

TEXT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NIGERIA'S 58TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS DELIVERED AT THE PRESS
CENTRE, AREA 10, ON TUESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2018.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, Good morning

2. It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning on the Celebration of Nigeria's 58TH Independence Anniversary. The aim of this Press Conference is to intimate Nigerians on the Line up of Activities to mark the celebrations that will span 25th of September to 1st October 2018.

3. It has been several years now since Nigeria last had full blown traditional Independence celebrations. October 1st 1960 occupies a very important place of pride in the political history of our dear country and we have agreed that we can no longer downplay ***'the labours of our heroes past'***!

4. Our nation's freedom did not come on a platter of gold, our founding fathers fought long and hard for it, we need to occasionally remind ourselves that inspite of diverse challenges, our country has come a long way and remained one and indivisible. We may not be where we want yet after 58 years, but we are certainly not where we began, progress has been made. The theme for this year's celebration **"Harnessing Our Diversity for National Development"** has therefore been carefully crafted to depict our current quest as a nation.

5. To ensure a holistic and purposeful participation of Nigerians in the celebrations, President Muhammadu Buhari has approved a series of activities to mark the celebration of Nigeria's 58th Independence Anniversary.

Tuesday 25th Sept – Thursday 27th Sept

6. The weeklong activities will be preceded by a Photo Exhibition on our National History with the theme: **“The Footprints of our Political Leaders”**. This event will run for three days at the International Conference Centre in Abuja starting from Tuesday, 25th September 2018 at 9.00am daily.

Friday 28th September

7. It will be followed by a **National Lecture and Juma’at prayer** on Friday, 28th September 2018 at the National Mosque in Abuja at 11am. Later that evening at 6.00pm, the International Conference Centre will play host to **A Night of Nigerian Culture** featuring music, drama, comedy, fashion and performances by cultural troupes drawn from across the country. This event is aimed at promoting Nigerian values, culture and products.

Saturday 29th September

8. On Saturday, 29th September 2018, the wife of the President Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs) Aisha Muhammadu Buhari will host Children from various orphanages and IDP camps at 12noon, to a **Special Children’s Programme** (Picnic) at Harrows Park, Wuse II, Abuja.

Sunday 30th September

9. The Independence Day **Inter-denominational Church Service** will take place at the National Christian Centre, Abuja on Sunday 30th September 2018 beginning at 3.00pm.

Monday 1st October

10. On the morning of Independence Day, Monday the 1st October 2018, we will begin with the traditional **Media Broadcast** at 7.00am; followed by **Independence Parade** at the Eagle Square at 9.00am featuring March past by Military and Para-Military forces, Labour Union and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC); Air Display by Air Force fighter Jets over the skies of Abuja; Paratroopers Display; and Military equipment fanfare. The Day will come to a close with a **State Dinner and Gala Night** at the State House Banquet Hall in the Presidential Villa, Abuja at 6.00pm.

11. The Central Organising Committee under the able leadership of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, is using this medium to solicit the support and co-operation of all Nigerians to ensure that we have a robust and hitch-free 58th Independence Anniversary Celebrations. In the coming days, there will be rehearsals and simulations by various agencies preparatory to D-Day.

12. Some of the activities will involve the **movement of military hardware as well as flight manoeuvres by fast moving Air-Force jets and helicopters within the Federal Capital Territory airspace. The major affected airspaces include; the Eagles Square/Three Arms Zone, Keffi, Ado, Orozo, Karu, Nyanya and Guzape/Asokoro areas.** The Air-Force jet simulations are planned from 14th – 30th of September 2018, between the hours of 10.00am – 11.30am and 15.00pm – 16.00pm daily.

13. Members of the public are kindly advised not to panic at the sight and sound of these personnel and equipment manoeuvres by

the military and other paramilitary agencies, but go about their normal activities as usual.

14. Ladies and Gentlemen of the press, it is our plea that you give this conference the widest publicity possible.

15. May I, at this juncture call on members of the Media who may wish to seek further information and or clarifications to do so please.

16. Thank you for your kind attention and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Gabriel Aduda

Permanent Secretary and Chairman,
2018 Independence Day Central Organising Committee.

18th September 2018