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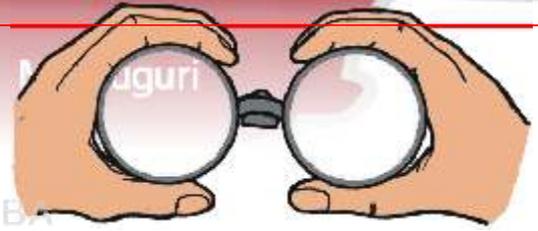
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EDITORIAL:

TIME TO HAVE A NATIONAL POLICY ON IDPS



ONE of the key aspects of addressing the problems of insurgency in the northeast is the resettlement of the millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In many cases, these people have on a personal level lost everything they had—families, homes, means of livelihood, etc. At the collective level, they have lost schools, communal infrastructure, hospitals, markets, places of worship, etc. In some cases, whole towns or communities have been completely erased out of existence. IDPs thus live a certain void.

There are huge problems: where are they to be settled? How are they to be settled? On what basis is the resettlement to take place? What entitlement should resettled people have? Who coordinates these? How do federal, state and local governments relate in the process? How is the process to be funded?

These questions can be answered if there is a policy on IDPs. Unfortunately Nigeria is one of the countries that have huge population of IDPs and yet it has no policy to deal with them. Instead, so far, it is the National Commission for Refugees along with NEMA that are carrying some functions with respect to IDPs. Yet neither have the mandate, the knowledge, the professional experience and the funding to carry out resettlement of IDPs at the scale we have in the northeast.

It is therefore important to call on the government to quickly come up with a National IDPs policy to guide the resettlement so that we do not create another round of confusion as well as the potential for corruption and racketeering.

Luckily it is not an unfamiliar terrain. In 1998, the United Nations General Assembly, noting the growing number of IDPs across the world and the problems associated with internal displacement adopted a set of Guiding Principles as a tool for the prevention and management of internal displacement by nations across the world and as a guide to all governments and non-governmental humanitarian actors working with IDPs. The guiding principles were endorsed by West African states in displacement. Subsequently the African Union adopted

African Union Convention for Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in 2009, otherwise known as the Kampala Convention which was based on the UN Guiding Principles.

Following this, a number of countries have both ratified and domesticated the convention by producing national policies on internal displacement; however Nigeria is yet to do same. In 2003, a presidential committee to draft a national policy on IDPs was empanelled which got a working draft from the National Commission for Refugees. Nothing came out from the committee until 2008 when another committee was set up by the Secretary to Government of the Federation. This committee dusted the report of the previous Committee and produced a draft which was considered by the Federal Executive Council in 2010. The FEC decided to further direct for the review of the policy given that the draft had recommended for the responsibility of resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs and be domiciled in the National Commission for Refugees. The revised draft was approved by President Jonathan in 2012 but did not follow this to send the necessary bill to establish the responsibility for resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs on any commission. This is the situation we are today. We therefore wish call on the President to quickly review the draft and forward relevant bill(s) to the National Assembly for giving legal backing to whatever body should be responsible for resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs. We further call for the immediate domestication of the Kampala Convention on Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. We also wish to call on the National Assembly, particularly its committees on Northeast Initiatives and IDPs to consider drafting and introducing private members' bill(s) to give effect to the Kampala Convention with respect to the rights and responsibilities for the resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs so as not to create more delays from the slow acting FEC.



UNICEF TO CONTINUE HUMANITARIAN WORK IN THE NORTHEAST

Despite an attack on a humanitarian convoy in which one of its staff members was injured, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is scaling up its response to provide assistance to thousands of conflict-affected children in Borno state which has borne the brunt of violence by Boko Haram insurgents.

The agency estimated that 244,000 will suffer from severe acute malnutrition this year in Borno state alone and if they are not reached with treatment, one in five of them will die. "We cannot let this heartless attack divert any of us from reaching the more than two million people who are in dire need of immediate humanitarian assistance," said UNICEF Nigeria Representative, Jean Gough, in a news release issued by the agency.

"The violence has disrupted farming and markets, destroyed food stocks, and damaged or destroyed health and water facilities. We absolutely have to reach more of these communities," she stressed.

It could be recalled that unknown assailants have attacked a humanitarian convoy returning from Bama in Borno state to the state capital Maiduguri after delivering desperately needed humanitarian assistance. The convoy included staff from UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). An IOM contractor was also injured.

