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The Imperative of Multitrack Diplomacy for Sustainable Peace in a Democratising Nigeria

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Abstract
Democracy, with its character of assorted freedoms, especially that of speech, is paradoxically fertile for disagreements which, if not well managed, may degenerate into malcontents and ultimately protracted conflicts. This study examines the role of the National Peace Committee (NPC) as a component of Multi-track Diplomacy, MTD, in the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections in Nigeria. The paper examines the domestication of MTD and the extent to which the nine tracks of MTD were deployed by the NPC during the elections, with emphasis on the ninth track, Media and Communication, to see how effectively that track was deployed. Mass media theories of Uses and Gratification, Social Responsibility and Diffusion of Innovation and General Systems Theory provide the theoretical underpinning for the paper. The qualitative design (using desk research and key informants interviews) was used to generate primary data for the study. The investigation reveals that all the nine tracks of MTD were adopted by the NPC though only four of the tracks received adequate usage. The researchers recommended more self-appraisal and training for NPC so that it can more holistically adopt the philosophy of MTD.

Keywords: Multi-track diplomacy, Democracy, National Peace Committee, Media and Communications; Conflict Sensitive Journalism

Background

Nigeria, Africa's largest democracy, returned to civil rule in 1999 after a long-drawn transition to civil rule programme under several military administrations. The expectations of stakeholders was that return to civil rule would deepen democratic culture in the country. In 2015, after four successful civilian-to-civilian leadership transitions, there was palpable tension in the polity as the opposition geared up and successfully took over the mantle of leadership. The political altercations were sustained through 2019 and for the first time since 1999, democracy was seriously

threatened.

The 2015 was keen and pensive. The All Progressive Congress, APC, (a coalition of political parties) was angling to unseat the People's Democratic Party, (PDP), which had been in control at the centre since 1999. Arogundade notes:

> If it was expected that the vituperations that the negative prelude to the 2015 elections had their antecedents that it would produce fireworks, what was not expected was that the media would play a leading role in the deployment of the fireworks by way of hate speech.
>
> …Lack of equitable coverage, poor reporting of under-represented groups, like the women and persons with disabilities, and presentation of political adverts as news in puffery and other unethical ways, are some of the shortcomings identified in the analysis of trends in the reporting of the 2019 electoral process. (Arogundade, 2019): 29-39)

These developments led to the establishment of the National Peace Committee.

The National Peace Committee (NPC) is a non-governmental initiative conceptualized in 2014 in response to emerging threats occasioned by the 2015 general elections. The Committee is an initiative made up of elder statesmen who undertake efforts to support, free, fair and credible elections and intervene in critical issues of national concern through high-level alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The NPC, among other activities and programmes, holds meetings, debates, trainings and direct consultants with major players towards a smooth and peaceful conduct of elections. This paper examines the extent to which the NPC has deployed Multitrack Diplomacy praxis in its programmes and interventions.

Multi-Track Diplomacy (MTD) is a conceptual way of viewing the process of international peacemaking, using the living system as a template. It looks at the web of interconnected activities, individuals, institutions and communities that operate together for a common goal – a world at peace. (IMTD, 2024).

The nine components of MTD (tracks) are:

Track 1 - Government, or Peacemaking through Diplomacy. This is the world of official diplomacy, policymaking, and peacebuilding as expressed through formal aspects of the governmental process.

Track 2 – Nongovernment / Professional, or Peacemaking through Conflict Resolution. This is the realm of professional non governmental action attempting to analyze, prevent, resolve, and manage international conflicts by non-state actors.

Track 3 – Business, or Peacemaking through Commerce. This is the field of business and its actual and potential effects on peacebuilding through the provision of economic opportunities, international friendship and understanding, informal channels of communication, and support for other peacemaking activities.

Track 4 – Private Citizen, or Peacemaking through Personal Involvement. This includes the various ways that individual citizens become involved in peace and development activities through citizen diplomacy, exchange programmes, private voluntary organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and special-interest groups.

Track 5 – Research, Training, and Education, or peacemaking through Learning. This track includes three related worlds: research, as it is connected to university programs, think tanks, and special-interest research centers; training

programmes that seek to provide training in practitioner skills such as negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution, and third-party facilitation; and education, peace and world order studies, and conflict analysis, management, and resolution.

Track 6 – Activism, or Peacemaking through Advocacy. This track deals with the field of peace and environmental activism on such issues as disarmament, human rights, social and economic justice, and advocacy of special-interest groups regarding specific governmental policies.

Track 7 – Religion, or Peacemaking through Faith in action. This covers the beliefs and peace-oriented actions of spiritual and religious communities and such morality-based movements as pacifism, sanctuary, and nonviolence.

Track 8 – Funding, or Peacemaking through Providing Resources. This has to do with funding the community – for example, foundations and individual philanthropists that provide the financial support for many of the activities undertaken by the other tracks.

Track 9 – Communications and the Media. How public opinion gets shaped and expressed by the media - print, film, video, radio, electronic systems, the arts and the social media. (IMTD, 2024).

This presentation reviews the extent to which the NPC has applied the Multi-Task Diplomacy praxis in its programmes, especially the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

In a major study on the 2015 presidential elections, the Association of Communication Scholars & Practitioners of Nigeria (ACSPN), noted:

> In Nigeria, contests for power since the colonial era, democratically or otherwise, have often been virulent, vicious, contentious and divisive. But more than in the previous elections, engagements of the traditional and new media in the 28 March 2015 presidential elections was both phenomenal and unprecedented. (ACSPN, 2019, p.35)

Unfortunately, not many studies on this particular election and subsequent presidential elections have evaluated the peace process during the elections from the Multi-track diplomacy perspective. Noteworthy among these studies were those by Alabi (2010), ACSPN (2018), Arogundade (2019); Joda & Folayan (2020), Akanni (2023), and Folayan & Balofin (2024).

Alabi's study of the presidential election focused on campaign methodology while ACSPN's was on the relative uses of traditional and mass media systems during the presidential election. Joda & Folayan investigated the communication media through which voters and sub-urban areas obtain access to political information while Arogundade evaluated the professional responsibilities of Nigerian journalists against their role in the 2015 general elections. He found that both the print and broadcast media fell below the threshold in reporting political conflicts related to the election. .Folayan and Balofin examined the political communication techniques of candidates in the 2023 presidential elections. None of these studies were predicated on Multi-Track Diplomacy, whereas experts in conflict-sensitive journalism, such as Akanni, Jimoh and Olayoku (2019).have emphasized that only a holistic application of relevant factors engendering democratization of the polity could produce enduring results. According to Akanni (2023):

> The centrality of the media to Multi-Track Diplomacy is such that cannot be

> over-emphasised with the other tracks feeding it and even feeding on it to enable proper functioning in the mitigation of conflicts. The media connect with the people as collectives and individuals and therefore bear a lot of responsibility in helping to stabilise social imbalance. This is the very basis of the rigorous transformation effected by media and conflict resolution experts and scholars, as manifest in the trajectory of, at first, peace journalism and much later to date, conflict-sensitive journalism.
> (Akanni, 2023).

The foregoing makes it difficult to properly assess the performance of the National Peace Committee in deepening democratic culture in Nigeria in that scholars have not evaluated the factors germane to the subject matter from the holistic or systemic viewpoint as Multi-Track Diplomacy requires. The essence of this paper, is to reduce the knowledge gap in this area of scholarship. The paper, therefore, attempts to review the nine tracks of MTD against the efforts of the National Peace Committee, with emphasis on one of the tracks – Media and Communication- with a view to suggesting ways the concept can be more fully integrated by the NPC and other non-governmental organisations and inter-governmental institutions in engendering enduring democracy in Nigeria.

Objectives

1.To examine Multi-track Diplomacy components in the national context even as it was originally conceptualized to address international situations.

2. To interrogate the extent to which Nigeria's National Peace Committee has applied the elements of Multi-Track Diplomacy in carrying out its activities and programmes during the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections.

3. To investigate the application of Media and Communication in Multi-Track Diplomacy during the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections.

4. To examine the acceptability of Multi-Task Diplomacy for institutionalization within the democratic culture.

Theoretical Framework

Explications of Multi-Track Diplomacy



Fig 2: Components of Multi-Track Diplomacy (Diamond & McDonald, 1996)

In multi-track diplomacy, all sectors of society are important and need to be involved, supported, listened to, and trained in a shared language of dialogue, conflict resolution, and peace building in order to prevent or end violent conflict. It is an entanglement of interconnected activities, individuals, institutions, and communities that operate together and perform complementary roles for world peace.

