

## **THE IMPACT OF JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION IN ESTABLISHING A PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY IN DELTA STATE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The problems that surround man in his environment are numerous. In a bid to respond actively to some of those social problems of man in his environment, Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) was established. It is a non-governmental, faith-based and non-profit organization founded by the Catholic Church. As a non-governmental organization of the Catholic Church, the Commission is responsible for social development activities. This study investigates the activities of Justice, Development and Peace Commission in Delta State and its impact in fostering a progressive society. This research assesses the various activities of the programme, benefits derived, attitude towards the programme and constraints faced by participants. Benefits derived from the programme include ability to use animal traction for cultivation, leadership training and land management practices. The purpose of this research therefore is to show the impact of the JDPC in establishing a progressive society in Delta State especially in areas such as infrastructure, education, health, housing, works and transportation, among others, as well as the attendant challenges that bedevil the processes during the period under study. In making this attempt, the study employs qualitative method of research in which written documents and oral interviews are used for clarifications. This study also makes recommendations for upward human advancement and proffers solutions to foster growth.

### **1.0 Introduction**

The place of religion and faith-based organizations in societal development especially in developed societies can never be over-emphasized. Religion which has been defined as “man’s effort to satisfy certain emotional needs by establishing and maintaining cordial relations with the supersensible world and his fellow man”<sup>1</sup> has remained a potent force and phenomenon in the course and cause of human history and development. In fact, research shows that religion of any sort - be it indigenous, Islam or Christianity - has at one time or

the other contributed immensely to the well-being of the society.<sup>2</sup> As Falola and Olupona rightly asserted that;

In the pre-colonial Nigeria, religion played a major role in the everyday thought and action. Practitioners were concerned with the problems of life and much of the rituals aimed at improving people's earthly lot by placating the deities or spirits capable of causing misfortunes...Religious beliefs and practices were therefore inseparable from the economic and socio-political life of the people.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, apart from spiritual and moral teachings, and guidance of religion which have severally enhanced economic cum social developments in history, religious institutions and bodies initiated social and urban development programmes in Africa and Nigeria in particular with the establishment of schools and skills acquisition centers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Thus, according to Blakemore and Cooksey, the growth of missionary activities during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries reflected the expansion of European and American trade and political influence in the world.<sup>4</sup> In the view of Turaki, this movement with its school system was the most potent and effective tool for social transformation.<sup>5</sup> Thus ever since, the roles of faith-based organizations towards the establishment of progressive societies have remained pronounced and glaring. It was in this spirit; and in line with Jesus' command that the Holy Father on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1967, Pope Paul VI created the Pontifical Commission; Justice and Peace Commission as an attempt to achieve a complete development of all mankind. The Commission takes the name Justice Development and Peace Commission in third world countries, with the aim of creating a consciousness in the people of God for their own development, for more justice and peace in the society, to promote the quality of life for all people, promote human rights, cater for the poor and destitute and promote equality, justice and fair play etc., all of which are worthy indices for the establishment of a progressive society. The Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) of the Roman Catholic Church is also directly involved in different forms of conflict management and peacemaking within Nigeria's socio-political arena. These have marked it out as an important non-discriminatory, faith-based institutional leader in peace initiatives in the country. This paper critically examines the origin, nature and dynamics of the JDPC's mandate as well as mission in Nigeria, focusing especially on its activities in Delta State, Nigeria. The paper establishes that the mandate of the JDPC is to fulfill the church's role in building a just, peaceful and progressive world by answering its foundational

questions; what must the church (in Nigeria) become for her message to be authentic and credible?

The work which is of course a society based argument seeks or tries to purvey information into the gargantuan and pivotal roles and impacts of the Justice Development and Peace Commission in establishing progressive societies using Delta State as a case study. It argues decisively and tentatively that since its establishment in the State, the country and global community at large, it has remained an enigma and an ever relevant force in the making of a developed and progressive society. It also revealed that though it is a faith-based/non-profitable Christian NGO, it operates in a realm that transcends the reach of spirituality, spreading its tentacles up to social, economic and even judicial spheres with a mission to promote sustainable and integral human development using a holistic empowerment approach to enhance effective structural transformation of the society without any form of discrimination. It also transcends the realm of denomination as it has a reach that accommodates people from all walks of life pursuing a vision just to bring the kingdom of God within the church and society, liberating people from oppressive forces that keep them bound under bondage, irrespective of race, creed and gender. Its relevance and scope thus could be defined as overwhelming.

