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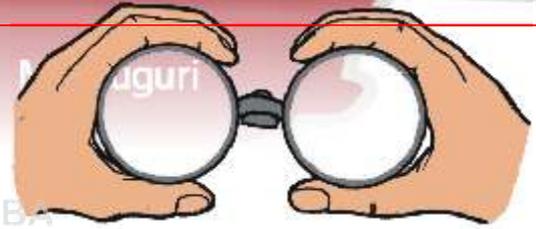
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EDITORIAL: IS THE PCNEI DEAD?



When the President Muhammadu Buhari last year announced the settling up of the Presidential Committee on the Northeast Initiatives (PCNEI), expectations were high that the government would in a coordinated way begin the process of the reconstruction and rebuilding of the northeast that has been ravaged by the Boko Haram insurgency. This optimism was based on three grounds. First, the speed with which President Buhari established the committee sent a signal of urgency that the government was talking serious. The announcement was in fact interpreted to be a matching order for those saddled with the responsibility for shepherding the committee to hit the ground working.

The second ground for optimism was the appointment of General T. Y. Danjuma as Chairman. Given his pedigree as a former general, an accomplished businessman, community leader, a patriot, respected elder and an insider from the northeast, people welcomed his appointment as the right person to confront the myriad of problems that the northeast has become. He certainly could provide credible and selfless leadership to the committee.

The third ground was the simultaneous retooling of the military counter offensive which has restored hopes of the people that the military was capable of rolling back the onslaught of the insurgents which until then had appeared unstoppable.

While the third component that is the military campaign has continued to record successes against the insurgents, the initial expectation of the people of a clear engagement agenda by the government has evaporated as the PCNEI has become dead on arrival. The initial doubt about the committee that people wanted to ignore and give it a benefit of doubt has now become a major problem that cannot be ignored. The Committee was set up without a clear agenda a more of operation instead; it was expected to articulate

these by itself. Now over a year since it was set up, it has neither a clear agenda nor methods of engagement, mechanism in the northeast. Consequently the PCNEI today is more of a jaded concept than a reality for helping the government to address the problems of the northeast. Because it has remained a concept, government's strategy for the northeast is not working if not absent altogether. In the circumstance, many stakeholders are engaging without coordination and synergy, a situation that is fueling suspicion that some stakeholder are just cashing on the missing of unfortunate IDPs.

All these are turning the situation in the region into a theater of the absurd. It is making the prospects of real reconstruction difficult, if not impossible. Actions and programmes implantation have been uncoordinated, haphazard is generally ineffective this is achieving very little results. This is why instead of addressing the needs of the many distressed trapped people in the northeast; we are only harvesting more deaths out of starvation and malnutrition.

We want to reiterate our earlier call that the government must make up its mind about the PCNEI If it is to retain public confidence on its agenda for the northeast. It should give it the matching order that public expect with clear mandate and structure as well as key personnel or else it should immediately disband it and join the National Assembly in getting the North East Development Commission Bill quickly done with and set up so that the urgent tasks of reconstruction, rebuilding and resettlement in the northeast can commence in earnest.



NERI Launches Advocacy Resource Center In Yola.

The North-East Regional Initiative in collaboration with Civil Society Legislative and Advocacy Center (CISLAC) has commissioned an Advocacy Resource Centre in Yola, the Adamawa state capital. The center will be a capacity building mechanism for civil societies, women, and youth groups in the state. While strengthening the capacity of CSOs, the facility will also support the restoration of peace and developmental initiatives in Adamawa state.

In his remarks, the state Programme Officer of NERI, Malam Abubakar Mustapha observed that NERI in conjunction with other organizations has previously implemented a number of projects aimed at improving the welfare of the internally displaced persons. The projects which revolve around renovation of classrooms, provision of school kits and skill acquisition training for IDPs and other vulnerable youths in many communities are gestures that positively impacted in the lives of the common people.

Inaugurating the center, Adamawa state governor Muhammadu Bindow Jibrila who was represented by Commissioner for Agriculture noted the contributions of CSOs toward governance and welfare of IDPs in the state saying CSOs had remained active partners of governments at all levels in facing the challenges especially those brought by the Boko Haram insurgency. Bindow Jibrila expressed his government's readiness to always work with CSOs to rehabilitate IDPs and promote good governance.

