

Nigeria: Presidential Inauguration 2023:

Nigeria: Pre- Inauguration Activities & Awards

May 25, 2023

May 25, 2023: Abuja: As countdown to the inauguration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu continues, he was conferred with the Highest Presidential Honour today- **Grand Commander** of the **Federal Republic** (GCFR). Senator Kashim Shettima, the Vice President Elect was conferred with Grand Commander Order of the Niger (GCON).



*President Buhari honours the President-Elect
by conferring **Grand Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic** (GCFR)*

The President also handed over the Transition documents to the President-Elect.

Extracts from the Address delivered by President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja on Thursday, May 25th, 2023:

After HIS INVESTITURE with the HIGHEST NATIONAL HONOUR, PRESIDENT-ELECT, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu thanked the President, for bestowing the nation's highest honors on his Vice President- elect Shettima and on himself. Asiwaju Tinubu also thanked the President for the transition documents and the committed work performed by the Transition Council headed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF).

At the solemn occasion, when the process of transfer of power was beginning, in public, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu re-dedicated himself to national purpose and

destiny. He said,” This stately occasion is living evidence that **Nigeria is a vibrant and true democracy.**”



May 25th, 2023: President Buhari with the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect

Asiwaju Tinubu applauded President Buhari for recognizing the injustice of the annulment of the 1993 election, to designate **June 12 as Democracy Day**, and to bestow the nation’s highest honor on the late **MKO Abiola**. He said,” As much as anyone could, you reached back into history to set the record straight and heal a festering wound.”

President-Elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu said that the people have put their trust in us. He said to President **Muhammadu Buhari**,” You have done your part, Mr. President. Now, that great duty descends on me. ..I must run this race and must do it well. On security, the economy, agriculture, jobs, education, health and power and in all other sectors we must make headway. The people deserve no less. In this, I shall disappoint neither them nor you, Mr. President.”

The 2-hour function proved to be an extremely interesting and solemn ceremony.

May 23-24, 2023: Abuja: **Regimental Dinner, organized in honor of President Muhammadu Buhari**: The transfer of power from President Muhammadu Buharu

to the President-Elect is scheduled for May 29, 2023. The armed-forces organized a Regimental Dinner in honor of their out-going Commander-in-Chief on Tuesday, 23rd May 2023. The Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor, in his address at the Dinner, reassured Nigerians of the military's commitment to the growth of democracy in the country.



23rd May, 2023: Chief of Defense Staff: General Lucky Irabor

He added that the military in collaboration with other security agencies would stop at nothing to ensure the country was adequately secured as part of its effort to contribute to the development of the country.

The CDS, however, pledged the military's loyalty to the president and constitution as Buhari bows out of office.

"I assure you that the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies will consolidate all the successes recorded so far, especially on the ongoing counter-insurgency and anti-banditry operations across the country.

"We shall continuously and tirelessly strive to secure all that constitute Nigeria's wealth as our contribution to national development.

“On behalf of officers and personnel of the armed forces, the police, and other security agencies I most sincerely thank the president for gracing this occasion.

“Your coming has boosted our morale. Consequently, I hereby reaffirm our loyalty to the president and the constitution of Nigeria as this administration rounds off,” Irabor said.

Dignitaries at the event include Africa’s richest businessman and Chairman of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Ministers, past Service Chiefs, heads of security and intelligence agencies, other government functionaries as well as some state governors.

Note: Please read about “Nigeria: Program of Inaugural Activities & Court Cases” of May 19, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-program-of-inaugural-activities-court-cases/>

Please read about “Nigeria Welcomes Tinubu as its President-Elect” of March 3, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-welcomes-tinubu-as-its-president-elect/>

-----LIST of CIVILIAN AWARDS-----

1. **Grand Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (GCFR):** It is the highest national honour in Nigeria, and the Presidents of Nigeria have mostly held it. EXCEPTIONS: (i) During the second republic, President Shehu Shagari conferred the honour to **Chief Obafemi Awolowo** for his outstanding service to Nigeria before and after independence.

(ii) In 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari announced the conferment of the GCFR honour on the late **Moshood Kashimawo Abiola**, the presumed winner of the June 12, 1993 election.

2. **Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON):** This is Nigeria's second-highest national honour and has been mostly bestowed on **the Vice President, the Senate President and the Chief Justice.**

EXCEPTIONS: The award has also been conferred on individuals that have been **exceptional in international politics and the diplomatic space.** Last year's recipients: (i) **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** is the **Director General of the World Trade**

Organization, and (ii) the **Nigerian-British Amina J. Mohammed** is the **Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations**.

3. **Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR)**: This is an award that is bestowed upon **past and present Speakers of the House of Representatives**, top **cabinet members of the national executive council**, **military generals**, **past and present police chiefs** and **traditional rulers**.

4. **Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON)** In recent times, **state governors**, **lawmakers**, **senior advocates** and some top **cabinet members of the national executive council** are being conferred this title.

5. **Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR)**: This is the highest civilian national honour in Nigeria. It is awarded to individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the nation in various capacities.

Recipients of this honour have demonstrated outstanding leadership, contributed to national development, and promoted unity and peace.

6. **Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON)**: This is the second-highest civilian national honour in Nigeria. It is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields, such as academia, business, arts, and culture. Recipients of this honour have distinguished themselves through excellence, innovation, and national impact.

7. **Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR)**: This is a national honour awarded to individuals who have shown remarkable service and commitment to Nigeria.

This honour is often conferred on individuals who have excelled in public service, governance, and community development.

Last year, Afro-fusion sensation and Grammy Award winner, **Burna Boy** was conferred with the MFR honour by President Muhammadu Buhari.

8. **Member of the Order of the Niger (MON)**: This is a national honour bestowed on individuals who have made notable contributions to the nation. It recognizes their achievements and positive influence in their respective fields, including sports, entertainment, journalism, and social advocacy.