## **2.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment. Development is visible and useful, not necessarily immediately, and includes an aspect of quality change and the creation of conditions for a continuation of that change.

### **2.1 Human Development Theory**

Human development theory is a theory which uses ideas from different origins, such as ecology, sustainable development, feminism and welfare economics. It wants to avoid normative politics and is focused on how social capital and instructional capital can be deployed to optimize the overall value of human capital in an economy.

Amartya Sen and Mahbub ul Haq are the most well-known human development theorists. The work of Sen is focused on capabilities: what people can do and be. It is these capabilities, rather than the income or goods that they receive (as in the Basic Needs approach), that determine their well-being. This core idea also underlies the construction of the Human Development Index, a human-focused measure of development pioneered by the UNDP in its Human

Development Reports; this approach has become popular the world over, with indexes and reports published by individual countries, including the American Human Development Index and Report in the United States. The economic side of Sen's work can best be categorized under welfare economics, which evaluates the effects of economic policies on the well-being of peoples. Sen wrote the influential book 'Development as freedom' which added an important ethical side to development economics.

## **2.2 Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There exist more definitions of sustainable development, but they all have to do with the carrying capacity of the earth and its natural systems and the challenges faced by humanity. Sustainable development can be broken up into environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and socio-political sustainability.

From the foregoing, the Human Development theory was adopted as the most suitable theoretical framework to underpin the study which looks at the impact of JDPC in establishing a progressive society in Delta State.

## **3.0 Land and People of Delta State**

Delta State is an oil and agricultural producing state situated in the region known as the South South geo-political zone with a population of about 4,112,445 (2,069,309 males and 2,043,136 females).<sup>6</sup> The Capital city is Asaba located at the northern end of the state with an estimated area of 762 square kilometers (294 square miles) while Warri is the economic nerve center and also the most populated city of the State. Delta State has a total land area of 16,842 square km (6,503 square miles). The State lies approximately between longitude 5<sup>0</sup> 00 and 6<sup>0</sup> 45 East and latitude 5<sup>0</sup> 00 and 6<sup>0</sup> 30 North.<sup>7</sup> It is bounded in the North and West by Edo State, in the East by Anambra, Imo and Rivers State, South East by Bayelsa State and on the southern flank is the Bight of Benin which covers about 160km of the State's coastline. Delta State is generally low-lying without remarkable hills. The state has a wide coastal belt interface with rivulets and streams which form part of the Niger River. The State of Delta was carved out of the former Bendel state on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1991.

Unarguably, Delta State is richly endowed with a plethora of mineral deposits. These include; industrial clay, silica, ignite, kaolin, tar, sand, decorative works and limestone etc. These are raw materials for industries such as brick making, ceramics, bottle manufacturing, glass manufacturing, chemical insulators production, chalk manufacturing and sanitary wares, decorative stone cutting

and quarrying. Delta state also has a huge deposit of crude oil and thus one of the largest producers of petroleum products in Nigeria.

#### **4.0 Origin of JDPC**

The Justice Development and Peace Commission in Delta State is not an organization on its own, rather, it is a part of a network of organizations dependent on some mother organization. The church as it were, must continue to play her prophetic role of being the voice of the voiceless especially in a world plagued by poverty, disillusionment and profound societal ills. Nonetheless, to achieve this onerous and daunting task effectively, the church as a community of faith and believers must be an energetic witness, not only of the people but also of justice and peace, in her structures and in the relationship among her members especially in what concerns justice and the defense of the fundamental human rights. In this, the church must not and cannot be impoverished. Going by the very words of Christ, the “Idea behind Christianity” “the spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of spirits to the blind; set the oppressed free and announce the Lord’s year of favour.”<sup>8</sup>

Thus, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1967, as a practical measure to concretize the will of the church on the issues of justice and peace, at the specific request of the second Vatican Council of 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1962 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 1965, Pope Paul VI set up a catholic welfare commission as has been said earlier, on experimental basis. This of course is in line with the Catholic Church’s practice of establishing permanent structures through which it operates, in the form of a pontifical commission. The fundamental purpose for the establishment of this welfare commission “IUSTITIA ET PAX” which later transmogrified to JDPC was to awaken full awareness in the people of God in the course of carrying out their missions.