Also giving his remarks, the executive Director of CISLAC Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, represented by Mr Kolawale Banwo, said that the centre would also empower and change the lives of citizens at every level of their engagement in the state. The crux of the center is to support state and non-state actors in Adamawa State with requisite skills needed for effective engagement on good governance, rehabilitation and community cohesion, Rafsanjani added.

UN Emergency Fund Allocates \$13 Million for North-East

The United Nations humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien has released US\$13 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide life-saving assistance to 250,000 people in areas of northeast Nigeria that have just become accessible. The destruction of crops and looting of livestock have left many people unable to support their families. More than 50,000 people need seeds and tools for the upcoming planting season and CERF funding will help them to rebuild their livelihoods. A significant number of women and girls, and also men and boys, have suffered or witnessed terrible abuses; CERF funds will enable humanitarian partners to provide critical psychosocial support and protection services. "People have experienced unspeakable suffering due to the violence perpetrated by Boko Haram. We now have better access finally, and a chance to help them," said Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien. "The international community must take advantage of this opening to reach people with essential services and build on the CERF allocation to scale up the response. CERF funds will support the provision of food, cash for food purchase, special child nutritional supplements, protection and health services to the most vulnerable People in the newly accessible areas through Disbursements to FAO, UNSS, UNFPA, UNHAS, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. "The humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria is massive and alarming: 15 million people are affected by the violence instigated by Boko Haram including 7 million people who need urgent humanitarian assistance," said Munir Safieldin, the acting Humanitarian Coordinator. "Unless we scale up now, 7 to 8 children will die of severe acute malnutrition every hour; 184 children will die every day. We need resources now to scale up our current response".

The Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria was revised upwards by \$51 million in June and is now calling for \$279 million. To date, it is only 22 per cent funded.

Since 2015, CERF has supported life-saving assistance in response to Boko Haram-related violence with more than \$58 million, bringing the total CERF support to more than \$70 million with this new injection of funds. Some \$27 million was allocated in March 2015 to assist more than 1.6 million internally displaced people, refugees, returnees and host communities in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. An additional \$31 million was provided in early 2016 to help 700,000 people in the Lake Chad Basin.

CERF is a pooled fund that supports rapid humanitarian response. Donors preposition funds with CERF so that money is available immediately to kick-start relief operations in new emergencies and to provide live-saving assistance in crises that are underfunded. At mid-year, donors have contributed \$248 million to CERF for 2016 and CERF has allocated nearly the same amount, responding to high demand from humanitarian partners. New contributions are urgently needed.



PHOTO NEWS

As part of its plan to build the capacity of CSOs in the Northeast on different areas, the Northeast Social Accountability in Education Cluster, with CITAD as an anchor, conducted Advocacy and M&E workshop for the CSOs in the region. The two workshops were conducted separately on 2nd and 3rd June respectively at the Gombe Jewel Suites, Gombe State. While the objective of the Advocacy training was to enhance the advocacy capacity of the CSOs in the region on how to carry an effective advocacy, that of the M&E was to develop M&E capacity of the participants for effective performance and Managing of Results. More than 30 participants including youth, women and people with disability benefited from the two workshops. The workshops were conducted with both technical and funding support from USAID's Strengthening Advocacy and Civil Engagement (SACE) project.





Report of 2nd North East Youth Dialogue held in Borno State Hotel Maiduguri

Preamble

The second Northeast Youth Dialogue was organized by North East Youth Initiative Forum (NEYIF) with support from CITAD, BOWDI, VSF, PCN and many others. The program which held on Thursday 2nd June 2016 with a theme: *Youth Empowerment as a strategy for Rapid and Sustainable Economic and Security Development of North East*. The Program has over three hundred and fifty (350) participants in attendance with key stakeholder's presents. The program is divided in to two (2) major sessions i.e. Opening Ceremony and Sectoral Group Work. Two papers were presented during the opening ceremony with speeches and good will messages.

The papers includes:

1. *Youth Empowerment as a Strategy for Rapid and Sustainable Economic and Security Development of North East* by Dr Mustapha Kokori
2. Youth Empowerment through Agriculture by Bukar Kurama Tanda

The event was graced by high level dignitaries include:

- a. Hon. Alhaji Tijjani Tumsah as Chairman of the Occasion (Vice Chairman Presidential Committee on North East)
- b. Representative of Shehu of Borno ably represented by District Head of Damboa
- c. Member Borno State House of Assembly Representing Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Hon. (Dr) Alhaji Abubakar Tijjani
- d. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youths and Poverty Alleviation
- e. Alhaji Satomi Ahmed, Executive Chairman Borno State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)
- f. Deputy Commandant, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Borno State
- g. Commandant Man "O" War Borno State
- h. Rtd Brigadier General Nyada, P.A to Chairman Presidential Committee on Northeast
- i. Representatives of Victim Support Fund
- j. Academicians, Religious and Women Leaders

