**AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ADP), ENGR. YABAGI Y. SANI ON THE OCASSION OF A PRESS CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY, ON MONDAY 17TH AUGUST, 2020 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ADP NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, ABUJA.**

PROTOCOLS

Gentlemen of the Press, I welcome you to this Press Conference organized by our great Party to address some national issues of interest in our polity.

1. Our Party, The Action Democratic Party (ADP) wish to inform the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Stakeholders, including International Democratic Partners and the general public, that we have taken a decision to review our membership of the Inter Party Advisory Council, IPAC at all levels.

2. ADP agrees totally with the primary intentions of establishing IPAC as a Council of Registered Political Parties in Nigeria, to among other things, carry out Advocacy for Credible and Sustainable Election Environment. We also believe in the ideals for the formation of IPAC as an organ that will among others:

i. promote harmony amongst registered political parties;

ii. interface on behalf of political parties with INEC and other stakeholders including international agencies on development of democracy in Nigeria; and

iii. promote the rights and freedom of the Nigerian People to participate in the development of democracy as guaranteed by the extant laws.

Whereas, ADP is a signatory to the revised IPAC code of conduct (2017) for political parties in Nigeria where the above objectives were stated.

Our Party is however concerned that these objectives are being thwarted by some desperate politicians whose mission is to destroy the tenets of democracy, undermine the survival of opposition parties and make Nigeria a One-Party State.

3. In view of this development, the National Working Committee of the Action Democratic Party at its 19th NWC meeting held on the 26th of July, 2020 resolved to review the ADP’s membership of IPAC in order to insulate our party from the anti-party activities of the IPAC executives in almost all the 36 states of the federation, who operate more like Special Assistants to the state governors who fraudulently use them for clandestine activities to undermine the political interest of the opposition parties in their respective states.

Up until the decision of our NWC against the continued membership of IPAC, some ADP state Chairman were on the pay roll of some state governors.

4. ADP frowns at the anti-party activities of these opposition parties State Chairmen (IPAC Executives) and considers it inimical to the growth of democracy in Nigeria and capable of making the country a One-Party state.

In light of the foregoing, all state chapters of the ADP have been directed to refrain forthwith from participating in all IPAC activities in their respective states until further notice.

5. We call on INEC to quickly summon a meeting of all the registered political parties in Nigeria to address this important matter to further deepen the roots of democracy in our country.

6. On the recent Court of Appeal judgement regarding the deregistration of political parties by INEC, the Action Democratic Party wish to commend the affected political parties for their resilience and perseverance to reclaim their inalienable rights and mandate. Although, INEC has said that it would approach the Supreme Court over what it describes as conflicting judgements by the Court of Appeal, we appeal to all the parties involved to continue to show maturity in their activities while awaiting the verdict of the Supreme Court on the matter.

7. On the forthcoming gubernatorial election in Edo and Ondo States, our party the ADP is worried that the APC and PDP have turned the contest into a theater of war. In Edo State in particular we have observed the use of uncomplimentary languages by both the PDP and APC, a situation which could lead to the breakdown of law and order while the gladiators have little or no regards for the interests of the people.

8. The ADP hereby call on all the key political actors in Edo and Ondo State to listen to the voice of reason and play the game according to the rule, avoid mischief and use of profane language, which is capable of disrupting the process that would lead to a free, fair and credible election.

9. Our party, the ADP is in top form to contest these elections and shall win the governorship election in the two states on 19th September in Edo and 10th October in Ondo States respectively. ADP is prepared to provide the credible alternative to the people of Edo and Ondo states, and our governorship candidates are equal to the task. We have traversed the length and breadth of the 2 states to canvass for votes from the electorates. We assure you that with God on our side, we shall win the governorship election in Edo and Ondo State.

10. Finally, on the state of insecurity in our nation, the ADP wish to remind President Muhammadu Buhari and his ruling APC government that the primary responsibility of every government is to secure the lives and property of every citizen. While we commend our gallant forces in the frontline battle against insurgents in the North East, banditry and kidnapping in the North West, and farmer-herders clashes in the North Central, we wish to call on Mr. President to, in view of his recent pronouncements and directives to the Service Chiefs that their best is not good enough; remain resolute and do the needful by disengaging these present set of leaders who have over stretched their ideas, and engage a new set of vibrant, energetic and innovative team for a result-oriented service. Posterity will always be kind to you for taking decisions that will promote national development, Peace and unity.

The need to restore normalcy in the security situation has become more urgent in the face of the fragility of our economy and the specter of another recession in a nation whose people are almost at the lowest level of survival.

I thank you for listening.

Signed,

**ENGR. YABAGI Y. SANI**

National Chairman, ADP

17th August, 2020