According to the Holy father Pope Paul VI himself,

An outstanding form of international activity on the part of Christian is found in the joint efforts which, both as individuals and in groups they contribute to institutes already established or to be established for the encouragement of cooperation among nations. There are also various catholic associations on an international level which can contribute in many ways to the building up of a peaceful and fraternal community of nations. These should be strengthened by augmenting in them the number of well qualified collaborators, by increasing needed resources and by advantageously fortifying the coordination of their energies for today

both effective action and the need for dialogue demand joint projects. Moreover such associations contribute much to the development of a universal outlook and it is certainly appropriate for Catholics.

Finally it is very much to be desired that Catholics, in order to fulfill their role properly in the International community, will seek to cooperate actively and in a positive manner both with their separated brothers who together with them profess the gospel of charity and with all men thirsting for true peace. This council considering the immensity of the hardship which still afflicts the greater part of mankind today regards it as most opportune that an organism of the universal church be set up in order that both the justice and love of Christ toward the poor might be developed everywhere. The role of such an organism would be to stimulate the catholic community to promote progress in needy regions and international social justice.<sup>9</sup>

This thus became the 'Magnus opus' idea and force behind the establishment, development and expansion of the Justice Development and Peace Commission worldwide. However, the structure and framework of the Commission was aptly barred in the 'motu proprio, Iustitiam et pacem'<sup>10</sup>. Nevertheless, the specific function assigned to it included the promotion, deepening and ongoing development of the social teaching of the catholic church and concern for the common man which is the collation of teachings on the human person and the human continuity community designed from conciliar, papal and Episcopal documents.<sup>11</sup> There also included the writings of theologians and other scholars who develop comment on and draw applications; The pronouncement and the stand of the church on particular social issues are usually made known in the social teachings. Apart from these specific functions, it was also saddled with the responsibility of creating awareness in the people of God about the concerns of the church in the area of justice and peace; and also helps the laity to understand their responsibility in the social field. The Commission popularizes the documents of the church on the issues of justice and peace, making it to reach a wider audience, so that Christians at the grassroots may take inspiration from it for their daily lives.<sup>12</sup>

With the passage of time, the Commission became fully developed with outlets all over the world, pursuing a vision of promoting holistic human development through sensitization of people who are central to sustainable and meaningful development and a mission of creating a community where Justice and promotion of human dignity are held sacred; such that all are fully alive and active through the realization of their full potentials in a just, safe and free

environment. Its strength lies in a core of dynamic professionals with various backgrounds, who have imbedded the spirit of the Commission in their pursuit to bring about both qualitative and quantitative change in the lives of their focus groups. Thus, the Justice, Development and Peace Commission which was a structural response to the second Vatican council appeal for the church's involvement in the affairs and development of the state grew to become a giant force and a faith-based, non-discriminatory and non-governmental organization to reckon with especially in the "Third World" or developing countries where it goes by the name Justice Development and Peace Commission.

## **5.0 The Impact of JDPC in the Societal Development of Delta State**

The Justice Development and Peace Commission JDPC as has been established, is a structural response to the second Vatican council appealing for the church's involvement in the affairs and development of the society. Although it started incipiently as a welfare commission in the Vatican, it has today transmogrified into a non-discriminatory, faith-based and non-government organization, with a mandate of promoting sustainable and integral human development using a holistic empowerment approach to enhance effective structural transformation of the society without any form of discrimination. It also today pursues the just vision of bringing the kingdom of God within the church and society as well as liberating people from every oppressive force that keep them in bondage irrespective of race, creed and gender. In these and in many other respects, the Commission has fared well especially with particular reference to Delta State where she has remained a force that brings about progress and development.

