

PRESS RELEASE

Issued in Abuja Nigeria on August 4th, 2024.

ENDBADGOVERNANCE PROTEST: PRESS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT TINUBU'S ADDRESS ON THE NATIONWIDE PROTESTS.

... CSOs, SOAI Call For A Live Interview-chat with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu To Address the Nation's Pressing Concerns as a precursor to the proposed national dialogue.

The civil society organizations (CSOs) led by Speak Out Africa Initiative is calling for a live interview with His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. This request comes in the wake of the President's recent nationwide broadcast addressing the ongoing protests and civil unrest across various states in Nigeria.

Acknowledging the President's Address:

While we acknowledge and appreciate the President's efforts to engage with the populace and address their concerns, it is evident that the speech **did not sufficiently** quell the anxieties of many Nigerians. The speech, although comprehensive in scope, **lacked specific timelines** for the proposed actions and did not directly address the core issues raised by the protesters. This disconnect has left many Nigerians feeling unheard and unassuaged.

Request for a Live Interview:

We call for a **live-interview chat** with President Tinubu to precede the proposed national dialogue. The live interview chat is essential to **restore faith and trust** between the government and its citizens by providing a platform for the President to directly address the pressing concerns of Nigerians and outline **clear, actionable timelines** for the implementation of promised actions and reforms. More so, the live-chat interview will serve as an opportunity and enable Nigerians to ask pertinent questions and receive direct responses, thereby fostering a deeper connection and understanding between the government and its citizens.

Key Reasons for the Live Interview:

Direct Engagement: A live interview will facilitate direct communication between President Tinubu and the citizens, showcasing his commitment to transparency and accountability. This direct engagement is crucial for rebuilding trust and ensuring that the government's intentions are clearly communicated and understood.

Setting Timelines: The live interview will offer an opportunity for the President to provide specific timelines for addressing critical issues such as the cost of governance and fuel price reduction. Clear timelines will give Nigerians a concrete understanding of the government's action plan and progress.

Contextual Clarity: While the President's recent speech contained valuable content, it lacked the necessary context to resonate with the current realities of Nigerians. A live interview will bridge this gap, ensuring that the government's message is both impactful and relevant.

Demonstrating a Listening Leadership: As President Tinubu has expressed his commitment to being a listening leader, this live interaction will reinforce his dedication to hearing and addressing the concerns of all Nigerians. It will demonstrate his willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue with the populace.

Importance of the Live-Chat Interview in a Democracy:-

In a democratic society, the government's responsiveness to the needs and concerns of its citizens is paramount. A live-chat interview will exemplify the administration's dedication to democratic principles by facilitating an open and transparent exchange of ideas and concerns. This will also serve as a precursor to the proposed national dialogue, establishing a foundation of trust and mutual respect.

Next Steps: To ensure the success of this initiative, we propose the following steps:-

Careful Selection of Media Outlets: Media outlets for the interview should be carefully selected, and approved by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), to ensure a broad and balanced representation of perspectives. These outlets should field questions from Nigerians across the nation, ensuring that the voices of the youth and other key demographics are heard.

Live Coverage and National Dialogue: The interview should be broadcasted live, allowing citizens from all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to participate. We suggest utilizing large venues such as stadiums to accommodate the youth and other citizens. The dialogue can span three days, with each state having the opportunity to field questions and engage with the President.

Focus on Key Issues: The live interview should address the specific demands of the protesters, including the cost of governance, fuel price reduction, and other pressing economic and social issues. This focused approach will ensure that the concerns of Nigerians are addressed comprehensively.

Conclusion:

Once again, we urge President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR to consider this request for a live interview. We believe that this direct engagement will be a significant step towards resolving the current unrest and restoring faith in the administration. It will demonstrate your willingness to engage directly with the people and address their concerns in a timely and transparent manner for meaningful dialogue as stated in your recent speech.

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

God Bless Federal Republic of Nigeria!