable them cope with emerging international and national realities.

“I need not remind you that although paper qualification is important, it is gradually being overtaken by hand-on-skills because of their marketability. I therefore strongly encourage all Nigerian youth to acquire hand-on-skills because when combined with paper qualification, the sky will be your limit,” said the VP at the closing of the scheme hosted by the Industrial Training Fund and the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

He said the capacity building session was part of the policy thrust of the Buhari Administration

anchored on revamping the economy, fighting corruption, poverty reduction and job creation for the teeming unemployed Nigerians.

The Vice President gave the administration a pass mark in its first term on economic revival. “We have achieved most of these targets through the implementation of social investment programmes like N-Power, Trader Moni and the full implementation of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, which have had varied impact on all sectors of the national economy,” he declared.

Despite these efforts, the Vice President said more needs to be done with millions of Nigerians unemployed amidst rising population. He therefore challenged agencies of government saddled with skills acquisition to brace up and train more Nigerians in areas of job creation and poverty reduction by equipping them with entrepreneurial and employability skills.

He praised the ITF for training over 450,000 Nigerians in two years and also empowering them with start-up packs to start their own businesses.

“I am equally aware that of the 450,000 trained, 90 per cent of the beneficiaries have gone on to becoming entrepreneurs that are even employing others,” said the Vice President who also urged greater collaboration and inter-agency synergy.





## Govt Equips FRSC, Canvass Local Content in Procurement

**T**he Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, has urged all Ministries, Department and Agencies to buy vehicles assembled in Nigeria for their operations and emulate the Federal Road Safety Commission in promoting local industries.

The SGF, while commissioning 74 units of Innoson IVM 4x2 Double Cabin Pick-Ups and 3 Ambulances, said “the choice of the Innoson IVM brand of vehicles is commendable as it conforms to the ideals and dictates of Presidential Executive Order 3 on support for local content in public procurement.”

He promised that the Federal Government will continue to support the commission in its operations to ensure effective road service delivery to Nigerians even as he underscored the policy thrust of the administration, saying that “it is also on record that the policy thrust of this administration towards ensuring, accelerated economic growth and the plugging of conduits for economic leakages

is targeted at building an inclusive social system”.

He promised that the Federal Government will continue to invest in the promotion of effective and efficient transportation system through massive road construction and rehabilitation projects across the country.

Mustapha praised the visionary leadership and exceptional resilience of the management and staff of FRSC who have reduced incidence of road crashes in the country.

The Corps Marshall, Dr. Boboye Oyeyemi thanked the Federal Government for its support particularly, in the acquisition of operational materials and capacity building.

He promised to put into effective use, the vehicles for sustainable road management activities to ease the implementation and achievement of the FRSC Strategic Goals for the year 2019.

# SGF Lauds TCN on Power Supply

**T**he Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, has expressed confidence in the ability of the Transmission Company of Nigeria, TCN, to supply adequate electricity to Nigerians.

Receiving the management team of the company in Abuja, Mustapha praised the strategy employed by TCN in the utilization of indigenous expertise in its operations which has assisted in the optimal productivity by the company.

He said from the briefing he received and considering the work that is being put in place, Nigerians would soon enjoy adequate and uninterrupted power supply across the country.

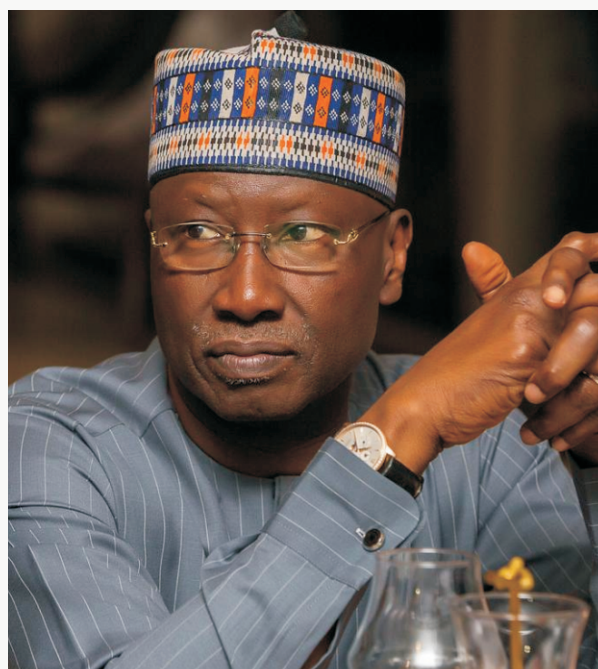
Mustapha said adequate power supply with efficient transmission and distribution across the country would soon have a positive impact on job creation and employment.

