



NIGER STATE OF NIGERIA

THE CHIEF SERVANT

Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna & Sodangin Nupe)

GOVERNOR, NIGER STATE



NIGER STATE

...shared vision and unlimited opportunities

Swearing-in Speech

Let us give glory once again to Allah (SWT) for the opportunity to witness this important event - the swearing of commissioners which marks the composition of the State Executive Council, in fulfillment of the provisions of section 192 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999). I welcome you aboard the executive arm of government, as I expect that you will quickly settle down to work diligently with the Legislature and the Judiciary to provide good governance for the people of Niger State, in the spirit of democracy and social justice.

Let me quickly remind you that you were chosen from amongst many eminently qualified Nigerlites, based on your qualities and upon the Will of Allah (SWT). You have been invited to assist us keep our covenant and obligations with the people, to make Niger State the most livable State in Nigeria - where parents can be proud and confident about the education of their children; where people would be comfortable and confident raising a family and where citizens will be happy to grow old in our

environment. You have been invited to assist us, to help Niger State to achieve its Vision of 3-2020; indeed you have been invited to contribute your quota in translating the Vision into reality.

We should therefore consider ourselves very fortunate to be on this team and we should remain grateful to Allah (SWT) for the opportunity to serve humanity in this capacity. We should not have any different agenda other than serving the people of Niger State respectfully, transparently and satisfactorily, so that we may indeed receive Allah's rewards and enduring blessings in the Hereafter.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we are assuming leadership position at a most challenging period in the socio-political history of Niger State, nay Nigeria, when the nation is being engulfed with unprecedented dimension of crisis and violence. We therefore have a duty to join other well meaning leaders to restore sanity, decorum and civility to the nation by removing the inequities in the society, to guarantee peace, stability and security of lives and property.

While we commit ourselves to finding lasting solutions to the current socio-political challenges, we must be honest to appreciate the fact that the political and social insecurity that has engulfed Nigeria is planted and perpetrated by the elites against the larger majority of our population. We must remember that no social group can be larger/bigger than the whole, if we are honest and sincere with our beliefs.

We need to be conscientious and God-fearing in discharging our duties, so that we can remove the vestiges of social inequities and ensure justice and fairness in our society. Often times, you are paid for a job, you do not do it; you are sent with a message, you fail to deliver; you have a responsibility involving other people, but you only take care of yourself and your family; you have an opportunity to help and improve the lives of others, you ignore them, you break trust, you take advantage of them, you abuse relationship and you shun good conduct and good work, yet you expect to have a peaceful and equitable society. No; this is not possible, unless we do certain things consciously to better the society and to make life easier for others.

We must bear in mind that the people's expectations are very high owing to the standards of governance we have set since 2007. We must therefore work assiduously to ensure that we do not go below those standards; indeed we must surpass our achievements and accomplishments in education, agriculture, health and infrastructural development, and others, to leave enduring legacies behind us.

The major priorities in the present dispensation are: security of lives and property, to ensure the adoption of community policing to guarantee the removal of fear and incapacity; the Economy, to be repositioned for the realization of Vision 3:2020, including ensuring the establishment of Islamic banking as a choice, thereby supporting the initiatives and efforts of the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria in that direction; provision of social security, through quality education, youth employment/empowerment and social support operations and job satisfaction; and the provision of social amenities - clean water, good roads and effective transportation to improve the people's socio-economic conditions. We should do everything to

fight poverty; we should do everything to bring back sanity in our communities and we should endeavor to restore and re-instill confidence of the common people in governance and government. These are challenges as well as our duties, and we shall *insha Allah* succeed.

We are lucky that some of us are not new to the cabinet and to the government, so we are not likely to be re-inventing the wheel of progress. What we require at this stage is commitment to the course and improvement in the way we do things and conduct government businesses. It is for this reason that we invited all of you, including those who by virtue of their appointments or prospective appointments could be considered as being on the executive boat of this administration to an extensive three-week Retreat to create a platform where all of us could look at the bigger picture of the prospects and challenges of governance together, with a view to agreeing on the roadmap to achieving success. I do hope that by now, all of us, including some skeptics amongst us, have a broader and deeper understanding of the issues and the direction of government. It might interest you to note that everything we have been doing is with a clear and

genuine intention to improve the living condition of our people to the glory and for the reward of our Creator, Allah (SWT), to whom we shall account on the Day of Judgment.

We expect that everyone will sit up and take full responsibility for his/her actions and inactions, as we will not have patience with seat warmers who may only be interested in the official titles or trappings of the office. Anyone who is not ready to serve and to make sacrifices is indeed advised to walk away honorably, even before the tough journey begins. We shall not tolerate corruption, we shall not condone indolence and we must get rid of wastages.

As elected or appointed public officers we are mere servants of the people, and we owe our masters - the electorates-respect, honor and service. We cannot assume superiority or importance over them. We should be mindful that the people are keenly watching everything we are doing, whether in private or in the open. Our watchwords should be 'humility and service', and our guiding principle should be exemplary life style. The people have a right to see us, meet us and to discuss issues that affect their lives, at anytime.

We must therefore not create artificial barriers between us and the people we are serving. I therefore reiterate that public officers should not drive in tinted official vehicles, as the Secretary to the Government of Niger State (SSG) is hereby directed to publish and circulate the valid telephone numbers of members of the Executive Council. I reassure you that the telephone numbers of the Chief Servant will remain in the public domain so that people can reach me whenever they wish, to contribute to the governance process. Each one of you shall be given specific targets to achieve consistent with the Vision 3:2020 deliverables, within specific timelines, failure of which shall ensure your removal from office. Indeed, your initial posting is for nine months, after which we shall review your performance and pass appropriate judgment.

We should be aware that the Federal Government has passed the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act and Niger State shall soon domesticate it so that it becomes relevant to our governance and our lives. However, I noticed that some people who are very ignorant of the intent and provisions of the law have

started intimidating government officials. Until we domesticate the FoI Law, no government official should respond to any letter from any quarter on the subject matter.

Let me reiterate that government is here to serve the generality of the people, and not only few privileged individuals, who may assume that they have no stake. Let me however take this opportunity once again to thank all Nigerlites for their support, encouragement and understanding with our administration. We believe that by the strength of our common endeavor we shall achieve more together in transforming Niger State in the context of Vision 3:2020. You must go back to your constituencies to inform, educate, enlighten and dialogue with our constituents so that all Nigerlites shall be on the same page for good governance and development. May Allah (SWT) continue to bless Niger State, amen.

I thank you all.

The Chief Servant of Niger State
DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(Talban Minna, Sodangi Nupe)



The Chief Servant of Niger State

DR MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON (*Talban Minna, Sodangi Nupe*)

The Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON, (Talban Minna), was born on November 12, 1955 in Chanchaga Local Government Area of Niger State to late Alhaji Aliyu Mu'azu, the first Magajin Gari and later Sarkin Yakin Minna, and Hajiya Jamila, a princess in the Mallawa ruling house of Zazzau Emirate.

He received his primary education at Central Primary School (now IBB Primary School, Minna) and other primary schools in Kuta and Sokoto between 1963 and 1969. Later, he proceeded to Sokoto College of Arts and Arabic Legal Studies (now, Sheikh Mahmoud Gumi College) from 1970 to 1974, where he obtained Grade II Teachers' Certificate. He then proceeded to the College of Education, Sokoto, between 1974 and 1977 and obtained the Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE).

Between 1977 and 1978, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu served the mandatory NYSC programme where he taught at Jubril Martins Memorial Grammar School, Iponri, Lagos. On completion of the NYSC programme, he returned home and joined the Niger State Ministry of Education as Master III and later Master II between 1977 and 1983. Between that period, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu resumed his educational pursuit by enrolling into Bayero University Kano between

1980 and 1983, where he graduated with BA (Bachelor of Arts) Education in 1983. In the same year, he withdrew his service with the Niger State Government and contested and won the election into the Federal House of Representatives, representing Minna South Federal Constituency. After the sack of the National Assembly by the Military takeover of December 1983, Dr. Babangida Aliyu joined the College of Education, Sokoto as a lecturer in 1984.

In 1985, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu proceeded to the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, to pursue a Masters' Degree in Public and International Affairs which he successfully completed in August 1986. In September 1986, he immediately enrolled for a Ph.D. in Strategic Studies and Political Economy, a course he completed in 1989.

On his return to Nigeria, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu took up appointment as the Chief Political Affairs Officer where he rose to the position of Assistant Director and Head of Unit of the International Affairs and Political Analysis in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. By 1992, he was promoted and deployed as Director of Administration and Finance, National Council of Inter-Governmental Relations, where he served as pioneering Director in charge of setting administrative and financial structures for the new organization. In

August 1993, he was posted as Director in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Presidency where he was concurrently assigned to serve the Constitutional Conference Commission from 1994 to 1995. He also served as Acting Director General in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Presidency between 1994 and May 1995. Between October 1995 and April 1996, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was deployed as Director/ Special Assistant to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. He was later posted to the Ministry of Transport as Director Maritime Services between August 1996 and April 1999. From March 18 to June 16, 1999, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was appointed and deployed to the Ministry of Youths and Sports as Permanent Secretary, after which he was once again redeployed to the Cabinet Secretariat of the Presidency.

In February 2001, he was posted on a rescue mission to the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory. As a scholarly and articulate Permanent Secretary, he was there till December 2003. Between 2004 and 2005, he was at the National Planning Commission and later got deployed to the Federal Ministry of Transport in May 2005 to December 2006, and made his mark until he was redeployed in January 2007 to Establishment and Pensions Office in the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation as the Permanent Secretary/Chief Operating and Accounting Officer, thereby reaching the peak of his public career. It

was at this particular point that he obeyed the clarion and divine call, at precisely 1.15am, to come home and salvage Niger State when he was nominated as the PDP Gubernatorial Candidate for the April 14 Elections, of which he won a historic landslide victory.

During his illustrious career, he served as a Director on the Board of Nigeria Unity Line and that of Seaview Properties Limited. He was a member of the Senior Management Committee of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation between 1995 and 1999; Member Board of Governors, Centre for Democratic Studies between 1992 and 1995; Member Tenders' Board, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Member Board of Governors, Kaduna Polytechnic between 1980 and 1983.

In the area of community service, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu has always taken special interest in the welfare of the communities he lives in, both at home and abroad. He became a member, and later Chairman, Projects, Physical Planning and Works Implementation of the Minna Emirate Education Foundation (MEEFO) in 2002. And Since 2004 he has been the President of Minna Polo Club. Some of the other services he has rendered in the recent past include: Member of the Executive Committee of the Parent Teacher Association, New Capital School, Asokoro; Chairman, Parent Teacher Association, Funtaj Primary

School, Abuja; President, Pan African Association, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; Chairman and Secretary, Nigeria Labour Congress, Niger State Council; National Auditor, Nigeria Union of Teachers, National Headquarters; Vice President, National Association of Public Administration and Management; President, Students' Union, College of Education, Sokoto; among several others.

Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu is a widely travelled person, who has visited over 90 countries of the world mostly on intellectual mission, inter-governmental relations, and international affairs, among others. The tentacles of his philanthropic contributions extend to various communities and individuals in a bid to foster social and economic development of the society. Of course, Dr. Babangida Aliyu is on another rescue mission back home since he won the April 14, 2011 Election as the Governor of Niger State, a second mandate.

One would expect that a person whose life has undergone such transformations would have a lot to offer in terms of experience; certainly, Dr Aliyu's eloquence, fluency and scholarship in public gatherings is enthralling: He is highly witty and full of humour. His speeches and lectures are philosophic and have been made subjects of various books. He is a highly detribalized person and identifies with excellence from wherever it springs. His laudable

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and landmark achievements, in his exemplary servant leadership, humanitarianism, transparency and selflessness, have prompted many traditional institutions to bestow on him titles, such as Talban Minna; Sodangin Nupe; Magayakin Zuman Zazzau Suleja; Otumba Akinjagunla of Ekiti; Badakoshin Agaie; Agbayewa of the Source, Ife; and Aare Akinkanju of Ogbomosoland, Oyo State. As a figure with a rising international profile, he is often invited abroad as a distinguished guest to deliver a lecture, a case in point being lectures at the London School of Economics and Holy Trinity and Health Farms, Ghana.

It was on January 20, 2001 he was conferred with the title, Talban Minna, in his home town by the Emir of Minna, Alhaji (Dr.) Umar Faruq Bahago, the name that he is fondly called by his friends, associates and admirers, young, old and elderly. He was also honoured by the nation with the national honour of the Officer of the Order of Niger (OON) in December 2004.

Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu is a dedicated family man. He is married to Hajiya Jummai Aliyu (Née, Umaru Erena) who is also Yeye Akinjagunla, and the marriage is blessed with six children - two girls and four boys. His hobbies include horse riding, reading and farming.