

The Executive

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SUMMARY



Governors
put a human face to
subsidy removal

...Bring back pragmatic lessons from Kigali



cy ubuko
Périodes coloni
Colonial Times

Ntitwigeze duhitamo gukoronizwa. Abac...
baje mbere mu 1895 bageza mu 1916. M...
cy'intambara ya mbere y'isi yose, urwan...
maboko y'ingabo z'Ubugirigi. Mu 1923, U...
dwanawe n'Omuryango w'iteguye Mand...
n'Uburundi, noneho buyobora ibyo bihug...
buziguye. Nyuma yaho Rwanda-Urundi b...
koloni zabo kugeza ku bwigenge muri 19...
Kuba abazungu bari mu Rwanda, hari ibi...
na bimwe byiza byunguye ibihugu...

Maternal Health: Zulum distributes N800m worth of drugs to 5 general hospitals

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has flagged off the distribution of free maternal drugs worth over N800m to five (5) general hospitals for maternal healthcare services.

The distribution was conducted at the Borno State Medical Store located behind flour mills in Maiduguri.

The benefitting Hospitals: State Specialist Hospital, Maiduguri, Mohammed Shuwa Memorial Hospital, Umaru Shehu Ultra Modern Hospital, Mariam Abatcha Children Hospital and Molai General Hospital will, in addition to the drugs, each receive N5m grant. The Specialist Hospital which is the biggest will receive an additional N5m.

"Today we are here to launch the distribution of maternal drugs and other items needed in the maternal section of some of our hospitals to the most vulnerable population in the state. This will reduce maternal mortality and will also increase child

care in the state", Zulum said.

The governor also distributed surgical and laboratory equipment to enhance healthcare service delivery to citizens of Borno State.

Zulum charged the Hospital Management Board to be more dedicated to their duties.

"I want to appeal to all of you who are working in the health sector to be more patient and more dedicated so that government will come to your aid. We will address the issues of your offices such as call allowances and other welfare", the governor said.

Zulum however warned that his administration would not tolerate workers' ineptitude.

"We have invested hugely in the health sector within the last four years, but unfortunately we couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel. This time around we shall not condone laxity on the part of staff from top to bottom. We must sanitize the system, we cannot afford to play with our healthcare system," Zulum warned.

We must sanitize the system, we cannot afford to play with our healthcare system

Speaking earlier, the State Commissioner for Health, Professor Baba Mallam Gana, and the Chief Medical Director, Professor Bukar Kullima, separately expressed gratitude to the governor for his commitment and support to the health sector in Borno State.



TABLE OF CONTENTS



02

MATERNAL HEALTH:
ZULUM DISTRIBUTES
N800M WORTH OF DRUGS
TO 5 GENERAL HOSPITALS

4-5

**COMMENTARY: SUSTAINABLE
POLICY OPTIONS FOR
MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF
THE FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL**



6-8

**TRUST BUILDING STRATEGIES AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AS
PANACEA TO SAFE SCHOOL PROJECT**



9

**UBA SANI APPROVES IMMEDIATE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
CONSOLIDATED MEDICAL SALARY
SCALE FOR RESIDENT DOCTORS IN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



10

**AKEREDOLU RETURNS,
HANDS OVER RESUMPTION
LETTER TO ONDO SPEAKER**



11

**GOVERNOR AKEREDOLU
THANKS ONDO PEOPLE FOR
STANDING BY HIM**



12-13
**EMPOWERING
EDUCATION IN NIGERIA:
NEWGLOBE PARTNERS
WITH THE NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM**

14-15

**EKITI PEOPLE HAVE
SCORED YOU PASS MARK,
FAYEMI TELLS OYEBAJJI**



16

**SHETTIMA OPENS NORTH-
EAST GOVERNORS MEETING
AS ZULUM HARPS ON
REGIONAL POWER, RAILWAY**

17-24

**GENDER ISSUES
PULL-OUT**



25

**PHOTO SPEAK: MALALA
YOUSAFZAI CELEBRATES
HER BIRTHDAY AT NGF**



26-27

**UBA SANI: BEYOND THE
FIRST 100 DAYS**



28

**NEUTRALIZE TERRORISTS
THAT FAIL TO SURRENDER,
NORTH EAST GOVERNORS TELL
MILITARY**



29

**CYNICISM IS THREAT TO
GOOD GOVERNANCE**



30-31

**PHOTO SPEAK: UNDP
LEADERSHIP RETREAT IN
RWANDA**



32-33

**100 DAYS: A LOOK AT
GOVERNOR INUWA YAHAYA'S
PRODUCTIVE 2ND TERM START
AND CONTINUITY OF GOOD
GOVERNANCE IN GOMBE**



34

**FOOD SECURITY: GOVERNOR ABBA
YUSUF LAUNCHES MULTIPLE ISDB/
LFF FUNDED INTERVENTIONS FOR
TEN THOUSAND KANO FARMERS**



35

**SANWO-OLU:
SWEARS IN 37
COMMISSIONERS,
SPECIAL ADVISERS**



36

**SUBSIDY REMOVAL:
ZULUM UNVEILS 70
BUSES FOR METRO
TRANSPORT, CIVIL
SERVANTS**



37

**GOV. MBAH: FLAGS
OFF PALLIATIVE
DISTRIBUTION IN
ENUGU**

38

**PLATEAU'S TRANSFORMATION:
GOV. MUTFWANG CRACKS DOWN
ON ILLEGAL TAXES, IGNITES
SCHOLARSHIPSCABINET**



39

**INSECURITY: KADUNA
GOVT TRAINS 7,000
VIGILANTES**



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Sustainable Policy Options for Mitigating the Effects of the FUEL SUBSIDY Removal

Background

The recent removal of fuel subsidy is aimed at reducing the pressure on government's fiscal position. Available data shows that fuel subsidy in 2022 was estimated at over N4.3 trillion. This is equivalent to about 25% of the 2022 total federal budget, denying the government of resources to fund human and physical infrastructure like education, health, nutrition, roads, etc.

While the removal of the subsidy seems to be a step in the right direction in terms of public finance reform, it is likely to have a significant short-term adverse effect on the population, especially low-income households and individuals. To mitigate the negative effects of the fuel subsidy removal on the people, several palliative options have been proposed with some already being implemented at the federal and state levels, including an increase in the minimum wage, reduction in the number of working days, cash transfers, and provision of mass public transport system.

This brief evaluates each of these palliative options, analyses their merits and demerits, and examines their feasibility and practicability.

Issues in Focus

Huge government spending on fuel subsidy in Nigeria has become a major economic policy issue in the past few years. According to the 2022 Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) Macroeconomic Outlook, about N3.64 trillion was expended on fuel subsidies between 2015 and 2021, increasing from N307 billion to N1.77 trillion in 2021. It was estimated that about N4.3 trillion was spent on fuel subsidy in 2022. The significant increase in the subsidy payment raised questions about the accuracy of daily fuel consumption, corruption in the subsidy regime, and the sustainability of the fiscal impacts of the subsidy regime.

Generally, fuel subsidy displaces priority government expenditure, encourages excessive consumption, undermines climate action, encourages cross-border smuggling, promotes economic inefficiency

and benefits the rich relative to the poor. Evidence shows that the fuel subsidy regime in Nigeria benefits the top income groups relative to the poor.

Previous attempts to remove fuel subsidy have been unsuccessful, partly because of the expected negative effects on the citizens. The opposition to the subsidy removal is hinged on the perceived negative effects of fuel subsidy removal on the poor and mistrust in the redistribution of the surplus to come. It is assumed that removal of the subsidy will lead to substantial increase in the retail price of fuel, which will increase the cost of transportation and other commodities. Labour unions, opposition parties, pressure groups, and the citizens often leverage on these expected negative effects to embark on strikes and protests, leading government to backtrack on previous announcements to remove subsidy.

The latest announcement of the removal of fuel subsidy by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been opposed by pressure groups like the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the government is engaging with all the relevant stakeholders. Nevertheless, the impacts of the fuel subsidy removal are already being felt, as the pump price of fuel increased from the government-controlled price of about N190 per litre to a market price of N617 per litre (as at July 18th, 2023). The price is expected to change in relation to the international crude oil price and the exchange rate.

The current increase in fuel price has resulted in increase in the cost of transportation, which is subsequently translating to increase in the cost of goods and services, as fuel is a major intermediate and final product in the economy. The ex-post impact of the subsidy removal will evolve over time as the market responds to the reforms. In the first month of implementation, inflation numbers, as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), have adjusted upward to 22.79% (June 2023) from 22.41% in May 2023, reflecting a persistent rise in consumer prices despite a slowdown recorded globally.

As part of efforts to mitigate the negative welfare impacts of the fuel subsidy removal, various palliative options have been proposed, ranging from increase in the minimum wage to investment in mass public transport infrastructure and systems. Each of these policy options hold potentials for mitigating the effect of the fuel subsidy removal, but their impacts and practicability will vary.

One of the main policies proposed to mitigate the negative effects of the fuel subsidy removal is reducing the existing five (5) working days to three (3). This policy has been proposed and is already being implemented in Edo and Kwara states. The focus of this policy is to reduce the amount expended on transportation. However, this may have negative effect on productivity and economic output, if workers have no viable and economically productive activities out of office. In other words, while the reduction in the number of working days may reduce the costs workers incur on transportation, it may ultimately result in low economic productivity, low standard of living, and high unemployment and poverty. Besides, the reduction in the number of working days only benefits a small segment of the society – civil servants. Private



This policy measure is already at an advanced stage, as the Federal Government has secured an \$800 million World Bank facility for fuel subsidy removal palliative

businesses and informal enterprises may not be able to afford the high economic costs associated with this measure.

Another policy option that has also been proposed is raising the minimum wage. This is one of the key positions of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC).

This policy proposal is premised on matching the expected increase in prices with increase in the minimum wage. While this seems a good idea, analysis conducted on the economic impacts of the latest increment of the minimum wage from N18,000 to N30,000 shows that it has limited welfare effect. Besides, increasing the minimum wage may pose challenges for state governments and the private sector, some of which are still unable to meet up with the current N30,000 minimum wage. Salaries, allowances, and compensation for

adopted in Chile and was adjudged to be more efficient than subsidizing transport fares or fuel prices. In several developed cities such as Paris, London, Mexico City, Madrid, Vienna, etc., special categories of passengers like the elderly, unemployed, military personnel, students, and civil servants travel free or at relatively lower fares than the standard fares. In some cases, subsidies are channelled to transport suppliers in the form of infrastructure subsidies or subsidies to cover operating costs. A typical example is in the UK under the Bus Service Operators Grants (BSOG) where public transport bus operators receive a tax rebate on fuel cost. Similarly, parts of fuel tax revenue are earmarked for public transport improvements and local road network investments in Germany.

Key Conclusions

While these measures have been successfully used in several countries, their adoption in Nigeria may be beset by several challenges, including a shrinking public budget, lack of adequate database as a basis for targeting the subsidy, poor public transport system, lack of a coordinated transportation policy, and moribund transportation infrastructure.

Given the inherent difficulties in implementing transport fare subsidy like in some countries, focus is placed on the development of mass transport systems, particularly buses and, train/metros that improve access of the poor to public transportation. This policy option, although has huge cost outlay and may take time to implement, uses economies of scale to minimise transportation costs, which also has positive effect on trade and economic activities.

Mass public transport presents a unique opportunity for an efficient and effective transportation system in Nigeria because it is relatively cheaper for users, has larger carrying capacity, utilises economies of scale and has lesser environmental footprint per person. Moreover, it will have larger proportional effect on most of the population unlike the other policy options. Experiences from developing countries such as Brazil, Egypt and Uzbekistan have shown that the railways and metro system are successful in enhancing the poor's access to public transport, and over 50% of the users of Brazil's metro system are low-income people.

Finally, the short-term palliative options being explored by the government would only have limited impact on mitigating the adverse economic effects of the fuel subsidy removal on the poor. To promote long-term sustainable development, efforts should be directed towards investment in mass public transport infrastructure development at the federal and state levels. This will require improving budget allocation to public transport infrastructure. Given the limited fiscal headroom of the government, strategic policy to mobilise both private and Multilateral Development Banks financing into the sector may be initiated.

government workers cost states about 30% of their total annual expenditure. They do not have enough fiscal headroom to further increase the minimum wage without putting at risk funding for other sectors. Although an increase in minimum wage is important especially in a country with little or no social protection, this may be at the expense of a smaller, cleaner and more streamlined workforce. More so, increasing the minimum wage may lead to a reduction in the demand for labour (increase the unemployment rate). Furthermore, increasing the minimum wage will only directly benefit workers in waged employment vis-à-vis informal sector workers, which often are low-income and are disproportionately affected. This may have positive spillovers on the economy through increased demand.

