



SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

TEL: 2340273
FAX: 2341325

P. M. B. 141 GARKI,
ABUJA - NIGERIA

NASS/8S/R/03/VOL.1/10

17th November, 2015

The Chairman,
Committee on Special Duties
National Assembly,
Abuja.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION COMMITTEE ON THE
REHABILITATION OF NORTH EAST ZONE**

The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at its sitting on Wednesday, 29th July, 2015 deliberated a motion on **Establishment of Presidential Intervention Committee on the Rehabilitation of North East Zone** and **resolved** to;

"direct its Committee on Special Duties to monitor the well-being of all internally displaced persons in the country who have been displaced as a result of the insurgency".

2. This letter formally transmits the **Senate resolution** to your Committee for further legislative action.
3. Attached herewith is the Relevant **Votes and Proceedings** for your information and guidance, please.


Nelson Ayewoh

Ag. Clerk,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL DUTIES IN RESPECT
OF THE MOTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL
INTERVENTION COMMITTEE ON THE REHABILITATION OF
NORTH EAST ZONE**

BACKGROUND

The Senate in its sitting on Wednesday 29th June 2015 deliberated on a motion on the establishment of Presidential Intervention Committee on the North East Zone. The Sponsor of the motion Sen. George Thomson Sekibo representing Rivers East drew the attention of the Senate on the matter.

Consequently, the Senate resolved and mandated the Committee on Special Duties *“to monitor the well-being of all Internally Displaced Persons in the Country who have been displaced as a result of the insurgency and report back to plenary (S/Res/008/01/15).”*

The mandate was therefore transmitted to the Committee vide Senate Votes and proceedings No 7 of 29th July 2015 through a referral letter from the Acting Clerk of Senate ref no NASS/85/R/03/Vol.1/10 and dated 17th November 2015.

METHODOLOGY

The recommendations in this Document were put together in coordination with already existing recommendations by relevant government agencies under the oversight of this Committee such as National Emergency Management Agency

Displaced Persons (Refugee Commission). The Committee also received input from Development Partners (local and international) and NGOs.

Both of the above referenced Government agencies made oral submissions before this Committee and also submitted written documents outlining their experience and processes used in managing displaced persons. In addition to the material presented by the agencies mentioned, this Committee also reviewed data made available by relevant international organizations such as the International Organization on Migration. The contributions of the European Union, USAID, DFID and the Korea International Cooperation Agency were also considered.

CURRENT SITUATION OF IDPs

The population estimates of the IDPs is approximately 2,172, 563. This population is made up of about 313,575 households, averaging about 6.2 persons per household. 52% of the IDPs are female and 48% male. Children under the age of 18 constitute 58% of the IDP population and more than half of them are 5 years old or younger. There are 44 camps in the North East Zone. Most of the camps were adapted to fit the needs of IDPs. Thus, the camps require constant improvements to enable them serve the residents. It is worthy to note that IDPs squatting with relations across the entire northern part of the Country are much more in number than the IDPs already in the camps.

HEALTHCARE/NUTRITION

The insurgency has wiped out a large number of health centres and facilities. Thus putting pressure on the few that remain. Several health workers, especially those not from within the North East Zone, have abandoned the centres and facilities,

thus putting severe stress on the remaining health workers. In addition, the health and nutrition situation of the children throughout the Zone is alarming. A large number of children have stunted growth; the children are underweight and malnutrition of both the severe and moderate nature is rampant. There are about 4 million malnourished children in the Zone. As a result of this, the health of the IDPs is at risk, and more often than not the nutritional needs of the IDPs are forgotten in the scheme of affairs.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Major markets, banks, and other commercial infrastructure have been destroyed by the insurgents. Farming is the primary means of livelihood for most IDPs but the current situation does not allow them to venture to their localities or to their farms. Consequently, most IDPs have lost their means of livelihood.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Since the insurgency began, many schools (Basic Education, Senior Secondary as well as Post-Secondary) have been destroyed and teachers have died or have fled the Zone. Additionally, it is reported that some school buildings are instead now housing people.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The standard community and social structures of those within the displaced camps has been also been disrupted and parties emotionally affected. The IDPs explained that a large part of their negativity stemmed from the fact that “farming is their main source of livelihood but due to the attacks they cannot return to their villages

and farm their lands” and this had led to anxiety about their future. They further explained that their resilience and desire to go on stems from their belief in God.

LEGAL MANDATES OF REFUGEE COMMISSION AND NEMA

The Acts of both the Refugee Commission and NEMA do not specifically mention their roles in relation to IDPs. In the Refugee Commission Act, **Refugee** strictly speaking refers to people that are outside Nigeria due to crisis or people that are within Nigeria from other countries as a result of crisis in their home countries. But this is an anomaly because people first start off as IDPs within their countries before becoming refugees and on their return, they are referred to as Returnees and not IDPs. The Act as it is therefore has left a gap to be filled by the Senate thus the need to amend the National Refugee Commission Act to include IDPs.

Conversely, NEMA’s Act does not contain any specific language on IDPs. However, the Act lists **rehabilitation** as one of the Agency’s duties and it has leveraged on it to play an important role in the delivery of services to IDPs as a result of the insurgency in the North East. This is commendable in the absence of an institution charged specifically for this purpose. However, the word **rehabilitation** in NEMA’s Act in the view of the Committee is limited to the context of emergencies due to natural disasters and communal clashes. It does not extend to the kind of rehabilitation, reconciliation and resettlement that is necessary for IDPs over a lengthy period due to the ongoing crisis in the North East Zone.

Additionally, it has also been observed that the important role being played by NEMA has eaten deeply into its resources such that it might not be able to cope when faced with an emergency within its statutory role. Hence the need to relieve the Agency of such duties as soon as practicable.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER SUPPORT

This Committee was briefed by International Development Partners on their position regarding the welfare of the IDPS. It was obvious that they were frustrated by what seemed to be a lack of Federal Government Support for the IDPs and the inability of the grass-roots to recognize their efforts. This clearly is due to lack of an institutional framework for coordinating the activities of all stakeholders in peace building and development of the North-East Zone which the Senate is currently addressing through the NEDC Bill.

This Committee also observed that in all the reports received from NEMA and the Refugee Commission, not much was said about the roles of Local Development Partners such as the Victims Support Group and PINE. It was very clear that there is some degree of rivalry between the NEMA and the Refugee Commission; both institutions happen to be the key Federal Government Institutions that are at the forefront of assisting the IDPs. Once again these concerns would be taken care of in the NEDC Act.

While this Committee acknowledges the herculean efforts by NEMA, it is our view that the current crisis in the Zone has gone beyond an emergency, thus it requires a more far reaching response effort than the rehabilitation efforts NEMA is empowered to engage in; hence further consolidating the need for the

establishment of the North East Development Commission as already resolved by the Senate.

2016 BUDGET – REFUGEE COMMISSION AND NEMA

The total proposed Federal Government Budget of 2016 is **₦ 6,077,680,000,000** yet only **₦ 2,486,957,411** and **₦ 1,344,510,145** have been budgeted for the Refugee Commission and NEMA respectively. This gives a total figure of **₦ 3,821,476,556** which constitutes about 0.06 percent of the Budget. **This is grossly inadequate to address the crisis.** While NEMA sometimes receives some support from the Ecological Fund, even that support is unreliable and inadequate because it is at the discretion of the Presidency and its immediate priorities. Furthermore, the Refugee Commission receives no such support. The Committee therefore considers the amount budgeted for both the Refugee Commission and NEMA to be too meagre to effectively handle the needs of the IDPs.

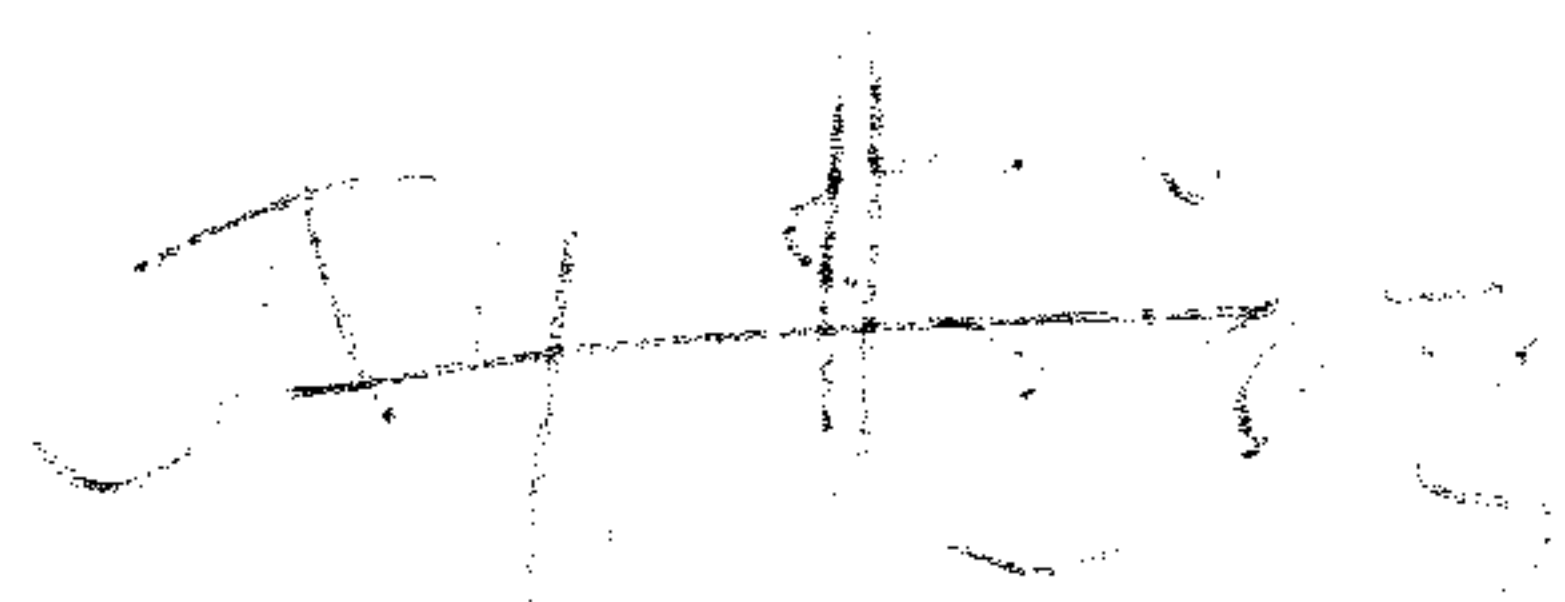
The Committee has noticed that in the recent Budget, projects related to IDPs are spread across various MDAs that have no statutory responsibility for IDPs. Hence it would be prudent for the Senate to take queue from the House of Representatives and transfer all such projects to the Refugee Commission for better coordination and oversight.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This Committee recommends that the Senate:

1. Amend the National Refugee Commission Act to enable the Commission function properly under the ambit of the law.

2. Direct the National Refugee Commission to coordinate all Federal Government, development partner, and NGO initiatives in the North East Zone that are related to the insurgency pending the creation of the North East Development Commission.
3. Direct that NEMA maintains its statutory role of rehabilitation of IDPs within the context of emergencies such as flooding, communal clashes, and other related matters.
4. Appropriate a minimum of ₦50,000,000,000 to ₦60,000,000,000 to the National Refugee Commission in order for the Committee to address the basic needs of the IDPs across the Country.
5. Direct the Appropriation Committee to transfer all projects in the Budget that are related to IDPs from MDAs that have no statutory role in relation to IDPs to the National Refugee Commission.



Senator Abdul-Aziz Murtala Nyako
Chairman Committee on Special Duties



Lilian Banigo
Committee Clerk

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Sonny Ogbuoji

Senator Kabir I. Gaya

Senator Fatima Raji Rasaki

