

IJAW YOUTH COUNCIL WORLDWIDE PRESS STATEMENT

June 10, 2014

PROPOSED 5 PERCENT REVENUE FOR BOKO HARAM AND 18% DERIVATION: AN INVITATION TO WAR

The proposal by the Consensus Group of the National Conference to increase the derivation by a paltry 5% to make it 18% and also allocate 5% to the North as a result of Boko Haram insurgency is provocative, disgusting and an invitation to war. It is an insult to the Niger-Delta people for the conference group to recommend only 5% increase to the derivation percentage from resources produced in the Niger Delta region on the condition that 5% of the nation's revenue would be allocated to 'fund' and 'encourage' Boko Haram activities.

If we may ask, where would the Boko Haram 5% revenue come from? Is it from the oil and gas revenue of the Niger-Delta region and taxes mainly collected from southern parts of Nigeria or 5% of revenue generated from the Boko Haram sponsored states?

It has become obvious that Ijaw and Niger-Delta delegates to the National Confab have run out of steam to resist the arrogance of their Northern counterparts and the IYC call on them to return home honourably. They have failed to achieve anything for the Niger-Delta and have further endangered the people of the region. To increase derivation by 5% and allocate 5% to fund Boko Haram to kill more innocent children, women and Nigerians is the worst decision that any person on earth would be party to.

The Niger-Delta delegates had a mandate to demand for 100% derivation and if there must be any concession, concede to nothing less than 50% derivation and if this is not accepted by other parts of Nigeria, then return home with honour and not to sell their birth right to Northerners. The youths and people of the Niger-Delta reject and would continue to resist the second class mentality being displayed by most Niger-Delta delegates at the Confab. The Niger-Delta has given up everything to sustain the unity of Nigeria and we are not ready to sacrifice anymore.

The proposal to increase derivation by only 5% and allocate 5% to 'fund' and 'encourage' Boko Haram activities is an invitation to war and the IYC wish to state clearly that the Niger-Delta people would not under any circumstance accept this provocative proposal by the National Conference. The National Conference is strongly advised to jettison this devilish proposal and if the oppressors decide to use their fraudulent majority to force this proposal through our throats, then they would hear from the Niger-Delta people. Enough is Enough!

Signed for Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Worldwide,

Eric Omare,
Spokesman