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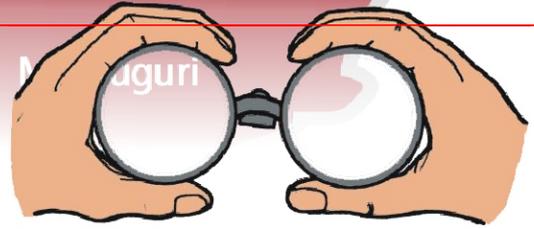
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NorthEast Watch

TARABA



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Pushing the frontiers for a **NEW** dawn

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EDITORIAL:

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT WAITING FOR?



ONE of the major campaign promise of President Buhari was the commitment to restore normalcy in the northeast by overcoming the insurgency and embarking on the reconstruction and rebuilding of the region. Our expectations were raised when the President quickly within the few days of his inauguration set up the Presidential Committee on North East Initiatives headed by General T. Y. Danjuma. Our understanding then was that the Committee was going to become the fulcrum around which government would provide coordination and synergy for the different actors involved in the reconstruction and rebuilding of the north east as well as addressing the humanitarian disaster that is represented by the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Now almost a year since the inauguration of the Presidency and the setting up of the Committee, government has still no blueprint, no roadmap and no concrete programmes for the northeast. While it has been recording clear military victories against the insurgents, it has not so far back up this with concrete programmes and activities that will not only resettle internally displaced persons but also ensure that the processes of restoring normalcy in the region commences.

As we know that insurgency is never fully defeated by military action alone. It is in addressing the existential conditions that allow insurgents to feed on the frustration and hopelessness of ordinary people that insurgency can be rooted out.

It is clear that the country has lost the capacity to cater for the millions of IDPs across the country, especially those in the three most intensely affected states of Adamawa Borno and Yobe. The conditions for many of these IDPs are not only appalling but, as daily reports filter, there are cases of systematic abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation. Consequently, many IDPs are demanding to be returned home. But there for many, is no home to return to. Home was what the Boko Haram insurgents have obliterated in their campaign of bombing and destruction.

Even communities whose areas have been recently liberated by the army, they cannot lead a decent existence there because all means of socio-economic activities, including farms, markets, schools, hospitals, police stations, etc, have all been destroyed. Their means of livelihood have gone.

Thus, even if it is to immediately address the problem of IDPs, the government must show conscious resolve through clear programming and engagement in the north east.

At the moment, the country has no appropriate laws or policies to deal with the many problems that would be countered in the process of resettlement of IDPs. This is why we think that the Government has to quickly address this lacuna by revisiting the earlier initiated National Policy on IDPs.

It is clear that the country has lost the capacity to cater for the millions of IDPs across the country, especially those in the three most intensely affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

We call on the Federal Government to quickly convene an inclusive stakeholders' summit on the reconstruction, rebuilding and resettlement in the northeast so as to agree on a shared development programme for the region. We call for the activation of a mechanism for coordination and synergy in the efforts to rebuild the region. In this sense, we call on the National Assembly to quickly complete the processes of the passing of the North East Development Commission Bill that will become the mechanism for the coordination of government efforts in the region.

In the same vein, we call on the individual state governments in the north east, especially those of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe to come out with their own state reconstruction programmes. These programmes should be arrived at through consultative processes involving all relevant stakeholders. We demand for strict accountability, transparency and openness in the engagement of all stakeholders in the region that will allow not only access to information and data but also the monitoring of accomplishments of programmes and the benefits of such programmes as they implement their various interventions.



SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISTS PLAN TO COUNTER EXTREMISM ONLINE

THE increasing penetration of social media by the extremists has made the real social media activists plan to counter any form of violent extremism online. This was part of the resolution reached at the **Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) - Social Media Summit** held at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja on the 28th-29th April, 2016. It was organized by the office of the National Security Adviser in collaboration with the European Union. During the summit which has more than 70 participants drawn from different organizations, it was agreed that different extremist groups use various form of social media for both radicalization and mobilization purposes. An example was given on how Boko Haram has been able to use most social media platforms in posting videos aimed at threatening both the government and the general public. Even though the use of social media by the Boko Haram has not been very effective,

participants agreed that if countering has not started, the extremists can succeed in the future as they might get technical support from other extremist groups who are using social media in both recruitment and propaganda.

On who has the responsibility to counter violent extremism online, it was agreed that government whose responsibility is to protect lives and properties of the citizen can work in collaboration with CSOs and other social media activists in educating the public on the extremists strategy of using social media in propagating their ideology. CSOs can also plan advocacy to the service providers and other regulators on the need of working together in monitoring such online extremists propaganda. All these will be done with care and taking into cognisance the principles of free speech of all social media actors.

At the end of the summit a Strategic Action Plan has been developed to serve as a guide for the social media activists in countering violent extremism. The plan has messages that will undermine the claim of the extremist group to be the only authority that has correct and only interpretation of Islam.



Participants during the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) - Social Media Summit held at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja on the 28th - 29th April, 2016.

NEWS IN BRIEF



US AGREES TO HELP NIGERIA RECONSTRUCT, REHABILITATE NORTH-EAST - MINISTER



UN REQUESTS N90BN FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA



JAPAN OFFERS \$4.5M TO ASSIST IDPs IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

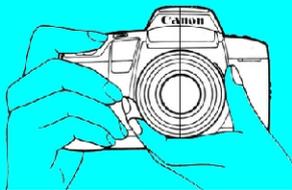


PHOTO NEWS

On 15 March and 19th of May, 2016, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) and CITAD conducted a Buharimetre Quiz for Secondary Schools in the states of Kano and Bauchi. Buharimetre is an accountability mechanism to track how the Presidency is performing. The quiz provides opportunity to test students understanding of basic ideas about social accountability.





MEMO TO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL

By Northeast Education and Social Accountability Cluster

INTRODUCTION

Northeast Education and Social Accountability Cluster with Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) as an anchor is a civil society platform that brings several civil society organizations working for the reconstruction of the north east to pull their strength together and achieve better traction. The cluster was established with the special goal of mobilizing all stakeholders towards the rebuilding and reconstruction of the north east with particular focus on ensuring social accountability in the education sector. It has members from all states of the North East. It is currently implementing a five-year region wide project to ensure social and financial accountability for resources in the education sector as well as in addressing the problems of IDPs in the region. As the only pan-northeast regional platform of civil society, we welcome this opportunity to speak on behalf of our colleagues on the Bill proposing the establishment of the Northeast Development Commission.

We are therefore at one with the Honorable House of Representatives in its effort to provide a law for the establishment of the Northeast Development Commission.

Our cluster has keenly been watching developments in the North East and on two different occasions, we had to address press conference on the need to have mechanism, framework and institutional structure that will address the development challenges in the north east. In a Press Conference we addressed in Bauchi on **2nd March, 2016**, we specifically called for the ***Establishment of the necessary agency or structure that will implement government intervention programmes for the rebuilding and reconstruction of the North East***. We equally said we lend out ***“support for the speedy passage and accent of the North East Development Commission that will eventually take over from the adhoc agency that government could establish as a stop gap”***. The adhoc agency we see is the General T. Y Danjuma led Presidential Committee on North East Initiatives (PCNEI).

We are therefore at one with the Honorable House of Representatives in its effort to provide a law for the establishment of the North East Development Commission. We welcome the establishment of such a body as it will provide the necessary coordination for the work that needs to be done to address the development challenges of the region. We also welcome it because, a legally established agency is better not only to access resources but also have mechanisms for legislature, communities and other stakeholders to hold it accountable to its mandate. We commend the sponsors of the bill who proved to the world that they are at the National Assembly to represent the interest of their constituents especially on the urgent need of development of the Northeast.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. We agree with the rationale for the establishment of the Commission and hence the need for the Bill. The

establishment of such body is even more urgent given the now uncoordinated way in which various stakeholders are engaging in the north east.

