

COMMUNIQUE OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2010 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SIR KASHIM IBRAHIM HOUSE, KADUNA

The Emergency Meeting of the Northern Governors' Forum was held to collectively discuss the series of crises in Northern States particularly in Plateau State resulting in great loss of lives and property. The Forum discussed the current national situation.

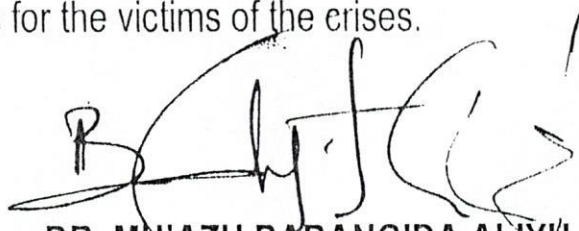
In his address, the Chairman of the Forum and Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON described the mayhem as unfortunate and retrogressive to the socio-economic development of the North and the country in general. He expressed immense gratitude to the Traditional Rulers Council and all others for their reconciliatory and peace building efforts in Plateau State, and prayed for the repose of the departed souls and the fortitude to bear the losses.

The Forum prayed for the speedy recovery and good health of Mr. President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua GCFR. The Northern Governors' Forum appreciates the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) in relation to the Office of the President and Vice President, it also associate itself with judgement of the Courts on the same and agrees that the position of Acting could be either verbal or written and the Vice President has been appropriately acting admirably. The Forum calls on all arms of governments to continue to give full and

total support to the Acting President until the President returns in the interest of our dear and beloved country Nigeria.

- (1) The Forum noted with grave concern the prevalent security challenges in the North, particularly the series of sectarian crises in Jos, Plateau State. While it condemn in strongest terms the recent loss of lives and property. The Forum established that the crisis was more political than religious.
- (2) The Forum reiterated the need for sustained and deliberate campaign to abrogate settler/non-indigene syndrome in the overall interest of peace in the country and strictly abide by the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on citizenship.
- (3) The Forum called for the strengthening of security apparatus by way of proactive and pre-emptive measures towards securing the lives and property of the people as a fundamental Constitutional responsibility and to forestall future occurrence of such crises in the country.
- (4) The Forum also reiterated the need for sustained peace building mechanism and effective law enforcement for peaceful co-existence while calling on Nigerians to embrace dialogue as a veritable tool for solving problems.

- (5) The Forum further noted the concern and actions being taken by the Federal Government as well as Plateau State Government to nib the crises in the bud in the interest of peaceful co-existence and development of the country. It also called on Federal Government to direct the implementation of the recommendations of various Investigative Panels on the recurring crisis in Plateau State including the recommendations of Committee of Eminent citizens Co-Chaired by Chief Solomon Lar and Alhaji Yahaya Kwande.
- (6) The Forum further condemns the wrong information being perpetuated by some News Newspapers that Bauchi State House of Assembly has passed a resolution on the repatriation of Plateau State Indigenes from Bauchi State which calls for investigative and responsive Journalism.
- (7) The Forum agrees to solicit for assistance from Governments and individuals for the victims of the crises.



DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(TALBAN MINNA)
CHIEF SERVANT OF NIGER STATE AND
CHAIRMAN, NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM