



**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR ON THE BILLS TO ESTABLISH THE
NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS (SB.173) AND
NATIONAL UNITY AND PEACE CORPS (SB.183)
BILLS 2016**

NOVEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR ON NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS (SB.173) AND NATIONAL UNITY AND PEACE CORPS (SB.183) BILLS 2016

1.0 Preamble:

The Senate at its sitting on Thursday 10th March, 2016 debated on the general principles of the Nigerian Peace Corps Bill, 2016 (SB.173) sponsored by **Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume** and the National Unity and Peace Corps Bill, 2016 (SB.183) sponsored by **Senator Binta Garba Masi**, and referred to the Committee for further legislative action.

1.1. Membership Of The Committee

1. Senator Bayero U. Nafada	Ag. Chairman	Gombe North
2. Senator Abdullahi Adamu	Member	Nasarawa West
3. Senator Solomon Adeola	Member	Lagos West
4. Senator Ahmad Rufai Sani	Member	Zamfara West
5. Senator Ogola Foster	Member	Bayelsa West
6. Senator Danjuma Laah	Member	Kaduna South
7. Senator Fatimat O. Raji-Rasaki	Member	Ekiti Central
8. Senator Ordia A. Clifford	Member	Edo Central
9. Sen. Chukwuka Utazi	Member	Enugu North
10. Senator Mao Oluabunwa	Member	Abia North
11. Senator Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi	Member	Katsina Central

2.0 Objectives of the Bills:

The objectives of these two Bills are similar in nature which includes but not limited to:

1. Empower, Develop and provide gainful employment for the youths, to facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services, Neighborhood Watch and Nation-building;
2. Training the youths to advance the course of Peace-building and Conflict Transformation through Peace Education, Mediation and Conflict Resolution among warring groups or communities where there are crisis in Nigeria;
3. Building the capacity of the youths in the areas of Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition;
4. Re-directing the creative potentials of the youths towards Patriotic

Services and Nation-building through Citizenship and Leadership Training;

5. Establishment of Peace Corps Club and combating all forms of social decadence in Educational Institutions in order to create a peaceful and conducive atmosphere for learning;
6. Creating a Reservoir of trained personnel and volunteers of diverse qualifications to serve as a spring board for easy accessibility of manpower whenever the Nation needs their services for either permanent employment or Ad-hoc Staff for National and International Programmes such as Emergency Relief Services, Voters' Registration, Census, Immunization and Sanitation; and
7. To carry out any other function as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly or by any Bye-Law.

3.0 **Methodology:**

- i. The Committee held series of meetings for the purpose of fashioning out modalities in carrying out this important assignment;
- ii. Publication in Prints, Electronic and Social Media were made with a view to sensitizing members of the public and requesting for Memoranda, invitations were also sent to Stakeholders;
- iii. A meeting with the leadership of the Nigerian Peace Corps led by its National Commandant and that of National Unity and Peace Corps led by its Commandant-General was conveyed;
- iii. The Committee conducted a one-day Public Hearing on Wednesday 20th April, 2016.

4.0 **Public Hearing:**

On Wednesday 20th April, 2016 the Committee conducted the Public Hearing. The hearing elicited the views of the Stakeholders and the general public on the merits and otherwise of these Bills. The Public Hearing attracted unprecedented crowd.

Specifically, the Committee sent invitations for input and appearance at the Public Hearing to the following Stakeholders/Institutions:

1. Federal Ministry of Interior
2. Federal ministry of Environment
3. Federal ministry of Education
4. Federal Ministry of Tourism
5. Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity

6. Federal Ministry of Health
7. Federal Ministry of Youths and Development
8. Federal Ministry of Justice of Justice
9. National Security Adviser (NSA)
10. Nigeria Police Force
11. Department of State Service (DSS)
12. Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)
13. Nigerian Army
14. Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)
15. Boys Scout of Nigeria
16. National Orientation Agency (NOA)
17. National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN)
18. National Population Commission
19. National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
20. National Association of Nigerian Students
21. National Youths Service Corps (NYSC)
22. National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
23. Nigeria Tourism Development Board
24. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
25. Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission
26. Head of Service of the Federation
27. UNESCO
28. Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
29. Strategic Empowerment and Mediation Agency
30. Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON)
31. Civil Society Organizations/General Public.

4.1 Presentations Received at the Hearing:

The Committee received 237 written Memoranda and numerous Oral submissions from Government Ministries/Agencies, Traditional Institutions, Religious Bodies, Academia, NGOs, other various interest groups and Individuals.

Two Hundred and Nineteen (219) of the written Memoranda received and most of the oral presentations at the Hearing supported the establishment of the Nigerian Peace Corps while Fourteen (14) supported the establishment of National Unity and Peace Corps.

The following Government Agencies: Ministry of Interior, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Police and the Department of State Services in their presentations did not support the establishment of either of the Nigerian Peace Corps or

National Unity and Peace Corps.

However, other core establishments of Government gave their overwhelming supports to the Bill and acknowledged that it is timely. Principal among these are:- Federal Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; Federal Ministry of Youth & Sports; Federal Ministry of Education; Federal Ministry of Health; Federal Ministry of Special Duties; National Orientation Agency (NOA); Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC); National Population Commission (NPC) among others, supported the establishment of the Nigerian Peace Corps.

Twenty two (22) State Houses of Assembly and State Ministries of Youth; Environment; Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and Education from 28 States submitted Memoranda in support of the establishment of the Nigerian Peace Corps.

Religious bodies and highly revered Traditional Rulers such as the Alaafin of Oyo, Attah of Igala, Emir of Gombe, Muri of Okolo- Napula Clan of Calabar South, Eze Oha Evo III of Evo Kingdom (Eze Gbakgbaka), Ohinoyi of Egbira land, Ona of Abaji, Etsu of Kwali in the FCT, etc, endorsed the Bill.

The Bill also received massive approval from Civil Society Organisations and groups, prominent among which are the UN Habitat, National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) and Corporate Bodies.

4.2: Observation/Findings:

The Committee observed that:

- i. The organizations will be of great benefit to the Nigerian youths;
- ii. Majority of the Stakeholders supported the passage of the Bills on the notion that the delivery of security services was exclusively the preserved of the Military and other conventional Security Agencies. They however, observed that in response to increasing complexity of the factors responsible for insecurity and the method by which peace and security is being undermined in Nigeria, there is need to develop comprehensive, multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder and inclusive approaches in order to stem this threats ;
- iii. The same Government Agencies who are opposed to these Bills now took the same position when the National Assembly passed the NSCDC Bill into law few years ago.

4.3 Recommendations:

- The Committee's recommendations are as follows:
- i. That the two Bills should be merged into one Bill;
 - ii. That the title of the new Bill to read "Nigerian Peace Corps Bill 2016" for ease of harmonization with the House of Representatives who have passed the same Bill.
 - iii. That the Head of the Corps to be referred to as Commandant-General with six (6) Deputy Commandants-General and six (6) Assistant Commandants-General drawn from the Six (6) Geopolitical Zone which should reflect the Federal Character principle; and
 - iv. That the Corps should be domiciled under the Federal Ministry of Interior.

5.0 Amended Clauses of the Bill

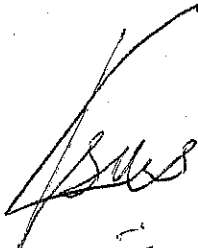
The amended and recommended clauses of the Bill, which reflect the memoranda received and oral submissions made during the Public Hearing, are in the attached template.

6.0 Conclusion:

The Committee wishes to thank the Senate President, the entire leadership of the Senate and all our Distinguished Colleagues for this opportunity given us to serve you and our nation, Nigeria. It is our hope that this legislation will impact positively on the lives of Nigerians.

Thank you.


Sen. Bayero Usman Nafada, CON
Ag. Chairman


Isah Garba
Asst. Director/Clerk