Earlier, the Managing Director of the company, Mr. Usman Mohammed said the team came to brief the SGF on the efforts made and grounds covered in stabilising and modernising the national grid.

He described transmission as the backbone of adequate provision of electricity, adding that in the

system operation, generation and distribution cannot be isolated.

Mohammed disclosed that the company is on a steady path to modernising the national grid. He also expressed confidence that when the modernisation is completed, the country will experience stability in power supply and sell electricity to neighbouring West African countries.



**Boss Mustapha**

## Make Nigeria Safer, SGF Tasks NIPSS Committee

*Continued from page 13*

African continent,” the SGF explained.

The Permanent Secretary, Special Services Office, OSGF, who is the chair of the committee, Dr. Amina Shamaki expressed optimism on the competence of committee members to produce pragmatic

measures to facilitate stronger community policing.

Other members of the committee include Mrs. Beatrice E. Jeddy-Agba from the Federal Ministry of Justice; Mrs. Odunbanjo O. Adebisi, Ministry of Information; Mr. Sanusi Galadima, Office of the National Security Adviser; Brig Gen J. O. Ochai representing the Nigerian Army and Cdre J.N. Mamman, Nigerian Navy.

Others are Air Cdre A. H. Bakari,

Nigeria Air Force; AIG David O. Folawiyo, Nigeria Police Force; Jimat Bakare, Department of State Services; CP Olayinka Balogun, Police Service Commission; Dr. E.O. Adeoye and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, Dr. Joseph Ochogwu, Professor Sani Abubakar Lugga, Dr. Nasirudeen Usman who are technology experts. Mallam Tukur Yahaya will serve as committee Secretary.





## SGF Visits GALAXY BACKBONE, Pledges Support

**T**he Federal Government recognises the strategic role and modest achievements of Galaxy Backbone Limited in the development of Information and Communication Technology in the country.

The SGF, Boss Mustapha, while inspecting the headquarters building of the company under construction in Abuja, praised its giant strides particularly in delivering on its mandate of the deploying ICT to drive government programs and policies.

He noted the huge investment made by government in the sector and urged the managers of the company to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of its



SGF, Boss Mustapha, middle; MD, Galaxy Backbone, Mallam Yusuf Kazaure and members of his management team.

operations to help deliver on government's e-governance program even as pledged government's continued support and assistance to the agency.

The SGF stressed that the recent training of 1000 public servants on e-governance would enhance the efficiency and productivity of officers in

the service.

Managing Director of the company, Mallam Yusuf Kazaure disclosed that only 11 states and the FCT have been covered with ICT backbone in the first phase while efforts are being made to commence the second phase to cover the entire country.





SGF, Boss Mustapha; HOS, Mrs Winifred Oyo-Ita; Perm. Secs. and CAOs at the launch of new Handbook for Cabinet Affairs Officers.

## SGF Calls for Synergy to Reposition CAOs

**T**he Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, wants officers in charge of Cabinet Affairs Office (CAOs) at different levels of government to collaborate and share ideas for enhanced service delivery.

While opening the maiden meeting of heads/permanent secretaries of cabinet affairs at the federal and state levels in Abuja Mustapha described the Cabinet Affairs Office as an indispensable tool for actualizing the key policy coordination mandate of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and that of Secretaries to State Government.

Specifically, the SGF said is a veritable ground which enables participants to agree on an effective framework for building the capacity of the CAOs across the federation. His words: “The key objective of the meeting is to prepare us for building synergy among various levels of Government in policymaking and tracking of the implementation of the budgets (Projects/Programmes) and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)”.

Mustapha, while speaking on the theme of the forum, Repositioning the Cabinet Affairs Offices for Effective Service Delivery, traced the evolution of the CAO in the country and the phenomenal changes it has passed through at different levels. He disclosed that the CAO, located in the OSGF, provides technical assistance to the Federal Executive Council, Council of State and Police Council at all meetings.

