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GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE CLERK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, OJO OLATUNDE AMOS fnia,fcia, AT THE 6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME, CROSS BORDER CRIME AND ELECTORAL FRAUD, ORGANIZED BY FORENSIC INSIGHT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, HELD AT NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA, ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021.

Protocol

It is heartwarming for me that Forensic Insight International Limited, under the able leadership of Mr. Tunji Aworinde, has consistently been at the forefront of major critical issues challenging us as nation.

I must therefore use this opportunity to formally appreciate the management of Forensic Insight International Limited, for coming strongly from the private sector, to engage in campaigning and building citizens' capacity against the bane of Nigeria and national progress, by putting this annual program together.

No doubt, financial crime, cross border crime and electoral fraud constitute deadly tripod tragedies standing against the accelerated progress and stability of Nigeria in diverse ways.

For instance, financial crime is any kind of criminal conduct relating to money or financial services or markets which a toxic situation is tearing our financial stability and economic wellbeing to pieces.

The vicious danger that financial fraud posed tragically to the country, made the Olusegun Obasanjo's civilian government (1999-2003), to establish the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to combat the menace.

Cross border crime is a grievous crime with cross border dimension committed at or along or which is related to external border.

Cross border crime is also illegal and notorious activities carried out by individuals and groups across national and international borders. The stark leakages coming out at our various border posts across the country, is a major contributor to the proliferation of small arms and other offensive ammunitions, that have found their ways into the deadly hands of kidnapping kingpins and other violent bandits terrorizing our people today.

On the other hand electoral fraud, voter fraud or vote rigging is what I will call illegal interference with the process of election. You will agree with me that electoral fraud is a major challenge to our political and democratic system.

The electorates have had to lose confidence in our democratic exercise, and their moral to vote has equally diminished, as a result of unnecessary criminal electoral malpractices.

In order for our democratic process to have any meaningful impact on the masses in whom sovereignty resides, all relevant constituted authorities must do the needful, so that the process will be sanitized, even as we all look up eagerly towards the 2023 general elections in Nigeria.

This is calling on the private sector in Nigeria to emulate Forensic Insight International in the business of tackling the issue of financial fraud, cross border crime and electoral fraud etc. since the issues are tearing at the soul of our country.

I equally use this medium to challenge Nigerian press to be proactive on these tripodial issues by engaging in investigative journalism.

Conclusion

This tripodial national malaise must be fought head long that is why under my watch as the head of the bureaucratic system in the National Assembly, we have put in place a policy of zero tolerance for corruption by ensuring transparency and accountability.

I hereby wish all participants of this timely and pivotal conference a successful outing. Happy deliberations!

Thank you all!

Ojo Olatunde Amos fnia, fcia
Clerk to the National Assembly