

RAPPORTAUER REPORT OF INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP ON “MITIGATING VIOLENCE” HELD AT ENTRY POINT HOTEL ALONG ATIKU ABUBAKAR WAY UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE CAPITAL ON MONDAY 10 and TUESDAY 11 MARCH, 2014.

The two-day event was jointly organized by Community Policing Partners, Justice Reforms, Security and Democratic Reforms (COMPPART) in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) a German political foundation.

The workshop started with registration of participants at about 8.00hours on the first day 10th March 2014. The participants were drawn from the four states that make up zone 6 of the Nigeria Police Force which comprises Representatives of Security agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Non Government Organizations, the media cutting across Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Ebonyi and Rivers states.

Stakeholders/participants were seated before 10am and this followed self introduction of participants which was facilitated by the Chief host and organizer of the workshop Mr. Saviour Akpan.

Following protocol was a welcome address presented by Saviour Akpan the Executive Director of COMPPART. While welcoming the forum, he gave brief insight into what COMPPART stands for, the objectives, roles and contributions in the society since establishment in 2002 by the then Centre for Law Enforcement Education in Nigeria now CLEEN Foundation. According to Akpan COMPPART has been a democratic and consultative structure for the effective involvement of law enforcement agents and their host communities in a proactive and pragmatic determination of policing priorities.

The Workshop he said was well packaged for a selected stakeholders in the security sector, Civil society Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations to chart a course on the way forward on the theme, ‘Mitigating Violence in the Nigerian Society’.

He added that the organization carefully selected participants based on their patriotic, willingness and readiness to make sacrifices and meaningful and sustainable contribution and continuations expected to move the nation forward and with the interest of the people at heart which according to him explained why the workshop invited fewer participants unlike what used to be obtainable. Accordingly the caliber of stakeholders demonstrates the importance and uniqueness of the workshop.

Thus he expressed no doubt that the forum would realize the objectives upon which it was put in place as participants and agents of change deliberates on the various issues bothering on armed violence and other crimes in respect to their states, Zone 6 and the country as a whole.

Mr. Akpan likened the stakeholders to the Biblical Zacheaus who made every effort even up to climbing a tree because of his height in order to get Jesus attention and urged them to bring the expected difference in the war against violence, and especially crimes against humanity.

Being the first day of the workshop journalists were not invited to cover or report the deliberation and therefore Akpan urged the forum to interact freely, without fear of being quoted or a statement credited to them. The, unhindered, and robust discussions he explained will enable them come out with genuine strategies, ideas and proactive measures that would bring lasting solution to some form of violence and crimes in the society stressing that the essence of the forum was not for trial or to apportion blames to any security agency, person or group for either action or inaction.

Akpan assured participants that only the Communiqué' that would be issued at the end of the forum would be widely publicized.

Continuing he specially appreciated the COMPPART team and their partners - the programme manager Mr. Samson Adeniran, for facilitating the success of the meeting, the Country Representative Mrs. Hildegard Behrendt-Kigozi, the workshop facilitator and resource person Prof Etanibi Alemika for making out time out of his busy schedule to honour the invitation.

Other guests at the event included the Chairman of the Occasion Apostle Attah Bassey, the Representative of the Assistant Inspector General of Police AIG zone 6 Calabar ACP WAKILI and the Cross Rivers State commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Dr. Eze Benito.

After the welcome address the two resource persons for the workshop Prof Etanibi Alemika and Savior Akpan introduced and subsequently a remark was given by the Country Representative of KAS Mrs. Hildegard Behrendt-Kigozi, who briefly disclosed their various efforts so far in Nigeria. Behrendt-Kigozi was quick to point out that apart from COMPPART, that KAS is also assisting a variety of important and excellent partners Civil Society and Non Governmental Organizations across the country and even the media in Nigeria. One of the areas that KAS is interested in is Education development she said.

She identified Civic education as one of the important programmes of KAS in Nigeria. She noted that KAS has focal points about eleven (11) states in Nigeria with different programmes. According to her KAS is always ready to assist partners that are doing very well such as COMPPART. The impressive attendance and participation at the interactive workshop was one of the things that thrilled her. She announced.

An opening remark by the Chairman of the occasion Attah Bassey who was also introduced as the Chairman Executive Committee, Community Policing Partners, for Justice, Security, and Democratic Reforms, and former head of Mass Mobilization for Social Justice, self Reliance and Economic Recovery (MAMSER) was then presented.

In his 6 pages address one of the issues Bassey articulated was that failure of man to prevent, control to a tolerable level the incidences of crime be it violent, subtle or explosive and further

traced the sophistication and professionalism criminality has assumed in the country where criminals were celebrated, protected, worshipped and exonerated to since after the Civil war.

Thus to him the current situation where the country rather than finding solutions to stem the wave of criminality, corruption and indiscipline celebrates and protects of the perpetrators by the society which makes efforts at checking it futile should be a source of serious concern.

He however blamed the persistence in Corruption, Violence and Indiscipline being the three major problems confronting Nigeria's political, social, and economic process since independence to failure to uphold community traditional values, religious norms and tenets as well as imbibing foreign values that is contrary to the Nigeria society.

He observed that in spite of the proliferation of churches and mosques in the country discipline and morality remained at their lowest ebb, and that more worrisome is such that the triplet crimes permeate all strata of the society, including the rural dwellings.

The chairman on the occasion further expressed the disappointment that those saddled with the responsibility of managing the affairs of the nation even constitutes greatest dangers to the security of the country and equally pose greatest challenge to tackling corruption, indiscipline and violence in the country.

Citing an observation by the Political Bureau (1987) where outright looting of the treasury, and raping of the Nigerian economy by business and political elites and bureaucrats were responsible for creating atmosphere of insecurity, and chaos that eventually lead to breakdown of law and order, Bassey added that the insincerity of the series of probe panels set up in the last three decades in handling violent cases, corruption and indiscipline particularly where topnotch political class, business, military and religious Nigerians was condemnable.

According to him some reports of research works by International Communities in recent times though indicates that Nigeria has had more than fair share in armed violence traceable to the early 1970's and military usurpations clearly indicates that such bitter testimonies calls for concern as it portends ill to the image of the nation and its people.

One of such research works he identified was an overview of Armed Violence in Nigeria 2013 titled "The Violent Road" published by the National Working Group on Armed Violence (which COMPPART is a member Organization in Nigeria) and Action on Armed Violence which rated Nigeria as one of the most violent countries in Africa and mostly severely affected by violence and also ranked 148 out of 168 countries in the world in the GLOBAL PEACE INDEX, a multinational report of violence, security and criminality.

He further stated that Nigeria has the third largest number of political violence events in the Armed Conflict Location and Event dataset and 16th in the Fund for Peace Failed states Index 2013.

One of the prevalent violent crimes in Nigeria he listed includes, Terrorism in the northern part of Nigeria involving bombing and killings by Islamic sect Boko Haram. According to him Boko

Haram is “purely a religious violence coated with political bitterness, hatred, envy, and fake poverty”.

The second violent crime he identified is Militancy or Armed group and Organized Violence in the South-South region which according to him is allegedly driven by long neglect and socio-economic injustice even as he advocated for proactive attention of government to the region following persistent rise in criminality which the 2009 Amnesty programme implemented in the geo-political zone failed to address the problem.

Another violent crime according to him is the Inter-communal /ethno-religious violence in the middle belt specifically Plateau state, armed robbery political assassination/thuggery, kidnapping, domestic violence, acid bath, rape/sexual assault, violence on women, police community/ citizen violence.

He said “Violence is an act of indiscipline, just as corruption and also an index of immoral behavior” and also an aggressive reaction, hostile and force behavior, a physical attack of another individual which may be legal or illegal and in all ramifications is dangerous and counterproductive. He noted that most violent crimes are not products of frustration from poverty but religious madness, indoctrinations, power drunkenness, selfishness, sexual envy, and dog/cock Spiritism.

To mitigate violence in the country Attah Bassey suggested that a cause-effect formula be adopted. He also suggested that sincere implementation of the Amnesty programme and provision of social amenities would stem the tide of criminality, and militancy in the South South region, proper upbringing of children noting that as the building block of the society homes and that families must go back to the basics by showing serious commitment to raising their children/wards with characters/behaviours acceptable in the wider society.

According to him the backgrounds and involvement of most parents in secret cults, corruption practices such as secret cults encourages immoral and anti-social behaviors, among their wards.

While describing terrorism as the use of action to achieve a political aim or force government to act, attempt to oppose constituted authority using intimidation, force or other anti-social means, Bassey posited that if Boko Haram is a religious and faith based terrorism outfit according to Encanta Premium (2009) that intends to employ violence to achieve their aim of introducing their belief, teaching, and practices, and at the same time causing chaos in order to obtain freedom and emancipation, the Federal Government of Nigeria need to employ legal violence proactively, consider stiffer sanctions on sect’s unholy disrespect to human lives, expose, arrest and reprimand the sponsors of the sect.

He therefore advised Mr. President not to allow the Sponsors who are not ghosts to misconstrue him as a weak leader because of his demonstration of show of patriotism and loyalty and continue to carry out their nefarious and inhuman activities such as the recent abduction of 25 young school girls in Yobe state. Bassey queried if it were incompetence on the part of the state government, security outfits and other stakeholders who were supposed to protect the society that such unfortunate incidence took place under their nose?

Also Bassey advocated that proper harmonization of activities of law enforcement agencies was necessary as inefficient intelligence gathering, inadequate networking, coordination, lack of cooperation among them hinders the prevention and control of violence particularly in the north east Nigeria.

