

The Executive

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SUMMARY



2023 Induction

Review





UNICEF vaccinates 30m Nigerian children in 5 years

The Communication Specialist, Mr Geoffrey Njoku, made the assertion on Monday in Kano during a two-day media dialogue.

The dialogue was on UNICEF's new country programme 2023-2027 and the status of implementation of the Child Rights Law (2023) in states.

According to Njoku, the number of vaccinated children is part of the organisation's country programme result for 2018-2022.

He added that the vaccinations were done through integrated campaigns against life threatening diseases.

"Fifty eight million children were vaccinated against polio; also we achieved zero dose strategy in 100 local government areas to reach underserved children across 18 states.

"Twenty two million children also received two doses of Vitamin A in 2022."

Njoku also said that the organisation facilitated birth registration for 7.4 million children under the age of five.

He also said that 2.8 million

children living in conflict affected areas received psychosocial support.

On education, he said that the organisation supported 1.5 million girls to enter schools using a new evidence-based approach, while five million children continued learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This, he said, was achieved using radio, television and home based materials.

He, however, said that in the new 2023-2027 programme for Nigeria, its vision is "to ensure the rights of every child in Nigeria especially the most excluded, to survive, thrive, learn, be protected and develop to his or her full potential".

It also hopes to free them from poverty in a safe and sustainable climate and environment.

The five-year strategic plan which began in January is to help Nigerian children who are left behind in developmental strides meet up with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

The organisation, intends to achieve the plan using the four major components of child survival (Health, Polio, Nutrition, Water,

Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and HIV/AIDS), basic education, child protection and social policy and gender equality.

The plan has Universal Health Coverage (UHC), reduction of maternal neonatal mortality and rapid response to public health outbreaks as goals.

"By 2027, we want to have over one million additional children immunised (zero-dose), 15,000 additional community health workers trained, over 1,700 Primary Health Care facilities in 14 states meet PHC minimum standards.

"We also want to have state level and national capacities built to prepare and respond to public health emergencies.

"On nutrition, we project that we would have 50 million children aged six to 59 months receive Vitamin A twice a year.

"Also, 12.5 million women (50 per cent of pregnant women) receive more than 90 iron-folic acid tablets or micronutrient supplements in 19 states."

In the education sector, the organisation said it planned to support 10 million children to access formal or non-formal education by 2027.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the organisation had said that many children in Nigeria were left behind in many areas.

It also said that the nation had the world's highest number of out-of-school children as an estimated 10.1 million of primary age school children were not in school.

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NGF: Dedicated to Nigeria's march forward

Anthonny Onyemaechi Elumelu CFR. Tony Elumelu, as he is fondly referred to, is a Nigerian economist and philanthropist. He chairs Heirs Holdings, Transcorp and is the founder of The Tony Elumelu Foundation. His reputation in youth empowerment is legendary. In 2020, Elumelu was listed on Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world.

Whenever such a person breaks his chain of engagements or whenever you see his likes falling over themselves to seek to support any platform, that platform has, axiomatically speaking, arrived. That is what presented itself to the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Induction, 2023, the NGF's dominant parade of stars, which takes place once every election circle when batons change hands between the nation's presidents and their successors and in many cases when Governors leave, and Governors come.

The 2023 NGF Induction brought together the best and brightest minds in Nigeria and around the world, to share experiences with Governors who were stepping into office and those who were returning after having served their first four years. It is usually a privilege for governors to experience that eye-opening function where global leaders come together to offer words on marble. Not that those who enter office under the staggered election mechanism are excluded from the event, but it normally is most exhilarating when you begin with a handbook of a collection of speeches from among the best of the best.

This year, the NGF brought the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Amina J Mohammed, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, astute Kenyan politician, Professor Paul Nyongo, FORAF boss, Jean Pierre Elon Bassi, several former Governors from the United States and the sitting Mayor of New York City, first black politician to occupy that office, Mr Eric Adam. Technocrats, diplomats or captains of industry are not excluded. Their speeches are carefully stored in the NGF archives and can be made available on

request. The parade did not disappoint. Terry McAuliffe, who served as governor of Virginia from 2014 to 2018, gave a good account of himself. Again, while speaking McAuliffe emphasized access to quality health care, housing and educational opportunities, as *sin qua non* for incoming governors.

The man whose ideas are moving Kenya to a middle income economy by 2030, Professor Peter Anyang Nyongo, Governor of the Kisumu County of Kenya spoke eloquently at the induction. As a Kenyan Minister of National Planning and Development he implemented a Kenyan blueprint for poverty reduction and wealth creation. He inspired all.

Also on queue to deliberate with the Governors was Prof Ali Pate who was, only months before, selected to head the global vaccine giant, GAVI, which he relinquished before the job even began. All these are besides the array of former Chairmen of the Forum, including Dr Bukola Saraki, Nigeria's former Senate President, Chief Lucky Igbinedion, Senator Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar and Dr Kayode Fayemi among many other speakers. It is important to point out, without equivocation, the contributions of former Governors where they spoke and admonished incoming Governors on their lives after office. Dr Babangida Aliyu formerly of Niger State spoke of the functional and dysfunctional human organs which evoked rousing applause just like Senator Dankwambo former Governor of Gombe State who rued the coldness of his phone numbers once he dropped out of office. These are stories for the archives, that any Governor wondering what becomes of life after office needs to hear, from the horse's mouth.

Although the Induction is a subnational event, the NGF stretched long enough to invite global players, to set the ball rolling in the confines of global best practices. Most of the event is captured in pictures, which makes this edition of the magazine more pictorial than editorial. A picture speaks but a thousand words.

