



MicroDevelopment Matters

Vol. 1 No. 2

A Newsletter of MicroDevelopment Consulting Limited

April-June 2014

From the Horse's Mouth

Nigerian Citizens Have Spoken: Citizens Solutions to End Terrorism

After the 14th of April bombing of Nyanya Motor Park, and the abduction of over 200 school girls in Chibok, citizens on social media platforms subsequently responded to a call for suggestions on ways to combat this surge of terror. A further review of the suggestions and internal discussions resulted in the 10 key ACTION POINTS below.

1. Financing the Security Apparatus

The Nigerian public is concerned that the resources allocated to our security apparatus (N922 billion in 2012, N1 trillion in 2013 & N845 billion in 2014) do not seem to correspond with the results delivered by those at the frontline to prosecute the war against terror.

a. Agents on the Field

Citizens want to be assured that the welfare of our troops is given utmost priority by the government and military leadership. This includes, but not limited to, provision of (1) premium life insurance cover for security agents deployed to fight insurgency, (2) adequate compensation for the families of agents killed in the line of duty, (3) adequate care and support for agents injured in the line of duty, and (4) adequate reward for gallantry.

b. Weapons, Intel and Logistics

An independent committee comprising members of the Senate and House Committees on Defence as well as eminent retired military personnel be established to conduct an audit of the Joint Task Forces responsible for combating insurgency.

2. Local Security Governance

Communities should be encouraged to set up Community Safety Groups / Neighborhood Watch Groups. Community members know their communities better than the security agencies.

3. Conclusive Prosecution

The government has a duty to promptly prosecute alleged sponsors, and must be seen to be serious about it. It is not enough to promise 'action' while citizens watch themselves slaughtered daily.

4. Protocol of Engagement with Citizens

There has to be a defined protocol for obtaining information and sharing information with citizens. The presence of such a protocol is essential to the protection of Nigerian lives. Furthermore, in light of what happened to Yusuf Omisani, who was picked by SSS agents and kept incommunicado for 12 days, citizens need to be assured that when they share information, they will not be arbitrarily assumed to be members of Boko Haram and intimidated or victimized.

5. Follow the Money

The violence is being financed with cash. The government must make efforts to ensure that financial services such as the banking sector's Know-Your-Customer initiative is tied to its anti-terrorism strategy.

6. Immigration and Citizens' Identification

As a matter of urgency, we need to streamline the various types of data we have into a comprehensive database – SIM-Card registration (NCC), Immigration, National Identity Card, Civil Service Commission, Driver's License/ License Plates (FRSC), Voters'

Register (INEC).

7. Respect for the Dead

The appropriate agencies of government should within 48 hours of any attack, publish the names of as many victims as possible using formal and informal identification.

8. Risk Calculation and Mitigation

For public spaces prone to attacks – markets, schools, and parks – a standard package of protection should be designed to protect citizens. Once made public, citizens can also be vigilant to ensure that their spaces have the required services.

9. Promotion of Peace Education

Government, religious institutions, private sector and civil society groups should invest more resources in promoting peace education. Peace education will help to redress the culture of violence and aggression and inculcate the value of peaceful coexistence and non-violent orientation on every citizen. Peace education should be integrated in the educational curriculum of Nigeria, from primary to tertiary education.

10. Social Welfare

a. *Specific Programmes to Educate & Empower Women*
The world over, there is a clear and direct link between uneducated and unproductive women and poverty. Governments, at all levels, need to consciously invest in women, if only to increase productivity, promote sustainable growth, their children's wellbeing, as well as engender healthy livelihoods and establish peace, stability and security, in all of our rural communities.

b. *Creation of Job Opportunities for Nigerian Youth*
The Nigerian government must embark on effective poverty alleviation and human capital development programmes in order to empower its large youth population who are most vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization for violent extremism and terrorism.

c. *Design and Delivery of Robust Programme for Destitute Children*

The Nigerian government should fund appropriately the National Council for the Welfare of the Destitute (NCWD) to enable the agency formulate and implement robust rehabilitation programmes for destitute children in Nigeria.

d. *Enhanced Provision of Education and Literacy Programme*
To reduce the number of people who are likely to fall prey to radical preaching and recruitment into violent groups, primary & secondary education should be made free and compulsory for every child in Nigeria. Thus, what is needed is for the local and state government to muster sufficient political will to deliver quality and accessible education to more children in Northern Nigeria through enhanced allocation and judicious utilisation of funds in the education sector.

This crowdsourcing citizens' solutions to end terror was organised by Enough is Enough Nigeria Coalition, a good governance civic group. The full version of the report is on the group's website, www.eienigeria.org.



**Do Something, Do Something
-For our Chibok Girls**

They huddled together, bewildered and in shock,
The girls are carted away, like herd on some trucks,
For those that could dare, they had but one chance,
And leapt off those lorries, still in a trance,

Deep into the forest and into the night,
Two hundred strong girls, their future in plight,
Great hope for society, if society THINKS RIGHT,
Now tending to slave masters with such evil might,

As days turn to weeks, and weeks turn to months,
Each girl starts thinking "will I still see my own?,"
I want an education to help me through life,
Is this the price I pay, becoming a slave wife?,"

"Oh help us dear Lord" the girls begin to say,
"Only you can guide us in finding our way,
Big Brother has left us, we don't exist they say,
And others have followed, we are being betrayed",

Oh no, our daughters, we'd like you to know,
Many of us do care, and will continue to work,
To free you to save you and bring you back home,
Back to your freedom, education and all.

To this end we say, Big Brother come on,
This situation has gone on, for really too long,
Do something we beg you, to bring them back home,
Does it matter who took them?,
Just bring them back home.

Insurgency: A Threat to National Development

We all are in a state of anxiety as no one knows where the next bomb will explode. The insecurity situation of the Nigerian state in recent times has manifested in the high incidence of kidnapping, bombings and other organised crimes which is sadly, capable of affecting our national development. Since the beginning of the blood-let by a religious sect called the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (otherwise known as Boko Haram), a group opposed to western education and which is ready to attack any symbol of western civilization, more than 12,000 Nigerians and foreigners have lost their lives, while properties have been lost.

In some parts of northern Nigeria parents have stopped their children from going to school due to fear. Nigeria's poverty level is also likely to increase as a result of the destruction of properties and infrastructure necessary to support businesses. A vicious cycle is likely to be maintained, as youths involved in the insurgency may

have been "pulled in" because of unemployment, perceived marginalization, and poverty in the first place.

The youths who are seen as the future of our country lack motivation, while leaders seem not to be leading. Are they really serving our fatherland "with love and strength and faith"? Is "the labour of our heroes past" not in vain now?

Deconstructing Our National Pledge

The Nigerian pledge is recited thousands of times a day; in schools and at government functions. Do we take the words to heart? If we did, there wouldn't have been religious and ethnic violence, corruption, and hatred for each other.

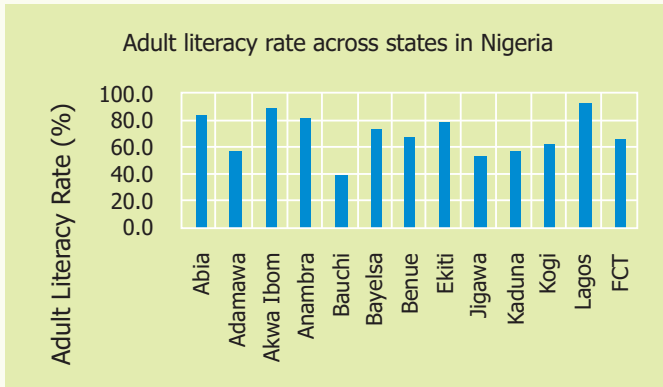
" I pledge to Nigeria, my country,
To be faithful, loyal and honest,
To serve Nigeria with all my strength,
To defend her unity and uphold
Her honor and glory.
So help me God ".

Now let's deconstruct the pledge and see whether we really do what we "pledge" to do:

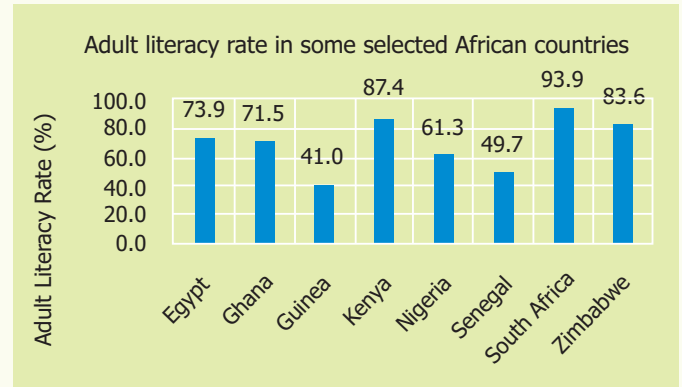
1. Pledge: As you "pledge" to Nigeria every day, what you are actually doing is saying "I commit to Nigeria, I promise with deep sincerity". But do you?
2. Be faithful: How many of us are really faithful to Nigeria, because this means remaining loyal, steadfast and true to the country.
3. Be loyal: It is safe to question whether Nigerians, especially the youth, many of whom Andrew out of the country with every opportunity, are loyal to the country, because that means giving "constant support and allegiance".
4. Be honest: This means being forthright, straightforward and sincere. Remember this cliché - "We have lost our moral values in Nigeria".
5. Serve (with strength): To serve means to perform a duty or service for the country. And in this case to our utmost ability. Often times we do not accept to serve until we know "what is in it for me".
6. Defend Nigeria's unity: It is obvious that currently Nigerians are "at war with each other". There is so much hatred, with not a few people and groups calling for a disintegration of the country.

So next time you place your hand over your heart to recite the pledge, think carefully. Are you willing to commit to the promise you make, so help you God?

Adult Literacy Rate in Any Language



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2011



Source: CIA World Fact book, 2014

Literacy rate can be a good indicator of a country's potential for rapid development in our current rapidly changing, technology-driven world. Unless otherwise specified, literacy rates are usually based on the most commonly used definition, which is the ability to read and write at a certain age. The standards that different countries use to measure the ability to read and write might be different from country to country, but the information obtained, while not a perfect measure of educational results, is effective for international comparisons.

Why measure literacy rates? Measuring literacy rates give clear indications of the availability of education on offer, knowing the extent to which people can

get into education, and also how many children that could or couldn't attend schools. That way, schools, sponsorships and other scholarship options can be provided to improve literacy rates, giving more room for an increase in development.

In Nigeria, Bauchi state has the least adult literacy rate at 40%, meaning that only 40% of the adults in the state can read and write in any language. Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Kogi, Ekiti, Lagos and the FCT stand above 60%. In Africa, South Africa and Kenya are above 80%, meaning that both countries have high adult literacy rates while in Guinea only 41.0% of adults can read and write in any language.

Health & Safety

Leave it Better than You Met it



A clean environment is critical for good health and a people's well-being. However, while individuals love clean environments, they don't like to be responsible for the place being kept tidy.

Cleanliness is vital, in humid or wet areas, where bacteria and other germs bloom. Maintaining a clean environment reduces your chance of winding up with skin problems such as dermatitis, which can be difficult to treat.

How do you want to meet a toilet? You know the answer right? So does everyone else. Always think of that phrase "do unto others as you want others to do unto you", and **LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU MET IT!**

Did you know that

- Nigeria is home to an estimated 10.5 million out-of-school children, accounting for almost a fifth of the world's out-of-school children? (UNESCO, 2012).
- Nigeria is home to 4,715 different types of plant species, and over 550 species of breeding birds and mammals? The country is one of the most ecologically vibrant places on earth (CNN, 2010.).
- Seven percent (7%) of the world's languages are spoken in Nigeria, with Taraba state alone having more than 30 African countries put together?
- The Yoruba tribe has the highest rate of twin births in the world? A small town in Oyo state, called Igbo-Ora is "the twin capital of the world", with an unusually high rate of twins - 158 twins per 1000 births. (BBC World Service, 2012)

Everyday people



Mr. Andy Best - Vulcaniser

Mr. Andy Best, a 32-year old man from Akwa Ibom state, is a vulcaniser who works out of Abuja. He has been in the business for about 18 years. Having only one dependent, one of Andy's business goals is the mentoring of other young people, as he himself started off having three boys serving under him. According to him, he later paid these boys off to start their own businesses.

Mr. Best's business enables him to make a monthly saving of about N10,000.00 which he said is sufficient to support his livelihood. He has a bank account, but does not maintain records of his business, such as the maintenance of basic book of accounts, and record

of sales, but plans to start doing so. Mr. Best is not aware of ways through which he can access finance to grow his business. Among other things, he needs financial assistance to grow his business, and get a shop where he can operate from.

In spite of his challenges, one positive thing that makes Mr. Best happy about his business is the daily income he makes as a result of high patronage. On his plans for the future in the business and his personal development, he said that he desires to grow the business to a level of becoming an employer of labour.

Person of the Quarter

Maryam Ringim



Maryam Ringim is a 23 year old a business owner from Jigawa state. Maryam has a B.Sc. in Natural and Environmental science from the American University of Nigeria. She makes and sells homemade pies, a business she started in January 2013. Maryam manages her business herself, making sure the entire

process of pie making is well managed to a high level customer satisfaction. Customer satisfaction is what drives her passion towards excelling in her business. **"It gives me a sense of fulfillment"**, she says. Her other source of motivation is the fact that as her own boss, she has the luxury to control her time. Maryam

considers her level of dedication and focus to be her strengths as these are bridges to a successful business.

For Maryam, the best day in her business was when she was engaged in a bake sale to which all her entire pies were sold. Maryam hopes to expand her menu and eventually open up a restaurant. Maryam calls upon the youth to channel their strengths towards hard work. **"Hard work pays off, regardless of how long it takes. In the end, something positive comes out of it."** Apart from that, she advises young entrepreneurs to follow their passion but to be cautious about focusing on making profit so much so that their products or services become overpriced.

Maryam's personal mantra is **"Allah is sufficient for me"**. This keeps her moving on.

About us

MicroDevelopment Consulting Limited is a multidisciplinary consulting firm whose areas of focus are research, project management and capacity building. Our vision is to be a world class service provider, supporting institutional development in Africa, while our mission is the strengthening of organisations, institutions and communities through research, project management and capacity building.

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