

ADAMAWA

GOMBE

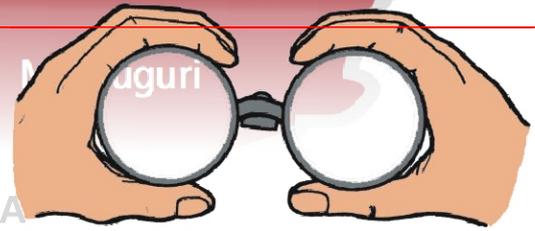
YOBE

BORNO

BAUCHI

NorthEast Watch

TARABA



Vol 1, No. 1

Pushing the frontiers for a **NEW** dawn

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EDITORIAL: UP FOR THE NEW DAWN

ONE of the factors that led to the insurgency in the northeast is the lack of social accountability by past governments at all levels. This has manifested in bad governance which saw the mismanagement of public resources without commensurate development outcomes. The result is what we know today that the Northeast has the worse development indices in the country. This expresses itself, among other things in the low educational achievements of the region and the high level of unemployment that has provided the recruitment base for the insurgents.

Today, the region lies waste, devastated by years of horrendous campaign of murder, abduction and destruction by the insurgents. Social and economic activities have grounded while the economy of the region has collapsed as people live under a permanent fear of terrors that survival has become the only goal for most.

As the military campaign against the insurgents continues to record successes, liberating many communities, taking over territories formerly occupied by the terrorists and creating signs of hope, the key words across both the country and abroad are reconstruction and rebuilding of the region and the resettlement of the millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Many international development partners and humanitarian organizations have either advanced or promised funds for those purposes. State governments themselves are committing resources to rebuilding and resettlement programmes. At the federal level, the President has established the Presidential Committee on Northeast

Initiatives (though it is still comatose). All of a sudden, everybody is taking about programmes, projects and initiatives in or for the north east. In the circumstance, it is too tempting to forget about accountability as people talk about emergency situation yet, without accountability; we are only likely to run in a circle in which people will skim off money in the name of reconstruction and rebuilding. Once that happens, there will not be any meaningful reconstruction and rebuilding or even the proper resettlement of the IDPs. Instead we will harvest a new round of massive graft which will mask the problem but ensure that the region, and indeed the country, remains unstable. It is therefore important to raise voice for accountability load and clear. As part of our contribution to raising this voice, the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) has decided to institute the Northeast Watch (NEW) which will keep a watchful eye on developments in the region.

It will focus on providing information and reports about who is funding what, with what resources, from where, at where and with what outcomes. The objective is to provide information that will help in holding all stakeholders accountable in the way they engage in the region. We hope that civil society organizations in particular, but also all those committed to the actual rebuilding and reconstruction of the region will find in these materials that will help them to insist and demand for accountability from all concerned.

Welcome onboard. It is our dream to a NEW dawn.

BORNO HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF IDPs -NEMA

Since its inception nearly eight years ago, the insurgency in the northeast region has forced out thousands of people from their villages, towns and communities becoming internally displaced persons, ruined infrastructure, and equally put a stop to vital activities like attending schools. The number of IDPs keep increasing as the situation worsen. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has for the first time given a complete statistics of the Internally Displaced Persons in especially the three states devastated by Boko Haram insurgency, thus, Adamawa, Borno and Yobe with Borno having the largest percentage of IDPs.

Saad Bello, the coordinator of Yola IDP Camp said 1, 934, 765 IDPs are currently living in formal camps, host communities and satellite camps in liberated communities as a result of insurgency in North Eastern States of Borno, Yobe, Taraba, Gombe, Bauchi and Adamawa. Bello gave the figures while taking the United States Ambassador to United Nations Samantha Power on visit to Malkohi IDP Camp in Yola, the capital of Adamawa State.

According to the Yola IDP Camp coordinator there are 32 formal camps in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States with a total of 189, 783 IDPs, and out this figure Borno has 19 camps with 150, 858 IDPs; Yobe has 9 camps with 31, 988 IDPs while Adamawa has 4 camps with 6, 937 IDPs. Host communities in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States have a total of

1, 391, 613 IDPs. Borno state has the highest with 1, 158, 362, followed by Adamawa with 125, 689 and Yobe 107, 562. Saad Bello maintained that “Federal Government through the coordinating agency, NEMA and relevant line ministries, departments and agencies have been trying to meet the needs of the IDPs in the provision of food, nutrition, non-food items (NFIs), temporary shelter, medicament, psycho-social therapy, security and protection”, adding that while the government continued in its efforts to meet the needs of the IDPs, more support is critically required for the IDPs across the three identified kinds of camps before they return back to their communities.

