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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Ship House, Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Area 10, P.M.B 196, Garki Abuja

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A 2-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "CITIZEN IN UNIFORM: IMPLEMENTING RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES" HELD AT THE SHERATON HOTELS AND TOWERS, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE FROM THURSDAY, 24TH TO FRIDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2019.

1.0 Preamble:

1.1 A 2-Day Strategic National Workshop on "Citizen in Uniform: Implementing Rule of Law and Human Rights in the Armed Forces" was organised by the Ministry of Defence at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Ikeja, Lagos State from Thursday, 24th to Friday, 25th January, 2019. The Workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other Security Agencies at the strategic level to understand the Rule of Law and observe the tenets of Human Rights in dealing with their personnel and civilians. Also, it provided the forum for critical engagement on effective implementation of laws governing Armed Forces operations, promotion of greater understanding of conflict resolution rules and enhancement of cooperation between Security Agencies and the larger society.

1.2 Present at the Opening Ceremony were the Executive Governor of Lagos State ably represented by the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency, Dr. Idiat Oluranti Adebule, Honourable Minister of Defence, Mansur Muhammad Dan- Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Mrs. Nuratu J. Batagarawa, Chief of Defence Staff, General Gabriel Abayomi Olonishakin, Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas and the Oba of Lagos, His Royal Majesty, Oba Rilwan Babatunde Aremu Akiolu, as well as representatives of the Chief of Army Staff and Chief of the Air Staff.

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In attendance were participants drawn from the Ministry of Defence, Defence Headquarters, Tri-Service Institutions and Agencies, Para-Military, Civil Society Organisations and the Academia. The Workshop was declared open by His Excellency, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode, Executive Governor of Lagos State. The Welcome Address was delivered by the Chief of Defence Staff, the Keynote Address by the Honourable of Minister of Defence, the Goodwill Message by the Oba of Lagos and the Vote of Thanks by the Director, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

2.0 Paper Presentation

2.1 During the Workshop, the following papers were presented:

- i "Citizen in Uniform: Overview and Issues", by Colonel Henry Mejabi (Rtd) Ph.D, Centre for Strategic Research and Studies, National Defence College, Abuja, Nigeria;
- ii "Human Rights, Rule of Law and Law Enforcement" by Mr. John Olusola Baiyeshea, SAN;
- iii "Civil Military Relations: The Military Perspective" by Brig. Gen. SB Kumapayi, Director, Civil Military Affairs, Army Headquarters, Abuja;
- iv "Civil Military Relations in Nigeria: Civilian Perspective" by Andrew Nkemneme, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja; and
- v "Responsibility to Protect" by Prof. Chukwuma Osakwe, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Kaduna State.

2.2 The Workshop also featured four Sessions and a Work Group Discussion Round-Table. The Sessions and the Work Group Round-Table provided the much-needed platform for the participants to actively engage in the discussions as well as contribute meaningfully

to the outcome of the Workshop. In the course of the Workshop, participants observed that:

- i There is need for the application of emotional intelligence on the part of Citizens in Uniform, particularly the non-commissioned officers, while interacting with civilians in the course of duties;
- ii The palpable gap in the implementation of previous recommendations of Committees and Workshops on Civil-Military Relations (CMR) is a major setback to the progress the country ought to have made;
- iii Challenges of loyalty to political leadership at the expense of the State and Constitution have continued to undermine the enthronement of effective CMR in the country;
- iv There have not been sufficient engagements with the Media to enable them play the role of enlightening the public on the operations of the Security Agencies and the necessity for a robust CMR, especially on issues concerning national security;
- v The frequent involvement of the Military in Internal Security Operations (ISO) in the country, which ordinarily is the responsibility of paramilitary security agencies, exposes them highly to the civil populace thereby underscoring the need to step up CMR in order to promote the mutual understanding required for the Nation's success particularly in the theatres of operations;
- vi The participation of unlicensed and unregulated Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in conflict areas of the country where the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) operate is a major medium for mi-information on its operational conduct and is problematic to the Military and the Nation;
- vii Ego-triggered complexities still exist between Security Agencies and Civilians, which affect the performance of CMR Desk Officers;
- viii The application of stereo-typed CMR principles adopted from other climes, inadequate publicity on CMR activities, absence of emergency intervention funds to respond to security exigencies and inadequacy of community driven intelligence gathering

create immeasurable setback in CMR implementation in the country; and

- ix The inadequate funding and equipping of the Services affect the morale of personnel in the discharge of their duties, leading to transfer of aggression on the civilian populace and other unwholesome practices that impact negatively on the civil populace.

2.3 Against the foregoing background, participants recommended as follows:


- i The continuous training and education of the "Citizen in Uniform" (Military and Paramilitary) on emotional intelligence;
- ii The immediate implementation of recommendations by this Workshop and those of the previous Committees and Workshops on CMR;
- iii The AFN should continue to perform their statutory functions of defending the nation's territorial integrity and the Paramilitary Organizations and other Security Agencies should be empowered to handle matters of Internal Security Operations (ISOs);
- iv The Media should be adequately engaged on issues of national security operations in order to fully exercise their role as a channel of reliable information on CMR to the general public;
- v The appropriate Government Agency should ensure registration of NGOs and INGOs, and the Military should ensure that unauthorised organisations are not allowed access to troubled zones in order to checkmate the dissemination of unauthorised and unconfirmed information;
- vi To improve Inter-Agency collaborations between relevant stakeholders, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should develop its own CMR principles that are peculiar to Nigeria's Civil Military situations, in conformity with global best practices;
- vii The FGN should ensure adequate funding and provision of equipment for the AFN to enhance effective and efficient discharge of its duties;

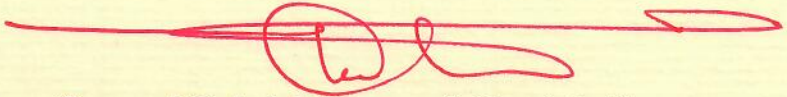


- viii The Ministry of Defence should provide adequate funding for effective public enlightenment and sensitization on CMR, as well as funding to accommodate security exigencies;
- ix Conflicts in the country should be well managed by the Government, Defence and Security Agencies at all times, in order to avoid any invocation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) by the International Community against Nigeria;
- x Nigeria should use its strategic position to ensure that regional bodies in Africa take the lead in handling conflicts in their respective domains; and
- xi R2P should also be included in the curricula of Paramilitary training institutions, as well as all educational institutions in the country for the benefit of the entire citizenry.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 At the end of the Workshop, participants commended the President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria for his support to the Military. They further appreciated the Honourable Minister of Defence and the entire Armed Forces of Nigeria for the commitment in addressing security challenges in the country. Furthermore, participants acknowledged the commitment of the Ministry of Defence towards transforming the Armed Forces of Nigeria to effectively carry out its statutory functions in line with global best standards and practices. Finally, the participants urged the Ministry of Defence to evolve ways of increasing awareness on the operations of the Armed Forces of Nigeria with emphasis on Civil Military Relations.


Nuratu Jimoh Batagarawa (Mrs.)
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Defence


General Gabriel Abayomi Olonishakin
Chief of Defence Staff
Defence Headquarters

Friday, 25th January, 2019