

**REMARKS BY MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU,
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GOVERNORS FORUM INDUCTION FOR
NEW AND RETURNING GOVERNORS, LIFE
AFTER OFFICE ON SUNDAY 14TH MAY,
2023**

PROTOCOL

Let me start by saying that the campaigns are over and you have been elected to govern your people. There is a huge difference between campaign and governance. Election have been won and lost, but my pity goes to the winners because very soon – 29th May, 2023, you shall hold either the Qur'an or Bible to swear/affirm that you shall treat all manners of people equal

and govern well. In addition many of us who 'believe' know that any position of leadership is actually a test from Allah (SWT) God. You pass you know you reward, you fail you know your punishment.

2. In the same vein, the old saying which says "as you make your bed so shall you lie". As a candidate you went to the people begged them, cajoled them, often bribed them by many promises and sometimes with cash, asking them to vote for you because you are better than the other contestants. They elect you, giving you an opportunity to serve them, making you a servant of the people – indeed that's the real definition of your job – servant and not Excellency. I believe if you serve your

people as a servant, with compassion and transparency you are likely to enjoy your life after office. However if you handle your assignment as "Excellency" who knows everything and cannot listen to others and become cantankerous in your dealings with people, then you are likely to have a life after office full of regrets and bitterness.

3. As a human being, always bear in mind that whatever mode and style of leadership you adopt, you shall not be loved, praised and respected by all, you shall always have detractors and some who may never see any good in what you do. So bear in mind, the opposition, those power mongers, influence peddlers, corruption influencers and those who

use one item (like religion, tribalism, ethnicity) to gain favour these would enjoy the benefit of your office but later turn to crucify you too many betrayals around the corner.. I am sure many of you have seen the trend where the people who pretended they could not live without you, avoiding and shying away from you as the days of your departure draw near and they gravitate towards the person taking over from you. As a result of such people, I advise that you do not try to outshine the new person coming and to attempt to run the state by proxy. Indeed even if your son succeeds you, be careful how you handle your relationship with him as a Governor because if you are sure of yourself, you may not be too sure of (his mother, your wife and his siblings).

So far majority of Governors who tried to impose their successors have tended to disagree with them within a short span of time of the new administration.

4. There is no prescribed role for former Governor but your activities may depend on your standing amongst your people and your stature within the party. However, no common formula that fits all, you must therefore, approach your challenges on your own way – you are the one who should determine and find your level of contentment. However, if you adopt as I said earlier to govern as a servant of the people either four or if you are lucky eight years, see it as assignment, the period will come and pass quicker than you expect. Your

goal is to govern well to the satisfaction of the majority of the people, especially the weak and vulnerable in your state. To do that you may need to pay attention to the concept of good Governance.

5. Good Governance is often defined as “a process of measuring how public institutions conduct public affairs, and manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights in manner essentially free of abuse, corruption and with due regard for the rule of law”. This relates to the political and institutional and outcomes that are necessary to achieve the goals of development. In this case your activities should be guided by sense of responsibility, accountability, awareness,

impartiality and transparency. You should be the guiding light of participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness consensus oriented, equity, accountability, inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency.

6. This pre-supposes that you shall pay attention to how you appoint your political officers as well as situate the civil service for effectiveness and efficiency. Too much happens in the civil service that could determine your success or failure.

7. Nevertheless, whether you prove to be good or bad, you must know like death, you must leave that office, Please prepare to leave without too much baggage, no regret only

nostalgia for the good things you have done. In my personal experience immediately I handed over to my successor, my first travel was to Saudi Arabia to perform lesser Hajj and to further thank Allah (SWT) for the opportunity given to me, next I went to Harvard and later to Oxford universities which gave ample time to reflect and to transit to my new position of 'former governor'. Unfortunately my state is not very rich to have large severance package.

8. So you may need to prepare yourself and determine how you handle your financial needs and requirement, Most importantly you should be concerned with your physical and emotional health to be in good shape. Arrange how you travel and move about as you gradually join the

larger society. It may be beneficial to be involved in some routines like farming, livestock, mining, transportation and some clean business to augment your revenue as there is no more free food, convoy or large security. Keeping a journal of your activities may help you write your memoir or autobiography. If you are well off you can establish a foundation to help less to do and the vulnerable or pursue some worthwhile goals, whatever it is get busy doing something worthwhile. Certain people to avoid once you are out of office competitor, abuser, user, complainer and blamer.

9. In conclusion, I appeal to all former governors to come together to strengthen the

former governors forum. We may not appreciate the fact that we are probably the main group with better experience in governance, administration, macro and micro economics. We appreciate the covert and overt nuances of our society, so we can be the main bridge of unity, growth and development of Nigeria.