

MAIDEN ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AND SWEARING-IN AS THE THIRD EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE ON THURSDAY MAY 29, 2003

Today is the day that the Lord has chosen; we will rejoice and be glad indeed. Today brings to an end, an era in our history, marking, of course, the commencement of a new era. The old order has therefore changed, yielding place to a new one. We thank God Almighty, for giving us the grace and privilege to be part of this historic occasion.

After the turbulence occasioned by the last electioneering campaign, the battle has been lost and won. We are here together again as brothers and sisters in one-love family, the large and extended family of Osun State.

I therefore welcome all of you here present to this historic and epoch-making ceremony of the change of batons from one democratically elected government to another. Even though there has been occasional political tension, it is gratifying to note that there has been no bloodletting in Osun State. Two months ago, nobody would have believed what is now happening.

Pessimists would say the heavens would fall or that there would be brimstone and fire. But we, who believe in God, hold fast to him in prayer and supplication and God in his infinite mercies has brought us happily to this destination. To God, therefore, be the glory.

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I wish to acknowledge your massive and impressive support for the Peoples Democratic Party as evidenced by your remarkable decision to embrace the PDP at all levels in the last polls. I thank you very much sincerely for your support, encouragement and the very warm disposition shown to the Peoples Democratic Party in Osun State. I join hands with our administration in our task of building a just and egalitarian society where our people will not be oppressed or denied their rights. We are poised to set new standards and bring back once again, an era of peace and prosperity.

It is most gratifying to note that for the first time in a long while, the people of our dear State have chosen to align the government at the centre. This development, will undoubtedly impact positively on the physical and general development of Osun State. It is the policy of the PDP administration in the State, to cooperate fully with the Federal Government in our avowed determination to improve the standard of living of the citizenry.

I am of the strong conviction that with all of us working together and with God being with us, we shall place Osun State on the path of progress. I therefore solicit the support and cooperation of the good people of Osun State, particularly all the interest and pressure groups to enable our administration achieve its set goals and objectives. Kindly permit me to observe that Osun State, our dear State yearns for development. Events of the past clearly point to the fact that our state requires a vibrant leadership that is totally committed to the well being of the polity. I wish to assure you all that I have studied critically the various activities of government in Osun State and has arrived at the conclusion that the task ahead is enormous but achievable.

My fellow citizens, the immediate major thrust of our policies for priority attention will be: Security, Water-Resources, Transportation, Agriculture and the provision of an enabling environment for the socio-economic development of Osun State.

In the weeks and months administration will unfold as put together by the immediate guiding policies.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE, NLC A

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TRANSITION COMMITTEE

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In the weeks and months ahead, specific details of the policies and programmes of our administration will unfold as we settle down more and understand better, the position of records put together by the immediate past administration in this State. For now, I wish to touch on a few guiding policies.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE, NLC AND THE ON-GOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION

I wish to use this public forum and the swearing-in ceremony of the new administration in Osun State to appeal to our brothers and sisters in the Nigeria Labour Congress to please, in the interest of peace and order, suspend their industrial action forthwith. I pledge, to set out to work immediately with the leadership of the NLC, to iron out the outstanding areas of dispute. It is the policy of our administration to rejuvenate the public service of the State which forms the bedrock for the implementation of government's programmes and policies.

As an immediate policy measure, I wish to announce that the case of retrenched workers will be reviewed accordingly. As from now, the in-coming government will take the following policy measures and address the issues as a matter of urgency. Firstly, the Head of Service is hereby directed to go into discussions immediately with the NLC with a view to resolving the differences between government and the NLC to facilitate the immediate resumption of duty.

•The 10%, 15% and 20% compulsory deductions for workers salaries are hereby stopped with effect from the 1st of June, 2003.

•A public service Review Panel will be set up to look into individual cases of the affected public servants and make appropriate recommendations.

•In the case of workers that cannot be re-absorbed, their entitlements, by way of pension and gratuity, will be paid without further delay.

•All appointments made from January 2003 till the present time will be examined and reviewed suitably in line with the principles of fairness and equity.

•In view of the foregoing, I am appealing to all striking workers to please go back to work immediately.

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Our Transition Committee received over 100 memoranda in a spate of two weeks. Some of these memoranda addressed developmental proposals and administrative reforms and other vital issues. About 60% of these memoranda however centred on alleged injustice in our system. We intend to remove these completely or reduce them to the barest minimum in the shortest possible time. To this end, a Review Panel will be set up immediately with appropriate terms of reference to clear the reported cases within 3 months of this administration in the following areas.



- (a) The Civil Service.
- (b) The Teaching Service and SPEB.
- (c) The Local Government Service.
- (d) The Judiciary.

STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE JUDICIARY

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is the desire of our administration to ensure that the three arms of Government work together in harmony. The Judiciary, as the citadel of justice and the Legislature, as the law-making organ of Government will be accorded the full cooperation of the Executive in the discharge of their functions. They will be encouraged to decide and deliberate with courage and sincerity. The Legislature will be inaugurated in the next few days, by a proclamation.

BOARDS, PARASTATALS AND STATUTORY COMMISSIONS

The Boards of all Parastatals are hereby dissolved, and political appointees relieved of their appointments. The accounts of the Boards, Parastatals and Commissions are hereby frozen until further notice. Such Boards, Parastatals and Commissions should await further directives. In the case of dissolution of the Boards of the Civil Service Commission and the Judicial Service Commission, a definite pronouncement will be made in due course.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSITION COUNCIL

In many Local Governments, there have been reports of the execution of spurious projects witnessed with full collusion of the Transition Committees and connivance of the councils' officials. As a fall-out of this, and in order to prevent further sabotage, all members of the Transition Committees in all the 30 Local Governments are hereby relieved of their posts. The Directors of Personnel Management are hereby directed to take over, pending further directives. The Secretaries to Local Government Education Authorities are similarly to hand-over to their Directors for Finance and Supplies (DFS). The accounts of all the existing 30 Local Governments in Osun State and Local Government Education Authorities are hereby frozen.

MEETINGS WITH SOME ORGANIZATIONS

This administration places a lot of confidence and has expectations from some organizations and statutory bodies in the State. These bodies include:

- (a) Traditional Rulers
- (b) Religious Leaders
- (c) The Nigeria Labour Congress
- (d) Senior Civil Servants
- (e) Vice Chancellors of Universities and Chief Medical Directors of Teaching Hospitals in the State, and
- (f) Rectors, Registrars and Union Leaders of Federal, State Colleges of

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SECURITY

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Education, Polytechnics, Trade Centres and School of Health Technology.

Government will hold short meetings with each of these organizations as soon as possible to appeal for cooperation and support.

COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISERS

It is my wish to run an administration that is compact, focused and efficient. It will also be transparent in all official conducts. To this end, a blue print on all aspects of Government functions has been developed. However, this blue print will be further subjected to a committee of experts in different disciplines to develop implementable programmes with specific measurable milestone. The product of this exercise will constitute the agenda for our Government.

The choice of commissioners and special advisers will be based on their level of qualification, experience, party loyalty and ability to deliver in a dynamic administration that we have in view.

I wish to stress that our administration will not be distracted by criticisms. We require constructive criticisms to make us stay on the right path. However, this administration will not welcome unsolicited proposals that are not in consonance with our party's programmes and policies from time to time.

Our policy is to draw our inspiration and strength from the real people, the unheard and unseen millions who want to see our dear state progress. I have faith that God is on our side and we shall therefore succeed.

ROYAL FATHERS

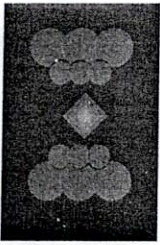
It is unfortunate and lamentable that our Royal Fathers have been degraded and relegated to the background. This administration attaches great importance to our traditional institutions because of their invaluable contributions to the peace and progress of their areas. In this connection, we shall soon set in motion the machinery for the re-constitution of the Osun State Council of Obas and Chiefs.

SECURITY

The occasion of today also affords me the opportunity to assure that our administration is committed to maintaining law and order in this State. This new administration is determined to promote security of lives and properties as part of its plans to create an enabling environment for speedy development.

AGRICULTURE

Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to submit that a nation that cannot feed itself is not worth being called a nation. We shall appraise our approach to agriculture with a view to making Osun State self-sustaining in food production. I wish to emphasize that this new administration will utilize agriculture to develop the rural areas. Our administration will encourage a private sector-driven agricultural sector with the ultimate objective of improving our collective fortunes for the socio-economic development of our dear State.



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

In line with our policy of putting in place an egalitarian society, I want to affirm that we shall, by the grace of God, run an administration that is characterized by fairness, firmness and responsiveness. The education sector will be reinvigorated and rejuvenated to ensure that the future of our children is safeguarded. We will discard the policy which discriminates against certain subjects in the liberal arts while also pursuing an educational programme that would promote science education. Our institutions will be properly staffed and run so that the future of our children will not be put in serious jeopardy.

At this juncture, I wish to reiterate the fact that our administration will be committed to the concept of visioning and planning, especially tenacious long range planning and purposeful implementation of our programmes. In this regard, a qualitative free health programme backed up with the availability of drugs, dressings, equipment and staff will be provided in our hospitals and related health institutions. It is our plan to establish a drug manufacturing industry as part of our plans to rejuvenate the health sector. Our plan is to build a virile and health citizenry that would contribute meaningfully to the development of Osun State.

Let me use this opportunity to invite willing investors who may wish to participate in business ventures in Osun State to feel free to move over, as an enabling environment will be created for their investments and appropriations. A framework for their operations, including the necessary incentives has been drawn up.

I assure everybody that policies in all aspects of human endeavour will be tailored towards the development of man and his environment. Haphazard policies would be jettisoned for coherent and purposeful ones aimed at realizing a speedy economic growth of Osun State. I wish to assert that our administration will accord the necessary attention to the solid minerals sector to promote an all-round development and exploitation of the vast deposits of solid minerals which abound in our State. I promise that our administration will initiate love, peace, cooperation, discipline, sincerity and the practice of true democracy so as to steer the State along the path of true and visible development. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of the media, particularly members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm to my emergence as the Governor of Osun State. I salute you for your courage, fortitude and demonstration of support for the entrenchment of an enduring democratic culture in our Country. I assure you that we will remain the best of friends. However, I enjoin the Press, as watchdogs of the society, to practice responsible journalism that respects ethics and professionalism. Let me therefore, appeal for the cooperation of the press with the assurance that our administration and media will remain partners in progress.

CONCLUSION

Fellow citizens, you will undoubtedly agree with me that the task ahead is a daunting one which must be prosecuted with every seriousness and sincerity. I enjoin you to be strong, resilient and courageous for there is much to dare. Let us jointly meet the demands of our time with faith, courage, patience, determination and gratitude to God for seeing us thus far. I charge all of us to break new grounds to strengthen our dear State socially and economically.

I wish to assure the generality of the masses that I and my able Deputy, Erelu Olusola Obada will work together in harmony for the success of our administration. I have found Erelu Obada to be a loyal and supportive lieutenant who is willing and capable of working for the development of our dear State.

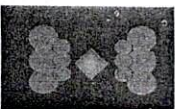
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Finally, I admonish you

Distinguished Ladies and

Long live the Federal Republic

Long live Osun State!



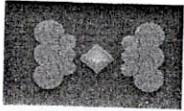
My dear people of Osun State, I want to thank you all once again, for your warm disposition to our administration. I seek for your continued love and cooperation with the firm belief that with your support, we shall make the desired progress. I promise never to disappoint you.

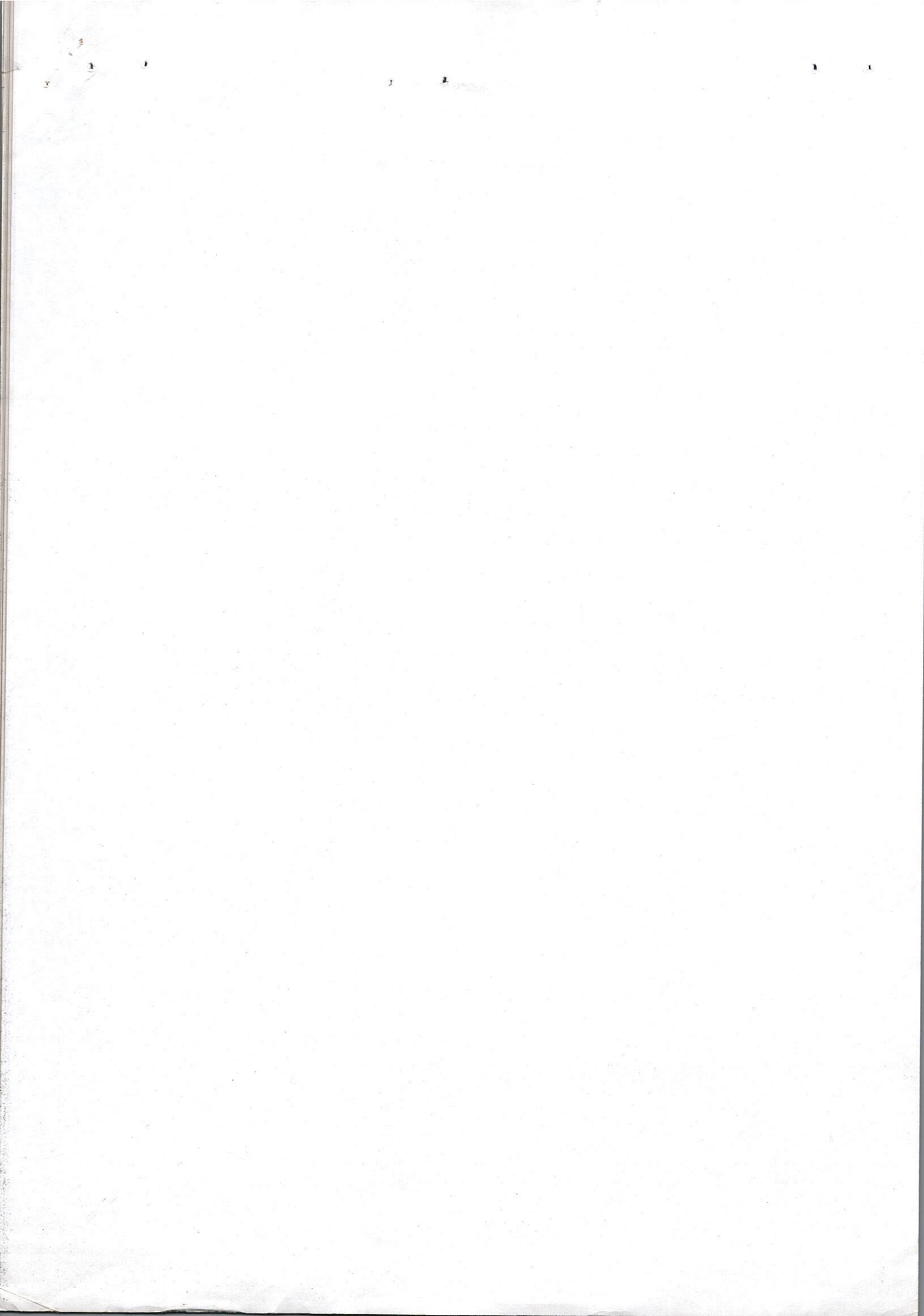
Finally, I admonish you all to remember this new administration in your prayers at all times.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your audience and God bless.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long live Osun State!





SCANNED

**INAUGURAL SPEECH OF MR. DONALD DUKE ON THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS
GOVERNOR OF CROSS-RIVER STATE ON MAY 29, 1999.**

Moments ago, the ough of office was administered to me as Governor of Cross River state. This is a position of honour and great responsibility for which I thank everyone who has made it possible.

I enter this office with humility, albeit, with a strong sense of responsibility. It is a great day in my life. It is a great day in the life of this state. It is a great day in the life of this country.

As this ceremony is going on, similar ceremonies are going on in thirty five other States Capitals of this federation and the nation's capital, Abuja. It is certainly a new dawn in the life of this country. We thank God Almighty for making this possible.

Today marks the beginning of Nigeria's fourth Republic. Together with other parts of the country, we in this state have borne grim results of Nigeria's chequered history.

But a new day is here. A new dawn is here and God helping us, we here are going to make a success of it.

Cross River is a historic state. It is a State which our fathers fought for and won for us. I salute the founding fathers of this State, the body of men and women, many of whom are now on other side of the great divide, who dreamed great dreams out of which present day Cross River State was born. They dreamed the dream of our children seating together and eating happily at the table of a common destiny.

They dreamed that the children of the rich and the children of the poor, the young and old, the noble and plebeian, the farmers and fishermen would join hands in a network of peace and prosperity. Although some are no longer in flesh. I very much feel the presence of their spirit with us. I remember men like Professor Eyo Ita, Chief Michael Ani, Chief Michael Ogon, Dr. Okoi Arikpo, Chief L.L Murphy and others too numerous to mention.

Some of them literarily gave their lives – they gave everything they could, their time, their wealth, their experience, their connections to see to the creation of this state. I believe they are watching us to see what we are going to make of this current experiment. It is the seed they planted that we are now called upon to water.

Many, many years ago, at a venue which I believe is not too far from this podium, the British colonialist sat to administer the whole country of Nigeria from the then National capital- Calabar. One would have thought that we would have a lot to show for in terms of social, educational and infrastructural development. today Cross River is termed a by-word for neglect. All evidence that this was once the proud administrative capital of Nigeria has all disappeared.

Although the nations capital could be taken from us, our history has not been taken away from us. And it is that history that should inspire us now to rise anew as we prepare to enter into the new millennium.

This is a historic year. It is the last year of this decade, the last year of this century and the last year of this millennium.

Therefore, I call upon all Cross Riverians, Irrespective of political, ethnic, social and religious bias, to join hands with me to create in Cross River State, a land that will be the pride of nation. It can be done and it will be done, God helping us.

In doing this, I intend not to lead from the rear but from the front. With the belief that only the best is good enough for Cross River State. My dear brothers and sisters, I have no illusions that it will be easy, it will not. It will be tough, but we are going to rise higher than our problems. There are developmental challenges. Within the next four years, I intend to work determinedly to destroy the foundations of ignorance, Poverty, Disease and Unemployment in our midst.

Schools have to be built. A lot of our school-age children roaming the streets all over this state have to be put in schools. They will be put in school if necessary, compulsorily. The future of this state in a decade or two will be in their hands. Therefore, we cannot afford them not being educated. Teachers and non-teaching staff have to be retrained and equipped.

Unemployment has to be tackled. Consequently jobs have to be created. Within the course of our first year, I intend to put before our legislature a novel proposal to create close to half a million jobs in agriculture and industry. We shall not provide a workshop for the devil and it is my intention to put him out of business in this state, permanently. God is on our side.

Nevertheless, we need to put in place machinery to effectively combat crime for the peace of our society. Houses have to be built. Thousands of them. In a world in which some people are talking of literally going on vacation on the moon, many of our people are still living in mud houses with thatched roofs, this is totally unacceptable. It is unacceptable to me, it is unacceptable to my party and it is an affront to human dignity. Your government under my leadership intends to do battle in this front.

In the health sector, the vast majority of our people are still having to rely on the local or traditional herbalist that ministered to our grandparents some 100 years or more ago. While thanking local health workers for their services, I wish to remark that on the eve of a new millennium, that is not satisfactory.

Roads have to be constructed – rural roads linking up urban roads, both to make life easier and faster for our people and to facilitate the distribution of farm and other products from the rural areas to our cities and vice versa.

By United Nations definition, the majority of our people are living below the poverty level. Basically this is defined in terms of quantum of calorie intake, housing, literacy, per capita income etc. in all these departments; we do not have much to show. That is why it is the intention of this government to build out the present Cross River a new Cross River State- a true biblical Canaan of the 21st century.

To achieve this, there is no way that we, i.e my party and I alone, can ensure this bold transformation. That is why I'm calling on my political colleagues and friends of other political persuasions to step across the party line and embrace this vision. Party congresses are gone. Electioneering campaigns are over, the

elections themselves have been concluded. The days of scoring political points are now at rest. Cross River belongs to us all and we are going to build it together.

Our people bless them; have a problem that one hand cannot lift a load to the head. How true this is- I therefore call on my erstwhile political adversaries to join hands with me to put forward ideas and work with me to create a truly better life for our people.

In this regard also, I sound the bugle to all our people in the diaspora to remember their homeland and think how best they can contribute even from the diaspora to realize this vision.

Now we need a lot of resources to be able to do even half of what this government intends to do. But do not intend to do half. We intend to do the whole. So, it goes without saying that taking a cue from all the declarations of our president, there would be no room for corruption. Cross River State's money will serve the people of this state and not private pockets, including mine.

I am not perfect and so I may make mistakes, but I want to assure you that whatever mistakes I may make, will be the head not the heart. I pledge to serve Cross River State and its citizens, male and female, young and old, rich and poor to the best of my ability. I pledge the greatest good of the greatest number of our people for every minute of the four years or the 35000 hours of this term.

I do not claim to be the best in the state. I do not claim to be the smartest. I do not claim to be the most intelligent. But I do claim to be totally committed to the upliftment of Cross River State, for the total eradication of want, ignorance, disease and poverty among our people.

I offer my honesty, my integrity, my sense of mission, my youth, my vitality, my transparency. I shall be available to look after the interest of the state every, 24 hours every day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year and throughout these 4 great years that began moments ago.

I have no doubt projected before us an ambitious agenda and tightly so. For I am a young man and if the young cannot dream dreams who will? For as the holy book says, in the last days, young men shall dream dreams. So here we are. It could justly be asked – where shall the resources to fund these dreams come from? it is not a original question. Some 10,000 years ago. A wise old man led his son to the city gates to make sacrifice to the Lord. At the site his son asked this same question – “ Father, here we have the wood, we have the fire, we have everything else, but pray, where is the lamb for burnt offering.

We all remember the answer of this wise old man- “The Lord Shall provide”. And from the Chinese comes a saying that is very much applicable to our situation today, it is this. “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a step”. My lord Chief Judge, the outgone State Administrator, My Lords Spiritual, Royal Fathers, Fellow Citizens of Cross River State, we have already taken the first step. May God help us. I thank you all.

I thank the Almighty Allah, who has fulfilled his promise by making it possible for me to stand before you as the third Executive Governor of Kogi State. The glory belongs to Him. I salute all the people of Kogi State, men, women and youths, who God has used in various ways to elect me to pilot the ship of this State for the next four years. May Allah reward each and every one of you bountifully. The race to Lugard House which started a couple of years ago ended on April 19th, 2003 in a free and fair election which was won and lost. I salute my fellow contestants, especially the immediate past Governor, Prince Abubakar Audu, whose Conduct was devoid of rancour and unpleasanties. In any contest, there can only be a winner; however this victory belongs not only to me or the People Democratic Party, but to all Kogites irrespective of party affiliations.

I am aware that the expectations of our electorate is very high, yet my administration is very much aware that the task before us is a daunting one. My experience during my campaign trips showed me the seriousness of the task before us. My administration is inheriting a state whose indigenes are severely divided against itself on ethnic grounds, frustrated by a comatose economy, extreme poverty and lack of basic amenities. The only viable industry in the State is the highly demoralized, intimidated, politicized and brutalized public service that had remained docile for effective contribution to growth.

Yet we shall not be daunted. Yes, we shall not be intimidated because we have the human and natural resources to address these political, social and economic problems. We shall not be frustrated by these problems because we individually and collectively have the will and determination to lift our people from the bondage of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. Indeed we shall together restore, in no distant future, that confidence and productive spirit in all Kogites, one which has earned us respect, and sometimes envy in the past.

My dear people of Kogi State, even when we are justifiably angered by the situation in Kogi State, we must not lose focus of where we want to get to. On my part, given your mandate and guided by the constitution, rule of law and the fear of God, my administration shall vigorously and steadfastly work towards transforming the State, within the corporate entity of a united Nigeria into a viable, sustainable and prosperous geo political economy with the wealth of the state equitably and fairly

shared amongst a people living in peace and harmony, sharing common values and destiny, irrespective of ethnic and religious differences.

To this end, I pledge to run an administration that is open, transparent, accountable, efficient and above all, humane. A critical ally in our pursuit of good governance will be the bureaucracy. We must therefore prepare and strengthen the public service at both the local and State Government levels, psychologically, to provide the necessary back up for my administration. The civil service will be restructured to reflect our commitment to a transparent, accountable, corruption free services to the State. Meanwhile, I have directed an assessment of all outstanding salaries and allowances due to all civil servants with a view to making payments, as soon as possible. Similarly, all payments due to pensioners are being compiled for payment.

To our royal fathers there is no need for them to be afraid. My administration will always respect and uphold the dignity of our traditional institutions and ensure that they are insulated from partisan politics. The injustice in our traditional institution will be addressed to ensure their relevance to their communities. I am therefore soliciting the supports and cooperation of our royal fathers in maintaining security and promoting peaceful co-existence amongst all tribes and religions.

In the coming days ahead, I will address the people of Kogi State to elaborate on my administration policy thrusts with specific pronouncements on some burning issues that will begin to move the state forward. Also I will start intense consultations with all members of all sectors of the economy and society for a collective salvage mission of Kogi State.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the former Governor of the State, Prince Abubakar Audu, for his efforts in the State. He has tried his best. What is left for us is to make a remarkable difference in all aspects of life in Kogi State.

After all politics has to do with power that belongs to God. Divine power in the hands of human being is justified only in view of service, never for domination and less still for personal gain and selfish interest alone. This is my sacred pledge as Governor of Kogi State. May God help us all.

**Our New Dawn
Maiden Broadcast
By Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, *Sarkin Yakin Keffi*,
The First Executive Governor of Nasarawa State,
Lafia, Nasarawa State,
May 29, 1999.
*My Dear People of Nasarawa State,***

The oath of office I took this morning as the first executive governor of our beloved state, is a covenant for a dedicated and principled service to the people of this State. That covenant makes it incumbent upon us to be transparent in our duties and to be fully accountable to the people all times. It is a covenant we intend to respect and uphold. During our campaign for this exalted position, our constant prayer to the almighty Allah was that He should stop us from receiving the mandate of the people if He, the all-knowing, knew that we would not use this position to serve our people honestly with all our strength and with the fear of God. The people having given us the mandate, we are convinced with all modesty that Allah in His infinite wisdom knows that we will be true to our word, our oath of office and our covenant with the people. We will do no less.

We find it necessary to emphasise the fact we did not seek this office because we have any reasons to believe that we are wiser and more competent than anyone else in our state. We did so that we may be given the opportunity and the privilege to lead a team of dedicated political office holders and technocrats in the greater service of our people. That wish having been granted by all the people of this state, I have today become the leader of the new team on whose shoulders it has pleased God to place the burden and responsibility of meaningfully developing our state and lifting our people from the quagmire of years of neglect, depression, deprivation and under-development. We lay no claims on the monopoly of wisdom in tacking the urgent and crucial tasks ahead. Our actions, our vision and our plans will be the sum total of our collective

Dreams and aspirations as a people. Democracy is a participatory government. Full participation in governance will be the principle of our administration, which is people oriented. Let no one hide their dreams for a greater Nasarawa State from us. We promise our people honest and dedicated, transparent and accountable leadership. We promise to lead by example and not by precepts. Honesty shall be our watch ward. Transparency shall be our gospel. Accountability shall be the banner of this Administration. Good and responsible governance, no matter the odds and the constraints, shall remain our ultimate objective. The cankerworm of corruption has eaten deep into the fabric of our nation. This virulent disease, the bane of our social and economic development, shall find no home in this state under our administration. We shall fight it. We shall remove it and we shall destroy it.

We make these promises: fully aware of the fact that similar promises which were made and broken in the past have naturally made our people cynical about such undertakings. But we believe most sincerely that with the un-alooyed support and co-operation of the people of this state, we shall make a difference and restore the people's faith and confidence in the words and promises of their leaders at all levels of government.

We took over the administration of this state today against the disquieting background of the recent strike action by our civil servants over the vexed issue of a minimum wage. Happily, the workers have since returned to work but unhappily, the disruption in government and social services during the strike inflicted serious damage on the state and left it in a state of near-pa-ralysis. We have been saddled with the repair of this damage. This is unfortunate, to say the least. We recognise and respect the right of workers to ask for what they consider to be fair wages from their employers and to employ legitimate means at their disposal to obtain their just reward. Our civil servants exercised that option with mixed results in their recent confrontation with the state government. The government acceded to their demand but some of their colleagues lost their job. Obviously, the civil servants did not bargain for this regrettable turn of events. We want to assure our civil servants, however, that we shall revisit some of the administrative actions taken by the former administration in its dying days and redress all glaring cases of injustice or victimisation.

This administration believes strongly in dialogue as a productive process in the redress of grievances. We shall, therefore, set up a forum to promote a healthy and productive dialogue between the government and its employees because we cannot progress in an atmosphere of mutual suspicion or avoidable crisis.

As I said in my inaugural address this morning, we are on the threshold of a new beginning. We have begun the journey. We must now worry about where it will lead us and how we intend to get there. In preparation, we have begun the process of setting up machinery of government to meet the exigencies of a civilian administration. Changes will be made in the administrative machinery inherited from the military regime to re-orientate the civil service and refocus its energy in the desired direction of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability. Key appointments in the administrative cadre will also be made soon to enable us get off to a quick start in the implementation of our programme of action. These changes are designed to ensure that round pegs are put in round holes in strict adherence to the following objectives of my administration:

- (a) the evolution of a clear socio-cultural philosophy, coherent principles and ethics for the achievements of stability, good government, transparency and accountability and the Efficient management of resources;
- (b) rapid development of basic infrastructures in the urban and rural areas;
- (c) enthronement of equity, justice and fair play in the conduct of government business;
- (d) the refocusing of the collective energy of the people for self-actualisation in the context of self-help and self-sustenance;
- (e) rapid educational, industrial, agricultural and economic development of the state; and
- (f) the empowerment of all segments of the society a catalyst for poverty alleviation.

There is no doubt that morale is very low in the civil service. Our civil servants face problems of transportation to and from work. Inadequate housing has turned hundreds of them into squatters. Since the creation of the state, no training programme has been worked out for the civil servants.

We intend to quickly respond to these problems. We shall restore and heighten the morale of our civil servants by addressing the problems of transportation and housing among others. We shall set up co-operative shops for the benefit of civil servants. Goods in these shops shall be sold at subsidised prices to them. We shall also evolve a policy of providing assistance to civil servants for the education of their children.

Under our democratic dispensation, the judiciary is the third arm of government. It is a very important arm because it is the last refuge of the common man. Over the years, however, the judiciary in our country has generally not been fully accorded its pride of place. Human and material resources are woefully inadequate in the judiciary. Courts are not properly furnished and equipped our judges are still subjected to the antiquated system of recording court proceedings in long hand. Consequently, morale in the judiciary like in the rest of the civil service is very low.

We have mapped out plans to tackle the problems of the judiciary in our state. We shall take steps to improve the welfare of our judicial officers. Our courts will be properly furnished and equipped to make them conducive for the highly demanding intellectual work of judicial officers. We recognise and welcome the willingness of many people to serve this administration in various capacities as political appointees. But let me sound a note of caution here. All of us cannot be commissioners or special advisers. We have only nine ministries in this state. We do not intend to create more ministries merely to accommodate all those who want to serve as commissioners. We do not intend to have a bloated bureaucracy. Instead, we will maintain a slim but effective bureaucracy. This means, therefore, that only a few persons will be chosen from among those who want to serve as commissioners and special advisers or other public office holders. But we do not need to be commissioners or special advisers to contribute our quota to the development of the state. Whatever job we hold must be regarded as an opportunity for service. Every position is as important as any other provided that we bring to it hard work, honesty and dedication.

As the first indigenous governor of this state, I am fully aware of the expectations of our people in my government. These rising expectations are a consequence of years of neglect and depression in this part of the country. Thirty-one months after the creation of our state, there is still not much to show for it in terms of physical development.

These rising expectations, therefore, reflect the people's belief that their salvation lies in the hands of this administration. In our anxiety for urgent solution to all our problems, let us remember that the ravages of the past cannot be repaired by executive fiat in one day. Years of military rule have conditioned us to expect government to do everything and achieve uncommon results with immediate effect. It is, however, instructive that in all these years of the application of that magic phrase, not much has been achieved with immediate effect. Our under-development remains a telling evidence that a more systematic approach must be found to deal with our problems as a people. There is no known magic in the efficient management of people and resources.

It is important to underline the fact that the state is in dire financial straits. The monthly internally-generated revenue is about four million Naira. This paltry sum of money added to our monthly share from the federation account is like a drop of water in the vast ocean of our needs. To make matters worse, the state treasury is more or less empty. Heavy financial commitments made by the former military administrator of the state on projects of doubtful social benefits to the people means that our immediate financial resources have been fully committed. The sum total of this sorry state of affairs is that financially, we are starting from a point below zero. This is regrettable.

We do not intend to waste energy and resources in probing the immediate past administration. However, we shall thoroughly audit the state so that we can all have a good and comprehensive picture of the situation as at the time we took over the state administration. The audit will show the extent of state's assets, liabilities and commitments. It will also show the number and the state of abandoned projects. It is important for us, as a government sworn to transparency and accountability, to know where we are starting from and with what resources and liabilities.

Our administration does not intend to institute cosmetic changes for the instant but ephemeral reward of public applause. We recognise the need for speed. But more importantly, we recognise the need to hasten slowly. In any case, in a democracy with all its checks and balances, no governor can perform as a sole actor on the stage of governance. Major policy changes and decisions must be subjected to public debate in the House of Assembly as well as public scrutiny. In the circumstances, we need to be patient with ourselves and with the administration as we demilitarise our national psyche and institute once again, the normal process of conducting government business.

Although we stand on the threshold of a new beginning, our state is burdened with old problems crying for solutions. Our schools are in a sorry state. Poor remunerations and conditions of service have forced many dedicated teachers from the noble profession to seek greener pastures elsewhere. Many of those who remain are merely hanging on and are, therefore, unable to give of their best to the training of our children and wards. Our health services leave a lot to be desired. The national promise of health for all by the year 2000 is far from being a reality in our state. Potable water remains a luxury in most parts of the state. The majority of our people still depend on streams and ponds for their water needs. This, as we all know, is fraught with the risk of water-borne diseases which have been the lot of our people all these years.

There is a Roman saying that civilisation follows the road. Because we lack roads, we are naturally denied those elements that make for civilisation. Social and commercial interactions in the state are hampered by lack of roads. Our state does not have a single medium or large scale industry. Yet no modern state can expect to make meaningful progress without industries. Our peasant farmers in a state which has aptly been described as the bread basket of the nation, do not get fair prices for their produce and so they continue to exist instead of living. These farmers are still saddled with the basic farming implements of their forefathers. Their capacity to produce more food and cash crops is thus limited by their out-model farming implements. Hundreds of our youths are either unemployed or under-employed.

We believe none of us in this state is happy with this situation. It is a matter of deep regret that this situation has remained the same nearly three years after the creation of the state. Had the little resources available to past administrations been judiciously used in the interest of the people, there is no doubt that some progress would have been made in addressing these problems. Unfortunately, the resources were cynically mis-applied. We are all the losers for it. Yet, this mis-application of resources would not have been possible without the active co-operation and connivance of our own people in government. During the strike action by civil servants, huge sums of money were taken out of the state treasury. Would this have been possible without our people's connivance?

Those of our civil servants who contributed to the mismanagement of our financial and other resources should be ashamed of themselves. They have abused the sacred trust of the people. They cannot expect mercy from this administration.

In the next few weeks, this administration will enunciate a comprehensive programme on our new direction. There will be revolutionary policies and decisions affecting every facet of our social and economic life. We believe in continuity and therefore, we shall continue to prosecute the programmes of the past military administration that conform with our action plan. Our programme will be systematic, focused and pragmatic and aimed at re-awakening in the people the culture and tradition of industry, self-help and self-reliance. The era of government as a Father Christmas is long past. Given the state of dilapidation of our infrastructures and services, all the money available to the government can be poured into one sector and it would have the impact of a bucket of water thrown into the ocean. Therefore, the need for a creative and pragmatic approach to these challenges has become imperative.

The following programmes shall be undertaken in the first one hundred days of this administration:

Water Supply: improvement in the water supply scheme in the state capital, Lafia as well in Akwanga, Kokona, Keffi and Doma; the setting up of task forces on rural water supply and the re-organisation and funding of the state water board.

Roads: government shall set up a direct labour agency for the rehabilitation of roads in local government headquarters as well as inter-communal roads.

Education: the setting up of a data bank in the ministry of education to provide facilities for planning and research in education throughout the state; the rehabilitation of at least two primary schools and one secondary school in every local area of the state; the empowerment of the inspectorate division of the ministry of education to monitor the performances of teachers; the setting up of a task force on female education throughout the state.

Health: renovation of existing general hospitals and the provision of essential drugs to hospitals, clinics and dispensaries throughout the state; improvement in the primary health care delivery system; the setting up of a task force on environmental sanitation and the empowerment of sanitary inspectors.

Poverty alleviation: capacity building and income-generating programme aimed at inculcating in the people the virtue of self-help and self-sustenance.

The essence of this programme is to make the impact of the administration felt in all nooks and corners of the state in the shortest time possible and re-energize the people. This government is, to all intents and purposes, a grass-roots administration. As I said this morning, our people shall remain the centre-piece of all our programmes and policies. We shall involve the people in our every programme and policy. We shall remain close to the people and monitor their heart beats at all times. We shall be pro-active and not re-active. We will manage the lean resources of the state for the maximum benefits of all the people. We will not throw money at problems. We will not raise the people's hopes only to dash them. We shall marry speed with the need for consolidation so that our programmes will stand the test of time.

This administration recognises women are critical factors in the developmental process. Unfortunately, our cultural and other norms have more or less relegated our women to the background in our state. This is unhealthy for a meaningful and comprehensive development of our state. No modern state can deny the role of women as agents of social development. As mothers, they are critical to the training of our future leaders. We shall, therefore, without offending our norms, reverse the current trend by instituting programmes for accelerated women education and economic empowerment in our urban and rural areas

As part of our comprehensive policy of educational programme, this administration shall actively promote sports and recreational development in all our educational institutions. Sporting activities have become unifying factors in the global village. All our educational institutions will be assisted to set up sports and athletic clubs to help in developing budding footballers and athletes. Wealthy indigenes of the state shall be made partners in our sports development by donating trophies and other prizes for inter-state sporting and athletic competitions. We promise that we shall put the state on the sporting map of Nigeria in the first one year of our administration.

My dear people of Nasarawa State, this administration welcomes all foreign and indigenous investors who wish to exploit our natural and agricultural resources for a rapid industrialisation of our state. We shall assist such investors by removing the administrative bottle necks to facilitate their work. We shall also provide an investor-friendly atmosphere so together, we shall exploit our God-given resources for the progress of our people.