A third policy proposition to mitigate the adverse economic effects of fuel subsidy removal is cash transfer. This involves the distribution of a one-time or periodic cash to low-income households/individuals. This policy measure is already at an advanced stage, as the Federal Government has secured an \$800 million World Bank facility for fuel subsidy removal palliative. However, the administration of cash transfers in Nigeria has been undermined by corruption, lack of transparency and accountability, as evidenced by the challenges faced in the distribution of cash transfers during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the institutional framework, in terms of data and manpower, for effectively implementing cash transfers is inadequate.

These policy options have been tested in different countries with varying degrees of success. For instance, direct money transfer to poor households was

Trust Building Strategies and Community Engagement As Panacea To Safe School Project

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Introduction

The safe school project requires institutional and structural collaboration for success. Success is achievable when there is trust among institutional leadership coordinating the safe school project through organizational capacity building, responsibilities, and project implementation. The synergy between implementing agencies and school/host communities in ensuring the success of the safe school project cannot be overemphasized. This paper sets out to justify the need for trust in strategic engagement with school and host communities by security agencies and other implementing partners and institutions in achieving the desired success in the safe school project.

Trust Building Strategies among Security Agencies

Trust is basically achieved on assurance or firm belief. To trust someone is to have an assured reliance on the character, ability, strength or truth of someone or something. The more trust is accorded to someone or something, the greater the unconditional belief or reliance on the person or thing with perceived benefits, risks, uncertainty, credibility, and vulnerability. This makes us to open ourselves to risk by engaging or collaborating with others to achieve a desired goal (1). Trust glues leaders to their followers and provides the capacity for organizational and leadership success on project collaboration by institutions. Collaboration by security agencies in providing a strong foundation of a great workplace is created by organizational credibility, respect and fairness which form the basis of trust among leaders who trust their followers succeed along with them (2). Therefore, it is important to understand that leaders who trust their followers succeed along with them. Trust is therefore an investment on both parties (leaders and followers).

Trust is built on seven principles of boundaries, reliability, accountability, confidentiality, integrity, non-judgement, and generosity (3). There is another dimension to this by David Horsager, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Trust Edge Leadership Institute, United States. Trust to him is achieved on the '8Cs' of trust, Clarity, Compassion, Character, Competency, Commitment, Connection, Contribution and

Consistency. These can be simplified as, to be honest in anything you do, honour your commitment to your leaders and work, and admit your fault when you are wrong. A trustworthy person is one who does these. A trustworthy person is one whose ability, understanding, fairness, openness, integrity, and consistency motivate others is maximize their potential for institutional success and progression.

Trust creates a sense of security and confidence when dealing with others. This makes it possible for you to predict someone's action, inactions, and dependability or otherwise for a sustained credibility. A 74% less stressful situation is attributed to a high trust environment (5). A low trust work





environment is stressful to everyone involved. Flexibility to work on your term is possible with a trusted superior or leader. Sustained credibility accords you the reliable template as a trustworthy person. You can earn yourself a practical trust when you are hardworking, reliable, punctual, competent, and responsible for consistency in work done. This means you provide work and job satisfaction to your colleagues and superior. You can also earn yourself emotional trust when you create a meaningful and productive bond with colleagues. This requires emotional intelligence. This creates mutual respects, creativity, thoughtful intelligence contribution to organizational projects and a balance expertise on issues while accommodating the views of others without bias or sentiments. Trust motivates and builds competence and dependence for institutional success.

Security agencies working on the safe school project can leverage on the ten Maggie Wool's (2022) strategies of trust building. Trust requires long-term thinking. In doing this, you should be considerate of others. Honesty is key in building trust. You should be truthful always. You should try as much as you can to always honor your commitments, make promises that are possible and feasible. Own up to the mistakes and wrongdoing. However, try as much as possible to avoid making mistakes in the first place. Miscommunication damages trust. Misinterpretation distorts the communication process. Communicate effectively and fluently without ambiguity. Clarity of concept, written or spoken; effective listening and comprehension of conceptual clarifications strengthen and sustain the communication process.

Vulnerability is not a crime or weakness. You should be sincere about your emotions and feelings. Our humility is built on emotions. Unexpressed emotions are dangerous in a work environment. When you are unhappy, stressed, ill, weak, tired etc. expressing them will sustain communication and understanding. Personal details can only be shared with trusted friends and relatives. You should share responsibility, be helpful and supportive of others. Schools' safety and security require collective efforts. Being helpful means supporting others within

Process openness and transparency will promote and sustain impact and action through participatory efforts of all parties concerned

the framework of the project or goal to be achieved. Try to show care for others. Check on others regularly to know how they are doing. Try and be friendly with others as much as you could. Make it easy for people to trust you. Stand up for what is right. Your honesty and truthfulness should propel you to defend your right and the rights of others especially the most vulnerable in your workplace. Show insightfulness and valuable views and opinions on issues. Always try to be transparent with information and work-related issues. Trust is built on transparency, accountability, and honest responsibility.

Community Engagement and Safe School Project

Security agencies need participatory community approach to be able to keep the school community safe and secured. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with host and school community to addressing issues of safety and security of schools in Nigeria (6). David Mathews (2008), researching for the Co-Intelligence Institute recognized careful planning process as strategic for community engagement. Incorporating inclusive and demographic diversity through participatory approach of host communities is important in the security and safety of the school environment. Security agencies need the collaboration of host communities through shared purpose, openness and understanding to achieve the security and safety of school infrastructure, learners, and teachers. Process openness and transparency will promote and sustain impact and action



through participatory efforts of all parties concerned. Sustained community engagement of security agencies and school/ host communities can ensure participatory culture based on the objectives of the safe school project.

The safe school project is the concerted effort by the federal government to mobilize sustainable fund and political will to provide a protected and safe learning environment for learners, teachers, and non-teaching staff. The objectives are to strengthen security resilience and integrate host communities in the protection of education, enhance the school community's capacity to protect education, create an effective and efficient national school and emergency response infrastructure, enhance the capacity of security agencies to gather intelligence, prevent and respond to attacks on education and provision of assistance to survivors of attacks on education (7). The costed plan intervention strategy includes kinetic and non-kinetic measures, security resilience in host and school communities, policy advocacy, security assessment, monitoring, and data collection. These required trust and strategic engagement between security agencies and host communities.

To ensure synergy between security agencies and host communities, a multi-level approach to providing responsive security coverage for host communities, schools and other learning places was incorporated. The development of a National School Security Rapid Response and Coordination infrastructure,

building resilience in school communities, supporting security resilience in host communities, strengthening the competence and capacity of security and law enforcement officers deployed in host communities, and regular engagements and policy advocacy with the Nigerian Public and key government officials on implementation of the national plan can be achieved through community engagement. The Local Government School Security Response Centre is expected to link up with the State Security Response and Coordination Centre and that of the National Security Response and Coordination Centre here in Abuja. Synergy of purpose through trust is key in achieving this chain of security architecture.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Safe School Project in Nigeria is expected to build and integrate security resilience host communities in the protection of education. This will be possible through the strengthening of the detection, deterrence, and response capabilities of the security agencies by building and equipping the School Security Rapid Response and Coordination Centre in Abuja and the 36 states of the federation. There is the need to develop a robust and proactive financing Safe School Monitoring and Evaluation System for transparency and accountability by undertaking a nationwide monitoring and evaluation and data collection survey on schools' attacks periodically. However, community engagement and stakeholders' collaboration are pivotal in achieving these as clearly enumerated in the safe school short term action plan for 2023-2026.

Furthermore, to ensure sustainable safety and security of the learning environment and host communities, trust building strategies should be applied to address persistent challenges of insurgency, terrorism, armed bandits, violent cult groups, bullying, illicit drug abuse, child molestation, sexual assault, ritual killings, militancy, etc.

The ABCD of Trust Model: Able - demonstration of competence, expertise, performance results and skills facilitation; Believable - action based on integrity, honesty, values and fairness; Connected - care for others through interest, communication and recognition of people's rights and competence; Dependable - maintenance of reliability, responsiveness, accountability and organizational inclusivity should define strategic engagement between security agencies and host communities through trust, transparency, impactful collaboration and shared purpose for the success of the safe school project in Nigeria.



Gov. Uba Sani

Uba Sani approves immediate implementation of consolidated medical Salary Scale For Resident Doctors In Ministry Of Health

...Announces Other Interventions in Health, Security and Infrastructure

The Kaduna State Governor, His Excellency Senator Senator Uba Sani has approved the full implementation of the 2014 Consolidated Medical Salary Scale (CONMESS) for the Association of Resident Doctors working under the Kaduna State Ministry of Health.

The Governor made this announcement during a media chat recently as part of activities marking his first 100 days in office. He used the opportunity to address a wide range of issues across different sectors, notably health, security and infrastructural development issues among other concerns.

Following the recommendations of a committee led by the Kaduna State Head of Service, negotiations were held with striking doctors in August 2023 where it was revealed that resident doctors in Kaduna State Ministry of Health receive 75% of the 2014 CONMESS, while their counterparts working at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital receive 100% of CONMESS.

Consequently, commencing from September 2023, the approved 100% CONMESS will bring Resident Doctors in the Ministry of Health at parity with their counterparts at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital. This step, the Governor added, will further boost productivity and attract more doctors to the state.

Similarly, the Governor announced during the live media chat broadcast across major radio stations in Kaduna, that approval had been granted for the continuation of the recruitment of 89 medical doctors to address the staffing gap identified in 2017, as recommended by the committee.

"This initiative amongst others was designed to enhance doctors' morale and improve access to quality healthcare for Kaduna residents. You will recall that we recently flagged-off the distribution of advanced medical equipment to our upgraded primary health care centres. This reflects our administration's commitment to ensuring that every citizen/resident has access

to a primary healthcare center within a kilometer of their residence," the Governor added.

During the media chat, Governor Sani also responded to questions from Kaduna residents, submitted via phone calls. He underscored the positive results of his interactions with development partners, noting that the increase in investors attracted to Kaduna was due to the business-friendly environment created by his administration.

Addressing the issue of uncompleted projects inherited from the immediate past administration, Governor Sani reassured the people of Kaduna State that all projects will be completed, adding that this time around there will be a renewed focus on transforming the rural areas in the coming months.

Speaking on security, Governor Sani expressed his appreciation to the security agencies in Kaduna State for their support in training old and newly-recruited 7000 men and women of the Kaduna State Vigilance Service. He also stressed the urgency of effective policing and recognized the necessity for State Police Force to complement the efforts of national security agencies.

The Governor thanked the good people of Kaduna State for the trust and confidence reposed in his administration and called for their continued support and cooperation as the administration moves into top gear in its quest to leave a legacy of peace, ethnic and religious harmony, and even development.

Akeredolu returns, hands over resumption letter to Ondo Speaker

Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, has returned to the country from his medical vacation.

Richard Olatunde, Chief Press Secretary to the Governor confirmed this in a statement.

Olatunde said upon his return, the Governor convened a meeting with key stakeholders from Ondo State in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State, where he landed.

Stakeholders present at the meeting included members of the State House of Assembly, led by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Oladiji Olamide; Members of the State Executive Council, led by the Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa; National Assembly members; led by Senator Jide Ipinsagba; and Members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) State Working Committee, led by the Chairman, Engr. Ade Adetimehin.

Others were: Youth groups, led by the Ondo APC Youth Leader, Comrade Olawande Ayo Wisdom; Former Local Government Chairmen, led by Hon. Augustine Ogbesetore; and members of the Foundation of Wives of Ondo State Officials (FOWOSO).

The wife of the Governor, Chief Betty Anyanwu-Akeredolu, also joined the Governor to receive the FOWOSO members.

During the meeting, Governor Akeredolu formally handed over his resumption letter to the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Olamide, and also provided a copy to the Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, who was in attendance.

Governor Akeredolu said: "I came back yesterday, and as you know, it was a long journey. I decided that I must meet with you today. God has answered our prayers, and we give Him all the glory."

"I can assure you that our return is to the glory of God and the prayers of all of you here, and those who wished

us well, I thank you very much. God has done what the majority of our people wanted. Majority of our people here knelt down and prayed for our return, and we have returned.

"So, because we had to land here in Ibadan first, I said I have to meet with House of Assembly members here. We are here, and we are back. I am back, and by the grace of God, I will be alive to complete for my full tenure in office.

"I want to tell you that I am back, and I will resume work immediately. This is my letter of resumption."

The Speaker, speaking on behalf of the lawmakers, expressed gratitude for the safe return of the Governor, stating that the Governor's return to the country is a prayer answered.

Governor Akeredolu, while meeting with members of the State Executive Council, informed them that he had presented his letter of resumption to the Speaker of the State House of Assembly.

He thanked the Executive Council members for their prayers and the good work they had carried out while he was away on medical vacation.

The Governor emphasised: "We are now back, and we give God all the glory. I have to let members of the House of Assembly know first that we have returned. As of today, I'm back as Governor of Ondo State. We thank God that I am alive and here. It's your prayers that have kept us here. The office of the Governor has resumed full work."

