

HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DISARM MILITANTS – IYC PRESIDENT

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National President of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) Worldwide, Dr. Chris Ekiyor says the Federal Government can get the militants to voluntarily drop their arms if it provides them with alternative means of survival outside the creeks.

He stated in an online statement to Sunday Vanguard, "The truth is simple; the Federal Government has not come out with a good sustenance package for the boys for life outside the creek.

What i am saying is that people who have been involved in arms cannot disarm into a vacuum, there is a need to get these boys to disarm without politicizing it, and we have said government should grant amnesty to them but they are playing politics with it".

Dr. Ekiyor who predicted that the proposed Niger-Delta Summit would fail like former President Olusegun Obasanjo's third term bid and commended Prof Ibrahim Gambari for throwing in the towel, nevertheless, noted that the managing director of the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Mr. Timi Alaibe "appears to have understood the simple fact in the disarmament process and has keyed into it with his non-violence training scheme in which 600 youths have been sent for a transformation programme so far".

"Let us, therefore, concentrate on what will bring lasting solution to the Niger - Delta, the way to go is what the managing director of the DOC has keyed into after he has been able to build trust among the restive youths, such that youths are now being trained via nonviolence, and currently, this young man has been able to send 600 youths for transformation program with the Foundation for Ethnic Harmony in Nigeria in collaboration with the Centre for Nonviolence, Rhode Island University. They disarm voluntarily and come forward for the transformation.

"Even the main leaders are willing to be transformed but for fear of the unknown, Timi Alaibe possibly is one of the first government man to understand what the IYC is been preaching, encourage the likes of Alaibe who has now been able to win confidence of these boys to continue the transformation programme.

The beauty of the program is that it is an all- inclusive one, such that there is voluntary disarmament, transformation skills acquisition and engagement in jobs that will keep them busy", he said.

The IYC boss said, "With such training, they will then become ambassadors of peace for us to follow. I have gone true this kind of nonviolence training too, which is why I manage a lot of conflict without violence.

Also it's sad that Senator Waku will blab, asking the army to shoot at the militants, as if that will be the solution, this goes to show how some of our folks in the Senate are ignorant about the problems of our region. For Waku, the oil is more important than the well being of Nigerian citizen so long they are Niger-Deltans."