

Press Release

The London International Conference

Theme: Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria: Challenges & Prospects

Date: 25th June 2005

Venue: Imperial College London, South Kensington Campus

The Foundation for Good Governance and Development in Nigeria (FGGN) is a UK based international organisation of Nigerian professionals in Diaspora. Our main aim is promoting good governance in a truly democratic and just society. To achieve this a credible and transparent electoral body and a free and fair election without intimidations and violence is a pre-requisite. An equally independent, non-partisan and transparently just judiciary and a dynamic and effective legislature are essential. Those govern should be able to seek and get justice when aggrieved. No one, however highly placed, should be above the law of the land. We owe this to our children and generation yet unborn.

At this moment in time you will agree with us that these fundamentals are almost non-existent in our society. The almost total collapse of the system of governance and the universal state of despondency in the average Nigerian within and outside the country are trends that must be stopped. The recent US Intelligence report suggesting that Nigeria will be a Fail State in fifteen years time no doubt emanated from these indices. General Obasanjo's call on Nigerians to make sure that this prediction is wrong should be considered by all of us. We, however, feel that the General should have done better in his stewardship and conduct at the last election and thereafter, if such a scenario is to be avoided.

Against this background, we seek to identify and join forces with every concerned Nigerian in order to halt and reverse these negative tendencies, which have virtually drained the energy, hopes and aspirations of every patriotic citizen. We shall find ways to run our affairs as Nigerians so that we not only prove the US Intelligence report as wrong but to prove to the World at large that we are proud to be Nigerians and are capable of running our affairs.

One of the undertakings, we consider appropriate, is to get credible individuals who over the years have expressed genuine and sincere concerns about happenings in the country to come together, exchange views and propose ideas to help us out of the present debacle. Let's start at the London conference.

We have invited, as speakers, the crême of the Nigerian political elites, whose credibility is not in question, and who we believe will do justice to the

theme of the conference. We have also invited an equally credible group of discussants and other participants who we believe will take the speakers to task to bring the best out of them.

We believe there are many more Nigerians and other well wishers who genuinely want to see a positive political culture and a capable and transparent leadership in Nigeria whose contributions will help in the success of this conference. We are therefore inviting all such people who identify with our aim and objectives to come to this momentous occasion. We believe we will benefit from your contribution. We hope you will join us at the conference. We also urge those who are unable to come to continue the debate in whatever form they feel fit without losing the focus i.e good governance and development in a truly democratic Nigeria for the general good of all Nigerians.

We, at the Foundation, look forward to seeing all those who could come at the London conference. We equally look forward to hear and read the views and opinions of those who are unable to come on the theme of the conference.

For general enquiries about the conference, please contact the Foundation's Secretariat at the address below.

For accommodation enquiries and booking, please contact Accommodation Link, Imperial College, London at:

Tel: +44-207-594-9507/11

e-mail: accommodationlink@imperial.ac.uk

website: www.imperial-accommodationlink.com

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long Live the *Foundation for Good Governance and Development in Nigeria!*

For and on behalf of the Foundation:

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