UNICEF said that it is already working at full strength in Maiduguri and has called on donors and humanitarian organizations to scale-up the response to the emerging disaster in the state. "Our teams were finding people living on the brink of disaster," Jean Gough added.

Before the attack, security conditions had been improving in several areas but as a result of the attack, travel by UN staff to high risk areas has been temporarily suspended.



Humanitarian workers distributing items at one of the IDP camps in Borno.

However, despite the temporary suspension, UNICEF plans to scale-up its response in Borno state. At the beginning of the year, the agency had appealed for \$55 million for its emergency work, of which \$23 million has so far been received.

The agency has provided two million people with health services and treated 56,000 children for malnutrition in the three conflict-affected states of northeast Nigeria. A quarter of a million people have improved access to clean water, and over 200,000 children have been able to go back to school.

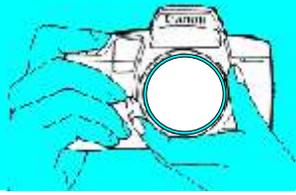


PHOTO NEWS

The emergence of the Northeast insurgency since 2009 to date has not only threatened the socio-political being, but also the very existence of the sub-region, rendering millions of children out of school, throwing millions out of their homes and communities, crippling tremendously economic activities' base and even history of the region, with millions of lives claimed and millions of orphans and widows left vulnerable, thus, Arewa Research and Development Programme (ARDP) organized a workshop for CSOs, CBOs, Youth Groups on reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement in the northeast region. Have a look at the photos of the workshop below:





PROBLEMS BEDEVILING THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN BAUCHI STATE

Hon. (Engr.) Yusuf Inuwa Dadiye is a member of the Bauchi State House of Assembly representing Ganjuwa West constituency and the Chairman Education Committee of the House. In this interview with our correspondent in Bauchi, Dadiye gives hindsight of the problems bedeviling the education sector in Bauchi state, excerpts:

Question: Can we meet you?

Ans: My name is Engineer Yusuf Inuwa Dadiye, member representing Ganjuwa West constituency in Bauchi state House of Assembly, at the same time the Chairman Education Committee of the House. I was born at Miya village in Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi state. I attended Miya Central Primary School and finished in 1978, and thereafter proceeded to Teachers Training College Toro for my Grade II Certificate, upon completion, I joined the military where I served for 13 years during which period I had my first and second degrees. Having obtained my first degree in Computer Techniques and Application from the University of Jos in 1995, I moved to the University of Ibadan for my Masters in Computer Statistics. I spent nine years as a lecturer with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi before finally venturing into politics in 2015.



Hon. (Engr.) Yusuf Inuwa Dadiye

Question: What is your take on the Northeast Development Commission Bill before the National Assembly?

Ans: Regarding your question on the Northeast Development Commission now being debated by the National Assembly, the bill has already been endorsed by the Bauchi House of Assembly. The issue of the Northeast Development Commission has for long been sought of, as stakeholders believed that it is one of the things that will restore the lost glory of education in the region.

Question: Are you saying that your House has passed the bill?

Ans: What I'm saying is that the Northeast Development Commission emanated from the National Assembly and for us it is only to accept it, and as I'm speaking to you now all the Houses of Assembly in the Northeast region have already endorsed the bill.

Question: What role would the Bauchi State House play in the reconstruction and rebuilding of the Northeast ravaged by Boko Haram insurgents?

Ans: You know this is a national issue and not specifically apportioned to the Bauchi state House of Assembly, so every House of Assembly, state government federal or even international organizations as well as wealthy individuals can lend support to the reconstruction and rebuilding programme of the region, and I believe the Bauchi State House of Assembly has been playing its role in ensuring that Boko Haram menace is a by-gone issue in the northeast.

"There is no way education programmes can be attained without the contributions and inputs of all and sundry because education is a versatile field that requires the support and encouragement of all."

Question: Recently, Bauchi state government declared a state of emergency in the education sector, how do you see this from the perspective of the legislature?

Ans: When you talk about the state of emergency in the education sector, it is an all-encompassing issue that requires the involvement of each and every citizen of Bauchi state. But on the part of the legislature, I want to tell you that its committee on education has gone round the nooks and crannies of the state where it inspected virtually all the educational facilities and structures in both primary and junior secondary schools and it was based on the committee's findings that a state of emergency was declared on the education sector by the state government. In this respect, the committee has

hitherto sat several times with the Executive arm of the government where it gave a lot of inputs to the government to see to the problems facing the education sector with a view to ameliorating them. And that is why the government is giving priority to the sector in the 2016 budget whereby almost 22% of the budget size was allocated to education following the report we have given to the government, so the only thing now left is implementation. And we members of the House Committee on Education will try our possible best to see that wherever the Executive lodge a single kobo in the name of education, we will try to give our nod as a legislature through frequent supervision.

Question: But what strategies or measures the committee or House is taking to ensure that the 22% budgetary allocation to education is properly implemented or appropriated?

Ans: That is why I told you that it is our oversight function to ensure effective supervision of all educational programmes in the state during the fiscal year, so wherever the Executive locate a project or allocate a single kobo we will take an oversight visit to that site to ensure that every kobo is effectively appropriated.

Question: Can you tell us what role the House will play in the implementation of the state of emergency?

Ans: As I told you earlier, the education committee has just rounded up visits to educational facilities and the comprehensive report on the deteriorating state of education in the state to be followed up by strict supervision by the committee is one of the roles being played by the House in the implementation of state of emergency in the sector. And we sat down with the Executive on the report through our various meetings, they were able to see the problems bedeviling the sector and are willing to take action. This brought about the issue of appropriating the largest share to the education sector in the budget and it is good signal in rebuilding the sector for the socio-economic and political growth and development of the state.

Question: Recently, WAEC released results of examination and Bauchi was rated low, what are the efforts being put in place to forestall the recurrence of the past poor performance by the students?

Ans: This also formed part of the issues culminating to the declaration of state of emergency in the education sector. If you can recall, for the past 6 to 7 years the state has been declining in terms of performance in WAEC examinations and if you look at the record, the 2015 exam results with Bauchi state is even more worse than it has ever been, hence the need for all stakeholders to exert more efforts in rebuilding the education sector of the state. And based on our findings, one of the problems facing the sector is the proliferation of private schools in the state. If you remember also in those yesteryears, mock examinations serve as yardstick for sitting for WAEC

examinations and this brought about the present situation that it is only when a student passed his/her mock examination that the government will pay for his or her WAEC examination. In this regard, 36, 000 students sat for the last mock examination in the state out of which 26, 458 scaled through and those were the ones the state government paid for their WAEC examination. So a situation whereby a student sitting for WAEC without necessarily clearing the mock examination is no longer tenable in this critical period of economic recession, and this is one of the measures being taken to raise the standard of education in the state, because in the past you can see somebody from nowhere who cannot even properly read and write sitting for WAEC examination, so by the grace of God there will be improvement in the standard of education in the state.

Question: Do you see any role civil society organizations can play in helping the Legislature discharge its oversight functions in the education sector?

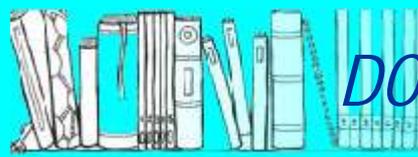
Ans: When you talk of education, it is for all, not only the government, the community, the teacher, the legislature or any other institution or individual cannot lonely move the education sector forward, so there is no way education programmes can be attained without the contributions or inputs of all and sundry because education is a versatile field that requires the support and encouragement of all.

Question: But how has the partnership between the Legislature and Executive in the education sector fared?

Ans: Yes, the products of this partnership include the constitution of a High-powered committee of experts in education that prepares a draft bill that will guide the rejuvenation of the education sector in Bauchi state. The committee has previously sat for almost four months and last week its report was sent to the government for consideration and subsequent implementation. Another product is the provision of special allowances for teachers taking core-subjects and their postings to rural areas of the state which significantly assist in promoting education in the state. In addition, we also need more core-subject teachers which the committee is confident that with improvement in the economy government will recruit more of them, and presently the state needs about 500 of them.

Question: How do you explain the problem of IDPs in Bauchi state?

Ans: When you talk about IDPs also, it is a nationwide phenomenon as they are almost everywhere in the country, be it victims of Boko Haram insurgency, communal clashes or whatever, but as far as Bauchi state is concerned it has victims of Boko Haram insurgency and the state government provides rehabilitation camps for them, others live together with various host communities where they are being provided with social amenities such as schools, health facilities, and water among others.



ARDP ORGANIZES A CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN THE NORTHEAST

Arewa Research and Development Programme (ARDP) on 12th and 13th of July 2016 organized a 2-day capacity building workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation in the Northeast for Civil Society Organizations, Community-Based Organizations and Youth Groups. It was held at Gombe Cactus Hotel, Gombe state.

