



CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(Anglican Communion)

THE MOST REV'D HENRY C. NDUKUBA, MA, BD, MA (Ed.)
Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HELD AT THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA, ST. MATTHIAS HOUSE, GUDU, ABUJA FROM MONDAY, 12TH TO FRIDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2022.

PREAMBLE

The Standing Committee Meeting of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) held at The National Secretariat of The Church of Nigeria, St. Matthias House, Gudu, Abuja, from Monday, 12th to Friday, 16th September, 2022, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and presided over by The Most Rev'd Henry C. Ndukuba, DD, Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of the Church of Nigeria, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Angela Ndukuba, the President of the Women and Girls Organisations. In attendance were the Dean of the Church of Nigeria, the Most Rev'd Dr. Ali Buba Lamido, 145 Bishops, 143 Clergymen, 87 members of the House of Laity.

The Standing Committee received many guests at the opening ceremony, including the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, represented by the Minister for Youth and Sports; Hon. Sunday Dare, the immediate past Primate of the Church of Nigeria and his Wife, The Most Revd (Dr) Nicholas and Mrs. Nkasiobi Okoh. Also, The Archbishop Emeritus, Ecclesiastical Province of Bendel, the Most Revd Dr. John Friday Imaekhai and his wife; being the Bible Study Leader at the Standing Committee Meeting, an erstwhile Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Jerry Gana, distinguished Honourees of the Standing Committee Meeting 2022 and their representatives. The Standing Committee acknowledges with immense gratitude the sacrificial commitments of all and sundry in ensuring the success of the meeting.

THEME

The theme of the meeting was, ***“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done”*** (Matthew 6:10). The Nigerian nation and the whole world with all their challenges are still under the power of the Living God, the King of Glory, the LORD Strong and Mighty, the LORD Mighty in battle. It is the will of God to assert His Kingship and pray for His Reign at this time. Thus, the word for this season is taken from the Model Prayer, taught by Jesus Christ namely, ***“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done”***. Therefore, the Standing Committee urges that God’s people should totally depend on Him, His leadership, His Sovereignty, and further desire to do His Will so as to bring forth the reign of God, which once established in the hearts of people becomes a potent force to transform the Society by God. Faith must be expressed in obedient actions or works.

INSECURITY

The Standing Committee notes with deep concern that Nigerians continue to live in uncertain times; many citizens have lost and continue to lose their homes, livelihood, property and lives. The increasing rate of kidnapping of people and invasion of Christian-dominated villages, is alarming. Many people have become refugees in their own land, and it appears that the Military and Security Agencies are collaborators in these inhumane acts.

Therefore, the Standing Committee urges that Justice, Equity and Equality for Citizens in a free and democratic society remain an issue that must be openly and frankly discussed, legislated on and implemented for the survival of the country. Factors breeding insecurity such as porous national borders and free flow/proliferation of ammunition and firearms, youth unemployment, drugs and blatant criminality must be tackled head on.

POROUS BORDER AND DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES

The Standing Committee is concerned about the porosity of the National Borders which pave ways for illegal migration of foreigners into the country. Government should urgently make effort to tackle this matter to avoid foreigners being erroneously captured as Nigerians in the

forthcoming census. The consequences of this could be grave for National Security if not checked before the 2023 General Elections.

KIDNAPPING AND RITUAL KILLINGS

The Standing Committee decries the high and indiscriminate rate of kidnapping and ritual killing in the country, which can only be symptoms of a failed state. It urges urgent and decisive actions to stem the tide of this ugly trend give hope to the fearful in the country and make the country liveable for the inhabitants.

RESTRUCTURING OUR NATIONAL AGENCIES FOR EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE

The Standing Committee calls for an urgent action to restructure the Security Architecture of this nation including the office of the National Security Adviser. Government should look into motivating and equipping the Law Enforcement Agencies, for efficiency in discharge of their responsibilities. This calls for the amendment of sections 214 and 215 of the Constitution which undermine true Federalism and the role of State Governors to effectively serve as Chief Security Officers in their respective States. It seems evident that the security agencies have been infiltrated by the enemies of the State. Government should swiftly act to purge the security agencies and outfits of the enemies, and those compromising the security of the country must be purged without delay.

THE STATE OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

The Standing Committee decries the debilitating state of the Nigerian economy, with fast-depleting external reserves, double digit inflation on a persistent upward trajectory, humongous public debt servicing cost put at more than the revenue of the nation. The Standing Committee also calls for ameliorative measures to curb the bewildering rise in inflation rate and accumulating debts capable of enslaving our future generations.

