



PLATEAU STATE PEACE BUILDING AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE THEME: 'BUILDING PEACEFUL, SAFER AND SECURE COMMUNITIES IN PLATEAU STATE' ORGANISED BY THE PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE PLATEAU PEACE BUILDING AGENCY (PPBA) TO COMMEMORATE NIGERIA'S 60TH (DIAMOND) INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY, HELD AT THE BANQUET HALL, NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE, LITTLE RAYFIELD, JOS, PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA, ON 1ST OCTOBER, 2020.

Preamble:

As part of activities to commemorate Nigeria's 60th Independence, the Plateau State Government organized a One-Day Roundtable Discussion with a select group of stakeholders to take a critical review of the Peace and conflict landscape of the state with a view to proffer practical suggestions on ways we can further deepen the peace process in the State. The event took place on 1st October, 2020 at the Banquet Hall, New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State.

The One-Day Roundtable Discussion with the theme-**Building Peaceful, safer and secure communities in Plateau State** is part of the broader effort of Plateau State government to deliver on the promise of peace and security in line with the rescue administration policy thrust on **Peace, Security and Good Governance**.

The objective of the roundtable is to discuss and assess the current level of peace and social cohesion in the state with a view to develop a common agenda and understanding for deepening the peace through community partnership and cooperation, and to set the basis for effective coordination of all conflict prevention and peace building efforts at the community level across the state.

The roundtable, structured in the form of a panel discussion and plenary session is one among series of other intra and inter-group dialogues that is organized by the Peace Agency

as part of government's effort to strengthen mechanisms for peace in our communities. Participants were drawn from the Plateau State traditional council, relevant government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, ALGON Plateau State, Community Development Associations, Civil Society Organizations, security agencies, religious bodies, women and youth organizations as well as the media amongst several others. The keynote address was presented by Prof Danny McCain, Director Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies (CECOMPS) and the discussants include: His Royal Majesty Da Jacob Gyang Buba the Gbong Gwom Jos and Chairman Plateau State Council of Chiefs and Emirs, His Royal Highness Alhaji Mohammed Sambo Haruna II, Prof. Aboi R. Madaki, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo, Hajiya Fatima Sulaiman, Mr. Gad Shamaki and Mr. Steve Aluko. After extensive deliberations, the following issues were highlighted and resolutions reached:

Matters Arising/Resolutions:

- 1 . The Plateau State government strongly condemned the spate of systematic attacks in some communities across the state including the recent brutal murder of a traditional leader in Foron, DSS personnel in Shendam and some youths in Vwang District, Jos South LGA describing it as totally unacceptable and callous. The government commiserated with victims of the unfortunate incidence as well as expressed its commitment to working with relevant law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators to book.
- 2 . It was observed that although the protection of lives and properties is the foremost responsibility of government, however, building a peaceful and stable society in contemporary times require the collaboration of all stakeholders. Furthermore, the building blocks for a peaceful, safer and secure communities requires compromise, forgiveness, reconciliation, patience, community efforts, as well as working together at multiple levels. State and non-state actors including community leaders, CSOs, religious leaders are key to the success of this effort.
3. It was also observed that although we are currently enjoying some relative peace across the State, however, we must not live under the illusion that permanent peace has finally been restored. The Plateau State government will continue to work closely with all stakeholders including CSOs, religious leaders, traditional leaders, community development associations and security agencies devoid of ethno-religious and political prejudice to deepen the peace process in the state.
4. The roundtable further observed that our failure to adhere or embrace our cultural values have partly contributed to growing peace and security challenges currently facing the state. Therefore, the underlying issue of conflict in its multifaceted dimensions needs to be understood and adequately addressed. In addition, the need to support and empower our traditional leaders while also

strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism in our traditional institutions to address emerging issues of peace and conflict will go a long way in deepening the peace process in the state.

5. The roundtable also called on the Plateau State government and other relevant stakeholders to continue to give the Plateau Peace Building Agency the necessary funding support to enable the Agency effectively deliver on its statutory mandate of conflict prevention and peace building in line with the Road Map to Peace Strategic Plan document.
6. It was observed that the rise of segregated settlements in some parts of the state along ethno-religious lines poses a grave threat in our quest for building peaceful, safer and secure communities. Hence there is the need for relevant stakeholders to complement government efforts in reintegrating segregated settlements while also addressing concerns around youth unemployment and poverty in the state. Security agencies on the other hand should further strengthen law enforcement in all parts of the state.
7. It was strongly observed that there is the need to develop a comprehensive post-conflict reconstruction and resettlement intervention plan. As a cardinal aspect of promoting peaceful coexistence, the plan should ensure that all displaced persons are resettled to their ancestral homes. Similarly, PPBA should be supported to organize dialogues with those illegally occupying communities that are not originally theirs, and this should/must be executed immediately.
8. It was further observed that the porosity of our national borders and the weaknesses on the part of border regulatory agencies to effectively manage our borders have worsened the challenges of peace and safety in our communities. This has also aided the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and thus exacerbated the culture of violence in our communities. The security Agencies and all other relevant institution and agencies are encouraged to work in concert to tackle this growing menace.