In the last decade, the international community has been faced with more guerrilla warfare, attempts at secession and other types of intra-state violence. The traditional practices of diplomacy (formal meetings between official representatives of states) are ill-equipped to

deal with these challenges. (Diamond & McDonald, 1996)

Multi-Track Diplomacy consists of nine complementary 'tracks'. These are: Government; professional organisations; private citizens; training, research and educational institutions; activists; religious organizations; funding and the media.

Theoretical and Empirical Review

The Systems Theory, Diffusion of Innovation Theory and Uses & Gratification Theory offer theoretical foundations to the present study. While the Systems Theory serves as the superstructure of the inter-dependency of the multi-track elements, the Diffusion of Innovation Theory sheds light on how processes through which the multi-tracks create impact. On the other hand, the Uses & Gratifications Theory exposes audience contribution to the impact of the multi-tracks. This study emphasizes the media component of the multi-tracks hence he necessity to review the Social Responsibility Theory of the media.

Systems Theory:

The Systems Theory was first proposed by Ludwig von Bertallanffy in the 1940s for application in classical science. The theory has over the decades been developed and applied in virtually all fields of social and physical sciences. The theory asserts that issues and events occur in interactive processes of open and closed components. Every system is built on inputs generating outputs guided by boundaries. The concept of MTD, for instance, is built on a system of nine tracts which serve as inputs to democratization and world peace. This stresses the interconnectedness and dynamics of the complex world of diplomacy and conflict resolution, offering insights into and managing conflicts. (Ludwig, 1972).

Diffusion of Innovation Theory:

The diffusion of innovations theory was developed by E.M Rogers. The theory consists of five established adopter categories: Innovators, Early Adopters, Early Majority, Late Majority and Laggards. (Rogers, 2003).

According to Rogers, the adoption of a new idea, behaviour, or product (i.e., "innovation") is not an action but a process. During this process, some people are more predisposed to accept and adopt a new idea than other sets of people. Rogers posits further that there are five established five adopter category as: Innovators - These are people who want to be the first to try the innovation. They are proactive people who are interested in experimenting with new things. Early Adopters - are people who are already aware of the need to change and so are very predisposed to accepting the proposed ideas. Early Majority - this set of people look for evidence - success stories and evidence of the innovation's effectiveness.- that the innovation works before they are willing to adopt it. Late Majority - They like to see others try it out before they implement a new idea. Laggards - These people are usually the last to adopt new ideas.

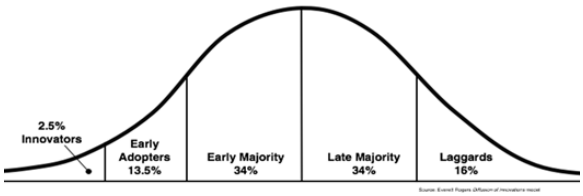


Fig 1. Diffusion of innovation categories. Source: http://blog.leanmonitor.com/early-adopters-allies-launching-product/. Note: The percentages represent relative ratio of each category in a typical population. In this sense, Rogers posit that in any given population, for instance, the Early Majority or Late Majority would constitute about 68 per of the population.

The stages by which a person adopts an innovation, and whereby diffusion is accomplished, include awareness of the need for an innovation, decision to adopt (or reject) the innovation, initial use of the innovation to test it, and continued use of the innovation. The theory has been found to have practical

applications in political communication. Political leaders who understand the relative distribution of their followers across the adoption groups.

Uses & Gratifications Theory:
The Uses and Gratifications Theory (UGT), developed by Paul Lazarsfeld et al posits that the media is a highly available product (for an audience) just like products are generally for consumers. The main assumption of the theory is that people deliberately choose the media that will satisfy their (different) needs. The corollary from the foregoing is that the media audience (consumers) are not passive. People do not just sit down in front of the TV and watch the TV impact them. Rather, sometimes the TV watcher has power over the TV channel. For instance, they can decide which channel to watch. And when they are tuned to that channel, they can determine how long they will stay tuned to that channel. The media consumer is responsible for selecting media to meet his or her desires and needs. When the consumer engages the media to accomplish some goals (e.g. listen to the news to know what is going on around them), this is known as "uses". The benefits they derive (not limited to the purposes they use the media for) are termed "gratifications". Many people install pay TV in their homes not because they want to watch the latest movies or listen to current news but just to show they belong to the middle-upper class. Many others tune their radio sets to kill boredom. Sometimes they do not even listen to the radio. The. Media, as an institution, also seeks gratification, these are media gratifications. McQuail (2005) has identified five major gratifications that media audience seeks:

Cognitive needs: These are needs related to the acquisition of information, knowledge, ideas and facts. Such knowledge could be general news or intellectual/academic.

