

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**DR. ELISHAMA IDEH'S STANCE ON THE OUTCOME OF PACT AND THE FUTURE OF HER POLITICS**

You will recall that Dr. Elishama Ideh made her public declaration to run for the office of the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria under the auspices of Alliance for New Nigeria on the 31st day of May, 2018.

It is important to point out that her aspiration has neither been borne out of wishful thinking or the tentativeness of an unsure mind. Rather, it is the natural product of twenty years of interfacing with, and working to bring solutions to a segment of the Nigerian society that represents a whopping 61 percent of the populace. This specifically refers to those at the base of the economic ladder – the injuriously poor, the homeless, the destitute, widows, addicts and so many others in conditions and circumstances that good doesn't describe. It is only a strong mind and a compassionate heart that can take up the responsibility of fixing this human space. Having seen the very face of poverty and mastered its workings within this space, an overwhelming burden developed within her to curtail its corrosive effect on a nation that is potentially rich but practically poor; impoverished by a leadership lacking in vision, courage and empathy.

Her noble desire also coincides with the subject of her advocacy over the years, namely that women should have adequate representation in the different sectors of our socio-economic expressions, particularly in governance. That society courts decay and degradation that does not allow her woman talent to flourish. And so, in pursuance of this cause that has the rebirth of the Nigerian nation at heart, she decided to throw her hat into the ring, bringing in the natural flair and dexterity of the female as well as the guided intelligence of researched learnings, to figure out, isolate and fix with appropriate emotional intelligence, the conundrum that is the Nigerian situation. Over the last few months, she has run a very credible campaign-ready organisation, building structures and gaining the buy-in of Nigerians across the wide communities that make up this great national entity.

Finding a political home in ANN was natural for Dr. Ideh considering that the values espoused by the party aligned with her vision for a new Nigeria. The party's claim of total divorce from the jaded and conscienceless politics of the past was soon to be challenged by a series of improprieties that took several chinks off her moral armour, chief of which was the well-planned hijack of the party by an outside element whose values cannot be reconciled with those of the party, in connivance with some party chieftains. She complained about this unbecoming development and some equally fundamental issues. When it became obvious that sanity had gone to sleep and the playing field would no longer be level and free, she pulled out of the party's convention. Her fellow aspirants, Mr. Fela Durotoye and Dr. Thomas-Wilson Ikubese followed suit. Their action was vindicated when the party thereafter admitted to these flaws and made an attempt at self redemption by orchestrating a change of guard in some strategic positions. Whilst it is to be seen whether the party is truly purged of her bile, her relationship with the party continues to be civil and guided.

Dr. Ideh is totally undeterred in her quest to provide transformational leadership, curtail poverty, promote security and achieve meaningful women and youth inclusion in governance. And through a well-articulated agenda that you are all aware of, she has

set out the path for the recovery of the nation's fortunes and esteem. As a greenhorn in the Nigerian political space, harboring no self-promoting or base agenda other than seeking the transition of our dear nation from the backwoods of Lilliputian subjection into the full graces of her productive giant stature, she is comfortable with subsuming her noble desires in a collective whose ideals reflect this true pursuit. It was this patriotic fervour that led her into P.A.C.T (Presidential Aspirants Coming Together)

As you are well aware, PACT comprises of aspirants that are new to the Nigerian political space but are willing to work together to drive a new narrative and build a formidable front that increases the chances of success in the forthcoming presidential elections. Collaborating members went further to agreeing to elect a consensus candidate from among them whom the rest will commit to supporting and thereafter band their different support bases into political and electoral capital for the chosen one. The August 30, 2018 process produced the admirable and noble-intentioned Mr. Fela Durotoye, as the consensus candidate. It is worthy of note that some aspirants backed out of this arrangement for different reasons, depleting the number of participants in the process. Also, in the aftermath of the election that produced Mr. Durotoye, a couple of aspirants declined signing the agreement. However, Dr. Elishama Ideh followed through, in true conscience and in submission to the value of integrity that has run her life over the years. All she wants is a great Nigeria of great Nigerians with dignity, prosperity and peace.

In spite of the public outcry and concerns raised over the process gone through, Dr. Ideh sees the underlying principles of patriotism and selflessness at work; ideals to which she is irrevocably committed. In her words, "Our intentions were noble and we thought to push the agenda to its logical conclusion." At this point, the Elishama Ideh Presidential Campaign Organisation acknowledges the noble role played by the dauntless amazon and honourable champion of a new Nigeria, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili who oversaw the Thursday, August 30 process. Her commitment to genuine transformation in Nigeria is never in doubt and her several contributions towards pulling this nation out of her rot shall never go unrewarded.

In rounding off, let me state that Dr. Elishama Ideh was drawn into PACT by love of country and the perceived laudable values of the group of young aspirants. To this very moment, she remains committed to the founding principles and ideals of the collective. We have an opportunity too dear to miss, a people too oppressed to neglect and a future too bright to shy away from. She wants everybody to be rest assured that she is still in the race.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Tomide Olukuade

Spokesperson, Elishama Ideh Presidential Campaign Organisation. Thank