



**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONFERRAL OF THE
GRAND LEGACY LAUREATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE (GLLPS)
UPON AMBASSADOR NURA ABBA RIMI**

by the

**Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research,
Documentation, & Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L)**

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I. Preamble: The Standard of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service

The Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS) represents the highest class of recognition conferred by the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy (IHS-BIRD & L). It is reserved for individuals whose service reflects institutional continuity, diplomatic stewardship, administrative discipline, and measurable contribution to national development.

The Institute's evaluation framework is guided by its core principles:

- **Truth first** – documentation grounded in verifiable public record;
- **Guardians of memory** – preservation of contributions with enduring institutional value;
- **Justice through legacy** – recognition of impact often understated in public discourse;
- **History for growth** – identification of public service models worthy of emulation.

The conferral of GLLPS upon Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi rests on documented diplomatic service, transitional statecraft, multilateral engagement, and sustained institutional leadership within Nigeria's Foreign Service and Federal Civil Service.

II. Foundation of Competence: Formation within the Nigerian Foreign Service

Ambassador Rimi's public career began with his appointment as a Foreign Service Officer on 27 January 1993. His early postings across the Foreign Service Academy, the Foreign Service Inspectorate, and the Middle East and Gulf Division reflect structured exposure to procedural diplomacy and institutional operations.

Subsequent assignments at the Nigerian High Commission in London and the Consulate General in New York broadened his experience in protocol, consular administration, and multilateral engagement. These postings were not episodic; they formed a cumulative foundation of technical diplomatic competence.

Equally significant was his extended service within the Presidential Villa in Abuja. His roles as Senior Protocol Officer, Assistant Director (Protocol), and later Presidential Liaison Officer embedded him within the operational centre of Nigerian executive diplomacy.

Institutional preparation preceded institutional responsibility.

III. Stewardship During Democratic Transition

In 2015, Ambassador Rimi served as Presidential Liaison Officer between President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and President-Elect Muhammadu Buhari during Nigeria's transition of power.

This period marked a defining moment in Nigeria's democratic consolidation. The peaceful transfer of authority required procedural coordination, diplomatic discretion, and institutional

continuity. His documented role in facilitating liaison between outgoing and incoming administrations situates him within a historically consequential transition.

GLLPS recognises stewardship during moments when institutional stability must be preserved rather than proclaimed.

IV. Diplomatic Leadership in the Gulf and Headquarters Governance

Between October 2015 and November 2018, Ambassador Rimi served at the Embassy of Nigeria in Abu Dhabi as Minister (Economic Affairs, Trade and Investment), Minister (Political Affairs), and Chargé d’Affaires (ad interim). His responsibilities covered strategic hubs including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah.

This period combined political reporting, economic diplomacy, and mission leadership. Representation extended beyond ceremonial diplomacy into trade engagement and political coordination.

Upon return to Headquarters, he was appointed Acting Director of the Asia and Pacific Division and subsequently Director of the Regions of the World Department. These roles involved strategic oversight of Nigeria’s engagement across multiple geopolitical regions, reinforcing institutional coherence within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

V. Ambassadorship to Egypt: Bilateral Consolidation and Economic Diplomacy

In April 2021, Ambassador Rimi was appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Arab Republic of Egypt, with concurrent accreditation to the State of Palestine and the State of Eritrea.

His tenure was marked by structured engagement in trade, culture, and education. Under his leadership, the Embassy in Cairo organised the maiden Nigeria–Egypt Trade Conference and Exhibition (NETCE) in October 2022, in collaboration with regional partners.

Diplomatic activity focused on strengthening bilateral relations, promoting Nigeria’s image, and attracting foreign investment. Such engagement reflects the integration of traditional diplomacy with economic statecraft.

Bilateral consolidation is a measurable contribution to national interest.

VI. Multilateral Representation and Institutional Continuity

From 1997 onward, Ambassador Rimi represented Nigeria at bilateral and multilateral forums and participated in presidential delegations to global summits, including the United Nations General Assembly.

Between 2019 and 2020, he served as the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Board of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON). This role required inter-institutional coordination and oversight within a sensitive administrative domain.

Sustained participation in multilateral diplomacy reinforces Nigeria's visibility within global governance frameworks.

VII. Senior Civil Service Leadership

On 24 October 2023, Ambassador Rimi was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Federal Civil Service by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria following a competitive assessment process. He was sworn in on 27 November 2023.

As Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, he assumed administrative leadership at the highest level of ministerial governance. This role extends beyond representation into institutional management, policy coordination, and strategic oversight within Nigeria's economic development architecture.

Transition from diplomacy to senior civil service leadership reflects adaptability and institutional trust.

VIII. Institutional Character and Public Value

The documented record of Ambassador Rimi's career reveals recurring institutional patterns:

- Procedural discipline in protocol and liaison roles;
- Commitment to continuity during executive transition;
- Integration of economic and political diplomacy;
- Structured engagement within multilateral and regional systems;
- Progression from operational diplomat to administrative head.

The significance of such a record lies not in spectacle but in continuity of statecraft. Durable institutions depend upon disciplined officials capable of navigating change without institutional rupture.

IX. Alignment with IHS-BIRD & L Core Values

Truth First: The justification rests exclusively on documented appointments and actions.

Guardians of Memory: Diplomatic and administrative stewardship are often under-documented in national historiography.

Justice Through Legacy: Transitional liaison and institutional continuity merit formal recognition.

History for Growth: The record presents a model of structured career progression within the Nigerian Foreign Service and Civil Service.

X. Conclusion: A Record of Measurable Diplomatic and Administrative Achievement

The conferral of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service upon Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi is justified on the basis of documented institutional actions and measurable outcomes, including:

- Coordination of presidential transition liaison between President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and President-Elect Muhammadu Buhari in 2015, contributing to procedural continuity during a pivotal democratic transfer of power;
- Leadership at the Embassy of Nigeria in Abu Dhabi in dual political and economic portfolios, including service as Chargé d’Affaires (ad interim), with oversight across Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah, advancing Nigeria’s economic and political engagement in a strategic Gulf region;
- Oversight of Nigeria’s diplomatic engagement with Egypt, Palestine, and Eritrea, including the organisation of the maiden Nigeria–Egypt Trade Conference and Exhibition (NETCE) in October 2022, structured to expand bilateral trade flows, promote investment partnerships, and reposition Nigeria within North African commercial networks;
- Promotion of Nigeria’s economic interests abroad through structured investment advocacy, trade exhibitions, and diplomatic facilitation aimed at strengthening bilateral commercial cooperation;
- Strategic supervision of Nigeria’s regional diplomatic architecture as Director of the Regions of the World Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, coordinating engagement across multiple geopolitical blocs;
- Representation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Board of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), reinforcing inter-agency governance and regulatory coordination;
- Appointment through competitive assessment as Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, assuming administrative leadership of a ministry central to Nigeria’s economic diversification agenda, policy coordination on trade and investment, and institutional oversight of programmes designed to strengthen industrial growth and commercial competitiveness.

In his capacity as Permanent Secretary, he occupies the highest career administrative office within the Ministry, providing policy continuity, coordinating inter-ministerial implementation frameworks, and reinforcing institutional discipline within Nigeria’s trade and investment governance structure.

These are not ceremonial distinctions. They represent structured diplomatic engagement, economic statecraft, executive coordination, and senior civil service stewardship across bilateral, multilateral, and domestic governance spheres.

The GLLPS is reserved for individuals whose record reflects tangible institutional contribution. The documentary evidence demonstrates that Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi has strengthened Nigeria's trade diplomacy, supported democratic continuity, and provided senior administrative leadership within the Federal Civil Service.

It is therefore the considered judgment of the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy that his record satisfies the threshold for the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS).