

## *Appendix 58:*

### **Major General Chris Alli's Proposals<sup>1</sup>**

An important player on the Plateau was retired Major General Chris Alli, who served the state as interim Administrator during the period of emergency rule of 2004. In his farewell speech he did not produce a numbered *list* of proposals, but he did present a number of proposals that should not get lost to succeeding generations of governors and other politicians. In his case, I judge it best to bundle his proposals together here rather than scatter them under various headings, some in quoted form, others in summary:

1. “One of the legacies I would like to leave behind is the exchange of visits by traditional rulers and religious leaders, which helped in diffusing tension and pulling down the invisible walls of prejudice, misconceptions and mutual suspicions.”
2. “The Peace Conference should become a recurrent pattern of settling local disputes and conflicts to ensure that the gains of this effort are consolidated and maintained. We can prevent conflicts from degenerating into violence if the right conflict resolution mechanisms are utilized.”
3. “Our six-months experiment is a clear proof of what dialogue can achieve towards the forging of unity and the diffusion of tension. The greatest honour the people of Plateau State can accord me is to extol the virtues of dialogue and constant interaction above primordial and clandestine considerations. This is the only way that our present effort will not be rubbished into the junks of history.”
4. “The LG system, traditional institutions, religious bodies and the security apparatus have been repositioned to deal with security situations more efficiently and effectively. It is my earnest desire that the next government will continue to harness the enormous resources of these institutions for the promotion of peaceful co-existence.”
5. “Governments come and go, but the interest of Plateau State supersedes all. The State is greater than any individual or sectional interest for that matter. It is time

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<sup>1</sup>C. Alli, 17 Nov/2004.

- to rise up to the challenge of developing a collective consciousness that makes Plateau State the centrepiece of our advocacy and aspirations. We should redefine our roles and ensure that the past is not allowed to repeat itself.”
6. “The new government must develop the necessary security consciousness that will help prevent further conflicts.”
  7. “The greatest need of the moment is for government to concentrate on promoting tolerance and reconciliation. The new government is expected to provide leadership for all and work towards allaying all fears, so as to promote justice and equity.”
  8. “The new government must seek to mend fences with the rest of Nigeria, especially with our neighbours in order to consolidate the Plateau profile within the North Central zone.”
  9. The government needs to “embark on peaceful politicking” and control “the politicisation of religion.”
  10. “The peace we have achieved must be constantly massaged to ensure it endures and stabilises.”

In the conclusion of Volume 7, I indicated doubt that the Conference was being followed up. I have asked the question of several Plateau friends and was happy when John Samci, a former Secretary to the State Government, wrote, “The Plateau Peace Conference is steadily being implemented and things are taking shape. A war on filth and an emergency on education! There has been much improvement on integrity and peace.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>J. Samci, 23 Aug/2007.