The SGF observed that experience of global government practices shows that as nations continue to face budgetary constraints, policymakers are looking for ways to make government more responsive to the aspirations of the citizenry.

He expressed optimism that the forum will broaden the horizon of participants to move the country forward through positive collaboration and robust engagement on how to reposition the CAOs for effective policy coordination, peer review and performance measurement.

The SGF presented a 1042-page Status Report on the Policies, Programmes and Project approved by the Federal Executive Council from 2015 to 2017 and launched a Cabinet Affairs Handbook to guide all ministries in preparing Council documents.

Three Permanent Secretaries who served in the CAO (OSGF), were also given awards of excellence for their performance in office. The awardees are: Ambassador John A. Gana, Dr. Roy Pedro Ugo, FCIPM and Barr. Georgina Ekeoma Ehuriah, MON.

The Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Affairs Office, Babatunde Lawal said the meeting was organized to produce a veritable framework for strengthening the capacity of the CAOs in executing their core mandate, including the tracking of Council decisions\approvals for enhanced development.

He urged participants to help ensure coherence, quality delivery of policy and executive operations across MDAs of government even as he emphasized that CAOs play a critical role in governance, especially in ensuring service delivery and ensuring that policy making and delivery is rigorous and effectively tracked.

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation; Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission, representatives of Development Partners and African Development Bank were at the forum.



## When ABU Alumni Came to Bond with the Boss

**T**he Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, has praised the Ahmadu Bello University Alumni Association for forging a close collaboration to initiate projects aimed at boosting teaching and learning.

The SGF, while receiving executive members of the association in his office, listed the various projects initiated by the alumni among them bus service to ease students transportation on campus; the construction and completion of the abandoned “Sabbatical Suites”, Samaru; the National Secretariat of the Association and for organizing and financing a workshop to improve teaching.

Mustapha lauded the spirit of sacrifice exhibit by members of the association, for giving back to the institution and for their commitment to their alma mater.

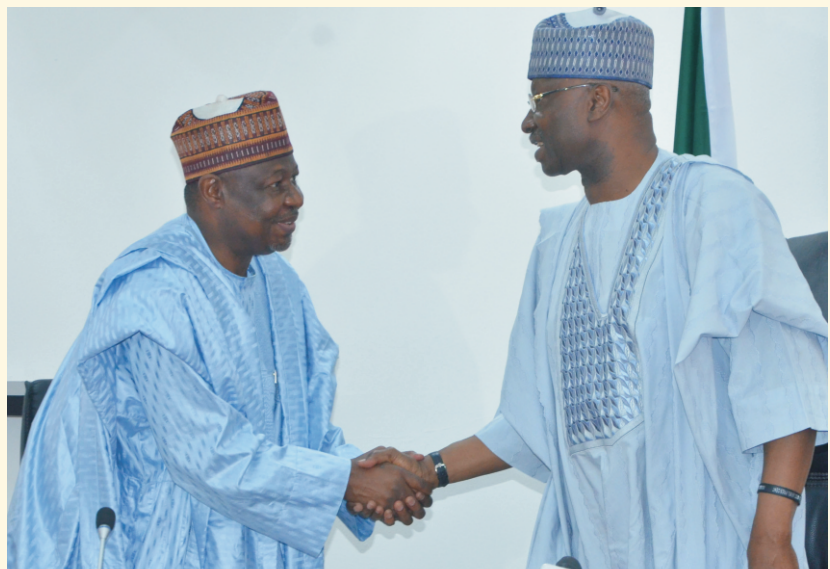
He said himself and three permanent secretaries in the

OSG, all alumni of ABU, would always support the association to help it realize its dreams. The three permanent secretaries are Dr. Habiba M. Lawal (Ecological Fund Office), Dr. Amina Shamaki (Special Services Office) and Engr. Festus Daudu (Special Duties Office).

