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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BCNA REJECTS THE INADEQUATE RESPONSE BY THE MANAGEMENT OF NIPSS AND CALLS FOR A DIRECT AND PERSONAL PUBLIC APOLOGY

The Berom Community North America (BCNA) has carefully reviewed the statement issued by the management of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) concerning the Director General's (Prof. Ayo Omotayo) recent reference to "Berom militia" during his interview on Arise Television. While BCNA acknowledges the attempt to address the widespread concerns generated by the interview, we respectfully submit that the statement falls short of the standard of accountability expected from the head of Nigeria's foremost institution for policy and strategic leadership.

The expression "Berom militia" is not a casual or inconsequential description. Coming from the Director General of NIPSS during a nationally televised interview, it carries the authority of his office and inevitably shapes public perception. Such language unfairly associates an entire ethnic nationality with criminality and armed violence, reinforces damaging stereotypes, and risks legitimizing false narratives about a people who have themselves suffered immense violence, displacement, and loss over many years.

Rather than accepting responsibility for the inappropriate use of the term, the statement seeks to explain that the Director General was merely referring to "reports, commentaries and speculations" already circulating in the public domain. That explanation is neither persuasive nor sufficient. Public officials, particularly those entrusted with advising the nation on security and strategic affairs, are expected to distinguish verified facts from speculation. Repeating unverified narratives on national television does not diminish their impact; rather, it lends them greater credibility because of the office from which they are spoken.

The Berom people have hosted NIPSS for decades with remarkable goodwill, hospitality, and cooperation. The Director General, by virtue of his years of service at the Institute, is well acquainted with the character, resilience, and contributions of the Berom people. This familiarity should have demanded greater caution, accuracy, and sensitivity in addressing such a delicate matter.
BCNA recognizes the community development initiatives highlighted in the statement, however, commendable engagements with host communities cannot substitute for accountability when public remarks have caused injury to the reputation and dignity of those same communities.

More importantly, the response issued by NIPSS cannot reasonably be regarded as a complete apology. It apologizes for the concern created by the remarks while simultaneously attempting to justify the basis upon which those remarks were made. Genuine apologies do not seek refuge in speculation or third-party narratives. They acknowledge error, accept responsibility, and commit to doing better.

BCNA therefore respectfully calls upon the Director General of NIPSS to personally issue a clear, unequivocal, and unconditional public apology acknowledging that the use of the term "Berom militia" was inappropriate and should not have been used. We further request that such an apology be delivered through the same, or an equally prominent, public platform on which the original remarks were made. A statement that was made before a national television audience should be corrected before a similarly broad audience so that the record is properly set straight.

This appeal is not made in the spirit of hostility or confrontation. Rather, it is motivated by our collective commitment to truth, justice, responsible leadership, and the preservation of mutual respect among Nigeria's diverse communities. Public officials have an obligation to ensure that their words unite rather than divide, especially when addressing sensitive security issues involving vulnerable communities.

BCNA remains committed to peaceful coexistence, constructive dialogue, and collaboration with all institutions working toward lasting peace and national unity. We believe the Director General has an opportunity to demonstrate genuine statesmanship by issuing a personal public apology that reflects humility, accountability, and the high ethical standards expected of his office.
The Berom people deserve nothing less.

Signed



Mr. Pam Davou
President
Berom Community North America (BCNA)