

The Report of meeting held by the Concerned Nigerians Germany and Elders, Kassel 1. May 2012

The meeting held in Kassel on the 1st of May 2012, was organised by the Concerned Nigerians Germany and Elders. In attendance were also members of NCG, the NI DO Germany and Nigerians from other organizations.

Introduction

The President of the Concerned Nigerians, Mr Lewis Ehiwario declared the meeting open at 14:30 hours. Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves as attendance was from various cities.

The meeting provided a forum for the Concerned Nigerians Germany, the Elders and all present to appraise the state of things, the low profile role played by the Nigerian Embassy on the poor reception given to His Excellency President Goodluck E Jonathant and how Nigerians have been unfairly treated by the embassy officials. The policies of the embassy on the affairs of Nigerians in Germany was discussed and resolution for corrective measure was put forward.

Before the introduction of the agenda, the Concerned Nigerians informed participants of their goals and objectives and also their engagements with the embassy over the years. The areas specifically mentioned were the issue of passport and visa online payment, consular charges, Mobile Consular Hearing (MCH) used in the deportation of Nigerians from Germany and the killing of Nigerians without any meaningful reaction from the embassy

Agenda

- The analysis of the situation at the Nigerian Embassy in Berlin in relation to performance
- The Role of Nigerian Community Germany
- The problems of Nigerians
- The state of security in Nigeria with a specific emphasis to Boko-Haram
- A proposal of demonstration protest at the Nigerian Embassy in Berlin

The analysis of the situation of the embassy

The participants discussed about the circumstances and situation in the Nigerian Embassy in Berlin. It was discussed that the embassy of Nigeria in Germany is to promote good relationship between the two countries. It was further stressed that the embassy must work hand in hand with Nigerians in order to promote these ties.

From the various perspectives of participants, Nigerian Embassy in Berlin has failed Nigerians woefully in all facets. They have failed to fulfill the obligations bestowed on them. It was also agreed upon that the present Ambassador and his top officials have forgo the responsibilities they are expected to discharge for Nigerians' interest. In summary of the assessment and services and performances of the embassy, participants outlined some aspects that were considered necessary:

- The Nigerian Embassy under the leadership of Mr. Abdu Usman Abubakar and the previous Ambassadors , there has been so many incompetent, abuse of office and the facilitation of Nigerians' deportation from Germany and irregularities of service and corruption
- Very poor and unfriendly attitudes towards Nigerians, either via telephone or through direct visit to the embassy
- Promote ethnic disintegration

After the analysis of these problems, participants called for the need for unity among Nigerians. It was supported that a society will never achieve a change without the support of one another. Nigerians in Diaspora were advised to stand firmly for the common goal of Nigeria.

The Nigerian Community Germany (NCG)

The Nigerian Community Germany, as the umbrella Organization of all Nigerian Organizations in Germany has for some time not been able to live up to expectations in tackling most problems Nigerians are faced in Germany. Every effort must be made to bring it back full on stage to work with other Nigerian Organizations in unity to discuss and help solve the problems of Nigerians here in Germany. For Ambassador Abdu Usman Abubakar and his top officers to hand pick and invite only the Chairman and General Secretary of the NCG,

President and General Secretary of NIDO Germany, one Elder and some other people of their choice to meet the President at the so-called diplomatic reception is a slap in the face and disrespect to all other Nigerian organizations and Nigerians in general.

The Problems of Nigerians

Participants agreed that it is time for Nigerians to examine every aspect of their existence, from commerce to government philosophy. The resolution was that Nigerians' goal should be directed to factors considered to be impeding development which include corruption. It was resolute that fighting corruption in the right direction means working towards the goal of the nation. Participants advised Nigeria and Nigerians to change their thinking as well as their ways of doing things, especially in this modern era, if changes are expected to be achieved in the country. It was agreed in the meeting that creating a better Nigeria means taking into accounts the following:

- Genuine efforts to build integrity and *fight corruption* across all sectors.
- Stop environmental pollution in Niger Delta region
- Re-instating oil subsidies
- Government focus should be on a vision of quality instead of profits and personal gains

Boko Haram

Nigeria is not in a civil war, therefore killing of innocent people (mass genocide and destruction of private and public properties) is a serious crime against humanity. Therefore, there is every need to bring Boko-Haram to justice. The participants however unequivocally supported the motion to bring Boko Haram to justice instead of negotiation.

It is absolutely obvious and apparent that Nigerians can never be termed as a people of one nation if the Boko-Haram issue continues. The further analysis of the Boko Haram issue by the participants noted that since its presence was made known in Yobe State in 2004, their activities have negatively been increasing since DR. Goodluck Jonathan came into office in 2011. It was also discussed that Boko Haram activities is damaging Nigeria economically. It was presented that Boko Haram's activities have both domestic and global implications which have threatened the country's security. It is on record that the success of Boko

Haram has made the security agencies in Nigeria look inept and without strategy to safeguard the citizens.

Meeting resolution

After the analysis of the role of the Nigerian Embassy over the years, coupled with President Jonathan being slighted by his own Ambassador during visit to Germany, participants unanimously adopted the motion that a demonstration should be carried out in front of Nigerian Embassy in Berlin on the 14th of June 2012, as a protest for the poor state of things in Germany and Nigeria as it affects the citizens.

Nigerians present in the meeting were advised to mobilize persons from their various communities, cities and states for the agreed demonstration. In each of the cities, it was suggested that vehicles should be provided for those that cannot afford to transport themselves to Berlin. Another reason why the demonstration was suggested is to call for better services for Nigerians in Germany and a call for more consulates. The demonstration banners will carry such headlines as: stop illegal deportation of Nigerians, Stop blocking the supporters of President Jonathan, Stop Corruption in Nigeria, Shell should protect the environment in Niger Delta region, negligence of duty by Ambassador Abubakar, stop issuance of ETC through MCH, Nigerians must have access to their president, End Boko Haram Operations in Nigeria, Boko Haram is a wrong political protest, withdraw federal quota system and Ambassador Abdu Usman Abubakar is not qualified to represent Nigerians in Germany, therefore he should be recalled. A capable Ambassador who understands the status of Nigeria as the most populous black country, giant of Africa and strong emerging economy and one who also understands the importance of Germany as the strongest European and third world leading economy and can promote Nigeria is needed in Germany.

The meeting ended at 18 o'clock

Signed:
Hon. Lewis Ehiwario
President, Concerned Nigerians Germany

Signed:
Dr. Okoro Akinyemi
Secretary General, Concerned Nigerians Germany

Signed:
Dr med Denial Ubani
Nigerian Elders Germany

Signed:
Mr. Kalu Onyeise
Representative of African European Co-operation

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The Concerned Nigerians Germany e.V.
Lilienweg 5
34128 Kassel
Germany