REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU AT THE END OF THE THREE-DAY 2023 CABINET RETREAT FOR MINISTERS, PRESIDENTIAL AIDES, PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND TOP GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES AT THE STATE HOUSE CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

We are about to close this three-day cabinet retreat. Are we proud that we are Nigerian? Are we sure that we’ve done this? Is the responsibility of the permanent secretary clear in partnership with the Minister, is it clear? Are we one family? Thank you very much.

2. Since we are one family and one nation and we are in this vehicle together to change the narrative and bring about economic prosperity of our country. Are we ready?

3. The Renewed Hope Agenda is more than economic growth. Like I said at the opening, we can spend the money but we cannot spend the people.

4. We have a responsibility to our country to make sure we change completely the narrative about Nigeria.

5. If we have problems, let’s talk to one another, let’s have conversations, gentle conversations about our country. It’s not about just leave me alone I’m going home; you may not have a home.

6. There’s nothing you can do successfully without good healthcare, reduction in poverty. Like I said before, poverty is not a shameful thing but it’s not acceptable. Are we going to dig our people out of it?

7. If you look at your background, no matter wealthy you are today, there’s a trace of poverty beneath. So, it’s left for you and I to navigate this ship out of poverty.

8. We have a lot of work ahead of us, I am confident now with the attendance, concentration, you’ve seen the quality and the character of Ministers, you’ve seen it.

9. You’ve seen the demonstration of knowledge from Head of Service of the Federation and the Accountant General and other civil servants.

10. Yes, we politicians, we are the soldier go, solider come, you are the permanent secretaries, but we have to live together. You have no choice!

11. I hope that is clear? We’ve gathered here to shape the future, no threat about it. The responsibility we bear are not just titles, they are hope and aspiration of millions of Nigerians.

12. You might be ready to forget about the rest of the world, but as a Nigerian, let’s go out there, let’s bond together and make sure our country is fully recovered from elephantiasis.

13. Let me remind you that you are not here to make excuses, neither am I. I’m your friend, your brother, a father and a grandfather. You must put aside personal ambitions and focus on the progress of our nation. It is through this that we can be truly proud.

14. I am proud standing before you. I’m very very proud of every one of you. And I am proud of myself too. I went for election and won with your support, they took me to court and I won.

15. So, we are here, we have tinkered and tweaked focus areas:

i. Reform the economy to deliver sustained inclusive growth;

ii. Strengthen National Security for Peace and Prosperity;

iii. Boost Agriculture to Achieve Food Security;

iv. Unlock Energy and Natural Resources for Sustainable Development;

v. Enhanced Infrastructure and Transportation as Enablers of Growth;

vi. Focus On Education, Health and Social Investment as Essential Pillars of Development;

vii. Accelerate Diversification Through Industrialisation, Digitization and Creative Industry, Manufacturing and Innovative Technology; and

viii. (Improve Governance for Effective Service Delivery.)

16. I could hear two of the Ministers, Nnaji saying satellite is gone, Bosun said Satellite is here. I like that. At least we are thinking, we are deep in what we are trying to achieve.

17. That’s a demonstration of knowledge and I am sitting there as the Chairman of Boundary Dispute Commission.

18. It is just too interesting and I know all of you have achieved the goal to end this retreat today, because you want to be away for the weekend. Not because you have exhausted the topic but the only way to make it happen, is to say hey! We might extend this thing to Saturday or Sunday, so once they are here, they will do the job.

19. I am glad you are doing it and you have done it. So, today, I thank all of you.

20. I want to obtain a promise from you. That promise is that we promise Nigerians that we’re going to work for them. Is that true? That we are going to work together as a team. That’s correct? And we are going to achieve for this country?

21. Let us stand-up and say: We are Nigerians! You are a Nigerian! We are Nigerians. God bless you.