

**BEING THE PROGRESS REPORT OF STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING ON THE ARUA PROJECT HELD AT
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE IFE ON THE 2ND OF OCTOBER, 2023.**

The progress report meeting which serves as a score card of Obafemi Awolowo University's branch of the ARUA Project started at exactly 9:30am with a welcome address offered by Dr Wale Olusola of the department of International Relations, OAU Ife. In his welcome, Dr Olusola appreciated the participants, and made effort to introduce them according to their research areas and designations in line with the focus of the project. This was followed by a report offered by the Principal Investigator, Prof Olayode.

While reviewing the First Year Project Implementation and Progress Report, the following are the highlights of the successes recorded;

- * Award 13 PhD Grants to Researchers with Innovative Topics, with four concluded
- * Research Support, sponsoring 15 Journal Article Publications, with 7 publications successfully achieved with eight outstanding.
- * Supporting Publication of Policy, with 4 outstanding
- * Organising PhD. and Post Doctorate Social Science Methodology Workshops
- * Increasing research skills through training workshops
- * Validation of research findings
- * Review Meeting by project participants and invited stakeholders and Policy, and,
- * The success of this stakeholders' meeting.

Emphasis was placed on the need for beneficiaries of ARUA grants to present the manuscripts of their research before December, which has been earmarked for termination of the project.

PROGRESS REPORT PRESENTED BY THE AWARDEES

S/N	NAME	DEPARTMENT	RESEARCH	STAGE	OF	POSSIBILITY
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			FOCUS	RESEARCH	OF DELIVERY BEFORE DECEMBER, 2023
1	Victor Sokari	Political Science	Governance, Post-conflict Niger Delta	He is on data analysis	Assurance given
2.	Mr. Idris	Sociology and Anthropology	Farmer- Herders' Conflict in the North central Nigeria	About to conduct the fieldwork	Utmost assurance given
3.	Oluwaseun Kugbayi	Public Management	Conflict management and peace-, building	About to conduct fieldwork	Assurance given
4.	Mr Paul	Political Science	Impact of Information Technology on Conflict and Disaster Management in Nigeria	Field work about to commence	Utmost assurance given
5.	Paimo Oluwatunise	International Relations	Digital Technology and Counter Insurgency in	Preparing for qualifying examination	Assurance given

			the Lake Chad Region		
6.	Deji Ademola	International Relations	Citizens' Participation in Counter Insurgency in Nigeria and Cameroon	On the fieldwork	Assurance given

S/N	NAME	DEPARTMENT	RESEARCH FOCUS/AREA	STAGE OF RESEARCH	POSSIBILITY OF DELIVERY BEFORE DECEMBER, 2023
7.	Towobola Omolola	Political Science	Communal Conflicts' Management in Nigeria	About to conduct fieldwork	Assurance given
8.	Ayanwole Grace	Urban and Regional Planning	Spacio-temporal Analysis of Urban Security in Oyo State Nigeria	Qualifying examination has been successfully taken	Utmost assurance given

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED PUBLICATIONS (GRANTS)

1. Odunola Olasunkanmi, PhD, Department of Political Science
2. Bello Kehinde, Department of Economics
3. Omotuyi Modesola, Department of Political Science
4. Dr Adiatu Department of International Relations

2ND PHASE OF THE MEETING (POLICY DIALOGUE)

This phase was anchored by Prof Olayode, the Principal Investigator. The policy dialogue is themed 'Analysis of Nigeria's Policy Response to the Post-conflict Environment'. In his analysis, Prof Olayode outlisted the pivotal challenges of Nigeria's post-conflict environment, numbered among which are:

General insecurity, internal displacement (NEMA, SEMA)

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons, arms trafficking Emergence of war lords, demobilization, rehabilitation, reintegration

Banditry, kidnapping for ransom, vandalization, sabotage, bunkering

Sexual and gender-based violence, corruption

Unemployment, loss of income etc.

Pervasive SGBV, forced marriage of girls, abduction, out of school girls - Chibok etc.

On the question of **Nigeria's Policy Response to Post-conflict Challenges**, Prof Olayode noted:

-That the post-amnesty programme initially yielded considerable outcomes as the spate of violence - including kidnappings and killings - was reduced, while the production of oil increased

from 700 000 barrels to 24 million barrels per day, but later tumbled as currently witnessed. Establishment of NDDC and the Ministry of Niger-Delta, though expected to facilitate rapid development and peace in the region, but no meaningful development has taken place, apart from few construction and reconstruction of roads.

-That major critical issues such as marginalization, exploitation, corruption, unemployment, poverty, youth and women's issues are still not dealt with, and jeopardize the possibility of future peace, security and development in the Niger Delta region

-That though the Amnesty programme has been appraised as a laudable project that could bring the complex crises in the Niger Delta to an end, but the post-amnesty programme is flawed both in its planning and implementation.

-That the limitations of the military-based approach against Boko Haram/ISWAP have resulted in the introduction of a counter-insurgency strategy of deradicalization and reintegration scheme as credible non- military alternative strategy.

-That a general counterterrorism framework code-named: 'Operation Safe Corridor (OPSC) focuses on deradicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of defectors from Boko Haram. The programme encouraged defection from those who want to embrace peace.

-That while opinions have differed on the practicability and sustainability of the OPSC in the context of the ongoing operation against insurgency in the North-East, there has not been credible verified evidence of the effectiveness of the policy as counter-insurgency strategy in the context of persistent banditry and kidnapping in the region.

Listed as Policy Gaps and Challenges include:

Absence/weak framework for effective implementation of policy

-Poor allocation of funding /delegation of responsibilities to donor agencies Poor coordination among donor agencies resulting in duplication of efforts Absence of political will to push through existing legislations/policies

-Poor capacity among policy makers Absence of credible indicators to measure performance

-Absence of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics to measure performance Unrealistic setting of milestones and expectations.

To cap it, Prof Olayode explored forward-looking action plans which include:

- review existing policies and laws in line with the current realities and challenges
 - establish effective implementation mechanisms for the existing laws/policies
 - undertake regular to review performance and adjust strategies
 - adopt gender mainstreaming framework into all post-conflict interventions.
 - Incorporate gender-responsive budgeting into policy planning and project execution
 - incorporate civil-society organisations into post-conflict development interventions.
- Provide adequate funding for post-conflict peacebuilding and integration.

The final section of the policy brief was premised on general contributions and responses from participants on policy ideas on how to address post-conflict challenges embedded in our environment. The closing address was led by Dr. Wale Olusola, who used the opportunity to appreciate the participants and to bring the programme to a close.