



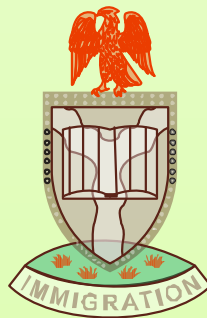
## **“BUILDING ON LEGACIES”**

**BEING THE TEXT OF A LECTURE DELIVERED  
AT THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF JOS, PLATEAU STATE**

*BY*

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**NIGERIA  
IMMIGRATION  
SERVICE**

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**VENUE: MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM, BAUCHI ROAD  
CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF JOS.**

## PROTOCOL:

### 1.0 PREAMBLE:

1.1 I consider it a rare privilege and great honour to be invited to this great gathering to deliver a lecture on the topic: “**Building on Legacies**”. I actually received this invitation with great enthusiasm and nostalgia as I see this Public Lecture as an uncommon opportunity to share a few ideas on this rather thought-provoking concept, with the management, lecturers, students (Great Josites) and other stakeholders of my dear alma mater - the University of Jos. With a deep sense of humility and gratitude to Almighty God, I am glad to be a proud ambassador of this citadel of learning; the Centre of Academic Excellence, Discipline and Dedication, having undertaken my undergraduate studies in the Department of Sociology between 1977 - 1981 in this esteemed Institution.

1.2 I therefore wish to sincerely commend the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor - Professor, Hayward Babale Mafuyai and indeed, the University management team for thoughtfully organizing a line of activities, including this Public Lecture, in commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University of Jos.

1.3 Obviously, Legacy is about life and living. It is about learning from the past, living in the present and building for the future. Legacy is fundamental to what it is to be human. Research shows that without a sense of working to create a legacy, human beings lose meaning in their life (Susan V. Bosak). Exploring the idea of legacy offers a glimpse into human relationships and building strong communities.

1.4 The giving and receiving of legacies, be they personal, institutional or national legacies, can evoke, all at once, the entire spectrum of basic human emotions: hope, longing, regret, anxiety,

fear, dread, jealousy, bitterness, rage, a sense of failure, a sense of accomplishment, pride, contentment, joy, gratitude, humility and love. The world is not connected by molecules; it is rather connected by stories, traditions, memories, hopes and dreams. We are connected by the legacies passed down from those who came before us and the legacies we pass down to those who come after us. This is even more so in our societies which contemplates the existence of a network of relationships predicated on inter-dependence, equality, commonality of interests and brotherhood.

1.5 Building a Legacy is not a discrete task with a beginning and an end. It takes a life time to construct a legacy. The concept of legacy therefore is a powerful life tool for all ages and a catalyst for social change.

## 2.0 SCOPE

2.1 For convenience of analysis, the scope of this lecture will cover the following areas:

- (a) Brief Conceptual definition of the terms - 'Building' and 'Legacy'
- (b) Building on Legacies: The Nigeria Immigration Service Perspective
- (c) Building on Legacies: Highlights of our National Development Efforts
- (d) Major Constraints to Building on Legacies
- (e) Recommendations/Conclusion

3.0 CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS Before delving into the topic, it is imperative to briefly define the key words we shall be referring to in the course of this lecture namely; 'Building' and 'Legacies'.

**3.1 Building:** To build simply means “to construct by putting together materials and parts” (The New Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language: International Edition). For our purpose, ‘Building’ could be described as the process of designing and implementing a line of actions over a given period of time. The subject matter may be concrete items such as infrastructure, initiatives, policies and programmes that require implementation for purpose of achieving set objectives. It may also refer to intangible factors such as the process of exhibiting certain behavioural patterns, ideas, culture etc, over a period of time. Building in this context may refer to an individual, a community or a country. Therefore, every effort or action, positive or negative, beneficial or harmful, forms part of the building process in the life time of the individual, Community or Country concerned.