Affective needs: These have to do with the emotional needs of people. Some people, for instance, watch romantic movies to arouse their sexual emotions.

Social Responsibility Theory of the Media:
The experience of countries under the Libertarian system was mixed. Individuals enjoyed their freedom in such a way that they injured the freedom of others. Under this system, the press and journalists are encouraged to publish the truth and operate rationally – enlightening the general public, protecting freedom of expression, servicing the political and economic system; as well as providing entertainment. Examples of this system exist in most parts of North America and Europe. (Siebert, Patterson & Schram, 1996).

The media became too powerful and, in many cases, reckless. The United States was particularly so much affected by this development and it set up the Hutchins Commission to review 'freedom of the press' under the Libertarian system. Specifically, it set out to make the press more responsible. The Commission recommended that the media system should be self-regulatory in the public interest. Under this arrangement, the mass media have obligations toward the society where it operates and must contribute to its preservation. Most countries with democratic systems today operate the Social Responsibility system. Further works on the Social Responsibility Theory by Denis McQuail have led to the Development Media System Theory. McQuail, in proposing this system argued that the press could no longer define news in the traditional negative notion of what is bad. The media should carry out positive developmental tasks that could positively transform the society. According to him, this is the kind of philosophy media in poor or developing countries should practice. Under this system, the media is open to restrictions according to economic priorities and developmental needs of the society. Media

content also promotes national interest, language, values and culture. (McQuail, 2005).

Arogundade (2019: 152) has aptly noted:

> Social responsibility theory underpins the accountability of journalism to the society. Journalists, as stakeholders in the society… Social responsibility compels journalists to avoid whatever may lead to crime, violence or civil disorder or offend the sensibilities of minority and marginalized groups.

The empirical literature on Multi-Track Diplomacy indicates that the model has attained good success in tackling many international issues. Examples include cases where adversary perceptions have been reversed; mutual understanding and trust between conflicting parties have been achieved; warring countries and organizations with long-standing grievances have been reconciled; and more negotiation skills and cultural awareness have been attained.

Two good examples were the use of Multi-Track Peacebuilding in the Oslo negotiations between the PLO (Track One) and the Israeli Government (Track One). In the start-up of this process there was cooperation between private citizens (Track Four), Ron Pundik and Yaer Hirshfeld, with FAFO (Norwegian Institute for Applied Social Science) (Track Five). They in turn had close contact with the Norwegian Foreign Ministry who were in contact with the State Department of the USA (both Track One). Because the contacts were facilitated by FAFO, the parties could deny having official contacts and make progress in a way that was not deemed possible with official (only track one) diplomacy. Also, the short lines of communication between the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and the different NGOs have made Norwegian involvement in peace-building efforts remarkably successful. It is a very good example of multi-track diplomacy. (IMTD, 2024).

Firdaus, (2020), in a study of the use of multi-track diplomacy in managing the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia found that the multi-track diplomacy carried out by the Indonesian government helped to increase the medical equipment needed by the Indonesian people and primarily to obtain vaccines for the health of the Indonesian population.

Omeje and Nwaocha (2022) in their explorative study on how to mainstream multi-track diplomacy in conflict management and resolutions in Nigeria generally, concluded as follows:

> Domiciliation of conflict resolution in the hands of the state alone appears fruitless, inefficient, and exhausting. In this circumstance, multi-track diplomacy emerges to bridge the gap by extending the capacity to resolve conflicts to non-state actors. The multitrack diplomacy as a holistic approach to conflict management has an edge on other techniques of conflict resolution because of its acceptability, comprehensiveness and, to a larger extent, inclusiveness. It engages other segments of the society to complement the state and is more effective in containing conflict and sustaining the corporate existence of the society. (p. 45)

Poluan and Lung (2023) studied violence against women in Indonesia and concluded that Jakarta Feminists are using social media to both disseminate activism information and mobilize actors. They argued that with its nature as a new media (emphasizes participatory culture), social media could support the implementation of MTD to abolish VAW issues in Indonesia, particularly looking at the growth of activism groups – Jakarta Feminist and/ or SEAFAM. Employing the desk research and observation methods, the scholars described the role of social media in the implementation of MTD

and found that social media played a significant role as a supporting tool for Jakarta Feminists in performing their role as an activist group – Track 6. They noted that through Instagram, Jakarta Feminists could generate power with and within their followers through educative content (Track 5) and dissemination of relevant information (Track 9). By doing so, they could hold a grassroots movement (Track 4) – Women's March, then influence the government's decision as Track 1.