National president of the association, Professor Ahmed Tijjani Mora said the team came to express gratitude to the SGF as a distinguished Service Award Winner of the

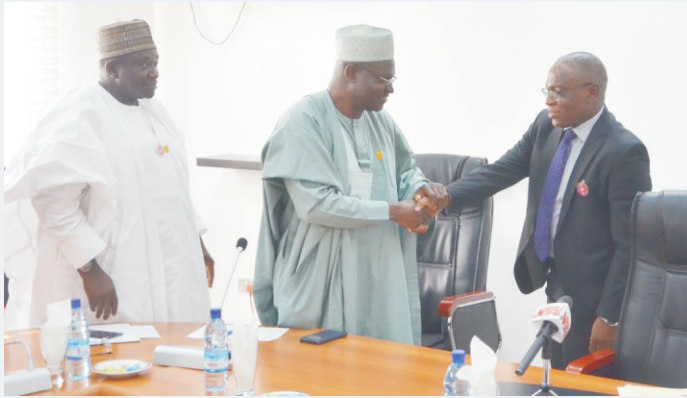
ABU Alumni Association, and to also congratulate him over the re-election of President Muhammadu Buhari in the 2019 general elections.

He further thanked Mustapha for gracing the 2018 Annual General Assembly Lecture as the Special Guest of Honour, his support for the Postgraduate Students Hostel, his support to the Laptop Computer Loan Scheme of the Association and for facilitating support for ABU by the Ecological Fund Office.



SGF, Boss Mustapha, in a handshake with National President, ABU Alumni, Professor Ahmed Tijjani Mora.





From left, Engr. Jani Ibrahim; Past President, Alumni Association of the National Institute, Mr. Khaleel Bolaji and Perm. Sec., GSO, Mr. Olusegun Adekunle while receiving AANI Executive members.

# The National Dialogue on Democratic Stability for National Security



From left, Past President, Alumni Association of the National Institute, Eng. Mohammed Umar; the National Security Adviser, Mohammed Babagana Monguno; Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Sa'ad Abubakar 111 and Past President, AANI, Mr. Khaleel Bolaji at the National Dialogue on Democratic Stability for National Security in Abuja.



From left, Representative of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Permanent Secretary, General Services, Mr. Olusegun Adekunle; Permanent Secretary, Special Services Office, Dr. Amina Mohammed Bello Shamaki, *mni* and Past President, Alumni Association of the National Institute, Mr. Khaleel Bolaji at the National Dialogue on Democratic Stability for National Security in Abuja.





## National Youth Entrepreneurship Empowerment Summit 2019



Official  
Commissioning of  
Ogbomosho First  
Community Initiative  
- Behavioural  
Anonymous Centre  
by the Chairman,  
NDLEA, Col.  
Muhammed Mustapha  
Abdallah, rtd.







**Executive-Legislative  
COLLABORATION  
When SGF  
Visited the  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**







Happy times for the Mustaphas as Hannah graduates at Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State



## RETIREMENT



Well-deserved retirement for Mr. Bello Ugbeda of the Cabinet Affairs Office.



The investiture of Mr. Olusegun Adeyemi Adekunle as **Knight of John Wesley** by the Methodist Church of Nigeria in Abuja





# NOW THE NEXT LEVEL: **I will Be President For All** Says Muhammadu Buhari on June 12



**A**ll Praise is due to GOD Almighty Who spared our lives to be present at this great occasion. We give thanks also that the democratic process has been further entrenched and strengthened.

Twenty years ago, a democratically elected government took over from the military in a historic transfer of political power for our country.

Today, we are privileged to mark the longest period of unbroken democratic leadership and 5th peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected government to another in Nigeria.

Throughout the last four years, I respected the independence of INEC. I ensured that INEC got all the resources it needed for independent and impartial management of elections in the country.

All interested parties are agreed that the recent elections, which except for pockets of unrest, were free, fair and peaceful.

I thank all the people who worked for our party, who campaigned and who voted for us. I thank my fellow Nigerians, who, since 2003 have consistently voted for me.

Victory is your greatest reward; peace, unity and greater prosperity will be our collective legacy.

#### **Your Excellencies, Fellow Nigerians,**

I and Nigerians collectively must give adequate thanks to our Armed Forces, Police and other law enforcing agencies for working round the clock to protect us by putting themselves in harm's way and defending our values and protecting our future.

Terrorism and insecurity are worldwide phenomena and even the best policed countries are experiencing increasing incidents of unrest and are finding things hard

to cope.

The principal thrust of this new Administration is to consolidate on the achievements of the last four years, correct the lapses inevitable in all human endeavors and tackle the new challenges the country is faced with and chart a bold plan for transforming Nigeria.

