



ABDULLAHI OMAKI

COMMUNITY PEACE INITIATIVES NETWORK

ZOOM MEETING REPORT

Topic: Security Challenges On The Plateau: Analysing The Roles Of Critical Stakeholders In/For Effective Peace Management.

Date: 25th January 2024.

Venue: Zoom

Duration of Meeting: 2 Hours

Meeting Moderator: Amb. Kio S. Amieyeofori

Total Number of Meeting Participants:

17 Participants.

Executive Summary:

Background: The Plateau State in Nigeria, since its creation in 1976 and subsequent subdivision in 1996, has been plagued by recurring crises primarily driven by ethnic and religious tensions. Recognizing the complexity and persistence of these conflicts, AOCPIN convened a dialogue on **“The Security Challenges on the Plateau: Analysing the Roles of Critical Stakeholders in/for Effective Peace Management”** The session which is the second edition of the AOCPIN’s **PANEL**(Peace Advocacies Network for Education and Leadership) series involved a diverse group of participant and panelist to discuss and propose solutions.

Objective: The primary goal was to engage in frank and comprehensive discussions about the persistent crises in Plateau State, delving into their root causes, exploring policy options, identifying gaps, and strategizing on implementation methods to address the challenges effectively.

Panelists: The panelists were critically selected to reflect a balanced view of the stakeholders involved.

Dr. Hamisu' the Key Speaker is a researcher and a lecturer who has done a lot of research work on security Challenges in Nigeria

Mr Mafulul Maram is of Plateau State Origin, Bokkos Local government to be precise, and is also a lecturer in the Department of Archeology and Heritage Studies at the University of Jos

Mr Yusuf Abubakar is the Special Assistant to the President of the MACBAN (Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria)

Amb. Kio S. Amieyeofori the Moderator is a Security Expert who has served in several capacities including serving as the Minister of Disarmament Affairs and Delegate of the Conference on Disarmament, Arms Trade Treaty, and other agreements.

Key Discussions:

Historical Context and Current Challenges: The dialogue opened with an examination of the historical events leading to the persistent current state of unrest on the Plateau with the most recent occurrence on the 24th of January 2024, leading to a 24-hour curfew on the state.

Root Causes Analysis: The Speakers highlighted the complex interplay of ethnicity, religion, politics, climate change, population growth, and socio-economic issues with particular emphasis on the tension between indigenes and non-indigenes, and the fears of religious and cultural domination.

Policy Gaps and Recommendations:

A significant part of the dialogue was dedicated to identifying policy gaps and formulating actionable recommendations, with an emphasis on community advocacy engagements, justice, and accountability highlighted in the salient points below

- **Accountability and Justice:** There is a need for government and non-governmental organizations to imbibe a culture of accountability, especially concerning the killings of innocent citizens. They should create a system that will arrest the perpetrator and hold them accountable for their actions in the interest of peace, justice, and fairness.

- **Mapping of Red Areas:** The government and security agencies should create proactive measures in combating the violence, in other words, the government should come up with a demographic plan for areas where such crimes are likely to take place as well as punish perpetrators of such events map out hot zones(Red areas) and increase military presence, surveillance, and other vices to minimize the outbreaks of these conflicts and quickly apprehend the culprits where they do occur.
- **Advocacy Engagements:** The non-government organizations should not relent in their efforts in advocacies rather they should make their voice louder and get the community leaders involved in all their dealings. The NGOs need to also be neutral and not take sides with either the governments or the community but rather collaborate with both to foster harmonious living and growth on the Plateau.
- **Commitment on the Part of the Citizens:** The citizens need to make up their minds to not choose violence as the way out, but always employ mechanisms for conflict resolutions

General Outcomes:

1. **Enhanced Understanding:** The dialogue facilitated a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the Plateau State crises, fostering empathy and a more nuanced perspective among participants.
2. **Strategic Recommendations:** Concrete recommendations were developed, focusing on improving communication among stakeholders, enhancing security measures, promoting justice, and fostering community engagement for peacebuilding.
3. **Actionable Steps for Peace Management:** The dialogue resulted in a set of actionable steps aimed at preventing the recurrence of conflicts, including improving collaboration between security agencies and adopting culturally sensitive conflict resolution mechanisms.

Specific Outcome and Actors Responsibility

Actor	Outcome
Government and Security Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Map out red zones and increase surveillance to prevent and manage the outbursts of conflict.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proactive measures in combating the violence, in other words, the government should come up with a system of justice to punish perpetrators and instigators of crisis.
Operation Safe Haven	

Conclusion:

The dialogue on the Plateau State crises was a significant step towards addressing the long-standing issues plaguing the region. The insights gained and recommendations made provide a robust foundation for developing effective strategies for peace and stability in Plateau State. Continued engagement, collaboration, and commitment from all stakeholders are imperative to translate these recommendations into tangible results.