**3.2 Legacies:** According to Wikipedia - The Free Encyclopedia, “Legacy is a testamentary gift of property after death”. Similarly, the Black’s Law Dictionary, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition defines Legacy as “A gift by will, especially of personal property and often of money”. These definitions are apparently restrictive as legacy may not necessarily be limited to property, money or other material possessions. Similarly, it is not only the dead that can bequeath legacy. In our context, we may describe Legacy as something resulting from or left behind by an action, event or person. Consequently, a legacy is the concomitant or cumulative effect of an action, initiative or programme of an individual, a Community or a Country. Legacy therefore goes beyond money, property or other forms of material possessions which a testator may by the operation of a will bequeath to a chosen beneficiary. As a matter of fact, unlike legacy of material possessions or physical structures, it is hardly within the realm of possibilities to ascertain those who may enjoy the benefits or suffer the burdens of intangible

legacies such as ideas, behaviours, attitudes etc, handed down to generations.

**4.0** Since the University of Jos assumed the status of a full-fledged University in 1975, verifiable records attest to the fact that this citadel of learning has made tremendous impact in human capital development in Nigeria and beyond. The numerous research activities and professional programmes undertaken by this University have in no small measure helped in prescribing solutions to various scientific, technological, environmental, socio-cultural, economic and political problems of not only Nigeria but humanity at large. In furtherance of its well articulated objectives which include; “To produce men and women in diverse fields of endeavour who are immensely imaginative, practical, creative, humble and dedicated to the service of humanity”, the University of Jos had vigorously pursued its mandate of Teaching, Research and Community Service. The legacy of excellence and qualitative education in the catchment areas and beyond, built by this esteemed institution over the years is indeed, worthy of emulation by other institutions of higher learning in Nigeria, particularly the new generation Universities.

**4.1** Needless to say, many years back, agitations in the Ivory Towers in Nigeria were not self serving. They were usually embarked upon for the common good in order to positively influence society and bring about behavioural change. A flash back to the protests by students and lecturers of the University of Ibadan against the continued attachment of the Balewa Government to the British Colonial Masters would remind us that those historical positive agitations compelled that Government to abrogate the obnoxious Anglo-Nigerian Defence Pact of 1961 which derogated from Nigeria’s autonomy and independence. Therefore, rather than belonging to formidable forces of various Associations

which bring the nation to a halt now and again in the pursuit of goals that do not serve public good or advance our national interest, our commitment to building on the good legacies of our predecessors would mean that lecturers get more involved in research works designed to solve societal problems while Student Unionism should function as a veritable platform for positively influencing the actions and policies of Government to guarantee equality and fairness in the affairs of the nation, and not as an avenue for exhibiting hooliganism and other forms of anti-social behavior.

## **5.0 BUILDING ON LEGACIES: THE NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE PERSPECTIVE**

5.1 Historically, the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) used to be a Department under the Nigeria Police Force, pursuant to Immigration Ordinance of 1958 but later became an Immigration Department under the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (now Interior) following the enactment into law of the Immigration Act of 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1963 which was recently repealed. Immigration as a security outfit in Nigeria assumed a full fledged status as a Para-Military Service in 1992 with changes in nomenclature and from that time, it became headed by a Comptroller-General, and the functions of the Service over the years cover a wider spectrum of activities as provided in the extant Laws and Regulations.

5.2 Armed with the enabling legislation and several other instruments, the Nigeria Immigration Service performs the following functions, among others;

- (a) Control of entry, exit and monitoring of the activities of foreigners in Nigeria while equally ensuring the legal emigration of Nigerians.

- (b) Implementation of Migration related Bilateral and Multi-lateral Agreements between Nigeria and other countries of the world.
- (c) Issuance and Control of travel documents which include; Standard, Official and Diplomatic Passports as well as ECOWAS Travel Certificates (ETCs).
- (d) Administration and Implementation of Nigeria's Visa Regime.
- (e) Manning and Patrolling of Nigeria's borders which include Land, Sea and Air.
- (f) Combating Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and other trans-border crimes.
- (g) Executing deportation and repatriation Orders in respect of Prohibited Immigrants.
- (h) Administration and Implementation of Nigeria's Expatriate Quota Regime.
- (i) Preparing Eligibility Briefs in respect of foreigners seeking to obtain Nigerian Citizenship by Naturalization.
- (j) Intelligence gathering, Investigation and Prosecution of breaches of Immigration Laws and Regulations.
- (k) The Nigeria Immigration Service also participates in the formulation of security policies that address regularly, both national security and conflict management through monthly attendance of the Joint Intelligence Board (JIB) meetings usually chaired by the National Security Adviser.
- (l) Participation in other Adhoc security functions such as Joint Task Force (JTF) and Operation Zaman Lafiya; Election Monitoring and involvement in the processing of applications for National Identity Cards to prevent