Governor Akeredolu also held meetings with members of the National Assembly, including Senator representing Ondo North, Senator Jide Ipinsagba; Members of the House of Representatives representing Owo/Ose, Hon. Timehin Adelegbe; Ilaje/Ese-Odo, Hon. Donald Ojogo, Idanre/Ifedore, Hon. Festus Akingbaso; Okitipupa/Irele, Hon. Jimi Odimayo and Akoko South West/South East, Hon. Gboyega Adefarati.

The Governor thanked the people of Ondo State for their ceaseless prayers and support during his recovery process.

He assured the people of his administration's unwavering commitment to the progress and development of the state.

Governor Akeredolu thanks Ondo people for standing by him

I am deeply touched by the show of love and affection from eminent individuals, groups, Organisations, political associates, and particularly, the good people of the Sunshine State.

Your outpour of love wrapped in prayers, kind words, cheering messages, and affectionate support as well as countless displays of varied forms of brotherliness during my recovery process were heart-lifting.

The love and prayers were, indeed, potent enhancers that aided my recovery and deepened my abiding faith in God and service to humanity.

Undoubtedly, gratitude is the greatest spark that lights the fire in the soul. I consider these gestures as uncommon privileges, which underscores the importance of the gift of humanity.

I appreciate the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his support and love. Mr. President, you are a reliable ally and a dependable leader. I am deeply grateful.

I equally thank the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima and the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio; and all Members of the Senate.

My profound gratitude to the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) led by its Chairman and Executive Governor of Kwara State, AbdulRahman AbdulRasaq; and the Progressives Governors Forum, (PGF) led by Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodinma.

My sincere appreciation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abass Tajudeen;

and all Members of the House of Representatives; Members of the Federal Executive Council; National Leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC), led by the Chairman, Dr Abdullahi Ganduje and other prominent leaders in the party.

A big thank you to the leadership of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), including prominent members of the inner and outer Bars. My special appreciation to all Honourable Justices of the High, Appeal, and Supreme Courts. My Lords, I am grateful.

I am particularly grateful to the people of Ondo State and Nigerians at large for your prayers and support.

I thank members of the Ondo State House of Assembly; Members of the State Executive Council; the recently dissolved Local Government Chairmen; Heads of Security Agencies; Revered Royal fathers; Both Serving and Retired Bishops, Chief Imam, Clergymen and other religious leaders; Forum of Permanent Secretaries; Labour Leaders, All Civil Servants; Political Leaders across Parties; Market Women, Artisans and Members of the State Park Management Committee; and as well as others too numerous to mention.

My appreciation also goes to Captains of industries, friends, and acquaintances, extended family members, among others. Your kindness and affection are priceless and your love is inestimable.

Above all, I return all glory, honour and adoration to God Almighty for His immense grace, healing, and mercy over me and my family. May His mercy and limitless grace continue to abide in us all.

To the good people of Ondo State, our determination and resolve to improve the lives of our people and prosecute our conviction for developing our dear state are unwavering.

We shall continue to toe the path of progress and double our efforts to achieve set goals and objectives in line with the "REDEEMED" agenda of our administration. We are back, and better.



Empowering Education in Nigeria: NewGlobe Partners with the Nigeria Governors' Forum

In a move that holds immense promise for the future of education in Nigeria, NewGlobe has formally entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF). This groundbreaking partnership, forged on the heels of NewGlobe's participation in the 2023 Induction Program for newly elected and re-elected Governors, aims to catalyze transformational reforms and policies in the realm of education. With a commitment to expanding basic education reforms across Nigeria beyond the states where NewGlobe currently operates (Edo, Lagos, Kwara, and Bayelsa), the MOU heralds a new era of educational progress in the nation.

Established in 1999, following a multi-party conference attended by all 36 democratically elected State Governors of Nigeria, the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) stands as a non-partisan association uniting the elected governors of all 36 states in Nigeria. Its core mission is to foster unity, promote good governance, enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among states, and establish a healthy and productive relationship between the states and other levels of government.

NewGlobe is an education expert and a global leader in learning with a mission to ensure all education systems are inclusive, equitable & transformative. NewGlobe supports visionary governments to transform public education systems, the cornerstone of a prosperous, equitable, and peaceful society. Employing a unique combination of technology, data-driven training and coaching, scientifically-based learning materials, and technology-equipped support teams to significantly enhance learning outcomes at a large scale. NewGlobe's holistic systemic approach has proven effective in improving learning outcomes across various socioeconomic backgrounds, aligning with the broader vision of education as an engine for accelerated and equitable economic growth.



The primary purpose of this MOU is to establish a formal relationship between NewGlobe and the NGF to support sub-national members in implementing transformative educational reforms and policies through the educational subcommittees of the NGF and the individual states. The MOU is expected to achieve significant progress in the transformation of education across all 36 states in Nigeria.

Speaking during the MOU Signing Director General of the NGF, Asishana Okauru, Esq. acknowledged the celebrated successes of NewGlobe's proprietary methodology and reform and welcomes the partnership with NewGlobe at this point in time when all states in Nigeria should be prioritizing and investing in education. The NGF will work with NewGlobe under this MOU to ensure education, particularly improving learning, is among the foremost objectives of state governments because this is a critical sector at a critical time for Nigeria.

Responding to the Director General, Dr. Akin-Olusoji Akinyele, Group Managing Director NewGlobe praised the NGF for contributions to Nigerian democracy through the giant strides achieved driving cohesion among states, healthy competition, peer review and learning as well as growth in governance capacity building. He further stated that NewGlobe's aim is to democratize quality education for all children in Nigeria

through a methodology proven to improve learning outcomes both internationally as well as locally right here in Nigeria with transformation successes recorded in Edo, Lagos, Kwara and Bayelsa public schools respectively. Dr. Akinyele said "NewGlobe through this MOU will be the education resource partner of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, bringing our technical expertise in education to the benefit of all states in Nigeria"

Also present at the session from the NGF were Abdullateef Shittu, Executive Director Strategy, Abdulrazak Bello-Barkindo, Executive Director Media & Public Affairs, Juliet Chima Chief of Staff to the Director General, Ozaveshe Peter Adanini, Technical Assistant to the Director General, Dr. Ebenezer Leo, Head Education Department and Yetunde Oladapo, from the Legal Department alongside NewGlobe delegates Dr. Kunbi Wuraola - Director, Policy & Partnerships, Africa, Sola Adeyegbe General Counsel/Regional Director, Policy & Partnerships, Femi Awoyinfa - Director, Partnership Launch and Lanre Dairo - Regional Director, Communications.

The event concluded with the identification and agreement on key next steps to drive the operation and execution of the MOU.

Recruitment Zulum approves 4,000 new teachers shortlisted for Borno's Primary, Secondary Schools

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum has given final approval for immediate recruitment of four thousand (4,000) new teachers already evaluated and shortlisted for deployment to public primary and secondary schools across Borno State.

Governor Zulum announced the approval recently in Maiduguri.

"Of the 4,000 new teachers, a total of 3,000 of them are to be deployed to government primary schools across the state while 1,000 teachers are to be sent to government secondary schools also across the state.

"The 3,000 primary school teachers are mostly NCE holders who make up 77.4%, Degree Holders- 22.2% and HND holders- 0.6%. The 1,000 secondary teachers include 5 masters degree holders, 658 bachelor degree holders (constituting 66% of all), 8 HND holders mostly graduates of technology, 130 NCE holders (constituting 13% mostly for subjects like French, English literature, Hausa, Technology, civic education etc which graduate-applicants couldn't be found to teach).

"There are also 11 diploma holders of science, laboratory technology employed as lab attendants while there are 23 Matrons and 68 cooks to serve students. All the 4,000 shortlisted teachers were meticulously selected after they proved competent to teach in primary and secondary schools.

"A total of 19,305 persons applied for the teachers' recruitment out of which 10,470 wrote the assessment examinations on various subjects taught in

primary and secondary schools. "621 applicants scored distinctions (A's) in various subjects after they were scored while 162 scored merit (B's) in various subjects.

"All those who scored distinctions and merit were shortlisted for recruitment while some of the best amongst those with less scores were shortlisted to teach subjects like French, Literature etc in which they were found competent to teach," Gov Zulum said.

It would be recalled that in February 2021, a committee set up by Governor Zulum to conduct Basic Literacy and Numeracy Competency Assessment of primary school teachers across Borno's 27 Local Government Areas had found that of 17,229 teachers who were assessed, only 5,439 representing 31.6% were found to be competent enough to teach, while 3,815 constituting 22.1% were found to be incompetent to teach and untrainable.

The committee found 7,975 constituting 46.3% to be trainable.

The committee also found that Borno had 1,627 teachers with degrees, 8,153 NCE holders, 2,066 diploma holders, 713 teachers grade II holders, 2,281 SSCE/GCE holders while 2,389 constituting 13.9% of all the teachers were without any formal qualification.

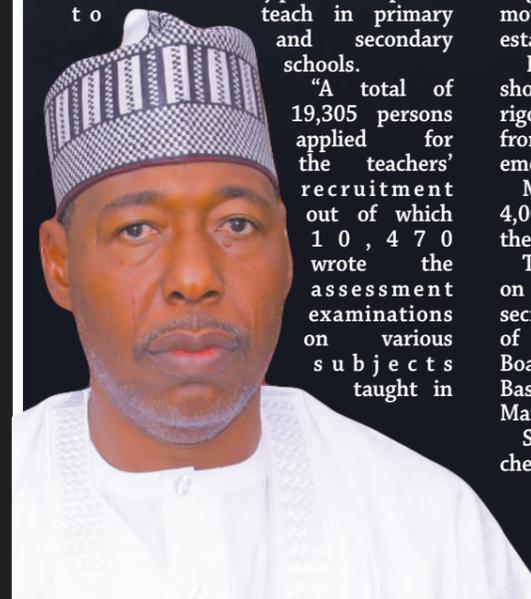
Governor Zulum directed that competent teachers be paid minimum wage while incompetent teachers be moved to non-teaching government establishments.

He directed a committee to invite and shortlist competent teachers through rigorous assessment examination, from which 4,000 teachers have now emerged.

Meanwhile, names of all shortlisted 4,000 teachers have been released by the committee on teachers recruitment.

The list is to be pasted as notices on public spaces at the Musa Usman secretariat, at the state's Ministry of Education, the Teaching Service Board (TSB) and the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) all in Maiduguri.

Shortlisted candidates are to cross check their data to ensure accuracy.



Ekiti people have scored you pass mark, Fayemi tells Oyebanji

— As ex-Gov joins Oyebanji to commission Ultra Modern Bus Terminal

The immediate past Governor of Ekiti State, Dr Kayode Fayemi publicly applauded the sterling performance of the incumbent Governor of the State, Mr Biodun Oyebanji saying that he is happy the people of the state had already given him a pass mark barely a year into his tenure.

Dr Fayemi who stated this as he joined Governor Oyebanji to commission the ultra-modern Ado-Ekiti Bus Terminal in Ado-Ekiti, said he didn't have to wait till mid-term to do an assessment of Oyebanji's performance, adding that the people of Ekiti State had already awarded him a pass mark, based on his sterling performance.

"The evidence of your excellent performance is all over the place for everybody to see. I don't have to wait till mid-term to do an assessment of your performance. The people have already given you a pass mark and I am happy you didn't disappoint the people.

"The successful completion of this ultra modern bus terminal that is being commissioned today is one of such. I have also seen several other projects and programmes you are undertaking to the benefit of the people. This is the beauty of continuity we talked about, and I am so happy to be around to witness this," Fayemi said.

Speaking further, Dr Fayemi who said the decision to choose Oyebanji as his successor was not taken out of sentiment, added that he had every reason to support the Oyebanji administration to achieve its set goals, because the "(Oyebanji) governorship project was consciously determined, carefully researched and prayerfully endorsed".

Commissioning the bus terminal, Governor Oyebanji said the project is a testimony to his administration's commitment to the actualization of the socio-economic development of the state capital, especially the expansion of the city transportation infrastructure in

response to its rapid urbanization.

Oyebanji said commissioning the project which was initiated by Dr Fayemi is a justification of the continuity and shared prosperity agenda of his administration, having earlier commissioned the Traditional Council Chamber also initiated by the former governor.

He explained that the bus terminal would serve as an economic hub for inter-state transportation, with facilities such as good internal road, a well arranged parking lot, driver's lounge, clinic, restaurant, ticketing bay and banking hall, among others.

While charging the road transport workers to make judicious use of the facility and embrace a very good maintenance culture, the Governor said the project is equipped to solve trackable management problem, improve transportation infrastructure,

enhance passenger experience in the state capital and reduce indiscriminate packing of vehicles along the major roads within the state capital.

"Today's event is another testimony of our commitment to the actualization to the socio economic development of our state especially the expansion of city transportation infrastructure to rapid urbanization of the state capital.