Our state is a mini-Nigeria; a happy home to numerous ethnic groups. This rainbow collection of tribes must be a source of joy and pride to all of us. Yet we are fully aware that our differences in tribes, tongues and religion have often been cynically manipulated by those who believe they can best reap from the field of crisis. We appeal to such people to desist from their cynical manipulation of our people. Those who cannot work to unite us must not seek to divide us. Our ethnic pluralism should be our strength and not our weakness. Though our tribes and tongues may differ, we are essentially members of one great family. The meaningful development of our state is the progress of all of us.

The reverse is also true. I repeat, let us emphasise those things that unite us and de-emphasise those things that divide us. No tribe in this state or indeed, in the entire country, can go it alone. We need one another. Our constitution recognises this and has fully provided for the pluralistic composition of government at all levels. We must not be afraid of our cultural differences. But we must not use them as excuses to discriminate against others. Whatever progress one tribe makes at the expense of other tribes will only translate into a weakness for the whole state. Our strength is in our diversity. Our unity is the pillar of the rainbow collection. Once again, we appeal to those strife-torn communities in our state to put away their guns and swords and return to the round table with us so that we can resolve the differences and ensure the reign of peace and tranquility. Peace is essential to the progress of all societies. And a peaceful solution must be found to our communal problems.

Once again, we call on our royal fathers to rise up to their challenges in a modern state. They must use their exalted and revered positions to forge and sustain the spirit of brotherhood, co-operation and unity. This administration shall continue to hold them in high esteem and will treat them accordingly.

This is a new dawn. Let us welcome it in the confident belief that we as begin this important journey into the promised land and with trust and hope in God, we shall overcome all teething problems. May God help us in the true, honest and dedicated service of our people.
Thank you. Good night.

Triumph of Democracy

Being the 2nd term inaugural speech

By

ALHAJI ABDULLAHI ADAMU

(Sarkin Yakin Keffi)

Executive Governor of Nasarawa State.

Lafia, May 29, 2003.

TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

Four years ago, when I took my oath of office as the first executive governor of this state, our country had just emerged from almost fifteen years of uninterrupted military rule and joined the democratic club world-wide. Four years ago, Nigerians took the irrevocable decision to enthrone democracy and be ruled by the leaders of their choice at the three tiers of government. On that day, we stood on the threshold of a new beginning promised by democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. Today, unfettered by the ill-wishes of those who wish us ill, democracy marches on in our dear country with its feet getting firmer and steadier with the increasing confidence of all Nigerians in its ethos. Our vote for democracy was, and remains, an irreversible choice by Nigerians for Nigeria. Nigerians, *una* do well.

We are gathered here this morning to celebrate the end of the first four years of democracy and ceremonially welcome the beginning of a new term. The journey to this day was sometimes rough, tough and even frustrating. But we soldiered on in the firm belief in democracy as the best form of government devised by man. We have arrived, not at the fork in the road to nationhood but on the highway towards our dreams as a people and as a nation. Let us pause and give thanks to the almighty God for this day and for this occasion. In His wisdom He made this day and this occasion possible. Despite the teething problems of nursing and nurturing democracy, we have every reason to believe that we have overcome. A brighter future shines on the horizon for our country. With God's blessing, we are forging one united nation on the anvil of our collective sweat; it is a nation tempered in the crucibles of our collective determination. This is the triumph of democracy.

The government and people of Nasarawa State, join millions of our dear compatriots throughout the length and breadth of this great country in celebrating this occasion that marks a giant step for our nation and its democracy. Our country is coasting towards the future as a united, democratic, prosperous nation. We predict that Nigeria is in the process of taking up the mantle of African leadership, which slipped out of its hands in the years of political uncertainty and dictatorship. Our country will always be the pride of the black race and a beacon to the struggling peoples of the developing world.

TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

The 2003 general elections are over throughout the country. Their successful conduct is a credit to all Nigerians. We have forced the doomsayers to eat their words. The current protests over the results by those who lost are normal and do not in any way invalidate our right to be proud of the conduct of the polls. The losers are only being human. Democracy gives the people the legal right and the freedom to choose their leaders from among candidates of the various political parties. It is the culture of democracy that those who willingly submit themselves to the people's choice respect the choice of the people. If the people's choice is not respected, the will of the people is subverted and democracy is the loser. In a democracy, the people's will freely expressed through the ballot box cannot be subordinated to individual interest. That path leads to dictatorship; to which we say perish the thought.

We join well-meaning Nigerians and say to the disaffected politicians: please seek redress only through the legal channels open to you. Neither the cause of democracy nor of patriotism will be served by personal grievances expressed in the manner of the dog in the manger. True patriots are known by their willingness to let their love for their fatherland dwarf their vaunting ambition for leadership. These are honourable men. Let their pronouncements be honourable. Let the means to the end they seek be honourable and edifying.

We welcome your Excellencies, my lords, temporal and spiritual, your royal highnesses, elected honourable members of the national and state assemblies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen to this historic inaugural ceremony. A few minutes ago, my deputy and I took our oath of office as governor and deputy governor respectively of our beloved state, Nasarawa. Our administration has been born again by the will of the people of Nasarawa State. We give special thanks to all the good people of this state who freely and overwhelmingly renewed our mandate for a second four-year term in office. We receive our renewed mandate with sincere gratitude. It fills us with a sense of pride and humility. But our victory at the polls is also your victory. Your unequivocal support for us and our party, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, gives us the courage to face the challenges ahead. We acknowledge your support for all our policies and programmes in the past four years. That support makes the burden we bear lighter. And your understanding gives us the push

towards the Promised Land. Working together and supporting one another, we will, insha Allah, reach that land sooner than later. We pledge our continued selfless service to you and the state.

President Olusegun Obasanjo, his vice-president and thirty-five other governors have similarly taken their oath of office today. If you would permit a hackneyed expression, this is a new day in our country. Once again, a new dawn has dawned on our country. Once again, we stand at that delicate moment when a country pauses on its long trek to nationhood and recharges its energy and renews itself for the greater challenges ahead. Let us not be unmindful of the magic of the moment.

We sincerely congratulate Chief Obasanjo who begins his second term in office today. We congratulate our brother governors of the other 35 states. We welcome, in particular into our fold, the eight new governors who were elected into their first term in office. To the president and the re-elected governors, we say happy survival.

This is a defining moment in the political history of Chief Obasanjo. When he assumed his exalted office as our president four years ago, he was regarded largely as a political orphan who did not enjoy the support of his own people and lacked a political base and, therefore, held office at the behest of political godfathers. He has proved that he is an astute and calculating statesman rather than a politician. Today he has achieved a political feat that eluded some of the great names in Nigerian politics. He has brought the south-west geo-political zone into the mainstream of Nigerian politics and established a formidable political base which can no longer be ignored. For the first time in our political history, the Yoruba have abandoned their traditional opposition and joined the rest of the country in one happy political party family. Not even Napoleon could have done this. The president is a large-hearted politician and a true statesman in the strictest sense of that over-used word. Fate has managed to thrust on him heavy burdens at critical times in our political history. He has always obeyed the nation's call and done his unenviable duty to God and his country to the envy of lesser men. The 2003 elections must be the icing on his political cake. We salute Mr. President.

We salute the people of the North-Central zone for once again delivering the zone in its entirety to the PDP in the last elections. It is not for nothing that this zone is better known as the Middle-Belt. This belt

holds the country together. The leaders and people of this zone have never refused to give of their best to this country. Men of timbre and calibre from this zone have headed the biggest political party in Africa, our beloved party, the PDP, in succession because the good people of this zone have earned the confidence of the rest of the country. We assure fellow Nigerians that this zone will remain the zone that is eternally central to Nigerian unity and the belt with which the nation girds its loins.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it would not be immodest to say that we have carved a niche for Nasarawa State in the politics of this country. At critical periods in our recent political history, this state and its people stood shoulder to shoulder with the forces of national unity. Indeed, our principled stand on the attempted impeachment of the president and the ill-conceived attempts to prevent him from exercising his right to offer himself for re-election helped to pull this country back from the brink. We acknowledge, with gratitude, the backing of the overwhelming majority of our people for the role we played in these matters. We will continue to play a central role in the politics of Nigeria. We will never submit to the forces of disunity. And we will not hold the candle to anyone or a group of persons in matters of our national unity and progress.

But permit us to observe that today the new political leaders of the north face critical challenges in the politics of Nigeria. Owing to recent mistakes and political miscalculations, the region is fast losing its commanding role as the power broker in the country. We must restore the political integrity of the north otherwise the region faces the bleak prospects of becoming irrelevant in our national affairs. We cannot afford to see the north consigned to the back burner of Nigerian politics. Anything that denies the north its place as a power broker in our nation is unacceptable. The time has come for the old and the new and the aspiring leaders of the north to admit their mistakes and miscalculations and forgive themselves. We must re-assert ourselves and rescue the region from being thrown into the political dust bin.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the oath of office we took this morning was not a democratic ritual but the renewal of the bond forged four years ago between our people and us. As leaders of our people at all levels, we must never forget the saying that to whom much is given, much

is also expected. We have received much from the people and we must give back much more to them. The expectations of our people for an instant transformation in their lives and circumstances through the magic of the democratic process remain very high. Let us resolve not to disappoint them. Let our oath of office today be a constant reminder to all of us of our individual and collective commitment to the Nigerian project at all levels. To move our nation forward is the task that our people have imposed on us by giving us the mandate to serve them. It is a task from which we cannot run away. The fate of democracy in our country is in our hands. We must go beyond the call of duty, if need be, to protect and defend it and when our time is up and our duty is done, we should be proud to hand over to future generations a robust democracy without stain.

The end of the elections must also mark the end of crass partisan politics in Nasarawa State. We are in different political parties but we remain members of one great family as indigenes of Nasarawa State. Politics must now give right of way to good governance and the welfare of the people. Those who lost at the polls should not, and must not, allow their loss to affect their willingness to serve the people. Winning an election is not a condition for serving the people; therefore, losing an election cannot abrogate anyone's right to serve them. Losers and winners must now join hands in the service of the people. We urge those who lost at the polls to join us as we embark on the consolidation of the gains of the last four years in our state. As we pointed out in a special broadcast after the elections three weeks ago, there is room on the deck for all citizens of this state to contribute their quota to the development of the state. Let us put our hands on the deck for a greater Nasarawa State.

At the beginning of our first term four years ago, we acknowledged the yearnings of our people for the basic social amenities of modern life such as potable water, electricity, health and educational facilities as well as roads, which had been denied to virtually all communities in the state. The yearnings were the primary reasons why we sought the mandate of the people to serve them in this exalted position. We promised to tackle these problems as part of a comprehensive development package of the state. We pledged to give a good account of our mandate to the people. At

every point during our first term, we kept the people fully informed of our progress in our development programme. This is not the occasion for reeling out our achievements. However, this ceremony is evidence that the people renewed our mandate based entirely on our record.

It is not immodest to say that we have kept our promises to the people. We have made tremendous progress throughout the state. Our people-oriented programmes have taken development closer to the people, especially where it matters most, the grassroots. In most parts of the state today, people are enjoying the basic social amenities. Where there was darkness, there is now light courtesy of our rural electrification programme. Water borne diseases are losing the battle against our people because our water supply programme has freed many communities from their helpless dependence on unwholesome sources of water supply. Our light of rapid educational development has put the darkness of ignorance to flight. It bears repeating to say that Nasarawa State University, Keffi, is the jewel in the crown of our educational development. We were roundly condemned by those who argued that the state did not need a university of its own. Our decision to set up a university was not taken on the spur of the moment. It was carefully thought out and fully supported by expert studies on our needs. We offer no apology whatever for our decision to set up the state university. A university is a citadel of learning and as such it has always played a central role in the development of societies. For us to move our state forward, we need indigenous manpower at all levels. The university is the best institution for the training of this manpower for the state. In any case, the giant strides we have made in secondary school education would mean nothing if the products of these schools cannot find opportunities to further their education. Our decision is right. Our foot is on the right path.

Our health care delivery system is a source of pride to the government and the people of the state. Our twin-pronged preventive and curative health programme is the bulwark against common ailments and diseases. Health delivery system is within the reach of almost every community in the state today.

We have made no secrets that we subscribe to the Roman saying that civilisation follows the road. But our objective in road construction is

more modest. In our own idiom, social and commercial interaction follows the opening up of inter and intra-community roads. We have delivered on our promise here. Foot paths have given way to modern inter-community roads throughout the state. Ladies and gentlemen, this state is truly on the move.

We believe that the local administration system is most suited for a state like ours because the closer the government is to the people, the more it impacts on their lives. Consistent with this belief, we took steps to strengthen the local government system in the state. We created new districts and sixteen new local government areas. Today we have 29 local government areas. We note, with satisfaction, that the people are happy with these steps taken by the government. We note also that there is still some agitation for the creation of more local government areas. We have examined some of these petitions and come to the conclusion that there are, indeed, deserving cases that cannot be ignored. We will not ignore them. We refer in particular to Agyarargu-Tofa, Agyaragu-Tasha and Kayarda area; Barkin-Abdullahi area; Arkiya and Adoki area as well as Umuaisha areas. These areas are being considered for new local government areas. As soon as the state assembly is convened and settles down, we will set in motion the constitutional machinery for the creation of these additional local government areas.

This administration prides itself on measured responses to the yearnings of the people. In our first term in office, we listened to the people's yearning for new chiefdoms. As you are aware, we created new chiefdoms and upgraded existing traditional institutions throughout the state. We have also found that we inadvertently neglected some deserving cases. We promise to take necessary steps as soon as possible to grant the wishes of the ethnic groups that deserve new chiefdoms.

It is worth recalling that when we took over four years ago, we inherited a depressed state and people in mild stages of despair. Morale in the civil service was comprehensively low. That picture has vastly changed. Today, we see the radiant faces of people filled with hope in the

present and the future of the state and its people. Despair has given way to determination by the people to be the architects of the development of our state. We could not have come this far in so short a time without the full co-operation of everyone in the state. The dream of this administration has become the dream of the people. Its aspiration is the aspiration of the people. Our royal fathers, politicians, students, civil servants, farmers and traders have not denied the state their quota to its upliftment. Once again, we say a big thank you to all of you.

My dear people of Nasarawa State, this administration did not set out to do no more than the routine business of government. We set out to build a truly great and transformed Nasarawa State. We set out to make our state an example to the rest of the country. We set out to free our people from the clutches of ignorance and rescue the state from its despairing depth of neglect. These were, obviously, tall ambitions for a poor, rural state. But we knew back then as we do know today, that leaders who feared to go where angels feared to tread did not build great nations or communities in the history of mankind. We have dared to dream and we have dared to make our dream a reality. We have laid the foundation of that state of our collective dreams. We must now build on that foundation so that at the end of the day all of us who are privileged to serve our people at this point in the history of our country can look back and say that we won the race against poverty, ignorance, disease and under-development.

The race is on because there are still great challenges ahead of us. It is not time to rest on our oars because it is still a long way from land and the sea of political intolerance and ethnic differences is still choppy. Even as we make enviable progress in the state, some elements in our midst continue to fuel ethnic crises in some parts of the state. The evil objective of these apostles of violence is to halt our progress and portray our state as ungovernable. These same elements also use misguided youths to sabotage our development and social projects. In the recent past, they attacked rural electrification and water projects. So far, they have failed to realise their unholy ambition because all of us say no to them. But let no one think they have given up. We urge all of you to remain vigilant. It is the price we must be willing to pay for peace in our state. It

bears repeating: there can be no progress without peace. In the immortal words of that great American, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, we say to you: From the hills of the northern senatorial zone to the flat lands of the southern senatorial zone, let peace reign. From the rolling farmlands of the eastern part of the state to the semi-savannah region of the western part, let peace reign.

We must continue to reject the forces of disunity. We must wield the unity of the state with the electrode of our love. We must replace mutual suspicion with mutual trust. We must make our differences in tribes and tongues the link in the chain of our collective destiny and not the source of ethnic crises. The rainbow collection of tribes in our state is a not a divine mistake. It is for a noble divine purpose. Our state must be a beautiful reflection of the divine colours of the rainbow, not the unsightly sight of self-destruction.

Today we begin the journey into our second term, with renewed hope and invigorated sense of public service. Moving the state forward remains our primary goal. We will continue to carry everyone along in our all programmes and policies because a shared vision is the true foundation of human progress. We must not dissipate energy working at cross-purposes. Our goals must be the same and the strategy for achieving them must also be the same. Partnership is our watch word.

Our experience in the past four years has informed a new realism in our approach to the administration of the state. One thing that has become apparent is that public expectations rise in the face of diminishing fiscal resources. It would be dishonest to pretend that the government alone can meet all these expectations. Even if government were Father Christmas, we need not remind ourselves that Christmas comes but once a year. We must find a creative meeting point between the rising expectations of the public and the dwindling resources of the state government. If we fail to do so, we would only succeed in raising false hopes and consequently engender despair and disappointment among our people. We have no intention of leaving a legacy of stunted ambitions, unrealised dreams and a state whose main physical features are uncompleted social and development projects. No. We set out to make a positive difference. We will not deviate from that chosen path of

honour and integrity.

Our new, five-point development policy emphasises the administration's new approach to a healthy development and progress of the state and its people. Our priority is to consolidate the gains of the last four years. We shall devote the larger part of our financial resources into completing on-going projects throughout the state. However, we do not intend to be unnecessarily inflexible in the implementation of this policy. No parts of the state or communities will be denied their due share of the basic social amenities by reason of this policy of consolidation and completion. We shall maintain our firm policy of fair and equitable distribution of social amenities and the even spread of our development projects. Where these are lacking, we shall give the communities concerned their fair share without prejudice to the new policy.

Our second policy thrust is continued emphasis on rural development and rural empowerment. Those who in the past criticised our emphasis on rural development obviously missed the point. More than eighty per cent of our population live in the rural areas yet these areas lack the basic social amenities that add value to human life. They deserve due attention of the government. But we will not develop the rural areas at the expense of the urban areas. We will continue to give the urban areas appropriate attention in line with our policy of even development.

Our third policy thrust is increased food and cash crop production in the state. In the past four years, education was our priority. We believe that we have reached a point at which agriculture must be given equal attention. We intend to maintain our place as one of the bread baskets of the nation. Farmer's co-operatives will be the main plank of this policy of increased agricultural production. Through the farmer's co-operatives, our peasants will pull their resources to meet their needs for the necessary agricultural inputs. We will re-activate extension work to assist the farmers and encourage them to gradually adopt modern farming techniques for increased holdings and yields.

Our fourth policy thrust revolves around communal self-help. All communities throughout the state will be encouraged and assisted by

government to embark on self-help projects. We will particularly encourage the setting up of cottage industries by communities. This policy is intended, if you like, to kill two birds with one stone. Such cottage industries are to use local agricultural produce as raw materials. This, we believe, will boost agricultural production as well as help in the industrialisation of our rural communities. For the avoidance of doubt, this policy is not limited to only cottage industries that use our local agricultural produce. We welcome medium and large-scale industries. We welcome foreign and indigenous investors. We promise all investors a friendly and enabling environment and all the necessary incentives such as hassle-free industrial plots.

Although the provision of basic social amenities is seen largely as the primary if not the only obligation of government to the people, we believe that if you give the people roads, water, light as well as health and educational facilities and leave their minds empty or undeveloped, you cannot have happy and productive citizens. The development of the mind is critical to human progress. We believe the time has come to begin the urgent process of re-engineering the mind of our people to position them for the exciting challenges of the new century in information technology, engineering, medicine and the arts. In accordance with our fifth policy thrust, this administration will refocus the intellectual energy of our youths towards self-pride, self-development and self-actualisation. The specific details of these policies will be unfolded in the days ahead.

