

ROLE OF CAMEROON-NIGERIA MIXED COMMISSION IN THE PROMOTION OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES OVER BOUNDARY DISPUTE

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Abstract

The paper seeks to examine the role of Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in the promotion of confidence building measures between the affected populations of Cameroon and Nigeria in accordance with the ICJ judgement of 10th October, 2002. The paper further assessed how the Mixed Commission contributed in re-establishing a degree of trust between the people and the governments of both countries. Field survey research design was employed. As such both primary and secondary sources of data collection were utilized, it also adopts neo-liberal institutionalism theory by Robert Keohane as its theoretical framework. The research found out that the implementation of the ICJ judgement by the Mixed Commission has contributed in the promotion of peace between Cameroon and Nigeria as both parties have agreed to renounce the use of force in their bilateral relations and pursue peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary differences which has impact on the affected populations. It recommends the need for the Mixed Commission to put into consideration the welfare of the affected populations from both sides, through the provision of border communities development projects such as infrastructural, education and health facilities.

Key Words: *Affected Population, Bakassi Peninsula, Boundary, Greentree Agreement, Resettlement, Sensitization.*

INTRODUCTION

African borders were shaped by European Colonial excursions which succeeded in cutting off people of the same ancestry, ethno-cultural and religious backgrounds, into different boundaries that created differences in citizenship. The result is that despite the recognition or the border drawn by European colonial powers, people still sustain ties even when they have been divided into citizens of different countries. Community bifurcation is one of the major characteristics of all international boundaries and has seriously resulted in conflicts between and amongst several African countries. Concerted efforts were made by African leaders to reduce the burden of the borders as lines of separation between the homogenous communities while respecting the boundaries as inherited from colonial masters as at the time of independence as sovereign limits of each country efforts were made to bring the various borders communities to see the boundary not as line of separation between their kith and kin but a bridge of cooperation and integration (Ahmad, 2009). In Africa, the interests of local populations on the path of modern state boundaries suffered double jeopardy as the states define by new alignments were not only structurally different from those of the territorially more flexible rule of preceding eras of history, the makers were also racially and culturally distinct. On the one hand is the perspective of the modern African states, which are mostly successors to the colonial entities created in consequence of the European partition. Since the attainment of political independence, there is hardly one of this state which had not cause to worry about the position of its boundaries *vis-a-vis* its neighbours. The few occasions of actual boundary adjustments- namely those following the referenda organized by the United Nations in Togo in relation to the Gold Coast (Later Ghana) in 1956, and in the Cameroons in relations to Nigeria in 1961 (Asiwaju, 2007).

The International Boundaries of Cameroon and Nigeria were also drawn along political lines without giving a due consideration to the major ethnic groupings that constitute the bulk of the population of the given states. They are located on the West Coast of the Continent of Africa. Both of them shared common political and economic institutions as part of the British West Africa. (Familugba & Ojo, 2013). Nigeria and Cameroon have had a checkered experience in terms of border management set in line with traditional old African community environment, the borders enjoyed some measures of primordial tranquility amongst their culturally contiguous neighbours before the coming of the colonialists. The international boundary is about 2000km from the Lake

Chad to the sea. The people living along this boundary have a long history of social, cultural and economic relationships (Ahmad, 2013; Agholor, 2015).