Governor Oyebanji who hailed the visionary leadership of former Governor Fayemi, said the former Governor had continued to champion the interest of the state even out of office.

Stressing that he had an unalloyed loyalty to Dr Fayemi, Oyebanji said his administration is an offshoot of the immediate past administration, hence no need for comparison. Oyebanji, however said, he would like to surpass the record of achievements of the



will serve as a hub for inter-state transportation with such facilities as good internal road, an organizer packing lot, driver's lounge, clinic, banking hall, among others.

"I thank my leader and my boss, the former Governor Kayode Fayemi for laying a very solid foundation on which we are building upon. I keep telling people that I'm an offshoot of your administration, this is one government and there is no reason for comparisons and the only thing I can do to make you happy, to convince the "Doubting Thomas" that you have chosen wisely is to surpass your achievement and with God on our side and with your support, I will make you proud.

"Those of you talking on WhatsApp, please leave Fayemi and I alone because he is a father to me. Don't waste your time because you cannot separate us. If you know me well, I don't have a history of treachery. We plead with you to allow us develop this state in the interest of all of you.

Earlier, the chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, (NURTW), Chief Joseph Falope, and chairman, Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), Chief Sunday Adeola, in their respective

goodwill messages, commended Governor Oyebanji for the construction of the terminal and promised that Drivers would put it to judicious use.

They described the project as a welcome development, stressing that it would help increase the Internally Generated Revenue of the State and promote sanity in the transportation sector. They pledged their support for the administration, urging Governor Oyebanji to continue in his good work in the state.

The Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, HRM Oba Rufus Adeyemi Adejugbe, who hailed the successful completion of the project, urged both Fayemi and Oyebanji to continue to work together in harmony for the benefit of the state, not minding what distractors and political jobbers are saying.

The Monarch said he was happy to see both the former governor and the incumbent arrive at the venue of the event in same car. "This is what we want to see. I am happy to witness this. We want our political leaders and politicians to work together in unison for the overall development of the state. I urge our people to please allow them to continue their father-son relationship and not try to sow seed of discord between them.", Oba Adejugbe said.

Also present at the event were the Deputy Governor, Chief (Mrs) Monisade Afuye, Speaker, Ekiti State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adeoye Aribasoye, Secretary to the State Government, Dr Habibat Adubiaro, Chief Executive Officer of Planet Projects, Engr Biodun Otunola; members of the State House of Assembly, members of the State Executive Council, traditional rulers and members of the transport unions in the state.

The commissioning is another justification for the continuity of vision to which we campaigned, for example you will recall that the foundation of this project was laid on October 27, 2021 by my boss and leader, Dr Kayode Fayemi

Shettima opens North-East Governors meeting as Zulum harps on regional power, railway



Vice President Kashim Shettima declared open the 8th meeting of the North East Governors Forum (NEGF).

VP Shettima, who was on a two-day official trip to Maiduguri for commissioning of projects executed by Governor Babagana Zulum, also flagged off palliatives distribution by the North-East Development Commission (NEDC).

The VP, while opening the NEGF meeting, called for unity between diverse leaders and other stakeholders across the northeast in order to address challenges facing the geopolitical zone.

The host, Governor of Borno State and Governors of Adamawa- Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, Bauchi- Bala Mohammed, Yobe- Mai Mala Buni were in attendance, while those of Gombe and Taraba were represented by their deputies.

Vice President Shettima commended the northeast Governors for deliberately forging unity amongst themselves despite their differences in political ideologies.

He urged national and state assembly members to uphold same values.

Chairman of the North-East Governors Forum and Governor of Borno State, Babagana Zulum, advocated for a partnership that can give birth to an independent power station and railway network across the northeast.

“Let me draw our attention to the recent amendment to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which saw the removal of Power Generation and Railway

Transportation from the exclusive legislative list to the concurrent list. It is therefore important for us in the North East to partner towards the provision of independent power supply and rail transportation in the sub-region,” Zulum said.

Zulum also called for proactive measures towards curtailing the activities of illegal miners while at the same time maximizing the benefits of those minerals towards the overall development of the people in the northeast region.

The Governor also charged his colleagues from the region to give priority to the issues of youth unemployment and poverty in the region.

“As we are set to deliberate on matters of common interest and shared responsibilities, we should, in addition to the issues of insecurity, floods, illicit mining and North East Development Commission projects in the sub-region, also focus specifically on youth unemployment, the deep-rooted poverty among the majority of our people due to the removal of oil subsidy by the Federal Government,” Zulum said.

The Governor commended the Nigerian military for their efforts in curbing the security situation in the northeast, which saw relative peace.

“Let me use this occasion to commend our brave military in the fight against the insurgency, which remains unquestionable, while their determination to succeed is very glaring. No doubt, they have considered and acted upon a wide range of options in the fight against terrorism,” Zulum said.

Deputy Governor of Borno, Umar Usman Kadafur, senators and members of the House of Representatives, state lawmakers, Secretaries to the State Governments from the northeast states, traditional rulers led by the Shehu of Borno, Abubakar Umar Garbai Elkanemi and senior government officials from the six States of the northeast attended opening of the northeast governors meeting.

The governors later went into a closed-door meeting to deliberate, after which they are expected to issue a communique by the evening of Saturday.

Gender *Issues*

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Stethoscope to Spotlight: Meet First Lady Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu



**Forging Strong
Alliances:**
Ogun State's
First Lady
and NDLEA
Join Forces to
Combat Drug
Abuse



Stethoscope to Spotlight: Meet First Lady Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu



Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu is a distinguished medical practitioner who currently holds the esteemed position of the First Lady of Lagos State. Born on January 8, 1967, into the family of Paulinus Olusegun Carrena from Popo-Aguda, Lagos state, Nigeria, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu has made remarkable strides in the medical field.

She earned her MBBS from the University of Lagos (Unilag) Akoka, Yaba campus, and further pursued post-graduate studies, obtaining a diploma in Hospital and Health Management (PGDHM) as well as another diploma in Anesthesia (DA). Not stopping there, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu also attained a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) and Business Administration (MBA), establishing herself as a prominent figure in the medical profession both within Nigeria and internationally.

With a rich experience spanning 25 years, she dedicated her service to the Lagos State Government, steadily climbing the ranks within the medical domain. Her journey saw her ascend to the role of Chief Medical Director and Chief Executive Officer of Harvey Road Comprehensive Health Centre, Yaba, before her transfer to the General Hospital at Somolu. During this time, she actively participated in impactful initiatives like the Free Health Mission and the Lagos State Healthy Bee Project, which were integral components of her husband, Babajide Sanwo-

Olu's, campaign programs targeting grassroots and riverine communities within Lagos state.

The turning point in Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu's journey came with her husband's election as the Executive Governor of Lagos State on May 29, 2019. This historic event marked her as the first Medical Practitioner to assume the role of the First Lady of Lagos State. Her support for her husband's endeavors has remained steadfast, often working

diligently behind the scenes to contribute to various programs that have been launched and are still underway.

Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu's compassion for women and children shines through her role as the chairperson of the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO). This committee has a noble mission, which includes promoting child healthcare and empowering women across the state. The First Lady also played an instrumental role in organizing and participating in several free surgery missions, such as Pediatric Surgery, Pediatric Eye Surgery, Dental Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, and Adult Eye Surgery conducted in General Hospitals throughout Lagos.

As an advocate for sustainable practices, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu has championed the Blue Box Program. This initiative, implemented by the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), encourages waste sorting to promote a cleaner environment.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu is known for her athletic prowess and commitment to fitness. She made history by becoming the first "First Lady" to complete an athletic road race during the 2019 edition of the Annual Lagos Women Run. Additionally, she hosts the Lagos State Annual Children's Party and Christmas Party, spreading joy and camaraderie.

On her most recent birthday celebration on January 8, 2021, where she turned 53, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu was lauded by many, including her husband, who described her as his prayer partner, confidant, number one supporter, and a soul.

Despite her prominent role as the First Lady, Dr. Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu remains an engaged member of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), symbolizing her ongoing commitment to the medical profession and her dedication to the well-being of the people of Lagos State.



Her Excellency Hajia Zainab Nasare Nasir Idris Pledges Unyielding Support to NDLEA's Fight Against Drug Abuse"

In a resounding show of commitment and dedication, Her Excellency Hajia Zainab Nasare Nasir Idris, the compassionate and forward-thinking wife of the Kebbi State Governor, has taken the reins in the battle against substance abuse. Acknowledging the pernicious grip that drugs have on society, particularly among women and youth, Hajia Zainab Nasare Nasir Idris is leading the charge for a healthier, substance-free future for Kebbi State. The recent visit of the National Drug Laws Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) led by Commander Usman Sule to her quarters marked a turning point in this burgeoning campaign.

The issue of drug abuse has escalated in recent years, casting a dark shadow over the potential of Kebbi State's vibrant population. The meeting between Her Excellency and the NDLEA was a pivotal moment, as it underscored the collaborative efforts required to combat this pressing concern. With a heart full of concern, Hajia Zainab Nasare Nasir Idris expressed her deep worries about the surge in substance abuse cases, particularly among women and young individuals. Recognizing the essential role women play in fostering progress and prosperity, she illuminated the gravity of the challenge at hand.

The warmth and sincerity that exudes from Her Excellency's persona are matched only by her resolve. In her discussions with the NDLEA representatives,

The dynamic synergy between Her Excellency and the NDLEA holds immense promise for the fight against drug abuse

she unequivocally conveyed her unwavering support for their mission. The empowerment of women is central to her strategy, understanding that by uplifting women, an entire community is uplifted. The nurturing environment she envisions is one where women can thrive and contribute actively to the advancement of Kebbi State's future. Her commitment is a clarion call for unity, as it takes the combined efforts of governmental bodies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society to stem the tide of substance abuse.

The dynamic synergy between Her Excellency and the NDLEA holds immense promise for the fight against drug abuse. The first lady's involvement brings a much-needed human touch to the often stark and clinical battle against addiction. By embracing the power of empathy, understanding, and education, she is setting the stage for transformative change. The NDLEA's arsenal of knowledge and resources, combined with Her Excellency's fervor, is a force to be reckoned with.

As the sun sets over the serene landscapes of Kebbi State, a new dawn is breaking on the horizon. It's a dawn that promises hope, rehabilitation, and a resurgence of community spirit. The resolute commitment of Her Excellency Hajia Zainab Nasare Nasir Idris has ignited a beacon of optimism for Kebbi State. With the combined might of her determination and the NDLEA's expertise, the battle against substance abuse is not only being fought but won, one heart and mind at a time.

FORGING STRONG ALLIANCES:

Ogun State's First Lady and NDLEA Join Forces to Combat Drug Abuse



In a significant stride towards a drug-free future, the Ogun State Command of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) orchestrated a pivotal visit to the esteemed First Lady of Ogun State, Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun. This symbolic rendezvous accentuated their collective commitment to eradicating the scourge of drug abuse by fostering a harmonious partnership. The meeting was a testament to the power of collaboration between government agencies and influential figures to address pressing societal issues.

Leading the Ogun State NDLEA contingent was the esteemed Commander CN Ibiba Jane Odili, a beacon of dedication and resilience in the war against drug abuse. Commander Odili took the opportunity to extend her gratitude for the warm reception accorded by Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun. This reception signified not only respect for their mission but also the shared understanding that collective action is paramount in the battle against substance abuse.

The synchrony between the NDLEA and the Ogun State government in tackling drug abuse was reaffirmed during the visit. The partnership stands as a shining example of governmental agencies and public figures coming together to face a common adversary. The dedication of both parties to this cause is a ray of hope for individuals and families

affected by drug abuse.

Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun, the esteemed First Lady of Ogun State, aptly acknowledged the NDLEA's formidable efforts in mitigating the detrimental consequences of drug abuse. Her commendation illuminated the essential role played by the NDLEA in safeguarding communities and nurturing healthier lives. Moreover, her recognition of the importance of collaborative efforts in this context spoke volumes about her vision for a united front against drug abuse.

A pivotal aspect of this collaboration is the State Drug Control Committee's proactive involvement. Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun highlighted its indispensable contribution to the mission, emphasizing the recent sensitization workshop focused on Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Care. The exchange of knowledge and awareness in these workshops acts as a beacon of light in dispelling the darkness cast by substance abuse.

A resounding message of unity reverberated throughout the meeting. The First Lady eloquently underscored the collective determination to combat drug abuse head-on. Her reference to the Nigerian Governor's Wives Forum's steadfast dedication to implementing intervention programs across states lent further weight to the joint efforts to combat this issue on a national scale.

An additional layer of significance was added with the acknowledgment of the National Drug Control Master Plan. This strategic framework, which guides immediate actions and long-term planning, demonstrates a meticulously crafted blueprint for a drug-free society.

As the visit concluded, a palpable sense of purpose and unity lingered in the air. The alliance formed between the Ogun State Command of the NDLEA and Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun holds immense potential to revolutionize the fight against drug abuse. The collaboration encapsulates the spirit of collective determination, acting as a beacon of hope for Ogun State and beyond.