My dear people of Nasarawa State, we invite you to stand with us on this morning of a renewal and view the vista of a bright future now in the near horizon. We invite you to join hands with us to take this state to where we want it to be. We invite you to re-commit yourselves to what is best for this state and its people. We invite you to be part of the government freely elected by the people of Nasarawa State for Nasarawa State. Let us leave this arena this morning fully resolved to fully serve our state. We must always remember that Nasarawa is our state and we are Nasarawa State.

Thank you and God bless.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY. THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE ALHAJI (DR) BUKAR ABBA IBRAHIM FNIQS. FNIAE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING IN CEREMONY ON THURSDAY 29TH MAY, 2003 AT THE GENERAL SANI ABATCHA SPORTS COMPLEX, DAMATURU,

Your Excellencies, the Prefect of Diffa and Zinder in the neighbouring Republic of Niger,

The Deputy Governor of Yobe State, Alhaji Aliyu Salch Bagare (Turakin Tikau)

Distinguished Senators and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives,

Honourable Speaker Yobe State, House of Assembly,

My Lords the Hon. Chief Judge and Hon. Grand Kadi,

The Representative of our National Chairman, Alh. Dauda Birma

Other Members of the entourage including our National Secretary Alhaji Sani Yerima El-katuzu,

The State Chairman ANPP, Alhaji Sidi Yakubu Karasuwa,

Members of the State House of Assembly here present.

Members of the State Executive Council.

The Secretary to the State Government,

The Head of the State Civil Service.

Our Distinguished Guest Speaker for the occasion,

Our Revered Religious Leaders, Al Ulama'u

Chairmen and Leaders of other Political Parties here present.

Permanent Secretaries, Chief Executives of Federal and State Boards
and Parastatals and Heads of Extra Ministerial Departments,
Your Royal Highnesses, Emirs, Mais and Chiefs
Chairmen and members of Local Government Transition Committees,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Gentlemen of the Press
Ladies and Gentlemen.

BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM

Wassallahu Ala Nahiyul Kariiii

Praise is to Allah for His expressed and concealed bounties at all times, and peace and blessings be upon His Prophet and Messenger, his family and companions who strive steadfastly in the path of serving Allah's religion.

You will recall that, eleven and four years ago, to be specific on 2nd January 1992 and 29th ' May 1999, I stood on this rostrum on both occasions when democratically elected governments at State in the first instance and both the Federal and State levels at the second instance were being inaugurated. Today, we are gathered here once again to witness yet another historic occasion of our inauguration ceremony to the coveted, exalted and enviable seat of the Executive Governor of Yobe State, for yet another four year mandate, the first under a Military regime and the second under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I wish to once more thank all Yobeans for this goodwill which you have demonstrated first to our great party the SDP and now the ANPP and to me and my deputies, Goni Modu and Alhaji Aliyu Saleh

Bagare (Turakin Tikau) respectively that which enabled us to record this latest resounding and landslide victory the first of its kind in the three mandates. The approbation implied by your suffrage during the contest which we have passed is a great consolation to me, and my future solicitude will be to retain the good will of those who have bestowed this confidence in me. This singular gesture has strengthened my resolve to endeavour to do all that I possibly can, so as to be instrumental to promoting happiness, freedom and prosperity for all.

2. Since the gubernatorial elections on 19th April, 2003, some skeptics have been living in illusionary traits that, some other person is going to be sworn-in despite our overwhelming victory at the polls. They even went further by giving dates and days of the event other than today. Such people seem to be living in a different world; operating a completely different political programme from the one all other Nigerians know and are following. Now that the Honourable Chief Judge of our dear Yobe State has today, 29th May 2003, sworn me in as the Executive Governor of Yobe State, the doubting thomasses might now put to rest their overzealous illusionary ambition and join hands with my team to propel our developmental programmes to fruition.

3. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, you are living witnesses of the fact that, two oaths have just been administered on me. The first is the Oath of Allegiance enjoining me to be loyal to my State and Nigeria at large by preserving, protecting and defending its constitution. The second is the Oath of Office, bidding me to serve my State as a faithful functionary according to the law. Loyalty to one's state or country is the most precious tribute a patriot can pay to his native land. Faithfulness to duty is the most acceptable service expected from a conscientious servant. Loyalty implies submissiveness, devotion and amenability.

Faithfulness, involves trustworthiness, truthfulness and honesty. Thus loyalty and faithfulness express the idea of steadfastness to a common purpose.

4. An oath is a solemn declaration formally invoking Almighty Allah to bear witness to the truth of what one says and to attest the fact that, one has publicly declared his intention to do what he says. It is apt at this point to quote from the Holy Quran, where Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala says *"Fulfill the covenant of Allah after you have covenanted, and do not break your oath after you have confirmed them"*.

5. Today, I have once more reverently vouched to uphold the spirit of the oath and promise I have made, and to nourish it in the performance of my duties. This I shall not fail. For the people of Yobe have done a special favour to me, by elevating me to the pedestal of Executive Governor of the State for yet another four year term. By this very act the people of Yobe have clothed my names with an aura of honour and dignity for which I shall be eternally grateful and no sacrifice to their course will therefore be too great:

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS

6. Relying then on the patronage of your good will, I hereby pledge to continue with yet greater vigour the good works that we have started since 1992, that which we have continued on assumption of office on 29th May, 1999 up to the end of our tenure which has just ended, through to the new one that we are about to embark upon as from today. This undertaking will finalize and concretize our numerous efforts towards complete transformation of Yobe to a better place, where all the good people of the State will be proud to live in, and proud to belong.

7. As we begin our determined march in the next tenure, it is ideal to use this opportunity to say here and now before all our people that we have proudly discharged our electoral promises and undertakings. We have created the new Emirates and Districts, 14 and 70 respectively in compliance with our promise to give a sense of belonging to all. We have created 23 new Local Governments, bringing our total Local Governments to 40. Firm foundation for the take-off of these Local Governments have already been laid. Shariah law has been established in Yobe State and we have since started reaping the fruits as our society has become saner, the level of morality and responsibility has gone up. In short we have fulfilled to the letter all our political programmes promised four years ago.

8. We have made similar strides in other fields in the last four years. In education, enrollment in primary and secondary schools have gone up astronomically and qualitative improvement has also been recorded. We have made giant strides in the provision of water, rural electrification, health, urban and country roads, small and medium industries. Our achievement in the field of agriculture and improvement of the environment has become legendary, so much so that a number of States, especially from the Northern part are now copying our example. We have endeavoured to reduce the level of poverty, through the creation of opportunities for employment in various Government services as well as self-employment, among other numerous achievements.

9. Today is not an ideal occasion to go on narrating the numerous achievements made between May 29th 1999 to 28th May 2003, for many reasons. The principal reason is the fact that, so many publications have documented these achievements eminently, among which was the publication I had the honour to launch at the

formal commencement of my campaign. This publication titled "SOLID RURAL AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION: The Bedrock of Bukar's Administration in Yobe State" has substantially documented the achievements of this administration. Secondly, an occasion of today's nature, jump-packed with activities will not give us the time to narrate these achievements, for there are so many other things lined up for today. However, since these achievements are visible, accessible and ascertainable, the people of Yobe State have adjudged them, as appropriate, far reaching and effective, thus the reasons for giving us yet another mandate. I thank you all for that.

FUTURE VISION FOR YOBE STATE

10. As we begin the next dispensation, I wish to state categorically here and now that, the new Yobe State Government will in the next dispensation continue to lay emphasis on completion of all on-going projects and take on numerous new ones. We shall continue to pay priority to such areas as education, agriculture, healthcare delivery services, provision of potable water, roads development, electricity supply, industrialization including cottage industries, housing, promotion of the welfare of our teeming workers, etc, etc.

11. Education remains our top priority concern for we believe that, "to be educated is the only way to be free". The provision of functional education opportunities to every citizen of Yobe shall therefore be an essential pre-requisite for the attainment and successful implementation of our developmental programmes and objectives. As a demonstration of our resolve, one of the first bills that the new Yobe State House of Assembly will receive is that of making education from primary to junior secondary school, free and compulsory, as I promised during my recent electioneering campaign. To achieve our educational objectives, all primary and

secondary schools will continue to be provided with required teaching and learning materials. All our school systems, the Islamiyya, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels, will receive improvement in their facilities appropriate to this resolve and commensurate with available and even loanable resources.

12. The condition of service of teachers will be reviewed with a view to upgrading and enhancing their status, as well as the enhancement of the teaching profession. More secondary schools will be established. The BEST Centers will be expanded and consolidated with special emphasis on Technical Skill acquisition in order to provide self-employment opportunities to our teeming unemployed youth spread across the State. Similarly, Government will ensure prompt payment of scholarship to Yobe indigenes studying in institutions of higher learning and Universities in the country, while our effort to establish a State University will be realised, Insha Allah within this tenure. In view of the importance attached to education and in order to give equal emphasis to Higher as well as Primary and Secondary Education - the present Ministry of Education will be restructured by the creation of two Ministries, one specifically devoted to Higher Education and the other solely to Primary, Secondary Education and Adult Education.

13. In the field of agricultural development, Government will give special focus to agricultural mechanization, provision of simple technology that is affordable, revitalization and strengthening of the agricultural extension services and ensuring prompt supply of farm inputs such as fertilizer, agro chemicals, insecticides, tractors with accessories and threshers etc. Provision of agricultural loans which we have launched yesterday as part of activities marking our re-inauguration ceremony will be extended to over 1000 farming families to boost their capacity. And the desired infrastructural facilities necessary for the realisation of our agricultural objectives,

will also continue to be provided. To achieve this, government will initiate new strategies that will ensure production of more food and ensure food security as well as to provide our agro allied industries with adequate raw materials. The staging of agricultural shows in Yobe State will be revived. Through this agricultural shows, Yobe will be able to show to the world, its numerous agricultural potentials and natural endowments and the World will in return guide us on how to improve. Nothing goes for nothing and we are ready and willing to pay the price, so experts all kindly come on board.

14. Attention shall also be given to the development of the Fadama Farm Lands around Lake Nguru, Yobe river and Kumadugu Gana Basins and Ngeji river system around Kushi Maga, Gadaka and Ngalda among others. Government will likewise intensify efforts to minimize the effects of desertification and environmental degradation on our environment. To achieve this objectives, in the next dispensation, our administration will pursue tree-planting programmes vigorously, establish fuel woodlot and shelter belt plantations. Livestock and fisheries, both of which we have relative advantage over many will be given special attention. Cross -breeding with exotic breeds will be introduced to improve the quantity and quality of meat and milk. In addition to improving fisheries production in our rivers, streams, lakes, fish ponds numbering over 200 will be developed at least 5 each in all our 40 Local Governments as well as all secondary and post-secondary Institutions. To consolidate our position as one of the major producers of Livestock and Fish in this country, a full pledged Ministry devoted to Livestock and Fisheries Development will be created out of the present Ministry of Agriculture.

15 In the area of healthcare delivery services, our policy thrust shall continue to be centered on both preventive and curative aspects of health care programmes. Government shall intensify training of medical and para medical personnel. To translate this into reality an advisory committee on training of medical Doctors has already been formed by Government under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to the State Government. As soon as the report containing the recommendations of the committee is made available, Government shall implement it to enable us attain the World Health Organisation recommended standard on Doctor - Patient ratio. In the area of secondary healthcare, our target is to provide at least one General Hospital or Comprehensive Health Center in the headquarters of all Local Government Areas. Our Hospitals and Comprehensive Health Centers shall receive improvement in their structures as well as provision of equipment, drugs and vaccines.

16. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the provision of water for human, animal and industrial use is another important component of our new vision. In addition to our previous efforts, the State Government will rededicate its efforts and place special emphasis on provision of potable water to all our towns and villages towards solving the precarious problem of water supply. As a long-term measure, the construction of Katarko and Nyakire Dams with the full participation of the Federal Government and catchment Local Government will be pursued vigorously in accordance with the new National water policy. The State Government will also undertake overhauling of water reticulation systems in five major urban centers of Damaturu, Gashua, Geidam, Nguru and Potiskum, while more boreholes will be drilled, servicing of existing ones will be undertaken. Furthermore windmills and solar based boreholes will be drilled for the benefit

of our rural communities. In similar manner, the ambitious programme we have prepared in the tenure just ended, for the provision of 100 Dams, Dykes etc will be pursued with greater vigour. Provision for the commencement of these projects is already in the approved 2003 Budget.

17. In the area of Electrification, we shall continue with our efforts of electrification programme to promote and support rural industrialization and generally improve the socio economic condition of our people. To give further impetus to our electrification drive, the Headquarters of all Local Governments in the State will be connected to the National Grid. This is ordinarily a Federal responsibility but we cannot wait indefinitely. We have in fact discovered to our dismay that, Yobe State has the poorest link to the National Grid of all the States of the federation. The new vision will therefore pursue with vigour the connection of all major towns and villages to the National Grid irrespective of what the Federal government does or does not. This can only be done through a special and enhanced focus on electrification. In order to give that focus, clear direction and specialisation a new Ministry charged with Energy and Transport will be created.

18. This administration also recognises that the provision of cheap and affordable housing is sine-qua-non to having a productive and healthy citizenry. While efforts shall be intensified towards completion of the on-going 500 housing units being constructed here in Damaturu, 1000 low-income houses shall be constructed for the benefit of low income groups particularly teachers and medical personnel who have not benefited from our earlier programme of owner-occupier scheme. The Yobe Savings and Loans Ltd. shall also be encouraged to give soft loans to workers and other

individuals to enable them build and own their houses. At least 2000 more houses are expected from that source in this mandate.

19. In the area of road development, emphasis shall be on completion of all on going road projects, particularly Geidam to Bayamari road, Girgir to Karage road, Nguru to Machina road, as well as Gujba to Ngalda roads. Similarly, a number of rural feeder roads and inter town roads will be constructed. Furthermore, work on Damaturu, Gashua, Nguru and Potiskum township roads and drainage will be intensified to enable us commission them within this year. Thereafter we shall take on other towns to ease movement of goods and services and promotion of socio-economic activities in the State. We shall in the new vision, pursue an active, effective and far reaching basic raw materials based industrialisation drive. All our on-going industrial projects namely the Soda Ash Plant at Yusufari, Leda Bag Factory Damaturu and Plastic Manufacturing Factory also in Damaturu, and the Daforga Spring water Bottling factory will be completed and privitised and further efforts shall be intensified for the establishment of a cement factory in the State. The Nigeria food company, Nguru will be resuscitated and privatized. Similarly, we shall also promote the establishment of Cottage Industries through the Board for Small Scale Industries Loan Scheme.

20. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Our charter for sustainable transformation, progress and development of Yobe can hardly be achieved without the active backing of the Civil Service. While thanking the civil servants for their continued support, cooperation, dedication and commitment, permit me first to quickly dispel and debunk the unfounded rumours that Civil Servants who were not sympathetic to the ruling party in the State will be victimised. I wish to seize this opportunity to assure all Civil

Servants that, the ANPP controlled Yobe State Government will not be a Government of vendetta and victimisation. I wish to re-affirm that nobody will be victimised or discriminated against on account of previously held political beliefs. All should note that, Yobe State belongs to us all and we have equal rights, obligations and privileges to serve her with all our strengths so that, together, guided by common will, common resolve, common goal, we shall bring about the much desired development to our dear State. I wish to emphasise that all those who work hard and loyally will be rewarded, but at the same time indolence, corruption, laziness and irresponsibility and lack of accountability and transparency will not be tolerated. All civil servants should therefore buckle up and all those who for whatever reason feel that they will not serve this Government, honestly and loyally should honourably and voluntarily find their way out of the service.

21. I wish to also say it categorically that, the apathy to work which is now becoming wide spread will be checked. I call on our top Government functionaries to show good examples for their subordinates to emulate. All must put in at least the normal working hours. To achieve optimum productivity, the State Government is poised to reposition and restructure the Civil Service for effective and efficient performance. It is for this reason that, new additional ministries will be created. We are convinced that we shall be able to give some key socio-economic issues the focus they need by creating Ministries, specifically devoted to such key areas, while at the same time keep our wages and overheads reasonably under check. For the smooth operation of our Ministries and Departments, henceforth, monthly overhead allocation to Ministries and Departments shall be paid regularly and promptly. Likewise all Ministries, Departments and Agencies will be

expected to use their overheads wisely and efficiently to settle all travel expenses, Telephone and Electricity bills, procurement of stationaries, staff medical claims, maintenance of motor vehicles and fueling, staff development, hospitality and all other miscellaneous expenses.

22. Let me at this point touch on a very important issue that is on the State of our finances, vis-a-vis its availability to carryout capital projects. No doubt, funds are never enough to fulfill all the requirements, hopes and aspirations of Government towards its people. There is therefore the need for cautious discretion in the utilisation of scarce resources at the disposal of Government. In this regard, there has to be cautiously planned balance in expenditure between capital and consumable expenditure, which we normally refer to as recurrent expenditure. Usually Government has to provide for all the requirements of the service, in terms of salaries and wages, after which capital programmes are considered. A few examples are necessary, in 1992, payment of salaries, pensions and overhead consumed less than 25% of our statutory allocation, leaving a balance of about 75% to carry out capital programmes. This situation has now changed dramatically. With a work force of over 20,000, the wage bill has gone up to about 53%, leaving only about 47% to cater for overheads, pensions payment of debts and capital allocation. The situation was compounded in the year 2000 with the increase of minimum wage first to N3000 and later to N5,500 towards the end of the year. This was in addition to the implementation of enhanced salary for political and public office holders.

24. The impending salary increase will not make things better. But, we in Yobe State will not be found wanting if it is decided at the National level that salaries will be increased. This means that

we have to look inwards for other sources of revenue to reduce our over dependence on statutory allocation from the federation account. We have to look inwards by finding more avenues that will complement the monthly statutory allocation coming from the Federation account and by tightening our belts and inevitably increasing our tariffs generally.

24. In view of this, in the new vision, we shall take measures to ensure that, all revenue generating Ministries and organisations buckle up to ensure 100% collection. To achieve this, we will set up a committee to advise Government on ways of looking for more avenues of revenue generation as well as identifying factors militating against positive revenue generation and remittance, and proffer measures to be taken. To show the way, the State Water Corporation, the State Housing and Property Development Corporation, the State Printing Corporation and the Yobe Line Transport Corporation must raise their revenue generating capacities beyond their present pathetically low level. The Board of Internal revenue is also to be restructured and repositioned to pursue vigorously our revenue generation drive.

25. At this point, let me turn to the electorates once more. While reiterating my most sincere thanks to our supporters for their unprecedented turnout and voting our great party the ANPP massively in all recent elections, I wish to draw the attention of those who share different political opinions with us, to bear in mind the sacred principle that, though the will of the majority has prevailed, I wish to call on those in the opposition to join hands with our administration in building a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Yobe. Let us unite to have one heart and one mind. Let us resort to the social intercourse, that of unity, harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreamy

things. Let us know that political intolerance is despotic, wicked and capable of breaking the bonds of unity and harmony that exist in the State. Let us also know that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and be vigilant.

27. I wish to take this opportunity to say that, though the election in the state has been singled out for praise by all including even the International observers, as among the freest and fairest for which we are all proud, pockets of violence which have continued to occur in some of our townships, particularly in some areas of Potiskum will not henceforth be tolerated. Government will use all its resources to bring the culprits of this unacceptable antisocial behaviour to book. As Muslims, our Prophet has taught us to respect constituted authority as testified by the following saying of the Prophet:

"Obedience to an authority which is properly constituted and which acts according to the rules of law is a constant ideal"

The Teaching of this prophetic tradition should guide us.

27. In any political contest there is bound to be a winner and a loser for Allah says in Surah Al-Imran and 1 quote: ***"Oh Allah Lord of power (and rule) you givest power to whom thou pleasest, and thou stripped of power from whom you pleasest. Thou entrust with honour whom you pleasest; and thou bringest low whom you pleasest: In thy hand is all good. Verily over all things thou hast power"***. Going by the teachings of this Ayat, it is the Almighty Allah that gives power and authority to whom He pleases. Our election to this position of responsibility should therefore be seen as the will of Allah. All should take this verdict as predestined and preordained. We must therefore not be enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection, after

all we are all, in one way or the other aiming to advance the collective interest and welfare of all Yobeans.

28. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a known fact that, since the commencement of the Sharia legal system in the State, the rate of immorality and petty crime have reduced significantly and in some cases eliminated all-together. I wish to assure you that, we shall not relent in our efforts towards full implementation of the Sharia in the State. As Sharia is a complete way of life, it is all about peace, unity and harmony among people, irrespective of their religious, ethnic or political differences. In furtherance of this noble course, we shall in due course establish a full pledged Ministry for Religious Affairs as I promised on the occasion of my turbaning as Garkuwan Sharia in the North Eastern of Nigeria.

29. Consequently, as-democracy and democratic governance is all about fulfillment of the wishes and aspirations of the people of the State, Government shall reconsider demands for the creation of more Local Governments, Districts and Village Units which were submitted earlier and all genuine requests will be re-considered. Similarly the current Emirates in the State will be strengthened. Our people will be encouraged to make donations for the building of befitting palaces to the Emirs and residences of the District Heads, while at the same time assuring you that the State Government will make significant contributions for the achievement of this objective.

30. In the area of security, I wish to empahsise that, the new vision recognizes that, the first and foremost responsibility of any Government is to protect the lives and properties of its citizens. I am happy to say that, of recent the security situation in the State has improved. While we commend the various security

agencies for their efforts and in some cases gallantry, we must continue to pray for improved security, peace and tranquility. On our part, we shall continue to give the security operatives every support and assistance to enable us further achieve our ultimate objective of a crime free society.

CONCLUSION

31. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that, I as the Chief Executive of the State and in my capacity as Garkuwan Sharia, have a sacred duty to be fair and just to all. I have no illusion whatsoever that the responsibilities bestowed on me are enormous and herculean. However, I have firm confidence that with Divine guidance and the support and cooperation of all of you, in the new vision, we shall accomplish the new mission that is, to steer the affairs of the State to the path of sustainable development, progress, peace and stability in -a just and equitable atmosphere.

32. Finally, I wish to thank all those who have come from far and near to grace this memorable occasion and for making it colourful and joyful. I however cannot end this address without wishing our Distinguished Invited Guests and all those present, journey mercies to their respective destinations and abodes. I wish to take this opportunity to urge our citizens and Ulama to continue to pray for peace, harmony, well-being and good health for all our people. We pray for corporate existence and sustenance of democracy in Nigeria. We pray Allah to bless us with more rains and bumper harvest in the forth-coming rainy season and many more years to come. And we pray for Almighty Allah to give us the wisdom and the courage to up hold justice and fair-play in the discharge of our sacred duties. And may He grant our people the patience and understanding to bear with us as we chart our path into the future and the new vision for Yobe State.

33. I cannot close this address without recording my total appreciation to all Yobeans, those in Government as well as the good ordinary men and women. Let me express my special appreciation to the Speaker and all the Honourable Members of the State House of Assembly, our Senators and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, the Judiciary and all our friends in and outside Yobe State. I also thank the outgoing members of the State Executive Council, the Permanent Secretaries, the Chief Executives of Parastatals, the Chairmen of Local Government Transition Committees, all our Emirs and their Councils, the District and Village Heads, all our Civil Servants, Farmers, Traders, Trade Union leaders, men and women, the youth and children, in short all Yobeans of good will, for their support in the past, now and your anticipated support in the future. I thank you all and assure you once again of my total commitment to improving your lot in all spheres of human endeavour. So help me God.

Thank you for your attention. I thank you for your confidence and trust. *Ma'assalam.*

D. I.

THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY HIS

EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF

OYO STATE

SCANNED

SENATOR RASHIDI ADEWOLU LADOJA

AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

HELD AT THE LIBERTY STADIUM

IBADAN.

ON THE 29TH MAY 2003

His Excellency

The Deputy Governor,

My immediate predecessor in Office

Alhaji [Dr] Lam Adesina

The Chief Judge of Oyo State

The Head of Service

Permanent Secretaries

Revered Traditional Rulers here present

My Lords Temporal and spiritual

The Chairman of the PDP Oyo State and Party

Elders and leaders,

Gentlemen of the Press, My good people of Oyo
State.

It is with the greatest sense of humility and
responsibility that I stand before you this
morning as the new Executive Governor of Oyo
State. I thank God almighty the Merciful and

will be taken care of without their having to travel far from their homes.

May I also affirm that this administration will not relent in ensuring the welfare of public servants and pensioners. Salaries and allowances will be paid as and when due. It is our fervent hope that industrial peace will be maintained to ensure better delivery of welfare packages to our people.

I will like to seize this opportunity to call on the organised Labour sector to refrain from incessant strikes that had been our lots in the past few years. In most instances it has not been beneficial to either of the parties to the dispute and often results in adverse consequences to our economic and social development. Let me assure you that this administration believes in dialogue and transparency in resolving all matters and issues that often lead to industrial crises.

affordable food on the tables of the citizens and to also have enough to export to other parts of the country and overseas. Agro-allied industries would be used not only to create fresh wealth, but to remove our teeming youths from the unemployment queue.

In order to improve our road network, we shall endeavour to rehabilitate the existing intra and inter township roads, and build new ones where necessary with utmost priority. This no doubt would enhance our economic well being in all ramifications.

The existing free health services would be overhauled to take care of the health needs of our citizens in a well enhanced and co-ordinated form. More emphasis will be placed on provision of primary health care facilities. We intend to bring health care delivery system nearer to the people such that the health needs of our people

strategies to improve the state of things. We shall introduce a programme of action that would create necessary awareness on the part of our people, and this government would do its utmost to discharge its obligation to make the environment clean and hospitable.

May I state with all sense of humility that this new administration will operate a co-ordinated free education programme that will focus on the provision of infrastructures and the well being of teachers and students alike. This administration's target is to have a maximum of 30 pupils per classroom. These we believe will greatly address the problem of the present educational standards.

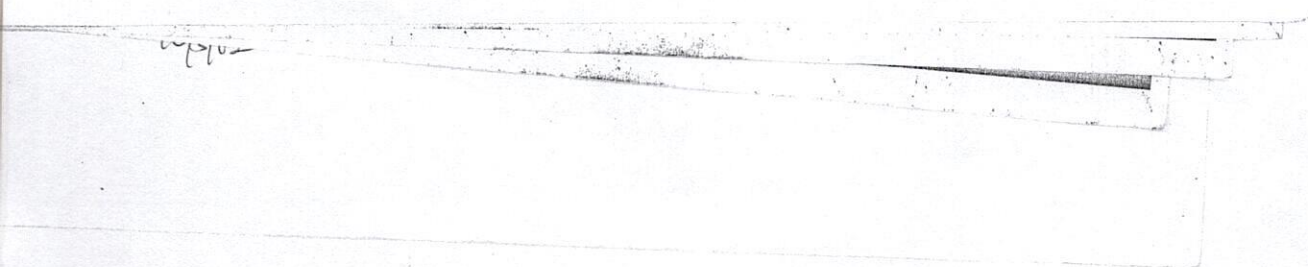
This administration will use modern methods to tackle the problem of food shortage within the state. Enhanced production of economic crops, food crops and animal husbandry would be vigorously pursued in order to put cheap and

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day. I saw it all during my campaign tours of the entire State.

By the special grace of God, matters concerning the provision of potable water both for our industrial and domestic needs would be pursued with fresh initiatives. A situation whereby the State Water Corporation now sells pure water in sachets, in pails and kegs is no longer acceptable. Necessary strategies would be put in place that would ensure adequate supply of potable water into many homes and offices across the State in the nearest future. Our administration will take advantage of the various water dams that abound in large quantity within the State. We will also provide several mini-water schemes in various parts of the State to ameliorate the deplorable water situation.

The environmental sanitation situation in our major urban centres, at present needs to be improved upon. We intend to fashion new



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General Adeyinka Adebayo, General David Jemibewon and other not too distant Civilian Governors like Chief Bola Ige, Doctor Omololu Olunloyo, Chief Kolapo Ishola, and my immediate predecessor, Alhaji [Dr] Lamidi Adesina. I believe that I can always count on the experience, support and advice of those who are alive as we begin another four years of democratic journey with the new wind of political orientation blowing across the Yoruba nation.

Expectations are very high. The situation on ground in Oyo State makes my heart to bleed. The poor living conditions of our people from Oke-Ogun to Ogbomosho, to Oyo, to Ibarapa, to Ibadan, is of great concern to me and other well meaning people of this State. All over the place, water has become hard to come by. Our road networks are in very poor state. Low agricultural production, poor environmental sanitation and low standard of education are the order of the

provider of all things for making this 29th of May 2003 day manifest.

You have just witnessed the memorable event of my official oath taking as the new Executive Governor of Oyo State. I thank all of you from the market women, farmers, commercial vehicle drivers, Okada riders, cloths and beer sellers, the mechanics and other artisans, students, teachers, public and civil servants, businessmen and to my political colleagues, I thank all of you. Oyo state belongs to all of us and with your cooperation, support and prayers, we shall move Oyo State forward.

I hereby acknowledge the efforts of all past Chief Executives of this State who had at one time or the other sat on the executive chair at the Agodi Government Secretariat here in Ibadan. Starting from the legendary figures like Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Chief Samuel Ladoke Akintola to some Military rulers like Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi,

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By the special Grace of God, we shall make the difference. We shall tackle all these problems and more with the available resources at our disposal. We will be guided by the popular wish of our people. Our government will be people friendly and community oriented. I appeal to all the good people of Oyo State to maintain peace and be your brother's keeper. The task of restoring the pace-setter status of Oyo State is our joint responsibility.

I solemnly pledge, that by the special grace of God, we will serve you to the best of our ability.

My good people of Oyo State, the journey to the new dawn in Oyo State has begun.

Thank you and God bless.

Senator Rashidi Adewolu Ladoja

Executive Governor

Oyo State.

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SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
ALHAJI LAM ONAOLAPO ADESINA
AS THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OYO STATE
AT THE LIBERTY STADIUM, IBADAN
ON
SATURDAY, 29TH MAY, 1999

"Since my election on January 9, 1999, I have tried to reflect on the multifarious problems facing our people and the best way to solve these problems. Everywhere I direct my searchlight, I see waste, untapped potentials, corruption, misplaced priority and neglect. All these culminate in the unnecessary suffering of our people in the midst of plenty."

My good people of Oyo State, I salute you. The journey that we have just begun today started a few years back.

At that time, we were dug in the trenches, fighting to save our future and dreaming of a day like this. A day like this, not for oneself, but for the realisation of a collective dream.

Exactly a year ago, I was in Agoṭi prison languishing in detention for an offence which I never committed. My Attorneys were battling unsuccessfully to secure a bail for me at an Ibadan High Court.

My captors were so frustrated by the doggedness of our resolve in spite of all the fatal intimidation that they proclaimed us Prisoners of War.

But today, glory be to God, I am not only a free man, but I am, through you my people, the Governor of Oyo State.

We were fighting a war without a gun, while our tormentors had armouries. You cannot forget that we were put in chains so they could humiliate you and weaken your resolve, but what did you do? You insisted that you were right and they were wrong and this steadfastness of yours brought the glory which you and I are basking in today. They forget that one may enslave the body but not the spirit. We should thank God and congratulate General Abdusalami Abubakar for strictly adhering to this transition time-table. He has written his name in gold. We have witnessed the end of an unending transition.

Today's victory is for the heroes of the pogrom which started in 1993 and abated only in 1998. Every Yoruba man alive today is a victim of the ethnic cleansing of

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four years starting from today, we shall together hold our destiny in our hands and God willing, we shall succeed.

We shall succeed because the prisoner of war has, through the grace of the Almighty, been transformed into the Governor of peace and progress in this pace-setting state.

At this juncture, let me touch briefly on some of the promises we have made to you.

AGRICULTURE

The present state of our agricultural development in Oyo State is, to say the least, a walking shadow of its past glories. A state that once enjoyed self-sufficiency in food production in the fifties through an ingenious agricultural policy has suffered a serious set-back to the extent that it cannot adequately feed her teeming population. This situation is not only unacceptable but inconsistent with the allowed policy of this administration. This administration will embark on sustainable policies that will completely revolutionize the practice of Agriculture to meet the challenges today and that of the 21st century. Every school in Oyo State should now have a school farm while all Local Governments must establish flourishing farms in their areas.

WATER SUPPLY

The universality of the indispensable nature of drinkable water and water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use has for long been recognised. For reasons best known to those concerned in the past and in spite of colossal amount of money invested, water supply is still grossly inadequate, epileptic and erratic. Some taps have gone dry for more than twenty years. The negative impact of the erratic water supply is tremendous pressure put on our women folk and children who trek long distance in search of water; the upsurge in epidemics for water-borne diseases; the loss of man hours, low industrial output etc.

This administration will carefully re-evaluate, re-organise and restructure our water supply scheme. We shall provide water for all in due course.

ENVIRONMENT

The vast tonnages of untreated urban and industrial wastes and garbage have had harmful effects on the quality of our environment with devastating consequences on the health of our people and beauty of our cities. With the anticipated increase in population growth and longevity which the mass oriented programmes of this administration will attract, there is bound to be a measurable increase in urban and indus-

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those obnoxious days. And to the fallen heroes, we assure them that their blood would not be spilled in vain. At this juncture, let us all stand up and observe a minute's silence for the repose of their souls and most importantly, the soul of Basorun M. K. O. Abiola.

Since my election on January 9, 1999, I have had time to reflect on multifarious problems facing our people and the best way to solve these problems. Everywhere I direct my searchlight. I see waste, untapped potentials, corruption, misplaced priority and neglect. All these culminate in the unnecessary suffering of our people in the midst of plenty.

To compound this mismanagement, the continued perpetration of unitary system by successive Military Administrators, resulting in constant time-wasting visits to Abuja by State Governors to go and beg cap-in-hand for fund with which to run their states, has been ingeniously used to further impoverish the masses. This must stop.

It is no more acceptable for the Federal Government to decide for each federating unit what its priorities should be. We shall insist on getting our own fair share of the Federal allocation and use it to implement the programme for which we were elected. We shall fight for our rights. We shall not accept anyone doling crumbs to us from the table because our antecedent does not condone such condescension.

Within the Nigerian Nation-State, there is enough wealth which, if judiciously husbanded, can turn this land into a competitive economic force that will not only have enough for her work force but will call the shots in the sub-region without the debilitating but unnecessary military campaigns that are now being encouraged

I wish to appeal to our work force to give my administration maximum cooperation so that we will not be distracted by incessant labour unrest. As you know, I am a friend of the workers because I have always been one of you and it is my belief that most times, it helps the workers if they fight for what the naira can buy, rather than naira increase for its own sake. In all our actions, the bottom-line will always be the best for the teeming masses.

I cannot but make reference to the man who has been at the helm of affairs in the state until some moments ago. From my interactions with him, I can confidently say that he came into our state with the mind of giving us his best and as God will have it, he has given account of his good intention for the generality of our people. I thank you.

And to you all the good people of Oyo State, I can assure you that for the next

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trial wastes. This government will effectively tackle this monster by employing all available research techniques to convert the wastes into wealth.

INDUSTRIES

The dull economic climate has predictably attracted a dull business environment. This has caused many industries to close down or operate at very low and unprofitable capacity. This, in turn, has increased the number of the unemployed, many of whom ordinarily should have been automatically employed because of their experiences and qualifications.

My recent private trips abroad were specifically targeted at bringing investments into our state and I am happy to tell you that I was able to make impressive in-roads among these investors who are now willing to invest here because of the lucrative potentials of Oyo State and the just-concluded democratisation process.

SPORTS

My administration will encourage sporting activities and reward diligence and hardwork that result in the winning of laurels.

We shall provide conducive atmosphere for the development of sports and embark on scientific methods of hunting for new talents that abound in our state.

I will like to seize this opportunity to call on the Federal Government to re-name the Liberty Stadium, Obafemi Awolowo Stadium. Apart from being the architect of this stadium where we are today, Obafemi Awolowo belongs to that rare species of unique men whose deeds transcend their lives.

HEALTH

It is a glaring fact the health-care delivery services in Nigeria today are deplorable. The obligatory responsibility of government to provide health-care to the people as a social service has been completely thrown overboard. Health-care is now for the privileged few and this is available only in private hospitals or overseas. Government health-care facilities are deficient in areas of infrastructure, personnel and services. Despite huge amounts of money that were reportedly expended on the health sector, though still inadequate by world health organisation's standards, there is nothing on the ground to justify these expenditures. The Health-care policy has remained lopsided and grossly lacking in political will to effect the drastic changes required.

Our party, Alliance for Democracy, whose philosophy is rooted in the greatest benefit of the good things of life to all our people, is committed to the provisions of good health-care services which will be easily accessible to everybody at little or no cost.

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The new AD Government in Oyo State, as from this moment, is declaring its commitment to the provision of a comprehensive health-care package which will be accessible to all and be cost-effective.

This administration is committed to the provision of free primary health-care to all our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, primary health-care is hereby declared free in Oyo State.

We will ensure adequate provisions of drugs and other services. We will ensure that our health-care personnel are efficient and caring.

The details of our health-care Policy will unfold soonest.

EDUCATION

The education industry has been left to suffer in the past one decade or so. Many students have withdrawn from schools because of the inability of their parents to pay school fees. Furthermore, infrastructure facilities provided during civilian rule have disappeared while teachers morale is at the lowest ebb.

In spite of the poor finances currently facing all tiers of Governments in Nigeria, our great party will NOT run away from its election promises. My good people of Oyo state in fulfillment of the programme of my party and the promise made during my electioneering campaigns, I hereby declare education at the Primary and Secondary Levels in Oyo State free from this moment.

Bursaries and scholarships are to be awarded at tertiary levels. The modalities for their implementation are being worked out.

I appeal to all workers connected with education at all levels of teaching, headmasters, principals, university lecturers and the Nigeria Union of Teachers to cooperate in order to make education available to all and sundry in Oyo State.

The implementation of this programme has been made even more difficult than at any other time in our nation's history because of the unprecedented mismanagement of our country's finances. But God willing we shall satisfy the dream of our people.

In conclusion, it is important for me to stress that the Alliance for Democracy administration in Oyo State shall uphold probity and open government.

Let me assure you that I will fight corruption, laziness, injustice and all other vices to a standstill we shall drive them out of the gate of Oyo State and open our doors ajar for progress and a new lease of life.

I will create an atmosphere for open and unfettered dialogue between my govern-

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ment and my people. I am your servant number one and I and my team shall remain
servants to your legitimate wishes and desire.