2. We support the purpose of the bill which is to establish the North East Development Commission charged with the responsibilities among other things to received and manage funds from allocation of the Federation Account and international donors for the settlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency as well as tackling menace of poverty, literacy level, ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the North East States and for other related matters
3. We agree with the general intention of the functions and powers of the Commission

OBSERVATIONS

1. We note that the Bill is silent on community participation in the activities of the Commission either through representation, nomination of commission members, removal/recall and statutory engagements with the Commission
2. We also note that there is no explicit provision to commit the Commission when establish to deploy consultative and participatory processes in carrying out its duties, which are necessary to avoid the mistake of the past that led to bad and unaccountable governance for which the insurgency that we are suffering is one of the consequences
3. We note that no attention is given that the fact that large scale agriculture could be also result in population displacement, land ownership changes and environmental problems as well as be a flash point of conflicts over land use
4. We feel that while the National Assembly in its statutory duties of oversight, hold the Commission accountable, there are no additional safe guards that will encourage citizens to hold the commission accountable both in terms of the nature of projects the Commission undertakes on behalf of communities and in terms of the utilization of the resources at its disposal.
5. The Bill is silent on issues of inclusivity in the composition of the Board of the Commission. While states of the region as geographical expression are represented, only two specific stakeholders are included, that is the security agencies and companies doing mining activities in the region.
6. We observe that there are no clear mechanisms for coordination and harmonization of plans and programmes between the Commission and members states, even as we note that the Governors of these States are members of the proposed Advisory Board of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consequently, we would like to recommend as follows:

Part 1: Establishment of the North East Development Commission

1. Composition of the Board of the Commission: Under paragraph 2 of part 2, add an additional item (f) to read “3 persons representing people with disability, IDP groups and youth who are to be nominated by the President”. This will ensure that these large stakeholder groups are represented on the Board of the Commission
2. Under paragraph 2(3) of Part 1, suggest a new item be added as follows:
 - a. Before the confirmation by the NASS, the President shall publish notice of nomination of persons from the states and invite the public from those states to either object or accept the nomination. The outcome of these should be sent to the NASS for consideration and where such objections are upheld, the president should withdraw the nomination.
3. Head of the Secretariat of the Commission: Under Paragraph 2(3) of Part 2, we feel the nomenclature of the Head of the Management of the Commission should be Executive Secretary, rather than Managing Director.
4. Under 4). Make area to read area/constituency since area relates to states but vacancy can also occur from the representatives of either security agencies or the solid minerals.
5. We feel that 5(1), Registration cessation or removal from membership should be recast to include Recall, giving communities opportunities to cause the president to recall members whose communities have lost confidence in him or her.
6. We propose a new 5(5) which should read: that where members of community of a state lose confidence in their representatives, a petition to that effect should be sent to the NASS supported by at least 5 signatories who are voters from each of all local governments of the State concerned.

Part 2: Functions and Powers of the Commission

7. Under 7(1)h, it should be changed to “tackle ecological and environmental problems that arise from the extraction and mining of solid mineral or **large scale agriculture** in the North East States and advise the Federal Government and the member States on the prevention and control of water and environmental pollution. This is to recognize the important fact that large scale agriculture can cause displacement and effect land and water uses and their management

Part 3: Structure of the Commission

8. Under paragraph 9(2), we propose an addition standing department or unit by adding a new item € to read “Community Development and Relations Unit. This would be responsible for liaising with communities and for carrying out due and regular consultations with communities as will be required by the work of the Commission.

Part 4: Staff of the Commission

9. In paragraph 12 (1), Executive Secretary should replace Managing Director, and this should be reflected wherever the term Managing Director is used in the Bill

Part 5: Financial Provisions

10. Paragraph 16: Annual Estimate and Expenditure. Given that the funds of the members states would be taken from source to part fund the Commission, and that the Commission would be carrying out in the physical space of these states, there is need for coordination and harmonization of plans and activities between the states and the Commission. To this extent, before the presentation of the estimate and expenditure plan, the Commission should consult their member states in arriving at its proposed budget for the coming year.
11. In paragraph 17 add a new item (4) to read, “Upon adaptation by the NASS, it has caused the report to be public in the spirit of proactive disclosure in line with the intention of the Freedom of Information Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Part 6: Miscellaneous

12. Under 18 add new 2(c) to read, “In carrying it functions, the Commission shall adopt a consultative approach by making sure that communities are consulted with respect to projects, programmes or activities to be executed by the Commission”. Consequently alter the rest of the numbering
13. Although IDPs are not under the remit of the commission. The reality is that for some foreseeable future, addressing problems of IDPs will remain a major issue. A new item should be added to guide how the Commission will relate with NEMA and any other

CONCLUSION

We support the Bill and call for its speedy passage by the House, along with the suggestion we made to the Bill above. We also call on the Senate to immediately commence processes for the consideration and passage of the Bill which we have no doubt that the President will quickly assent to. Without such a body, government efforts aimed at the resettlement of IDPs, and the reconstruction and rebuilding of the North East will be problematic. Its urgency is daily underscored by the expressed wish of the many IDPs to back to their homes but there are actually no homes to go back to. This in deed must link to the fact that the country has no policy on IDPs. We urge that the earlier draft National Policy on IDPs be quickly reviewed by the government, through transparent and consultative processes so that that non-arbitrary framework for the resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs can be deployed in the region.

It was signed by Y. Z. Ya'u, the Executive Director, CITAD on behalf of the cluster members.

CITAD CLUSTER MEMBER ORGANIZES WORKSHOP ON SDGs

RAISING awareness, mobilizing citizens and providing platform for advancing community development initiatives are other functions of civil society organizations. In a bid to contribute its voice to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation in Nigeria, Center for Environmental Education and Development (CEED), Center for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) cluster organization organized a one day SDGs Policy Implementation strategy meeting in Abuja on the 13th of May, 2016.

The workshop was organized with support from More and Better Network Rome with objective "Support for the project Building Capacities for Improved and Effective Engagement of NSAs on the Nigeria SDGs Agenda towards 2030" promoted through its member network across the world, had the participation of representatives of media, civil society and government.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are strategic determined option built on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new goals are unique that they call for

action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income, to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

Speaking during the workshop, on More and Better Network (M&B) Global Support to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Engagement at country levels, Mr Raymond Nyayiti Enoch, CEO of Center for Environmental Education and Development (CEED) said that time has come for CSOs and other critical stakeholders promoting the goals of the SDGs to take the advantage of the More and Better platform to create more awareness and demand accountability from the government especially now that the SDGs goals is at its formative stage. He went further to say that rural development and agriculture is highly a critical goal of the SDGs, as such, CSOs must not lose sight of the engagement and seek for a robust outcomes from the process. He then said that the workshop is called so as to stimulate discussions at country levels so as to find a way of improving the resources government seek to commit to SDGs.

Other speakers at the workshop viewed critically the government investment, its prospects and challenges. The critical role of the media as key in raising awareness and communicating the goals of the SDGs was also stressed.



Group picture taken during the workshop at Women Development Center Abuja Nigeria on the 13th of May, 2016

RESCUED CHIBOK GIRL TO RECEIVE MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE -BUHARI

THE rescued Chibok girl, Amina Ali Nkeki, will have the opportunity to return to school and live her dreams, President Muhammadu Buhari said when he received her at the Presidential Villa. It could be recalled that the young traumatized girl has been in captivity for two years. Amina, who is one of the 219 girls abducted by the Boko Haram sect and rescued at the Sambisa forest, will receive the best medical, psychological and emotional care that the Nigerian government can afford, Buhari emphasized, saying since nothing can be done to salvage the past but the rest of her life will take a completely different course.

Amina's education abruptly disrupted now becomes a priority of the Federal Government as she will be enabled to go back to school. No girl in Nigeria should be put through the brutality of forced marriage, and every girl has the right to education.

President Buhari maintained that although it is impossible to reverse the horrors of Amina's past, the Federal Government will do everything possible to ensure that the rest of her life takes a new dimension. "We will ensure that she gets the best medical, psychological, emotional and whatever other care she requires to make a full recovery and be reintegrated fully into society," the President added.

Amina, according to her mother, who spoke at the brief ceremony in the President's office, is one of the two surviving children of her mother. Her father died out of the trauma of losing his daughter. The President assured that his

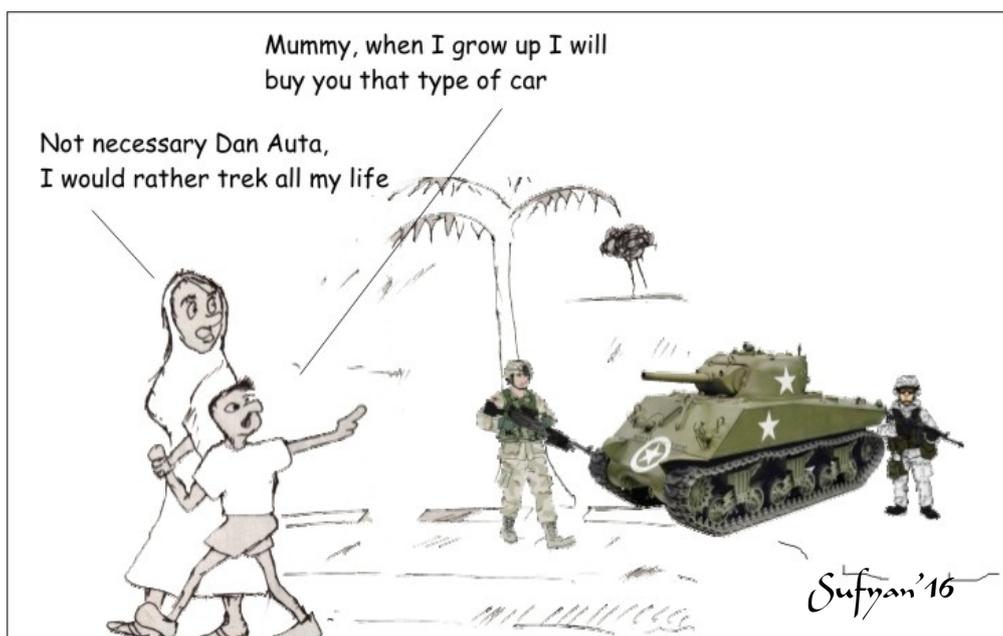
administration would continue to do all it could to rescue the remaining Chibok girls who are still in Boko Haram captivity. "Amina's rescue gives us new hope, and offers a unique opportunity for vital information."

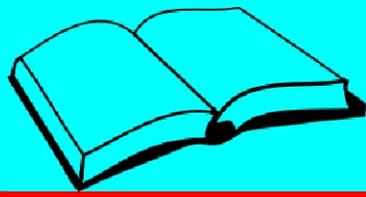
Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno state commended the President for his patience, persistence and doggedness in ensuring the restoration of peace in the North East. He said one year ago nobody could venture out of Maiduguri beyond 15 kilometres, as it was on the verge of falling into the hands of Boko Haram insurgents. Amina Nkeki was accompanied to the Presidential Villa Abuja by her mother, brother, the National Security Adviser to the President and Borno state governor Kashim Shattima.



