

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHAIRMAN REMARKS BY SENATOR OLABIYI DUROJAIYE, *mni* AT THE PRESIDENTIAL DINNER FOR SEC 33 OF NIPSS HOSTED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES AT THE NIGERIAN ARMY OFFICERS' MESS, ASOKORO ABUJA ON THURSDAY 3RD NOV. 2011

1. THE SPIRIT OF NIPSS, KURU

It is a great privilege and honour to participate and acquire the "*mni*" "Member of the National Institute" insignia after your name. It means you are a graduate of the highest leadership training centre in Nigeria. It also means that you belong to the "**THINK TANK**" elite core of intellectuals. I must qualify this statement, however. The privilege and honour are earned not just by passing through the portals of NIPSS, Kuru, but by imbibing and being thoroughly soaked in the cleansing SPIRIT of Kuru.

The nine-months of rigorous intellectual discourses, research/projects, study visits to many parts of our country and 'to neighbouring as well as distant developed and developing countries were all designed to make participants a new-breed of patriotic Nigerians discovering the beauty and adorable endowments of Nigeria and Nigerians and re-charged and freely energized to contribute towards building a "**BETTER SOCIETY**" a **beautify territorial society named NIGERIA.**

The spirit of Kuru "shines your eyes" (to borrow a common slang here) to see the natural and adorable beauty of damsel Nigeria or young mother, splashed all over with dirty mud, wearing tattered gown while by her side is a Wardrobe of well-scented, beautiful dresses waiting to be picked and adorned. As fellow *mni*, you have not been trained to deride or detest or add more to the plight of this virile, young woman who solicitingly beckons to you for help. The spirit urges you to lead or join others to fetch clean water, soap and sponge, remove the stinking rags, give her a thorough wash and offer an attractive attire from the wardrobe. With food, fruits and portable water, she is all yours for the asking.

You have been trained to develop a strong, positive **WILL to say "YES, WE CAN MAKE NIGERIA BETTER AND GREATER"** We should start with self-mastery and conquest of our natural tendencies to acquire wealth by the shortest route and at the quickest time, knowing that can only be done at the expense of many, many others, less privileged. We should realize that the surest way "the **HAVES**" can enjoy their wealth peacefully and happily is to deliberately make allowances or some allocations to the "**HAVE NOTS**". That is bridging the gap to enjoy good neighborliness. We should remember a Nigerian proverb that says "**the hungry dog does not play with a well-fed dog**", (**Aja ti ko yo, ki i ba eyi to yo sere**).

2. THE NATIONAL CHALLENGES:

To save time, I will pass comments on few national issues of CHALLENGES facing Nigeria. The most familiar ones are:-

- (i) Insecurity.
- (ii) Epileptic electric power supply.
- (iii) Falling standard of education.
- (iv) Unemployment.
- (v) Moral decadence corruption etc. etc.

These five issues have been with us and have been discussed daily over the years. There are two current issues now on the front burner of national discuss. These are:-

- a. The proposed removal of FUEL SUBSIDY and,
- b. The proposed "SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND" SWF issue.

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