

**THE ROLE OF BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT IN
SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IN THE STATE:
BEING BRIEF PRESENTED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM ON SUNDAY 14TH
MARCH, 2010 AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BAUCHI**

INTRODUCTION

Definition:

Security can be defined as ability, level or extent of protection against danger, loss and criminal/criminal activities. Security can be categorized into many forms. However, for the present purpose we will confine ourselves to public security, which deals with the protection of citizenry, organizations and institutions against threats to their wellbeing and to the prosperity of their communities.

2. Security is the bedrock of all developmental efforts. Without security to lives and property, no meaningful progress can be achieved in the society. It is in realization of this that the State Government from its inception in 2007 articulated some well-thought-out programmes towards achieving peace and security in the State. Indeed, as is the case with all responsible Governments the world

over, the protection of lives and property remains the cardinal objectives of the present administration in the State. Thus, security has always remains a matter of top priority for the Government alongside other vital sectors of human endeavour such as Health, Education, Human Empowerment and Infrastructural Development. Again, in the realization of the crucial role of security agencies in the maintenance of peace, law and order, the present administration cultivated and sustains a cordial relationship with all the security agencies in the State.

3. The Special Services Bureau is the agency that serves as the channel of interactions and contacts between the State Government and Security agencies. The Bureau is one of the four Directorates under the Office of the Secretary to the State Government. Therefore, the State Government pursues its programmes of providing security to citizens of the State through the Special Services Bureau.

4. Government is rigorously pursuing programmes aimed at combating all the identified security threats in the State. Some of the security challenges for which the State Government is exerting tremendous efforts to combat include armed robbery, political

which are the others?

thuggery, Border disputes, ethno/religious crisis, chieftaincy tussles and deviant attitudes of the youth. Prior to the advent of this administration, incidents of armed robbery and other crimes were rampant. The State especially Bauchi metropolis was forcefully reduced to heaven for 'Sara-Suka' and political thugs

5. When this Government came on board, it mobilized all the security agencies and launched sustained efforts towards combating the identified security threats in the State, which led to drastic reduction of security breaches. To ensure success in the fight against 'Sara-Suka', political thuggery, ethno-religious crisis, armed robbery and other crimes in the State, the present Government through the Bureau provides all the security operatives including the Police, the Operation Flush II and other Para-military outfits with various kinds of support such as moral, financial and provision of operational vehicles. Highlights of supports being offered to security agencies are as follows:-

- i. Substantial sum of money are being given to security agencies as monthly subvention for patrol and other security operations;

- ii. In order to enhance their operational efficiency, the State has so far allocated additional 45 pick-up vans, 22 buses and 5 saloon cars to the security agencies in the State. This is in addition to the substantial amount released for the maintenance of old vehicles earlier released to them; and
 - iii. Whenever the security agencies are involved in operations to forestall security problems or quell crisis in the State, Government always accord them with tremendous logistic support to facilitate the success of the operations.
6. The array of supports given to security agencies has significantly yielded positive result as the State Government has been recording tremendous success in the administration of security in the State most especially in the areas of general maintenance of law and order, enhancement of peaceful coexistence between and among people of different ethnic and religious cleavages as well as the drastic reduction in incidences of armed robbery and the general crime profile in the State.
7. The untiring commitment of the Present Administration towards ensuring maximum protection to lives and property of the citizenry

coupled with the existing cordial working relationship between the Government and the security agencies as well as support and cooperation from law abiding members of the public enabled the Government to adequately deal with any attempt to breach of peace in the State. Some of the examples of attempted breach to security which the Present Administration disposed off and managed adequately include Yelwa/Kagadama ethno/religious crisis in December 2007, the wicked rebellion by members of 'Boko-Haram' sect in July, 2009 and Kala-Kato uprising in December 2009.

8. It is worth mentioning that the efforts of the State Government to ensure the prevalence of law and order are not limited to the support being accorded to the security agencies and/or dealing with apparent breach to security as highlighted above. The efforts include the employment of some preventive measures to forestall breach of the peace. Highlights of these measures are as follows: -

- (i) Among the first generation of political appointments made by the present Administration on assumption of office in 2007, was the appointment of a Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Conflict Resolution who was charged

with the responsibility to, among others, monitor, identify and initiate the process of resolving all volatile issues and incidents in liaison with the Special Services Bureau. The officer has under him Peace Agents in all the Twenty (20) Local Government Areas of the State;

(ii) In addition to the above, the Present Administration has appointed a Special Adviser on Education and Societal Re-orientation who has among his responsibilities reorienting members of the society to imbibe good virtues, tolerance; live peacefully with one another as well as shun away from any blame-worthy behaviours. The Office of the Special Adviser has since introduced and launched a special programme titled: 'Gyara-Kayanka' that is geared towards achieving the set objectives.

(iii) In the same vein, the State Government also constituted a High-Powered Committee on Conflict Resolution and Community Reconciliation which had been chaired by the late Sage Dr. Ibrahim Tahir until his death. The Committee was also charged with the responsibility of

*Is committee still
subsisting? who
is the new head?
X General Sabo*

9. Other measures adopted include the establishment in the State, a Muslims/Christians Peace Movement comprising of clerics from within the faiths as a forum to rub minds and resolve areas of frictions. Furthermore, the Present Administration enacted laws that outlaw the 'Sara-Suka' activities, regulates open air preaching and establishment of places of worship.

10. In the continuing efforts to find lasting solutions to the security problems being posed by youths' restiveness, the State Government introduced a rehabilitation intervention scheme which is intended to demobilize and reintegrate members of 'Sara-Suka' through a Commission for the Rehabilitation and Development of Youths and Women. Government is giving the Commission all necessary support to enable it operates successfully.

11. It is imperative to state that the Present Administration in its efforts to provide a lasting solution to these social problems which are synonymous with poverty have rejuvenated the Poverty Alleviation Department and upgraded it to a full pledge ministry. Skills Acquisition Centres were established throughout the State to turn our unemployed youth to self-employed and useful members of the

society. It is delighting to note that these measures have restored the peoples' confidence in the State.

12. Finally, it is significant to point out that the foregone paragraphs represent just a summary of salient aspects of the activities of the State Government towards the provision of security in the State. However, the effort of Government in security administration in the State touches all aspects of human endeavour. The Special Services Bureau is doing its best to coordinate all the security programmes, supervise their implementations and evaluate performances.

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