On her part, The U.S. Ambassador to UN, Samantha Power, who led a high level delegation from US to Malkohi IDPs camp and host communities said they were there to determine what more could be done to defeat Boko Haram so that they can return back to their communities, saying “I know how difficult these last years have been for you and on behalf of President Barack Obama, I express my sympathy and my condolences for all you have lost and our resolve to try to make things better together”.



Internally Displaced Persons in one of the IDP camps in Maiduguri

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS EXISTING INTERVENTIONS IN THE NORTH EAST STATES

Donor: DFID

Project Title: Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme

Locations: Kano, Yobe and Borno; in the Middle Belt: Kaduna and Jos; in the Niger Delta: Bayelsa, Rivers and Delta.

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Strengthening community security. Focussed on peace building and reducing impact of violence including in the three worst affected states of Northeast.

Donor: USAID

Locations: Borno

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Developing prevention and treatment of GBV services

Donor: UNICEF

Locations: Borno

Title: Implementing the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations of children's rights in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1612

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Human rights protection and strengthening community security

Donor: UNDOC / EUROPEAN UNION

Locations: Yobe, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Imo, Katsina, Lagos, and Osun

Title: Support to the Justice Sector in Nigeria

Stakeholders: Federal Justice Sector Reform Coordinating Committee; Federal Judiciary; Judiciary of the FCT and nine focal states, Federal and State Ministries of Justice, National Judicial Institute, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Prisons Service, National and States Planning Commission, National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria,

Nigerian Law Reform Commission, Nigeria Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and CSOs

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Strengthening justice, human rights and community security.

Donor: UNHCR

Project title: Protection and vulnerability monitoring and profiling

Locations: Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Taraba

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Human rights protection, humanitarian programming and access to justice.

Donor: UNFPA

Project Title: Response to gender based violence (GBV) in the conflict-affected North East Nigerian States

Locations: Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe.

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Strengthening community security, and justice provision for SGBV survivors.

Donor: UN WOMEN

Project Title: Women Peace and Security programme

Locations: Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe states

Status: Ongoing

Aims/Relevance: Community security and justice provision for SGBV survivors

Donor: UNDP

Project Title: Nigeria Early Recovery and Resilience Project for the North East (NERRP)

Locations: Northern Adamawa, Gombe

Stakeholders: Traditional rulers, elderly citizens, Village (ward) and town community representatives, religious leaders, NGOs, Local Government, and CBOs.

Aims/Relevance: Strengthening access to justice, strengthening community security and human rights protection

PRESS STATEMENT: AS THE NORTHERN GOVERNORS FORUM SCHEDULES TO MEET IN KADUNA, WE HOPE TO SEE PLAN FOR EDUCATION IN THE NORTHEAST AS ONE OF THE KEY OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

It is now clear that Northern Nigeria is faced with multiple issues that need urgent attention, and that might be the reason why the Northern Governors Forum scheduled to meet in Kaduna, on the 29th April, 2016. The forum has been meeting in recent times, all in their efforts of making the North a better and stronger region. Although we are yet to see impact of their past meetings, because the decisions of these were hardly implemented, we remain optimistic that the future ones will be different and that the Governors would come up with mechanisms that would ensure follow ups and implementation of these decisions. Moreover, Civil Society and other stakeholders are this time more

committed to advocate for the implementation of progressive decisions taken by the Governors Forum and to continuously monitor and track the implementation of these decisions.

It is against the above background that, we, the undersigned members of the Northeast Education and Social Accountability Cluster call on the Forum to put reconstruction of the Northeast, more specifically focusing on the education sector as key in its agenda of Kaduna meeting. It is our belief that without addressing the educational sector, not much would be achieved in the other sectors. We therefore wish to see the governors take a dispassionate look at the sector and come up with bold initiative that will readily result in

revamping the education in the region. While we commend the commitment of the individual states in the Northeast towards improving the quality of education in their respective states, we hope they will join a queue behind Bauchi State in declaring state of emergency on the education sector. It is only through that and the support of the NGF that the past glory of the Northeast can be resurrected.

As they meet, we extend our solidarity and hands of fellowship to them and hope, that they will respond positively by providing hope to ordinary people who queued in the sun and gave them their votes in the believe that they (the Governors) will address the existential conditions of the people.

It was signed by the following organizations:

1. Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), Kano
2. Borno Coalition for Democracy and Progress (BOCODEP), Borno
3. Centre for Environmental Education and Development (CEED), Taraba
4. Association of People Living with Disability, Gombe
5. Women and Youth Empowerment for Advancement and Health Initiative (WYEAHI), Adamawa
6. Bauchi Coalition for Improvement of Public Expenditure Management (BACIPEM), Bauchi
7. Network of Civil Society Organizations, Yobe
8. Northeast Youth Initiative Forum (NEYIF), Yobe
9. Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, Adamawa
10. Society and the Future, Gombe.

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