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**COMMUNIQUE OF THE PLATEAU STATE INDIGENES
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (PSIDA) ABUJA, AT AN EMERGENCY
MEETING OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON**

SUNDAY, 24, JANUARY, 2010

The Special Council/Stakeholders Meeting of the Plateau state Indigenes Development Association (PSIDA), Abuja, comprising all the Executive Committee Members, Chairmen and Secretaries of Associations and Branches of PSIDA in the six FCT Area Councils and Environs held on January, 24, 2010. The meeting reviewed and deliberated extensively on the recent January 17, 2010 Jos crisis and resolved as follows.

1. PSIDA commiserates with the Government and People of Plateau State over the loss of lives and properties and expresses its heartfelt condolences to all affected persons.
2. PSIDA commends the Federal and State Governments for restoring order to Plateau State and further commends the ***Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan*** and his entourage for personally taking time to visit the affected people and areas.
3. PSIDA also commends the efforts of all individuals and organizations, both in the public and private sectors, who, have provided physical and psycho-social support to affected persons.
4. PSIDA re-affirms its support and loyalty to the Plateau State Government under ***Governor Jonah Jang*** and resolves to continue supporting it to restore total, lasting and sustainable peace to the state.
5. PSIDA condemns in totality, the incessant destruction of properties, unprovoked, reckless and wanton killings, of innocent lives irrespective of their ethnic and religious persuasions.

6. PSIDA condemns the specific attacks on worship places which are factors in escalating disputes which should, ordinarily be resolved through dialogue and legal processes. The attempt to stop a person from completing a structure, if true, **CANNOT** justify the carnage that has taken place.
7. PSIDA calls for the immediate prosecution of all arrested persons by the appropriate law enforcement agencies. PSIDA also notes the fact that persons arrested in the 2008 crisis were brought to Abuja despite protests from the State Government on matters of jurisdiction. PSIDA regrets that this decision lends credence to rumours that there is an ulterior motive to temper with the process of justice.
8. PSIDA calls for the immediate prosecution of all indicted persons, identified by previous Commissions of Inquiry to serve as deterrent to other miscreants.
9. PSIDA notes that the people of Plateau State have lived in peace with other Nigerians (Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani etc) who are amongst the early migrants to Plateau Highlands and appreciates the diversity of the State which is made up of over 50 ethnic groups. It however observes that the Hausa community, **ALONE** has been associated with all previous crisis in Plateau and ventures to pose the question: Of which ethnic groups are associated with similar crisis in Shagamu, Agege, Aba, Kaduna, Tafawa-Balewa, Kafanchan, Zangon Kataf, etc? In the same vein, PSIDA ventures to ask which ethnic/religious groups are associated with the Maitasine, Boko Haram, Kala-Kato, etc crises in past years. Can all these be attributed to the so called religious and ethnic chauvinists in Plateau State? PSIDA also poses the same question: In the wave of these various crises over the years, is it Plateau people who loot the properties of the Ibo, Yoruba, Urhobo, Itsekiri etc?

10. In view of "9" above, PSIDA calls on Government to have an immediate dialogue with the Hausa group to enable it live as other tribes are doing in Plateau.
11. PSIDA notes that the politico-religious tolerance of Plateau State has enabled the following positions to be filled according to accepted constitutional provisions that guarantee such rights to residents of any community:-
 - a. Hon. Shehu Sale Hassan; Member, House of Representatives (2003-2007)
 - b. Hon. Ismaila Mohammed; Member, House of Representatives (2007-Date)
 - c. Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan – Deputy Speaker - Plateau State House of Assembly (2007-Date). All of which are members of the Hausa/Muslims community in Jos.
12. PSIDA considers the calls for the balkanization of Plateau State as a solution to lasting peace as unwarranted, unconstitutional and a figment of the imagination of undemocratic elements.
13. PSIDA notes that the failed call by Senator Kanti Bello from Katsina State for the re-enactment of a state of emergency in Plateau State on the floor of the Senate and the purported move for same in the House of Representatives lend support to an ethnic agenda by the Hausa community. Shouldn't the Distinguished Senator have risen to call for a State of Emergency in Bauchi, and Borno States when Boko Haram slaughtered innocent Nigerians, including religious leaders inside their places of worship in those states?
14. PSIDA calls on Government to ensure that the criminal investigations of this crisis include the actions of the Army as its neutrality is currently in serious doubt. (Note the allegations contained in the The Nation Newspaper of Wednesday January 27, 2010 Pg 19 titled 'Jos: The "fire" this time'). This will also unravel the sources of uniforms and sophisticated weapons used by some of the miscreants which contributed to casualties as innocent people ran

into enemy fire, thinking it was the Nigerian Army. PSIDA considers the take over of security by the Army as a coup on the state. This situation should be reversed to a Joint Task Force of Army and Police, immediately.

15. PSIDA notes the incessant use of military weapons in crisis situations in Plateau State and calls for a disarmament program similar to the actions in the Niger Delta.
16. PSIDA strongly condemns the immediate redeployment of the former Plateau State Commissioner of Police. This similar action was taken in 2008. PSIDA wishes to observe that this creates a situation where Security Operatives who are at sites of crisis, have difficulty in speaking the truth.
17. **Conclusion** – PSIDA commends all persons and organizations that have based their reportage of this sad situation on **facts** rather than sentiments. PSIDA commits itself to work with all Stakeholders – Public and Private to contribute towards lasting and sustainable peace in Plateau and Nigeria at large.



GIDEON AMUGA

Secretary, Board of Trustees.

28th January, 2010

Abuja.