### **5.1 JDPC in Educational Services**

The JDPC has remained a potent force in the promotion of education in the State. This assertion could be supported bearing in mind the numerous projects and programmes she runs towards building an academically strong and vibrant state of Delta. With particular reference to the Commissions' activities in the Issele-uku diocese which covers the geographical Area of six LGAs of Delta State; Aniocha South, Aniocha North, Ika North East, Ika South, Oshimili North and Oshimili South. The Diocese in addition has the total coverage area of 3011 square km with a population of about 1,000, 000 (one million).<sup>13</sup> The JDPC has contributed immensely towards educational development in the state. This has continued to manifest in diverse ways like visits to schools, especially schools located in the rural communities in Issele-uku. In fact, research showed that during her week i.e. JDPC Week (last week in June) the Commission annually creates time to visit schools in the area.

During this visits, writing materials, reading/studying aids, sandals and school bags are distributed to schools. Also the Commission inquires the needs of these schools and in most cases fulfils them. These needs ranges from purchase of

new set of bands for schools, to sports wears and materials and many others. etc.<sup>14</sup>

Also during the Annual children's day celebration, the Commission makes out time to visit schools and carry out rallies and campaigns on issues of child abuse. The Commission on many occasions strikes alliances with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) while doing this. On this day, awareness is created in the society (especially in the streets and schools) on issues like early marriage, domestic violence, girl child education and all manner of child abuses such as rape<sup>15</sup>. Research shows that the following schools – Holy Child College, Issele-uku, New Evangelical Nursery and primary school, Utegbeje, and Immaculate Conception, Isiagu - were visited in the year 2018.<sup>16</sup>

In doing this, the JDPC has succeeded in bridging the gap, and becoming in a prayer answered and solution to many problems in the society. Without much doubts, her seminars in schools have contributed a lot towards community development in the sense that it has surely contributed to reducing the very escalating and ever increasing rate of crimes between and amongst students and has also remained a warning to many child abusers as the dangers and punishment facing defaulters of the child rights are reiterated during these rallies. This has gone a long way in providing a progressive and stable milieu in the state especially in the educational sector.

## **5.2 JDPC in the Health Sector**

Truly, the JDPC in Delta state has played a dominant role in the state's health sector. This is predicated on the ground of their awareness that societal development and progress is not only the exclusive preserve and function of the state but for all and sundry<sup>17</sup>. To this extent, their place in the State's health sector also deserve considerable commendation.

Incipiently, in line with Jesus admonition in the holy writ that he was sick and was in prison and was never visited ...,<sup>18</sup> The JDPC has made hospital visitation a routine duty in their periodic itinerary. During these visits, relief materials are normally distributed to sick patients in the hospitals and prayers for their quick recovery are also made on their behalf. Materials like soaps, toilet rolls, and many other items are normally distributed to sick patients in hospitals. This visit to hospitals scattered over the State has indeed continued to alleviate the misery and pains of the people as they are now aware that there are people who are always with them in their times of gloom, pains and sorrow.

More so, apart from this visit to hospitals, another important aspect of the Commission's contribution to the State's health sector development could be seen in their health campaigns and rallies as well as awareness symposia



organized often especially on important occasions like the United Nations' World Malaria Day. The Commission in company of all her members and parishioners normally organizes rallies for rural villages where they organize seminars and teachings in these localities. There are a good number of positive testimonies of the outreach done by the JDPC. There were visits to rural villages where anti-malaria drugs were distributed alongside treated mosquito nets. Since Delta State is known to be a swampy region, there is indeed a high prevalence of malaria due to increased presence of breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Nevertheless, the JDPC programme has contributed to bridge such a gap thus bringing about improvement in the quality of life of the people, especially rural dwellers. During these visits, the Commission as always seeks the help of some of her members who are medical practitioners to assist in the business of saving lives in the area through the provision of professional advice and instruction as well as attending to the numerous health challenges of the people.<sup>19</sup> Also this medical help is also extended to the inmates in the different prisons scattered all over the state.

Aside all these, the JDPC also receive complaints in her offices of people who are sick or seeking professional medical advice and care. In this also, the JDPC has continued to fare better, since she never hesitates in doing the needful, i.e. contacting her members and parishioners whenever duty calls in order to give aid to the needy. The JDPC, notwithstanding her achievements and activities in the medical sector, has indeed faced a coterie of challenges in this area particularly in the area of funding as a result, most of her visions were hindered.

### **5.3 Women and Youth Empowerment**

Notwithstanding her meager sources of finance, the JDPC unarguably has intervened in many areas geared towards positive impact and meaningful change in the lives of the people, especially the downtrodden, with preferential option for the poor and under-privileged which the body promotes was better felt. This was visibly noticed in a number of programmes organized by the Commission with a mandate and aim of empowering the needy and the jobless. Through these programmes, poverty alleviation has become a possibility amongst the people and has improved their standard of living as well as their quality of life.

According to a report in the provincial Annual Report, Excerpts of which were attached in the Appendix

Series of meetings and sensitization programmes were organized in different localities' in order to create awareness and help the underprivileged women in small scale businesses. This program has yielded great success

in the following communities: Illah, Onicha-Olona, Azagba-Ogwashi, Akwukwu-Igbo and Ebu etc. so far, 82 (Eighty-two) persons have been empowered from the above communities who are now in small scale businesses.<sup>20</sup>

In addition to this, there is also a project known as the PROMIC-Promotion of micro credits for women which started in October 2016. Here, certain communities were selected to benefit from the scheme. A certain amount of loan would be given to these communities to improve their means of livelihood. Criteria were put in place after which the qualified persons would be given the loan to improve on their existing business. The women, however, were expected to pay back the loan gradually to enable other communities benefit from the gesture. The sponsoring of this project is in collaboration with Catholic Diocese of Issele-uku while JDPC is the implementing partner. In a report in the 2016 Issele-uku Diocese' annual report:

JDPC Issele-uku diocese entered into new partnership with a development organization with a common focus, the major of which is the foundation open hand SWISSHAND in Switzerland. As part of intensifying community life improvement, the Commission's intervention on micro credit scheme, promoting micro enterprise (Promic) commenced and this has put smiles on the faces of many underprivileged petty traders in Issele-uku Diocese, especially the young resourceful women. The Promic project is mainly sponsored by SWISS HAND Switzer; in a mission to enable poor women carry out micro-enterprise, entrepreneurship training and providing credit within the diocese especially rural communities of Issele-uku, Agbor, Asaba and Ibusa and other communities in Delta North senatorial district, Delta state. A total of 17, women were empowered during the period.<sup>21</sup>

Thus, in line with the foregoing, one therefore can aver that the JPDC in Delta State, particularly in the Issele-uku diocese, has been active and is bent on attaining greater heights, especially in poverty alleviation through her numerous programmes and projects and multi-dimensional as well as international affiliation and partnerships. This has not only been beneficial to the numerous poor in the society but has remained a push, a tug and a fillip to many other non-governmental organizations, either faith or non-faith-based, in the State to do more in achieving her target goals rather than waiting on the government to do the needful. To this extent, the JDPC could be said to occupy a very crucial and expedient position in the making of a progressive Delta.

#### **5.4 Conflict Management Alternative Dispute Resolution and Protection of Human Rights**

Noticeably, because of the role played by the JDPC in legal matters and affairs, most of her Directors are normally barristers/legal practitioners. The JDPC plays roles in conflict management and dispute resolution in Delta State. To this extent, the Justice Development and Peace Commission sees to it that conflicts in the family, amongst individuals and in the society at large are amicably resolved. The Commission receives complaints requiring her intervention over cases of child abuse, domestic violence, assault and battery as well as divorce.

While it is her wish to see that conflicts are amicably resolved amongst people in line with the word of God, they also allow the laws of land to have its way. In an interview with the Diocesan Secretary of JDPC in Issele-uku, it was gathered that cases of domestic violence were being treated by the Commission more often.<sup>22</sup> For example, there was this case where a married couple had a misunderstanding and as a result, the husband threw the wife out of their matrimonial home empty-handed with him in custody of their children. Knowing her rights, the woman approached the JDPC office at St Patrick's Catholic Church, West End, Asaba, Delta State and reported the ill treatment meted to her by her husband. In the company of the numerous legal assistance of the Commission, the State's Welfare was contacted and the husband was written to and presented with just terms on how to amicably settle the dispute, contrary to which will attract prosecution in the court of law. Thus the case was settled and most importantly justice prevailed.

There had also been cases of child abuse of wards living with their masters/ministers. These abusers were charged to court by the Commission and their wards delivered from their cruel grip. Truly, in this the JDPC has shown herself as an altruistic and selfless body with a resolve to making a better and progressive Delta. It is equally important to quickly add that the issue of child abuse had been on an alarming increase in the country. Here, we see children who are supposed to be in school, hawking in the streets. Aside hawking, some of these children were taken from their parents in the villages with the sense that they would be sent to school only to end up in the city as errand boys and girls.<sup>23</sup>

Another area wherein the Commissions' impact is thoroughly felt is in the issue of child/human trafficking. This indeed has remained her pursuit ever since as statistics has continued to show that the South West geo-political zone remains the highest when it comes to human trafficking both within and outside the country. The Commission has continued to labor tirelessly in arresting this great monster and menace. Prostitution is on the increase in the State as the researcher during his research, stumbled on a number of motels and official buildings

where the illicit profession takes place, a business which accommodates a great number of young girls. This indeed has remained a challenge.

Thus, the Commission has continued to launch aggressive campaigns and programmes aimed at eradicating such a menace. With particular reference to the Commissions' activities in the Bomadi Vicariate/region and vicinity, awareness programmes aimed at eradicating prostitution and human trafficking in Bomadi had been organized. One of such awareness campaigns initiated was by the young missionary movement in the parish of Our Lady of the Waters Cathedral on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016.<sup>24</sup> The programme was very significant as it attracted attendees (both Catholics and non-Catholics). Resources persons were invited for the programme and dangers and as well risks associated with prostitution and human trafficking were hammered on and the symposium was more of an eye opener on these issues. Workshops and rallies like these which are indeed impactful are normally organized on many occasions. The impact of which has been that through their alliances with NAPTIP, some of the trafficked victims were successfully rescued and reunited with their families.<sup>25</sup> Thus, people especially are now becoming careful with the kind of people they send their children to live with, careful with the kind of journeys they make with friends to unknown destinations and also awareness that every human person has a dignity that must not be trampled upon, was also created. It is now therefore being recommended that such seminars and workshops on human trafficking should be on-going in the State as a whole so as to make people aware of the dangers of human trafficking as well as prostitution which has become rampant in the State in particular and the country at large. In concerns like these, the JDPC has thrown and will continue to throw her full strength until morality is restored in the society. In this they deserve a gargantuan commendation.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

Indeed it remains to be argued that all-round societal development and transformation is never as it were an exclusive role reserved for the State Government. Truly all; individuals, corporate entities, NGOs, all have their place in actualizing a serene, developed, progressive and ever accommodating society. The JDPC which started as a welfare commission in the Vatican has today transmogrified itself into a major bulwark against under-development, abuse of Human Rights, and child abuse, injustice of all kinds and all manner of ills and vices immanent in the (Nigerian) system. With dizzying speed, she is on a mission of birthing order and progress in Delta State where she is doing all within her scope to place the State on a fast lane out of poverty and to promote development. She has also continued to make herself a worthy bulwark against the expanding frontiers of corruption in the State which has continued to leave trails of poverty, under-development, chaos, lawlessness and pernicious difficulties amongst the populace.

Through her multi-faceted developmental programmes and activities in the State, JDPC has succeeded in becoming the spark that lit the fuse leading to enlightenment, peace, development and progress in the State. JDPC is suffused by a coterie of challenges but the Commission remains resolute in her mandate as a real precursor of an all-round development in the State. Her place, stake and roles in the State is indeed a clarion call to all NGOs (Both faith-based and non-faith-based) to put in their best and play their roles worthily in order to ensure a livable milieu for all in the State.

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