

FINAL PRESS RELEASE

**NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON**  
**MOURNS DEATH OF PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA**

With heavy heart and deepest regret, the Nigeria High Commission, London announces the death of His Excellency, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, GCFR.

2. The 58 year-old President died at State House Abuja on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, after a protracted illness. He will be buried today, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2010 in his hometown Katsina, Katsina State of Nigeria in accordance with Islamic rites and tradition.

3. In honour of the departed President, first, a seven-day period of national mourning has been declared by the Federal Government of Nigeria with effect from today, 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. Second, Nigeria's national flag will fly at half-mast in Nigeria and all Nigeria's diplomatic and consular Missions abroad. Third, a Condolence Register has been opened to the public at the Banking/Reception Hall of the High Commission at No. 9, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BX as scheduled below:

**Friday 07 May 2010: 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**  
**Monday 10 May 2010: 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday 11 May 2010: 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

4. Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua was born in the ancient city of Katsina, on August 16<sup>th</sup> 1951 to the famous Musa Yar'Adua family. He obtained a B.Sc Education degree with specialization in Chemistry in 1975 from Ahmadu Belo University, Zaria. He returned to the same University in 1978, earning a Master's degree in Analytical Chemistry in 1980. Yar'Adua taught Chemistry at the College of Arts and Science, Zaria before venturing into private business and eventually into politics.

5. Yar'Adua was a member of the 1989 Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC), which prepared the groundwork for the return to civil democratic governance in the aborted Third Republic. In 1990, he became the Secretary of both the defunct Peoples Front (PFN) and later, was elected the State Secretary of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in Katsina State. A year later, he emerged the SDP gubernatorial candidate in the state. In 1999, he contested and won the governorship of Katsina State on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) – a position he retained for eight years following his re-election in 2003.

6. For Yar'Adua, politics was seen as a vehicle for transforming the society for the general well-being of the citizens. He was a successful Governor of Katsina State from 1999 to 2007, where he left behind a lasting legacy of physical development of infrastructure, schools and hospital construction. Given these exceptional antecedents, the PDP decided to field him as its Presidential candidate during the 2007 Presidential election. He contested and won the election convincingly.

7. The late President Yar'Adua would be remembered for a number of things. These include his spirit of Servant-Leadership, high personal integrity, transparent honesty, commitment to the supremacy of the rule of law, the Seven-point Agenda, Nigeria's Vision 20:2020, the creation of the Niger-Delta Ministry, and the implementation of the Presidential Amnesty for Niger-Delta militants which had restored relative peace to the troubled region.

8. The Acting President of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, was sworn-in this morning as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria following the demise of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. Dr. Jonathan took the oath of office at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, with government Ministers and other important State officials

present. Justice Aloysius Katsina Alu, Chief Justice of Nigeria, performed the swearing-in ceremony.

9. In his remarks after the swearing-in ceremony, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan paid glowing tributes to the departed national leader. He declared that his Administration would focus on good governance, electoral reform and combating corruption, which are essential components of the Seven-point Agenda.

10. The Nigeria High Commission London this morning commenced the mourning of the departed President. We wish his gentle soul rests in perfect peace, Amen.

Information Section,  
Nigeria High Commission,  
9 Northumberland Avenue,  
London, United Kingdom.  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2010.