

# CHIEF (DR.) R. F. FASORANTI (OFR)

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## TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE BY CHIEF REUBEN FASORANTI, LEADER OF AFENIFERE AND OF YORUBA LEADERS ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH 2023 AT HIS RESIDENCE, AKURE, ONDO STATE.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the winner of the just concluded presidential election of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023, President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his victory at the polls. I, on behalf of Afenifere and Yoruba Leaders in general wish him a most successful tenure as the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as he will be sworn in on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023. We wish him good health, wisdom, and the courage to confront the many challenges ailing our dear nation Nigeria.

I also like to commend the electoral umpire, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), for conducting an election that has been judged by many local and international observers as both free, fair, and credible despite the many challenges that threatened to derail the process. I join these impartial observers to give a pass mark to the elections in every regard.

I want to observe with great concern the unwholesome utterances of certain individuals who believe that their candidate(s) ought to have been declared winner(s) of the presidential election. Some of these individuals have even gone to the extent of threatening the continued corporate existence of our dear nation if their preferred candidate is not declared winner of the election. I want to place it on record that Afenifere is not on the side of these persons, and we unequivocally condemn this conduct. I want to repeat our oft-stated position that Afenifere is committed to the unity of Nigeria as a truly federal political entity.

I will however wish to plead with those candidates who lost in the election to consider their various campaign promises of a better Nigeria and call their supporters to order while they pursue their grievances through legitimate legal channels as provided for in the electoral law and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; this is without prejudice to the olive branch being waved by the acclaimed winner of the election. I also call on the generality of Nigerians to remain calm and law abiding in any part of Nigeria that they may reside especially before and during the governorship and thirty-six Houses of Assembly elections of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

It will be recalled that the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu was here on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to seek the support and blessing of Afenifere and Yoruba Leaders on his presidential ambition then. We gave him our unalloyed endorsement and we advised him to focus on two key areas immediately upon his assumption of office as President. I wish to reiterate these key areas today; Security and the Economy.

The security situation in the country has worsened over the last few years with Nigerians unable to travel freely on our roads and even railways, they equally feel unsafe in their homes and farms; Nigeria has never known this level of insecurity before.

I however want to appreciate the efforts of the South West governors and other state governors who rose up to the challenge with the introduction of Amotekun and other security initiatives to combat this menace. I once again wish to call on the President-elect to make security a priority immediately he assumes office on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Equally important is the issue of our economy which I believe requires urgent attention. We must immediately stem the worsening rate of unemployment in the land to curb the rising youth restiveness in different parts of the country.

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Nigerians will be going to the polls to elect new governors in some states and members of Houses of Assembly across the thirty-six states of the federation, I therefore wish to repeat our call for calm and peaceful conduct by the electorate before, during and after the elections.

I want to use this opportunity to recognise and appreciate the achievements of the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu who is seeking re-election for a second term on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). These achievements include but are not limited to the following:

- The Blue rail line
- The Imota Rice Mill

(These were recently commissioned by President Muhammad Buhari)

- The Red rail line
- The Proposed 4<sup>th</sup> Mainland Bridge
- The ongoing Atlantic City which was intended to check mate the perennial sea incursion into Victoria Island. (Thereby converting an environmental challenge to an opportunity.)
- Numerous Housing projects in different parts of Lagos State
- Numerous Road projects across the state
- Numerous projects in health and educational institutions within the state.

These projects when fully operational will employ over a million Nigerians (mostly youths) thereby substantially reducing unemployment in the country. The response of the Lagos State government to the Covid-19 pandemic is also worthy of note and commendable. I am convinced that these giant strides should be sustained in the city with the third largest economy in Africa. I therefore wish to join my voice to

those of other patriotic Lagosians that there is need for continuity in the state by lending my support to the second term bid of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu as governor of Lagos State. In addition, I believe that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as APC President will benefit Lagos State more if the state has an APC Governor to compliment whatever the President has for Lagos State.

I do this because Lagos (State) as the economic nerve centre of Nigeria and by extension of Yorubaland deserves the very best. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has been through the mill and crucible of politics, business, and public administration; occupying various positions in government since 1999 and garnering requisite experience which he has displayed in the last four years to the admiration of all and sundry.

I therefore call on the good people of Lagos State to come out en-masse on Saturday to cast their votes for the governorship candidate of the APC, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Chief Oladiran Adesua – 0803 524 1060

Administrative Secretary to the Afenifere Leader

*For*

**Chief Reuben Fasoranti, OFR**

**Afenifere Leader.**