

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN, OYO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION, MR JIMOH TIJANI, AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26, MARCH 2012 AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE BY 10:00AM

We need to congratulate ourselves for the opportunity given to us by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Oyo State, Senator Isiaq Abiola Ajimobi to serve and be identified with the “Restoration Agenda” of the current administration in Oyo State. We commend His Excellency for appointing pioneer members for the Commission which was not done since establishing the House of Assembly Service Commission in year 2007. By his action, he had displayed a rare sense of sincerity as a patriot and true democrat, who believes in balance of power.

2. The House of Assembly Service Commission is established to stress and strengthen the independence of the Legislature and to emphasize the sanctity of the principles of separation of powers as contained in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This is bound to ensure balance of power, in this circumstance, between the executive and the Legislature.

3. At this juncture, I want us to understand that every Member of our Commission is qualified to be the Chairman of the Commission. It is just normal and a privilege that one person has to be chosen to direct the affairs of the Commission with the support of other members. It is like the Parliamentary System of government where a minister is chosen as the Prime Minister among the Ministers.

4. We need to work together as a closely knit team, working for the common goal of our dear State. We need to develop good working relationship and provide our people with the knowledge, skills and type of leadership that will make others have a good perception of us. All our actions must be by consensus, it is by this that we can foster the principle of inclusiveness and thereby eliminate rancor within the system.

5. I am very happy that we have members from different background who have excelled in their various endeavours. And from all indications, we have a Secretary that is experienced and over years been part of the system. We need to, therefore,

pull our knowledge and experiences together to develop and improve the Commission and the House Service.

6. I am confident that we will not fail in the performance of our duties. We have a collective responsibility to make Oyo State House of Assembly Service first class service and a good reference point to others. We need to exhibit high level of mutual trust, honesty and integrity executing when our duties. We must be transparent, fair and impartial. Our word be our bond.

7. As the Chairman of the Commission I am easily accessible. I am available to our Members every hour of the day and night so that we don't postpone what we can do today till tomorrow. I am equally open to objective criticism.

8. The Environment in which we will be working is very challenging, challenging in the face of general insecurity and inadequate resources. We have to work with whatever we get and do more with less resources. As the public service body that is to administer Oyo State House of Assembly, our duty is to administer human resource of the House to achieve the main objective of making laws for the peace, order and good governance of Oyo State.

9. In order to face the challenges ahead of us and in the pursuit of excellence, we need to invest more in our staff who are our key resources. We must boost staff morale and reward professional competence while upholding the objectives of making appointments, promotions, transfer and maintaining disciplinary control over our Staff without fear or favour.

10. For effective take off of our Commission, we need, firstly, to understand the requirements set out in enabling Act establishing the Commission and secondly, we need to evolve a 'Plan' that will guide our actions of providing services to the House and its Members over the next four years. The 'Plan' will serve as a working document for the period and it is to be aimed at strengthening our identity as a parliamentary service, distinct and independent from Civil Service of the Government.

11. We have a lot of work ahead of us to enable us position the House of Assembly Service where we want it to be in the next four years. As a statutory and highest policy making body we are required to hold meetings weekly and operate the

Commission on Committee System. These and others are areas to look into to Set the Scene. Members are therefore, enjoined to submit written suggestions that will form the basis of our discussions now and in the future.

12. May God bless us all, bless Oyo State and Federal Republic of Nigeria.