In conclusion, he observed that in attempts to mitigate the emerging and current challenges of political, social and ethno-religious violence bedeviling the country to a tolerable level Nigerians should borrow the admonition of the biblical Apostle Paul in (Philipian 4:8). He prayed that God help Nigeria and the citizenry to overcome “Violence, Criminality and Corruption”

Closely following the Chairman on the Occasion Address was a declaration of the workshop open by the Representative of the Assistant Inspector General of Police zone 6 Mr. ACP Maye Wakili who pointed out that it was high time Nigerians or every member of the public came to understand that the job of ensuring security is not the sole responsibility of police and other security agencies alone but a collective responsibility of every patriotic citizen of this country.

He also found encouraging, important and commendable the fact that other stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations have already keyed into the responsibility of promoting Security and Safety in the society. Wakili observed that armed violence in the country have been on the increase particularly in the north east, a situation which he described as worrisome and pitiable. Accordingly he urged the conference to fine-tune strategies necessary to check the situation. He also noted the importance of effective collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders towards mitigating violence. According to him a panacea of development lies so much in mitigating the rising armed violence in the country. Commending the effort of Community Policing Partners COMPPART, he joined in the word of the Executive Director by urging participants to allow their discussions to be free and unhindered and thereby he announced that the workshop is thereby declared open.

At this point participants went for a tea break that lasted for about 20minutes. After the tea break followed comments from the security agencies present amid contributions and reactions from the participants the session facilitated by the Resource person Prof Alemika.

The Cross River State commandant of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps Dr. Eze Benito took the lead during this session.

He started by giving brief insight into the origin of the organization, it's saddled responsibility, and how it metamorphosed and later became empowered as a paramilitary agency under President Obasanjo's administration. He disclosed that since 2007 when they were empowered to carry rifles the close ties the organization shared with members of the public was somehow distanced as the public now see them as arms carrying agency. He thanked the organizers of the workshop as such forum offers good opportunity for stakeholders to suggest and make good contributions that foster peace, unity not only in the zone but the country in general.

Following was a Contribution from Representative of The Nigerian Army 6 Amphibious Battalion, Major A. Usman who is also the O.C Operation Thunder a joint Security Task Force

in the Niger Delta State expressed the view that issues such as tackling violence in Nigeria is the Affair of the Nigerian Police Force, saying that the Army only comes into the scene when the situation calls for it or when necessary. He however observed that no matter the fire power security agencies have, timely and intelligence information gathering remained the key to tackling issues of armed violence in any society and therefore suggested the involvement of members of the public in gathering useful information. And to actualize this synergy and cooperation between security operatives and the public he said there should that constant enlightenment of the grass root and even the illiterate groups in the society would yield results on achieving peace and safety in any environment. The time and resources that organizing such deliberations should not considered as a hindering factor, as grass root participation in achieving the desired result in violence mitigation cannot be ruled out.

Commenting, Representative of the Commandant, Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Akwa Ibom State Mr. Effiom Effiom Ewa who is also the Command PRO expressed the view that their role in violence mitigation lies more on prevention than problem solving. He explained that initially the duty of the NIS is to regulate movement of people in and out of the country but that responsibility has been expanded following the various reforms in the country. The role of the agency according to him exists at the grass root, monitoring their activities and even companies operating at the level especially those that employ foreigners.

He looked at the theme of the workshop “Mitigating Armed violence” in the country from three perspectives. Firstly, that the political class should be properly educated especially now that the 2015 general elections is around the corner, to accept election results as well as the need to enlighten members of the public on the collective responsibility of ensuring safety of lives and property. He queried that since Immigration officers were always engaged to check the excesses of elections, why is it they are neglected during voter’s registration? According to him only a trained immigration officer can professionally identify those who are not Nigerian citizens and those who are and as such stall any form of post election violence.

Secondly, he observed that lack of Inter-Agency cooperation has always been in theory and not in practical terms and therefore suggested that a common training institution be established especially for junior officers of the different security agencies in the country as a way of containing inter-agency rivalry/unhealthy competition, and ego that usually exists among them.

Thirdly he suggested that in minimizing violence in the country that there is need for a national rebirth starting from top-down.

Following the Representative of the Nigerian Navy (NNS Jubilee) Lt. Abubakar Musa emphasized very strong synergy among security agencies as no single service/agency can tackle violence. He also observed that failure of parents in taking care of their children and wards constitutes serious challenge in the society. He explained that many abandoned children roaming the streets are usually and easily exposed to violent tendencies, anti-social behaviors such as armed robbery, terrorism and should be checked.

He further suggested that Nigeria still adopting reactive approach to tackling criminality cannot help mitigate crimes; a situation which contributes to lack of trust, loss of confidence and cooperation of members of the public towards security agencies.

