

ENTRY NOMINATION

Agency

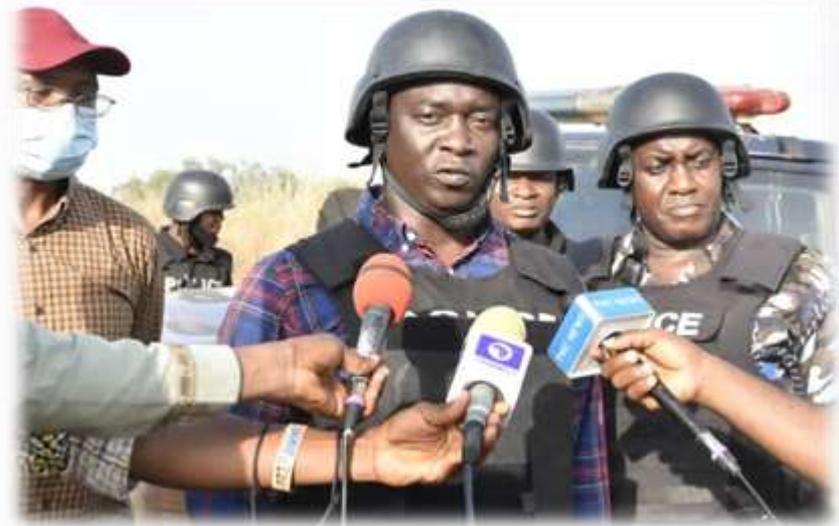
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Client:

Kaduna State Ministry of Internal
Security

Title:

The Doka-Kajuru Peace Deal
Against Ethno-Religious Crisis



Summary

Concerned about the ethno-religious conflicts fueled by the seemingly intractable farmers-pastoralists' clashes, Doka Community with support of Kaduna State government, initiated a peace summit aimed at stopping reprisal attacks, killings, and destructions of means of livelihood.

The pioneer Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, who deployed crisis communication strategies in advocating for peaceful coexistence in the face of herdsmen-farmers conflicts and the ethno-religious crises in the state, said the Doka peace move was a “community efforts” supported by the government



Problems/Challenges

- For years, hundreds of persons, including children and women, were brutally killed in the cycle of reprisal attacks that left communities in ruins in Kaduna State.
- The conflicts precipitated humanitarian crisis and emergencies that compelled the setting up of IDPs camps.
- Schools and hospitals in some instances were closed, depriving young children opportunity of acquiring education and preventing sick people from accessing proper medical attention.
- Both sides of the divide suffered human and material losses over the years.
- Graphic images of savagely hacked victims, razed homes, destroyed farmlands, butchered cows and mass graves were often shared on social media further escalating the crisis.
- Lack of integration and co-habitation when Christians and Muslims occupy separate neighborhoods in the same communities.



Define the Problem/Objectives

Define the Problem

The conflicts in most communities in Kaduna are chiefly rooted in and driven by land disputes and the related self-determination struggles and indigene-settler dichotomy.

Campaign Objectives

- Determine root causes of conflicts that could snowball into violence.
- Proffer solutions that will enhance peaceful co-existence
- Explore initiatives that would promote inter-communal relationships.
- Create a committee for the actualisation of peace at the grassroots level
- Advise on youth programmes and activities



Geographic Location/Targeted Organisations

Geographic Location:

Doka in Kajuru LGA was a flashpoint and one of the ethnic Adara communities that had suffered deadly violence between farmers and pastoralists in Kaduna State in Northern Nigeria.

Targeted Audiences

- Security Agencies
- Community Leaders
- Youth-groups
- Media



Tactics/ Endorsement

Advocacy: Advocacy visitations to relevant stakeholders to educate them on the need for peaceful coexistence.

Media relations: Interface with the media through chats and press releases in providing information and update on the peace process.

Lobbying: To ensure a legal and policy framework from the highest level of governance, the legislators and security service by contacting and carrying them along on the peace move.

Endorsement

The Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs Kaduna State endorsed and supported the campaign



Executions of the Campaign Programme:

STAGES

Orientation Stage

Despite mutual suspicion and hatred deeply rooted in a long history of struggles for space and self-determination, some leaders and members of Doka Community in Kajuru mooted the idea of peace summit for their survival and economic development.

Brainstorming Stage

A community-led process towards peace was endorsed and supported by government, nudging the warring sides towards dialogue in a series of meetings.

