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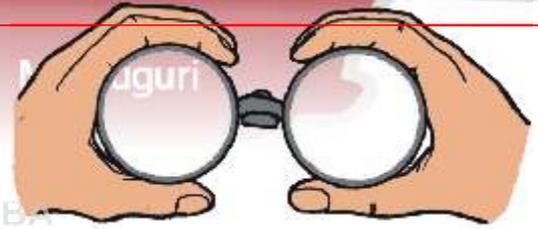
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NorthEast Watch



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Pushing the frontiers for a **NEW** dawn

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EDITORIAL:

WE MUST MOVE FROM DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY TO REAL ACTION NOW!



LAST month, WAEC released the results of its 2016 examinations. The results show that all but one state of the North-East were in the last cohorts of poor performing states. This includes Bauchi State which had earlier declared state of emergency in the education sector.

While we do not expect change to occur overnight, it is expected that the state governments of the Northeast will show greater concern and commitment to revamping the education sector given that poor educational attainment has been one of the major factors responsible for creating the vital reservoir for the replenishing of the ranks of the insurgents.

We had thought that as the military liberates many areas from the hands of the insurgents and the restoration of relative peace continue, the state governments will move in to revamp the education sector through improved funding, innovative reforms, focused engagements with other stakeholders, and robust monitoring and supervision of the education processes. We have thought that we would have by now passed the stage of declaratory emergency and embossed result orientated strategies for improving the education sector.

Instead, so far, we have not moved from the past. The education enterprises in the North-East states have continued to be underfunded, under-equipped, with teachers hardly paid as at when due. There is opacity that has made corruption to

thrive through such dubious devices as ghost teachers, ghost schools, ghost vitiating to schools, fake supervisory reports, falsified enrolment statistics, etc. The result of this can be seen from the poor performance of candidates from these states. The region enrolled the least number of candidates for the examination (itself an indication of the poor status of education in the region) and recorded the largest proportional failures. We cannot get out of the present quagmire of insurgency and mindless violence without creating hope for children which is providing them with decent education.

We sternly call on all the state governors to immediately convene both regional and state levels all-inclusive education summits to draw up a roadmap for getting out of the rot. We equally call on them to open up the education systems by removing opaque practices and enthroning transparency so that corruption which has been undermining effective utilization of resources and thus sabotaging performance can be rid of.

We demand that the salaries of teachers be paid regularly and as at when due. You cannot hope to harvest good results from the education system when the very tools from molding the children, their teachers are underpaid, denied their entitlements and generally demotivated. The WAEC result is a bold statement for the states of the North-East and now is the time to move from declaration of state of emergency to embracing bold and concrete actions.



CITAD TRAINS CLUSTER MEMBERS ON SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION SECTOR IN THE NORTH-EAST

The Center for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) which anchors a USAID supported initiative aimed at ensuring social accountability in the education sector of the Northeastern states has conducted a two-day training to its cluster members in the region with a view to strengthening their capacity to properly monitor educational matters. The event which took place at Custodian Hotel in Gombe had in attendance participants and cluster members from Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Borno and Yobe states.

Giving an opening remark, Mr. Simon Fanto of Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement SACE/USAID observed that education is such a vital sector that demands contribution and continuous monitoring in order to ensure fruitful results. It could be recalled that the West Africa Examinations Council (WAEC) results released in July have indicated poor performance of the northeastern states with Taraba state recording a bit fair above other states.

The training deliberated on relevant and important issues in the education sector noting that the sector be made universal and inclusive while the government should effectively engage citizens in education governance and non state actors should support and compliment government efforts in improving the education sector. The government should also allocate not less than 26% of its total budget to the education, there should be effective, reliable and accessible data through e- governance as well as strengthening legislative oversight on the education sector, these measures when properly utilized will move the sector to a greater height.

Another avenue equally important is intensifying public awareness through the use of media campaigns such as radio jingles, discussions programmes etc. in order to sensitize the public on the need to know that education issues are just the responsibility of not only the government, but, a responsibility of all. In order to ensure that all problems in the education sector are addressed, CITAD which anchors the social accountability in education in the North-East will continue building the capacity of the cluster members on how to properly engage other stakeholders and intensify public awareness on how to promote social accountability in the education sector in the region.

