

PRESS RELEASE

TAFIDA BRIEFS STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES (RCDS), LONDON.

His Excellency Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, on Wednesday 2nd June 2010 at the Conference Hall of the High Commission in London briefed ten syndicated students of the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) and their two team leaders, who were about to embark on a two-week study tour of Nigeria, Senegal and Gambia. The students drawn from Australia, Canada, Estonia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, South Korea and United Kingdom were welcomed warmly by the High Commissioner, Dr. Tafida. They received from the High Commissioner detailed briefing on Nigeria's history; post independence political organisation; contemporary Government; domestic economy; international trade and business investment opportunities, Defence and foreign policy, as well as nation building and national security challenges.

2. The RCDS syndicated student study tour is a periodic course organised at the College for top echelon military, civil and political leaders of foreign countries and the host country to enable them grasp, through research studies, the problems and challenges of governance and security from geo-strategic perspective. The visit this year generally would focus on the political arrangement, economic issues and security concerns across the West African sub-region.

3. Specifically, in Nigeria, the RCDS Group would be looking at:

- The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) insurgency and security issues within the Niger Delta Region;
- International influence into the sub-region, particularly American, British, French and Chinese aid;

- Regional security arrangements such as ECOWAS and African Union (AU);
- Emerging or future security threats to the region and risks to the Nigerian Government;

4. At the end of the briefing, the Team Leader, Jeremy Jarvis CBE, RCDS, expressed gratitude for the depth, accuracy and specificity of the High Commissioner's presentation.

5. A number of issues were raised by the Students during the interactive session. These included:

- the working relationship of the Ministry of Niger Delta with the other Federal agencies, as well as States-owned institutions and agencies;
- the alleged foreign involvement in MEND insurgency, oil bunkering and kidnapping in the Niger Delta Region;
- the importance of agriculture development vis-a-vis electric power development for Nigeria's long term macro-economic development;
- the significance of wealth creation within the Seven-point-Agenda of this Administration.

Information Section,
Nigeria High Commission,
London WC2N 5BX.

2nd June 2010.