This edition, it is imperative to mention, comprises of other side slides like the meeting

of the Nigeria Governors Spouses Forum. The governors' spouses engaged prominent women in the country and expanded the conversations around matters that once seemed domesticated.

The induction ended with the Primary Healthcare Challenge where performing Governors were awarded prizes for elevating healthcare delivery in their domains. This aspect is carefully whittled down in this edition of the induction review edition due to an NGF internal code of no victor, no vanquished. International donor organizations that anchored the award were in fully attendance.

Yet, the NGF makes no bones about the fact that the induction, is a key item that gives it a place in the global arena. With all of Nigeria's key global functionaries at its induction, the NGF still strongly participated in other activities, whose dates coincided with the Induction. Its role at conferences organized by actors in that field, to map the SDGs and MDGs for greater efficiency in the sector is captured most succinctly here from the perspectives of the Stake holder relations sector of the NGF.

Your Excellencies, inside is also a story of the change of batons at the helm of affairs of the Forum where the interim Chairman, Rt Hon Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, handed over the mantle of leadership of the NGF to Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq of Kwara State. His profile is in this edition. The drive on which he intends to lead with the NGF has just begun.

Did I say he hit the ground running? Indeed, In this edition, the Chairman of the NGF was in Ghana for the thirtieth Afrexim Bank conference. See in pictures, so also is the chairman's visit to the president and another to Senator Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar a former Chairman of the Forum.

Finally, the NGF wishes to thank all the institutions and agencies that came to its aid with sponsorships in any material particular. They constitute the agents of change that combine to march Nigeria forward.

The magazine is so star-studded with mostly people who need no introduction.

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A New Chairman on the Block

There is already ample evidence on the ground to show that if the flow has been good the new NGF Chairman and Governor of Kwara State, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq is a disciple of continuity.

When he was unanimously voted Chairman by the Governors of the Forum, he pledged to continue the good works that his predecessors had already started and pursue to the limits whatever programs he met on the ground.

Evidence of that is in this edition where he undertook a visit to one of the former Chairmen of the Forum, Dr Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar to establish the strengthening of bonds between the former Chairman who had just gallantly lost the battle to become the President of the tenth senate.

That gesture showed that the NGF, regardless of the outcome of any situation in the country would continue to embrace its own for the progress of the country. In the same breath, the NGF Chairman was in company of his immediate predecessor, Dr John Kayode Fayemi in Ghana where they attended the 30th Afrexim Conference in Ghana.

AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (born 5 February 1960) is a Nigerian politician, who serves as governor of Kwara State since 2019. He was previously the CEO of First Fuels Limited. He won the 2019 governorship election in the Kwara State. a strict believer in youth empowerment, in 2021 he introduces KwaraLEARN a basic education project to empower teachers. This idea falls in line with the core mandate of the NGF which has education and five other sectoral compartments as its core mandate areas. The others include security, agriculture, health, the economy, and infrastructure.

–Early life–

The NGF Chairman was born in Ilorin West Local Government. AbdulRahman is the son of Alh. A. G. F. AbdulRazaq SAN., the first northern lawyer in Nigeria.

He attended Capital School, Kaduna between 1966 and 1968; Bishop Smith Memorial School Ilorin between 1970 and 1971; and Government College Kaduna where he is said to have earned his West African Senior School Certificate Examination in 1976.

He joined politics in 1999 when Nigeria returned to democracy. He was elected as governor of Kwara State at the 2019 governorship election held on 9 March 2019 and sworn in on 29 May 2019. He is the 9th Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum.



NGF Chairman Rt Hon Aminu Waziri Tambuwal's remarks at the Nigeria Governors' Forum Induction Gala Event

Let me start by expressing best wishes to all Your Excellencies for the next phase of your leadership journeys as Executive Governors. The exercise of leadership, in the ways that you are now positioned, is no easy task. But it is probably one of the most significant life-time opportunities you have to make great difference to society.

Amidst all the pomp and glamour, there is a reality out there, for which you have responsibility to shape in a positive direction in your States.

There are high expectations from your citizens, voters, party, and your families and friends.

You will be confronted with multiple competing priorities, some immediate, others longer term.

You will be faced with choices of your immediate policy and implementation teams, and how to manage stakeholders and appropriate losses, i.e., who gets and who loses.

To paraphrase New York's Governor Mario Cuomo, while you campaigned in poetry, now you are expected to govern in prose, to fulfil your numerous promises to the people.

You will do all of these in the face of a turbulent global economic and political context; regional and domestic conflicts; tough macroeconomic circumstances; and a backlog of challenging issues such as mass poverty, youth unemployment, and widespread health and education deprivations, to mention a few.

So, in this situation, why do you prioritize health, and especially primary health care and immunization?

First, access to health is a fundamental human right. Every one of your citizens deserves to survive and thrive, free of preventable diseases, and to have access to basic health care when in need.

Second, health is fundamental to building the grey matter infrastructure and accumulation of human capital. I doubt many in this room would be as successful as they are now if they had repeated ill health from infectious diseases and malnutrition in their childhood.

From maternal health during gestation, to birth, early childhood, and transitions through school years and adulthood, good health and nutrition ensures that the grey matter or brain is well developed, and individual human capital is accumulated overtime to be successful adults.

Third, and related to the above, investing in health, especially vaccination, improves educational attainment, learning outcomes, life-time income, social mobility, and by extending financial risk protection reduce poverty from health spending by families. Those who are reached by vaccinations can be reached with other essential services.

Fourth, there is also a value chain in the health sector, whose development can contribute to economic growth.

Health is not only a by-product of economic development, rather it is a key driver for inclusive economic growth and development.

Fifth, investing in health is linked closely with national and economic security. As we saw with disease outbreaks like Ebola in 2014, and most recently with COVID-19, where a health crisis engulfed the world and led to massive economic



contraction, the fallout from which we are still experiencing.

Finally, because health matters affect everyone, it offers you as politicians an important avenue to reestablish the compact between the State and its citizens, to gain their trust, and earn political capital.

Primary health care and immunization present some of the best-buys for public spending.

For every N1 spent on immunization there is at least N26 in value generated, in addition to saving lives and reducing human suffering.

For every mother who has access to quality Antenatal Care and Safe delivery, you are investing in the next generation, through their infants and enabling a mother to live and nurture her child.

But how do you signal prioritization of health in your agenda?

I argue that beyond supportive speeches, you will signal importance of health in your agendas by ensuring competent individuals with the right values are in your health teams.

You can articulate clear policy priorities in health and the results to be expected.

For example, you may make tangible measurable goals like saving 100,000 lives from preventable causes of diseases and death, from which you base your

choices of the primary health care approach as foundational for your health policy. This will mean access to quality basic health care services, such as immunization, leaving no one behind, stamping out disease outbreaks, improving community health workforce and engaging community and traditional leaders and women groups.

It will follow then that your governments signal the prioritization by allocating budgets efficiently and releasing the resources as at when due, including co-financing obligations.

Focusing on the primary health care approach by default is cost effective, providing basic services for the many.

But primary health care approach does not mean cheap health care for the poor.

And, well functioning and staffed hospitals, diagnostic facilities fit in within an integrated health system with primary care at the foundation.

Reducing leakages and wastage of resources can expand your constrained fiscal spaces.

Beyond allocating budget and releasing resources, your visible presence and voice, gives direction and signals to all leaders and people in your state that you care about the health of women, children, adolescents, elderly, and wider population.

For your external partners, they are all here to support you.

Whether it is the UN Agencies like WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, or Global Health Initiatives like Gavi, Global Fund, Foundations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, or Bilateral entities like USAID, UK, JICA and others, they are all here to support you.

But you must own and lead in the efforts.

No one should pretend that they care about your people more than you do.

The fate of Nigerians lies in the hands of its leaders at all levels.

There are no externally driven solutions that would work by themselves, without adaptation to our local



context.

All the global development partners have good intentions, but they may not understand the local context.

Hence,

they also need humility and patience to learn, so that they can be more effective and efficient in their support.

The development agenda must be owned locally. And you must strive to align the priorities of external actors with your people-oriented priorities. This does not mean you outsource the priorities to the external actors.

External actors can provide you technical assistance to analyze, develop tools, prioritize, mobilize, and implement, but they should be based on what makes sense to you as well.

Your priorities are set your strategic plans and expenditure frameworks and you must insist that the partners to align with your plans. Because as elected leaders in Government, you are the ones responsible to the people and to be held accountable if you fail.

Where there are gaps in government systems, you may use external partners to strengthen those systems, not to substitute them.

You will need to demonstrate your commitments by meeting your own obligations, a crucial means to establishing credibility.

As your States show good results, external partners will be more enthused to mobilize additional support for you.

Your teams will need to exude transparency and relentlessly demonstrate and hold each other accountable with the partners.

I also hope the external partners will be more transparent with your teams.

Accountability is not a one-way street, your partners will hold you accountable, and you must also hold them accountable.

And all parties should remember accountability to the people, whether here in Nigeria, or the taxpayers from partner countries.

Finally, in your interface with global development partners, remember that the colonial era is long gone. Your external partners are your partners, not masters. Respectful, dignified collaboration requires no one side to be always the supplicant.

And do not forget the local civil society, the Nigerian national technical assistance providers, who have contextual knowledge and will remain with you for longer. They should not be ignored because they are local, they have important contributions to make.

At the end, always be open to learn new things, from within the country, other States, other countries in Africa, Asia, as well as globally.

I am confident that if your Excellencies pursue the agenda of prioritizing health, despite all prevailing challenges, the results will become evident, your voters will be happy, your partners will double up on their support, and almighty God will reward you.

Thanks very much and I wish you God's speed!





Lagos Govt, FirstBank partner to boost healthcare delivery in Ije- Ododo community

In a bid to boost healthcare delivery to thousands of residents, the Lagos State Government has built and unveiled a new Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in Ije-Ododo Community, Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), under the Ojo Council Area of the state.

The facility, which has been under construction since 2021 in partnership with First Bank of Nigeria Limited, was unveiled in the community in an opening ceremony attended by the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, representatives of the state government, the state Primary Health Care Board, community leaders, as well as traditional rulers of Iba, Ije-Ododo and Ijagemo, among others.

In his welcome address, the governor, who was represented by Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Mrs. Folashade Sherifat Jaji, said the opening of the health facility under the SSG's One Community At A Time (OCAAT) initiative, formed part of activities to herald the inauguration of his second term in office on Monday, May 29, 2023.

Maintaining that the attention being paid to the healthcare sector was deliberate to ensure a healthier populace, he said the state government under his watch would deploy more resources to the health sector for easier access to health services, especially in underserved communities.

He enjoined members of the community to take full advantage of the health benefits that will be provided in the facility and charged them to take ownership and protect the assets and the facility at all times.

Speaking, Permanent Secretary, Primary Healthcare Board, Dr. Ibrahim Mustapha, commended First Bank of Nigeria Limited

and the contractor for completing the project within the stipulated time frame, but also requested more assistance to make the facility functional by providing equipment and other necessary medical gadgets.

On his part, Chief Executive Officer of FirstBank, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, who was represented by Mr. Seyi Oyefeso, expressed satisfaction at the successful completion of the project, adding that it was gratifying to know that no fewer than 10,000 residents of Ije-Ododo and neighbouring communities will have access to primary healthcare services in the facility.

He said as a responsible corporate social organisation, the bank's intervention in the primary healthcare sector aligned with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approach anchored on citizenship, impact management, strategic education, as well as the health and welfare of the immediate and remote communities of Lagos State and other parts of the country.

In his words: "The completion and opening of the primary healthcare centre is to ensure that Ije-Ododo community will become healthier and wealthier since health is wealth."

In his goodwill message, the Baale of Ije-Ododo, Dr. Abu Jelili Ododo, who spoke in company of the Oba of Iba and Baale of Ijagemo, applauded Governor Sanwo-Olu for the timely completion of the healthcare centre and appealed for the construction of the Ijegun-Ije-Ododo-Abule-Ado road to link the Badagry Expressway, adding that it was high time the Ije-Ododo Community was provided with a motorable road to ease the sufferings of residents.

Responding to the request for the road, Jaji assured that the Lagos State government under Sanwo-Olu was poised to build the road but that the project suffered some setback due to agitations by some members of the community over the location of the project, adding however, that as soon as the governor settles down for his second tenure, construction work will begin on the road.

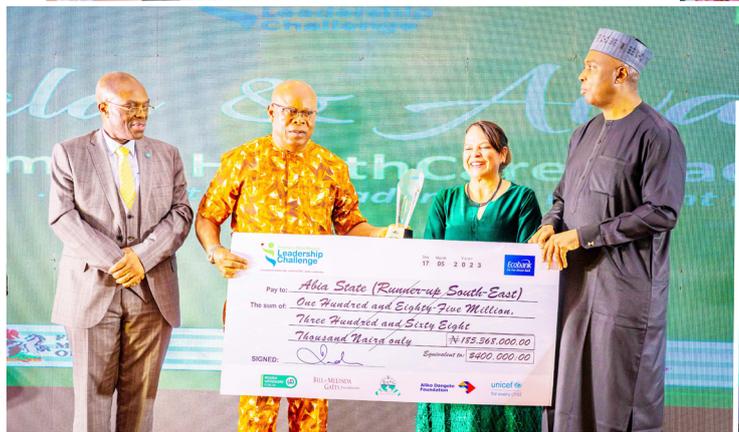
PHOTO SPEAK FROM
2023 NGF Gala/Awards Night



Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **FC7 (Runner-up North-Central)**
 The sum of: **One Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Naira only** ₦185,368,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$400,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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 UNICEF for every child



Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Bambara State (Runner-up North-West)**
 The sum of: **One Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Naira only** ₦185,368,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$400,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Abia State (Runner-up South-East)**
 The sum of: **One Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Naira only** ₦185,368,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$400,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Osun State (Runner-up South-West)**
 The sum of: **One Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Naira only** ₦185,368,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$400,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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2023 INDUCTION GALA NIGHT



Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Solo State (Runner-up South-South)**
 The sum of: **One Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Naira only** ₦185,368,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$400,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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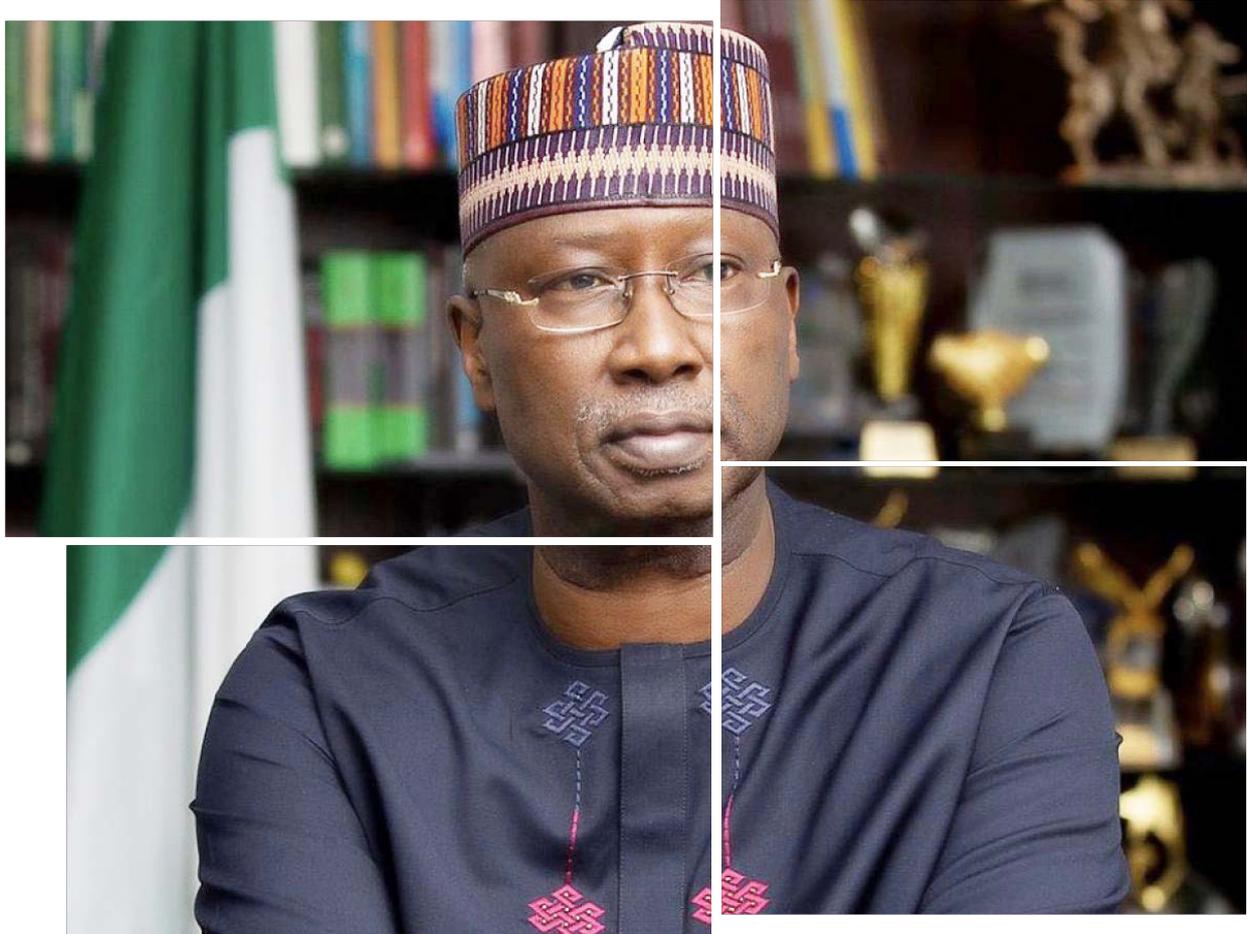
Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Borno State (No National Champion)**
 The sum of: **Three Hundred and Twenty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Ten Thousand Naira only** ₦321,710,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$700,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Ebony State (Zonal Champion South-East)**
 The sum of: **Two Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Ten Thousand Naira only** ₦231,710,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$500,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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Primary HealthCare Leadership Challenge
 Pay to: **Kwara State (Zonal Champion North-Central)**
 The sum of: **Two Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Ten Thousand Naira only** ₦231,710,000.00
 Equivalent to: **\$500,000.00**
 Day: 17, Month: 05, Year: 2023
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– Keynote address by the Secretary to the Government of the federation

