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**ADDRESS ON TASK OF NATION BUILDING BY ERIC ADAMS, MAYOR OF NEW YORK, USA**

This is New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

I want to thank the leadership of the Nigerian Governors Forum for inviting me today.

Greetings to your Excellencies and all the honoured guests present.

I'm sorry I cannot be there in person with you today enjoying the legendary Nigerian hospitality and atmosphere, but I want to congratulate all our incoming governors and welcome you to the noblest of callings public service like New York City, Nigeria has always been a crossroads of many cultures, a vibrant and exciting place to live in, a dynamic place to do business.

It's no coincidence that one of the largest Nigerian diaspora communities in the world is right here in New York City, and we are, depending on your partnership as we work towards a global economic recovery, we are committed to working with Nigeria and all African nations on so many important fronts, from our business relationships to our cultural exchange, cities are the future and so is the African continent.

The last few years have been tough on every city and every nation, but as we build back, we must think about how we can do better, how we can increase equity and inclusion into every aspect of our lives, how we can provide the jobs, housing and healthcare people need, and how we can work to keep our people safe from extreme weather and climate disasters.

It starts with acknowledging that you have been entrusted with people's business and the people's safety. That trust is at the heart of every great nation in every enduring city. It is the basics of our democracy, our civic institutions, our media, our legal system, but it cannot be bought.

It can only be earned by us, moment by moment, and once you have that trust, that is when you can get stuff done. As I like to say, when we know we are working for the common good, everything is possible. You need to be a doer, not a doubter. That is what my journey has been all about.

I saw the dysfunction in the Police Department. I joined up to change it from the inside to trust I earned. There allowed me to become a state senator and Brooklyn Borough president, and when I became mayor, it wasn't just because people knew my name, they knew they could trust that I would work for them, work on improving public safety, building affordable housing, making sure our children get a quality education, strengthening our economy, expanding job training and opportunity for all. Looking out for those in need and celebrating that spirit of unity that brings us all together under one flag, this is our job as elected officials.

And if Nigerians are anything like New Yorkers, they are going to let you know how you're doing.

I look forward to visiting you in person and seeing for myself all the great things you will accomplish going forward.

Thank you.

And enjoy the Forum.