The Opening Ceremony commenced by 10:00am with Opening Remarks National Project Coordinator, Fatima Askira were she welcomes the guests and inform them on the need to participate actively and contribute during the sector group. In his part during welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youths emphasized the need of collaboration and partnership among youths group, he noted that his ministry has been working with various groups in promoting youths related activities; he finally wishes the gathering a peaceful deliberation.

In his welcome remarks the Executive Chairman SEMA Engr Satomi Ahmed welcomed the guests who grace the occasion from far and near despite their tight schedules, he then expressed the delight of SEMA for been given opportunity to play active role in conveying the Dialogue. He equally informed the gathering on the activities of his agency and their challenges by calling on well meaning Nigerians to come to the aid of IDPs with any kind of support towards alleviating their suffering. He finally wished the gathering successful deliberations

In his Speech Comrade Dauda Muhammad Gombe (Executive Director/President NEYIF) welcome the entire gathering and appreciated their efforts in contributing towards the progress of the region, he also informed the gathering on the essence of the project which aim at promoting youth issues by bring youths together under single umbrella to discuss issues affecting them and proper solution. He noted the absence of Youths in government, decision making and lack of inclusion as a major issue that escalate the spread of Boko Haram menace, he notified the dialogue that the program is designed to take place in every state of Northeast and sooner than letter hold in the remaining four states of Adamawa, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe before the Grand Finale in Abuja. He further told the dialogue that so far, no single contribution has been received for the essence of the project and the project aim to produce at the end a document that will serve as an advocacy tool for youth inclusion.

On his part, the Chairman of the Occasion Alhaji Tijjani Musa Tumsah Congratulated the NEYIF team on the success of the second dialogue which he expressed his satisfaction on the way the programs was handled. He equally noted the need for more robust activities towards reviving the lost cultural values and decay of morale training. He called on the youths to promote the needs for self reliance among their colleagues and ensure effective collaboration with government at all levels. The chairman then promised continues to giving his support towards achieving the remaining dialogues in the rest of the states.

On his part the Shehu of Borno applauds the organizers for a timely program in the time when the region is recouping from the six-year suffering in the hands of insurgence, *"we in Borno have suffered much and we need much to return back to our initial status. We therefore want to call on this organization and its likes to continue to do their best in promoting peace and violent-free society."*

Other guests at the events applaud the organizers and promised to continue giving support to its good initiatives. The member State House of assembly representing MMC challenged the youth to wake up from slumber and ensure that what is needed from them is done, he cautioned the youths on their neglect by allowing self centered politicians in using them for perpetrating thuggery, vandalization, sniping and other unaccepted attitudes. He therefore challenged them to go into politics without fear and they should engaged in politics without bitterness. During the Second Session participants were divided according to their sector were they were guided on the way forward on the major issues affecting the region, these areas include:

- a. Peace and Security
- b. IDPs and humanitarian needs
- c. Health
- d. Education
- e. Youths, Women and Children
- f. ICT and Media
- g. Agriculture
- h. Entrepreneurship Development, Job Creation and Poverty Reduction
- i. Religious Understanding and Misinterpretation of religious Beliefs

At the end a communiqué was issued and lots of recommendations were made.

THE COMMUNIQUÉ

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure continuous interaction with key partners, sponsors and like-minded actors at all levels.
2. Rehabilitation centers should be built and be equipped with professionals and facilities by government.
3. Take census of youth by groups, associations and individuals with a view to update the database in all the localities.
4. Identify and improve youth access to credits, loans, grants and other productive resources necessary for agriculture.
5. Encourage unity among youth by supporting youth initiatives, programs and meetings.
6. Northeast youth should be carried along in planning and implementation of reconstruction and resettlement programs of Northeast
7. Government should make available schools and facilities for children of the less privileged, and support for young people to access education.
8. Resuscitating existing skills acquisition centers and constructing new ones across communities..
9. Improving access to relevant information on policies and implementations through a door to door advocacy, radio jingles, media and community participation.
10. Government and Development partners should build the capacity of NGOs with a view to reach out to the grassroots.
11. Government should create an enabling environment for development and implementing partners to be able to support on youth projects.
12. Government should create enabling environment as well as awareness on untapped potentials in agriculture.
13. There should be a coordination and collaboration between government and indigenous NGOs to provide humanitarian and sustainable assistance.
14. Government should create grounds for development of economic tree plantation (fruits trees).
15. Government should reinforce the agricultural extension services with a view to maintain farm implements and farming techniques for high productions.
16. Government should make clear and focus on rights of women and children in providing basic health-care services and make easy access to health facilities.
17. Government should expedite recovery of abducted youth with the view of reuniting them with relations, and an enabling environment to live.
18. Youth in Northeast should be recruited and employed in the security arm of government; they will contribute to the intelligence department in fighting insurgency.