– BOSS MUSTAPHA

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha expressed gratitude to the NGF for the invitation and praised them for remaining a voice of reason in managing critical issues of governance between the states and federal government. He highlighted that elections were over, and now it was time to meet the yearnings of Nigerians for real development and prosperity. Nigeria continues to grapple with issues of poverty, limited infrastructure, healthcare, education, and a recovering economy, and more effort is required to address these challenges.

He shared his experience as the Secretary to the government of the Federation, a position that has enabled him to contribute his quota in advancing the development aspirations of President Muhammadu Buhari for Nigeria. He shared his strategy of prioritizing three policy objectives: combating corruption, enhancing security, and rebuilding the economy when the administration launched a number of initiatives targeted at addressing these issues and radically altering the national economic trajectory. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), a Medium-Term Plan for 2017-2020 designed to restore economic growth, was another short-term intervention following

the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2016 Budget of Change.

In 2019, the government formed a Policy, Programs, and Projects Audit Committee to examine the Administrations performance during its first term and identify critical areas of attention for the next four years. The Administration committed to Nine Priorities that encapsulate its development aspirations and provided a basis for determining the policies, programs, and projects of the government for the second tenure (2019 -2023). The Nine Priorities have been designed to contribute towards achieving good governance that improves the quality of lives of citizens and sets Nigeria on the path of prosperity. The SGF also discussed the importance of strengthening the culture of performance management and sustaining the enormous gains achieved. The Federal Government institutionalized the Central Delivery and Coordination Unit, a strategy that centralizes the coordination of government policies, programs and projects. The Central Delivery and Coordination Unit (CDCU) set up by SGF's office with the sole aim of tracking and supporting the implementation of the assigned Ministerial Deliverables in line with the 9 Priority Areas of the government has consistently organized Annual



Ministerial Performance Reviews to track and report on progress made towards the achievement of the Nine Priority Areas and to make necessary adjustments towards ensuring their delivery. The SGF encouraged members of the governors team to visit his office where the CDCU is located for a study visit to receive first-hand information on how this great initiative can be replicated in their states.

The SGF also highlighted that the government has seen positive outcomes in key sectors such as health, education, and the digital economy. He emphasized the importance of sub-national governments investing in sectors like FinTech, which will dominate the future and lead to economic resurgence. Finally, he called on the governors to prioritize unleashing the potentials that lie in Nigerian youths. He emphasized that the youth need investments that will propel them to wealth creators, not handouts. "A productive, youthful population, with access to education, skills, social protection, affordable housing, and medical care, will power Nigeria's economy, now and well into the future." He urged.

**A
productive,
youthful
population, with
access to education,
skills, social protection,
affordable housing, and
medical care, will power
Nigeria's economy,
now and well into
the future**



Life after Office

Text of a paper presented by IBRAHIM HASSAN DANKWAMBO, OON Ph.D, M.Sc, B.Sc, FCA, FCIB, FCIT, FNES, FNIM (Talban Gombe) at the Nigerian Governors Forum Induction For New And Returning Governors

Let me start by expressing my deep appreciation to the Leadership of this august body as well as the organizers of this interaction. Indeed, I feel highly honored to be considered for this paper presentation even though I am among the junior retirees, having left office in 2019.

This presentation is therefore going to be based on my experience and perspective as a two-term Governor as well as a candidate for election to the Senate of the Federal Republic, where I emerged a second-time-lucky candidate and yours sincerely is now a Senator-elect.

Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, a number of deserving citizens have vied for the office of Governor in all the thirty-six States of the Federation. At the last count, there are over one hundred such persons who have successfully served and retired. While some have succeeded in serving the maximum two terms allowed by our Constitution, others served for only one term. Nonetheless, the experience of holding the office of Governor, however long or short, is pregnant with a lot of stories to tell. While some have gone ahead to vie for other political offices, others have ventured into other spheres of life but have remained relevant to the political establishment at their States and/or the National level.

As we very well know, a Governor has executive powers of a State vested in him by virtue of Section 5 (2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which states that;

"Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive powers of a State -

a) Shall be vested in the Governor of that State and may, Subject as aforesaid and to the provisions of any Law made by a House of Assembly, be exercised by him either directly or through the Deputy Governor and Commissioners of the Government

of that State or officers in the public service of the State; and

b) Shall extend to the execution and maintenance of this Constitution, all laws made by the House of Assembly of the State and to all matters with respect to which the House of Assembly has for the time being power to make laws.

However, in order to do justice to the topic under review, one needs to recap the processes leading to the ascension to the office of Governor, beginning from when the flame and desire for contest was lit, to pre-campaign, primary elections, campaign tours, winning elections, taking over and forming a government, running the Government and all the challenges inherent leading up to the end of tenure and finally, retirement.

3. Background Work on Selection, Primaries, Campaign and Elections.

You will probably agree with me that like any other serious undertaking, running for political office requires contemplation, consultation and a cache of campaign cash.

Prior to the Primaries, the aspirant rides on the back of existing and newly-formed interest groups (with whom he holds regular meetings) to promote his candidature. In my own case, a powerful movement known as the Dawo-Dawo emerged, urging me to heed the communal call to serve my people. It goes without saying that virtually all of you here had similar outfits that served the same purpose. Once the decision to run is made official, one begins to make overtures to political and Community leaders.

Here again, sagacity requires the aspirant to strike a fine balance between the need to concentrate resources on delegates and other Party stakeholders on one hand, and the need to garner widespread popularity on the other hand, without running out of steam. Once an aspirant emerges as the successful candidate of his Party, he

sparcs no effort in pacifying those who contested against him.

Going forward, the candidate's attention turns to matters that pertain to general elections. Here he works closely with, and invariably collapses his structure into the Party machinery.

An itinerary is drawn up for touring the State. It is not unusual to identify Wards adjudged as difficult, for more intensive campaign down to Polling Unit Level. Of course, a Budget is meticulously prepared for this.

The tours are big affairs accompanied by drumming and dancing aimed at attracting mammoth crowds. The candidate's entourage invariably includes the Party's political vanguards, some of whom would want to wield sticks and machetes. I firmly discouraged this behaviour during my campaign tours.

4. Office of Governor

a) Taking Over: The formal processes of handing and taking over are standardized across the States, and I shall not bore you with details of those.

Suffice it to say, where the outgoing and in-coming Governors are from the same Party, several informal briefings are held, and the whole process is relatively smooth. In such cases the handing-over and taking-power committees work in tandem. Even here however friction could arise between the Governor-elect and an over-bearing predecessor as was the case over my inaugural speech.

Where the Governor and the Governor-elect are from rival parties however, there is little or no informal briefing. Often times, the two camps are quick to run to press with opposing narratives on policies and programmes, as is being witnessed in one of the States in the North.

My own experience in this regard is in connection to the state-of-the-art International Conference Centre. Probably misguided by over-zealous aides, my successor,

without

bothering to enter the premises, kept lambasting my administration over the project. He condemned it as a waste of public resources and said the only use he could contemplate was turn it into a scanning centre for pregnant women.

In fairness to him, the moment he inspected the Centre, he changed his view.

Today, it has become the destination of choice for meetings of Governors of the North East.

b) Forming Government

From day one Party stakeholders and other interest groups bring pressure to bear on the new Governor with requests, recommendations and even near-directives as to who to appoint to top political offices. Whether you succumb to pressure or listen to your inner self, you make a few appointments you come to regret.

It is mandatory for every section of the State to be adequately represented in appointments.

c) Running a Government:

It is strongly advised to have clearly thought out implementable policies and programmes well ahead of time.

In my own case, we were determined to run an inclusive Government whose programmes and policies would be based on the genuine needs and aspirations of the people. The first thing we did was to form committees of experts

of Gombe State origin, to examine all sectors of Government, make wee consultations and proffer recommendations on the way forward. Their Reports were distilled into an Action Plan that guided our policies and programmes and gave us the focus to accomplish a lot.

In the Education Sector for example, the far-reaching intervention made enabled us to reduce the teacher/student ratio for Mathematics and English from 1:2590 and 1:727 to 1:146 and 1:149 respectively.

Number of students per class was also reduced, from 1:100 to 1:40. Our

administration also established a University of Science and Technology, a State Polytechnic, a School of Nursing and Midwifery, a College of Education, and a College of Legal and Islamic Studies.

It may interest you to note that half-way through our tenure, we presented a Score-Card to Members of the Sectoral Committees at a well-attended ceremony. At the end of the presentation they gave the Government very high marks for the achievements recorded.

d) Politics, Meetings and Managing Expectations - Wikipedia defines Politics as "the set of activities that are associated with making decision in groups, or other forms of power relations among individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status".

Harold Lasswell has also defined Politics as "who gets what, when, how?" From the above definitions, Politics is all about meetings and managing expectations.

