

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL  
COUNCIL ON FIRE HELD AT OZOM HOTEL ENUGU, ENUGU STATE  
BETWEEN 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

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The 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the National Council on Fire was held in Enugu between 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 with the theme: **“Coping with the Prevailing Threat: The Role of Stakeholders in the Fire Sector”**. The Conference spotlighted the rise in fire incidents in Nigeria, which is worsened by the lack of a well-structured management approach to tackle the scourge of uncontrolled fire outbreaks in our nation. The welcome address was presented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Alh. Engr. Abubakar Magaji who represented the Chairman of the Council, the Honourable Minister of Interior, Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau (rtd) CFR PhD. The keynote address was delivered by Rt. Hon. Enejere Innocent T., the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Enugu State, who represented the Executive Governor of Enugu State, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi. Goodwill message was delivered by the representative of the Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

2. The Council, which membership includes the Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Commissioners and Heads of Agencies in charge of Fire Services in the States and the Controller General, Federal Fire Service, deliberated on the following memoranda referred to it by the Technical Session of Permanent Secretaries of Ministries supervising Federal/State Fire Services:
  - i. Memo No. NCF (2017/1): Preparedness Status of Public Fire Services in Nigeria;
  - ii. Memo No. NCF (2017/2): The National Fire Policy;
  - iii. Memo No. NCF (2017/3): National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) Initiatives and Fire Service Management in Nigeria;
  - iv. Memo No. NCF (2017/4): Impact of Fire Outbreaks on the Economic and Social Development of Nigeria;
  - v. Memo No. NCF (2017/5): The Role of Stakeholders in The Fire Sector; and
  - vi. Memo No. NCF (2017/6): The National Fire Safety Code and Implementation Challenges.
3. And urged:
  - 3.1 The Federal Government to adopt Fire Service under item 45 of the Exclusive Legislative List of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, which states “Police and other government security services established by law” (Second Schedule: Legislative Powers, Part I, Exclusive Legislative List of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended).
  - 3.2 All stakeholders in the fire sector to:
    - i. realize that Government cannot do it alone;
    - ii. address the issue of safety and security with the seriousness it deserves;

