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PRESS RELEASE

President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, *GCFR*, the Man of the Hour...

Excellency Sir, you have become a significant political gladiator in the agitation concerning the future of the Nigerian state. Your demeanour, action, opinions, and even silences have been subjected to heated debates that explore the boundaries of personal, political, religious and cultural understanding of an average Nigerian politician. But you are not an average politician because there is no any "popular" leader in the sense of someone who enjoys consensual support across the many spectrums of political opinions, cultures and interests like you. As a strong supporter of your Presidency, you have, as expected, hit the ground running with an audacity that is unmatched in the Presidency for over two decades. The public is left in no doubt that you do not follow where the wrong-path may lead, you go instead where there is no path and leaves trail of greatness. Your swift decision to end the fuel subsidy and create a unified rate of exchange for the Dollar, which past three Presidents have avoided, your tackling the endemic corruption of heads of Agencies by removing the CBN Governor, the EFCC Chairman with more to come, all these are signs of a decisive and responsible leadership, which will make you stand above other past Presidents.

As you endorse the credo of equal opportunity for all, expanding trade and investment, installing fiscal discipline, accountability and addressing corruption to sustain economic growth, Nigerians will have the confidence and trust in your government. As it is popularly said Your Excellency Sir, that it is always good and inspiring to see a detribulized leader who is not afraid to take new initiatives, a teamplayer who can also stand alone when the need arises, the courage to make tough

decisions, the compassion to listen to the needs of his people; and the fearlessness to change the status quo on democracy, politics and good governance. In Leadership, it is the quality of thinking that gives an edge, an idea that opens new doors, a technique that solves a problem, an insight that inspires and simply helps make sense of it all, a citizen engagement that is a game-changer and competency and ability that transcends cultural and religious barriers, which brings a new constellation of planning, direction and tools of empowerment. President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in just two weeks in Power, you have exemplified standings in all these areas including the wisdom to see beyond the Mountain Top. No wonder you have the name "Asiwaju" which means "the one who leads." According to Olaopa, fundamentally, leadership is a moral responsibility that the Yoruba attach to being an omolúwàbí. As a moral imperative, being an omolúwàbí is an ontological and ethical idea. Omolúwàbí denotes a mode of being that lies behind the Yoruba understanding of iwa (character) and ewa (beauty). To be an ordinary Yoruba person demands being an omolúwàbí, a moral exemplar. But being a leader demands more. The beauty that iwa confers on a person's existence is expected to manifest in how one relates with others in human society. A leader is commendable when his actions contribute to the well-being of the collective. A leader that has ewa or beauty further signals such a leaders' capacity for relational and social goodness. We therefore firmly believed now more than ever the Your Excellency, President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu believes in a responsible government and citizens must have equal access to healthcare, opportunities that balances governmental and education and individual responsibility. You firmly believe in efforts to harness the transformative capacity of our abundant human capital and natural resources (especially economically viable solid minerals like gold, high-grade Lithium Ore, etc.) to build a prosperous and inclusive society, where knowledge, innovation and creativity including the utilization of information and communication technology (ICT) are the key ingredients. You also believe in enhancing the role that civic entrepreneurs, voluntary groups, and religious institutions play in tackling Nigeria's social ills, the bold exercise of Nigerian leadership to foster peace, prosperity, unity and democracy; and believe that Nigerian citizenship entails responsibilities as well as rights, to give something back to our communities and our country.

We believe you represents the Yoruba notoriety that symbolizes the abiding respect for intellectual capital and the authority of knowledge and meritocracy in governance as well as the commitment to Nigeria and her possibilities, within our collective individual understanding of our responsibilities to the country. That is why we firmly believe that you will probe the half-truths about oil subsidy, the fictitious figures given by the NNPC, ranging from N12billion to N18billion per day with a petrol consumption rate of up to 66.8 million liters per day, review the Petroleum Act, the smuggling into Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, the corruption from the CBN, Banks and the MDAs and appoint credible, technocrats and honest Nigerians in your cabinet. And we are of the believe that Mr. President will constitute a committee of impeccable character, competency and technical knowledge with no connection to the NNPC at all, drawn from the private sector, the labour and academia to investigate the actual crude oil produced daily, supply and consumption statistics; and given a specific time frame to the Committee to complete their mission while making efforts to privatize the refineries in Kaduna, Warri and Port Harcourt. Along with Dangote and other upcoming refineries, to make Nigeria a big exporter of refined oil products. On corruption, President Asiwaju said "the unity of this country is not negotiable. You don't expect your judges to live in squalor, to operate in squalor and dispense justice in squalor. This is part of the changes that are necessary. We must fight corruption but we must definitely look at the other side of the coin. If you don't want your judges to be corrupt you got to pay attention to their welfare. You don't want them to operate in hazardous conditions," he said.

On your choice of Vice-President Kashim Shettima, you would not have made a better choice. The former banker, agricultural economist, former commissioner in 5 Ministries, a two-term former Governor from 2011 to 2019, a former Chairman of the Northern States Governors' Forum, a former Senator, Kashim Shettima is indeed a quintessential public servant. One can conclude that the VP pick has the acumen, ability and political sagacity to effectively deputize Asiwaju as Vice President. He is, therefore, the Man for all Reasons and **President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, GCFR, is indeed **the Man of the Hour**...and like Theodore Roosevelt 1910 said "It is not the critic who counts; nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows, in the end, the triumphs of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat", that is our amiable Asiwaju.

The exemplary notion of "riding with the current" or "maintaining the status quo", as is demonstrated by some Nigerian political elite, forsaking Good Governance and one's conscience in exchange for a life of convenience is fast becoming a thing of the past. Consciences are personal moral compasses that help a person tell right from wrong, friends from foes and human progressive development from maintaining the status quo. The Man of the Hour portrays such principles of wisdom and thinking outside the box to be loved by the common people and envied by rivals. Such a person is easily recognizable by his relentless good work and selfless-service. He exemplifies fascination and awe-inspiration, that you know such a person in whom you immediately recognize qualities of preparedness and leadership that go beyond the ordinary. From his leadership as the Governor of Lagos State and the Jagaba of APC, as well as his antecedents, one recognizes these qualities right away.

Finally, You Excellency President Chief Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, you are the Man of the Hour, the epitome of wisdom ... audacious wise leader, celebrated, honoured and admired by all Nigerians; and you have our collective support and endorsement. With you in Power, Nigeria will be liberated from insecurity, corruption, poverty, selfishness and lack of good governance and opportunities...with best wishes and esteem regards.

Signed

By Dr. Engr. Baba J. Adamu, *Ph.D., Coren Rgt.* Chairman: Arewa Center for Regional Development (ARCD)

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