unscrupulous foreigners who may want to compromise such processes.

5.3 In furtherance of our commitment to building on the legacies of our predecessors, when the present administration of the NIS came on board about two (2) years ago, we deliberately assessed our roles and operations till 2013 and fashioned out a Blue Print that will guarantee global best practices and efficient, and effective service delivery in our operations and activities, with particular focus on Border Security; Internal Monitoring/Control; Application of modern Technology and Staff Welfare/Development (Total Immigration Officer).

5.4 Without sounding immodest, we have passionately followed through on this agenda and with the support of relevant stakeholders, we have been able to record meaningful progress (in terms of tangible and intangible accomplishments) in our operations and activities. For the purpose of this lecture, it may be expedient to highlight that in the past two (2) years, we have been able to consolidate on the tremendous efforts of our predecessors towards the management of migration in Nigeria, through the following initiatives:

- In 2013, a Border Patrol Corps was established within the NIS to be specifically trained and equipped with modern arms and gadgets for border patrol assignments. We have successfully trained 1500 members of the Corps and they have been all deployed across our border formations. As a matter of fact, our reinvigorated efforts in Border Patrol operations have yielded a lot of dividends, including the apprehension of suspects of Trafficking in Persons and seizure of several Voter Cards (temporary and permanent), National ID Cards and other breeder documents from some nationals of our neighbouring countries.



- 2013 also witnessed the creation of 30 additional Control Posts and 27 additional Patrol Bases to serve as back-ups to the newly created Control Posts. Consequently, we now have a total of 114 Control Posts and 72 Patrol Bases nation-wide. This measure is aimed at reducing the patrol distance between two Control Posts thereby increasing the rate of response by patrol operatives to potential security threats.
- In 2014, the Service awarded contract for the installation of HF Voice and Data Codan Radios at Some Control Posts in addition to procurement and distribution of border patrol All Terrain Vehicles; Porter Cabins, Bullet Proof Vests; and other accoutrements across our formations for effective discharge of Immigration duties.
- **e-Passport Reforms:** In July, 2014, the NIS embarked on certain reforms to further strengthen the e-Passport system against possible abuse. The Reform which was essentially based on our operational experiences and demand driven, took into cognizance price and age segmentation for Passport administration

**Other recent initiatives include:-**

- Introduction of Payment and Passport Issuance Integration to prevent revenue leakages
- Introduction of previous Passport Number on reissued Passports for consistency of records and to check document fraud
- Establishment of electronic Queuing System in the highly congested Passport Offices to promote orderliness in Passport Offices and improve service delivery
- Commissioning of a Data Centre to address the challenges with the e-Payment platform

- Introduction of capturing ten-finger prints in Passport issuance
- Arrangements are also being perfected for the introduction of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of e-Passports with Polycarbonate Data Page and enhanced security features.
- We are also mapping out strategies to integrate the issuance of Emergency Travel Certificates (ETCs) with the e-Passport database
- In the same vein, in furtherance of our overarching objective of making the e-Passport regime more relevant in the country's Internal Security Control and Monitoring, the NIS had engaged the services of another technical partner for the verification of addresses and building a database of addresses given by passport applicants and their guarantors. This initiative now makes it easier for the Service to share necessary credible information on passport applicants with other security Agencies. This is in addition to the establishment of e-Archives across our Passport Issuing Centres for storing the soft copies of all breeder documents submitted by passport applicants to forestall subsequent frivolous requests for change of data on sundry grounds, especially by passport holders with criminal records.
- Implementation of the new Nigeria's Visa Policy approved by the Federal Executive Council in 2012, to boost tourism and attract Foreign Direct Investments, Innovators and Entrepreneurs
- Review of Nigeria's Visa fees on the basis of the customary principle of Reciprocity
- Abolition of Re-entry Visas in line with global best practices in Migration Management

**5.5 New Legal Framework:** Some of our activities have been encumbered due to the obsolete nature of our enabling legislation. To overcome this anomaly, the NIS has in the past decade, vigorously pursued the review of our Immigration laws to reflect existing realities since Immigration offences, like other crimes are dynamic. The Immigration Bill which was passed by the Senate on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 subsequently enjoyed Presidential Assent on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, bringing into force, the Immigration Act 2015 which has also domesticated the United Nations Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants (as part of the Palermo Convention which Nigeria has ratified).

5.6 In a nutshell, the Immigration Act, 2015 which has repealed the erstwhile Immigration Act of 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1963, has made the following innovations in the legal framework for the regulation of the operations and activities of the Nigeria Immigration Service. The major innovations include:-

- i. Introduction of appropriate penalties in respect of Immigration offences to forestall the hitherto frustrating experience of people violating our Immigration Laws with impunity, either because their actions were not covered by the obsolete law or the penalties stipulated were so negligible;
- ii. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Migration Directorate within the NIS, to specifically dedicated to investigating and prosecuting cases of Smuggling of Migrants. This will enable the Service to more effectively combat the menace of irregular migration with other attendant trans-border crimes;

- iii. The Act has equally incorporated the provisions of the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1985, Cap P1 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 so as to harmonize relevant Immigration related legislations instead of having same in piecemeal;
- iv. The new Act makes provision for establishment of a Division of the Federal High Court which shall be responsible for trying all matters relating to Immigration and Smuggling of Migrants. This innovation will certainly enable expeditious determination of Immigration related cases;
- v. The Act has also accorded necessary legal backing to guarantee seamless implementation of the Nigeria's new Visa Policy; and
- vi. With the coming into force of the Immigration Act 2015, there would be a better and most predictable platform for Public - Private Partnership arrangements in the execution of our projects in national security and economic interests.

5.7 To us in the Nigeria Immigration Service, while we appreciate the fact that we have made relative progress in carrying out our statutory mandate within the security matrix of Nigeria and in enhancing the efforts of the Federal Government towards attracting massive Foreign Direct Investments, we sincerely recognize that the Immigration Officers/Men who are driving the processes, activities and operations of the Service, form the nucleus of the legacy of the NIS. To this end, we are ever committed to building on our legacy of a well trained, informed and disciplined "Total Immigration Officer" who is able to perform his official duties, with the aid of requisite technology, with a

high sense of professionalism, so as to position the NIS as a world class Migration Management agency, which can favourably compete with any of its peers anywhere in the world.

## **6.0 BUILDING ON LEGACIES: HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS**

6.1 There have been several visions and policies designed and to some extent, implemented by previous Heads of Government of Nigeria (Military and Civilian), since our independence in 1960. Successive Governments had tried to entrench the tenets of good governance to promote accountability, transparency, efficiency and the Rule of Law in public institutions at all levels. In addition, various efforts have been made to ensure sound and efficient management of human, natural, economic and financial resources for equitable and sustainable development. The prominent examples include:-

- the Green Revolution (1979-1983) which aimed at transforming the Agricultural sector and to use the gains thereafter to revolutionize key sectors of the economy
- the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) initiative (1983-1984) aimed at fighting corruption and instilling discipline in the polity
- the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida Administration which was followed by the Sani Abacha's radical policy which greatly de-emphasized influence of the International Institutions while upholding the need to concentrate on domestic efforts towards transforming Nigeria
- the Chief Obasanjo's economic policies which focused on the Banking and Telecommunication sectors, and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS)

- the Umar Yar’adua’s policy package which was tagged 7 -Point Agenda where he focused on seven sectors of the economy as the engine room to the transformation of the entire Nigerian economy
- the Dr. Goodluck Jonathan’s Transformation Agenda which focused on strong, inclusive and non-inflationary growth; employment generation, poverty alleviation and value re-orientation of the citizen, with 13 sectors of the economy as spring board. The resurgence in the electoral procedures and practices which had greatly deepened the Nigerian democratic dispensation as well as the guaranteed access to information through the instrumentality of the Freedom of Information Act are very prominent good legacies of the Jonathan’s administration.
- President Muhammadu Buhari’s Inaugural Speech on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 which emphasized on Good Governance; Security of Lives and Property; Law and Order; Anti-corruption Crusade; Public Service Reforms as well as the provision of enabling environment and infrastructure, particularly Power and Health Care. The philosophy behind that Inauguration Address and the ‘Change’ mantra of the present administration will expectedly provide necessary guidance for appropriately building good legacies for future generations.

6.2 Although Nigeria’s development efforts had over the years been apparently characterized by lack of continuity, consistency and commitment to policies, programmes and projects, one common denominator in the myriad of policy initiatives of the successive Governments in Nigeria is the quest to build on the legacies of our founding fathers and to re-position the country’s drive to development

in the critical spheres of the economy hinged on the Rule of Law where peace and justice shall reign. Nigeria is no doubt a blessed nation, with immense human and material potentials graciously bestowed on us by providence. As we strive to build on the legacy of good governance, our democracy should be defended to strengthen our credentials as a leader nation in the comity of democratic nations.

## 7.0 MAJOR CONSTRAINTS TO BUILDING ON LEGACIES

7.1 Nigeria's inability to decisively tackle most development challenges such as poverty, unemployment and deplorable state of infrastructure has been largely attributed to bad governance in all its ramifications. This scenario has been a major setback as it does not allow for sound and efficient management of human, natural, economic and financial resources for equitable and sustainable development. However, the challenge of poor governance which has been a major hindrance to building on good legacies is a multiplier effect of a number of factors, a few of which are highlighted below:-

i. **Greed:** It is very worrisome that in our days, our society is in a lamentable situation. As a result of marked ravenousness and unchecked quest for materialism, values that were held sacrosanct years ago have been thrown overboard. Unjust acquisition of wealth has been fuelling in no small measure, the perennial challenge of corruption at every rung of our national life. Manifest greed which pushes people into all manner of nefarious activities blind their eyes to the need to build good legacies, as in their opinion, the end justify the means.

ii. **Indiscipline and Moral Perversion:** The gross indiscipline and moral decadence particularly among youths also constitute a huge challenge to our efforts in building on good legacies. In our days, we

are faced with unbridled disregard for moral values and societal ethics. The situation is further compounded by the perennial and ever growing problem of youth unemployment which has indeed rendered many idle minds the devil's workshop.

**iii. Incessant Problem of Insecurity:**

“Of all woes, none is perhaps as worrisome as the growing state of insecurity in the country. If people are poor, hungry and starving, they can at least continue to live and hope for better days. But when their lives and property are under threats .... Life can indeed, be hellish” - (Omotosho, 2008).

In contemporary Nigeria, the challenge of ethno-religious crises and terrorism, particularly the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East have greatly affected social relations, political and economic development in the affected States and communities. Such crises which had caused wanton destruction of innocent lives and properties while equally breeding unprecedented number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) does not put our communities in good stead to pass on good legacies to future generations as we can only build on legacies in an atmosphere of tranquility and decorum, in which law abiding citizens and residents pursue their legitimate business without hindrances. “A nation's socio-economic wealth, potentials, political and military powers are directly proportional to the degree of efforts: economic, political, cultural and scientific, that, that nation directly or indirectly invests on its national security” - (Danfulani -2011). For our purpose, it therefore follows that while powers and potentials at the disposal of a society or country constitutes its legacies, the



required efforts to explore, improve and sustain those powers and potentials depicts the very important process of building on such legacies.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION**

