

2023 LEADERSHIP AGENDA SUMMIT.(Nigeria Edition)

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The Leadership Agenda Summit organized by the Brian Reuben Policy Group, which was held in Lagos, on the 27th of January, 2023 brought together a team of experts from different fields to deliberate on a wide range of issues, designed to build a new leadership template for the Nigerian state.

The summit under the main theme, *Nigeria At Inflection Point* was broken into several other sub themes, such as, *Rebuilding social trust in Nigeria, Unlocking Capital For Nigeria's Development, Leadership in Times Of Seismic Global Stability*, among other sub themes.

In discussing the variety of subject areas, participants noted that the 2023 general election in Nigeria, affords another opportunity for the country to throw up new thinking and direction, not just for the country, but the global arena as holistic entity, the submission of participants at the summit, is that, if anything goes wrong with Nigeria, that in itself portends great danger for Africa as a continent, hence the need for urgent policy interventions for the country.

In taking appraisal of the current state of leadership structure in Nigeria, participants observed, that leadership continue to remain a major challenge for the country, a development they pointed out has continued to deprive citizens from access to major basic needs, required to make meaning of life, the conviction of participants, is hinged on the increasing number of persons, falling deep into poverty trap almost on a daily basis in the country.

Participants further noted that the absence of proactive leadership in Nigeria is largely responsible for the faulty recruitment process, with another understanding that the huge gap between leaders and their subjects remain a great hindrance to providing a viable platform for policy formulation .

Speaking on the theme, *Unlocking capital for Nigeria's Development*, stakeholders averred that foreign exchange volatility continues to impede the drive to unlock capital for Nigeria's development, the belief is that, foreign exchange stability is a critical catalyst needed to drive development.

On rebuilding social trust, the speakers observed that leaders must build the capacity to carry their subjects along when formulating policies, through consultations which they noted must be a bottom-top approach. By so doing, the participants acknowledged will avail leaders the true position and understanding of the real needs of their subjects during policy formulations. 'It is

only in this context, according to summit participants, that social thrust between leaders and their subjects can be rebuilt in Nigeria.'

On the subject of housing deficit in the country, and ways to address the challenges associated with it, the summit noted that crime rate will remain on the high side, inasmuch as housing continues to remain inaccessible by many, majority who live in slum settlements.

As expected, the troubling issue of power supply challenges in Nigeria, also took centre stage at the summit, with participants noting that achieving Nigeria's development agenda can only be achieved, when issues of corruption which participants noted poses great risk, is tackled head-on by government as it concerns the power sector space in the country.

With a mindset to get things right for the largest and most populous country in the African continent, stakeholders at the forum, also sought ways to address the dangers of fake news pushed out to the public, by some media platforms in Nigeria, the participants submitted that unverified information, which they say has now become the norm for some of these media outlets, has great potentials for undermining the credibility of the media sector in Nigeria, the concern is that unverified contents by media houses, put's Nigeria's democracy at great risk.

The one day summit while setting agenda for Nigeria's national development, resolved that Nigerian leaders must begin to adopt effective and strategic communication models needed to carry citizens along the policy formulation ladder, by so doing, according to participants, the space for a more robust relationship will be allowed to grow between government and subjects.

One other resolution at the summit was the call for inclusive governance in the decision making process, the idea according to some of the resource persons, is to ensure that policies of government get more buy-in from a wide section of the society.

Meanwhile, a more effective social funding strategy was also advocated as a panacea to tackling the challenges of housing deficit in the country, with participants also acknowledging that effective fiscal appropriation is what is required to bring to an end the funding gap in the nation's power sector space.

On what should be done to combat the era of fake news media, the forum noted that the need to build local capacity for the media sector in Nigeria has become even more critical, particularly in the build up to the general election in February.

The Leadership Agenda Summit series is hosted globally by the Brian Reuben Policy Group. At the Leadership Agenda Summit, big minds come together to confront the big issues troubling our world to create a better world. The Summit delivers a very influential network of leaders from around the world. It connects leaders, and their organizations, to each other and to their partners in the services, finance, government and investment worlds.

Our focus is on brokering relationships that lead to strategic collaborations. We work with leaders and leading organisations on every continent. Experience has taught us that while each situation is different, global connectivity to peers is more important than ever.

By bringing these leaders together at the Leadership Agenda Summit, we aim to facilitate new investment, encourage business development, share best practice, guarantee peer-to-peer networking, offer new industry insight, showcase excellence and promote thought leadership across the world.

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