A participants Dr. (Mrs.) Kudirat Sanni, Zonal Coordinator Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria FONWAM commented on conflicts and armed violent issues facing the country dwelling on the rising Boko Harm insurgency in the north. She observed that approaches adopted by security agencies and the federal government in tackling conflict issues was however not encouraging and proactive. For her what Nigeria needed to do especially in the case of the disturbing insurgency is to look at the basics, the root cause of the violence, and other conflicts issues. She posited that conflict though is natural in life that it is also essential for survival. She observed that the Boko Haram issue had started as a sectarian/religious group and there were security reports on their activities but government did not do anything about it then until it became full blown terrorist group. She also observed that politicians are using the fundamentalist group to foment trouble and still their sponsors indicted such as Senator. Ndume, are protected and exonerated explains the insincerity of government in tackling the menace. She said Nigerian leaders need re-orientation of the proper understanding of safety, security as regard justice. She also identified unemployment as a major driver of youth involvement in armed violence.

Presenting the topic, “Partnership Policing, Order and Security in Communities” the Resource person Professor Etanibi Alemika of University of Jos pointed out that because security and human well-being were interdependent and that the prevention and control of insecurity contributes to social development and the welfare of the citizenry.

He defined Security to freedom from experience and threat of harm and want and because the security of lives and property remains most fundamental need of man, therefore the primary responsibility of government is to guarantee that security of citizenry through the adoption of measures such as promotion of values, norms, and laws that uphold peaceful existence. He advocated for collaboration/partnership between government and diverse groups in the society to ensure effective prevention and containment of disorder and insecurity. To him, undertaking assessment of the disorder, crimes and insecurity problem in the society guarantees effective security in the system. He noted that the basis of assessment, roles and resources can be allocated to government agencies and groups within community.

He said while government’s economic, social welfare, political, security, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies represents key players in determining the extent, pattern, and trend of crime and disorder in the society, Community groups on their part influences the way government agencies perform their roles. Partnership policing he said “Aims at ensuring effective prevention and control of disorder and crime in society in a manner that is consistent with democratic governance requires collaboration between citizens, state security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies”

Prof Alemika identified values and norms among factors that guarantee safety and security in a society as they promote peace and tolerance, adding that violation of rules that clearly prescribe and promote peaceful coexistence, tolerance, respect and recognition of groups that form fundamental values and norms in the society must be such that attract sanction.

Another factor he identified is laws. According to him laws are rules made by sovereign legitimate political authority and binding on everyone within the political society and the

violation attracts penalties as means of restitution, deterrence, treatment and rehabilitation. Democratic governance, economic growth and equity, effective criminal justice system, that serves as barrier against injustice, crime disorder, insecurity and impunity; effective police and policing systems that enjoy legitimacy from citizens as well as efficient and just system of criminal justice administration fall under this.

He grouped contemporary insecurity problem in Nigeria into **Violent Crimes** such as Terrorism, political and economic assassination, armed robbery, ethnic, religious and communal violence, murder and electoral violence. Also **Economic and Financial Crimes** such as corruption, embezzlement, theft, burglary, money laundering, advanced fee fraud, kidnapping, smuggling, human, drugs arms trafficking and counterfeiting. **Political Crimes** such as electoral violence, political assassination, and human rights violations. Alemika said the incidence, prevalence and severity of the categorized crimes however vary across states and communities.

To check insecurity and safety threats in society Alemika advocated for social defences, that is a situation where societies have to establish social control mechanisms such as socialization, norms, rules and laws to enhance conformity and discourage deviant behaviours and crimes. Also ensure economic, political and social and cultural norms, policies and programmes and practices aimed at preventing and mitigating conflicts of values, and interests, deviance, crime and violence and to reintegrates deviants and criminals into the society.

-That society should adoption and implement measures to reduce incentives to deviance, crime, and violence and measures such as punishments be designed and employed to impose costs and discomfort that are greater than the benefits derived from crime, deviance and violence. He added that policing measures such as efforts/measures taken by the Police, crime watch groups, vigilantes, private security companies, traditional systems, relying on age groups or hunter's guild to patrol community.

He identified harmonization and coordination of divergent groups with different orientations and legitimacy as major challenges of policing architecture in the society saying that Partnership Policing according him demands decisions, actions and allocation of roles such as collective identification of disorder, insecurity problems within the society and prioritization in terms of severity, prevalence, cost and available capacity to contain them

According to him that there must be collective identification of threats to safety security in the community and Collective identification of preventive and reactive measure to address insecurity

Collective identification of human, material, normative, financial and other resources in the community towards containing insecurity, crimes, disorders; and Collective agreement on the allocation of roles based on which group is best equipped to perform, and best suited to use them and finally the collective decision on how each group or actor will be accountable to the community for the roles and resources assigned to them.

Summarily he observed that state crime measures revolves around the roles assigned to security, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies including correctional agencies with the role of the police as the pillar as primary agency saddled with the responsibility for the invocation of the criminal law which is the codified response to disorder, and insecurity in the society and can

only guarantee order and security only with active collaboration of the different groups in the society with diverse resources and capabilities.

After the resource person's presentation followed interactive session and questions from participants which was facilitated by Resource persons. Below are some of the questions from participants

Q1 The first questions is that since norms and values are not taught in classrooms, and since the family/home which is the first place of learning, and current situation where traditional institution as custodians of society norms and values have been politicized how possible is it to achieve norms and values/ and what do we do with traditional institutions?

Q2- An octogenarian (82year old) man after expressing the view that the unfair distribution of the national wealth as Nigerian problem, asked if it is therefore right to say Nigeria is running a democratic government?

Secondly he asked if Nigeria is running a democratic government, why is unemployment, poverty, and injustice in the country?

Question3 –How has it become so easy for people to be in possession of arms because most often high-tech arms are usually in the hands of civilians who do not understand rules of engagement?

Q4- Is it possible to mitigate violence without upholding human rights?

Lunch break observed

Facilitation continued after the lunch break with suggestions and possible solutions on the way forward.

Mr. Ime white of the Akwa Ibom state Civil Defence – Said despite influence of superiors security officers should always use fear of God in the course of their duty rather than abusing their offices as this will help them to create impact He also suggested that there should be more recruitment in the NPF and other paramilitary formations.

Also he suggested that the need for show of commitment and participation by key stakeholders is deliberations of the kind

Ochenika Usman, Community Policing Officer, Rivers state Police command and Representative of the Commissioner of Police Rivers state Command, said due to no financial commitment to the department Police officers run away and therefore that funds should be allocated to that department to boost interest in human right efforts. He noted that Criminal laws in the country are not yet refined while he accused the Nigeria Judiciary of constituting serious problem to curbing corruption and encouraging violence. "Human Right Desks and Community Policing Departments should be empowered to encourage officers especially at the command headquarters.

He also suggested that Human Right desks should be manned by Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Edidiong Sambo of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Support Initiative- suggested that CRIME can be reduced in communities if the Community Institutions are accountable and transparent to the people and it becomes possible for members to be patriotic and Volunteer in security matters within the communities. He added that Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centres should be integrated into police stations to address some family issues that may not need prosecution and to avoid long term violence.

COMRADE IFOT IFOT of Ethical and Attitudinal Reorientation Commission Akwa Ibom State Suggested that the Conference should look beyond the effects of violence in Nigeria, but the root causes of these problems and also that those behind the crimes especially those in high places, or positions of authority in the country that fuel, support and protect those involved in criminal activities should be exposed, and put to shame. When we begin to expose and indict the sponsors of these big time crimes they will mellow.

His Highness Obong Eng. Johnson Johnny Obosi a Clan Head and Secretary of Akwa Ibom State Clan Head Forum Area and President Esop Mbong Ikpaisong Afud Annang suggested that traditional rulers should be given opportunity to handle civil matters instead of police.

Nneoyi Ofem (CSO) Cross River State-Noble Organization for Solidarity and Development - said to build trust on Security and crime Prevention, Nigerians need to revive their age long traditions that used to adopt measures such as town hall meetings, market square meetings which allows the sharing of knowledge, experience, commitment, competence and capacity; a situation where various groups are given tasks aimed at implementing issues of concern.

For Dr Tom Ekerendu, Police chaplaincy Akwa Ibom state- there is need for members of the public to have trust and confidence in the Police by supporting and encouraging them. He also suggested that adequate and appropriate tools should be provided for security operatives to checkmate activities of terrorist's criminals; weapons capable of meeting current challenges of insecurity. Also that the Police Service Commission and Police Management Team (PMT) should be contacted on issues of bail because if they say bail is free, how free is it? The citizens should therefore be enlightened on why they need to exercise patience, and to understand situation especially when they have someone in detention.

Mrs. Roselyn Efretuci, National President Federation of Akwa Ibom Women Association, suggested for public enlightenment, advocacy and awareness on why people should not always believe or rely on government to provide security, protect and safeguard them. According to her every citizen or members of the public must be enlightened on the fact that the issue of security is everybody's business, and also they need for them to be security conscious always as role players in crime prevention and control.

Anna Maitland, Co-Founder/Co-Director Justice and Empowerment Initiative (JEI) PH- said there should be trust in the security system, trust that police will respond positively and be able to provide reasonable and rational response and that the community will actually listen. She added that on the part of the Police, Police cannot respond with clashes to a complaint and cannot expect people to report crime or provide them with useful inform on crime if they charge money for reporting.

Elder Dandy Mgbenwa, delegate from Rivers State expressed the opinion that State Initiatives should not depend on local government for support at the grass root because local governments are structured not to be functional. “They are structured only as allocation sharing councils”. He therefore suggested that instead initiatives at mitigating violence should be driven by active Non Governmental Organizations and Communities to ensure sustainability.

Mr. Emmanuel Jonathan President Martin Luther King Youth Empowerment Foundation- suggested the need for local governments to be involved in financing private security groups such as Neighborhood Watch Associations as a way of contributing their quota in maintain security and safety in their domains. This he said will also relieve the rural dwellers from being taxed from their meager earnings to pay such groups.

Mr. Effiom Effiom (CSI) PRO Akwa Ibom state Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Advocated that security agencies in the state and local government security committees need to be included as an effective platform for information sharing or exchange and intelligence analysis for better results.

Mr. Anietie Etteyit (Media) The Deputy Registrar of Akwa Ibom State Polytechnics Ikot Osurua, First posited that currently the local communities and families tend to shield criminals and undesirable elements who are members of their families which explained why most kidnap attempts for instance turn out successful and why such crimes thrive, therefore that advocacy should emphasize a return to stronger moral values, where bad behavior is condemned even within families.

Secondly that member’s of vigilante and known youth groups these days are being implicated (fingered) in cases where communities disrupt, or out rightly frustrate development projects, thus the need to emphasize that responsible people emerge youth leaders or mentors of vigilante groups. Also that advocacy should emphasize collective ownership of projects between communities, government and development agents, and also government should be sincere in its youth empowerment initiatives and programmes by giving young people start-up grants to engage in useful businesses and not hand-outs in the name of empowerment.

Comrade Uwem James State Chairman NURTW Akwa Ibom state, suggested that encouraging youths who are susceptible to crimes in their respective areas of Professionalism or specialty saying it is wrong to encourage casualization of labour rather than specific training of youths as artisans for instance Government policies on Multinational Companies recruiting labour only to use them as spanners-throw away and pick others.

He said it is also wrong for Local Government councils to mobilize youths for revenue purpose at markets, motor parks, fishing areas etc, rather that they should emphasize training these youths as commercial drivers, tailors, fishermen, shoemakers and so on adding that usurping functions of certain bodies and departments is also a problem. The teacher for instance should be given a free hand to take students and that legitimate orders of a village head should be allowed to stand; the driver must be in the motor park, the fisherman in the fishing area. Empowerment of youths should not be just for political supporters.

After the various suggestions, observations and possible solutions on how to mitigate armed violence in the zone and the country at large, and afterwards the participants were grouped according to their states based on 8 questions given by the facilitator Prof. Alemika also detailed each group to appointed a Chairman to oversee the deliberation and a Secretary for compiling the resolutions and conclusions that will be presented at the plenary session.

The group work /questions stated below were given by Alemika before the close of the first day to enable the different groups complete them for presentation on the second day.

QUESTION FOR GROUP WORK

- 1- Identify the most prevalent serious crimes that are source of concern to your state
2. Prioritize them in order of their seriousness in terms of;
 - a- concern in the population
 - b- Their consequences for the security and welfare of individuals.
 - c- Economic or business activities
 - d -democratic political participation and
 - e- Social life-recreation, social gathering etc.
3. Identify the group that you think have something (resources) to contribute to solving the crime problem in the state. Such resources include:
 - a Knowledge of sources and solutions to the crime problems in the state.
 - b- Information on the crimes and individuals responsible for them.
 - c- Influence on individual, groups in the society that can be leveraged to mobilize people, funds and other materials required for promoting security and controlling crime.
 - d- Financial and material resources of individuals, groups and the community
 - e- Groups, associations and organisations within the community
 - f- Government agencies delivering various services.
4. Are there platforms for mobilising these resources towards prevention and control of crimes in the state at present?
5. If yes, describe them and indicate whether and how they are currently contributing to the prevention and control of crimes in the state or communities?
6. Do you think a multi-stakeholders partnership approach to policing is desirable?

7. If no why do you think so?

8. If yes, identify the following:

a- Which security agencies should be involved?

b- Which Community groups should be involved?

c- Under what umbrella should the forum function? - Police, LGA, Town/Village development association, NGO etc.

d- How is the platform to be created and who should take the lead?

e- What areas should be the focus of the platform?

f- How can the platform be sustained as an effective community initiative for security and safety in the state and communities?

g- Is it feasible for the state delegates at this workshop to be the launching pad for the initiative?

h- What are the three most significant challenges associated with establishing and sustaining such a platform or initiative?

i What are the three most significant opportunities and resources in the state and communities that can be mobilised for the establishment and or sustenance of such initiative or platform for partnership policing?

J- Are the delegates from the state committed to exploring the creation of such initiative and platform and mobilise relevant resources and groups to achieve this end?

A5-member Communiqué drafting Committee was then selected by Saviour Akpan, Executive Director of COMPPART.