Objectives of the workshop include:

- i. To have youth groups in the northeast abreast the Federal Government Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Rebuilding of the Northeast
- ii. To strengthen the capacity of youth groups and organizations on Result-Based monitoring for effective monitoring of the federal government program for the RRR
- iii. To chart out a "Collective Youth Action" for effective and coordinated monitoring of the project and shared feedback.

A communiqué was issued at the end of the workshop:

Observations:

The Conference observed as follows:

1. The centrality of youths in the process of post conflict trauma management of the surviving victims of the carnage.
2. Equally observed is the overriding importance of the participation of youths in efforts to reconstruct infrastructures destroyed by the insurgents and resettlement of returnees.
3. The untiring efforts of the government and especially the military in crushing the insurgency in its entire ramification.
4. The role of youths as the catalyst for future northeast zone and the need for them to take up leadership mantle and not wait for the proverbial tomorrow.
5. The prevalent level of poverty in the zone thereby making it easy for agents of destruction to recruit youths into various vices and even into the insurgency bedeviling the region at the moment.

Recommendations:

The Conference recommends that:

1. The youths should henceforth act as agents of development rather than be cannon fodders to unscrupulous politicians and agents of destruction.
2. The youths should take particular interest in how the government plans to implement its reconstruction, resettlement and rehabilitation programme.
3. Northeast governors must show more interest in the plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who feel abandoned at the mercy of the vagaries of uncaring governments agencies.
4. The National Assembly shall hasten the passage of the bill seeking the establishment of the North East Development Commission.
5. Proper documentation should be carried out for the entire insurgency affected areas in the northeast.
6. The rehabilitation and re-integration of IDPs and those Boko Haram fighters who surrendered to the authorities should be given due consideration.
7. The stakeholders of the North East region are urged to contribute their quota in the reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of the northeast.
8. CSOs should intensify their commitments and devise ways of getting information on empowerment initiatives by the government and make such information available and accessible to the general public.



Resettling IDPs II

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are simply people with nothing left, having lost- their sons and daughters, houses, businesses, farms, to mention just a few, thus ran in search of succor at various destinations. Having tasted the most bitter part of life, many of them developed illnesses of varying degrees, and that made their condition even worse. Physically malnourished and helpless as they look, some of them roam streets in search of what they can be given to eat and a place to stay while others stay with relatives and sympathetic good samaritans who generously offer necessities to them.

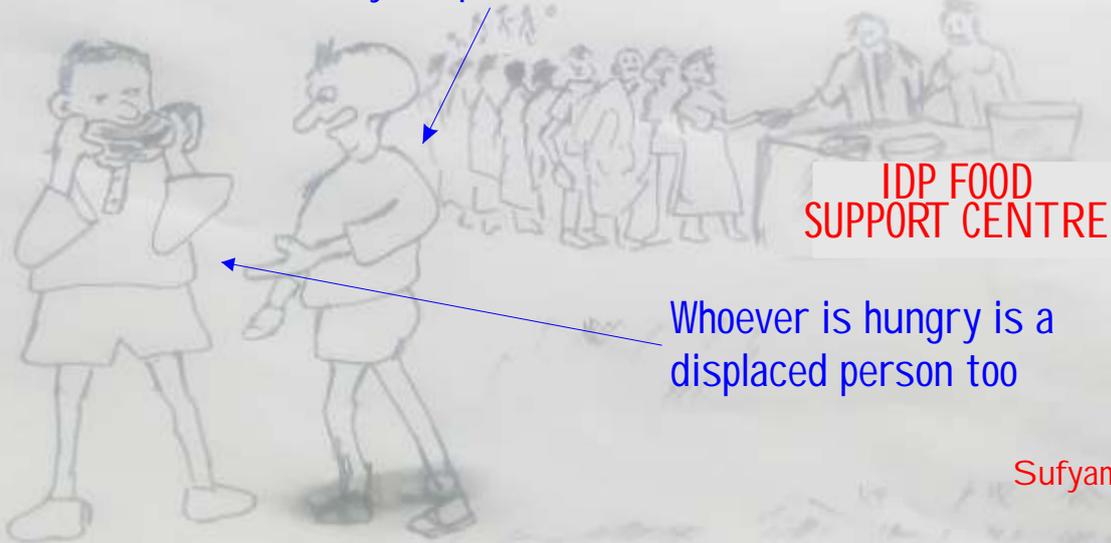
The seven-year insurgency which produced the IDPs is being gradually pushed to a stop as many communities are getting liberated by the military and the insurgents being chased out from their strongholds. Roads linking communities that remained blocked as a result of Boko Haram activities have now been opened, that allows movements of vehicles paving way for commercial activities in many places. While this is commendable, we must urge the military to sustain efforts until all communities are freed and peace is completely restored in the entire northeast region.