ACCOUNTABILITY CRUCIAL TO DEVELOPING THE NORTH-EAST REGION -SARAKI

The Senate President, Bukola Saraki has stated that accountability and oversight must be the necessary components of Nigeria's efforts to rehabilitate the insurgency-ravaged North-East zone of the country.

Saraki in a statement by his Special Adviser (Media and Publicity) Yusuph Olaniyonu, said this in response to the conclusion of a four-day visit by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Chaloka Beyani.

"We are hopeful about the increasing international attention being shown toward the North-East. On our part, we need to make sure that our accountability mechanisms generate confidence in our ability to absorb and monitor the delivery of aid material and resources," Saraki stated.

The Senate President added that Nigeria was heading in the right direction in tackling the North-East's humanitarian crisis. He however noted that there were still many issues in the areas of accountability, such as sexual abuse, lack of protection and the provision of basic services that need to be addressed. Saraki said, "Gradually but surely, we are heading in the right direction. However, let us not take our foot off the gas pedal. We must make accountability an expectation in Nigeria's humanitarian relief infrastructure. Accountability must be built into all aspects of the relief to rehabilitation effort to promote greater confidence in our capacity." He also emphasized that there was the need to focus on reports on corruption in the relief effort and more on transparent systems to root out corruption and profiteering.

Saraki further stated that when the 8th Senate resumed sitting later in the month, the humanitarian crisis in the North-East would be given priority. "As Senate President, I am sure that I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we are more than willing to work with any and all Nigerians and international stakeholders to restore development, dignity and hope to the people of the North-East," he stated.

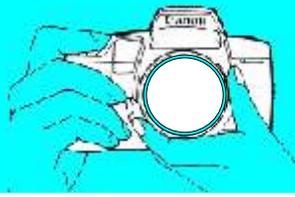


PHOTO NEWS

Issue Learning Forum of the North-East Social Accountability in Education Cluster which took place recently at Custodian Hotel, Gombe, Gombe State. The Forum brought together various Civil Society Organizations working in different areas of promoting accountability and good governance in the North-east, with a view to share knowledge and learning from the cluster model, successes recorded by the North-east cluster and strategies that led to the successes. The forum had in attendance, the Special Adviser to Gombe State Governor on Special Investment, women groups, youth groups and associations of people with this ability. It was supported by USAID Civil Society Project, SACE.



Dangote, Bono Consider Global Partnership to Address Humanitarian Crisis in Northeast



From left: Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Rock star, Paul David Hewson (Bono) and Special Adviser to the President on Social Protection Plan Maryam Uwais during Bono's visit to Presidency

The United Nations Ambassador for High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Rock star, Paul David Hewson (Bono) and Africa's richest man, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, have met with the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo at the Presidential Villa to discuss the possibilities of a global partnership to address the humanitarian crisis in North-eastern part of the country through international advocacy.

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the

Vice President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Laolu Akande, said Osinbajo told the delegation that the federal government would welcome a global partnership that would ensure a concerted and focused international response to the humanitarian crisis in the North-eastern region.

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the Vice President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Laolu Akande said Osinbajo told the delegation that the federal government would welcome a global

partnership that would ensure a concerted and focused international response to the humanitarian crisis in the North-eastern region.

Bono leads the ONE campaign group, an advocacy organisation with more than seven million people around the world taking action to end extreme poverty and preventable diseases especially in Africa. It has on its board people like Mo Ibrahim, Bill Gates, Michael Bloomberg among others. It was founded in 2004.

Addressing members of the delegation that included former UK Development Secretary Douglas Alexander, Osinbajo said: "It is very important that you chose to come and offer some partnership. This is great and we are pleased...Partnership is certainly the way to go."

He said no matter how prepared a country could be, handling the kind of crisis in the North-east with two million displaced people including children would prove a difficult task. According to him, a global partnership to address the situation should be coordinated and more focused on what was required to be done, for instance, in addressing the issue of malnourished children and not attempting to do too much things at once.

Speaking earlier, the Irish-born artist, Bono, said he had visited some of the IDPs, saying "We want to be useful to you." Bono added that what he saw in the region was "deeply disturbing." He also commended the social investment programmes of the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, saying: "We have heard of the incredible plans, the social investment funds," adding also that the level of transparency already seen in the administration is both "very exciting and transforming."

Meanwhile, Dangote, disclosed at the meeting that a total sum of N4.5 billion had so far been spent by the Dangote Foundation in trying to provide

succour to IDPs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States, which have been ravaged by the Boko Haram insurgency. He added that the foundation would continue to reach out to the victims until the end of the current programme by government to restore normalcy to the people.

Bono further lamented that of the estimated \$300 million required as part of the reconstruction programme, only about \$100 million had so far been realised, stressing that going by the magnitude of destruction and deprivation in affected areas, there's need to scale up resources to cope with the humanitarian crisis.

According to both Dangote and Bono the new partnership will focus on the most marginalized citizens, particularly girls and women who face the of poverty and help empower those most at risk from extreme poverty, extreme climate and extreme ideology.

Specifically, Dangote said: "I am in ONE and partners across Nigeria to strengthen civil society and help the government respond to our ongoing health needs and the urgent malnutrition crisis in North-east Nigeria. ONE's extensive network of youth groups and its 2.3 million members will help bring international attention to and action on these issues. All of us can and must do more." On his part, Bono, an ambassador for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the leader of the rock group, U2, said "I am proud to be standing alongside Dangote, whose foundation works for the future of Nigeria and Africa through its young people. The youth of Nigeria, Africa and indeed everywhere are like rocket fuel- there are no limits to how far they can go, they can transform the continent or they can blow up in your face. Harnessing their energy requires investment in their education, employment and healthcare."

Bono said he was particularly heartbroken at the condition of displaced persons-some children never knew their parents and some severely malnourished.



DAWARE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN URGENT NEED OF INTERVENTION

Much still needs to be done especially in schools in the rural areas. They lack so many things that will make them function well. Most school children in these schools don't experience what is called conducive environment that enable teaching and learning process. They take lessons in poor condition with basically no essential learning materials. School children such as those of 'Daware Community' sit not on bare floor but ordinary mud with insufficient mats to take lessons. It is amazing how these children dress in their neat uniforms to come to school but it is sad that they have no desk to sit on, using a more dilapidated structures as their class.

Eliminated to put courage in the parents if at all we care for the future of tomorrow's generation. Ministry of education should consider postings of teachers and maintain close supervision in order to ensure that schools in the rural areas receive the needed attention.

In their quest to see proper functioning of the education sector, Adamawa CSOs working in education sector from time to time embark on visits to education facilities to see for themselves the situation upon which schools and the teachers operate so as to forward and advocate for more attention to the sector where necessary, while noting and appreciating authorities where commendable efforts are noticed.



This time, Centre for Women and Adolescent Girls Empowerment led a team of CSOs representatives on a visit to 'Daware Community' in Fufore Local Government of Adamawa State where they met enthusiastic children that really needed urgent attention.

Pupils at Daware Primary School

At a time when some parents don't mind sending their children to schools, and governments and civil society organizations are mounting campaigns and advocacy for sending the children to schools, all obstacles or barriers to education such as dilapidated classrooms, lack of teachers, desks, toilets, nonpayment of teachers salaries on time should be completely



The team leader, Hajiya Asma' u Joda and other CSOs members assessing the condition of a classroom in Daware Community, Fufore Local Government, Adamawa state.



RESETTLING IDPs (iii)

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) core problems and challenges have of recent attracted lamentation and debates from concerned individuals, civil society organizations, governments, donor agencies, political office holders at different fora. No doubt the continuous maltreatment of IDPs at various camps have now become common issues due to how scandals are reported in the camps on weekly if not on daily basis. One cannot count the number of times he or she heard of diverting IDPs food supplies to markets or to other personal uses. One cannot again count the number of times deaths of especially children are reported as a result of malnutrition, lack of clean drinking water etc. You begin to wonder whether the commitment of improving the welfare of IDPs by federal and state governments is a mere noise, or the IDPs are only serving as umbrella comforting some heartless folks who take benefit of their unfortunate status i.e victims of insurgency.

What remains a mystery for me is how stakeholders either ignore misconducts in the management of IDPs or are reluctant to act, and this unexpected attitude is fueling further abuses in IDPs camps as well as making a living for them terribly bad. The category of people at different camps-women, children, old age, and even the traumatic patients is in itself a message that the packages meant for them should not in any way be tampered with by anybody. Where any corruption

case is reported, those involved should be severely or accordingly punished, that will stop similar occurrence. But, what we are seeing now is nothing appreciable.

Instead of admitting failures and deploying measures to address the failures, some government officials involved in the affairs of IDPs always play defensive game to cover their shortcomings, when an instance of eating coffee pod (Tafasa) by IDPs in Goniri, Katarko, Ngirbua, Kasaisa, Buni Yadi and Gulani was reported, a Yobe state government official quickly dismissed the report claiming IDPs have everything they need while implying that eating coffee pod (Tafasa) is unimaginable, this method will not work, the earlier we accept what is reality and face it, the better.

We all know that issues of IDPs are broad and they demand a lot, and governments at all levels, development partners, civil societies organizations and other stakeholders are putting commendable efforts, but something very crucial to their efforts is the channel to the IDPs. The channel needs to be reexamined and re-strategized so that recurring problems will be tamed. Federal and state governments and their agencies should understand that they take credit for whatever goes right or wrong in managing the affairs of Internally Displaced Persons, as such we expect them to always take good credit.

Dan Auta, why did you tell your mum that you are not coming with me to the farm today? Haven't you heard that the road is now safe



I am afraid my name could change from Dan Auta to 'Chibok Boy' in the news

Sufyan '16



FOR THE RECORDS

EFCC MUST INVESTIGATE THE CORRUPTION IN IDPs RELIEF DISTRIBUTION NOW!

On Thursday 25th August 2016, thousands of impoverished Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) demonstrated in the streets of Maiduguri, protesting that for days they were not being fed. This was not the first time that these unfortunate Nigerians have to complain about the systematic starvation that they have been subjected to by people who have the responsibility to care for them. As a result of this, many people, especially children have died of hunger and malnutrition. This has been widely reported in the papers.

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) which has been monitoring and tracking the efforts to rehabilitate and resettle IDPs is horrified by the callous way IDPs are treated and the culpable silence of governments at all levels. Our partners in Maiduguri and in other locations have observed various ways in which food items meant for IDPs have been diverted by officials and taken to either markets for sale or misappropriated by these officials for their personal and private use. There are also many stories of extortion in which officials demand for money from IDPs to register to collect relief materials as well as other abuses such as demanding for sexual gratification from IDPs.

We in the North-East are happy that the military has been recording successes in liberating a number of areas formerly controlled by the insurgents but we are now extremely worried and alarmed that our brothers sisters, uncles, grandparents and children are dying of starvation due do callousness of these government officials who government entrusted the welfare and well-being of IDPs to.

On several occasions, both state and federal governments have been alerted on this, but they have often either dismissed it or simply make some symbolic noises and let the matter to continue unabated. We feel that this is not the way a government elected on the basis of its promise to stem out corruption in our country should respond to these unscrupulous acts of corruption. The lack of action from government to take concrete measures to stop this hemorrhage of resources meant for IDPs is resulting in a situation in which government by its own inaction is aiding the mass murder of people who have earlier on been traumatized by the Boko Haram insurgents and have seen their loved ones killed. It would appear to them, that surviving Boko Haram, is only a stop gap for them to be killed by hunger engineered by relied officials. This is a major crime against humanity.

Part of the problem is that our government has yet to wake up to the fact that it has no proper instrument or institution to deal with IDPs. We have no National Policy on IDPs. We have failed as a nation to domesticate the African Convention on the Protection of IDPs, otherwise known as the Kampala Declaration. Without such, government has been relying on adhoc structure and diversion of relief materials and corruption are the results. This, therefore is the time that government must put in place a proper IDPs Policy. We call for an immediate enactment of such instrument.

We at CITAD also call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to immediately launch a serious investigation into the diversion of relief materials meant for various IDP camps across the region. In the mean time, we demand that both state and federal governments must take immediate steps to ensure that relief materials, especially food items are delivered promptly to these needy and unfortunate Nigerians whose only crime if it, is to have been victim of Boko Haram insurgents.

We equally like to reiterate a point that we have made on several occasions that corruption cannot be corruption by mere official declaration, it can only be fought when government embrace openness, transparency and demand accountability from its officials and agents: that is the minimum we expect form a government that has made a promise to rid the country of corruption.

Y. Z. Ya'u,
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