Kebbi Governor's Wife Empowers 1,247 Individuals and Distributes Palliative to Over 500 Women in Kangiwa, Arewa Local Government Area

In a resplendent display of compassion and commitment to her community, Hajiya Zainab Nasir Idris, the esteemed wife of the Kebbi State Governor, embarked on a transformative mission that promises to leave an indelible mark on the lives of Kebbi state citizens. With unwavering determination and an unshakable resolve to foster self-reliance and prosperity, Her Excellency Hajiya Zainab Nasir Idris, through the NASARA FOUNDATION, orchestrated two remarkable initiatives that radiate hope and empowerment.

On the 4th of September 2023, the Kebbi State Ministry of Women Affairs, Birnin Kebbi, was graced by Her Excellency's presence as she presided over the graduation ceremony of 1247 individuals. These individuals, now armed with skills and knowledge acquired through NASARA FOUNDATION's programs, symbolize the embodiment of future opportunities and self-reliance. The materials distributed on this auspicious

occasion included sewing machines, computers, makeup kits, and an array of tools that represent not just instruments of trade but beacons of hope. Through this initiative, Her Excellency has sown the seeds of self-sufficiency, encouraging these individuals to embrace their potential and craft a brighter future for themselves and their families.

But Her Excellency's compassion knows no bounds, extending beyond skill acquisition to address immediate challenges faced by her fellow Kebbi state citizens. On September 5, 2023, she orchestrated an act of benevolence that touched the hearts of 500 women residing in Kangiwa, Arewa local government. These women, grappling with the harsh realities of rising inflation and the escalating cost of living, found solace in the generous palliative support provided by Her Excellency. Each woman received 2 bags of groundnuts and 10,000 naira, a gesture that not only alleviates their immediate hardships but also underscores Her Excellency's empathetic understanding of the prevailing socio-economic challenges.

Her Excellency's words transcend mere advice; they resonate as a clarion call to action, an invitation for all to embrace honesty, focus, and self-determination. Her commitment to investing in human capital for economic prosperity serves as a shining example of visionary leadership. Through these initiatives, she has illuminated a path towards a brighter, more self-reliant future for all the citizens of Kebbi State. Hajiya Zainab Nasir Idris stands as a beacon of hope, a testament to the boundless potential that can be unlocked when determination and a compassionate heart unite in the service of the community.





Bauchi State First Lady commissions 18 million Naira hospital

THE
construction of the Jamdan Kogi Community Primary Health Care Center was a testament to the Almuhibba Foundation's unwavering commitment to providing high-quality healthcare services to the rural communities of Bauchi State

In a remarkable event that showcased the commitment to improving healthcare accessibility in rural areas, the First Lady of Bauchi State, Haj Aisha Bala Mohammed, proudly inaugurated the newly constructed healthcare facility in Jamdan Kogi, Duguri-Gwana ward, Alkaleri local government. The over 18 million Naira hospital, a generous donation from the Almuhibba Foundation, promises to be a game-changer in the region's healthcare landscape.

Addressing a gathering of excited community members, healthcare professionals, and government

officials, Haj Aisha Bala Mohammed emphasized the pivotal role this healthcare center would play in transforming the lives of the residents in the region. She shared that the construction of the Jamdan Kogi Community Primary Health Care Center was a testament to the Almuhibba Foundation's unwavering commitment to providing high-quality healthcare services to the rural communities of Bauchi State.

Her Excellency described the impressive features of the newly commissioned healthcare facility, highlighting that the Jamdan Kogi Health Care Center boasted a range of essential amenities. These included a 6-Bed Space Ward, a well-equipped consulting room, a pharmacy, a delivery suite to ensure safe childbirth, an emergency room for critical situations, a nurses' station for round-the-clock care, and three modern toilets to maintain hygiene standards.

This state-of-the-art healthcare facility not only aims to address the immediate medical needs of the community but also signifies a broader commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure across Bauchi State.

A'ibom First Lady calls on Traditional Institution, Stakeholders to join in the fight against drug abuse

The Wife of the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Pastor Patience Umo Eno, has called on the Traditional Institution and stakeholders at the grassroots to join hands in the fight against drug abuse in order to rid the state of the negative effects of substance addiction.

The Governor's Wife made the call during a Town hall meeting to sensitise stakeholders and community leaders of Etinan Federal Constituency on the menace of drug abuse, held at the Council Hall of Nsit Ubium Local Government Area.

Decrying the negative aftermath of addiction to drugs, the First Lady who is the Chairperson, Akwa Ibom State Drug Control Committee (AKSDCC), said that drug abuse is capable of robbing one of their health and sanity, as well as the cause of death of victims in extreme cases.

"Drug abuse is not a singular problem, it is a multi-faceted crisis that affects every aspect of our families and our society at large. As leaders and stakeholders, it is our duty to address this pressing issue and work towards a solution that will bring positive change.

"Furthermore, drug abuse has a ripple effect on families, tearing at the fabric of our society. The emotional anguish experienced by family members witnessing their loved ones succumb to addiction is immeasurable. Relationships are strained, trust is eroded, and the well-being of children is endangered," she remarked.

Pastor Patience Eno further noted that drug abuse also increases crime rate in the society as victims "resort to desperate measures to obtain drugs or to finance their addiction."

She urged traditional and community leaders in the different Local Government Areas as well as parents to be vigilant and to report all cases of drug abuse to National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

In a tone setting, the Secretary of the State Drug Control Committee, Mrs Esther Ukpke giving a brief background of the Committee, said it was inaugurated by the previous administration in February 2023 and was chaired by the former Wife of the Governor who handed over the leadership to the incumbent Wife of Governor, Pastor Patience Umo Eno to lead in the fight against substance abuse.

She described Pastor Eno as a leader with compassion who is determined and committed to furthering the course of the Committee, stating that drug abuse is an issue that plagues communities, breaks families apart, and hinders the progress and well-being of individuals who fall victim to its grip.

Also speaking, the Commander of NDLEA in Akwa Ibom State, Mrs.Obot Bassey said drugs are chemical substances which when taken, changes the mood, behaviour, physiology and psychology of any person.

She reeled out the effects and consequences caused by the malaise in our society to include deception of the mind, cloudiness, dizziness, lack of appetite, poor



concentration, emotional destabilisation, reduced sexual activities while consequences include strangling, bleeding, sleeplessness, impaired memory, slurred speech, impaired concentration, attack organs, gluttony, destroy the brain and destabilises thinking order.

Mrs. Bassey encouraged the victim to avail themselves of help mechanism put in place as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration schemes to have them live normal life in the society .

In their separate goodwill messages, Wife of the Former Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Mrs Funmi Nkanga, the representative of Oku Ibom Ibibio, Eteidung Moses, Former Commissioner, Otuekong Emmanuel Ibiok, women, male and female youths from Etinan Federal Constituencies, applauded the Governor's Wife for the initiative stating that the town hall meeting is expedient and quite enlightening considering the spike of substance abuse in the society.

They noted the alarming effect of substance abuse on the fortunes and future of Akwa Ibom people and the economy pledging to take the advocacy and enlightenment to their different communities in order to address the menace.

During the Town Hall meeting which featured an interactive session and a drama piece by Corps members highlighting the ills of drug abuse in the society and the benefits of massive sensitization against the scourge.

Dignitaries in attendance were the wife of the Speaker AKHA, Mrs. Margaret Otong , Wife of SSG, Mrs. Inemesit Uwah, Wife of State PDP Chairman, Mrs Unyime Akpan, Commissioner for Water and Sanitation, Mrs Enobong Mboho, the Special Adviser Bureau of Political and Social Reorientation Elder Amanam Nkanga, among others

Sickle Cell Awareness Month 2023

Kwara First Lady Renews and expands Health Insurance for Sickle Cell Warriors in the State

– Assures of commitment of Nigeria Governors Wives Forum on National Sickle Cell advocacy

In commemoration of the 2023 September Sickle Cell Awareness Month, the First Lady of Kwara State and Founder Ajike People Support Center Her Excellency Ambassador Prof Olufolake Abdulrazaq has procured health insurance cover for over 150 people living with the disease, while the health insurance covers for survivors who have been under the scheme since last year were renewed and additional 50 were added onboard.

While presenting the health insurance cover for beneficiaries through the Executive Secretary Kwara State Health Insurance Agency Dr, Olubunmi Jetawo-Winter, Ambassador Abdulrazaq reiterated that Nigeria has the highest burden of Sickle Cell in the World and therefore the need for the Nigeria Governors Wives Forum to make Sickle Cell Awareness and Advocacy a National program for the Forum.

Her Excellency further stated that the social and economic burden the management of sickle cell poses on survivors and families are enormous and with the continued insurance cover, Sickle Cell Warriors are receiving basic care and management to mitigate the pains and suffering.

Dr. Olubunmi while appreciating the continued moral and financial support from



Her Excellency, the First

Lady, assured Her Excellency that the Agency, the Sickle Cell Warriors and other Stakeholders have put up mechanism for the warriors to access the care and management provided through the Health Insurance cover provided by Her

Excellency.

Highlight of the meeting was the presentation of cheque by Her Excellency Ambassador Prof Olufolake Abdulrazaq to the Executive Secretary.



Let's Unite For Change, Raising Awareness About Sickle Cell Disease – Hajiya Lami Fintiri

As we commemorate Sickle Cell Awareness Month, Her Excellency Hajiya Lami Ahmadu Fintiri extends a heartfelt call for solidarity in support for individuals grappling with sickle cell disease and to raise awareness about this challenging condition.

Hajiya Lami Fintiri emphasizes that sickle cell disease affects countless individuals worldwide, posing chronic and debilitating challenges. It's time for us to stand up, show love, and provide unflinching support to the valiant warriors fighting this battle.

This year's theme, "Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing new-born screening, and knowing your sickle cell disease status," reminds us of the

importance of unity and solidarity in the face of adversity.

Lami Fintiri calls upon the people of Adamawa State to learn more and educate themselves about sickle cell disease and the progress being made to alleviate its burden.

She emphasizes the important need for intended couples to check their genotype in order to ensure a healthy future for their children and society as a whole.

She said, "Let us work together to raise awareness about the suffering and life-threatening complications that those with sickle cell disease face." Remember that having this ailment does not diminish or limit one's potential.

Her Excellency Hajiya Lami Ahmadu Fintiri, through her foundation, the Fresh Air Pro-Life Empowerment Foundation,

reaffirms her support for sickle cell disease patients in Adamawa State, emphasizing that , hopes and aspirations are still possible.

Furthermore, Hajiya Lami Ahmadu Fintiri urges parents, the government, private organizations, and stakeholders to intensify health awareness campaigns, stating that social and religious groups can play a vital role in educating people about the inherent dangers of entering marriage without proper genotype and blood group checks.

She says, "Let us unite for a stronger, healthier society."

NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM



PHOTO SPEAK
Malala Yousafzai celebrates her birthday at NGF



MALALA WITH NGF STAFF



MALALA SHAKES HANDS WITH NGF DG MR. ASISHANA OKAURU WHILE OTHER STAFF LOOKS ON



MALALA WITH GOVERNORS



L-R: MALALA YOUSAFZAI; NGF CHAIRMAN/KWARA STATE GOV. ABDULRAHMAN ABDURASAQ AND UN SEC. GEN. AMINA MOHAMMED



L-R: IMO STATE GOV. HOPE UZODINMA; MALALA YOUSAFZAI; NGF CHAIRMAN/KWARA STATE GOV. ABDULRAHMAN ABDURASAQ AND UN SEC. GEN. AMINA MOHAMMED



L-R: NGF CHAIRMAN/KWARA STATE GOV. ABDULRAHMAN ABDURASAQ; MALALA YOUSAFZAI; UN SEC. GEN. AMINA MOHAMMED; OYO STATE GOV. SEYI MAKINDE AND A GUEST



GOVERNORS WITH MALALA YOUSAFZAI AND UN SEC. GEN. AMINA MOHAMMED

Uba Sani: Beyond the first 100 days

GOVERNOR UBA SANI PERFORMING THE HISTORIC GROUNDBREAKING OF THE QATAR SANABIL PROJECT, INITIATED BY QATAR CHARITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KADUNA ECONOMIC CITY AND PROVISION OF MASS HOUSING FOR THE LESS PRIVILEGED IN KADUNA STATE



In 1985, Mario Mathew Cuomo, three term governor of New York, uttered a famous quip which remains a maxim not just in the United States but elsewhere. The governor, in moments of candour, said that politicians campaign in poetry but govern in prose. Largely, this dictum rings true since he verbalized it about 38 years ago.

Indeed, campaign rallies are feisty, boisterous and carnival-like affairs, where sound bites and promises rouse the crowd, amidst praises and fanfare. Politicians, in those moments, promise heaven on earth, pledge a land of milk and honey, using saccharine-coated language. However, on assuming office, reality usually sets in as they stare at balance sheets, defaced with red ink, suggesting near empty treasuries. Thereafter, the scales fall from their eyes and some walk back their promises, while others impose some contexts.

Sadly, many politicians have eaten their word after victory but luckily, Senator Uba Sani, the Kaduna State governor, has so far kept his own. Last week, he

The goal, according to him, is to bring healthcare nearer home as no individual, throughout Kaduna state, would travel one kilometre to access a health facility

commissioned a slew of projects, flagged off others and showcased his scorecard generally, ahead of his 100 days in office. Indeed, for Governor Uba Sani, keeping promises is not a mere flash in the pan and at this point, a brief flashback is necessary.

Kudan, as a local government, boasts of businessmen, retired civil servants and senior government officials as well as two gubernatorial candidates, including Isa Ashiru and Suleiman Hunkuyi, PDP and NNPP flagbearers respectively. However, the area council lacked a modern computer centre, where students can sit for JAMB examinations. Usually, they travelled to Zaria, about 27 kilometres away, for their Computer Based Tests and the cost, stress and inconvenience took a toll on parents. Somehow, they cried out to Uba Sani and the APC candidate, as he then was, came to their rescue. Right now, a befitting edifice, well furnished and equipped, stands at Hunkuyi, the headquarters of Kudan local government area.

Significantly, the Computer Based Test Centre, as events unfolded, was like a prologue to the main act



KADUNA GOVT INAUGURATES
FIVE STATE-OF-THE-ART-MOBILE
DIAGNOSTIC TRUCKS

in the education sector. The governor, on August 21, had reduced school fees in state-owned tertiary institutions. The review, according to him, is in response to public outcry across the state. Truly, students, parents and focal groups, had complained of exorbitant school fees during the last gubernatorial campaign. Point blank, the APC candidate, as Senator Uba Sani was, had promised a downward review. Expectedly, on assuming office, he set machinery in motion and 84 days later, the governor fulfilled this election promise. In fact, students of Kaduna State University (KASU), Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic and College of Education, Gidan Waya, including those of Shehu Idris College of Health Science and Technology, Makarfi, went wild with jubilation after the announcement.

Uba Sani: Bridging Kaduna's housing deficit

Accordingly, KASU's school fees has been slashed, in the downward review, from N150,000 to N105,000 per semester. Similarly, the fees of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, a Zaria based institution, has been reduced from N100,000 to N50,000. In addition, College of Education, Gidan Waya, now charges N37,500 instead of N75,000 per semester. Likewise, students of Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences, across all courses, will enjoy new fees regime. Indeed, charges for Higher National Diploma courses, the governor revealed, have been reduced from N100,000 to N70,000, while National Diploma students will now pay N52,000 instead of N75,000.

Similarly, four days after the fees review, the education sector got another boost, when the Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board, on August 25, released N205 million to various tertiary institutions across the country. The sum, according to the Executive Secretary, represents the tuition fees of students on scholarship. In fact, Bayero University Kano received N25 million, in fulfilment of an MoU, for the students' tuition fees till their graduation. Likewise, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, got N27 million while KASU received N88.63

million. Besides, the scholarship board will enter other agreements, the Executive Secretary promised, "with Kaduna Polytechnic, University of Jos, ATBU Bauchi, Kaduna State College of Nursing amongst others."

Figuratively, the health sector has gotten a new lease of life, as from August 30, when 290 Primary Healthcare Centres, across all the 255 wards, got state of the art medical equipment. The governor, without mincing words, emphasized his commitment to quality healthcare, expanding access to them and ensuring continuity. More so, he reiterated that quality healthcare, as defined by his administration, is a fundamental human right and not a luxury.

Indeed, the Nasir El Rufai administration, in eight years, has provided 255 PHCs but Governor Uba Sani has promised to increase the number. In fact, there will be an additional health centre in each ward, all equipped and staffed to standard, in the lifetime of his government. The goal, according to him, is to bring healthcare nearer home as no individual, throughout Kaduna state, would travel one kilometre to access a health facility. Remarkably, the promise has started bearing fruits, especially with the launching of five mobile diagnostic trucks, fitted with modern equipment, for integrated health services in remote areas. Similarly, the governor plans to recruit more doctors, has approved the 2014 Consolidated Medical Salary Scale for doctors and plans more incentives for health workers.

However, beyond the commissioning of projects, ground breaking for mass housing and flagging off of rural roads, as well as recruitment of 7,000 vigilantes to tackle insecurity, holding the town hall meeting with a cross section of Kaduna citizens was the most remarkable event. Above all, Governor Uba Sani's commitment to seek the people's buy-in and input in policy formulation and project implementation was the most significant. If sustained, this will secure his administration's populist and people-centric image – a legacy that will endure beyond the 100 days celebrations.



Neutralize terrorists that fail to surrender, North East Governors tell military

North East Governors' Forum has urged the military to neutralise insurgents that fail to surrender in the ongoing mass surrender by terrorists in the sub-region.

The Chairman of the North East Governors' Forum, Gov. Babagana Zulum of Borno, made the call Maiduguri at the 8th meeting of the forum.

Zulum, who lauded the military for the relative peace in the sub-region that facilitated the return of normalcy in many areas, said there was need to smoke the remnants that refused to surrender from their hideout.

"Let me use this auspicious occasion to commend our brave military in the fight against the insurgency which remains unquestionable while their determination to succeed is very glaring.

"No doubt, they have considered and acted upon a wide range of options in the fight against terrorism, thereby recording tremendous progress which has clearly indicated that the end to the insurgency in the sub region is fast approaching.

"I want to call on the Nigerian military to reach in to the enclaves of the insurgents who are not ready to lay down their arms. We must pursue them to their hideouts in the remote nooks and crannies and neutralise those who refuse to surrender," Zulum said.

The governor, who decried the negative effect of insurgency that affected the socioeconomic activities in the sub-region, said until the terrorists were subdued, efforts to improve things would be slowed down.

The governor also spoke on the

erratic rainfall recorded this year, and last year's flood which devastated food and infrastructure in the sub-region and urged for FG's intervention.

He said on their part, the north east governors had taken measures to repair some of the damage done.

"I urge us to collectively strategise and develop new adaptable farming methods to mitigate the impact of the low rainfall on crop cultivation this farming season.

"Therefore, there is the need for us to focus more on irrigation farming this time around more than ever before.

"I urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to focus on the support for irrigation farming in the sub-region in addition to its key mandate of providing critical infrastructure for the sustainable development of the sub-region."

The governor who also spoke on illegal mining, sought for partnership with Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals in curbing the activities of such miners.

He also drew the attention of the forum to the recent amendment to the 1999 Constitution which saw the removal of Power Generation and Railway Transportation from exclusive legislative list to the concurrent list.

He said that the development was important for them to exploit towards the provision of independent power supply and rail transportation in the sub-region.

Vice President Kashim Shettima graced the opening of the meeting and presentation of N15 billion palliatives to the governors by NEDC and commended the governors for their unity in facing challenges in spite of party differences.

He urged them to sustain the tempo.



Radda signs N300.6bn supplementary budget to tackle insecurity, poverty

Katsina State Governor, Dikko Radda has signed over N300.6 billion 2023 supplementary budget into law, saying that it will be used to tackle insecurity and poverty in the state.

Malam Ibrahim Kalau, the Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to the governor, disclosed this in a statement issued to newsmen in Katsina.

According to him, the budget underscores the government's commitment to combat insecurity, reduce poverty and provide assistance to the less-privileged and those in need throughout the state.

He said that the supplementary budget was presented to the governor by the state's House of Assembly led by the Speaker, Alhaji Nasir Yahya-Daura, on Friday.

According to Kaula, the move demonstrates the government's unwavering dedication to the welfare of its citizens and its determination to create a safer and more prosperous environment for all.

He added: "The supplementary budget reflects a collective effort to tackle pressing issues and uplift the lives of the people of Katsina State."

The governor, during the signing of the budget, expressed optimism that the initiative would contribute significantly to the state's development and ensure a brighter future for all the residents.

While commending the legislators for working tirelessly on the budget, Radda emphasised the importance of unity and cooperation in achieving the goals set out in the supplementary budget.

"As the government continues to work tirelessly towards the well-being of its people, it remains committed to transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilisation of resources for the betterment of the state," Kayla added.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that on Dec. 29, former Governor Aminu Masari signed the N289.6 billion budget for the 2023 fiscal year.

NAN also recalls that Gov. Radda recently requested the assembly's permission to use the budget in fighting insecurity across the state.



NORTH EAST GOVERNORS AND VP
KASHIM SHETTIMA



Cynicism is Threat to Good Governance

By Na-Allah Mohammed Zagga

No nation obsessed with pathological cynicism can expect to reach its own goals. Leaders are elected to find solutions to the challenges of governance and development. When we elected leaders, we are giving them a mandate to act in our own best interests. We can't however achieve that if we continue to undermine efforts by those leaders to interact with others around the world on initiatives intended to improve leadership skills by those who have entrusted to exercise power on our behalf. No nation is an Island; therefore interaction and cross-fertilisation of ideas is the conduct of leadership at any level.

Against this background, I'm utterly disappointed by the hostility of some notoriously cynical Nigerians who are looking for something to criticize rather than something to praise. A case in point was the recent leadership retreat held in Rwanda. Organised and financed by the UNDP, the retreat was attended by members of the Nigerian Governors Forum or their representatives. Instead of commending the significance of such important, as usual, Nigerian professional cynics are up in arms against the initiative, calling it a waste of resources, despite the fact that it was sponsored by the UNDP? What is even more annoying is the fact that these cynics didn't even make any efforts to understand the significance of such interactive events. They are behaving like the owl that sees more in darkness than in light. Oscar Wilde said that "the cynic is a person who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing."

Auraa Image Management Organisation provides a brilliant elucidation on the importance of retreats. It says: "Leadership retreats provide a break from the daily grind, allowing you to take a step back and reflect on your own personal growth. Through workshops and interactive activities, retreats offer a safe space to explore your strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. This self-reflection will foster personal growth, develop new skills, refine your leadership style, and gain a fresh perspective on your roles."

Now tell me why anyone will have a problem with Nigerian Governors attending leadership retreat in Rwanda. It is an indisputable fact that Rwanda is recognised by the international community as a model of good governance. Kigali



Igihe cy'ubukoloni
Périodes coloniales
Colonial Times

Nitwigeze duhitamo gukorerwa baje mbere mu 1895 bageza mu cy'ntambara ya mbere y'isi yose, maboko y'ingabo z'Uburigiri. Mu bwahawe n'Umuryango w'Ibihugu n'Uburundi, noneho buyobora ibyubuziguye. Nyuma yaho Rwanda-ukoloni zabo kugeza ku bwigenge. Kuba abazungu bari mu Rwanda, na bimwe byiza byunguye igihugu. Bazanye ubukirisitu, bateza imbera n'ubuvuzi, ndetse n'ibikorwa remezo. Bafunguriye umusaruro wacyo y'ubuhahirane n'amahoro.

has become a reference point for good governance. This was a country that was once engulfed by ethnic wars, but today it has become the focus of the world's interest and curiosity because of its achievements in the area of good governance such impressive infrastructure, good health care system and remarkable improvements in life expectancy. Human and infrastructure development in Rwanda is so remarkable that Rwanda is being judged by European standards in terms of healthcare, education, living standards, good roads and other key areas of development. When good governance is achieved, no one cares about ethnic differences.

So, it's not by accident that Rwanda hosted the retreat on leadership. Our Governors should be praised for participating in global efforts to improve good governance and leadership skills. We can all benefit from other ideas through interactive relationships and associations. When our minds are focused on negativity, we tend to condemn everything good thing for its own sake. When we entrust our leaders with a mandate to act in our own best interests, we shouldn't engage in pathological negativity that undermine their efforts.

China was able to lift 500 million to 800 million out of poverty. This is a feat by any standard, especially in a country with the largest population in the world. Are these human owls who see more in darkness than light saying that there nothing to learn and gain from China by sharing ideas on their experiences? Leadership is a daily learning experience and this experience gets better through interaction with others who are ahead of others in the areas of the development.

Our obsession to kill every good idea by dismissing its significance without offering better ideas is the most destructive element of cynicism. Whether you are willing to admit it or not, it's impossible to dismiss the record achieved by Rwanda in the area of good governance. Instead of being condemned, our Governors should be encouraged to be part of the every effort aimed at improving the standard of good governance. Nigeria has record of ethnic strifes and these strifes are reinforced by poverty. With good governance is in place, people won't be fighting one another. People won't care about their ethnic differences if good governance is effectively implemented. Why do some people succeed and others fail in good governance? If leaders don't interact with others to share their own experiences, how can we improve? Condemning every noble effort for its own sake of is unhelpful.

PHOTO SPEAK
**UNDP Leadership
Retreat in Rwanda**



100 Days

A Look at Governor Inuwa Yahaya's Productive 2nd Term Start and Continuity of Good Governance in Gombe

By Auwal Ilyasu

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya's return to office following his reelection has been met with high expectations from citizens of the state which bring about the continuity in hard work and progress towards the implementation of his campaign promises. Here today we evaluate the progress and accomplishments made so far in the first 100 days of his second term. We counted the gains recorded within the short time as well as the foundation he has laid to cement the successes of his first tenure to ensure the development and transformation of the state in next four years.

The Governor has made some visible progress in setting the roadmap for achieving the much-anticipated development in the areas of Economic Empowerment, Job Creation, Healthcare, Social Welfare, Education, Human Capital, and Infrastructural Development as well as Security, Good Governance, Accountability, and Agriculture. One of the significant steps taken by the administration was the provision of subsidized fertilizers, seeds, and other inputs to encourage and support farmers to participate in the 2023 wet season farming. The delivery of the 25% discounted fertilizer, along with other inputs, was to ensure food security in the state and the country as well.

While economic hardship that was occasioned by the Federal Government's decision on the removal of fuel subsidies bites hard on Nigerians across the country, Governor Yahaya reeled out a series of initiatives which included an additional 40% subsidy on the much-needed fertilizers and other farming commodities to boost food production and fight hunger.

Another notable initiative that was reeled out by the progressive governor in the 100 days under

review, was the establishment of a Special Honorary Advisory Committee (SHAC), with appointment of some seasoned technocrats and well-accomplished experts and professionals in various fields to guide the implementation of his government's developmental policies and programs in his avowed commitment to turn challenges into opportunities and provide effective solutions to the problems facing the state. According to the governor, the plan was for the team to hit the ground running in the pursuit of the development and betterment of the state.

The Governor, who had during his first tenure, invested much in the construction and rehabilitation of roads both in rural and urban areas continued with the infrastructural development of the state to ease the movement, especially for farmers and their crops. He also embarked on a series of meetings and consultations in pursuit of collaborations and partnerships towards the attainment of prosperity for Gombe State.

In the period under review, the governor met the President and Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Vice President (VP) Kashim Shettima, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, the National Security Adviser (NSA) Malam Nuhu Ribad, as well as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Sen. George Akume where issues bordering on national security and other developments were discussed. He expressed his commitment to enhancing collaboration aimed at bolstering human capital development and tackling environmental challenges in his state, the Northern region and the country at large. He also held private

discussions with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Hajiya Amina Mohammed in Gombe.

Governor Inuwa, who elevated Gombe to a development trajectory resulting in the state being ranked as the top performer in Ease of Doing Business for two consecutive years by KPMG, a reputable consultancy firm commissioned by the Federal Government, also established a Drugs and Medical Consumables Management Agency to ensure continuity in improving welfare and wellbeing of the people of Gombe State.

Apart from sending a total of 17 nominees to the state house of assembly for screening to be appointed as commissioners, beating the constitutional stipulated time frame, the progressive governor has been able to appoint key functionaries and aides to propel the wheel of governance.

Worried by the current economic challenges, the governor distributed food items as palliative to the citizens, targeting 420,000 beneficiaries starting with 30,000 households to cushion the effort of the fuel subsidy removal.

As part of the palliative measure of the state government which was initiated by the Governor, a N10,000 monthly salary increment was doled out for workers across the state and local government services. The gesture was described as a clear demonstration of the governor's commitment to the welfare of his people (Gwambawa).

He has launched numerous programs to bring about a tangible change and a more promising outlook for the people of Gombe state. To showcase his plans to reform and remodel the state's higher education system,

“Governor Inuwa Yahaya also reeled out plans to shore up manpower in the state's health sector by recruiting additional 200 personnel to revamp the system and ensure efficient and better service delivery”

the Governor constituted a visitation panel to evaluate the current state of the state's institutions of higher education and provide recommendations for future enhancements.

Additionally, in his first 100 days of his stay in office, Governor Inuwa Yahaya also reeled out plans to shore up manpower in the state's health sector by recruiting additional 200 personnel to revamp the system and ensure efficient and better service delivery. To put the multi-billion naira newly completed ultra-modern mega motor park to use and drive benefits for the state, Governor Yahaya who inspected the facility, set up a task force to facilitate the smooth transition of the operations from three major motor parks in the state capital to the mega park in Gombe metropolis.

When a heavy downpour washed away the road and one of the bridges linking Gombe and Bauchi states, the governor of Gombe state, rushed to the scene where hundreds of the road users were stranded. He called on the federal government to ensure a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction of the federal highway to permanently address the recurrent road washouts and collapse of bridges on the road which has an extension to Borno, Adamawa, and Taraba states.

The progress and successes made by the administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya in its first one hundred days in office have provided a new sense of hope and optimism to the people of the state. The achievements have been nothing but commendable, and proof that his vision for the state is inspiring.



Food security

Governor Abba Yusuf launches multiple ISDB/LLF funded interventions for ten thousand Kano farmers

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf of Kano state, recently launched agricultural interventions consisting agro processing facilities and farm inputs, for 6, 200 smallholder farmers, through agricultural associations, under the Kano State Agro Pastoral Development Project/ Sasakawa Africa Association Crop Value chain intervention.

Funded by the Islamic Development Bank, IsDB, the Lives and Livelihood Funds, LLF, and the government of Kano state, the support, which aims to strengthen agricultural productivity comprises units of Power tillers, Hammer mills, Rice mills Rice hullers, Rice threshers, Maize threshers, Traddle pumps and Multi crop threshers, among other things.

Equally, the governor flagged off the second phase of Kano State Agro Pastoral Development Project's Ram Fattening and Small Ruminants Reproduction schemes, for 2, 357 women and youths.

Small ruminants play a vital role in the food and nutrition security of millions of poor rural dwellers in Kano, Nigeria's most populous state, serving as sources of meat, milk and skin.

Also launched by the governor during the occasion was the distribution of free Aflasafe, a bioprotectant for use on groundnut farms to reduce aflatoxin contamination, to 1, 200 farmers, under the Kano State Agro Pastoral Development Project/ KNARDA Legumes Value chain intervention. Aflatoxins can cause liver cancer and other health challenges in human beings.

Speaking during the well attended ceremony in Kano, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf said the interventions are in tandem with his government's resolve to improve lives and livelihoods.

"Our target is to achieve food sufficiency and sustained employment generation to our teeming youth through agricultural activities, development of additional cultivable land and increase in livestock production, to make our economy very resilient", Gov. Abba maintained.

The governor restated his administration's resolve to revamp agriculture in view of its importance to the economy, the governor expressed appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank and the Lives and Livelihood Funds for their support towards making life better for citizens of the state.



The Managing Director of KNARDA, Dr. Faruk Kurawa told the governor that target beneficiaries of the interventions are mainly peasants from the 44 local government areas of the state, pointing out the support is a tip of the iceberg, as the state government is committed to improving the wellbeing of the citizenry.

KSADP's State Project Coordinator, Ibrahim Garba Muhammad stressed that since inception, the Kano Agro – Pastoral Development Project invested heavily in sustainable development of livestock and selected crop value chains, pointing out that the objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation and strengthening of food security of low income earners.



Gov. Abba Yusuf



Sanwo-Olu swears in 37 commissioners, special advisers

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has sworn in 37 cabinet members made up of Commissioners and Special Advisers.

Sanwo-Olu during the swearing-in ceremony held at Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Lagos, urged the new members of the executive council to ensure that every decision taken had the best interest of the people.

According to him, the expectations of our people have never been higher than they are right now, therefore, doing your best to meet them is not an option.

“Lagos is the centre of excellence; your work must be excellent in every ramification.

“Working together, carrying the people along, keeping your feet on the ground, and ensuring that every decision you take has the best interest of our people at the heart of it, are the surest ways to succeed,” he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that 23 commissioners and 14 special advisers were sworn in.

The lists of the commissioners and special advisers are; Lawal Pedro (SAN) – Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice; Bolaji Dada – Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation; Prof. Akin Abayomi – Commissioner for Health; and Tokunbo Wahab – Commissioner for Environment.

Gbenga Omotoso – Commissioner for Information and Strategy; Ibrahim Layode – Commissioner for Home Affairs; Mobolaji Ogunlende – Commissioner for Youths and Social Development; and Dayo Alebiosu-Bush – Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure.

Abisola Olusanya – Commissioner for Agriculture; Gbenga Oyerinde – Commissioner for Special Duties;

Toke Benson-Awoyinka – Commissioner for Tourism;

Osiyemi Oluwaseun – Commissioner for Transportation; and Moruf Akinderu-Fatai – Commissioner for Housing.

Tunbosun Alake – Commissioner for Innovation, Science and Technology; Afolabi Ayantayo – Commissioner for Establishment, Training and Pension; and Kayode Roberts – Commissioner for Local Government Affairs.

Mosopefoluwa George – Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget; Folashade Ambrose-Medem – Commissioner for Industry, Trade and Investment; and Jamiu Alli-Balogun – Commissioner for Basic Education.

Akinyeri Ajigbotafe – Commissioner for Wealth Creation; Olumide Oluyinka – Commissioner for Physical Planning;

Abayomi Oluyomi – Commissioner for Finance; and Tolani Akibu – Commissioner for Tertiary Education

Others are, Rotimi Fashola – Special Adviser, Agriculture; Abiola Olowu – Special Adviser, Commerce, Industry and Investment; and Sola Giwa – Special Adviser, Transportation.

Olajide Babatunde – Special Adviser, Electronic Geographical Information System (EGIS); Idris Aregbe – Special Adviser, Tourism; Dr Oreoluwa Finnih-Awokoya – Special Adviser, Health; and Adekunle Olayinka – Special Adviser, Works and Infrastructure.

AbdulKabir Ogungbo – Special Adviser, Taxation and Pension; Bola Olumegbon – Special Adviser, Central Business District; and Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu – Special Adviser, Environment.

Afolabi Tajudeen – Special Adviser, Political and Civic Engagement; Barakat Odunuga-Bakare – Special Adviser, Housing; Yekini Agbaje – Special Adviser, Rural Development and Chieftaincy Affairs; and Iyabode Ayoola – Special Adviser, Central Internal Audit.

Speaking on behalf of the new cabinet members, the Commissioner for Information and Strategy thanked the Lagos State Government for the opportunity given to serve.

He pledged that they would be committed to their duties.

“I assure you on behalf of my colleagues that we will make you proud and not disappoint you,” Omotoso said.

NAN reports that present at the event are; Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State; his Deputy Dr Obafemi Hamzat; Secretary to the State Government, Mrs Abimbola Saliu-Hundeyin; Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola; and Chief of Staff, Tayo Ayinde.

Others are, Minister for Solid Minerals Dele Alake; members of the Governor’s Advisory Council, Body of Permanent Secretaries, top government functionaries, traditional rulers, political chieftains, party faithful, amongst others.



Subsidy removal:

Zulum unveils 70 buses for metro transport, civil servants



Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum has unveiled a new fleet of 70 buses for metro transport and to ease the movement of civil servants to their various places of work.

The initiative aims to alleviate the burden of commuting for both government employees and the general public.

The unveiling ceremony was held at the premises of Borno Express terminus along Kano-Maiduguri road.

The new fleet of buses, specially acquired for this purpose comprised of standard-sized buses and larger buses to accommodate a greater number of passengers.

Each vehicle is equipped with modern amenities, including air-conditioning facilities and comfortable seating arrangements to ensure a pleasant commuting experience.

Making his remarks, Governor Zulum noted that this second phase of the intervention in the transport sector is to alleviate suffering due to the removal of fuel subsidy.

The governor further said that 30 out of the total 70 buses will be dedicated to conveying civil servants to their places of work from 7:00 am to 9:00 am pick ups and return 3:00 pm to 5:00 from Mondays

to Fridays.

"I want you to ensure that these buses start operations tomorrow morning (Tuesday) unflinchingly. You should however be mindful of our situation and ensure that you bring down the cost of transportation. Let us consider it as a social service and not as a revenue generation drive," Zulum said to Borno express management.

The governor commended the management for transforming the face of Maiduguri terminus and improving the welfare of both the serving and retired staff.

"Since he assumed office, the General Manager has been paying entitlements of his staff at due time. This is very commendable," Zulum said.

Meanwhile, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum also unveiled newly constructed structures and remodeled buildings at the terminus.

The structures are to serve accommodation for travelers, and for operations of businesses such as restaurants and offices.

Conducting the Governor round, the General Manager, Mohammed Grema noted that all the construction projects were funded with internal revenue generated by Borno Express company.

Gov Sule approves payment of palliative to Nasarawa workers, pensioners

Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, has approved the immediate payment of N10,000 and N5,000 to civil servants and pensioners in the state respectively, as palliative for six months.

The directive also include paying the same amount for workers and pensioners at the local government level.

