

## ADVERTORIAL

RE: ON YOUR GUARD  
CHIEF OF AIR STAFF!

The unprecedented attack on the Chief of Air Staff by some hired writers over the state of emergency declared in Adamawa state by the Federal government of Nigeria which appeared in the "SCOPE NEWSPAPER OF 6th - 12th September 2013, entitled "Contradictions from the Chief of Air Staff" by one Alhaji Yahaya H. and Yahaya Musa Hong, Co-ordinator for Nyako Social Development and Integration Forum, while the other publication entitled "On your Guard Chief of Air Staff" which appeared in the Leadership Newspaper of Monday 16th December, 2013 on page 12 by so called concerned business men and women, Mubi North and South Local Government Areas demand a quick response due to the falsehood, half-truths and sentimental nature of the misguided publications.

It is apparent from the tone of the two publications that hired writers have joined the league of those who were strongly opposed to the appointment of the Chief of Air Staff.

The conscripted hired writers assigned to run-down the hard-earned reputation of the Chief of Air Staff failed woefully in their assignment and therefore, the state of emergency imposed in Adamawa State was extended for another six months.

To the greatest disappointment of the writers and their sponsors the tenure of the Chief of Air Staff was also extended to 2015 by President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. We are not surprised by the desperation of the sponsors of the attack because of the tremendous achievements recorded Air Marshal Alex Sabundu Badeh since his assumption of office as Chief of Air Staff.

Ordinarily the publications could have been ignored, however, in view of the respect and credibility that the Leadership Newspaper commands and in the interest of unsuspecting members of the public who may accord them credibility, it is imperative to react to the misguided and selfish publications.

It is really very sad and regrettable for a sane person or group of persons to sit in the comfort of their homes to issue such publications not minding the greatest threat to lives and property as was being experienced in Adamawa State before the State of Emergency.

**JUSTIFICATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ADAMAWA STATE**

FRANZ FANON Once said "sometimes people hold a core belief that is very strong. When they are presented with evidence that goes against that belief, the new evidence will not be accepted. It would create a feeling that is extremely uncomfortable, called cognitive dissonance. And because it is so important to protect the core belief, they will rationalize, ignore and even deny anything that doesn't fit in with the core belief".

Therefore, as patriotic and peace-loving citizens of Adamawa State, we consider this challenge an onerous task to unveil the naked truth to all Nigerians and foreigners alike without any reservation in respect of the circumstances which created the State of Emergency in Adamawa State. We are not ignorant of the fact that in spite of the merciless and brutal killings which occurred in towns and villages before the State of Emergency those who are sponsors of this wicked act do not see any justification because they are happy and safe in their comfort zones.

The political adviser to President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Barrister Ahmed Ali Gulak in a Radio programme on GOTEL RADIO YOLA "Demokradiya a yau" on 1st January, 2014 said the declaration of the State of Emergency was inevitable if peace is to reign in the State. In the light of above and with all sincerity and deep sense of humility we wish to commend the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal, ALEX SABUNDUH BADEH and President GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN and other patriotic sons and daughters of Adamawa state who came to our aid during our trying period by declaring a state of emergency.

It is a fact that Adamawa state was engulfed by series of senseless killings believed to be the handiwork of BOKO HARAM insurgents from the neighbouring Borno state. Below are the recorded attacks that necessitated the declaration of the state of emergency.

- 1. GOMBI TOWN ATTACK:** The first suspected BOKO HARAM attack took place in Gombi town, Headquarters of Gombi Local Government Area. The attack claimed the lives of 7 policemen, 5 UBA staff, 1 soldier from Biu Army Barracks and the destruction of properties worth millions of naira.
- 2. MUBI TOWN ATTACK:** Mubi town the commercial nerve center of Adamawa state came under attack leaving in its wake 10 Igbo traders killed, 18 students of Federal Polytechnic Mubi slaughtered like rams, many people seriously injured during the stampede and property worth millions of naira perished.
- 3. ATTACK ON MAYO-NGULI:** Mayo-Nguli town the headquarters of Maiha local government was also attacked by suspected BOKO HARAM insurgents. The attack claimed the lives of 15 prison inmates, 1 government official was killed at the presidential lodge, Nigerian Immigration service office, the Prison yard, Education department were all set ablaze and property worth millions of naira were destroyed.
- 4. HONG TOWN ATTACK:** Hong town also experienced an attack by the insurgents. During the attack an executive of the local government was injured, police station Hong burnt down and property destroyed.
- 5. YOLA TOWN ATTACK:** Yola the Adamawa state capital also came under attack by the insurgents, 10 Christian worshippers from the Christ Apostolic Church Nassarawa were shot, regional manager of First Bank Ibrahim Chindaya killed, 1 soldier killed at Jambutu ward during a shoot-out with the insurgents, L.C.C.N Vinikilang Choir Master killed by the gunmen, Luka Memorial Shopping Plaza attacked and a friend to the manager killed.
- 6. SONG TOWN ATTACK:** Song town, the headquarters of Song Local Government came under attack by the suspected members of BOKO HARAM. During the attack the local government secretariat, prison yard, the police station and the education department were burnt down.
- 7. MADAGALI TOWN ATTACK:** Gulak town and Midlu village in Madagali Local Government area were attacked by the insurgents. 4 people were killed at the Adamawa state Deputy Governor's residence in Midlu village, the police station at Gulak and Shuwa were set ablaze, 1 policeman was killed at Shuwa police station.
- 8. KALA'A TOWN ATTACK:** Kala'a is the headquarters of Kulinyi Development Area in Hong Local Government Area. Suspected BOKO HARAM insurgents attacked the police out-post killing 1 detainee, while the residence of and NDIC official based in Abuja was set ablaze.
- 9. GANYE TOWN ATTACK:** On Friday 22nd March 2013 Ganye town, the headquarters of Ganye local government was attacked by suspected BOKO HARAM insurgents. The attack left in its wake the Assistant Controller of Ganye prison lost his life, Mr. Adiel Billa a former commissioner of Health was killed at his residence by the attackers, the Nigerian Immigration Service office, the Police station, education department and the old local government secretariat were destroyed and property worth millions of naira perished.

**FARANG FOREST:** When the series of co-ordinated attacks became frequent, the Chief of Air Staff together with some security agents in Adamawa state beamed their searchlights on the possible areas where these insurgents hide to carry out the attacks, some good Samaritans disclosed some confidential information of the likely places among which was the Farang forest in Fufore local government area.

A search on Farang forest was conducted and the revelation was unprecedented. The security agents uncovered huge arms and ammunition and an unspecified number of Toyota Hilux Vans belonging to the Adamawa state government. Further investigation revealed that the Hilux Vans were never reported to the police as missing or stolen or captured at gunpoint by the BOKO HARAM insurgents. We smell a very big rat! Could the writers and sponsors of those articles against the Chief of Air Staff and the imposition of the state of emergency have anything to do with the attacks? We do not know but time will surely tell. The discovery led to a fight between the security and the insurgents in which many of the vehicles were destroyed.

It is on record that some government officials in Adamawa state are on the watch list of security agencies based on the confession of some arrested terrorists in connection with the attacks in the state.

Based on the evidence above it is therefore uncharitable, misleading and sheer mischief to claim that Adamawa state should not be placed under the state of emergency because the attackers are criminals and not terrorists. The believers of this school of thought should be referred to the psychiatric ward of the Yola Specialist Hospital for immediate medication. Such mentally deranged minds would never obtain God's mercy because of the devilish nature of their thinking and action.

**WHY THE ATTACK ON THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF?**

- 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR FORCE COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL YOLA:** The establishment of the Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School Yola didn't go down well with those who opposed the appointment because such a feat achieved within a short period of time was unprecedented in the history of the state. There were some service chiefs from the state who could not influence even a Naval Nursery School in Yola for the benefit of the people of Adamawa state.

Understandably, such groups of people of course would never be happy because what Air Marshall Badeh did is an indictment on their ignoble stewardship. The second disgruntled group are those who wanted the Chief of Air Staff to consult them for the award of contracts so that they could collect mobilization fee and disappear thereby becoming an abandoned project in the future.

The completion of the air Force Comprehensive Secondary School Yola within the shortest possible time has brought fame, honour and popularity to the Chief of Air Staff and indicated those who were in such privileged positions but could do same

**EXTENTION OF TENURE OF THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF TO 2015**

President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's pronouncement extending the tenure of Air Marshall Badeh to 2015 was received with great shock. We are aware of the delegation that was sent to the president to stop the appointment because it is such a sensitive appointment that should not be given to a Fali minority Christian.

The delegation's demand upset Mr. President and he politely told them he would not accede to such a request because he will never change his decision. He told the delegation that Air Marshall Alex Badeh is not a quota General, he got to the present position strictly on merit.

- 2. ADAMAWA 2015 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION:** There have been rumours all over the place that the achievements being recorded in the area of Air Surveillance and infrastructural development are political because Chief Badeh is preparing ground for 2015 gubernatorial election. If he continues with the present tempo there is no stopping the tiger from achieving his aim because Adamawa people, who have seen serious progress from a serious-minded man in so short a time, will definitely support him if he so requests; as compared to people who conjure projects not for the purpose of finishing them for the benefit of the people, but as conduit pipes for stealing public funds and abandoning the projects and going on to conjure others. Days of reckoning are at hand!

The thinking of the opposition is that the state of emergency is the weapon they would use to de-popularise the Chief of Air Staff and that the Adamawa electorate would swallow their falsehood hook, line and sinker without proper assessment. They are in for more rude shocks!

- 3. RESTORATION OF ARMY BARRACKS TO MUBI TOWN**

It is on record that the Chief of Air Staff single-handedly restored the once disbanded Mubi Military Barracks. Apart from restoring the Army Barracks he ensured that it is upgraded to international standards with modern facilities. The restoration of the Army Barracks has helped greatly in containing the security challenges facing Mubi and environs.

At this juncture, we wish to appeal to the Chief of Air Staff not to be deterred by the activities of people whose stock in trade is to cause mischief. Please disregard such reactionary forces and concentrate on giving the people of Adamawa state the real and lasting dividends of democracy.

Posterity will surely be kind to those who came, saw and conquered. EDMUND BURKE says "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". The so-called faceless group have joined the league of losers because their mission to pull you down has only succeeded in uplifting you.

Finally, we wish to appeal to the so-called concerned businessmen and women in Mubi-North and Mubi-South Local Government Areas and the Nyako Social Development and Integration Forum to leave the Chief of Air Staff alone to continue rendering selfless service to the Nation. The attack launched on the Air Force Base in Maiduguri was sponsored by some disgruntled elements from Adamawa State so as to give the Chief of Air Staff a bad name in order to hang him, however, their mischief, again, failed woefully as the military moved in and saved the situation by containing the insurgents who suffered and continue to suffer heavy casualties.

Signed:

**LABIGA D. DAUDA**  
**YUSUF PRAMBE**  
YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE