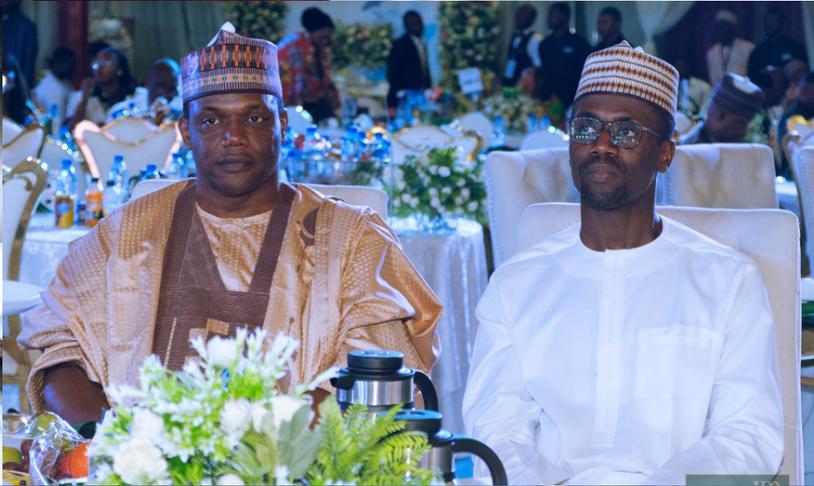


**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SECOND  
IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA LEGACY DIALOGUE ON  
ISSUES IN AFRICA'S DEMOCRATIC JOURNEY, ON THE  
25TH OF AUGUST 2022, AT THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE CENTRE (ICC), GARKI, ABUJA.**





**THE ANNUAL IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA LEGACY DIALOGUE, 2022**



# PREAMBLE

The 2nd edition of the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida Legacy Dialogue, themed “Issues in Africa’s Democratic Journey” took place at the prestigious International Conference Centre (ICC), in Abuja, which was constructed during the Babangida regime.

The Chief Convener, Her Excellency Aisha Babangida welcomed everyone to the 2022 Dialogue. She urged stakeholders to ensure that the 2023 election does not only give us the President we deserve but the political contest we deserve. She also mentioned that it is imperative that the election is not only free and fair but seen to be free and fair.

The Chief host of the occasion was Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello (The Honorable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory). He reemphasized the need for the adoption of an issue-based campaign and urged political candidates to shun foul language and mud-sliding to avoid overheating the polity.

The event was chaired by His Excellency Arc. Muhammad Namadi Sambo (GCON), former Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria. He reiterated the importance of inclusiveness in governance and urged electoral umpires to make the right investments to continue to make Nigeria a reference point for other African Nations.

The dialogue was headlined by a flagship lecture by Professor Jibrin Ibrahim. He discussed the importance of recognizing people who have contributed positively to nation-building and urged everyone to play his/her part in achieving sustainable democratic growth.

The Dialogue was attended by stakeholders in the Academia, Media, Civil Society Organizations, Judiciary, Politicians, and over 500 physical and online participants.

The Dialogue was also graced by Presidential Candidates and their vice who echoed their commitments to the unity and prosperity of Nigeria.

President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan also gave a goodwill message via the online video platform, urging Nigerians to shun apathy and indifference, and positively participate in the Nation's democratic processes to choose the right leaders, was truly profound and inspiring.



# OBJECTIVES OF THE IBB LEGACY DIALOGUE

The objectives of the dialogue include;

- To generate ideas from outstanding leaders, while identifying priorities and distilling ideas that will place Nigeria at the fore of human progress.
- To analyse the impact of good policies.
- To proffer and advance game-changing solutions through multi-stakeholder collaboration in the interest of the growing population in the African Continent.
- To contribute to global discourse that puts transformational leadership at the center, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and harness relevant demographic dividends.



# PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The dialogue witnessed thought-provoking discussions from stakeholders, Academia, Media, and Judiciary. They discussed issues around the following sub-themes:

- Issues arising from the 2022 electoral bill
- Monetization of the electoral process
- Campaigning around issues and policies
- Internal Security and free and fair elections
- Democracy and basic freedom in Nigeria
- Judiciary and the elections
- Toward an inclusive democracy
- Voter education and citizens' participation in the electoral process

# RESOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- The signing of the electoral act amendment bill into law has far-reaching benefits that can lead to a stable polity, and solve the myriad issues that plague Nigeria's electoral system.
- The responsibility of ensuring free and fair elections is not that of the government alone but of every citizen, as the citizens play an important role in ensuring a peaceful political process devoid of violence.
- Democracy is being eroded, there is growing exclusiveness in the democratic process across Africa which should be corrected.
- Implementation of inclusive policies is imperative to achieving sustainable growth.
- The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should ensure that voters are equipped with the right information to reduce voter apathy and low turnout during elections.

- There is a need to have discussions around cultural traits that should be likened to political leaders to ensure cultural re-orientation and sustainable democratic growth.
- Dialogue is essential to progress the democratic journey.
- Insecurity is a major contributory factor to low voter turnout experience over the years.
- Politicians should serve the country, so political parties have the responsibility of bringing out the best candidates to represent their parties through a proper political recruitment process.
- The implementation of the gender policy and disability bill will ensure democratic inclusiveness.
- There is a need for renewed investment in skill acquisition and entrepreneurship to reduce poverty.

## CONCLUSION

The dialogue ended on an optimistic note. It was generally agreed that for an election to be successful and democratic, voters must understand their rights and responsibilities, and must be sufficiently informed to cast ballots that are legally valid and to participate meaningfully in the voting process, hence it is important that the government invest in voters' education and reduce voters' apathy through renewed and sincere commitments to fighting insecurity.

## APPRECIATION

The Ibrahim and Maryam Babangida Presidential Library Foundation, appreciates His Excellency, Arc. Namadi Sambo, Former Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Malam Mohammed Musa Bello, the Keynote Speaker, Professor Jibrin Ibrahim, all panelists, all 2023 presidential aspirants, VIPs, and all participants (online and physical) for their active participation and contributions during the dialogue



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