



# OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

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Governor  
Central Bank of Nigeria  
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ABUJA

2 February 2012

*Governor CBN,*

## RECENT INTERVIEW WITH FINANCIAL TIMES

Your recent statements in an interview with the Financial Times is this subject of this correspondence.

2. In the interview, you were alleged to have made statements to the following effects:

a. That, the uneven pattern of distribution of resources is directly linked to the rising level of violence in Nigeria.

b. That, it is now necessary to focus funds on regenerating other regions of Nigeria, other than the Niger Delta.

c. That, the additional federal funds allocation to the Niger Delta states has created "a structural imbalance of enormous proportions", with some states not having enough money and others having too much.

d. That, when the theft of oil by profiteers is considered, this imbalance between oil producing states in the South-South (or Niger Delta States) and States in the North is compounded.

e. That, the supplemental distribution of funds to the oil producing states, on top of the standard federal allocations, which was effected to reduce inequity in resources in the first place, has now created new disparity in state resource, fostered resentment

in the poorest states, and encouraged the despicable terrorist activities of the Boko Haram sect.

3. Your alleged assertions directly attribute the activities of the Boko Haram Sect to the current formula for allocating funds from the federal account. Not only is there no empirical evidence to support such a statement, conventional wisdom in Nigeria refutes that assertion. Experts obviously have provided numerous explanations for the emergence of Boko Haram activities and the general consensus is that there are no silver bullets.

4. Your statements to the Financial Times do not only have no basis in fact, but they are divisive, inflammatory, inciting and inappropriate of a senior Officer of the Federal Government whose responsibility includes the national stability and state continuity. This statement has already caused a lot of angst among the populace and raised significant questions as to your intent and motives. These statements bring disrepute to the administration and current and past leadership of Nigeria. While I understand your right to free speech and some of the independence your office enjoys, I must also caution you that as an officer of the government of Nigeria and one entrusted to promote state stability, your utterances through this interview are not in the interest of Nigeria's national security.

following effects:

5. I encourage you to explore and pursue approaches that will ameliorate the problems that your statements have caused, including a retraction or clarifying statements, possibly through the same medium of the interview.

  
**OA AZAZI CFR**  
General  
National Security Adviser

**Copy to:**

**Mr EE Ita CFR**  
Director General  
Department of State Services  
National Headquarters  
ABUJA

That, the supplemental distribution of funds to the oil producing states, on top of the standard federal allocations, which was effected to reduce inequity in resources in the first place, has now created new disparity in state resource, fostered resentment