

**REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION, MR. BOSS MUSTAPHA ON THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL
RULERS AND PEACE BUILDING DURING HIS MEETING WITH
TRADITIONAL RULERS HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH JULY, 2018, AT THE
SGF CONFERENCE ROOM, SHEHU SHAGARI COMPLEX, ABUJA**

RECOGNITION:

I am highly delighted and honored to have our Royal Fathers with us today.

This meeting could not have come at a better time than now and I heartily welcome you.

2. As traditional rulers and royal fathers, it is generally believed that you hold the key to the success or failure of security administration in the country because you operate at the grassroots of the society and interact closely with people in their daily activities. You remain in the frontline of stakeholders in the business of peace building in every community.

3. Peace building promotes development which in turn attracts investment to the country. As you are aware, the situation of peace and security in the country today deserves collective approach by the government, the traditional institutions, faith-based organizations and the communities. Government shall continue to support your efforts to deescalate communal conflicts that continue to inflict severe losses of lives and destruction of property. It is critical that we continue to

cultivate peaceful coexistence across the country for us to achieve our objectives of building a nation.

4. Your Royal Highnesses, I must commend you for the summit held last year in Port Harcourt, Rivers State which am sure would have addressed some of the issues I have raised. We would be glad to see more of such noble initiatives at bonding the fragile unity caused by recent violent activities.

5. I wish to particularly bring to your attention the growing youth population in the country and the attendant rise in drug abuse/ criminal activities which indeed cuts across all demographics. I urge you as royal fathers to use your good offices to complement the efforts of government to stem the rising tide and save the future of our nation. There is no better place to begin than the grass roots.

6. In a few months from now, the general elections will take place. It is important that we mobilize our citizens not only to obtain their PVCs but also to ensure that the entire process is peaceful and devoid of violent acts. As our Royal Fathers government recognizes that partnership with you is important in this regard. The message from the President is that the royal fathers hold the key to the success of the Nigerian enterprise and shall continue to improve on consultations between you and government institutions.

7. Once again, I respectfully welcome you to this meeting and thank you earnestly for your presence.

8. Thank you.