This paper draws inspiration from these recent studies, with a view to finding out how a major player in the peace process regarding elections has engaged tracks in the MTD process.

Methodology

Qualitative design was adopted for this paper because of its suitability for explorative theory-driven studies. (Creswell, 2013). Data were derived from desk research and interviews with a key leader of the National Peace Committee and an expert in conflict-sensitive journalism. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with three key leaders of the NPC. In all five key informant interviews were conducted – one with a key national leader, one with a conflict-sensitive journalism expert and three randomly selected leaders of the NPC. The mix of interviews was to provide strangulated sources of informants. Materials examined also included purposively-selected reports and interviews on the 2015 and 2019 general elections generated from press cuttings on NPC by The Guardian newspaper in 2015 and 2018.

Findings

Examination of data generated for the study shows that the National Peace Committee engaged all the nine tracks of MTD in its activities regarding the 2015 and 2019 presidential elections. More emphasis was laid by the Committee on Government (Track 1) and Citizens (Track 4) while the least engaged tracks were Funding (Track 8); Research / Training (Track 5); Religion (Track 7) and Non-Governmental and Professional Bodies (Track 2).

Below are major highlights of activities and programmes of the NPC in the period under review:

Signing of a peace accord with individual politicians and political groups (Tracks 2 & 4)

Advocacy for inclusion of women and persons with disabilities in politics (Tracks 4 & 6)

Advocacy for placing a cap on the expenses of politicians and political parties regarding elections (Tracks 4 & 8)

Campaign for voter-friendly electoral reforms (Track 4)

Facilitating individuals and groups in the community coming together to resolve their disputes. (Tracks 4 and 6)

Mediating between the Independent National Electoral Commission ((INEC) and stakeholders in accepting their mutual responsibilities towards ensuring the success of the elections. (Track 6)

Training of media personnel and electoral officers within and outside Nigeria on conflict management (in collaboration with international bodies. (Tracks 5 & 9)

Campaigns and trainings against hate speech and fake news reporting (Track 9)

Educating religious leaders on the dangers of mixing religion with politics (Track 7)

A national leader of the NPC, who participated in the Key Informants Interview confirmed the foregoing findings:

> We envisaged that some of the politicians would not want to sign the peace accord.

> Not necessarily because they would not embrace peace. But eventually, most of them signed. So, we ensured that even if they did not sign the peace pact, they prevailed on their supporters to embrace peaceful campaigns and to accept the results with magnanimity. Those who wanted to proceed to the courts were reassured they could still do so. We did not have enough funds for training, especially of journalists but we were able to do at least two major regional trainings for selected political correspondents and editors. Religion is always delicate when you talk of politics. We were very cautious in terms of relating with religious leaders and politicians. We found out some of the religious leaders had self-interests. We therefore limited ourselves to general enlightenment campaigns to emphasize that all religions promote peaceful co-existence. I think, by and large, we succeeded in these efforts.
> (Kukah, 2023)

Discussion

From the foregoing results, it is clear that the NPC operated all nine tracks of MTD but dominantly in four areas. Given the theoretical postulation of the systems theory on which the MTD is predicated, there is a need for the NPC to give relatively equal emphasis to all the tracks. The systems theory is predicated on the fact that all component parts of the system must interact within stated boundaries to generate maximum results.

The attention given to media, funds and religion was surprisingly low. The Committee appears to be equating visibility in the media (coverage of their activities by media organisations) with ensuring that the media performs its social responsibility and agenda setting functions effectively. The Committee explained that funding had been a major challenge for its operations and activities, yet it did not make any sustained elaborate efforts to secure funds. This is the realm where public opinion formation takes place through TV, radio, printed media etc. This track informs the public and engages it in issues of conflict and peace. One of the problems related to this field is that the media has a preference for 'bad news' above 'good news'. The NPC generally involved the media in covering their activities and made no conscious efforts to re-orientate media personnel through training and dialogues with media gatekeepers. Media personnel, like other consumers, also have their uses and gratifications for the media content. They have their political sentiments and biases and politicians often try to induce them to be partisan. The capacity for journalists to adhere to the social responsibility of journalism is an area that one expected the NPC to emphasize in their deployment of the MTD in the run to the 2015 and 2019 elections and data suggest that this was not the case.

In terms of civil engagement (of citizens), the NPC's initiative of Peace Accord has been very successful. The politicians embraced the initiative and stood by the accords. Perhaps, the most successful outcome of this initiative was when President Goodluck Jonathan admitted defeat in the 2015 elections (before results were officially declared) and put a call through to his competitor (General Mohammed Buhari) to congratulate him. The NPC took credit for this achievement, stressing that the nation was precipitating to violence and anarchy from the nature of hate speeches and post -election threats by some politicians.

One surprising outcome of the results was the low emphasis on religion (Track 7) by the NPC. Although notable religious leaders such as the Emir of Sokoto and the Bishop of Sokoto of the Roman Catholic Mission were actively involved in programme implementation, religion was not strategically used as a component in the NPC campaigns. Under MTD use of religion includes the efforts of

religiously based communities and their efforts to make peace, from small church groups to larger religious communities of different denominations. In many places, they are supposed to be involved in reconciliation processes with a long-term commitment and thus are very well placed as contacts and confidants of conflicting parties.

Most activities of the NPC revolve around the government (Federal and State). This is understandable, for the fact that most members of the Committee were past government leaders and perhaps because it is on the government's shoulders that efforts to maintain the peace rest squarely – the government owns INEC which conducts elections and controls the security apparatus to restore peace when law and order break down. Nevertheless, the NPC's non-involvement or low-involvement of professional organisations and lack of synergy with other non-governmental organizations was a noticeable gap in the activities and programmes of the NPC

Conclusion

This paper reviews the role of the National Peace Committee (NPC), a non-governmental organization advocating peaceful elections and seeking to deepen democracy in Nigeria in terms of the extent to which it deployed the Multi-Track Diplomacy (MTD) praxis in the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections in Nigeria. The exploratory study found that the NPC applied all the MTD tracks but emphasized only four of the nine tracks. Though the NPC leaders were visible in the media during the period being reviewed, the researchers note that giving publicity to NPC events is not enough. It is different from engaging the media and media personnel in such a way that they could carry out their professional social responsibility in conflict-sensitive journalism, which is what Tract 9 is all about.

The researchers note that the NPC was not quite prominent in deploying Track 6 of MTD: This track involves environmental and peace activism from disarmament to human rights and socio-economic justice issues. People involved in this track often try to change attitudes, policies or institutions. Most of their work is stated in terms of opposition to certain situations. Often organisations in Track Six are one topic oriented, like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. These organisations engage in a whole range of activities: education, advocacy, organising, supporting, witnessing and protesting. Data from this study suggest that the NPC did not have collaborative programmes with other NGOs.

It is difficult to draw conclusions regarding which of the tracks gave NPC the best results. The NPC dominantly used five of the nine tracks of the MTD in their activities and programmes. The Committee did not set out to implement the MTD in their programming. It was a coincidence that their programming fell in line with the MTD. However, the results of this investigation have thrown more light on the necessity for major players in conflict resolution in Nigeria to embrace empirically-proven and theoretically-driven praxis in contemporary conflict resolution efforts.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, we recommend as follows:

1. Efforts should be made to upgrade the NPC from a non-governmental organization to a government agency with members drawn from amongst all key stakeholders – government, NGOs, media, citizens, religious organizations, etc. The NPC should seek to upgrade the NGO to an inter-governmental agency to be able to more effectively adopt the MTD. This is what Ghana has adopted, and it may help solve the challenges of funding and increase the effective use of all the nine tracts. The Ghanaian National Peace Council was established in 2022 by the 818 Act of Parliament to manage and resolve

conflicts and build sustainable peace in the country. The council has 13 members led by a Director-General appointed by the Government and 12 others drawn from amongst stakeholders for a renewable period of four years. (National Peace Council Ghana, 2024).

2. The NPC should undertake comprehensive training for media personnel (including social media influencers) to activate Track 9 more effectively in its efforts. Journalists can be trained in fact-finding and fact-checking skills, balanced reporting, solutions journalism and other inter-related principles of conflict-sensitive journalism by NTC

3. The NPC needs to subject itself to self-appraisal, especially to organize in-house training in conflict resolution and peace advocacy.

Suggestion for Further Studies

This study is more or less a case study; it deals mainly with the activities of the National Peace Committee. We recommend more studies involving other NGOs and agencies involved in conflict and peace management in terms of how they have adopted the MTD so that a holistic data of the extent of deployment of the praxis in Nigeria can be obtained.

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