It is only in Politics that you have meetings before meetings and meetings after meetings. With the advent of zoom meetings, Politics is virtually an unending cycle of meetings. There are regular and scheduled meetings of the State Executive Council, as well as with Security agencies, with Traditional and Religious Leaders, various interest groups, etc. While the above meetings are usually held during the day, political

meetings easily continue into the wee hours. It is indispensable that these meetings are the lifeblood of the machinery of governance, even though they could be stressful and time consuming for the Governor.

There is this true story of the wife of the Deputy Governor of one of my predecessors, who came down into the main Living Room at 3:00 o'clock in the morning, to rhetorically ask those sitting with him, if they themselves did not have wives waiting for them at home. Of course, they immediately scampered out.

From the outside, the powers of the Governor could seem unlimited. As already mentioned in Section 4 (b), upon assumption of office the Governor is inundated by Party stakeholders for patronage (contracts, political appointments, etc).

Constituents and other interest groups also expect the Governor to fulfill the litany of promises contained in his Manifesto, as well as those made by him during campaign tours.

As would be expected the Governor's interaction with his nuclear and extended family, as well as close friends, changes as he has less and less time.

e) Preparing for Retirement In the twilight of your tenure, it is conceivable that you will identify a preferred successor and commit your resources and time towards his success. This is likely to take a toll on you if not financially, at least mentally and physically.

All MDAs will prepare elaborate Handing-over notes that contain the administrative and financial situation of Government.

Packing out from the Government House has its own challenges. Packing personal effects and memorabilia gathered over a period of 4 or 8 years and scattered across the official Residence, Office and several Liaison offices can be quite an undertaking, especially when you factor in Civil

Servants and Public Servants who are eager to get a head start with the new administration.

f) Retirement . "The number of phone calls began to drop. By May 29, my phones had stopped ringing like they use to. They more or less become museum pieces; their silence reminding me of the four years of my life that proved momentous. On one occasion, after a whole day of silence, I had to check if the phones were damaged; As it were cynical

public relates to you not as a person, but as the office you occupy; the moment you leave office, the people move on; erasing every memory, they throw you into yesterday's dustbin. Opportunism is the driver of the public's relationship with public officials"

- Ruben Abati, former Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to President Jonathan, July, 2015.

The above quotation clearly describes the situation of a person who held a high public office and retires or loses the position. It also adequately captures the attitude of 'friends of office'.

Retiring from such a powerful, exalted and highly demanding Office therefore, comes along with a lot of changes, adjustments and experiences that on a general level apply to such persons but are essentially unique to each individual depending on a number of factors. Such changes may include among others; family life, daily routine, circle of 'friends', relationship with diverse people and communities, politics, National institutions (EFCC, ICPC, NFIU, Police etc) and even our creator, the Almighty God.

It was Abe Lemons who said, "the trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off". Most perks associated with the office disappear. The sirens that accompanied you to the handing over grounds will not return you home. Over time, the retinue of security personnel detailed to you will be re-assigned. Mundane things like your travel and upkeep, hitherto handled by aides, will revert to you as personal expenses. The immunity that you enjoyed will begin to take its true meaning and as the ICPC, NFIU, EFCC and Police come knocking, you realize that it only gave you a long rope to hang yourself.

It may amuse you to note, now that I am a Senator-elect, the phones have started ringing again, after a four-year silence!

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with the following pieces of advice:

i) As much as possible follow your vision and mission as encapsulated in your Manifesto and Action Plan to ensure timely delivery of projects and programmes and to avoid distraction from "friends of office" and saboteurs.

ii) Always be prepared for unforeseen developments and circumstances. For example, those

in the North East Sub region did not contend with the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency which necessitated the diversion of huge resources to fight the insecurity and to secure our people as well as handle the influx of internally displaced citizens.

iii) Establish a robust feedback mechanism on all programmes and projects executed whatever the sources of their financing.

iv) Reward loyalty and dedication to duty to ensure sustained

focus on achieving targets.

v) As soon as you are sworn-in, begin to prepare for your exit by planning your re-election if you are a first term Governor, or retirement if you served the constitutionally allowed two terms.

vi) Ensure meticulous record keeping of major decisions and policies especially proceedings of the Executive Council.

vii) Be prepared to face any challenges from National Institutions such as EFCC, ICPC, NFIU etc who may have questions that require answers.

viii) Be realistic. The endless gifts (rams, cows etc.) were being given with ulterior motives and will dry up. Top level meetings such as Council of State will continue to be held without you. The funfair that used to greet your arrival, and even the pride of place at your State political Party meetings, will now be accorded to your successor.

ix) As much as possible, avoid meddling in the affairs of the new Government.

x) Know that if you entrust large sums of money to your friends or business partners for safe keeping, retrieving it when you are out of office could be tricky as they are likely to betray you. So, look before you leap.

xi) Be prepared and expect backbiting and criticism from virtually all segments of society by persons whose expectations and desires have not been met during your tenure. Avoid a sense of 'entitlement' in your relationship with people generally.

xii) As M.K. Soni pointed out, you retired from work, not from life. Therefore, Move on. Get yourself engaged in activities and ventures that will fill the new void and the change in daily routine.

xiii) As you get older, your health cannot be taken for granted. Eat healthy meals.