Those selected for the committee were Mr. Clifford Thomas of the Civil Liberty Organization as Chairperson Ime White of the NSCDC and chairman of the committee

2) Ime White PRO Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp

3) Mrs. Eno Akpan of The Pioneer Newspaper

4) Dr (Mrs.) Kudirat Sanni Coordinator Federation of Muslim women Association

5) Usman Ochenika Usman SP in charge of Community Policing Department Rivers State

Another Tea Break was served at about 4:30 pm while announcement was made for a group dinner by 7 pm for all the delegates and the first day came to a close by 5pm.

The second day of the Conference dated 11 March also opened with the registration of participants about 8:00hours morning with an early impressive turn out even by participants from the host state that were not accommodated in the event venue. The Resource Person Prof. Alemika set the ball rolling by giving a recap of the proceedings/discussions of the previous day

**10 minutes was set aside for the presentation of group report. Ebonyi state was the first to present by their secretary Barr Chukwu Sunday Festus
(Group Chairman – 08091450191, Group Secretary – 07039127957)**

RESPONSES TO GROUP WORK QUESTIONS FROM EBONYI STATE

1- Kidnapping, Cultism, Armed Robbery, Rape

2 – Cultism, Armed Robber, Kidnapping, Rape

(b) i The security operative in the state is not at rest

ii The citizens in the state are not at rest because of fear, and they go to bed earlier.

(c) i People do not go to their business constantly again for fear of hoodlums.

ii The government waste her resources to beef up securities instead of channeling the resource for development of the state.

(d) Poor attendance of or participation of people in political activities

(e) Poor or inactive participation of the masses on recreational activities

3- Vigilantes;

(a) Ebonyi Youth Assembly, b) National Youth Council of Nigeria Ebonyi chapter.

(c) Nigerian Police Force (d) Immigration (e) Military (f) Civil Defence (g) Traditional Institution(h) Age Grade (i) Ngo's (j) Ebonyi Women Assembly (k) NURTW

(l) Abakaliki Okada Riders Association

4- No

5. None

6. Yes

7 -

8a- Nigerian Police Force, Immigration, Civil Defence, The Military

8b Community Vigilante group, town unions, traditional rulers, religious institutions

8c- NGO

8d- Agape Foundation & we the representatives will form the foundation and others to be invited in due course

8e-- Crime prevention

8f- Donation from members

(b) Soliciting Finance from government

8g- Yes

8h (a) Trust, (b) Finance, (c) Commitment

8i (a) Existence of vigilante in the community, (b) Ngo, experience in security affairs
(c) Security operatives disposed to work with the community or the people.

8j-Yes.

RIVERS STATE REPORT PRESENTED BY THE GROUP SECRETARY SARA EMMANUEL APIA.LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP BELOW

1. Che Ibegwura – 08068449481 (Chairman)
2. Elder Dandy Mgbenwa
3. Celestine Akpo Bari
4. Obot M.
5. Anna Maitland
6. Sara Emmanuel Apia – 07062899108 (Secretary)

RESPONSES TO GROUP WORK QUESTIONS BY RIVERS GROUP

1 Kidnapping, Land grabbing or tussle, RAPE & Defilement, Armed Robbery, Pipeline vandalism, Environmental devastation, Corruption,

2. Kidnapping, Environmental Devastation, Armed Robbery, land seizure/Grabbing, rape, electoral Violence

3. SECURITY AGENCIES Of government, Community leaders, Community Groups, CBO's, Oil Companies, Local, state and Federal Government agencies and parastatals.

4. YES

5a. NGO's, CSO's, MEDIA, FBO's, POLICE, and VIGILANTE

5b - For MEDIA

Through jingles, talks show, campaign, re-orientation of the populace.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Through consultations, capacity building, enlightenment & solidarity building around the issues, advocacy visits to relevant agencies and bodies

Faith Based Organization's- by using their pulpit to preach morals to their members.

VIGILANTE's- They have physical presence and appearance that scare criminals away.

6 We agree that is a capital YES

Crime control and prevention is a huge herculean task. No single one person or agency can do it by alone. All hands must be on deck to tackle the menace.

7 W said a big BIG - It is desirable to engage this menace through multi-stakeholder partnership.

That is the synergy we are advocating. So we are all for it. The single stick of broom analogy the Prof told us about.

8a Police, SSS, Army, Traditional Rulers, Civil Defence Corps.

8b Vigilante, CDC, CBO's, FBO's Youth/ Women Groups

8c Town village Dev. Association should be the umbrella the other groups under.

8d It is to be created through mapping & consultations with our target partners, stakeholders in the issue, through mapping and identifying the areas where the issues are most prevalent. The town/village should lead so that they own the initiative. We are to give them technical support.

8e, Mobilization of community members and awareness, creating Partnership building with other key groups, Sensitization, logistics and technical support, Talk the talk of violence prevention control & walk it.

8f -The concerns of the community as regards this issue relating to its prevention & control should be taken seriously, Periodically assess, Evaluate the methods, Strategies they have used to tackle the issue.

-Also Levies & Taxes of the member organizations, Donors, Local Government Security vault

8g Yes, since we are here and have the knowledge we can be the launching pad.

8h Trust building amongst the members and the community

-Commitment and dedication of the members to start off and go through with the initiative

8i Human resources, Functional institutions, Govt. personnel to buy into it & invest in the initiative

8j For Rivers, Yes! That's what we need to extract from everyone here

Then left their contact email, addresses, phone

CROSS RIVER STATE Group Work

The group has Hon Efeng J. Williams as Chairman (08033039120) while Nneoyi Ofem the Secretary presented the report at plenary (08065046960)

1. Command conflicts, cultism, child abuse/ trafficking, election violence
- 2 a). Cultism, b. communal clashes (intra state and inter-community) (c) child abuse (d) election violence
- 3 Security agencies, judiciary, traditional rulers/ leaders, citizens, family C.S.O's, people's representatives in govt., Government, Multi-national, International donors Vigilante groups, age grades, CSO's, Quick Response Squad – office of SA on Security
4. Yes

5. Police to make sure people obey the law (investigate, arrest, prosecute), Civil Defence, QRS, (NYCON), CSO's – including religious groups, to create awareness and encourage citizen's participation in prevention and control of crime

6. Yes

7-

8. a. All security agencies – All inclusive partnership

8b. Vigilante, age grades, TRC, Youth groups (NYCON), CBO's & FBO's, PCRC

8c. Joint Action for Community Security (JACOS)

8d. Through an enabling of the state. state takes the lead

8e. Security & safety, conflict resolution, welfare and accountability

8f. Government support and community acceptance

8g. Yes

8h. finance, commitment, Nigeria Factor (Doubts)

8i. The State Assembly to legislate b. LG support to provide secretariat c. Citizen's participation and ownership

j. Yes

AKWA IBOM STATE GROUP WORK REPORT

As presented by Ima Okpongette, Group Secretary

1. The most prevalent serious crimes that are sources of concern in our state and in order of their seriousness are: Child stealing, Fraud, Armed/ robbery, Sea piracy/ oil theft, Murder, Drug abuse, Cultism, Stealing, Political thuggery, Examination malpractice, Rape, Bribery and corruption, Domestic violence.

2. (a) The population is most concerned for security and safety

(b) There is no security, there is fear and distrust

(c) People do not stay open late and there is a tendency not to put in too much business for fear of theft.

(d) The people are afraid to go out for elections etc.

(e) As long as the activities are during the day night life is curtailed.

3. Groups that have something (resources) to contribute to solving the crime problem in the state includes- Security agencies, Traditional institutions, Government at all levels, trade Unions, Civil society organization/ religious organizations (FBO), Youth Organizations, The family, School Community

4. Yes, there are platforms for mobilizing these resources.

5. (a) The platforms are- Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) Civil society organizations (CSOs), School community, Business community, Village Councils, The judiciary; Media, International Community, The government and the Courts.

(b) They are currently contributing to the prevention and control of crimes in the state through : Security agencies assist in the prevention of crimes, arrest and investigation of criminals and prosecution

- Government assists in funding and providing logistics to security agents.

-The media and the civil society organizations (CSO) assist in public enlightenment, information, mobilization and referrals of the populace.

- The Judiciary dispenses justice.

- International organizations/ donors assist the groups in technical aid and support.

6. Yes, A multi-stakeholders partnership approach to policy is desirable

7-

8 (a) All the established security organizations should be involved

(b) The community groups to be involved are- Youth Organizations, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), traditional institutions, religious institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS).

(c) The forum should function under

(d) The platform should be created by the local government and the lead should be taken by the chairman who will directly supervise the platform

(e) The areas of focus are public security and safety.

(f) The platform can be sustained by legislation at the local government area to ensure regular and consistence funding

(g) It is feasible

(h) The three most significant challenges are- legal statues, funding and negative attitude of government

(i) The three most significant opportunities are- Human resources, financial resources, legal backing

j) Yes, they are Committed

After the group work presentations the Resource person wrapped up because he needed to catch up with his flight which was scheduled for the afternoon of the second day. Participants continued the deliberations with the reading and adoption of the communiqué. The communiqué which was read by Barr Clifford Thomas, member of the drafting Committee and later a motion for the adoption of the was moved by Hon Barr Ogana lukpata member representing Yala state Constituency in Cross Rivers state House of Assembly for its adoption seconded by Mrs. Alice Akem.

In her closing remark, the country representative of KAS thanked participants for making the workshop a success. She urged stakeholders to ensure that they play serious role in ensuring that violence and crimes were minimized in the country. Saviour Akpan announced that participants should meet with COMPPART Accountant Mr. Jickson Thomas Azzi for their transport stipend and the evnt to a close on the second day after another group lunch.