THE OIL SECTOR

The Standing Committee notes with deep concern the lingering abuses around fuel subsidies, persistent oil theft and vandalism meted out on our National Oil. It urges relevant authorities to urgently find a lasting solution to this menace and also expeditiously address the sharp fall in

remittance by NNPC. The Standing Committee urgently calls on Government to demonstrate the political will to act by leveraging technological infrastructure to protect these assets. It further demands more transparency and accountability by NNPC in the management of this key national wealth.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

The Standing Committee observes with great concern that, though the activities towards the General Elections of 2023 are gradually picking up there is need to strength internal democracy in the political parties. The insensitivity and display of impunity by political leaders, especially in the major political parties is worrisome.

The Standing Committee condemns the reckless disregard for the religious sensitivity exhibited by politicians. It condemns the Muslim-Muslim ticket arrangement that disregards the appropriate religious balancing that is required in modern Nigerian society. This arrangement is insensitive and has grave tendency to endanger peaceful coexistence in the nation and could be counter-productive. The Standing Committee condemns vote buying and selling as ungodly and a cheap way to exploit the conscience of the poor.

ASUU STRIKE AND THE COLLAPSE OF EDUCATIONAL SECTOR

The Church decries the near collapse of our educational system and the Federal Government's careless approach towards resolving the long and unending industrial action undertaken by ASUU that has kept University students at home for more than half a year. This is condemnable, grossly unacceptable and a complete disregard for the future of these young people. The Standing Committee therefore notes the declining standard in the educational sector and demands that it be given a holistic solution including robust funding interventions in our tertiary institutions.

BRAIN DRAIN IN EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND OTHER SECTORS

The Standing Committee is disturbed by the current exodus of experts in both educational and health sectors to other parts of the world due to Government's inadequate provisions for these sectors. The outcome of

this exodus is brain drain which will negatively impact the deliveries of these sectors in both the present and the future. The Standing Committee urges Government to take urgent and decisive steps to stem this tide in the interest of the country.

WATER RESOURCES BILL

The Standing Committee views the ongoing debate in the National Assembly on Water Resources with grave concern. It calls on the parliamentarians to immediately stop this bill as it will generate unfortunate outcomes and further complications in our already heated polity. This would amount to gross insensitivity on a matter that has the potential to further undermine true federalism and set the people against each other. The Standing Committee believes that natural resources developed in each region should be properly controlled for the development and good of the regions.

OWO PENTECOST SUNDAY MASSACRE OF JUNE 5, 2022

The Standing Committee notes with utmost pain the unprovoked attack and massacre of innocent citizens who had gone to worship at St Francis Catholic Church, Owaluwa Street, Owo, Ondo State which led to 41 deaths. This is the height of wickedness and a demonstration of inhumanity in the society. The fact that it ever happened in a place of worship suggests that no place is safe in Nigeria and shows the evil nature of perpetrators of the dastardly act. The Standing Committee commiserates with the Government of Ondo State, the Catholic Archdiocese of Ondo and the families of the bereaved. The Standing Committee calls on the Federal Government to urgently work hard to ensure that peace returns to all parts of the country and that the public is kept abreast of useful information to help avert such evil occurrence in the future.

ELECTORAL LAW AND PROCESS

The Standing Committee commends the Federal Government and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the recent improvements in the electoral process. The Standing Committee urges the sustenance of this improvement which is a mark of national development.

GLOBAL ANGLICAN MATTERS

The Standing Committee commends the leadership of the Primate and the House of Bishops in boycotting the recent Lambeth Conference alongside the Provinces of Uganda and Rwanda, as a clear indication of the Church's resolve not to compromise its position on the true doctrine of the Word of God, especially on human sexuality.

DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Standing Committee commiserates with the Government and people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the demise of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, thanking God for her 70 year of reign and her dedication to the service of her people. It also congratulates the new King Charles III, praying that he may faithfully discharge his duties and be true to his oath as Defender of the Faith.

CONCLUSION

Finally, Standing Committee prays that God's kingdom may come and His will be done with a transforming impact on the life of the people of Nigeria. It also calls on believers to be faithful in living for God and to be a constant positive force in the society.

And now, we pray, Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:9-10).



The Venerable Dr Paul Gershinen Dajur,
General Secretary, Church of Nigeria



The Most Rev'd Dr Ali Buba Lamido,
Dean, Church of Nigeria



The Most Rev'd Dr Henry C. Ndukuba,
Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria