**Tinubu Speech [EZ Speech No. 16327]**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Remarks by Mrs. Bola Tinubu honoring her husband, Wale, on the occasion of his 50th birthday celebration.

you know, as i was thinking about what i’d say at this momentous marker in wale’s life — [to wale] half a century, my dear husband, half a *century*! — i wondered what IT would BE LIKE if i went ONTO ONE OF THOSE INTER-NET DATING WEBSITES and pretended to look for a soul-mate WHO matchED wale’s BACKGROUND AND character-istics. i decided on e-harmony, and here’s what i entered under the section for what i was looking for in a HUSBAND [hold up a piece of paper, as if reading from it]:

first of all, he must be an extremely romantic person. he can be a very serious person, but he *must* be roman-tic!

he should OF COURSE be VERY handsome and HE MUST BE in great shape.

he must absolutely *adore* children and want a large family. he must be an absolutely *wonderful* father, as well AND a totally devoted husband who will support me unwaveringly in achieving my own goals in life.

he must be an eternal optimist, with an enduring faith in the possibilitY OF a better future for mankind.

he must be an extremely responsible and hard-working person. ideally, he WILL BE a successful businessman, preferably one who has achieved c.e.o. status and has negotiated some of the largest corporate deals in nigeria.

he must also be a doer and not a talker. workaholics may feel free to apply, as long as YOU’re able to maintain a VERY healthy work-life balance.

he must also be a sensitive and open-minded listener, someone who inspires by his INTELLECT and leads by his example.

oh yes . . . he also must be an accomplished runner and swimmer who loves listening to music. HE MUST ALSO HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, BOTH ABOUT THE WORLD AND ABOUT HIMSELF.

finally, i’m looking for a husband who’ll be in it for the long haul, through good times and bad, and A MAN who TELLS me every day how much i am loved.

[pause, while putting the paper down]

SO i hit “submit profile,” and almost immediately i got a brightly flashing error message saying: “**NO SUCH MAN EXISTS!** [PAUSE FOR LAUGH, HOPEFULLY]  **PLEASE TRY AGAIN.”**

WELL, MR. E-HARMONY-DOT-COM, I’M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT SUCH A MAN MOST CERTAINLY *DOES* EXIST, AND HE IS — TO MY ETERNAL JOY AND COMFORT — MY HUSBAND, WALE.

NO . . . I DIDN’T *REALLY* JOIN E-HARMONY, BUT I THOUGHT THIS WAS A KIND OF NEAT WAY TO SUM UP HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIS WONDERFUL MAN — THOUGH I RATHER THINK MOST OF YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS BY NOW. HE IS MY LOVE, MY PARTNER, MY ADVISOR, MY SOULMATE, MY ROCK.

AND SO, MY DEAR HUSBAND, I WISH YOU THE VERY HAPPIEST OF HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TONIGHT. MAY YOU HAVE MANY, MANY *MANY* MORE OF THEM, AND MAY I BE THERE TO CELE-BRATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WITH YOU.

I LOVE YOU, MY DEAR, WITH ALL MY HEART!

**# # #**