



AN ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF REVENUE MOBILISATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMOMISSION (RMAFC), ENGR. ELIAS N. MBAM, FNSE, FICA, ON THE OCCASION OF A RETREAT FOR MANAGEMENT AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HELD AT ORCHID HOTELS, PLOT 3, DREAMWORLD AFRICANA WAY, LEKKI, LAGOS STATE FROM THE 8TH TO 12TH OF DECEMBER, 2019.

PROTOCOL

It is with great honour and pleasure that I welcome you all to this Retreat for the new Members and Management of Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) and wish to thank you all for finding time to honour our invitation despite your tight schedules. I specially thank the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, for honouring us with his presence and accepting to deliver the keynote address.

My appreciation also goes to the Chairman Senate Committee on National Planning and Economic Matters, Senator Olubumi Adetumbi, and Chairman House Committee on Finance, Hon. James Faleke, for finding time to attend this occasion despite your commitments.

2. In particular, I wish to acknowledge and commend the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the

Government and good people of Lagos State for your support and contributions to the actualization of the Retreat. The acceptance of the Lagos State Governor to host the Retreat is a clear manifestation of the Governor's commitment to good governance and promotion of Inter-Governmental collaborations

3. To the Resource Persons and Discussants I want to express my profound gratitude for making out time from your busy schedules to honour our invitation. I also wish to thank the Members of the Local organizing Committee (LOC) for their commitment to the success of the Retreat, as well as acknowledging the Members of the media here present for honouring our invitation to cover the occasion.

4. The Retreat with the theme: "Consolidating RMAFC for Greater Efficiency – Issues, Expectations and the Way Forward" is designed to familiarize and equip Members with the operations and responsibilities of the Commission. It is aimed at preparing Members and Management to deliver efficiently on the mandate of the Commission and contribute to Nation Building.

5. The Commission is one of the 14 Executive Bodies established by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as

amended). The responsibilities of the Commission are very sensitive and have serious implications to the Unity and Socio Economic Development of the Country. The Commission's functions which are spelt out in Paragraph 32 (a-e) of Part 1 to the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) include: monitoring all the accruals to and disbursement of Revenue from the Federation Account, reviewing from time to time the Revenue Allocation Formula, determining the Remuneration appropriate to Political Office Holders, advising the Federal and State Governments on fiscal efficiency and methods by which their revenue can be increased.

6. It is in line with these responsibilities that President Muhamadu Buhari while inaugurating the new Members charged the Commission to use all legal ways and means to strengthen its monitoring mechanism and block all leakages of revenues into the Federation Account.

7. In pursuant to this constitutional mandate and the charge of the President on our inauguration, the Commission has been committed to discharging its responsibilities effectively and efficiently. Accordingly, the Commission has carried out

reconciliation and verification of Revenue collections from Revenue Collecting Agencies on behalf of the Federal Inland Revenue Service and Nigeria Customs Service. Over seventy five billion (N75bn) Naira has been recovered in this process. The Commission shall intensify its efforts in this regard.

8. The Commission has also programmed to review the Remuneration of Political Office Holders in 2020 to reflect the current realities. Furthermore, the Commission shall continue to support and promote diversification programme of Government. In this regard I implore Government at all levels to continue to support Agricultural development and invest in the development of Solid Minerals as a means of diversifying the sources of revenue in order to meet the increasing expenditure requirement of governance and development.

9. While I congratulate Members for their well-deserved appointment to the Commission, I call on you to see your appointment as an opportunity to serve your father land by exhibiting the highest sense of humility and commitment in the discharge of your duties. Members should take advantage of this

Retreat to equip themselves for the task ahead by participating effectively in all the Sessions of the Retreat.

10. As this Retreat is declared open today, I pray that the Almighty God will guide and guard us in all our activities throughout the exercise and lead us back safely to our various destinations.

11 I thank you all for your attention and God Bless.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission