



# RIVERS ELDERS AND LEADERS FORUM

11 OPOBO CRESCENT, NEW GRA, PHASE 1, PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE



24 DECEMBER, 2023

His Excellency,  
Alhaji Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,  
President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces  
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Your Excellency Sir,

## **AN OPEN LETTER ON THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN RIVERS STATE**

Your Excellency, we hope this letter meets you well and compliments of the Season.

We will like to commend Your Excellency, for heeding to our call; to help mediate in the political rift between Chief Barrister Nyesom Wike, the Honorable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and Sir Siminialayi Fubara, the Executive Governor of Rivers State. However, as a people, we are now at a loss as to whether your intervention has helped in quelling the crisis or escalated it.

For us, as custodians of the Rivers peoples conscience and morality, we find the directive resolution document lopsided and skewed in favour of the interest of your current Minister, Chief Barrister Nyesom Wike, to the detriment of the Governor, Sir Siminialayi Fubara, the governance of the state and the interest of the generality of the good people of Rivers State.

### **OUR OBSERVATIONS AND STAND:**

1. The composition and attendance showed lack of balance between the two warring factions.
2. The faction recognized by a court of competent jurisdiction, the Elders of Rivers State, traditional rulers, women and youth leadership, were not represented at the meeting.
3. The eight point resolution or directive asked for the reinstatement of commissioners who willfully resigned, and the 27 former legislators who in all clear conscience and by legal implication jumped boat and got themselves



dismissed from the affairs of the Assembly, should be reinstated and remunerated, smacks of a sense of political irresponsibility, lack of sensitivity to the laws of the land and due process. Furthermore, **DOES THE PRESIDENT HAVE THE POWERS TO OVERRULE THE RULING OF A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION WHEN HE IS A PRODUCT OF THE COURT HIMSELF?** Central to this, Mr. President, is the sacred doctrine and practice of the separation of powers. May we inform Mr. President that the seats of the cross carpeting members have been declared vacant by the Speaker, known to law, Rt Hon Ehie Edison through an ex parte order issued by the Federal High Court Port Harcourt division.

4. We cannot but imagine how providing accommodation and meeting venue for legislative business becomes the duty of members of the House of Assembly who you directed to seat wherever they choose and not by the Executive Arm as in the case of the National Assembly Complex were Legislative Quarters are provided and maintained by the Executive Arm.

5. Given the foregoing, it is obviously evident that Governor Siminialayi Fubara, the Chief Executive Officer of Rivers State, was coerced into submitting to your premeditated action plan even when it is well known that Mr. President does not possess such powers to give directives to a democratically elected Governor or impose his will on the State Government and the good people of Rivers State.

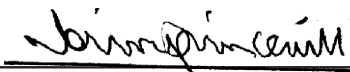
6. As far as we are concerned, that meeting did not happen and those directives are not implementable because to do so will be acting against the constitution and the rule of law.


Mr. President Sir, please accept the assurances of our highest regards.

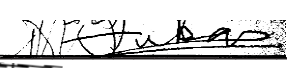
**SIGNED:**

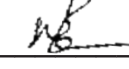
His Excellency, Chief Rufus Ada George CON GSSRS 

HE Alabo (Dr) G.T.G. Toby, KSC, DSSRS 

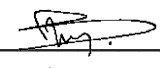
HE Ibim Princewill 

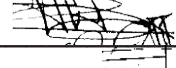
Rear Adm. O. P. Fingsi, (Rtd), OFR 

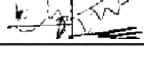
HRH Alabo Emeritus Prof Dagogo Fubara 

HRH NLA Iraron, Ede Obolo II 

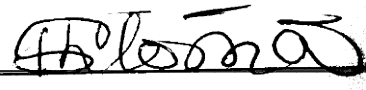
HH Anabs Sara Igbe 

Sen Bennett Birabi 

Ms. Annkio Briggs 

Captain Nwankwo 

Prof. A.W. Obianime JP 


Aseme-Alabo Prof. E. T. Bristol Alagbariya, JP, KSC 

High Chief Marcus Atata JP 

Sen Wilson A. Ake 

Dr Silva Opusunju \_\_\_\_\_

Sen Andrew Uchendu 

Dr. Kalada Dick Iruenabere. 

Atamuno Atamuno \_\_\_\_\_

Prof. King N O Nyenke 

Omie G Abbey \_\_\_\_\_