Of recent there have been several reports of corrupt practices in IDPs camps ranging from diversion of food

supplies, lack of proper sanitation, water, coupled with health problems especially among children which resulted in the death of many. Ordinarily, these are serious concerns that should have been looked at immediately and necessary actions taken in order to help people who have lost almost everything. But, the abuses have lingered for quite some time with no tangible intervention from any of the stakeholders. IDPs deserve a compassionate gesture from all as it has not been their choice to be what they are today.

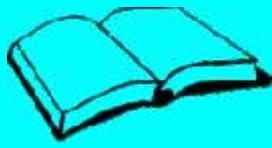
Stakeholders in the northeast need to review their operational blueprint and adopt a robust approach that will address the problems of reconstructing the region and resettlement of IDPs, their shelter, theft of food supplies and other complaints and misconducts surrounding them. Donors and civil society organizations working in the region should also deploy more oversight apparatus to ensure delivery of their initiatives. Federal and state governments alongside their intervention programmes must also be proactive in handling misconducts reported at IDP camps otherwise suffering of those at the receiving end will continue. Disciplinary measures should be put in place and must be seen working upon offenders.

Dan Auta, why did you collect food meant for Internally Displaced Persons?



Whoever is hungry is a displaced person too

Sufyan '16



FOR THE RECORDS

LETTER TO MR. PRESIDENT

Dear President Buhari,

There is no doubt that your emergence as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 2015 General Elections was a demonstration of the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians especially the common man. This was proven by mass turn out of people and the votes that made your mandate possible as the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By this, you therefore owe Nigerians a duty to ensure that all your goodwill, commitments and actions are in the very interest of the common man. Your ascension to office was indeed at a time when Nigeria was at the verge of total collapse, evident in its been bedeviled by the worst economic downturn, divisions among the people, insecurity, even threat to the Nation as an entity. All these form the compelling quest by Nigerians for a trusted, reliable and people minded leader that would salvage the then seemingly hopeless situation. This necessitated Nigerians to pitch their tents with one. The deadly insurgency ravaged the Northeast, killing thousands of people while millions are forced to leave their homes, living as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Homes, schools, hospitals and most infrastructure have been destroyed, grounding economic activities in the region. This was helped by the large army of unemployed youth in the region which provided the insurgents a breeding and recruiting ground. Indices and statistics have proven beyond reasonable doubt that even before the insurgency, the region had the worst poverty index, with the worst education statistic evident in lowest enrollment figure, low completion rate, low transition to higher education, and lower level of graduate per population. Hunger, homelessness, destroyed infrastructure, and trauma among the victims of the insurgency have characterized the region, leaving the region lying waste, devastated by years of murder, massacre, abduction and indiscriminate destruction. Now with the growing success by the Nigerian troops, liberating communities and taking over territories formally occupied by the terrorists, the focus of both the country and international community is tilting towards reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of the region giving hope to the people. Mr. President, you may wish to note that the effort and initiatives for rebuilding the northeast by diverse stakeholders both within and outside the country with International Development Partners, Humanitarian Organizations have either promised or advanced funds for this course, with even State Governments in the region themselves committing resources, hence attracting various diverse projects, initiatives, programs and interventions in a disjointed manner without a strategic and coordinated framework for such interventions in the region. In such a situation, records of interventions are not adequately harnessed, and so transparency and accountability are matters of utmost importance to especially the victims and citizens. Mr. President, the committee you inaugurated and saddled with the responsibility of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Rebuilding of the Northeast region under the Chairmanship of TY Danjuma, with members like Aliko Dangote (both billionaires and businessmen) flags an alarming negative indication as far as we the common people are concerned. More so, that since their inauguration there is seemingly nothing tangible seen from the committee to indicate emergency action for the responsibility saddled on them. The absence of the participation and involvement of the Civil Society Organizations, the victims and the citizens from planning, implementation, and monitoring of the intervention waters down accountability and cast doubt on your commitment to rebuilding the region.

Mr. President, there is urgent need for a robust framework for a more coordinated, documented and participatory implementation of the plan for the northeast. All funds coming to the region both National and International should be made known to the general public so that citizens know what goes to where and from who. This will strengthen accountability.

Thank you.

Ibrahim Yusuf,
Chairman, Association of NGOs, (ANGOS) Gombe State

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