Fellow Nigerians, I have had the privilege of free education from Primary school to Staff College to War College.

I received my formative education in Katsina and Kaduna and my higher education in England, India and the United States.

I have worked and served in Kaduna, Lagos, Abeokuta, Makurdi, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Ibadan, Jos and finally here in Abuja. Throughout my adult life, I have been a public servant. I have no other career but public service. I know no service but public service.

I was involved at close quarters in the struggle to keep Nigeria one. I can therefore do no more than dedicate the rest of my life to work for the unity of Nigeria and upliftment of Nigerians.

In 2002-2003 campaigns and elections, I travelled by road to 34 of the 36 states of the Federation. This year I travelled by air to all 36 states of the Federation.

Before and during my time in the Armed Forces and in government, I have interacted with Nigerians of all ages and persuasions and different shades of opinion over a period of more than fifty years.

And my firm belief is that our people above all want to live in peace and harmony with their fellow Nigerians. They desire opportunity to better themselves in a safe environment.



# PMB: I will be President for All

Most of the instances of inter-communal and inter-religious strife and violence were and are still as a result of sponsorship or incitements by ethnic, political or religious leaders hoping to benefit by exploiting our divisions and fault lines, thereby weakening our country.

And our country Nigeria is a great country. According to United Nations estimates, our population will rise to 411 million by 2050, making us the third most populous nation on earth behind only China and India.

We have water, arable land, forests, oil and gas and vast quantities of solid minerals. We are blessed with an equable climate. However, the bulk of our real wealth lies in Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining. We possess all the ingredients of a major economic power on the world stage.

What we require is the will to get our acts together. And our strength is in our people - our youth, our culture, our resilience, our ability to succeed despite the odds.

A huge responsibility therefore rests on this and succeeding Administrations to develop, harness and fulfil our enormous potential into a force to be reckoned with globally.

Thus far, we Nigerians can be proud of our history since Independence in 1960. We have contributed to UN peace-keeping responsibilities all over the world; we have stabilized Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and two years ago we prevented the Gambia from degenerating into anarchy.

Without Nigerian influence and resources, the liberation of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and ultimately South Africa would have come at greater cost. This fact had been attested by none other than the late Nelson Mandela himself.

Elsewhere, Nigeria is the Big Brother to our neighbours. We are the shock-absorber of the West African sub-region, the bulwark of ECOWAS and

Lake Chad Basin Commission. We can therefore be proud to be Nigerians. We must continue to be Good Neighbours and Good Global Citizens.

At home, we have been successful in forging a nation from different ethnicities and language groups: our evolution and integration into one nation continues apace.

When, therefore we came to office in 2015 after a decade of struggle we identified three cardinal and existential challenges our country faced and made them our campaign focus, namely security, economy and fighting corruption.

None but the most partisan will dispute that in the last four years we have made solid progress in addressing these challenges.

When I took the oath of office on 29 May 2015, insecurity reigned. Apart from occupying 18 local governments in the North East, Boko Haram could at will attack any city including the Federal Capital, could threaten any institution including bombing the United Nations building and Police Headquarters in Abuja.

Admittedly, some of the challenges still remain in kidnappings and banditry in some rural areas. The great difference between 2015 and today is that we are meeting these challenges with much greater support to the security forces in terms of money, equipment and improved local intelligence. We are meeting these challenges with superior strategy, firepower and resolve.

In face of these challenges, our Government elected by the people in 2015 and re-elected in March has been mapping out policies, measures and laws to maintain our unity and at the same time lift the bulk of our people out of poverty and onto the road to prosperity.

This task is by no means unattainable. China has done it. India has done it. Indonesia has done it. Nigeria can do it. These are all countries characterized by huge burdens of population.

China and Indonesia succeeded under authoritarian regimes. India succeeded in a democratic setting. We can do it.

With leadership and a sense of purpose, we can lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

Following the 60 percent drop in oil prices between 2015 and 2016, through monetary and fiscal measures, we stimulated economic growth, curbed inflation and shored up our external reserves.

We now have witnessed 8 quarters of positive growth in the economy and our GDP is expected to grow by 2.7 percent this year.

Furthermore, our external reserves have risen to \$45 billion enough to finance over 9 months of current import commitments.

