

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION'S 2014 BIENNIAL RETREAT ON THE THEME "SUSTAINING NIGERIA POLICE REFORMS" HELD FROM THE 29TH – 31ST JANUARY, 2014 AT THE ROYAL CHOICE INN, MAKURDI, BENUE STATE

PREAMBLE

The Police Service Commission organized a three day Biennial Retreat on the theme: "Sustaining Nigeria Police Reforms" at the Royal Choice Inn, Makurdi, Benue State held from the 29th – 31st January, 2014. The Retreat was organized to provide the Commission and the Police hierarchy and other stake holders with an opportunity to interact, learn, understand, reflect and proffer solutions to the challenges of Sustaining Nigeria Police Reforms.

The Retreat was declared open by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, *GCFR*, ably represented by the Honourable Minister of the FCT, Senator Bala Mohammed, who also delivered the keynote address. The opening ceremony of the Retreat was Chaired by the Executive Governor of Akwa-Ibom State, Obong (Dr.) Godswill Obot Akpabio, *CON*, ably represented by the Honourable Commissioner for Youths and Sports of Akwa-Ibom State, Mr. Monday Uko. The Governor of Benue State Rt. Hon. Dr. Gabriel Suswam, *CON*, was ably represented at the occasion by the Deputy Governor, Chief Stephen Lawani. Other Special Guests included the Inspector-General of Police, M. D. Abubakar, *CFR, NPM, mni*, in his capacity and also represented the Hon. Minister of Police Affairs. The Chairman, Police Service Commission, Sir (Dr.) Mike Mbama Okiro, IGP (Rtd.) *CFR, NPM, mni*, and Members of the Commission were present. The Director-General, Bureau of Public Service Reforms, Director-General, Department of State Services, and Service Chiefs were also represented by Top Ranking Officers in the Public Service, Army, Navy and Air Force. Resource persons were drawn from the Judiciary, Civil-Societies organizations, Public Service and the Academia.

OBSERVATIONS

After presentations, observations were made in regard to accepted recommendations of the various Police Reform Committees as reflected in the relevant Government White Papers on such reports (the Danmadami Committee of 2006 and the M. D. Yusuf Committee of 2008), yet to be translated into action by way of appropriate government policies, setting specific timelines for achieving specific goals. There is therefore need to develop a concept of policing that will evolve from Nigeria's unique social, cultural and political system through the mutual effort by the Police Service Commission and the Nigeria Police Force with the intent to perfect the Police recruitment exercise.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Operationalization and implementation of policies already promulgated including the recommendations accepted contained in the various White Papers on Police Reforms for enhancement of service delivery.
2. A new concept of Policing that evolves from Nigeria's unique socio-cultural and political system be developed.
3. The Recruitment and selection process for enlisting into the Nigeria Police Force must be competitive, transparent, and based on merit so that the best quality of personnel with the required competencies and attitudes will be brought into the NPF. In addition, an effective and efficient mechanism to verify certificates must be put in place to check certificate fraud.
4. Facilities in the Training Institutions must be upgraded to meet international standards; the institutions must be staffed by dedicated, professionally sound, highly experienced and well-motivated Instructors.
5. There must be attitudinal change amongst Officers of the Nigeria Police Force, the Army, the SSS and other security agencies in the country to promote cohesion, collaboration and effective cooperation in intelligence sharing and in their operations.
6. The Police Reform Agenda should target a robust working relationship, unity of purpose, and promotion of better understanding of the different perspectives of all relevant security agencies responsible for ensuring safety and security of the nation.
7. Inter-agency rivalry and altercations evidenced in information hoarding and the attempt by one agency to outshine the other should be stopped. Undercover agencies must remain invisible in their operations.
8. Policy on inter-agency collaboration has to be put in place and routinely addressed in an atmosphere of deep appreciation and understanding; this should be backed by law to be enacted by the National Assembly.
9. Nigeria is not yet ripe to operate State Police. Despite agitations by a segment of the Nigerian populace for it, there is the fear that some State Chief Executives could turn the State Police into an instrument of oppression and suppression.
10. For the proposed transformation to be effective, it will involve other relevant government agencies and stakeholders partnering with the Commission in developing the necessary tools and putting in place necessary structures required for the achievement of the Commission's mandate.

11. Training and re-training of officers to keep up with current trends in the nation's security architecture and consequently enhance specialization and better service delivery.
12. The criminal justice system must work as an integrated system. To achieve this, all the role players including the victims of crime and their communities, the Police, the Courts, and Nigeria Prisons Service should work together in creating a national crime prevention strategy.
13. A database for crimes and criminals should be created and continually updated by the various relevant agencies.
14. Government should equip the Nigeria Police Force with ICT and other scientific aid to enhance policing. Among other things, the Police should be equipped with up to date computers, finger print machines, forensic laboratories, computerized crime centers and camera systems including CCTV. In addition, the laws should be updated to make electronic data admissible in court.
15. The Police Service Commission as an oversight institution for the Police should be strengthened in terms of human and material resources, capacity building and funding to enable it to carry out its functions effectively.



Sir (Dr.) Mike M. Okiro IGP (Rtd), CFR, NPM, mni

Honourable Chairman