



TRANSITION MONITORING GROUP

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THE TRANSITION MONITORING GROUP CONDEMNS THE ARREST OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIA LABOUR CONGRESS AND URGES NIGERIANS TO JOIN HANDS FOR A SUCESSFUL STRIKE AND MASS ACTION

The Transition Monitoring Group [TMG], condemns in strong terms the 9th of October 2004, arrest of President of the Nigeria Labour Congress Mr. Adams Oshiomole. The TMG coalition and its over 170 civil society and human rights organizations across Nigeria supports the demand of the Nigerian Labour Congress [NLC] that the Federal Government returns to the pre September 23rd 2004 pump prices or face strike action and mass protest. In demonstration of its resolve and commitment, the TMG has directed its member organizations to combine and cooperate with Labour to carry out the protest action in all states of the federation.

The TMG is firmly of the view that: -

- ❖ The welfare and security of the people is the bedrock of governance, a goal the present government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has consistently disregarded.
- ❖ The Government is not permitted under the Constitution to enact policies and programmes antithetical to the interest and will of the people
- ❖ The Government must address the needs of the “living”. While promises of a better fiscal regime remain unaccompanied by transparent and effective policy; the frequent increase in the prices of petroleum products creates a situation of instability that further impoverishes not only Nigerian workers, but the unemployed, the urban and rural poor who form the majority of the Nigerian people.
- ❖ The Chief Olusegun Obasanjo government has persistently failed to be responsive to the needs and realities of the majority of the Nigerian people and thus failed to provide leadership.

- ❖ The current silent takeover of the Nigerian economic sector by western multinationals in name of privatization and deregulation is synonymous with the re-colonization of the Nigerian nation by western multinationals, which will further pauperize and impoverish the common people of Nigeria.

Having reviewed the situation and policy options regarding the recent fuel price increase in Nigeria, and conscious of its responsibilities to the Nigerian people, the Transition Monitoring Group concludes that the increases are unnecessary and detrimental to the welfare of the nation.

TMG calls on the Government and its agencies in the interest of our democracy to immediately: -

1. Revert to the pre September 23rd 2004 prices for the various grades of petroleum products
2. Rehabilitate the refineries across the country without further delay; it is wasteful and indeed shameful for an oil producing nation of Nigeria's status, to consistently import a resource it possesses.
3. Address comprehensively the structural and procedural distortions in the Nigerian economy through a structured transparent consultative process inclusive of all stakeholders.
4. Release the NLC president, Mr. Adams Oshiomole who is a law-abiding and patriotic Nigerian, defending the cause of organized labour and common men and women of Nigeria

The TMG reminds the Federal Government, that posterity would hold it responsible for any democratic reversals and breakdown of civil order that might occur if it refuses to bow to the wish of the ordinary people of the country by failing to revert to the pre September 23rd 2004 pump prices.

TMG calls on all Nigerian people to remain calm in the face of apparent contempt for the will of the people by the executive arm of government led by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. The strike of 11th October 2004 is not just about a change in petroleum prices but an assertion that power and sovereignty lies in the hands of the people. **Let us join hands and say no to civilian dictatorship. We deserve a better deal!**

Angela Odah
National Coordinator
TMG
10th October 2004