Deciding Stage

Prominent members of the Community agreed that bloodshed can be averted through common understanding, willingness to compensate for damages and submission to law. Religious and community leaders accepted to also lead the peace advocacy at worship centres (Mosque and Churches) and village squares.

Executions of the Campaign Programme:

Implementation Stage:

The much-needed Stakeholders' Peace Talk was held on April 26, 2020 with the state government providing logistics and adequate security.

Despite COVID-19 challenges, the meeting was well attended, chaired by Aruwan with high-level security officers, community leaders, religious leaders and youth leaders in attendance.

Religious tolerance was a key theme of the discussion, as well as each group's need for support from other tribes in the area. The participants believed that for an area with broken social fabric due to mistrust and mutual suspicion, to regain cohesion will require sincere efforts of the people themselves to engage towards harmonious relationship.

The summit agreed to sustain the dialogue and mutual relationship towards peaceful co-existence and to forget the past wrongs and resolve to live together.

Feedback

The peace talk was widely reported with the hope that similar stakeholders meetings will be replicated in other communities in the state.

Creative Solutions/Difficulty Eliminated

Creative Solutions: Series of meetings were held before and after the Peace talk to ensure sustenance of the mutual trust.

Difficulties Eliminated:

Despite the good intention of the deal some extremists on both divide were reluctant to participate.

Meanwhile, realising the involvement of their political and religious leaders in the talk, they also embrace the peace deal some weeks after



Outcomes of the Campaign

OUTCOMES

Market Reopened: In Doka, the Fulani and Adara people are now co-existing and trading at a single market that was previously destroyed and closed down during clashes

Worshipping Freely: Worship Centres have been rebuilt with worshippers praying without let or hindrance.

Unity of Purpose: The warring parties are now sitting together and united for common goals towards community development

Tolerance: A joint committee ensures Fulani pastoralists do not allow their cattle destroy farmlands, while farmers allow the cattle to graze in an outdated open grassy land as a common resource.

The Dungs for Manure: The farmers and the pastoralists re-enact the spirits of cooperation as cattle dungs now serve as manure for farms.

Security Consciousness: The Community reports any suspicious movement to relevant security agencies towards avoiding strangers that could create crises.



MEDIA REPORTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE PEACE TALK

BEFORE THE PEACE TALKS

VIDEO SUMMARY: Kaduna Clash Crisis Allegedly Caused By Religious/Romantic Overtures <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3DLvnPbi9I>

CNN REPORT: 24-hour curfew imposed in Nigeria's Kaduna after scores killed in communal violence <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/10/22/africa/nigeria-kaduna-attacks-intl/index.html>

Kaduna crisis: Rumour causing more deaths than guns – Catholic Bishop <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/10/kaduna-crisis-rumour-causing-more-deaths-than-guns-catholic-bishop/>

Explainer: factors that foster conflict in Nigeria's Kaduna state <https://theconversation.com/explainer-factors-that-foster-conflict-in-nigerias-kaduna-state-109899>

55 killed in Kaduna's Kasuwan Magani crisis – Police <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/291396-55-killed-in-kadunas-kasuwan-magani-crisis-police.html>

17 killed, 1 missing in fresh Kajuru attack March 10, 2020 <https://thenationonlineng.net/17-killed-1-missing-in-fresh-kajuru-attack/>

New deals underscore prospects of peace in Southern Kaduna <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/investigationspecial-reports/426190-special-report-new-deals-underscore-prospects-of-peace-in-southern-kaduna.html>

Standing up to the bandits: A Nigerian community looks to forge its own peace <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2020/12/17/nigeria-unrest-grassroots-peace-deal-local-community>

Peace Gradually Returning To Kajuru LGA – Kufana District Head <https://newnigeriannewspaper.com/2020/09/25/peace-gradually-returning-to-kajuru-lga-kufana-district-head/>

Kaduna State peace talks forge ahead but COVID-19 is slowing action <https://www.peacenews.com/single-post/2020/05/19/nigeria-kaduna-state-peace-talks-forge-ahead-but-covid-19-is-slowing-action>

Peace Sustenance Visitation to Christian and Muslim Leaders at Doka in Kajuru <https://twitter.com/samuelaruwan/status/1312121199640502272>

At Last, Dialogue, Peace, Forgiveness Now Reign in Kajuru <https://www.africaprimenews.com/2020/09/24/security/nigeria-at-last-dialogue-peace-forgiveness-now-reign-in-kajuru/>

Feuding Southern Kaduna communities pledge to end violence <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/418118-feuding-southern-kaduna-communities-pledge-to-end-violence.html>