



# Press Statement

August 02, 2024 Abuja.

## **ADDRESSING THE NATION: A CALL FOR PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU (GCFR) TO ENGAGE WITH NIGERIANS AMID ONGOING #ENDBADGOVERNANCE PROTESTS.**

The Speak Out Africa Initiative (SOAI), a leading civil society organization committed to the nation's development, urges President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR to address the Nigerian people and protesters regarding their grievances and demands. The ongoing **#EndBadGovernance protest**, now in its second day, continues to build momentum across the nation, highlighting the urgent need for direct and decisive leadership.

### **KEY ISSUES AT STAKE**

The protesters have articulated several critical demands, chief among them being the immediate reduction of the fuel pump price and measures to decrease the cost of governance, including addressing the over-bloated cabinet size. These issues, if left unaddressed, threaten to deepen the crisis and exacerbate public frustration.

### **THE NEED FOR PRESIDENTIAL ENGAGEMENT**

President Tinubu must recognize that the mandate to govern was entrusted to him by the Nigerian people, not his aides. Historical precedents and recent examples from other African nations illustrate the peril of presidential silence during times of national crisis. The failure to address the citizens directly can lead to increased unrest and a breakdown of trust between the government and the people. Hence, our call for presidential state of the nation address.

In light of the ongoing protests, it is imperative that President Tinubu speaks directly to the Nigerian populace and not through his sides, to:

**Acknowledge the Grievances:** Address the specific issues raised by the protesters, demonstrating an understanding of their concerns and a commitment to addressing them.

**Take Swift Action:** Announce immediate steps to reduce the fuel pump price as demanded, and outline a clear plan to streamline the cost of governance, including reducing the cabinet size.

**Reassure the Nation:** Provide a vision for the future that includes economic stability, social justice, and a commitment to democratic principles.

## **BENEFITS OF PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Addressing the nation can yield several benefits, including:

**Restoring Peace:** A sincere and proactive engagement can pacify angry citizens and de-escalate tensions.

**Rebuilding Trust:** Demonstrating transparency and accountability can rebuild public trust in the government.

**Promoting Stability:** Clear communication can prevent further disruptions and promote a stable political climate conducive to progress and development.

## **LESSONS FROM HISTORY**

From the Arab Spring to recent events in Sudan and Kenya, the consequences of governmental silence during civil unrest are well-documented. Conversely, leaders who engage with their citizens during crises often see a reduction in conflict and a restoration of order. Nigeria must learn from these examples to avoid a prolonged period of instability.

## **OUR CALL TO ACTION**

Given our crucial role in ensuring a peaceful climate by monitoring, tracking, and reporting protest activities, we call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR to address Nigerians almost immediately. This is not only a recipe for a dialogue but a call for action. The Nigerian people need to hear from their leader to believe that their voices are being heard and their concerns will be addressed, and this cannot be achieved through any presidential aides/ or appointees since none of them enjoys the sacred mandate of the good people of Nigeria.

For reports on our Citizen's Observatory and Communications Room, please contact us at [civilsocietyobservatoryroom@gmail.com](mailto:civilsocietyobservatoryroom@gmail.com) or WhatsApp only: +234-810-700-3223.