



2023: Tambuwal, Anyim, Mohammed pick PDP's presidential nomination forms

By Dirisu Yakubu

ABUJA—BAUCHI State Governor's lodge, Asokoro, Abuja, yesterday played host to the Bala Mohammed Vanguard, BMV, a political pressure group, which earlier in the day, purchased the N40 million Presidential Expression of Interest and Nomination Forms for the governor.

The BMV members, dressed in T-shirts and face caps bearing the image of Governor Mohammed, besieged the lodge, urging the former Federal Capital Territory, FCT, minister to accept the challenge of rescuing Nigeria from what they called the grip of leadership deficit.

In a brief address before the presentation of the forms, Director-General of BMV, Mohammed Jibo, narrated how the group had been on the trail of the governor to join the PDP Presidential race.

Also speaking, Charity Anthony, Woman Leader of the group, extolled the leadership qualities of Mohammed, explaining the reason the group picked him from the pack of 2023 Presidential aspirants.

"Today, BMV has honoured you because we see you as a leader with passion for humanity. We consulted widely and we found out that you are the potential this country needs.

You are destined to rule this country. We will vote and defend our votes and our leaders are ready to work for you.

Responding, Mohammed, almost in tears, described the day as momentous.

He said: "On my own, I may not have come out but what BMV has done for me today has given me the impetus to offer myself to serve."

Tambuwal

Similarly, the Group of Concerned Nigerians for Tambuwal also, yesterday, purchased presidential nomination forms for Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State.

Coordinator of the group, Olumuyiwa Akinboro, SAN, advanced reasons for rooting

for the Sokoto State governor, adding: "He is young and vibrant and can take us to the promised land and PDP is the platform that can actually actualise this if we get to do things right."

"Nigerians need him at this time. We are not lacking in strong leaders, we are lacking in people that understand the politics of Nigeria."

Anyim

Also, a coalition of 350 groups, yesterday, stormed the secretariat of the PDP to procure expression of interest and presidential nomination forms for former Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim.

Addressing newsmen at the PDP secretariat, Mayor

Samuel, who read a statement on their behalf, said they chose Anyim based on his competence, experience and readiness to make a difference.

"On behalf of the members of the over 350 support groups and partners scattered all over the world, who are driving the Greater Nigeria 2023 Project for Sen. Anyim Pius Anyim's presidential campaign, I am immensely delighted to address you on our mission to the national secretariat of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, today."

"We did not obtain the forms on behalf of Anyim, we purchased the forms for Anyim to demonstrate our unshaken confidence in his capacity and suitability to lead Nigeria at this point in our history."

47,975 terrorists surrender to troops

—DHQ

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA—THE Defence Headquarters said, yesterday, that a total of 47,975 terrorists and their families have so far surrendered to troops of Operation Hadin Kai in the North-East from September last year to date.

Director, Defence Media

Operations, Major-General Bernard Onyeuko, who disclosed this while giving an update on military operations between March 10 and March 24 in Abuja, said the achievements of the military within the period included killing of 17 terrorists, arrest of 35, recovery of 34 AK-47 rifles, five dane guns and nine locally made guns.

He said the troops also recovered 270 rustled cows,

three motorcycles and 13 bicycles used by the terrorists for movement.

According to him, while 7,000 Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram terrorists from different locations surrendered, troops also rescued 27 civilians in the last two weeks.

"The surrendered terrorists have been profiled, while rescued civilians and recovered items were handed over to appropriate authorities for further action," he said.

On Operation Hadin Daji, Onyeuko said the air component carried out air interdiction on March 14 at Unguwar Adam village in Damusa Local Government Area of Katsina State, killing more than 27 bandits.

He said the air raid was sequel to an intelligence report about the gathering of more than 50 terrorists for amassing with their key commanders and leaders.

He added that one Malam Sule, a brother to notorious bandit, Labi Gishima, was among those killed in the air raid, which according to him is a major setback for the group.

The Defence spokesman said scores of terrorists were also killed in another air interdiction carried out at a terrorist enclave at Magaba in Kaduna State, adding that those fleeing were trailed and mopped up by ground troops.

He said the troops also neutralised eight bandits, arrested seven, rescued 56 victims and recovered arms and other equipment in other operations during the period.

Presidency: Consensus talks not meant to exclude Atiku — Saraki

By Dirisu Yakubu

IMMEDIATE past President of the Senate, Bukola Saraki, has dismissed insinuations in some quarters that talks of producing a consensus presidential candidate for Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, was targeted at former Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

Saraki recently met with Governors Bala Muhammed and Aminu Tambuwal, who, like the former Senate President, are vying for the PDP sole presidential ticket, with a view to agreeing to produce a consensus candidate.

Asked if the meeting was aimed at working against Atiku, Saraki said: "Those making such insinuations are mischievous who never see any good out of anything. We are not

shutting anybody out. As we said, we are going to see him (Atiku). "We are going to see other aspirants. There are not about shutting anybody out. It is about uniting everybody with the interests of this country. And you will see when we begin to move around, but we are not limited to anybody."

Saraki noted that talks on the possibility of producing a consensus presidential candidate would continue, saying: "The next meeting we are going to have again will be in Sokoto, which the governor of Sokoto will host. We want to inform you that we had good discussions."

"The more we meet, the more we continue to share our views about the importance of the unity of our party, because we believe it is only PDP that has the solutions to help us get out of the problems we are in today."

Go about your assignment with unity in mind, Ayu tells presidential zoning c'ttee

By Dirisu Yakubu

ABUJA—As the committee on zoning empanelled by Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, settles down to deliberate on the sensitive issue, ahead of the party's presidential convention slated for May 28, PDP national chairman, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, has enjoined the 37-man committee to go about its assignment with unity in mind.

Ayu, who stated this during the inauguration of the committee, yesterday, expressed hope that PDP would emerge stronger, regardless of the recommendation by the panel.

He noted that zoning was adopted by the party to give every section of the country a sense of belonging in the political governance of the country.

He said: "I employ you never to lose sight of the bigger picture and the bigger objective. And that bigger sight is to maintain our unity, which carried us through the last convention."

"At the end of May, we shall present a PDP presidential candidate Nigerians will be proud of, who will go to the election and win," Ayu said shortly before the inauguration of the committee.

While stressing the importance of peaceful deliberations, the former Senate President urged the committee to be guided by the paths earlier taken by the PDP on issues of political sensitivity.

He said: "You will recall that in the last National Executive Committee, NEC, meeting, we

had no rancour whatsoever, to the extent that one of our governors stood up and said, sensitive as the issue may be, he was pleased that the PDP family discussed without any bitterness."

"I implore all of you to continue in the same spirit because PDP has a reputation of discussing whatever issues we have."

"We talk, we don't fight, we resolve issues. There is no issue that is too difficult or too important for the PDP to resolve. That is the spirit of the party. The main goal is for us to win power next year."

"We believe PDP is going to produce the next President. Once we start this journey (zoning) this time, we will ensure it goes round. And it will go round with justice, fairness and the interests of Nigeria."

The committee is made of Governors Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, Darius Ishaku and Samuel Ortom of Enugu, Taraba and Benue states respectively as well as former governors, lawmakers and ministers, each representing a state of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

Gov Ortom chairs PDP zoning c'ttee

Meanwhile, the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has named Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State chairman of its committee on zoning.

The 37-man committee was recently constituted to come recommend to the party which zone to select its Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates in the 2023 elections.

Govt borrowings not necessarily bad, says DMO

LAGOS—The Debt Management Office, DMO, has said borrowings by countries to finance budget deficits and critical infrastructure was not necessarily bad.

Director-General of DMO, Patience Oniha, who stated this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria, NAN, on the sideline of an awareness programme on security issuance organised by her office, yesterday, in Lagos, said

government borrowings were done by all countries across the world, mostly to finance critical infrastructure.

According to her, the multiplier effects of quality infrastructure on a country's economy cannot be quantified.

She said successive Nigerian governments had had to recourse to borrowing to fund budget deficits, adding that annual budgets would be affected if funds were not raised to support them.

She said: "The issue of debt has become topical in Nigeria that sometimes it almost looks as if borrowing is an offence or a crime."

"The first thing we must understand is that countries across the world borrow, be it poor countries, advanced countries, developed countries or emerging markets. They all borrow."

"We usually hear complaints that debt levels are rising in Nigeria. Globally, debt levels are rising, not just in Nigeria."

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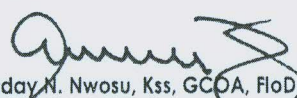
LAGOS, 23RD MARCH 2022

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF TENURE OF THE GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC

The Board and Management of R. T. Briscoe (Nigeria) PLC ("the Company") hereby inform Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX or the Exchange), the Company's shareholders and the general public of the resolution of the Board of Directors of the Company to extend the tenure of the current Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (GMD/CEO) of the Company, Mr. Bukola Oluseyi Onajide, by a further term of 3 years, commencing from January 1, 2023, till December 31, 2025.

The current GMD/CEO who was due to retire by December 31, 2022, joined the Company on July 1, 1998 and rose to become the Finance Director and later, Director in charge of the motor business in 2004 and 2006 respectively. He became the Managing Director in January 2010. The Board's decision to extend his tenure for a further period of three years is based on the Board's reasonable belief that it would be in the best interest of the Company to sustain its current leadership because of the present circumstances of the Company.

With this extension, the Group Managing Director will retire from the Company on December 31, 2025.


Sir Sunday N. Nwosu, KSS, GCOA, FIOD
Chairman of the Board
R. T. Briscoe (Nigeria) PLC