The boundary disputes between Nigeria and Cameroon Republic was engendered by the long but not clearly defined border (1680 Kilometres or 1050 Miles) could be traced to pre-colonial when the Europeans Imperialists sat at the Berlin in the year 1884-1885 to partition the Continent of Africa among themselves. However, the boundary disputes had remained a source of the conflict in the bilateral relations of the two countries since Independence even though people living along this boundary have a long history of social, cultural economic relations notwithstanding this, the Republic of Cameroon had on 29th March, 1994 taken the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the dispute relating to the sovereignty over the Bakassi peninsula in the South. It requested the Court to “.... determine the course of the maritime boundary between the two States beyond the line fixed in 1975” by the Agreement between the two Heads of States. It requested the Court to also specify definitely the land boundary between the two states from Lake Chad to the Sea. It further requested the court to compel the Federal Republic of Nigeria to appropriate compensation and/or damages consequent upon the alleged violation of its territory and sovereignty. The court delivered its verdicts on the 10th of October, 2002 and stated that the boundaries in the Lake were determined by Thomson-Marchand Declaration of 1929-1930 and the boundary in Bakassi was determined by the Anglo German Treaty of 11 March, 1913. (Chidi, 2018). As fallout to the judgment, the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission was established at a historic meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on 15th November, 2002 between their Excellencies former President Olusegun Obasanjo, former Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Kofi Anan and President Paul Biya of Cameroon, with the aim of facilitating the implementation of the ICJ judgement of 10th October, 2002 which also demonstrated the political will of the two countries to demarcate their common boundaries peacefully as handed over by the ICJ which is in line with the mandate of the Mixed Commission.

Statement of the Problem

Among the major border conflict which Africa has witnessed is boundary dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon, which led to the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the 10th of October, 2002. The post ICJ judgment was characterized with so many challenges which led to the establishment of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission on the 15th of November, 2002 to consider all implications of the decision, such as the challenges of protecting the rights of the affected populations in both countries, there are problems related to demarcation, political and security issues, meeting up with the socio-economic needs of the populations in terms of provision of education, health, social infrastructure, portable water and environmental protection. The humanitarian needs of the concerned population and the resettlement. The challenges of overcoming all considerations and prejudices and the task of rebuilding confidence that was disrupted between the two countries which also requires a dynamic direct contact between the two Heads of States to address the problem of suspicious among the people and the governments of both countries. Therefore, this paper is to examine the extent to which the Mixed Commission builds confidence between the affected populations in both countries.

Research Questions

The study is guided by the following research questions:

- i. How has the Mixed Commission contributed in re-establishing a degree of trust between the people and governments of Cameroon and Nigeria by pursuing peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary differences?
- ii. What is the role played by the Mixed Commission in the sensitization drives, resettlement and capacity building for local communities affected by the ICJ judgment as confidence building measures?

Objectives of the Study

- i. To assess how the Mixed Commission has contributed in re-establishing a degree of trust between the people and the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria as a confidence building measures

- ii. To examine the role of the Mixed Commission in the sensitization drives resettlement and capacity building for local communities affected by the ICJ judgment as a confidence building measures

Conceptual Framework

The Concept of Confidence Building Measures

As stated by Haidar & Tahir (2021) Confidence Building Measures are regarded to alternatives to traditional diplomatic business which can halt due to numerous factors including (but not limited to) a trust of deficit, security concerns and stalemates in negotiation. The phrase "Confidence Building Measures was first used in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. (CSCE) held in Helsinki, in 1975.

Confidence building measures are meant address, prevent or resolve uncertainties amongst states. Designed to prevent wanted and especially unwanted escalations of hostilities and build mutual trust. Design to prevent wanted and especially unwanted escalations and build mutual trust, CBMs can be formal or informal, unilateral, bilateral or multilateral, military or political, and can be state-to-state or non-governmental. (CSIS, 2022).

The Concept of Mixed Commission

According to Merrill (2001) concept of Mixed Commission is generally regarded to have begun with the Jay's Treaty of 1794 between the United States and Great Britain. This Treaty included provisions for the establishment of Three Mixed Commissions to resolve a numbers of issues that they had been unable to settle through negotiation. These Commissions were made of both American and British Nationals, and while not strictly bodies of the third-party mediation, they did function to some extent as tribunals and served to help revive interests in arbitration as a means of resolving international quarrels.

Wolfe (2002), stated that under International Law Mixed Commission are instruments of arbitration that have been established by bilateral or multilateral treaties. They are made up of members of different nationalities for the purpose of settling International disputes peacefully. These bodies may function as Mixed Claims Commissions, Conciliation Commissions, or Commission of enquiry.

Affected Population

As highlighted by Kett (2005), conflict and disasters whether manufactured or natural often result in wide scale displacement of people. This may be as a result of destruction of homes and environment, religious or political persecution, or simply economic necessity. The most displacement affected populations are indeed those made up of people who have been displaced from their country or place of origin.

According to International Office for Migration, IOM (2019), affected population is defined as mobile populations and host community members who IOM seek to assist in a broad spectrum of activities, aiding people from emergency assistance to transition and recovery through development.

According Cukwurah (2012) Nigeria maintains that if there must be "a critical date" with respect to the affected populations the date of the judgement that is, October 10, 2002, should be the critical date for determining the "affected populations" in the relevant sectors of the international boundary. Also "the terminology of "affected populations" as it appears in the document of the Mixed Commission according to Cameroon, "has evolved since the Judgement of 10th October, 2002". This assertion, in effect, expressly amounts to admission by Cameroon that the "critical date" for identifying such "affected populations" is, at least, impliedly the date of ICJ judgement.

International Boundary

As highlighted by IBRU Centre for Borders Research (2022), International Boundaries are a major source of friction between neighbouring states. Many land boundaries remain poorly defined and fewer than half of the world's potential maritime boundaries have been fully agreed. Governments recognize the value of clearly-

defined boundaries, yet the political, economic and social complexities of boundary regions, as well as the details of topography and history, often make resolving competing territorial and jurisdictional claims extraordinary difficult.

To Bobbo (2004), International boundary can simply be defined as boundary that delimits the areas of jurisdiction of two adjoining sovereign states. The main characteristics of international boundaries especially in Africa is the fact that such boundaries were arbitrary lines imposed on the nations by the colonial powers during the 1884/1885 Berlin conference.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Re-establishing a Degree of Trust between the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon by the Mixed Commission

UNOWA, in 2002 stated that several weeks before the pronouncement of the judgment, the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria were invited to a crucial meeting in Paris, France, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the end of the meeting, which was held on the 5th of September, 2002, both Presidents agreed to respects and implement the decision of the ICJ over land maritime boundary and to also establish a mechanism for implementation with the support of the United Nations and to adopt confidence building measures, including the eventual demilitarization of the peninsula, with the possibility of international observers to monitor the withdrawal of troops, and early visit of to Nigeria by President Biya and the avoidance of inflammatory statements or declarations on the disputed territories by either side. The Secretary-General and the parties agreed to continue the bilateral negotiations at the Ministerial level.

The Mixed Commission considered and adopted the final report of the working group on withdrawal and Transfer of Authority along the land Boundary area which took place on 13th July, 2004. It noted that it successfully presided over ceremonies in NARKI, NDABAKURA (in Borno State Nigeria/Far North Province of Cameroon) and BOURRHA WANGO (in Adamawa State, Nigeria/Far North Province of Cameroon) symbolizing the withdrawals and the transfers to authority. It also considered and adopted the first report of its observer Personnel following its field visit on month after the withdrawal and transfer of authority in that area. It noted with satisfaction the general state of peace and good relations prevailing among the population and the new authorities in the area in the aftermath of the transfer of authority. (11th Session of CNMC, August, 2004). The Greentree Agreement, according to Asiwaju (2007) was the outcome of difficult diplomatic negotiation of the ICJ Judgment of 10th October, 2002. It re-emphasized the acceptance of the judgment by both parties and reiterated their mutual commitment to its implementation on the basis of a mutually agreed schedule. The schedule stipulates the procedure to follow in disengagement and final transfer of sovereignty over the peninsula by Nigeria to Cameroon. A time schedule ranging between two and seven years for the total actualization of the judgment was set by the two countries. A series of activities allowed and prohibited for the two countries was agreed upon. Certain guarantees of the human and people's rights of the affected populations were also agreed to by the two countries.

Achankeng (2009) stated that a team also travelled to Cameroon and Nigeria to assess the progress and needs in confidence building activities. It met with representatives of United Nations development and humanitarian agencies and of bilateral and multilateral donors. In the Lake Chad Area, an international body the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), comprising Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and the Central Africa Republic has long been reactivated. Representatives of the Five States meet on a regular basis in order to coordinate efforts to preserve and protect the environment and people of this ecologically fragile area.