This Administration is laying the foundation and taking bold steps in transforming our country and liberating our people from the shackles of poverty.

First, we will take steps to integrate rural economies to the national economic "grid" by extending access to small-scale credits and inputs to rural farmers, credit to rural micro-businesses and opening up many critical feeder roads.

Secondly, for small-scale enterprises in towns and cities, we shall expand facilities currently available so that we continue to encourage and support domestic production of basic goods and reduce our reliance of imported goods as I will outline later.

41. For the next four years, we will remain committed to improving the lives of people by consolidating efforts to address these key issues as well as emerging challenges of climate change, resettling displaced communities and dealing decisively with the new flashes of insecurity across the country, and the impacts on food scarcity and regional stability.

We are not daunted by the enormity of the tasks ahead. Instead, we are

# PMB: I will be President for All

revived by this new mandate to work collaboratively with State and Local Governments, Legislators, the Diplomatic Corps and all Nigerians to rebuild and reposition our country as the heartbeat and reference point for our continent.

## **Fellow Nigerians, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen:**

a. Despite the enormous resources pledged to infrastructure development these past four years, there remains the urgent need to modernize our roads and bridges, electricity grid, ports and rail systems.

b. Whilst agriculture and industrial output have recovered since the recession, we are more committed than ever to work with the private sector to improve productivity and accelerate economic growth.

c. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index which is the gauge of manufacturing activity in the country has also risen for 26 consecutive months since March 2017 indicating continuous growth and expansion in our manufacturing sector.

d. It still takes too long for goods to clear at our seaports and the roads leading to them are congested. It still takes too long for routine and regulatory approvals to be secured. These issues affect our productivity and we are committed to addressing them permanently.

e. Our Government will continue work to reduce social and economic inequality through targeted social investment programs, education, technology and improved information.

f. Our social intervention programs are a model for other nations. Together with state governments, we provide millions of school children with meals in primary schools, micro loans to traders and entrepreneurs, skills and knowledge acquisition support to graduates and of course, conditional cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.

g. A database of poor and vulnerable households is being carefully built based on age, gender, disability, educational levels for proper planning in this Administration's war against poverty.

h. A database of unemployed but qualified youth has also been developed under the National Social Investment Programme which can be used by the public and private sectors for recruitment purposes. Cumulatively, nearly 2 million beneficiaries have received aid under this Programme apart from Anchors Borrowers Programme and School Feeding initiative each reaching 2 million recipients. And we will do more. Much more.

Fellow Nigerians, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, we know that there exists a strong correlation between economic inequality and insecurity.

When economic inequality rises, insecurity rises. But when we actively reduce inequality through investments in social and hard infrastructure, insecurity reduces.

The disturbing increase in rates of kidnapping, banditry and other criminal activities can be attributed to the decades of neglect and corruption in social investment, infrastructure development, education and healthcare.

This issue is further compounded by the impact of our changing climate and ecology.

The ECOWAS and Sahel regions, starting from Chad all the way to Mali, are also experiencing adverse impacts of drought and desertification, which have triggered waves of human displacement; conflicts between farmers and herdsmen; terrorism; and a fundamental socio-economic change to our way of life.

These issues are regional and not unique to Nigeria alone. The problems call for increased regional and international cooperation in developing a sustainable solution.

As Chairman of ECOWAS, I will be

hosting a regional security summit of heads of states in the Sahel to develop a Joint Strategy to continue our efforts in addressing these issues.

Fellow Nigerians, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, at the heart of inequality and insecurity, is pervasive corruption. When we took office we realised that if you fight corruption, corruption will fight back - and we have seen this at all levels.

For Nigeria to progress, a collective resolution to address corruption and foster broad-based prosperity is required to create a country that is not only for a few privileged, but for all Nigerians.

This charge is not only to Civil Servants, Ministers, Legislators and State Government functionaries, but also to Corporate leaders. We shall make greater investments in our rural economies. We shall aggressively source locally our raw materials.

We have incentives for investments specifically made in rural communities.

However, nationwide development cannot occur from Abuja alone; it must occur at States. And Government cannot do it alone.

I therefore implore all State Governments, especially those with large rural economies, to aggressively solicit investments in your states. Invest in developing human capital, reducing bureaucracy and corruption, hosting and attending investment summits and improving the ease of doing business.

At this point, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entrepreneurs, investors and venture capitalists who have built or are building agro-processing projects; petrochemical plants; crude oil and solid mineral refineries; energy exploration; software development projects; telecom infrastructure; health, education and manufacturing projects; and the like, across our country.



# PMB: I will be President for All

I would like to make special mention to promoters of our small businesses that are proudly making goods and services for export and for local consumption. The Nigerian economy rises and falls on the strength of your investments and productivity.

We will continue to listen to your ideas and plans not just about how we can secure more investment, but how your plans can help create a more equitable economy.

I also thank the labour unions, farmer groups and associations, organized private sector and the civil society organisations for their support and cooperation with our government these last four years.

We will continue to count on your support, guidance and understanding during the next four years.

I especially thank our traditional leaders and congratulate re-elected and newly elected State Governors and members of the National Assembly. Our Government will continue to count on your support so that we can together move our country forward.

Fellow Nigerians, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, despite the challenges over the last four years, my optimism about Nigeria's future is unshaken and Nigeria's role in the world as an emerging economic force is without a doubt.

Over the next four years, we are committed to assembling a strong team of Nigerians, and allies, to implement our transformative plans and proposals.

a. We will see significant focus, resource and, where necessary reform, in tertiary and technical education to reposition Nigeria's workforce for the modern technological age.

b. We will accelerate investments in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare programs, interventions and infrastructure as well as in upgrading of our medical personnel to stem the flight of our best trained people.

c. On food security, our farmers have made great strides in local production of rice, maize, cassava, poultry, fertilizer, fisheries and sesame. We remain resolute in supporting private sector in emphasizing backward integration and export expansion plans.

d. Felling of trees to provide energy for domestic use is taking its toll on our rain forests, our ecology and our climate. Accordingly, we are taking steps to harness cleaner and more sustainable sources of electricity. We export over 2 million tons of cooking gas, yet we consume less than half a million tons.

e. We will work to address this issue and support rural communities with challenges of safely switching from firewood to cooking gas.

f. Dedicated agro-industrial processing zones will be developed on a PPP basis to increase farming yields, agricultural productivity and industrial output.

g. Over 2,000 kilometers of ongoing Federal road and bridge projects across the country will be completed to reduce journey times and the cost of doing business. As I mentioned earlier, critical feeder roads will be built to facilitate easier transportation for people and goods from rural areas to major roads.

h. We are at advanced stages of securing investments to modernize and expand our transmission and distribution infrastructure, ensuring that electricity is available and affordable for all Nigerians.

i. Several rail, seaport and airport projects are at various stages of completion. We will open the arteries of transportation nationwide.

j. It is a fact that Nigeria has more gas reserves than it has oil. Over the last four years, we have become a net exporter of urea, which is made from natural gas. We invite investors to develop more natural gas-based petrochemical projects.

k. Fellow Nigerians, This Government will not tolerate actions by any

individual or groups of individuals who seek to attack our way of life or those who seek to corruptly enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of us. We will crack down on those who incite ordinary innocent people to violence and unrest.

l. We will ensure that such actions are met with the strong arm of the law.

Nation building takes time. But we must take solace in the knowledge that this country, our country, has everything we require to make Nigeria prosper.

Fellow Nigerians, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in this journey of rebuilding our nation.

Our focus will not be to help the privileged few but to ensure that Nigeria works for Nigerians of all persuasions. That is a more just arrangement.

As we all know, correcting injustice is a pre-requisite for peace and unity. As part of the process of healing and reconciliation, I approved the recognition of June 12 as Democracy Day and invested the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola and Babagana Kingibe with National Honours, as I did with the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi. The purpose was to partially atone for the previous damage done in annulling the Presidential elections of that year.

Today, I propose the re-naming of the Abuja National Stadium. Henceforth it will be called **MOSHOO ABIOLA NATIONAL STADIUM**.

In my first term, we put Nigeria back on its feet. We are working again despite a difficult environment in oil on which we depend too much for our exports. We encountered huge resistance from vested interests who do not want CHANGE, But CHANGE has come, we now must move to the NEXT LEVEL.

By the Grace of God, I intend to keep the oath I have made today and to serve as President for all Nigerians. I thank you for attending this August occasion.



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