

President Tinubu Tasks ECOWAS on Unity as Parliament Inaugurates 6th Legislature

President Bola Tinubu has charged the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to work towards achieving unity and coercion for opportunity and prosperity in the region. President Tinubu, who is the Chairman of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, underscored this need, at the inaugural session of the sixth legislature of ECOWAS Parliament, in Abuja. He said profound challenges confronting the bloc demands unified efforts to resolve. Affirming the important role of the ECOWAS Parliament in the bloc's journey towards a future of peace and prosperity for all, President Tinubu said success cannot be achieved without the loyal contribution and hard work of the community's legislative agency. "Furthermore, to realize the ECOWAS 'Vision 2050', we require greater involvement of the people in the decision-making processes of the community. That can only be achieved through their duly-elected representatives who, being members of their national parliaments, are seconded to the community parliament. We are here, collectively, to serve all the good and great people of West Africa. The President assured of his support in the proposal for the direct election of

members into the parliament, noting that the move would give citizens of member states a say in who represents them.

Similarly the Nigerian Senate President Godswill Akpabio called for unity among ECOWAS member states, urging the lawmakers to use the parliament to build the bridges of unity and progress. " We have worked tirelessly to address the challenges facing our region. From economic challenges, inequality, to security threats and such innovative resolutions to foster sustainable development and prosperity for all. However let us not rest on our oars," he said. He tasked the bloc to consolidate on the successes of their predecessors to forge a path towards a more inclusive, equitable and prosperous future for all. He stressed the need for the deepening of regional integration enhancement of trade and investment as well as promotion of the free movement of goods, services and people within the region. Earlier, President of the ECOWAS Commission Omar Touray urged the newly inaugurated members of the parliament to live up to their responsibilities, while assuring of the Commission's support in achieving their mandate.



*Sixth legislature:***Tuggar harps on importance of ECOWAS Parliament**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar, has said that the role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament is more important to the sub-region than ever. Tuggar stated this during the inaugural session of the sixth legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja. In attendance were President Bola Ahmed Tinubu; Senate President, Godswill Akpabio; President of the ECOWAS Commission, Omar Alieu Touray; outgoing Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Sidie Mohammed Tunis, amongst others. Tuggar who doubles as the Chairman of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, expressed the deepest appreciation of the council to the outgoing 5th Legislature, especially its Speaker, for their invaluable contributions to the ECOWAS Parliament and the organization as a whole.

Tuggar further said the role the 5th legislature played, particularly in the promotion of regional integration agenda, democracy, and good governance in West Africa, cannot be overstated. "As Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, I had the privilege of working with the 5th Legislature, and witnessed first-hand, their commitment to advancing the goals of our organization. Indeed, the 5th Legislature's extensive work enhanced the efficacy of ECOWAS Community Institutions and their programmes.

"In the face of the various challenges confronting our region, including peace, stability, security, as well as the unity of our region, the role of the Parliament is more important than ever. The

balance between executive, judicial and legislative arms is critical for effective, responsive and transparent governance. This was recently demonstrated by the key role played by Senegal's judiciary in ensuring that national elections were not delayed. ECOWAS is no different. Let us remember that democracy is a process not an event. The Parliament, and other Community



Institutions, are of vital importance in promoting democracy and regional stability," Tuggar said.

Tuggar also said it was imperative that the Parliament continued to work in synergy with the ECOWAS Commission and other institutions that serve as the executive and judicial arms of the organization. "Collaboration between the Commission, Court and Parliament is essential to ensure the smooth implementation of policies and programs that benefit our citizens. I encourage you to maintain constructive dialogue with other bodies and to align your efforts with the broader objectives of ECOWAS.