

HAND OVER REMARKS

As a term of reference, I'd like to revisit and underscore the centrality of some foundational principles of our nation-hood.

Nigeria's coat-of-arm spots a black shield which represents the good earth of Nigeria.

It is precisely this symbol that I'd like to invoke as a point of entry for my invitation to you.

Ours is rather humbling, yet exciting mandate – to unearth the hidden treasure of our richly endowed country – Beginning from Ground Zero.

Which we are, individual and collectively. The question is

What's in your hand?

A gem? A diamond-in-the rough? An implement? I am reminded of a spiritual command to thrust in the sickle and reap!

“Thrust in the sickle and reap!”

Herein lies the essence – or thrust so to say, of my invitation.

Again, beginning with “Grand Zero”

The metaphor of “ground zero” speaks to the socio-cultural assets that abound to us gathered here.

Assuming you are the figurative Ground Zero,

“What is in yours hands?”

What can you bring to bear on task we've been assigned? Fortunately, you are no strangers to the imperative for excellence.

My formidable predecessor did enough heavy lifting to ensure a Solid ground work for us to lift as we climb.

As we regroup to execute our change, I am reminded of a favorite name which is Azubuike. We are a team and we are as good as our weakest link.

What's in your hand? How can you best facilitate the agenda to unearth the enormous hidden treasures of Nigeria? By sheer happenstance, I had the opportunity to interface with some key management staff today and I was energized by the level of expertise around the table.

I count on your continuing commitment and on your tireless pursuit of the level of excellence that will make our mandate a reality. What's in your hand? Think about that!

Professor Leslye Obiora
Minister of Solid Minerals Development

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