

Following the series of attacks and reprisals that have characterized some villages and communities within and around Jos since the crises of 2001, coupled with the advent of the terrorist group Boko Haram, the Archbishop of Jos, Ignatius Kaigama saw the need to engage some stake holders in finding ways of marshalling out strategies for sustainable peace through dialogue. The creation of Dialogue, Reconciliation and Peace Centre (DREP) was aimed at presenting a neutral platform where the affected and concerned parties could reach an agreement through peaceful discourse. It is in the same vein that a meeting of Religious and Ethnic/Community Leaders was held at the Centre at Kwang in Jos, on Thursday 10th March, 2016. This meeting attracted both the Berom and Fulani leaders who are perceived as the major protagonists in the recent conflicts and other religious and communities leaders.

However, at the end of such an intensive and sincere session, it was obvious that the attacks and reprisals are not just a series of problems restricted to the Berom and Fulani, as Alhaji Haruna Boro, the former Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Plateau State opined. He shared the view with Archbishop Kaigama who has always insisted that the crises must not only be seen as a religious conflict between Christians and Muslims, he consistently called for a wider view of the scenario. Below are some of the resolutions reached at the end of the meeting.



1. While appreciating God, the effort of Government and Security personnel, the, we however, observe with dismay pockets of domestic violence in our communities and cases of cattle rustling in some LGAs like Riyom, Barkin Ladi and Jos East. There is a new dimension to the conflict which was originally perceived to be between the Fulani and Berom communities as the Afizere (Jarawa) in Jos East LGA have been dragged into the conflict based on the allegation that they are harboring the Fulanis in their locality.



2. It was observed by the Ardo of Riyom LGA that there is great improvement in the security situation and relative peace amongst the different communities. This has brought great improvement in relationships between

farmers and pastoralists in Riyom and Barkin Ladi.

3. It was also observed by the Dagwom Rwie of Barkin Ladi that there is great improvement in the security situation in his domain. He commended the positive role played by the sector commander of Barkin Ladi, particularly his prompt and objective response to security concerns.
4. We observe that there is unlawful road blockage, rampant and brutal armed robbery attacks in Barkin Ladi LGA, hence we call on the Security to have more patrols on major roads. We decry the growing incidences of criminal activities and social vices in our communities as we call on community leaders to engage Local vigilante groups to complement the efforts of security agencies. Concerted efforts should also be made to identify routes used by cattle rustlers for prompt interventions.



5. The newly elected Chairman of Miyetti Allah, Plateau State, Alhaji Nuru Muhammad, pledged the absolute support, cooperation

and collaboration of the newly inaugurated Exco of the Miyetti Allah of Plateau State with all groups who are working for peace in Plateau State. He urged all parties not to take the laws into their hands but to always report security issues to the appropriate authorities.

6. Alhaji Haruna Boro(former Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Plateau State) clarified that the conflict we are experiencing is not strictly between Berom and Fulani as is being erroneously perceived. Even if it were, we call on all other ethnic groups to pray for them. It was observed that conflict is like an epidemic which could easily spread rapidly to other places.
7. We call on the Plateau State House of Assembly to make legislations that will address the production and consumption of illicit drug to help reduce the cases of drug abuse and associated social vices.
8. We appeal to business men and women who adulterate food items to desist from such criminal activities as this endangers the health of our citizens.
9. We continue to wish Plateau State and all the residents more peaceful, loving relationships and God's guidance.

Related Stories of peace through dialogue , was the visit of the Damietta Peace Initiative in acknowledging the effort of the Archbishop in peace building . ..Photo gallery below.