Amina Ali Nkeki

Dan Auta





FOR THE RECORDS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY RT HONOURABLE YAKUBU DOGARA, SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL, HELD AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEW BUILDING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WING, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, 9TH MAY 2016. (EXCEPTS)

4. Vital statistics support the precarious state that the North East region has found itself. In the education sector for instance the North east has the least number of Universities, (about 11) when compare with the other two regions in the North to wit, North West (16) and North Central (about 22 including FCT). Again in the area of health with specific reference to tertiary health facilities (Teaching hospitals), North East (2), North West (3), and North Central (4). Precisely, the region lags behind in all major indices of human development with the highest incidence of illiteracy in Nigeria. Statistics from National Bureau of Statistics as at 2008, shows that more than 65% of the people living in the North East are "absolutely poor" with less than 1 dollar income per day. It is important to note that these statistics predate the consequences of insurgency in the last eight years and current economic down turn.

Furthermore, it is estimated that there are 2.2 million IDPs in various parts of the country, with the North East accounting for close to 2million. According to the Tracking Matrix developed jointly by IOM and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), 92% percent of the IDPs in Nigeria are embedded in communities, while about 8 per cent are spread across 21 camps. 68% percent are children, with 60,000 births so far recorded in the various camps. The implication of this data is that households in the North East are overstretched with the burden of the IDPs, leading to depletion of the little resources in the hands of our people. This is compounded by the fact that farming which is the main stay of the North East economy can no longer sustain our people due to insecurity leading to more hardship on the region.

6. While there is no reliable institutional statistics on the region's current poor infrastructure caused by insecurity due to the ongoing military operation, the damage done by the boko haram insurgency will at the prevailing rate and pace of development (i.e. without an affirmative action or institutional framework) take the region almost a century to be competitive in national development in relation to the rest of the geopolitical regions.

7. Distinguish ladies and gentlemen, the North East is at a cross road and something concrete must be done to harness the potentials of our region at this trying moment. In spite of the fact that the North East has received support from international donor agencies, development partners, industrialist, politicians, businessmen, the State and Federal Governments, sons and daughters of the region, religious bodies, friends and well-wishers, the fact remains that there is no institutional framework on ground to facilitate the coordination, reconstruction and development of the Region.

8. Lessons from other parts of the world have shown that regions that suffered development challenges arising from communal conflicts, ecological disasters or open warfare are better managed and more speedily restored through concrete institutional mechanism or framework. For example, the United States of America, Germany, Japan, Rwanda, Liberia, Britain and France have suffered big challenges of destruction, displacement, human loss and economic decline after the Second World War in 1945. In all these countries, institutional frameworks were established to rebuild most of their homes, villages, towns, cities, roads, hospitals, factories, schools and critical infrastructure from scratch. Today, Japan, Germany, France, US and Britain lead the world in science, technology and communications despite their horrible experience in the Second World War.

9. In Nigeria, precedence was set by the National Assembly in the case of the Niger Delta region with the passage of the NDCC Act. I am confident that the North East situation calls for similar reaction by the National Assembly and indeed the good people of Nigeria.

10. The Federal and state governments of the north-east states have made concerted efforts over the years to address the menace and consequence of insurgency through policy frameworks such as the Presidential Initiative on the North-East (PINE), Victim Support Fund (VSF) and National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria (IDPs). It must be stated that as commendable as these efforts are, they are palliative in nature and are therefore not capable of addressing the serious challenge of under development of the North-East region

11. Against this background, the bill is proposed to provide a legal framework that addresses the overall development challenges of the north-east. The bill is also proposed in recognition of the fact that the existing legal frameworks on refugees, emergency management, and boundary disputes resolution have neither addressed the plight of our people nor developed sustainable strategies for the development of the North-East.

12. In conclusion, I wish to sincerely commend the high degree of extra-ordinary commitment by the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR in addressing the lingering security challenges in the North East and indeed nationally. We remain very grateful and pray that all will join hands to support the consolidation of these efforts through the establishment of the Commission proposed by this bill that will be charged with the responsibility to promote, project, manage and account for the prosperity of the North East.

13. On this note, Honorable Colleagues distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen it is my singular honor to formally declare this Public Hearing open and wish you most fruitful deliberations.

14. God bless you all and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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