The people are well used to cooperation under the leadership of the LCBC. Nigeria provides over 50% of the budget of the LCBC and looks forward to continued cooperation between the member States, including Cameroon, in managing the area (Asiwaju, 2013).

Alobo (2016) opined that by looking at the complex nature of the boundary dispute between the two countries, it has become so glaring that the decisions from the ICJ alone is not enough to bring a sustainable peace and competence agreement between the two countries who are involved in the conflict over the years in the anticipation of the final judgment of the court, the then United Nations Secretary General, Dr. Kofi Anan invited the two Presidents, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and Paul Biya of Cameroon to a crucial meeting in Paris, France. At the end of the meeting, which was held on the 5th of September, 2002, both Presidents agreed to respect and implement the decision of the ICJ on the disputed territories in order to establish a mechanism for the implementation of the ICJ judgement with the support of the United Nations and adopt conference building measures among other things. The Secretary-General and the parties agreed to continue the bilateral negotiations at the ministerial level. The United Nations through the Good Offices of the Secretary-General played a vital role in the enforcement of the judgment of the ICJ in the Bakassi case and other areas affected by the judgment of the Court.

Figure 1.1 Cameroon/Nigeria Boundary



Source: Sovereign Limits, 2022.

Sensitization, Resettlement and Capacity Building for Local Communities Affected by the ICJ judgment

In the 20th Session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission of 16th November, 2007 it noted on the need to organise a Summit of Heads of Members States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and those of other affected States to consider the serious environmental situation in the Lake Chad Basin Area in order to design appropriate strategies for mobilizing resources to fund the inter-basin water transfer project. The Mixed Commission decided to undertake a sensitization mission led by the Mixed Commission Chairman and made up notably of the Heads of the Cameroonian and Nigerian delegations as well as the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

The Mixed Commission in its 28th Session, on the 23rd of July, 2011, also noted with appreciation the progress reported by the UN Resident Coordinator for Nigeria and the representative of the UN Country Team for Cameroon, regarding the confidence building initiatives in favour of the populations affected by the

demarcation. It commended the efforts of the United Nations to emphasize the human dimension of the demarcation process and its commitment to support the development of cross border socio-economic initiatives toward harmonious co-existence between populations on both sides of the boundary and sub-regional security, peace and stability.

The Mixed Commission, in its 30th Session of 14th December 2012, also showed its appreciation on the progress reported by the UN Resident Coordinators for Nigeria and Cameroon, in particular the preparatory work carried out in support of confidence building initiatives. The Coordinator of the Observer Group presented the report of the 16th Observation Mission of the Bakassi zone (the Zone). The Mixed Commission noted with satisfaction the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Zone in compliance with the Greentree Agreement, and congratulated both countries for their commitment to peace and cooperation. The Special Representative of Secretary General Djinnit have played an important role in supporting Confidence-building measures in re-establishing a degree of trust between the two countries, even to the extent that several recalled issues have been dealt with on an entirely bilateral basis.

Inaku (2016) further notes that the federal government and Cross River Government had promised to provide permanent resettlement centre for the Bakassi returnees and rehabilitate them adequately, that the returnees wished for a resettlement in Dayspring Islands, where they could continue with their fishing activities. Their request for relocation is a possibility provided resources are to be made available to sand fill the area because the issue of Bakassi returnees is not the sole responsibility of Cross River state. It is a national issue as well as an international one.

The Cross-River State Emergency Agency (SEMA) in collaboration with the state Food Bank Commission has carried out the distribution of relief materials to more than 1,000 Bakassi Returnees evicted from Cameroon. The returnees were from six states comprising: Cross Rivers, Ebonyi, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, and Ondo. (The Nation, Newspapers 2017).

Tarfa (2020) observed that the Mixed Commission was established to, among other things; handle the delineation/delimitation and demarcation of the maritime and land boundaries respectively, recommend additional confidence building measures, promote the development of joint economic ventures and Cross-border cooperation. Considerable achievements were recorded by the Mixed Commission, among them is the avoidance of war, the restoration of high profiled diplomatic relationship and engagement in cross-border economic activities between the two countries.

Theoretical Framework

The research adopts the neo-liberal institutionalism theory that was propounded by Robert Keohane in (1984). Neo-liberals argued in favour of the significant of International Organizations in promoting cooperation and stability. The approach stressed the importance of international institutions in reducing conflict and tension. The argument is based on the core liberal idea that seeking long term mutual gain is often more rational than maximizing individual short term gain. Keohane, showed that international cooperation could be sustained through related interactions, transparency and monitoring. Being optimistic about the relevance of those organizations, he stated that international organizations are capable of facilitating cooperation and without them “the prospects for our species will be very poor indeed, he values organizations role in promoting cooperation, habits, monitoring compliance and sanctioning defectors (Burchill, 2005 cited in Bayeh, 2015) Neo-liberals also argued that it is this longer term perspective that put states into cooperating rather than the move short-term survivalist perspective that encourages defection. These views can be said to have reflected on the modalities established by Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in the process of the implementation of the ICJ judgment of 10th October, 2002, which involves promoting confidence among the affected population as one of its mandate that enhances the promotion of cooperation through interactions among parties and the sustenance

of the core liberal idea of seeking long term mutual gain, which is often more rational than maximizing individual short term gain.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this study, the researcher adopts the field survey research design which entails the collection of information from a cross section of the population comprising of all stakeholders who have the fore knowledge and are also involved in implementing the mandate of the Mixed Commission in promoting confidence building measures between the affected populations of Nigeria and Cameroon over boundary dispute from (2008-2021).

A clustered sampling technique was adopted for selecting the population of the study for the distribution of questionnaires this put the number as One Thousand and Eighty, (1,080). The staff of the National Boundary Commission (NBC), Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF), Border Communities Development Agency (BCDA), Federal Ministry of Justice. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cameroon High Commission in Abuja who constitute the majority of the population are drawn from various departments to collect adequate information on issues on defined subject matter. The population was divided into departments (Clusters) from each department; simple random technique was adopted so that each member of the respondents has an equal chance of being selected. The measuring instrument used by the researcher for this investigation is a five-point likert scale questionnaire making provisions to tick options that are relevant to their opinion. These options are Strongly Agree, Agree, Strongly Disagree, Disagree and Undecided to determine the level of responses. The questionnaires method depended on distribution of questionnaires to 400 respondents, using the Taro Yamane formula, (1973) that represents the target population, 362 were duly completed and returned. The research employed both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The methods of data analysis were mixed of both quantitative and qualitative.

Purposive sampling technique was also employed for the selection of respondents for interview. The interview was conducted with respondents from the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA), United Nations Sub-Commission on Affected Populations, Delegates to the Summits of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC), leaders of the Affected Populations from the Land Boundary (Adamawa Sector) Lake Chad Area, and the Bakassi Peninsula others are from the National Boundary Commission (NBC), Border Communities Development Agency, (BCDA) Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation, (OSGOF) Federal Ministry of Justice.

The data obtained from questionnaire were analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to show the responses of the respondents' frequencies and percentages of the various categories using simple percentage statistics to enable the researcher ascertain role of the Mixed Commission in the promotion of confidence building measures among the affected populations. Data collected through interview were transcribed verbatim by the researcher into the language of the research and the analysis was based on content analysis.

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results

Table 1: The Mixed Commission has contributed in re-establishing a degree of trust between the people and governments of Cameroon and Nigeria by pursuing peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary differences

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	195	53.86%
Agree	98	27.07%

Disagree	43	11.88%
Strongly Disagree	21	5.80%
Undecided	5	1.39%
Total	362	100%

Source: Field Work, 2023.

On the question whether the Mixed Commission has contributed in re-establishing a degree of trust between the people and governments of Cameroon and Nigeria by pursuing peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary differences, the table above shows that 195 (53.86%) and 98 (27.07%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively while 43 (11.88%) and 21 (5.80%) disagreed and strongly disagreed to that and 5 (1.39%) respondents were undecided. This is a clear indication that both parties have agreed to renounced the use of force in their bilateral relations and pursue peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary difference after the establishment of the Cameroon Nigeria Mixed Commission, it also shows how the Mixed Commission has contributed in re-establishing a degree of trust between the people and the Government of the two countries as both leaders of Nigeria and Cameroon demonstrated the political will of accepting the demarcation of their common boundary in accordance with judgement of the ICJ.

In agreement to the foregoing analysis, an interviewee Emeritus Professor Asiwaju, former Chairman of Sub-Commission on Affected Populations of the UN Mixed Commission states that the establishment of the Mixed Commission is evidenced of the political good will on the part of the leaders of Nigeria and Cameroon in respect of the demarcation of boundaries as delineated, as delimited as defined in the judgement. Because, before the judgment was pronounced, United Nations Good Office, in anticipation of non- acceptance, by one or the other party, its controversy, its litigation, the office of the Sec-General anticipated and organized summits of Heads of States of the two Litigants Parties, Cameroon and Nigeria in Paris on the 5th of September, 2002 on close to the time of the judgment itself, they all committed themselves to accepting it, Obasanjo was fully committed in writing to accepting the judgment. (Field Survey, January, 4th 2023).

In his National Broadcast, on June 14, 2006 former President Olusegun Obasanjo, stated that as a great advocate of the observance of the rule of law nationally and internationally and a great believer in the settlement of disputes peacefully, Nigeria has accepted the verdict notwithstanding in our disappointment. He also assured Nigerians living in Bakassi and all Nigerians that their interest will be protected in the process of implementation of the ICJ judgement. (Olusegun Obasanjo, 14th June, 2006).

Similarly, President Paul Biya of Cameroon, while receiving the award for "Peaceful Resolution of Conflict" by the Pan African Lawyers Union on 6th of June 2014 made the following remarks:

I would like to dwell on the efforts made by Nigeria and Cameroon to find a peaceful solution to the land dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula. I dare to say on both sides, all resources of diplomacy and international justice were used and such efforts helped to bring about honourable outcome for both parties. I wish that the use of force should be abandoned definitely as a means to settle differences between States. This can only be possible if States recognize the primacy of International Law and the preeminent role of the United Nations. It was thus demonstrated that the use of force poses more problem than it resolves. Permit me to share the honour bestowed on me with all those who worked for the peaceful settlement of the border dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon. Particularly, the International Court of Justice; my brother, President Olusegun Obasanjo and the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan; my successive Nigerian counterparts; witness States, namely Germany, the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon. (H.E Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, 6th June, 2014).

This also corroborated with the views of Florence Tanko, Principal Foreign Affairs Officer, of the Nigerian Mission in Douala, Cameroon stated that there is an improvement in Nigeria-Cameroon Diplomatic Relations, since after the ICJ judgment. There has been improvement in both political and economic relationship of the two countries. Presently Nigeria is among the countries that has three (3) Consular Generals in Cameroon, one in Yaoundé; Douala, and Buea. Also, it is important to note that Nigeria is the only country that has not shut down its consulate in Buea despite the Anglophone crisis due to their strategic relationships. (Field Survey, December, 20th 2022).

Similarly, Bashir Galadunchi Assistant Director, Departments of Int'l Boundaries, National Boundary (NBC), was also of the opinion that, it is the best decision the two leaders of both countries could have taken, by accepting the outcome of the ICJ judgement which has contributed in the promotion of continental peace. It has halted open confrontations between them and has created the window of building trust. (Field Survey, December 7th 2022).

Table 2: The Mixed Commission has played a vital role in the sensitization drives, resettlement and capacity building for local communities affected by the ICJ judgment as confidence building measures

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	171	47.24%
Agree	163	45.02%
Disagree	9	2.49%
Strongly Disagree	-	-
Undecided	19	5.25%
Total	362	100%

Source: Field Work, January, 2023.

The analysis of the table above reveals that that 171 (47.24%) and 163 (45.02%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the Mixed Commission has promoted confidence building measures through sensitization drives, establishing trust and capacity building for local communities, on the other hand, 9 (2.49%) of the respondents disagreed. 5.25% of the respondents were undecided about the question. In clear terms it is obvious that Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed has played a role in the promotion of confidence building measures between the populations affected by the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10th October, 2002. The above analysis corroborates with the view of a respondent Barrister Mohammed Monguno, Former Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Borno State who opined that immediately the ICJ judgment was delivered, one of the contingency arrangements made by President Olusegun Obasanjo was the setting up of the Presidential Resettlement Committee. The committee was then chaired by the then Governor of Borno State Sen. Ali Modu Sheriff. People from the National Boundary Commission, Department of State Security (DSS), Military, and the members of the Mixed Commission were brought in. The committee converged in Maiduguri and visited those possible locations where those people who were moving from Cameroon who were affected by the ICJ judgment will be resettled immediately. Most of the people moving back to Nigeria were not actually people from Borno alone, most of them are fishermen, and rice farmers, from Kebbi, Mali, Niger, and Ijaw people. This also led to the Mixed Commission establishing another team (The Mixed Commission Observer Team) on the land Boundary Lake Chad and Bakassi Peninsula. The Team went through the land boundary and part of the Lake Chad Areas, consulting the affected populations on both the Nigerian side and the Cameroonian side. The Team was in Ngala, and on the Cameroonian side at Maroua, it was a mixed team of both Nigerians and Cameroonians. On the Nigerian side, resettlement centres on the Northern part of Borno in Kukawa area, Alli Sheriffiti, Dambore and Sagir were developed, a lot of structure were also

built, such as immigration post, secondary schools, primary schools, water supply scheme. (Field Survey January, 10th 2022).

Field Visit by the UN Mixed Commission Working Group to Dambore (a settlement that was transferred to Nigeria from Cameroon).

The chairman Working Group of the UN Mixed Commission informed the people that in accordance with the ICJ judgement and the agreements reached by the president of Nigeria and Cameroon, their village would be transferred to Nigeria. He also informed them that other areas would in the same vein be handed over to Cameroon. He therefore called upon those affected by the International Court of Justice Judgement to cooperate with the authorities to ensure smooth transfer of authority. The head of the Nigerian delegation commended the people of Dambore for taking the outcome of the ICJ judgement in good faith and therefore welcome them to Nigeria, emphasizing that Nigeria and Cameroon are sister countries only operating two different systems, he assured the people that the resources available in Nigeria, being God-given, would be enjoyed by all within the confines of the law. The leader of the Cameroonian delegation remarked that just as Dambore was being transferred to Nigeria other territories are being transferred to Cameroon. He therefore noted the request put forward by the Bulama for resettlement. Meeting at Fotokol, (Cameroon). The chairman further emphasized that the Working Group was set up to facilitate smooth transition of authority. He assured the people of the protection of the rights and the safeguarding of their interest as agreed to by the presidents of the two countries. He further urged the people to be law abiding and continue to channel their complaints through the appropriate authority. (UN Mixed Commission Working Group, 2003).

Similarly, A. I. Asiwaju argued that the entire judgment of the ICJ was what guided the field work, it commenced in Darak, right at the Lake Chad all the Teams comprising the Nigerian Delegation, Cameroonian Delegation and UN Delegation which formed part of the confidence Building processes were there. The arrangement was that we speak to local people on this side of the border, we crossed the border and we spoke to the extended communities on the Cameroonian border. This also formed part of the sensitization and listening to them too. We compiled our reports and the Mixed Commission takes action. The handing over of villages and so on, this covers all the way from Adamawa, Benue, Borno, and Cross River State from the Nigerian side down to the extended area at Boki, other villages in Cameroon in the thick forest. The Mixed Commission affirmed the report of the Sub-commission on affected population. The committee also interacted with the population from the Bakassi side that comprised Achibong, Ikang and other places, we went into the creeks to sensitise people. He went further to say that the judgment of the court was also aimed at providing opportunity for the two governments to work together. Confidence building is part of what is aimed at through the work of the Mixed Commission and the Sub-Commission. (Field Survey January, 4th 2023).

Tarfa (2022) also highlighted that in terms of confidence building measures, the Mixed Commission over the years, have been given the affected communities sense of belongings. National Boundary Commission has led delegates to the communities on several occasions, for sensitization and enlightenment. NEMA has been providing a lot of relief materials to the affected border population. The United Nations in their magnanimous way conducted confidence building studies for the affected communities in 2011. (Field Survey, December 10th, 2022).

Another respondent and leader of the Affected Population from Ngala, Mallam Bakura Mai Hula Ngala was of the opinion that after judgment of the ICJ of 2002, the resettlement programmes commenced within a short time. Nigerians who were living in villages of Darak and Dabar Masara were resettled in a new area called Alli sherifti. It was carried out by the United Nations, Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the Borno state government around 2004 until 2009. Projects that have impact on the socio-economic needs of the people were also carried out such as health centres were put in places, schools for the people were also built, drinking water, hospitals were also made available to the people who relocated from Cameroon due to the ICJ judgement, other villages that benefitted from the resettlement exercise were Sagir, Kirlal, Wula etc.

Ebingha (2022) an official of the Cross River State Management Agency (CR-SEMA) also stated that, thousands of Bakassi Returnees were provided with temporary shelters by the State Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with domestic and International institutions such as National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Commission for Refugees, Migrant and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNCHR). Over the years, the government of Cross River State has been providing assistance at all levels and plans to provide alternative accommodation and sources of livelihood to the Bakassi Returnees. (Interview 11th, January, 2023).

Another respondent, Chief Atingha Atingha Cobham, Chief of Ikang, Bakassi Local Government Area of Cross River State said that, the people of Bakassi have been neglected we are suffering here think of the magnitude of people that have been displaced came to stay in one locality, economical wise, social factor wise and poverty accommodation has also become a problem for them, can you imagine Ten (10) people living in one room apartment think of the health hazard, that is what we have been experiencing for almost 12-15 years going even the UN has tried to do something but the effort is not enough. Because I was with the Paramount Ruler of Bakassi, HRM, Etinyin, Etim Okon Edet, when the last UN Team visited, and he complained to them about the plights of the people of Bakassi and he called on the United Nations Officials to intervene. (Field Survey 18th, December, 2022).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The analysis of this paper reveals that the Mixed Commission has contributed in the promotion of peace between Cameroon and Nigeria as both parties have agreed to renounce the use of force in their bilateral relations and pursue peaceful ways for the settlement of their boundary differences, there has been commitment by the two countries to sustain the spirit of peaceful brotherly and strengthening of good neighbourliness which has also created the window of building trust and contributed in the promotion of continental peace.

The Mixed Commission has built confidence between the populations of Cameroon and Nigeria that were affected by the ICJ judgment through sensitization drives, enlightenment, establishing of trust and capacity building for local communities as carried out by the UN Working Group on withdrawal and transfer of authority on the affected areas. The reactivation of the activities of Lake Chad Basin Commission through the mobilization of resources for the funding of the inter-basin water project.

CONCLUSION

The paper has examined process by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in the Promotion of Confidence Building Measures between the Affected Populations of Nigeria and Cameroon over boundary dispute, which involved technical expertise, diplomacy, patience inspiring of trust. However, progress could not have been made without the commitment by the counties respective Heads of States, in order to ensure the completion of its mandate, the Mixed Commission has continue working with the parties on outstanding issues around the Lake Chad Area, land and maritime boundary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper recommends the following:

There is need for the two countries to cooperate directly with each other in order to address the problem of the interpretation of the Thomson-Marchand document over the settling of the remaining disputed territories of Koja/Kotcha, Rhumsiki, Mabas village and Pillar 8.

There is need for the Mixed Commission to put into consideration the welfare of the affected populations from both sides, through the provision of border community's development projects such as infrastructural, education and health facilities. The platforms of the traditional rulers of the affected areas should also be used to enlighten the local populace on the strategies of implementing the ICJ judgement and translating the

Greentree Agreement into the major local languages of the affected populations will help in creating more awareness.

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