Together, we march forward to progress, plenty, peace and true freedom.

God bless you all.

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AN INAUGURAL SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, ALHAJI BUKAR ABBA IBRAHIM (FNIQS) THE GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING IN CEREMONY, SATURDAY 29th MAY 1999.

Fellow citizens of Yobe State, you may recall that we presided over the affairs of this great, young and dynamic State, from the 2nd day of January 1992 to 17th November 1993. During that brief tenure, we were able to establish some very significant development projects in the State before the military struck and took over the reign of Government in the whole country. Following that coup d'état, all established democratic structures were dissolved and a new political transition programme was introduced in their stead, by the then late Head of State and Commander-in-chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Sani Abacha in 1995.

2. A nine-month political transition programme was later on conceived and executed successfully by the new Administration of General Abdulsalami Abubakar, which culminated into this august occasion.

3. Today being 29th day of May, 1999 marks a very significant mile-stone in the history of this great country, Nigeria. It is a day in which all of us are witnessing the return to a civilian democratic rule. I must first of all express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the outgoing Head of State, for his courage and steadfastness in terminating military rule in this country. The military must realize that military rule is totally rejected by Nigerians, out of fashion by all standards and unacceptable to the International Community. They must therefore confine themselves to their Constitutional and traditional role of defending their

fatherland and never ever contemplate subverting the Constitution through any mutiny or coup d'états.

4. Fellow citizens, Nigerians have suffered greatly under military rule, and furthermore, Nigeria has wasted a lot of resources in bank-rolling several transition programmes since independence. We cannot afford any further wastage in this trend. We must ensure that the just concluded transition programme must and shall be the last in Nigeria. We must jealously guard our young democracy by practicing politics according to its rules and ethics. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that democracy thrives and lasts in Nigeria. I strongly urge every citizen to play politics without bitterness eschew and expose corruption in all its manifestation and ramifications, exhibit tolerance and understanding, spirit of fair play, pursue and execute purposeful development programmes for the general benefit of the governed.

MISSION STATEMENT

5. What we in the APP have in stock for this Nation is leadership by example, fight corruption, and improve the lots of the masses-our people, the good people of Yobe State. Now that we are in government, we intend to follow and put into practice the principles, aims and objectives of our Great Party, as contained in the Party Manifesto, which manifesto itself is predicated on the principles of democratic governance and rule of law. By democratic governance, we mean the people's right to orderly successions of leadership positions through electoral processes. Leadership, from time to time, as we have started now, seek and obtain the mandate of the people, to SERVE the people and to be directly accountable to the people at all times. This process brings to the people the PLEASURE and happiness of having the leadership of their choice and with it, the building strong civil preference for constitutional governance. This is the way to

permanent peace, stability and progress, all of which have eluded this country for a long time.

6. This Government's style of administration will therefore be premised on honesty of purpose and selfless service, without any deceit, corrupt practices, pursuit of selfish or personal interest. The incidence of corruption is traceable to one or all of the following factors: excessive greed, inordinate ambition to a mass wealth and use it to get to power positions, poverty and in most cases, lack of effective machinery for public accountability. Whatever the case may be, we will get to the root causes and fight corruption to a standstill, Insha Allah. We do not control the Central Government and therefore, cannot promise to undertake socio-economic turnaround nationally. We will however, endeavour to make Yobe State a model worthy of emulation by all the other States of the Federation.

NATIONAL ECONOMY

7. As we are all aware, no socio-economic development is achievable without adequate financing. We are also aware of how the National economy went into shambles in recent years, due to multifarious factors, including economic downturn of the global economy. But the third World Countries are the worst it especially Nigerian economy. Such macro-economic variables as mismanagement, high inflation rates, heavy debt overhang, erratic exchange and interest rates, have so conspired against the average Nigerian and his State Government that his standard of living has so pathologically deteriorated and planned programmes of action by Governments lost their meaning. This is why this country has been yearning for a democratically elected, purposeful leadership that is committed to development, stability, transparency, and accountability in public sector management. And with a broad-

mindful, world-famous General Olusegun Obasanjo at the helm of affairs, we have every reason to be optimistic and hopeful. Here in Yobe State we will do all we can to contribute our quota in order to once again turn the National economy around, to ensure sustainable growth and development. Meanwhile we will do our very best with whatever resources that are available to alleviate the sufferings of our people. We have therefore, prioritized our sectoral programmes and will try to tackle them in the order that follows.

THE STATE ECONOMY

8. For us to sustain democracy in our young State, we must strive ardently towards the establishment of a very sound and carefully planned economic programmes. I acknowledge the fact that Nigeria is presently experiencing great economic hardships. This should not however, deter us from this great task of economic reconstruction and revitalization in the State. The major sectors of our economy shall therefore, receive desired attention and priority. In this regard therefore, Government shall place much emphasis on Agricultural and Livestock production, solid minerals development, transportation, commerce, cottage industries, human resources development, investments and property development. Furthermore, we shall accordingly eliminate wastage of resources by focusing our attention on viable projects, creating conducive atmosphere to attract investors into the State. With the establishment of a very sound economic base in the State, Government shall then be in a position to execute its laudable programmes in accordance with our party manifesto, Fellow citizens of Yobe State, you are all aware that this Government was elected under the platform of our great party, THE APP (All Peoples Party), this great and dynamic party is grassroots, and mass oriented and is generally concerned with the improvement of the living conditions of the masses of this country.

9. We shall accordingly pursue deliberate social welfare programmes and packages in this State, in the areas of Agriculture, Health. Provision of Water (for both human and animal consumption), Education, General Security, Livestock and Integrated Rural Development. These areas will be readily developed and greatly improved within the life span of this Administration. These programmes will be phased and executed accordingly within the next four years. The lives of the people of this State will be greatly touched and tremendously improved by this administration within the next first four years.

PROVISION OF WATER IN THE STATE¹⁰

10. This is one of the major priority areas of this Administration. It is common knowledge that the greater percentage of the population of the State is made up of rural dwellers with little source of good drinking water for both human and animal consumption. Water, we all know, is life. No individual or society can exist without water. We are aware of the great difficulties being endured by the rural dwellers in sourcing water for the above stated purposes. We are equally aware of the Health hazards associated with such sources of rural water supplies. In this regard therefore, more boreholes and cement wells shall be constructed, established and maintained by this Administration within the next four years. Similarly the existing twenty-one thousand urban connections shall be tremendously improved in all the urban centres within the State. Our programmes of action in this area will be phased accordingly and pursued logically. Meanwhile in the interim period, the Yobe State Water Board is hereby directed to address the current water problems associated with Government Girls College, Damaturu and the 40 Housing Units, Damaturu.

Continuous water flow and steady supply must therefore be ensured in these areas by the State Water Board.

11. Similarly, Government will in the long term, look into and consider the possibility of developing and tapping alternative sources of water by way of surface water conservation, construction of earth Dams and re-introduction of wind mills, in view of the escalating cost of drilling and maintenance of boreholes. Furthermore, the current water rehabilitation programmes will be vigorously pursued to help drastically reduce our water problems in the State.

EDUCATION

12. Yobe State is one of the most educationally disadvantaged States in the Federation. We shall accordingly reconsider our educational policies and programmes with a view towards ensuring the speedy upliftment and effective performance of this sector. Learning facilities in our post primary and tertiary institution will be properly looked into and immediately standardized. Government will review bursary awards and payment of school fees in the State. Government will provide education without tears to all deserving citizens of the State. No brilliant child of Yobe State origin will be denied higher education on grounds of parental poor economic background. In our resolute strive towards boosting this sector, henceforth teachers will be encouraged to accept teaching as a profession and to reach their peak in this sector.

JUDICIARY AND STATE SECURITY

13. Since the gubernatorial election of last January, we have all been waiting for this great occasion of today. For the last three months, I had always been referred to as the Governor-elect and my government was an incoming administration. It was only after I have now been sworn-in by the Honourable Chief Judge that, I now

become the Governor of Yobe State. That goes to emphasize how very important and highly placed the judiciary is in a system that is governed by the rule of law. We hereby publicly recognize and accord that most deserved honour to the judiciary, and assure the Honourable Chief Judge and the Honourable Grand Kadi that this government will honour and respect the rule of law, which is the pivot of democratic governance. May I seize this opportunity to publicly congratulate Honourable Justice Baba Saje Gujba for his most deserved elevation to the revered office of the Chief Judge of Yobe State. My Lord the Chief Judge, I hereby extend my most hearty congratulation. We wish you the very best that you can ever wish for yourself and Allah's guidance and blessing in your tenure of office.

14. My Lord the Chief Judge, justice is what our people need and justice they must get. We have scrutinized the problems facing the Judiciary and found that the main ones are poor housing for Judicial officers, poor Courtroom environments or total lack of Court-rooms, libraries without books, functional vehicles, un-harmonised salary structures or legitimate allowance unpaid. For the last 18 months the Sharia Court has never had any sitting for lack of a quorum. Under such a situation, it is difficult to guarantee Justice among the people, and consequently there will be rise in crimes and lawlessness. In order to encourage courts to dispense justice, this government will ensure that courts and houses of Judges and Kadis are made as comfortable as we can, within the shortest possible time. And if you can give me the name of a qualified candidate, we can together make the Sharia Court start sitting within the next one week.

15. One of the cardinal objectives of this government is to establish peace, law and order, as a basis for enduring democracy, political stability, national security and socio-economic

development and progress. This would not be achievable with incessant armed banditry at every bend of our roads. I therefore call upon all security agents and judicial officers to cooperate with us, and relentlessly see that our people can once again walk our streets without fear of being attacked and ply our highways without going through harrowing experiences in the hands of miscreants. On the issue of general security, government will soon review the security situation in the State with a view towards making it most effective. It is one of the fundamental obligations of this government, to ensure the protection of lives and properties of its citizens. We shall not compromise this obligation and responsibility.

16. I am equally aware that there are a lot of pending capital criminal cases in both the Anti-Robbery and Firearm Tribunals and the various High Courts in the State. Most of the suspects have been awaiting trial for over six years without due prosecution by the Ministry. Consequently therefore, the Ministry of Justice is hereby directed to effectively dispose of these cases immediately.

AGRICULTURE

17. Yobe is an agrarian State where more than 95% of its population are peasant farmers involved in subsistence agriculture. Greater emphasis will be made in the provision of effective extension service, high quality seeds and plants and machinery, to boost productivity to a level of self-sufficiency. Owing to the Sahelian cum Savannah nature of the climate short season high yielding draught resistant crop-varieties will be made available.

18. Similarly, the low nutrient, poor textured soil that avail in the greater part of the State make the use of animal traction and appropriate technology a necessity. Government will boldly enhance the use of Ox-plough as a medium of land cultivation. Therefore, packages that include Ridgers, Ploughs and other

implements that can be drawn by domesticated animals (i.e. Oxen, Camel, and donkeys) will be made available at affordable rates to farmers across the State. Full scale mechanized agriculture cannot be afforded in the State due to high cost, of tractors, implements and maintenance. Government will also look critically into the issues of the perennial devastation of crops by pests and diseases. The most noticeable and threatening case of Qualea birds has to be checked appropriately by the timely provision of needed vehicles, pesticides, insecticides and associated spray equipment.

19. Agriculture in this part of the nation can only be successful with adequate application of fertilizers. Government will critically look into the issue relating to the availability of fertilizer. Nature had made available very large expanse of rich, low lying Fadama lands that can be used for smallscale irrigation of food and cash crops. Large sum of money and resources had been employed through the access to World Bank loan. More hectares of Fadama lands will be put into use by additional provision and supply of wash bore, tube wells and the matching water pumps.

20. Yobe State has been bestowed by nature with large stock of animals. Attention will be forecast on the provision of sound veterinary services. Adequate grazing land and defined routes will certainly reduce the much talked about clashes that occur between farmers and livestock rearers. Government cannot allow this trend to go unchecked so as to guarantee sanity to human life and property. To crown it all, abundant food and animals supply at affordable prices is a pre-requisite for healthy nation.

ENVIRONMENT AND DESERTIFICATION

23. Here in Nigeria, we should be specially grateful to the Almighty Allah for blessing us with a congenial environment that is relatively free from natural disasters such as earth quakes, or

disastrous civil strifes. Even the extreme desert climatic conditions we experience here in Yobe State are tempered by seasonal climatic changes. But what is rather frightening is the steady, and inexorable southward advancement of the Sahara Desert. This is our major environmental problem in this part of the country, exacerbated by deforestation; the destruction of the little forest areas that we have, for human and animal consumption. We will therefore, have to embark on conservation education, to instill public awareness on the need to conserve our forests, safeguard our water and wild life; because there are very vital linkages between environment and development. That is not to say that the people living today should be denied their means of livelihood as is how alleged in some quarters. We have to strike a balance between the two extremes.

22. However, environmental degradation is so serious and monumental problem that it has to be tackled only by the Federal Government to declare Yobe an ecological disaster area which deserves special attention. We wish to suggest that the Federal Government should re-activate and increase budgetary allocation to the Ecological Fund, purposely to finance anti-desert encroachment programmes in Yobe State in particular, and the Northern parts of the country in general.

TRADITIONAL RULERS

23. A group that required special attention and mention however briefly is the traditional ruling class. In order to protect their prestigious positions as fathers of the State and their communities, traditional rulers are advised not to be involved in partisan politics. The government recognizes the role of our Royal fathers as advisers to government, custodians of values and ethics of the people, as well as agents of peace, law and order and stability in their domains. More than ever before, the role of their Royal

Highnesses gathers greater significance by the day. In view of the current wave of armed banditry and general insecurity on our roads as mentioned earlier. We need their prayers and cooperation more than anything also to restore peace and security for both life and property of our people. Government on its part, will give them full protection, see to their personal comforts and peace of mind.

THE MASS MEDIA (THE PRESS) AND THEIR ROLES IN THE STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

24. The mass media are our partners in progress in democracy, because a viable and articulate press is essential for the creation and sustenance of democracy. If the press is gagged, we are all imprisoned. On the other hand, if the press gets loose and strikes at everything around indiscriminately, it would not be doing its legitimate duty. This government therefore, recognizes the role of the mass media as the informant of the people and an objective critic of the performance of government. We expect the press to provide informed criticism and viable alternative to public policies thereby helping to strengthen the economic, social and political fabric of the policies. On our part, we assure the press that we will create a conducive atmosphere for them in Yobe State to do their jobs, by building and maintaining mutual trust and respect between this government and all the agencies of the mass media, within and outside Yobe State. Our doors will always be open to the press, through organised periodic briefing to keep the media abreast with major developments and policy decisions, to enable them correctly inform and educate the people, as well as express constructive opinion on such issues of public interest.

25. Press briefing reminds me of recent, final briefing by the immediate past Honourable Minister of Information and Culture, Chief Nwodo Jr. which I consider a master piece of its kind. No

doubt NTA in particular, already being heard in South Africa, is set for the next millennium. In view of the embarrassing black-out, we received from CNN in Nigeria 99, we hereby advocate for a SATELITE NETWORK AFRICA SERVICE (SANAS), with a base in Abuja. With that much State of preparedness by NTA, we believe it can set the ball rolling, and let us inter-connect Africa, and content ourselves with the promotion of our own African Culture, the richest in the whole world.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

26. This is one of the most important areas of Government. It is entrusted with the responsibility for the formulation, and implementation of government policies and programmes of action. Government shall therefore, accord this institution all the necessary regard and considerations it deserves. We will ensure prompt payment of salaries, claims and allowances of civil servants, offer proper training and advancement programmes for members of the civil service, and service welfare packages. Consequently, therefore, government expects hard work, complete loyalty, and dedication to duty on the part of the civil servants. Government shall carry along with it the entire civil service without any form of discrimination. We shall grant this institution a new lease of life through provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. We shall as a matter of policy ensure the prompt implementation of the Federal Government's white paper on the Allison Ayida's panel report on the reforms of the civil service. I am aware that the provisions of this white paper are yet to be properly and fully implemented in the State.

CONCLUSION

26. I cannot conclude this address, ladies and gentlemen, without paying deserving tribute to our beloved friends and comrades who

gallantly fought on our side and saw us to victory, but did not live long enough to witness the momentous occasion of today. The first that comes to my mind is the late Alhaji Auwalu Gwio Kura, M. Inuwa Kawu, and Alhaji Hassan, the seven gentlemen in Potiskum disaster and a lot of others, who were recalled to the Almighty Allah. As we celebrate this occasion, their memories stay fresh in our minds, May the Almighty Allah grant their souls eternal peace in Jannatul Fidauss- Ameen. We assure the families of the deceased all the necessary support that will make their lives comfortable.

28 We cannot of course forget to mention the good people of Yobe State, whose over-whelming support, freely given, gave us this legitimate mandate to rule. It is true that I could not physically get out to the people, due to the rude machination instituted against us by the top echelon of our party. I only sent my representatives and my photographs and the people voted enemas. I have no words to express my gratitude; but our planned programmes of action will show our deep appreciation of the trust and confidence the good people of Yobe State have reposed on us. We have a new task and challenge before us to improve the quality of life of our people. Let us therefore now from today face the new tasks and challenges with greater vigour and determination to succeed and make the lives of our people worth living and make our environment far better than we found it.

29. May the Almighty Allah bring peace and prosperity to the good people of this great country, Nigeria. May it please Allah, Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala to see us through these laudable objectives we have enunciated, in order to establish a peaceful, just and corrupt-free society in Yobe State-Ameen.

It's a new beginning

—Gov Bukola Saraki

IN the name of the Almighty Allah the master of all destinies the one who gives power to whoever He pleases and takes it when He pleases, the one who protects and guides when mortals grope in the dark. I stand before you today in solemn praise of that ultimate power, the Lord of bounties unbounded.

It is deep sense of humility that I welcome all our distinguished guest from far and near to this historic event. Our victory today is one that was hard won. It certainly would not have been possible without the tireless contribution and sacrifices of many. I am first and foremost grateful to Allah who decrees and makes all things possible. My special appreciation goes to my father, mentor and role model, Dr. Olusola Saraki, and my beloved mother, Mrs. Florence Saraki for making me what I am today and for standing by me in the course of pursuing my political career. I thank my wife, Mrs. Toyin Saraki for being there for me all the time, every time. I really appreciate you. To friends and family, far and near, I say thank you for believing and for standing strong.

I also thank the State Chairman and members of the State Exco of our party and the party elders for their support, wise counselling and guidance. I am similarly grateful to the ever hard-working members of the "Mandate and Great Hall Group" not only for providing strategic direction for our cause but also for the tenacity of purpose they displayed

toward realising this mandate, the time they have spent and the resources they committed. I must show my debt of gratitude to all Kwarans for the overwhelming mandate they have given

forget the massacre at Ajase Ipo and those who lost their lives there. We shall not forget Alhaja Lasiele. We shall not forget all the gallant people who lost their lives and

On behalf of the people of Kwara, I would like to thank specially our great leader, the Oloye himself; words fail me in expressing our gratitude. For all that you have done over the years, for

What we celebrate today is not a victory of party or of individuals. What we celebrate is a beginning as well as an end; a change as well as a restoration. A beginning to end poverty, and misery; a beginning to end ignorance and hopelessness; and a beginning to restore all that is good, beautiful and sublime in our lives as one people under God.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I stand before you today to swear to the same oath that many governors before me had sworn to in the past. But let the word go forth from this time and place that the torch has been passed on to a new generation. A generation that is acutely aware of its unique destiny as the hope of our long suffering people. A generation that is desperately challenged by the rapid developments taking place all over the world, a generation that is encouraged by all the possibilities of technology, a generation that determines to earn its place in history; a generation of hope.

