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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
“CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS AND THE MEDIA IN CONTEMPORARY POLITY,”
HELD AT THE 1 DIVISION OFFICERS’ MESS, KADUNA, KADUNA STATE ON
THURSDAY, 21ST AND FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2019**

1.0 Preamble:

1.1 A 2-Day Strategic National Workshop on “Civil Military Relations and the Media in Contemporary Polity” was organised by the Ministry of Defence at the 1 Division Officers’ Mess, Kaduna, Kaduna State, on Thursday, 21st and Friday, 22nd March, 2019. The Workshop was aimed at forging synergy between Security Agencies and the Media as critical partners in efficient Defence and Security Information Management. It also offered the opportunity for key stakeholders from both divides to re-examine the intricate but mutually dependent relationship between the Military and the Media, particularly on the social responsibility of the Media in promoting balanced reportage of security operations in a democratic society. In addition, the Workshop provided a pedestal for strategic interface amongst the top echelon of Nigeria’s Security Agencies, Media Executives and Human Rights Community to fashion out policy guidelines for sustainable galvanization of the public in furtherance of Nigeria’s national security.

1.2 Present at the Opening Ceremony were the Executive Governors of Katsina and Kaduna States represented by the Secretary to the Katsina State Government, Dr. Mustapha Inuwa and the Special Adviser on Security to Kaduna State Governor, AIG Mohammed Abbas, Rtd, respectively. Also present were the Chairman, House of Representatives’ Committee on Defence, ably represented by Dr. Chukwuemeka Ujam; the Honourable Minister of Defence, Mansur Muhammad Dan-Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Mrs. Nuratu J. Batagarawa, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin, NAM and representatives of the Service Chiefs.

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Other dignitaries were His Royal Majesty, Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II, Emir of Kano, represented by the Yan Dakau Kano, Alhaji Abbas M. Dalhatu; His Royal Majesty, the Emir of Katsina, represented by Dan Malikin Katsina, Alhaji Jaye Usman Abba; representative of the Chief of Kagoro, Chief Lucas Zamani, Dan Iyan Kagoro; representative of the Etsu Nupe, Maj Gen Mohammed Ibrahim Gana (rtd), mni, the Dan Magayaki Nupe. Participants were drawn from the Ministry of Defence, Defence and Services Headquarters, Tri-Service Institutions, other Security Agencies, the Media, Civil Society Organizations and the Academia.

2.0 Paper Presentation

2.1 The Workshop featured three (3) Sessions and six (6) Discussion Groups. The following six papers were presented and discussed:

- i "Civil-Military Relations: Overview, Concepts and Institutional Framework" by Prof. E.O Alemika, University of Jos
- ii "Interface of Security Agencies with Human Rights Community" by Dr. Jimam T. Lar, University of Jos
- iii "The Media and Security Information Management" by Olusegun Adeniyi, Chairman Editorial Board, Thisday Newspaper
- iv "Defence and Security Information Management: Security Perspective" by Air Vice Marshal OA Adesanya, Nigerian Defence Attaché to Russia
- v "Winning the Heart and Mind in Counter-Insurgency Operations: Operation LAFIYA DOLE in Perspective" by Maj Gen IM Yusuf, Executive Director, Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Abuja, and
- vi "Galvanizing Public Support in Defence of Territorial Integrity", by Professor Chukwuma CC Osakwe, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

2.2 A former Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria - Mr. Obadiah Mailafiya, retired Inspector General of Nigeria Police Force - Mr. Solomon Arase and retired Air Vice Marshal Dick Iruenabere, served as Chairmen for the First, Second and Third Sessions, respectively.



2.3 In the course of the Workshop, participants observed:

- i. That whereas, it is both the right and duty of the Media to promote and publish the truth, there is the need for Media Practitioners to be guided by the ethics of their profession and the principle of social responsibility;
- ii. That circumstances and unavoidable constraint often militate against timely release of information by the Military;
- iii. That enhanced Civil Military Relations was imperative for securing the nation's territory and its citizens;
- iv. That the Media, Civil Society and the Military have a joint responsibility to secure the nation;
- v. That over exposure of the Military to civil functions has negative effect on professionalism and public perception of the institution;
- vi. That rather than be an adversarial relationship, Civil-Military Relations should be governed more by cooperation and mutual trust;
- vii. That there is the need to convene a critical stakeholders conference under the aegis of the National Security Adviser on how best to balance reportage on sensitive security matters without compromising national interest;
- viii. That Inter-Agency rivalry impact negatively on the nation's image and decision-making architecture in crisis situation;
- ix. That the ability of the Military to win the Heart and Mind is contingent upon its possession and demonstration of capacity to protect and defend the civil populace; and
- x. That the absence of a National Defence Security Information Management Policy had greatly undermined the management of security information.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Against the above background, participants recommended as follows:



- i. That over-exposure of the Military should be addressed through the establishment of an intermediate force as a buffer between the Military and other Security Agencies;
- ii. That the existing friction in Military-Media Relationship should be addressed through regular cooperative engagement, particularly in this age of terror;
- iii. Necessary arrangement should be made to ensure regular training, re-orientation and enlightenment of Military personnel and Media practitioners on tenets of Civil-Military Relations;
- iv. Government should step up campaign for the acceptance of State Security as a collective responsibility of the general public, including but not limited to Security Agencies, the Media, Community-Based Organizations [CBOs], Civil Society Organizations [CSOs], Faith-Based Organizations [FBOs] and individual citizens, rather than being wrongly perceived as the sole responsibility of the Security Agencies;
- v. The National Orientation Agency needs to increase its civic education on Military and security matters in order to reduce Civil-Military frictions;
- vi. The Media should be sensitised on how to react to security information and should be patriotic on its reportage;
- vii. Where the reporting of information constitutes a threat to national security, such reportage should be avoided in the interest of the nation;
- viii. Deliberate efforts should be made for Military personnel and Media practitioners to train together in order to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the two sensitive institutions in the overall interest of national security;
- ix. That at this stage of our national development, the Nigerian Military should continuously build the intellectual capacity of its personnel, in order to effectively and efficiently discharge its mandate of safeguarding the territorial integrity of Nigeria;



- x. That the Ministry of Defence should endeavour to secure special budgetary allocations for both Military and Quick-Impact Projects in the theatres of operation, including research into conflicts; and
- xi. That the Ministry of Defence should ensure the formulation of a National Defence and Security Information Management Policy to guide the Media, public information managers and the general public in the handling of information materials that have implications for national security.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion, the participants commended the President and the Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, for his support to the Military. They further appreciated the Honourable Minister of Defence, the Permanent Secretary, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs for their commitment to addressing the security challenges in Nigeria.

4.2 Furthermore, participants acknowledged the commitment of the Ministry of Defence towards transforming the Armed Forces of Nigeria for enhanced efficiency in the discharge of its statutory functions in line with global best practices. Finally, the participants urged the Ministry of Defence to advance ways of increasing awareness on the operations of the Armed Forces of Nigeria with regards to Civil Military Relations, the Media and the general public.



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



General Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin, NAM
Chief of Defence Staff
Defence Headquarters

Friday, 22nd March, 2019