



IBOM PEOPLES CONGRESS USA, INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

December 31, 2006

Your Excellency Obong (Arc.) Victor Attah
The Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State
Wellington Bassey Way
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State
Nigeria

SUBJECT: PDP GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY IN AKWA IBOM STATE

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Ibom Peoples Congress (IPC), we write to draw your attention to the increasing public outrage regarding the outcome of the just concluded People Democratic Party (PDP) primary election in Akwa Ibom State.

As a committed advocacy group and global democratic coalition of Akwa Ibom people both at home and in the Diaspora, IPC is concerned about the recent press reports on the possibility and threats of annulment of the just concluded primary of the PDP in Akwa Ibom State. This action is contrary to earlier unbiased media and political observers reports that the primary was free and fair.

Sir, as you are aware, the mission of IPC among others, is to foster the growth and development of enduring democracy in Akwa Ibom State, nay, Nigeria. In this regard, IPC conducted the first gubernatorial debate in Nigeria on September 12, 2006 at Uyo in Akwa Ibom State.

If the alleged threat and attempt to undermine the popular mandate of the people, is true, it portends grave danger for Akwa Ibom State. Moreover, the consolidation of the political freedom and economic empowerment of the Akwa Ibom people which your administration symbolizes would be severely compromised. In the circumstance, the spirit of our people will be irreparably crushed, and their perpetual disenfranchisement secured.

It is against this backdrop that the IPC strongly implores you as our governor and political leader to intervene for the immediate resolution of the impasse in the state PDP primary election and to facilitate the validation of the result in favor of the bona fide winner of the election.

As you may already know, for too long, our people have been denied their right to social participation both at the local and national levels. Similarly, they have not

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experienced the privilege and opportunity of partaking in a free and fair election of their political leadership.

Any consideration, therefore, of an annulment or reversal of the authentic result of the PDP primary in AKS is not only bewildering, but would also engender adverse public opinion in a state that its successive governments have invariably ignored the social impact of their action on the people.

Burke, a renowned philosopher, warns that "...evil will triumph when good men keep silent." Absent of the intervention of political leadership in the face of deteriorating socio-political situation, the consequences are all too obvious as in the case of Kosovo, Rwanda, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Apartheid South Africa, and every other global hotspot, where social injustice prevails unchecked.

How profound and apt is the caveat of another great social commentator, that those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it. Yet, only a few years back our nation was torn by the annulment of another free and fair election, precipitating the cataclysmic civil disturbances that spawned the rise of a dreaded and brutal dictator.

It was to avert the possibility of Nigeria reverting to another totalitarian regime that the present democratic administration was voted into power after the tragic end of our last oppressor dictator.

Your Excellency, as we write, on behalf of our people everywhere, IPC is grieved at what we are hearing and reading about and the reported stalemate in the AKS PDP which, if true, will negate the continuation of the democratic principles on which plank your Administration came to office.

IPC's vision of AKS as a democratic, free, strong, and egalitarian land of promise, in the words of one writer, is that, "the government and its officials should be held ..." to a high standard of behavior "such as honesty, respect for due process of law, and the rule of law, adhering to the results of election and engaging in civic dialogue."

IPC is appalled at the undemocratic tactics employed by rival candidates to undo the democratic and collective will of Akwa Ibom people in the PDP primary election for their party's flag bearer in the upcoming governorship election.

Sir, until this nagging question is settled, make no mistake, our once peaceful state is in the throes of a major political upheaval and crises, which cannot be wished away. IPC, therefore, urges you, as our political leader, to be an example of how to provide selfless service. IPC would also like to prevail on you, despite your political leanings and preferences, to resolve the present contention and heal the division in the state PDP.

IPC also appeals to you to use your good offices to uphold the rule of law and to make it possible for our people to participate in the type of democratic process that will promote partnership between the government and the governed, and to preserve

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the rights and self dignity of the people. Your legacy must be that of the man who empowered and unified Akwa Ibom, otherwise you run the risk of leaving behind a split and shattered people.

IPC would like to use this medium to commend you on running a courageous and historic presidential campaign, and to thank you in anticipation of your prompt resolution of the crises of our time.

Sincerely,



Tom Mbeke-Ekanem
President
IPC International Hqrs

Copy:

His Excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo
The Senate President, Hon. Senator Ken Nnamani
The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Masari
The Speaker of Akwa Ibom House of Assembly
The Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party, Col. Ahmadu Ali
The Chairman of Independence National Electoral Commission, Prof. Maurice Iwu
The Akwa Ibom Traditional Rulers Council
The Media