Most Northeast Rural Communities in Devastating Condition

As Nigerian military continues to record success and liberate communities taken hostage by Boko Haram fighters, the Center for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), a non-governmental organization which has been implementing programmes in the area of social accountability and rebuilding the northeast infrastructure has decried the worrisome state of rural communities in the region, a situation it said requires urgent attention from the authorities concerned.

The Executive Director of CITAD, Dr. YZ Ya'u observed that many rural communities in the northeastern part of the country go through horrible and unnoticeable suffering despite several interventions by various governments and development partners. He noted this at a press conference on the starvation of rural dwellers in the north east. He said thousands rural dwellers in the areas affected by Boko Haram activities neither have food to eat nor have water to drink, and could not farm: a situation which led to the death of many of them. These people have almost been neglected as concern is normally paid to IDPs in various camps. For over four years these rural dwellers could not farm, have no access to education while their houses remained demolished.

While commending relevant stakeholders that include governments, international donors and civil societies for providing humanitarian intervention in various forms in the region, Ya'u called on them and other partners to come to the rescue of the

impoverished rural dwellers adding that their true situation is pathetic and therefore requires serious and urgent intervention. He appealed to the federal and state governments to declare state of humanitarian emergency in the region to galvanize greater action to rescue millions of people from starvation, protect rural communities in the northeast who as soft target have been bearing the worse burden of the insurgency and urgently extend humanitarian services outside of urban areas like Maiduguri so that those communities that are on daily basis facing the challenges of starvation can be rescued.

According to Dr. YZ Ya'u developing a comprehensive framework for humanitarian intervention in the northeast will make a good plan as the government currently has no policy on IDPs and has been using the NEMA act which has its focus on refugees from other countries rather than on IDPs. Again, the National Assembly should quickly conclude deliberation and pass the North East Development Commission bill so that an accountable mechanism and structure for coordination of effort in rebuilding and reconstructing the region would be in place.



Resettling IDPs

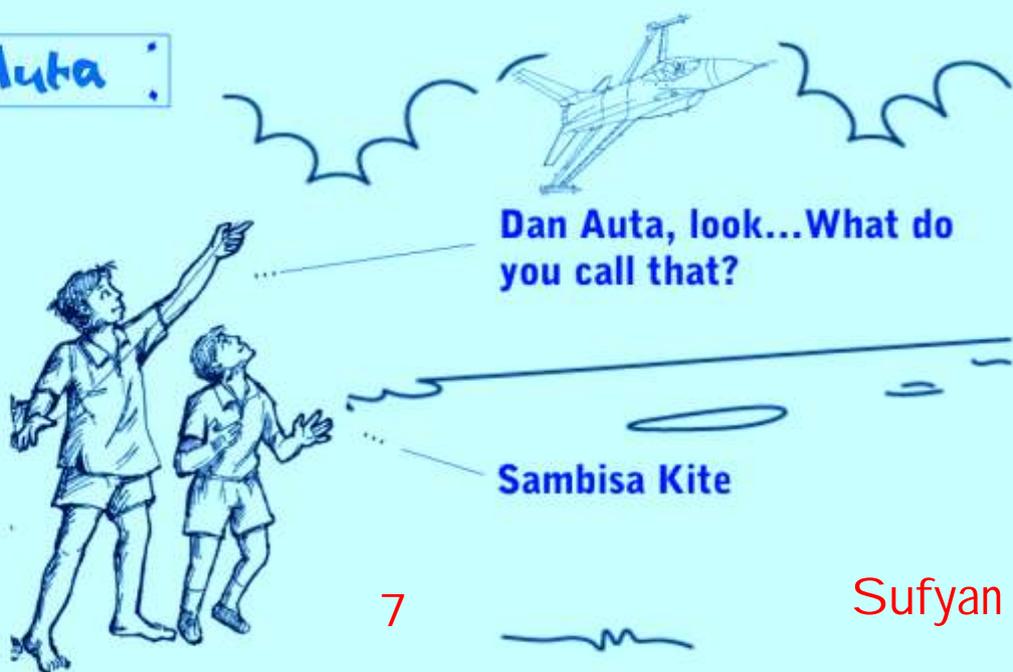
Hundreds of thousands of people have left their homes for safety ever since the Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009, this figure include those within and outside Nigeria. Of recent, commitments from various governments, development partners, well meaning individuals etc concerning resettling the Internally Displaced Persons and catering for their needs have been quite encouraging with the most recent quoting the president as reiterating his government willingness to sustain efforts at bettering off the condition of IDPs during a farewell meeting with the outgoing Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria. No doubt IDPs have considerably suffered and lost necessities even beyond real quantification, and that calls for nourishing them in any way possible.