The challenges before my government are numerous. However, I am aware that central to those challenges is the need to reconcile our people and restore the confidence of the citizens in the government. Many times in history, people have voted our people they didn't want and ended up with people they didn't need.

But let me assure you that you have not voted out one bad government only to end up with another. You are all aware of how much we have lost in the last four years but we shall not hang our heads in misery and continue to cry about the past. We must instead, commence immediately the difficult task of restoration and reconstruction. There are enormous backlogs to clear in all areas - education and

health, agriculture and industry, water and sanitation, rural development, women empowerment, youth development, unpaid salaries, pensions and many more. I do not pretend to have a quick fix to all these problems. Nor do I intend to work on them single-handedly. I therefore ask you not to expect any miracle from me; even though you have reasons to do so. I ask you not to expect all answers to all problems from me; even though you expect me to lead the way, I ask you not to expect me to solve all your problems; even though you voted for me to do that.

I only ask of you to join hands with me to be the best we can be and together lay the foundation for a future that is more secure and certain for our children and generations to come.

On my own part, I promise to be Governor for all the people of Kwara State, those who voted and those who did not; those who voted for me and those who did not; those who voted for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and those who did not.

I am Governor for all of you, the people of Kwara State. I am prepared to pay any price, suffer any hardship, bear any pain and make any sacrifice to justify the confidence that you all have reposed in me. I expect you to do the same, because a leader is only as good as the quality of his follower-ship. You have given me the chance to lead you, I will also expect that you follow with all diligence.

My government shall be open and participatory and anybody that has any value to add shall be given the opportunity to do so. This government will also be truly merit driven, not only because it is the right thing to do; but also because it is the only way to make a break with the unproductive past and set our feet firmly on the path of

(Continued on page 32)



•Governor Bukola Saraki

to me. Indeed, I felt highly humbled by the goodwill and support, which my Deputy and I received from workers, the market men and women, our farmers, religious and community leaders and our revered Royal Fathers. Today proves it has all been worth it.

I pay tribute to our people who sacrificed their lives and limbs in the course of our struggle. We will not

those who were injured or maimed. Today's victory is indeed theirs.

I salute our leaders in all the Wards, in the Local Governments and throughout the State for their tireless efforts in mobilizing our people and thus ensuring that this day was born. Our women deserved very special mention for their resilience, their patience and their courage. Today belongs to you all.

all that you are to us and for the principles you have so gallantly fought, for the hope you brought at the time of despair, for the comfort you brought to many homes, for the happiness you have brought to the homes of many, for leading us out of tyranny and oppression and for passing the torch to a new generation, we wish to say thank you. I only have left to say, "More is thy due and more than all can pay".

"The challenges before my government are numerous. However, I am aware that central to those challenges is the need to reconcile our people and restore the confidence of the citizens in the government. Many times in history, people have voted our people they didn't want and ended up with people they didn't need."

We'll recover all dangerous weapons

(Continued from page 31)

progress.

Transparency and Accountability

This government shall run on the cardinal principles of good governance: transparency, accountability, efficiency, rule of law and social equity. Towards this end, we have commenced the process of ascertaining the state of our finances. As soon as this is completed, I will let you know how much assets and how much liability we are inheriting. We shall also ensure that all government transactions are brought in line with the due process. My government will also regularly put the accounts of the government in the public domain to ensure that the government is not only transparent but it is seen to be so.

There will be zero tolerance for corruption. Today, I make a personal pledge to every Kwara that I shall set a personal example.

My government shall make conscious efforts to ensure that no part of this state is marginalized. If I give to one, I shall give to the other. I will be guided by equity and good conscience, believing that even with our meager resources; the dividends of democracy can go round.

Priority Areas.

Our state is not a rich state. While we must devise effective strategies to broaden our revenue base, we would be careful not to overstretch the limited resources that we have by attempting to take on all our problems at the same time. Therefore, my government has identified a few strategic sectors that will attract our priority attention. These include the provision of water, good roads, employment especially for women and youth through agriculture and agro-allied industries and education.

We must not neglect the other areas as well. However, it is my conviction that if we succeed in these priority areas, we would have significantly improved the quality of the lives of our people, increased their well being, and truly empowered them to take charge of their destinies and serve as the driving force for the Kwara of our collective dreams.

Civil Service.

It is not possible for the government to operate without an efficient, well mobilized and result-oriented civil service.

My government shall take urgent steps within the first one hundred days to restore the dignity and cred-

ibility of the civil service; to rebuild a civil service that is goal-driven and well positioned to advise and support the government.

In this direction, we shall take urgent steps to ensure prompt payment of salaries and improve their working environment. However, to whom much is given, much should be expected. While my government will do everything possible to make workers in the state happy. I will also demand in return, full commitment and high productivity from all workers.

Relationship with Legislature.

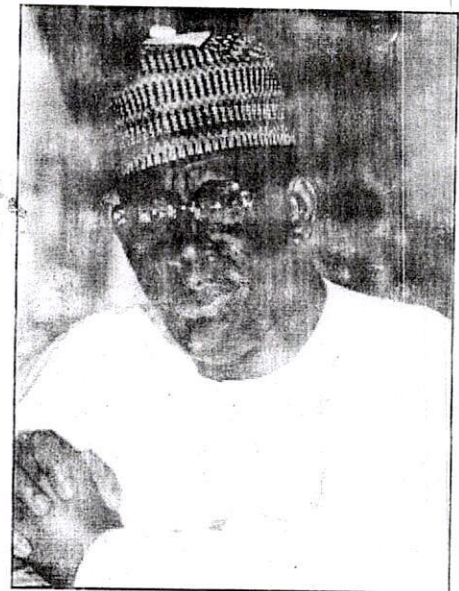
In line with our commitment to the rule of law, my government shall at all times be guided by the principles of separation of powers, which is a fundamental

canon of democracy. My government will therefore seek to hold the legislature in high regard, recognize the honourable men and women as worthy partners in realizing the objectives of the state. I expect them to relate with us the same way. I expect them to understand that while we may not agree at all times; we should at all times be united in the service of our people.

Relationship with Traditional Rulers.

My government shall treat the traditional rulers with the utmost respect. I am deeply convinced that the richness of tradition and heritage, which they represent, must be preserved. I will respect our royal fathers, not only because it is natural for a son to do so, but because I am convinced that the vigour of

— Saraki



Alhaji Mohammed Lawal, Former Governor

one in possession of such weapons to hand them over to the police. In addition to guaranteeing amnesty to anyone

the reckoning of the PDP-led Federal Government. On my own part, I shall continue to strive for adequate and effective representation of Kwara State in all Federal appointments, because it is only when we have quality voice at the centre that we can win more benefits for our state.

Your royal highness, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. The task before us is enormous. It is not that which can be finished in the first one hundred days; nor will it be finished in the first year, or in the life of this administration. But let us agree to start now.

Fellow Kwarans, I feel a great sense of urgency to achieve this agenda. It may not be the best of times, but it is our times and this is our State. This is the time we have. Let us all accept that we need to make sacrifices and to work hard. Let us collectively resolve to build a lasting foundation for tomorrow and a sound future for our children.

For those who have journeyed from afar, I bid you journey mercies as you return home and thank you so much for coming to our State, for those of us who are here, I say this, our future begins today!

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you so much for listening.

"I am deeply convinced that the richness of tradition and heritage, which they represent, must be preserved. I will respect our royal fathers, not only because it is natural for a son to do so, but because I am convinced that the vigour of youth must be tutored by the sublime wisdom of the elders."

youth must be tutored by the sublime wisdom of the elders.

Youth Violence.

One of the unfortunate fallout of our recent politics is the explosion in youth violence in the state. My government shall take urgent steps to address this problem. Our state of harmony must from now on, reclaim its name. It is only in an atmosphere of peace and security that industry, enterprise and investments can thrive. My government is therefore determined to recover all dangerous weapons in the hands of all unauthorized persons in the state.

I hereby announce a 14-day moratorium for any-

who hands in such weapons within the specified time, such individuals shall also enrolled in the programme of employment for youths, details of which shall be announced soon.

Kwara and The Nation.

In my recent solidarity visit to the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, I made a case against the marginalisation of Kwara not only within Nigeria, but also within the North Central region. It is my hope that with Kwara becoming a member of the family of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) states on April 19, Kwara State will now enjoy more Federal support and feature more prominently in



Dr. Oluola Saraki

Oyinlola thanks God, promises agric development

TODAY is the day that the Lord has chosen, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Today brings to an end, an era in our history, marking, of course, the commencement of a new era. The old order has therefore changed, yielding place to a new one. We thank God Almighty, for giving us the grace and privilege to be part of this historic occasion.

After the turbulence occasioned by the last electioneering campaign, the battle has been lost and won. We are here together again as brothers and sisters in one-love family, the large and extended family of Osun State.

I therefore welcome all of you here present to this historic and epoch-making ceremony of the change of batons from one democratically elected government to another. Even though there has been occasional political tension, its gratifying to note that there has been no blood-letting in Osun State. Two months ago, nobody would have believed what is now happening.

Pessimists would say the heavens would fall or that there would be brimstone and fire. But we, who believe in God, hold fast to him in prayer and supplication and God in his infinite mercies has brought us happily to this destination. To God, therefore, be the glory.

I wish to acknowledge your massive and impressive support for the Peoples Democratic Party as evidenced by your remarkable decision to embrace the PDP at all levels in the last polls. I thank you very much sincerely for your support, encouragement and the very warm discussion shown to the Peoples Democratic Party in Osun State. I am indeed deeply touched by your goodwill and collective resolve to join hands with our administration in our task of building a just and egalitarian society where our people will not be oppressed or denied their rights. We are poised to set new standards and bring back once again, an era of peace and prosperity.

It is most gratifying to note that for the first time in a long while, the people of our dear state have chosen to align with the government at the centre. This development will undoubtedly impact positively on the physical and general development of Osun State. It is the policy of the PDP administration in the state, to cooperate fully with the Federal Government in our avowed determination to improve the standard of living of the citizenry.

I am of the strong conviction that with all of us working together, and with God being with us, we shall place Osun State on the path of progress. I therefore solicit the support and cooperation of the good people of Osun State, particularly all the interest and pressure groups, to enable our administration achieve its set goals and objectives. Kindly permit me to observe that Osun State, our dear state, yearns for development. Events of the past clearly point to the fact that our state requires a vibrant leadership that is totally committed to the well-being of the polity. I wish to assure you all that I have studied critically the various activities of government in Osun State and has arrived at the conclusion that the task ahead is enormous but achievable.

My fellow citizens, the immediate major thrust of our policies for priority attention will be: Security,

MAIDEN ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AND SWEARING-IN AS THE THIRD EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE.

ity, Water-Resources, Transportation, Agriculture and the provision of an enabling environment for the socio-economic development of Osun State.

In the weeks and months ahead, specific details of the policies and programmes of our administration will unfold as we settle down more and understand better, the position of records put together by the immediate past administration in this state. For now, I wish to touch on a few guiding policies.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE, NLC AND THE ON-GO INDUSTRIAL ACTION

I wish to use this public forum, and the swearing-in ceremony of the new administration in Osun State to appeal to our brothers and sisters in the Nigeria Labour Congress to please, in the interests of peace and order, suspend their industrial action forthwith. I pledge, to set out to work immediately with the leadership of the NLC, to look out the outstanding areas of dispute. It is the policy of our administration to rejuvenate the public service of the state which forms the bedrock for the implementation of government's programmes and policies.

As an immediate policy measure, I wish to announce that the case of retrenched workers will be reviewed accordingly. As from now, the in-coming government will take the following policy measure to address the issue as a matter of urgency. Firstly, the Head of Service is hereby directed to go into discussions immediately with the NLC with a view to resolving the differences between government and the NLC to facilitate the immediate resumption of duty.

The 10%, 15% and 20% compulsory deductions for workers salaries are hereby stopped with effect from the 1st of June, 2003.

A public service Review Panel will be set up to look into individual cases of the affected public servants and make appropriate recommendations.

In the case of workers that cannot be re-absorbed their entitlements, by way of pension and gratuity, will be paid without further delay.

All appointments made from January 2003 till the present time will be examined and reviewed suitably in line with the principles of fairness and equity.

In view of the foregoing, I am appealing to all striking workers to please go back to work immediately.

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Our Transition Committee received over 100 memoranda in a state of two weeks. Some of these memoranda addressed developmental proposals and administrative reforms and other vital issues. About 60% of these memoranda however centred on alleged injustice in our system. We intend to remove these completely or reduce them to the barest minimum in the shortest possible time. To this end, a Review Panel will be set up immediately with appropriate terms of reference to clear the reported cases within 3 months of this administration in the following areas.

- (a) The Civil Service.

- (b) The Teaching Service and SPEB.
- (c) The Local Government Service.
- (d) The Judiciary.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

In order to emphasize the significance of peace based on justice, the office of an Ombudsman is hereby created in the Governor's Office. This office will coordinate and facilitate the above listed Review Panels, take over their responsibilities and ensure on a sustainable basis that justice prevails in all our endeavours in Osun State.

STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE JUDICIARY

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is the desire of our administration to ensure that the three arms of government work together in harmony. The Judiciary, as the citadel of justice and the Legislature, as the law-making organ of government will be accorded the full cooperation of the Executive in the discharge of their functions. They will be encouraged to decide and deliberate with courage and sincerity. The Legislature will be inaugurated in the next few days, by a proclamation.

BOARDS, PARASTATALS AND STATUTORY COMMISSION

The Boards of all Parastatals are hereby dissolved and political appointees are relieved of their appointments. The accounts of the Boards, Parastatals and Commissions are hereby frozen until further notice. Such Boards, Parastatals and Commissions should await further directives. In the case of dissolution of the Boards of the Civil Service Commission and the Judicial Service Commission, a definite pronouncement will be made in due course.

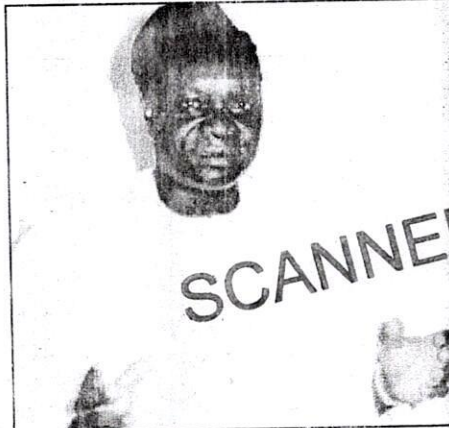
LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSITION COUNCIL

In many Local Governments there have been reports of the execution of spurious projects witnessed with full collusion of the Transitional Commissions and connivance of the council officials. As a fall-out of this, and in order to prevent further sabotage, all members of the 30 Local Governments are hereby relieved of their posts. The Director of Personnel Management are hereby directed to take over, pending further directives. The Secretaries to Local Government Education Authorities are similarly to hand over to the Directors for Finance and Supplies (DFS). The accounts of all the existing 30 Local Governments in Osun State and Local Government Education Authorities are hereby frozen.

MEETING WITH SOME ORGANISATIONS

This administration places a lot of confidence and has expectations from some organisations and statutory bodies in the state. These bodies include;

- (a) Traditional Rulers
- (b) Religious Leaders
- (c) The Nigeria Labour Congress
- (d) Senior Civil Servants
- (e) Vice Chancellors of Uni-



Prince Oyinlola, Osun State Gov.

versities and Chief Medical Directors of Teaching Hospitals in the state, and

(f) Rectors, Registrars and Union Leaders of Federal, State Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Trade Centres and School of Health Technology.

Government will hold short meetings with each of these organisations as soon as possible to appeal for cooperation and support.

COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISERS

It is my wish to run an administration that is compact, focussed and efficient. It will also be transparent in all official conducts. To this end, a blue print on all aspects of government functions has been developed. However, this blue print will be further subjected to a committee of experts in different disciplines to develop implementable programmes with specific measurable milestones. The product of this exercise will constitute the agenda for our Government.

The choice of commissioners and special advisers will be based on their level of qualification, experience, party loyalty and ability to deliver in a dynamic administration that we have in view.

I wish to stress that our administration will not be distracted by criticisms. We require constructive criticisms to make us stay on the right path. However, this administration will not welcome unsolicited proposals that are not in consonance with our party's programmes and policies from time to time.

Our policy is to draw our inspiration and strength from the real people, the unheard and unseen millions who want to see our dear state progress. I have faith that God is on our side and we shall therefore succeed.

ROYAL FATHERS

It is unfortunate and lamentable that our Royal Fathers have been degraded and relegated to the background. This administration attaches great importance to our traditional institutions because of their invaluable contributions to the peace and progress of their areas. In this connection, we shall soon set in motion the machinery for the re-constitution of the Osun State Council of Obas and Chiefs.

is to build a virile and healthy citizenry that would contribute meaningfully to the development of Osun State.

Let me use this opportunity to invite willing investors who may wish to participate in business ventures in Osun State to feel free to move over as an enabling environment will be created for their investments and operations. A framework for their operations, including the necessary incentives has been drawn up.

I assure everybody that policies in all aspects of human endeavour will be tailored towards the development of man and his environment. Haphazard policies would be jettisoned for coherent and purposeful ones aimed at realizing a speedy economic growth of Osun State. I wish to assure that our administration will accord the necessary attention to the solid minerals sector to promote an all-round development and exploitation of the vast deposits of solid minerals which abound in our state. I promise that our administration will initiate love, peace, cooperation, discipline, sincerity and the practice of true democracy so as to steer the state along the path of true and visible development. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of the media, particularly members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm to my emergence as the governor of Osun State. I salute you for your courage, fortitude and demonstration of support for the enrichment of an enduring democratic culture in our country. I assure you that we will remain the best of friends. However, I

enjoy the Press, as watchdogs of the society, to practice responsible journalism that respects ethics and professionalism. Let me therefore, appeal for the cooperation of the press with the assurance that our administration and media will remain partners in progress.

CONCLUSION
Fellow citizens, you will undoubtedly agree with me that the task ahead is a daunting one which must be prosecuted with every seriousness and sincerity. I enjoy you to be strong, resilient and courageous for there is much to dare. Let us jointly meet the demands of our time with faith, courage, patience, determination and gratitude to God for seeing us thus far. I charge all of us to break new grounds to strengthen our dear state socially and economically.

I wish to assure the generality of the masses that I and my able Deputy, Erelu Olusola Obada will work together in harmony for the success of our administration. I have found Erelu Obada to be a loyal and supportive lieutenant who is willing and capable of working for the development of our dear state.

My dear people of Osun State, I want to thank you all once again, for your warm disposition to our administration. I seek for your continued love and cooperation with the firm belief that with your support, we shall make the desired progress. I promise never to disappoint you.

Finally, I admonish you all to remember this new administration in your prayers at all times.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your audience and God Bless.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
Long Live Osun State!

President C
crowd at th

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Iola thanks God, promises agric development

MAIDEN ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AND SWEARING-IN AS THE THIRD EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE.

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- (c) The Local Government Service.

- (d) The Judiciary.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

In order to emphasize the significance of peace based on justice, the office of an Ombudsman is hereby created in the Governor's Office. This office will coordinate and facilitate the above listed Review Panels, take over their responsibilities later and ensure on a sustainable basis that justice prevails in all our endeavours in Osun State.

STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE JUDICIARY

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In many Local Governments there have been reports of the execution of spurious projects witnessed with full collusion of the Transitional Committees and connivance of the council officials. As a fall-out of this, and in order to prevent further sabotage, all members of the Transitional Committees in all the 30 Local Governments are hereby relieved of their posts. The Director of Personnel Management are hereby directed to take over, pending further directives. The Secretaries to Local Government Education Authorities are similarly to hand-over to the Directors for Finance and Supplies (DFS). The accounts of all the existing 30 Local Governments in Osun State and Local Government Education Authorities are hereby frozen.

MEETING WITH SOME ORGANISATIONS

This administration places a lot of confidence and has expectations from some organisations and statutory bodies in the state. These bodies include;

- (a) Traditional Rulers
- (b) Religious Leaders
- (c) The Nigeria Labour Congress

- (d) Senior Civil Servants
- (e) Vice Chancellors of Uni-



*Prince Oyinlola, Osun State Gov.

versities and Chief Medical Directors of Teaching Hospitals in the state, and

(f) Rectors, Registrars and Union Leaders of Federal, State Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Trade Centres and School of Health Technology.

Government will hold short meetings with each of these organisations as soon as possible to appeal for cooperation and support.

COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISERS

It is my wish to run an administration that is compact, focussed and efficient. It will also be transparent in all official conducts. To this end, a blue print on all aspects of government functions has been developed. However, this blue print will be further subjected to a committee of experts in different disciplines to develop implementable programmes with specific measurable milestones. The product of this exercise will constitute the agenda for our Government.

The choice of commissioners and special advisers will be based on their level of qualification, experience, party loyalty and ability to deliver in a dynamic administration that we have in view.

I wish to stress that our administration will not be distracted by criticisms. We require constructive criticisms to make us stay on the right path. However, this administration will not welcome unsolicited proposals that are not in consonance with our party's programmes and policies from time to time.

Our policy is to draw our inspiration and strength from the real people, the unheard and unseen millions who want to see our dear state progress. I have faith that God is on our side and we shall therefore succeed.

ROYAL FATHERS

It is unfortunate and lamentable that our Royal Fathers have been degraded and relegated to the background. This administration attaches great importance to our traditional institutions because of their invaluable contributions to the peace and progress of their areas. In this connection, we shall soon set in motion the machinery for the re-constitution of the Osun State Council of Obas and Chiefs.

is to build a virile and healthy citizenry that would contribute meaningfully to the development of Osun State.

Let me use this opportunity to invite willing investors who may wish to participate in business ventures in Osun State to feel free to move over as an enabling environment will be created for their investments and operations. A framework for their operations, including the necessary incentives has been drawn up.

I assure everybody that policies in all aspects of human endeavour will be tailored towards the development of man and his environment. Haphazard policies would be jettisoned for coherent and purposeful ones aimed at realizing a speedy economic growth of Osun State. I wish to assert that our administration will accord the necessary attention to the solid minerals sector to promote an all-round development and exploitation of the vast deposits of solid minerals which abound in our state. I promise that our administration will initiate love, peace, cooperation, discipline, sincerity and the practice of true democracy so as to steer the state along the path of true and visible development. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of the media, particularly members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm to my emergence as the governor of Osun State. I salute you for your courage, fortitude and demonstration of support for the entrenchment of an enduring democratic culture in our country. I assure you that we will remain the best of friends. However, I enjoin the Press, as watchdogs of the society, to practice responsible journalism that respects ethics and professionalism. Let me therefore, appeal for the cooperation of the press with the assurance that our administration and media will remain partners in progress.

CONCLUSION

Fellow citizens, you will undoubtedly agree with me that the task ahead is a daunting one which must be prosecuted with every seriousness and sincerity. I enjoin you to be strong, resilient and courageous for there is much to dare. Let us jointly meet the demands of our time with faith, courage, patience, determination and gratitude to God for seeing us thus far. I charge all of us to break new grounds to strengthen our dear state socially and economically.

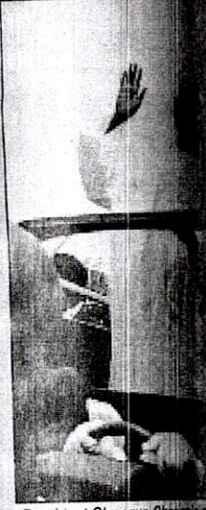
I wish to assure the generality of the masses that I and my able Deputy, Erelu Olusola Obada will work together in harmony for the success of our administration. I have found Erelu Obada to be a loyal and supportive lieutenant who is willing and capable of working for the development of our dear state.

My dear people of Osun State, I want to thank you all once again for your warm disposition to our administration. I seek for your continued love and cooperation with the firm belief that with your support, we shall make the desired progress. I promise never to disappoint you.

Finally, I admonish you all to remember this new administration in your prayers at all times.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your audience and God Bless.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
Long Live Osun State!



*President Olusegun Obasanjo addresses a crowd at the Eagle Square, Abuja.



*Soldiers displaying the flag during a parade.



*Soldiers marching at the...

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA, GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE (2003 ELECTIONS)

Today is the day that the Lord has chosen, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Today brings to an end in our history marking, of course, the commencement of a new era. The old order has therefore changed, yielding place to a new one. We thank God Almighty for giving us grace and privilege to be part of this historic occasion.

After the turbulence occasioned by the last electioneering campaign, the battle has been lost and won. We are here together again brothers and sisters in one-love family, the large and extended family of Osun State.

I, therefore, welcome all of you here present to this historic and epoch-making ceremony of the change of batons from one democratically elected government to another. Even though there has been occasional political tension it has been gratifying to note that there has been no blood-letting in Osun State. Two months ago, nobody would have believed what is new happening.

Pessimists would say the heavens would fall or that there would be brimstone and fire. But we, who believe in God, hold fast to him in prayer and supplication and God in his infinite mercies has brought us happily to this destination. To God, therefore, be the glory.

I wish to acknowledge your massive and impress support for the Peoples Democratic Party as evidenced by your remarkable decision to embrace the PDP at all levels in the last polls. I thank you very much sincerely for your support, encouragement and the very warm disposition shown to the Peoples Democratic Party in Osun State. I am indeed deeply touched by your goodwill and collective resolve and join hands with our administration in our task of building a just and egalitarian society where our people will not be oppressed or denied their rights. We are poised to set new standards and bring back once again, an era of peace and prosperity.

It is most gratifying to note that for the first time in a long while, the people of our dear state have chosen to align with the government at the centre. This development will undoubtedly impact positively on the physical and general development of Osun state. It is the policy of the PDP administration in the state, to cooperate fully with the Federal Government in our avowed determination to improve standard of living of the citizenry.

I am of the strong conviction that with all of us working together and with God being with us, we shall place Osun on the path of progress. I therefore solicit the support and cooperation of the good people of Osun State, especially all the interest and pressure groups to enable our administration achieve its set goals and objectives. Kindly permit me to observe that Osun State, our dear state yearns for

SCANNED

development. Events of the past clearly point to the fact that our state requires a vibrant leadership that is totally committed to the well being of polity. I wish to assure you all that I have critically studied at the various activities of government in Osun State and have arrived at the conclusion that the task ahead is enormous but achievable.

My fellow citizens, the immediate major thrust of our policies for priority attention will be: security, water resources, transportation, agriculture and the provision of enabling environment for socio-economic development of Osun State.

In the weeks and months ahead, specific details of our policies and programmes of our administration will unfold as we settle down more and more and understand better the position of records put together by the immediate past administration in the state. For now we wish to tough on a few guiding policies.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND NLC AND THE ON-GO INDUSTRIAL ACTION

I wish to use this Public Forum and searing in ceremony of the new administration to appeal to the brothers and sisters in the Nigerian Labour Congress in the interest and peace and progress, suspend their industrial action forthwith. I pledge to set out to work immediately with the leadership of the NLC to iron out the outstanding areas of dispute. It is the policy of our administration to rejuvenate the public service of the State which forms the bedrock of implementation of government's programmes and policies.

As an immediate policy measure I wish to announce, that the case of the retrenched workers will be reviewed accordingly. As from now the incoming government will take the following policy measure to address the issue as a matter of urgency. Firstly, the Head of Service, is hereby directed to go into discussions immediately with the NLC with a view of resolving the differences between the government and NLC to facilitate the immediate resumption of duty.

- The 10%, 20% and 30% compulsory deductions of for workers salaries are hereby stopped with effect from 1st June 2003.
- A Public Service Review Panel will be set up to look into individual cases of the affected public servants and make appropriate recommendations.
- In the case of the workers that cannot be re-absorbed their entitlements by the way of pensions and gratuity will be paid without further delay.
- All appointments made from January 2003 till present time will be examined and reviewed suitably in line with the principles of fairness and equity.

In foregoing, I am appealing to all striking workers to please go back to work immediately.

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Our transition committee received over 100 memoranda in a spate of two weeks. Some of these memoranda addressed developmental proposals and administrative reforms and other vital issues. About 60% of memoranda centered on alleged injustice in our system. We intend to remove these completely or reduce them to the barest minimum in the shortest possible time. To this end, a Review Panel will be set up immediately with appropriate terms of reference to clear reported cases within 3 months of this administration within the following areas:

- The civil service
- The Teaching Service and SPEB
- The local Government Service
- The Judiciary

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SECURITY

The occasion of today also affords me the opportunity to assure that our administration is committed to maintaining law and order in this state. This new administration is determined to promote security of lives and properties as part of its plans to create an enabling environment for speedy development.

AGRICULTURE

Ladies and Gentlemen permit me to submit that a nation that cannot feed itself is not worth being called a nation. We shall appraise our approach to agriculture with a view to making Osun State self-sustaining in food production. I wish to emphasize that this new administration will utilize agriculture to develop the rural areas. Our administration will encourage a private sector-driven agricultural sector with the ultimate objective of improving our collective fortunes for the socio-economic development of our dear state.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

In line with our policy of putting in place an egalitarian society, I want to affirm that we shall by the grace of God, run an administration that is characterized by fairness, firmness and responsiveness. The education sector will be reinvigorated and rejuvenated to ensure that the future of our children is safeguarded. We will discard the policy which discriminates against certain subjects in the liberal arts while also pursuing an educational programme that would promote science education. Our institutions will be properly staffed and run so that the future of our children will not be put in serious jeopardy.

At this juncture, I wish to reiterate the fact that our administration will be committed to the concept of visioning and planning especially tenacious and long range planning and purposeful implementation of our programmes. In this regard, a qualitative free health programme backed up with the availability of drugs, dressings, equipment and staff will be provided in our hospitals and related health institutions. It is our plan to establish a drug manufacturing industry as part of our plans to rejuvenate the health sector. Our plan is to build a virile and healthy citizenry that would contribute meaningfully to the development of Osun State.

Let me use this opportunity to invite willing investors who may wish to participate in business ventures in Osun State to feel free to move over as an enabling environment will be created for their investments

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Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

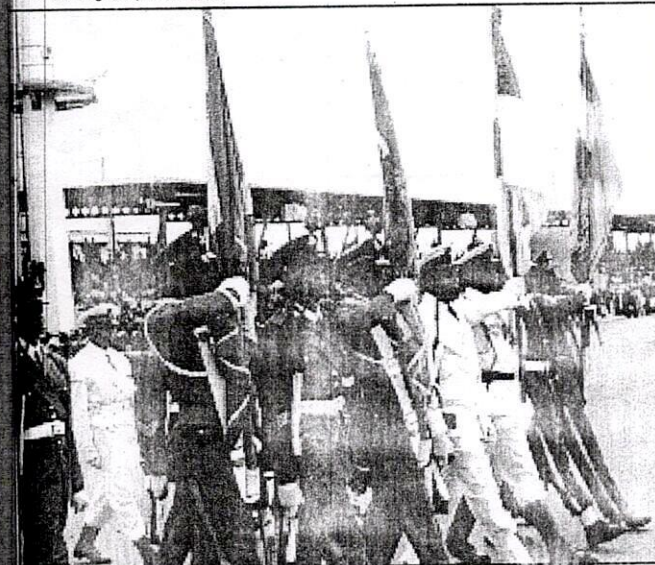
Long live Osun State.

BASANJO'S INAUGURATION

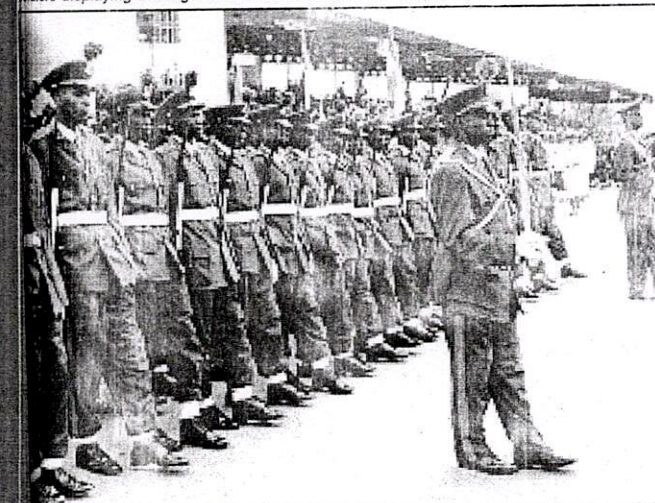
PIX BY:
MAC DAVIS AJIBADE



President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar acknowledging cheers from the crowd at the Eagle Square, Abuja.



Soldiers displaying the flags of the three services of the army, navy and the airforce.



Soldiers marching at the parade ground at the Eagle Square

I declare war on want — Gbenga Daniel

BEING THE INAUGURAL SPEECH OF THE GOVERNOR OF OGUN STATE, OTUNBA JUSTUS OLUGBENGA DANIEL AT HIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY ON MAY 29, 2003 AT THE M.K.O. ABIOLA STADIUM, ABEOKUTA.

Courtesies,

Here comes a new dawn

We stand today at the portals of a new dawn in the annals of this great State. With the successful conclusion of the recent general elections, we the people of Ogun State have joined other members of the Nigerian family to re-affirm our collective commitment to the democratic process. In so doing, we have demonstrated our confidence in the legitimacy of electoral succession as the route to political office.

We must thank God Almighty who alone makes all things possible for sparing our lives to witness Nigeria's first successful effort in conducting national elections in the context of civilian-to-civilian transition. We should also congratulate ourselves for being part of this historic moment.

Today therefore, we are not celebrating the victory of an individual, group or party; rather, we are venerating the collective triumph of the people's will - the will to take their fortune in their hands and be the masters of their future. By the display of this will, the people have thrust upon us the onerous burden of putting smiles on their faces. And so as presented in our manifesto, we pledge that the good times shall roll back into our lives.

Our people shall not shed tears before their children get good education; they shall no longer suffer the shame of joblessness because of scarce employment opportunities; they shall not continue to wallow in want due to government's lack of wealth creation strategies; our old but moribund industries shall come alive again. Factories shall roar back to life, and farms will prosper once again. Our passion for progress shall be pursued with uncommon vigour.

Our mission: Good people of Ogun State, the foundational priority of the Daniel administration is the War on Want. Our mission is to secure our people's hard-won political freedom with economic rights by enunciating and implementing programs that free the teeming masses of our people from hunger, ignorance, disease and powerlessness. We seek to deliver to our people economic benefits by exploiting to the fullest all the state's fallow human and material resources and to capture all possible sources of revenue into the usable pool. We seek to build an active and thriving economic citizenry, able and equipped to assert their political liberties.

We are convinced that Ogun State is too rich to be poor. There are too many untapped potentials that only require some effort and focused leadership to turn into sources of prosperity. To this end, I would soon be placing before the new House of Assembly bills for the creation of Gateway Technology Corporation (GTC) and Gateway Tourism Development

Corporation (GTDC).

Respectively, these corporations are meant to jump-start our efforts to build a knowledge economy and to funny capture the benefits derivable from the position of Ogun State as a major transit point. A new Ministry of Transport will be created to coordinate the social, infrastructural and economic issues contingent on our position as a minor receptor point for goods and people in transit.

We win also be pursuing the excitement of our state's oil and solid minerals resources with vigour. Gateway Oil and Gas Company limited will be established and we would commence in earnest a most aggressive lobby that targets a broad spectrum of stakeholders as we seek to secure O.1-producing status for our State.

In sum of this, we should pursue a policy of private sector-led development, leaving Government free to attend to the needs of the people and to play the role of facilitator and enabler in the economy. We would also be focusing on a system of self-financing projects to de-emphasize the contract award syndrome.

Our mission is to help our people build their assets by developing the relevant infrastructure that enhance the optimal utilization of nature's endowments. We will invest in human capital development and revivify the state of our education. In doing this, we must protect our people from sickness, and we must join hands to improve the circumstances of our people's existence. But this is a job for an. It calls for the full realization of the managerial principle of collective responsibility.

Our agricultural sector shall be re-activated with creative approaches to resuscitating the farm settlement schemes. Our environment shall be well tended and taken care of; the health of our people shall no longer be taken for granted; the transportation system and the mobility of our people shall be enhanced through the provision of a functional transport system; town planning at urban and unravels shall be embarked upon to facilitate growth.

Our youth and other disadvantaged groups shall be given adequate attention through appropriate empowerment initiatives and partnerships with civil society organisations, the arts, culture and tourism potentials of the state shall be harnessed to the benefit of our people; the Civil Service shall be re-energised as the vehicle for delivering our people-oriented programs; pensioners shall no longer collapse on queues to get their entitlements after serving their faithful and meritoriously.

These are the pledges that I solemnly make on this great and historic day.

The future is bright. For Ogun State, the future is filled with promises of better things.

You the good people of Ogun State are hereby advised and demanded for this through your resolute endorsement at the polls. We cannot give you anything less. But for the sake of this rebirth and our collective future we must transcend the past and keep our eyes fixedly locked on the future. By God's Grace, tomorrow shall surely be bright and pleasant. This is the promise of God for the people of our dear state.

We cannot of our own discharge the onerous responsibility thrust upon us. It is in this wise that we solicit from the old, encouragement; from our contemporaries, support; from the young, enthusiasm; and from our compatriots on the other side of the political divide, temperance. The job of the future can only be done if we all work together. Today, this is indeed, the challenge before us all.

So let us come together, hand-in-hand with vision and determination to face the task ahead so that the dream associated with this election revolution would become a glorious reality. Because power belongs to God, I challenge you all to continue to repose your faith in Him. We must be purposeful, focused, dedicated, persistent, understanding and committed towards the journey we have just started mindful of the wisdom in the adage that "Ibere kil se onise..."

With God, on our side, Ogun State shall resume the enviable position enunciated for it by the Founding Fathers as a model not only in Nigeria, but also beyond these shores. Our War on Want is a struggle to ensure this restoration. It is a fight for peace and prosperity. It is a fight for the emancipation of our people from the shackles of ignorance, poverty and disease. As one-time President of the United States of America, Franklin Delano Roosevelt reminded us at his own inauguration seven years ago:

"The true test of our progress is not how much we add to the abundance of those who already have too much but how well we are able to make better the lives of those who have too little".

I cannot end this address without paying tribute to all the people who have been used by God to make our victory possible. I thank our dear president and Number One Citizen Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, a great son of Ogun State. I thank all our party leaders and party workers who toiled day and night to ensure our success at the polls. I thank our royal fathers, captains of industry, the Press, members of the security agencies, civil servants, mass organizations, professional groups and above all, the generality of the people of Ogun State.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I stand before you today to affirm that the best days are still ahead for Ogun State. I am convinced that looking into the future with conviction and courage we can face the challenges that lie before us. So let us march resolutely into this glorious future, persuaded of the justness of our cause and assured of the grace bestowed by Providence.