Governor Sule, who gave the directive after meeting with labour leaders, at the Government House Lafia, said the measure was aimed at cushioning the effect of the removal of fuel subsidy.

He directed the state Accountant General, Head of Civil Service, Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government, Community Development and Chieftaincy Affairs, Director General, Nasarawa State Pension Bureau, as well as the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON), to liaise together with a view to commencing the payment of the palliative with immediately effect.

The meeting was convened at the instance of the Governor to harmonize views on the worker's palliative following feelers that the unions may have different views on what they want for the palliative.

The governor, took time to explain in detail the idea behind the palliative, especially the N5bn given to each state by the Federal Government.

"The arrangement for the palliative is very simple. The Federal Government will give us N4bn in cash, as well as N1bn in cash in order to cushion the hardship created by the removal of fuel subsidy.

"The one billion is going to be in form of a loan which the state is going to pay back. The N4bn is going to be divided into two, N2.08bn would be borne by the Federal Government, N1.02bn is by the state. It's a grant and loan combined together. Every state has taken N2bn so far," he disclosed.

He further explained that even at that, there are conditions tied to the money given by the Federal Government, on how the money is to be expended.



Gov. Mbah flags off palliative distribution in Enugu

Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, has flagged off the distribution of palliatives in Enugu State, ordering the immediate delivery of 52,000 bags of rice and 52,000 bags of maize to the urban and rural poor in the state.

The palliatives include 200 bags of rice and 200 bags of maize to each of the 260 wards in the state.

Mbah, however, said the palliatives were part of the short-term strategies to fighting poverty, saying the medium and long-term plans of his administration remained to eradicate poverty in the state in line with his manifesto.

He said: "Part of our vision is to eradicate poverty in Enugu State. And we knew that at the time we were saying that, there was a high rate of poverty in the state.

"But, a few days into our administration, we have had to contend with a number of policies initiated by the Federal Government such as the removal of the petrol subsidy, and also the unification of the foreign exchange rates.

"What that meant was that the people we have in our poverty bracket suddenly expanded because their purchasing power declined drastically.

"As a government that is pro-people, we have the quick fix or short-term strategy to reduce the pressure on our people, while still bearing in mind the long-term goal of eradicating poverty, making sure that we introduce strategic programmes that would in the long run get our people constructively engaged, and make a living from such engagements.

"So, what we have simply come to do here today is to present palliatives to the people of Enugu State, particularly our rural poor, urban poor and our downtrodden.

"We have also put a structure in place to make that happen by decentralising the distribution, involving local council leaderships, the town unions, the religious institutions, among others

Let me also say that in the exercise so far, the state governor has played his own role and we hope that the directives he has given will be followed so that these items will get to the most vulnerable population



such that once we leave here, these items will begin to get distributed across the 17 local governments from today."

The governor also announced the procurement of busses to subsidise transportation and enable the people to go about their socio-economic activities with ease, recalling that his administration had earlier set up committees to verify and clear all arrears of pensions and gratuities owed public servants in the state. This he said would ensure that the elderly and most vulnerable were able to live a meaningful life in the midst of the economic hardship.

Also speaking at the event, the Chairman of the Enugu State Chapter of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria, Hon. Okechukwu Edeh, who is also a member of the state palliatives committee, assured that the items would trickle down to the poor immediately.

"As the ALGON Chairman, I promise you that I will work with my colleagues to make sure that these get to the downtrodden. It is not for everybody; it is for the poor, and it must get to them based on the expanded social register that has been compiled", he said.

Meanwhile, different sections of the beneficiaries have commended the Enugu State Government for transparency and inclusiveness in the management of the palliatives.

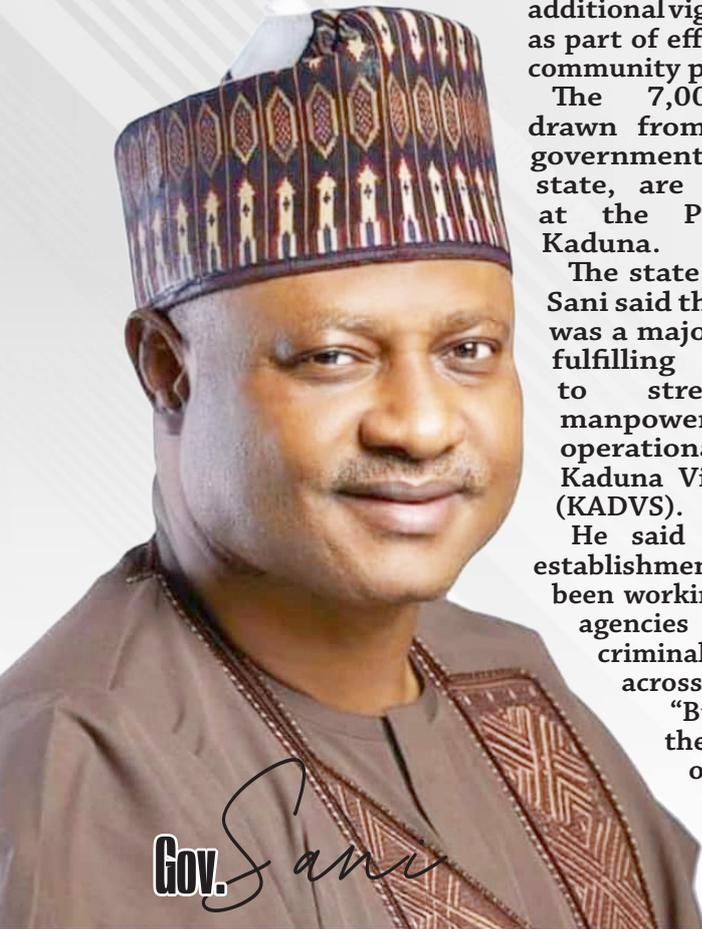
Speaking, the Chairman of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, Enugu State chapter, Onyebuchi Mbah, said: "I wish to say kudos to the current administration in Enugu State because they deemed it fit to practice inclusiveness, involving the most vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities in this exercise. I want them to continue in that direction.

"Let me also say that in the exercise so far, the state governor has played his own role and we hope that the directives he has given will be followed so that these items will get to the most vulnerable population"

Also speaking, Mrs Chika Nwankwo, Councillor representing Awgu Ward I in Awgu LGA described the palliatives as "sweet news to the poor in the rural areas where I come from".

"The poor, the sick, and many who cannot afford one square meal in a day are eagerly waiting for us to return with the goodies", she stated.

Insecurity: Kaduna govt trains 7,000 vigilantes



Kaduna state government has flagged-off the training of 7,000 additional vigilante members as part of efforts to enhance community policing.

The 7,000 personnel drawn from all the local government areas of the state, are being trained at the Police College, Kaduna.

The state governor, Uba Sani said that the training was a major step towards fulfilling his promise to strengthen the manpower and overall operational capacity of Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS).

He said that since its establishment, KADVS had been working with security agencies to degrade criminal elements across the state.

“But we face the challenge of inadequate personnel to successfully wage the

battle against bandits and other criminal elements.

“It is for this reason that our administration decided to recruit 7,000 personnel into the Kaduna Vigilance Service,” he said.

Sani said that those recruited were thoroughly screened by local government chairmen, traditional and religious leaders, key stakeholders and security agencies in their local government areas.

“The screening was very thorough. We have here energetic young men and women of transparent honesty who are committed to securing our local communities,” he said.

Sani also explained that KADVS was a complementary security outfit that has been assisting security agencies with actionable intelligence.

According to him, with their knowledge of the local environment, bandits will now have no hiding place.

Sani charged the newly recruited personnels to show seriousness and commitment during the training.

Katsina Gov't Donates N20m To Families Of Slain Vigilantes

Katsina State government has disbursed the sum of N20m to 33 families of local vigilante members who died in the line of duty.

The State governor, Umar Dikko Radda, at the official presentation of cash to the victims' families in the State at the weekend said that no fewer than 10 vigilantes sustained various degree of injuries.

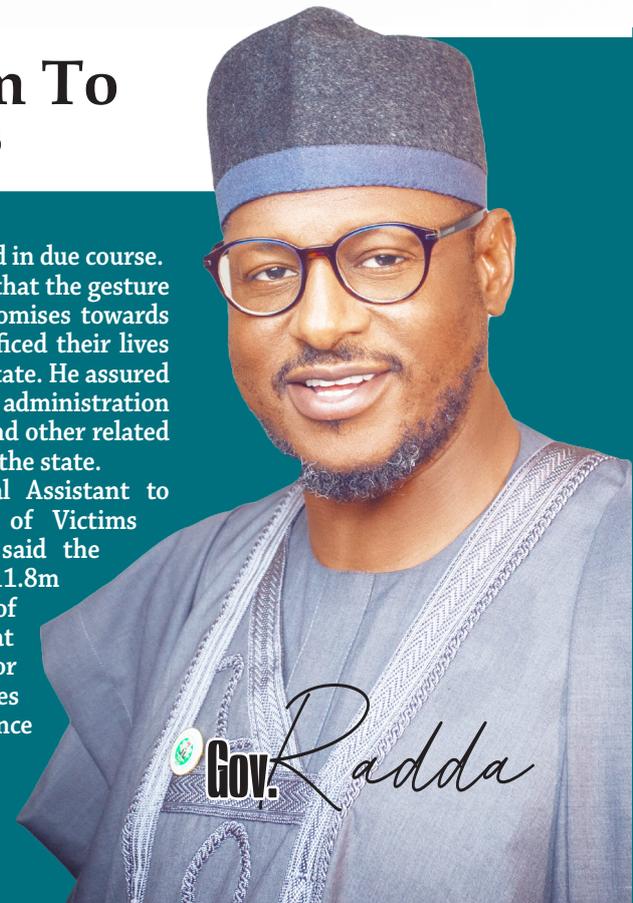
The family of a military personnel who lost his life, received N1m.

The Governor who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, SSG, Abdullahi Faskari, added that some of the beneficiaries would receive N500,000 cash, reiterating that some members of the public who sustained injuries during the recent bandit attacks across the affected

areas would also be considered in due course.

Mallam Radda maintained that the gesture was part of his campaign promises towards appreciating those who sacrificed their lives and comfort in securing the state. He assured the commitment of his administration towards fighting insecurity and other related crimes and criminality across the state.

Earlier, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Support of Victims of Banditry, Sa'idu Danja, said the government had spent over N11.8m for the treatment of victims of banditry attacks, adding that over 80 victims were treated for free at various health facilities and about 40 of them had since been discharged.





PLATEAU'S *Transformation*

Gov. Mutfwang Cracks Down on Illegal Taxes, Ignites Scholarships

A wave of change is sweeping through Plateau State as Governor Caleb Mutfwang takes a stand against unauthorized tax collection across the 17 Local Government Areas. The resolute decision was announced during an ongoing retreat for newly inducted members of the State Executive Council, political appointees, and other key figures, hosted at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) in Kuru, Jos.

In a statement conveyed by his Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere, Governor Mutfwang emphasized the paramount importance of ending revenue diversions and unlawful tax practices. He underscored

that tax collection is a fundamental duty of the government, and he's determined to wield his political influence to reshape the state's revenue structure. He declared that "roadblocks to revenue collection within Plateau State are intolerable under our current administration."

Governor Mutfwang's commitment extends beyond just fiscal matters. He pledged to breathe new life into the State's scholarship program, even amid financial constraints. The plight of underprivileged students will be alleviated through this initiative, underlining his commitment to holistic progress.

Addressing the participants, the Governor commended the Ministry of Transportation for enhancing air travel links between Abuja, Lagos, and Jos. Additionally, he shared exciting

plans to revive the railway line connecting Jos North to Bukuru in Jos South. This strategic move is poised to not only provide citizens with significant advantages but also fuel economic growth across the region.



Gov Inuwa Releases N556m For Grants To GO-CARES Beneficiaries

The general manager of CSDA, Malam Haruna Ahmed Imam disclosed this during the commissioning of a block of classrooms and offices built by the agency through the Palta Women Group at Walin Kwami Primary School in Palta, Kwami local government area of the state.

He revealed that so far, under the second phase of the programme, CSDA has constructed 17 blocks of classrooms, provided furniture and constructed 15 primary healthcare centres in several parts of the state.

He stated that 30 toilets, 23 boreholes and one earth rain water harvester were also provided by the agency.

He added that the agency has also provided nutritional complementary foods to 4,000 beneficiaries and appreciated the state governor for the prompt release of funds and commitment towards the GO-CARES programme.

The general manager congratulated the Palta community for benefiting from the project and advised them to take ownership of the project through proper maintenance.

The district head of Kwami, Musa Abdu thanked Governor Yahaya for providing dividends of democracy to the people especially through the GO-CARES project which he said is touching the lives of the poor and vulnerable.

Gombe State Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya has released the sum of N556 million for the implementation of the second batch of intervention projects of the Go-Cares programme.



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