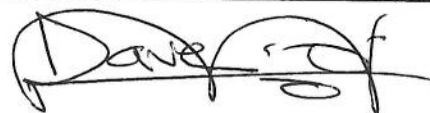


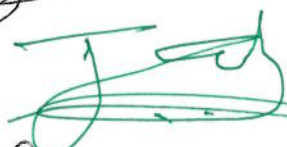


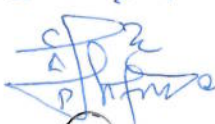




COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

1. DAVID OGBOLE  Civil Society
2. HON. GODWIN EDOH  LEGISLATURE
3. OWOICHO ABEL ANYEBE  FARMER'S ASSOCIATION
4. HRH DR. J.D. SULE ABENGA JP  Head inst
5. DR. EDWARD O. AMALI  Government
21/10/19 Benue State.
6. NYIOR TERUNGWA SUNNY
7. EVANG. GIFT J. ELANU  Religious Body
8. MAJOR P.A. ONIFADE  Security Agencies (Rep)
9. HON. DORCAS UKPE  office of Gov
10. NYIKYAA SAMUEL  PWD AG. Benue State

DRAFT COMMUNIQUÉ ON INTEGRATED APPROACH TO BUILDING PEACE IN NIGERIA'S FARMERS-HERDERS CRISES: A PEACE DIALOGUE WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY UNDP IN BENUE STATE. MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019

In a meeting of stakeholders drawn from various sectors of Benue state on the 21st October 2019 at the Old Banquet Hall of the Benue People's House Makurdi. The stakeholders deliberated on issues bothering on peace in the farmers-herders crisis in the state. The following encapsulates the deliberations and resolutions of the house:

1. The crisis is a deliberate, systematic and calculated invasion, killing and displacement of indigenous people of the state with the intent to occupy their ancestral lands.
2. The causes of the crisis were identified as follow:
 - a. The quest for land grabbing by a nomadic people group
 - b. Move for survival in the face of desertification in the far north
 - c. Lack of education (formal and civic) on the part of herders and farmers.
3. Failure of the Nigerian security architecture
4. Porous borders influx of criminalities, small arms and light weapons
5. Youth restiveness due to unemployment

The house agreed that the crisis has slowed down the pace of socio-economic growth in the state especially with the level of destruction of lives and properties and the attendant IDP situation.

The house also gave the following recommendations in the pursuit of peace.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The initiation of the propose green wall project to combat desertification in the North and provide local fodder and water for livestock in the spirit of modern animal husbandry practices
2. The Federal Government in the interest of the rule of law should implement the Benue Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law 2017 to the letter
3. Education of both farmers and herders on formal and civic levels to facilitate enlightenment on peace
4. Increase the number of security personnel in Nigeria and equip them to combat security threats and clamp down on small arms in circulation
5. Engage the youths productively through jobs and skill acquisition programmes
6. Facilitate community resilience fora in Benue communities as part of peacebuilding architecture
7. Strict border control to stop influx of criminal elements
8. Federal government and UN System should facilitate post-crisis rehabilitation, compensation and return of IDPs to their ancestral homes
9. Strengthen moral/religious values as a way of pursuing peace in our communities with religious and traditional leaders as drivers.
10. ECOWAS advised to revisit the ECOWAS Protocol on trans-border migration