



## **JUNE 12: PLAC CALLS FOR RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY**

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On the occasion of June 12, a day recognised throughout Nigeria as Democracy Day, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) calls for recommitment to the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

June 12, 1993, was epochal in deciding the choice by Nigerians of democracy over dictatorship and arbitrariness. It marks the day in 1993, when Nigerians voted against rule by force. As we mark June 12, 2021, PLAC is concerned that the ideals of democracy, representative government and respect for human rights and rule of law, continues to be seriously eroded. Nigerians are disappointed that their expectations of democracy have receded severely. Government in Nigeria has taken several actions that put our democracy in retreat including clampdown on basic freedoms and failure to deliver on development.

The recent Government ban on Twitter operations in Nigeria and its consequent violation of the right to free expression and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference, is a major indicator of crumbling freedoms in Nigeria. PLAC is also concerned that the Government has failed abysmally, in guaranteeing security across the country, with banditry, kidnapping, killing and several other serious crimes escalating throughout Nigeria. Several other development indicators show that the country is not doing well at all. High levels of unemployment, rising inflation, scarcity of food and deep levels of hunger and poverty are further indicators of how abysmal Nigeria's situation is.

PLAC calls on Government at the Federal and State levels to recommit to the ideals that June 12 represents – the ideals of Constitutional Democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law and citizens focused development.

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**SIGNED:**

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PLAC is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit capacity building organisation that works to strengthen democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. Through broad-based technical assistance and training, PLAC works to promote citizens' engagement with government institutions and to advocate for legal and policy reforms and promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes. At the core of our programming is a deep commitment to increase legislative advocacy, promote transparency and good governance, support and promote electoral reforms, enhance citizen's access to public policies and advance anti-corruption campaigns. Over its 7 years of history, PLAC has worked and evolved into a foremost and leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy.

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