

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ONE- DAY INAUGURAL IBB LEGACY DIALOGUE HELD AT HARROW PARK GOLF CLUB, WUSE II, ABUJA, NIGERIA ON 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

**PREAMBLE**

The dialogue was entitled “**IBB, The Man, His Vision, His Legacy**”. The dialogue was one of the IBB at 80 event organized to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (GCFR). The dialogue is one of the activities of the Ibrahim and Maryam Babangida Presidential Library and Museum Foundation.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE IBB AT 80 EVENT**

The key objectives of the event were:

To celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in honour of the legend and his legendary acts and their benefits to our dear country, Nigeria. It also sought to:

- i. Derive the best ideas from all of the panel presentations and discussions while also identifying priorities and distilling a common vision that could contribute to the country’s current and future development.
- ii. Serve as moment of reflection for the country’s leadership challenges at all levels, encourage students of history and political science to better analyze impact of good policies on the growth of a nation or business. This includes civil society and other transformation agents.
- iii. To use the benefit of the IBB era to derive and proffer innovative solutions to current national problems through multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- iv. Contribute to the enlargement of global discourse and narrative that puts transformational leadership at the center of global efforts to achieve the SDGs.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE IBB LEGACY DIALOGUE**

The general objectives of the Dialogue include:

- i. To generate ideas from outstanding leaders while identifying priorities and distilling ideas that will place Nigeria at the fore of human progress.

- ii. To encourage students of history and political science to better analyze the impact of good policies on the growth of a nation.
- iii. To proffer and advance game-changing solutions through multi-stakeholder collaboration in the interest of the growing population of youths in the African continent at large.
- iv. To contribute to global discourse that puts transformational leadership at the center of the efforts to achieve the SDGs and harness the relevant demographic dividends.

### **PROCEEDINGS AT THE DIALOGUE:**

The dialogue witnessed interactions and discussions from carefully selected panelists who were mostly responsible for the implementation of most of the policies of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida's regime.

Participants were encouraged to join online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Contributions were carefully noted through a web-master, engaging virtual participants effectively to ensure their contributions were noted. The event was sectioned into four panels with different sub-themes, Panelists were tasked to talk on the sub-themes. Four moderators hosted the panels. The sub-themes were;

**Panel 1: How He Built His Tribe.**

**Panel 2: Vision & Foresight: The building of a new Nigeria**

**Panel 3: Economy, Rural Development & Infrastructure.**

**Panel 4: The Nigeria Foreign Policy & the Pan-African Hero.**

Past Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria also participated in the dialogue. They featured in a surprise session with online video goodwill messages to President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. The granddaughter of the celebrant made an emotional appearance in honour of IBB.

Some of President Ibrahim Babangida's achievements in office as highlighted during the dialogue include:

- ❖ Establishment of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
- ❖ Establishment of Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)
- ❖ Establishment of National Board of Community Banks(NBCB)
- ❖ Establishment of National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
- ❖ Establishment of Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC)
- ❖ Establishment of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC)
- ❖ Establishment of the National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND)
- ❖ Establishment of National Political Bureau
- ❖ Establishment of Centre for Democratic Studies
- ❖ Establishment of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council
- ❖ Establishment of the National Food Security and Storage Scheme

- ❖ Establishment of the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM)
- ❖ Establishment of Federal Environment Protection Agency (FEPA) now Federal Ministry of Environment.
- ❖ Movement of Presidency to Abuja (New Capital)
- ❖ Establishment of Urban Development Bank
- ❖ Construction of the third mainland bridge
- ❖ Strengthened foreign relations with Nigeria

## **RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- ✚ The panelists maintained that nation-building is the outcome of conscious statecraft and not happenstance or serendipity.
- ✚ The Dialogue recognizes that a precondition to sustainable development is good governance in all sectors.
- ✚ Democratization of the Nigerian polity and society should remain the key to the development of the country.
- ✚ The panelists agreed that a leader should have empathy and genuine concern for the plight of the people irrespective of partisanship, ethnicity, faith or circumstances.
- ✚ National leadership should recognize the essential diversity of the nation in order to manage national unity and cohesion effectively.
- ✚ The relentless pursuit of peace and order through national security should form a pillar of national leadership.
- ✚ The need for effective communication between government and people and among the sections of the country was underlined as one of the best tools for mass mobilization towards common developmental objectives.
- ✚ Effective national leadership should scout for and utilize the best human resources of the nation for governance. IBB worked with the best brains hence innovative ideas and solutions were applied to national problems during his tenure.
- ✚ National leadership must embrace gender balance and fairness in order to avail governance of the best inputs of women towards national development.
- ✚ The inevitability of a free market economy was underlined as the logic of global historical development. In this regard, further liberalization of economy is key to ensuring sustainable economic growth and development.
- ✚ To be all inclusive, government must carry the rural populace along in the development process.

- ✚ There is a need to provide soft loans to individual at the community level to promote entrepreneurship and bridge the poverty gap.
- ✚ Investments in the social sectors of health and education must be expanded in order to accelerate national development.
- ✚ The idealism of the youth should be sought to solve social and economic problems.
- ✚ Monitoring and Evaluation should be embedded in policy development to ensure proper implementation.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The submissions and presentations at this maiden dialogue event will be collated in a compendium to be made available as free learning resource through the official IBB Dialogue website and other media sources.

### **APPRECIATION**

The event appreciates all invited guests, especially the panelists and moderators. These include: Engr. (Dr.) Raymond Dokpesi, HE Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar (Rtd.) GCFR, Chief. Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu, Alhaji Bello Maitama, Brig. Gen. Haliru Akilu (Rtd.), Prof. Sam Oyovbaire, Dr. Chidi Amuta, Alh. Ahmadu Abubakar, Prof. Adele Jinadu, HE Col. Olagunsoye Oyinlola (Rtd.), Distinguished Senator David Mark (CFR), and H.E Alhaja Sinatu Ojikutu, Dr. Musa Babayo, AVM. Larry Koinyan (Rtd.), Engr. (Mrs) Olu Maduka, Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu, Prof. Jerry Gana, Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi, Amb. (Prof.) George Obiozor, Prof Tunde Adeniran, Gen. Ike Nwachukwu (Rtd.), Dr. Osita Chidoka, HE Alhaji Aliyu Babangida, Senator (Dr.) Owelle Rochas Okorochoa and past presidents and their deputies, such as HE Architect Namadi Sambo, HE Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GCFR), HE Gen. Yakubu Gowon(Rtd.) (GCFR), HE Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (GCFR), HE Chief. Ernest Shonekan, Dr. Alex Apeh of UNN, Dr. Solomon Usman Ayegba of OAU and all other special guests, viewers from across the globe.

***For and on behalf of the Ibrahim and Maryam Babangida Library & Museum Foundation***