

President Muhammadu Buhari's address during a visit to Republic of Chad on Thursday, June 4, 2015

It is a great pleasure for me to be in Ndjamen, on an official visit, within the first week of my assumption of office as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. I want to extend my profound gratitude to my brother and friend, His Excellency Idriss Deby, *ITNO*, President of the Republic of Chad and indeed, the people of Chad for according me an elaborate and generous African welcome.

3. I also want to thank President Deby for visiting me before my inauguration and more importantly, for being present at my swearing-in ceremony in Abuja on 29th May 2015. I regard these acts as eloquent demonstration of true friendship and brotherliness that exist between our countries' and people

Your Excellency,

3. I am in Ndjamen today to convey to you, your Government and the people of Chad, Nigeria's profound appreciation of the invaluable support you have rendered in the fight against insurgency and sustained acts of terrorism in the north east of my country. Your troops have stood shoulder-to-shoulder and fought gallantly with ours, in the fight against the forces of evil. This is a remarkable show of good neighbourliness, which we must reinforce in the years ahead.

4. It is for this reason, that I have committed myself to work for the security, peace, prosperity and stability of our region. In this regard, I cannot over emphasize the importance of cooperation and collaboration in tackling our common challenges, particularly in the areas of security and economic development. This is because security and development are mutually reinforcing.

Your Excellency,

5. Permit me to note that our security is intricately linked. This compels us to cooperate fully on security issues in a robust and sustained manner. To this end, we must redouble our efforts to operationalise the Multi-National Joint Task Force with its Headquarters in Ndjamen. I believe the Task Force will stabilize the areas that have been ravaged by the Boko Haram insurgency when it becomes fully operational. I am very confident that, Insha Allah, this insurgency will be brought to an end soon.

6. A sad consequence of the insurgency is the harrowing images of our citizens, beamed across the globe, who have been forced to flee their homes and livelihood in search of safety and succour. We must restore their dignity and give them the

comfort they need. But, while work to solve our security challenge, we must recognize that this can only be a foundation for meeting the economic needs and welfare of our people.

7. In this regard, my expectation is that we must unleash our full potential and work assiduously to turn the Lake Chad Basin Commission into a veritable agent of development. Nigeria and Chad are bound by nature. This imposes on us the responsibility of finding appropriate synergy in dealing with an array of issues, notably effective border management, migration, and movement of goods, people and services.

8. At the regional and international level, we will need to strengthen our collaboration and consultation on issues of common interest. I am pleased to note that Nigeria and Chad are both members of the African Union Peace and Security Council, as well as the United Nations Security Council. This is an opportunity for us to lend mutual diplomatic support to each other. Indeed, our officials must consult more regularly.

9. Your Excellency, I will return to Nigeria with the assurance that Nigeria and Chad are poised to consolidate and deepen their cooperation.

10. May I therefore, once again, thank you for your friendship, hospitality and warmth that you have generously displayed during my short but memorable visit to your country.

11. I thank you !