Based on continuous pledges towards the IDPs, one will be led into thinking that the traumatized people at different camps are comfortably receiving unimaginable care, but as an insider will tell the situation is somewhat different. At several instances the supplies meant for them hardly get them. It is unfortunate that some people are heartless enough as to corner or supply less than required to people that are supposed to be embraced and helped by everyone. The number of children, women and the old age in the camps and their physically growing demands should ordinarily be a cautionary measure to stop any corrupt person from diverting what is meant for them.

What still remains a surprise is the negligence of the relevant stakeholders such as the National Emergency Management Agency NEMA and SEMA to put right measures in place in order to stop leakages in the distribution system of IDPs supplied basic necessities despite plausible corrupt misconducts in the camps. Unless relevant authorities closely monitor and take actions on any misconduct, IDPs will remain trapped victims and that will further worsen their condition instead of alleviating their sorrowful experiences. Having incurred varying degrees of losses as a result of the insurgency, they deserve a soft hand treatment; nobody should be allowed to divert whatever is channeled to them.

Efforts geared towards moving the IDPs to their respective towns and villages should be strengthened and speed up. Here, federal and state governments and other initiatives that have a stake in that and must make sure that corruption cases recorded at camps did not reflect in the resettlement exercise. Apart from resettling them, there is need to provide financial and all kinds of support so that they can refresh their various trades.

Dan Auta



Dan Auta, look...What do you call that?

Sambisa Kite



FOR THE RECORDS

PRESS STATEMENT: REFLECTING ON THE 2015 WAEC MAY/JUNE RESULT AND THE NEED FOR STATE OF EMERGENCY ON EDUCATION IN EACH OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATES

One of the ways we can assess the commitment of the state governments in developing and promoting the state of education in their states is the performance of their indigenes in different National and Regional examinations. If this stands to be a reliable yardstick, then we can loudly say states in the Northeast need to be more committed so that we can begin to see appreciable performance of the indigenes of their states in those examinations. For example, in the 2015 WAEC May/June result released in the first quarter of this year, Yobe State came last with only 646 (4.37%) candidates obtaining five credits and above including English and Mathematics out of the fourteen thousand, seven hundred and eight-four students, comprising 10, 807 males and 3,977 females, sat for the examination in the state. Apart from the disheartening performance of Yobe state, none of the Northeast states made it to the best 20 performing states in the ranking. This came at a time when Abia state (1st in the ranking) scored 63.94 per cent with 33, 762 of its 52, 801 candidates obtaining five credits and above including English and Mathematics.

Even with this poor performance of states in the Northeast, we can still commend states like Taraba (21st in the ranking) and Borno (25th in the ranking), specially for Borno State that has been bearing brunt of the insurgency more than any other state in the region. Out of the 21,695 that sat for the examination from Borno, 5,347 got five credits and above, including English and Mathematics. For States like Bauchi (31st in the ranking) and Gombe (34th in the ranking) the performance left us with a huge surprise given that these two states are less hit by insurgency but performing so poorly.

It is in view of the above situation that we, the undersigned members of the Northeast Education and Social Accountability Cluster wish to renew our call for state of emergency in the education sector of the states in the

Northeast. We also urge that this should go beyond just mere declaration, requiring the states to come up with bold initiatives and corresponding funding and the deployment of transparent and accountable mechanisms for the utilization of the funds for the sector.

While making this call, we as CSOs remain committed to continue exploring various strategies for promoting social accountability in the education sector in the Northeast so that resources deployed to the sector could deliver the desired results.

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