**8.1** Legacy thinking helps us to put the important task of succession planning in perspective. We must realize that our stay on earth is within a time frame and we need to determine to become more committed to upholding and ensuring the transference of the primacy of the indestructible legacies of values, ethics and ideas we deem important, as we collectively strive to reposition our society. To steer our legacy in the right direction, the following measures are non-negotiable.

i. **Value re-orientation/Civic Education:** We need to go back to the drawing board and educate the citizenry on the need to embrace and always exhibit such values as patriotism, loyalty, honesty, integrity, transparency, respect for constituted authority and dedication to the national cause. In this direction, the National Orientation Agency, Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and other advocacy groups in the drive towards sensitization/enlightenment, all need to improve on their efforts at bridging the gap between the effect of ‘modern civilization’ and the age long moral values and very revered traditions and standards of the African people. In addition, to ameliorate the current trend of emergence of educational institutions (at all levels) as repositories of very dangerous acculturation, armed banditry, socio-economic delinquency, cultism, students unrest with doses of organized crime group violence, a thorough re-organization of Schools Curricular with

emphasis on civics and socio-cultural education becomes most desirable.

ii. **Mentoring:** Building on legacies is a life time activity and it transcends generations. This implies that at every stage of human existence, the younger generations must have mentors and role models from whom they can acquire behavioural patterns approved by the society. Such continuity will forestall any disconnect and the emergence of a generation that is estranged from well established traditional norms and values of the society. The onus is therefore on everyone of us in positions of authority and influence - as parents in the family; teachers and lecturers at levels of Educational Institutions; Government Officials; Political Office Holders; etc to endeavour to rise to the responsibility of molding the character and value system of people who look up to us in all ramifications. This is the only way we can entrench the cherished principles of transparency, hard work and merit in the attainment of set goals, thereby ensuring continuity in the legacies handed down by past generations.

iii. The success or otherwise of the efforts to curtail widespread insecurity, including terrorism, as currently being experienced in most African countries, lies in the pursuit of the **need for enhanced co-operation and action oriented approach** among member States and between the continent of Africa and the international community. This is absolutely indispensable as terrorism, banditry and urban crimes are not restricted by any artificial or imaginary boundaries, they can be so fluid. Consequently, the need for collaborative efforts between countries and regional blocks cannot be over-emphasized, and in this vein, the recent State visits by His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to his counterparts in Niger and Chad

Republic to solicit support in crushing the menace of Boko Haram within the region is highly commendable, and should be sustained. In a nutshell, drawing regional actors into coordinated bilateral and multilateral frameworks that involve border surveillance and control as well as harmonization of security efforts to deal with the threat posed by terrorism, would be a step in the right direction to contain the menace.

8.2 Obviously, the threats to our security in Nigeria like other countries of the world (including terrorism, insurgencies, proliferation of arms, ethnic militia, farmers and pastoralist clashes, political banditry, students unrest, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, money laundering, etc) are not static threats. Rather, they are constantly evolving in response to the events on ground, including our efforts to combat them. Our response to these threats will only be successful if coordinated through appropriate inter-agency synergy and effective international collaboration. In other words, fighting criminal activities especially those of cross border or transnational dimensions require intervention across multiple agencies.

8.3 However, early warning systems should be institutionalized to help stakeholders respond as due, to the vagaries of conflict or danger signals before their graduation to explosive, disintegrative stages.

## **10.0 CONCLUSION:**

10.1 I would like to end this lecture with the words of a Business Philosopher and Author - Jim Rohn who had rightly expressed thus:

“Those who came before us leave us with the world we live in. Those who will come after will have only what we leave them. We are stewards of this world, and we have a calling in our lives to leave it better

than how we found it, even if it seems like such a small part”.

10.2 If we look back on our own lives, we will see ‘Legacy-Leavers’ everywhere, from the founding fathers of our country-Nigeria to our parents, former teachers, elderly family members, predecessors in office, etc. All these people left us with instructions on how to live for better or for worse. It is now our turn to decide on what kind of legacy we would leave for posterity and we must rise to the challenge. We cannot afford to fail future generations!

Thank you very much for your kind attention and may God Bless.

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