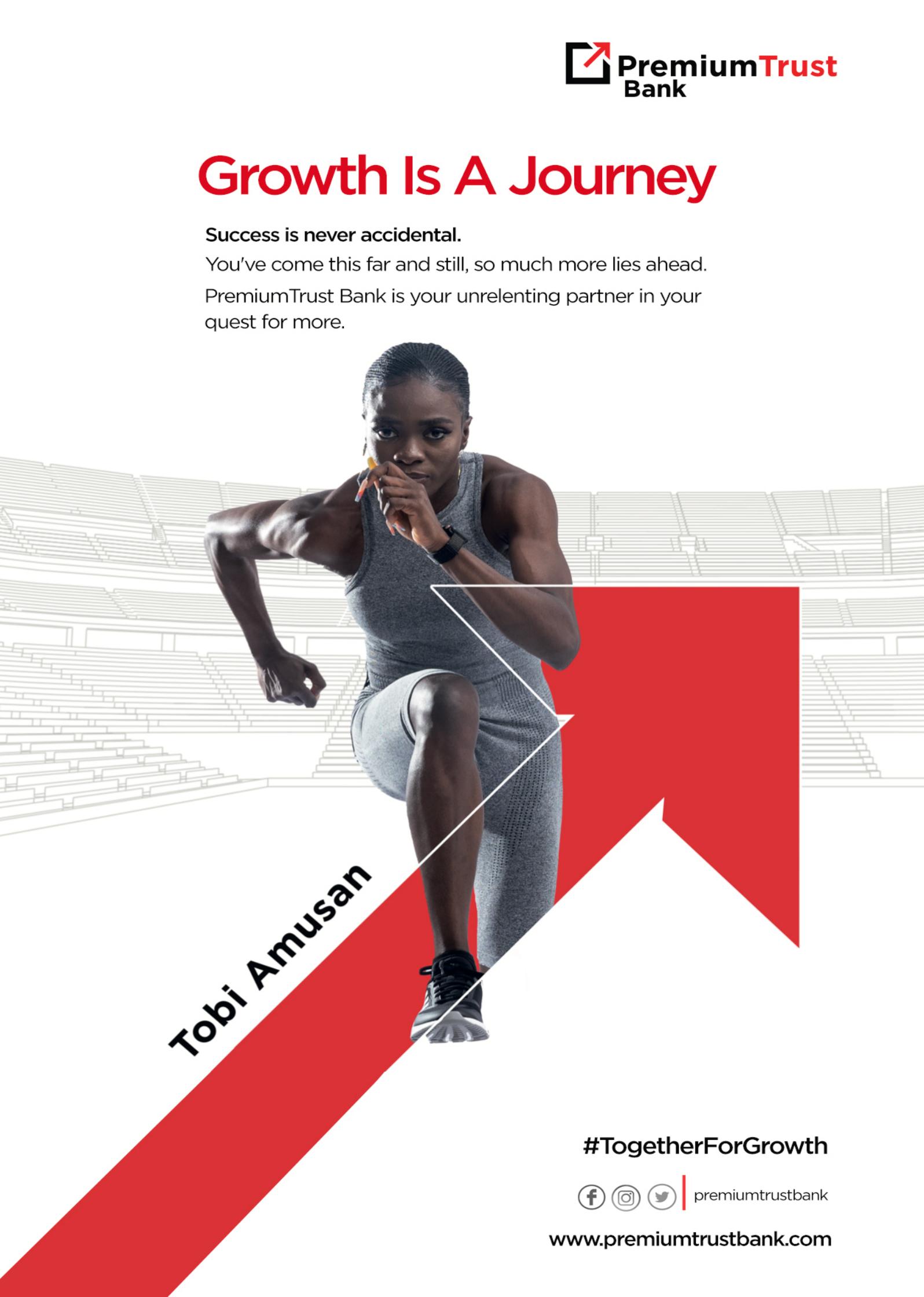
xiv) Engage in moderate physical exercise, preferably walking. -Thank you for your attention.

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PHOTO SPEAK FROM
2023 Governors' Spouses' Summit



Life *after* Office

Remarks by **Muazu Babangida Aliyu, PHD, CON,** at the Nigerian Governors Forum Induction For New And Returning Governors

Let me start by saying that the campaigns are over and you have been elected to govern your people. There is a huge difference between campaign and governance. Election have been won and lost, but my pity goes to the winners because very soon – 29th May, 2023, you shall hold either the Qur'an or Bible to swear/affirm that you shall treat all manners of people equal and govern well. In addition many of us who 'believe' know that any position of leadership is actually a test from Allah (SWT) God. You pass you know you reward, you fail you know your punishment.

2. In the same vein, the old saying which says "as you make your bed so shall you lie". As a candidate you went to the people begged them, cajoled them, often bribed them by many promises and sometimes with cash, asking them to vote for you because you are better than the other contestants. They elect you, giving you an opportunity to serve them, making you a servant of the people – indeed that's the real definition of your job – servant and not Excellency. I believe if you serve your people as a servant, with compassion and transparency you are likely to enjoy your life after office. However if you handle your assignment as "Excellency" who knows everything and cannot listen to others and become cantankerous in your dealings with people, then you are likely to have a life after office full of regrets and bitterness.

3. As a human being, always bear in mind that whatever mode and style of leadership you adopt, you shall not be loved, praised and respected by all, you shall always have detractors and some who may never see any good in what you do. So bear in mind, the opposition, those power mongers, influence peddlers, corruption influencers and those who use one item (like religion, tribalism, ethnicity) to gain favour these would enjoy the benefit of your office but later turn to crucify you too many betrayals around the corner. I am sure many of you have seen the trend where the people who pretended they could not live without you, avoiding and shying away from you as the days of your departure draw near and they gravitate towards the person taking over from you. As a result of such people, I advise that you do not try to outshine the new person coming and to attempt to run the state by proxy. Indeed even if your son succeeds you, be careful how you handle your relationship with him as a Governor because if you are sure of yourself, you may not be too sure of (his mother, your wife and his siblings). So far majority of Governors who tried to impose their successors have tended to disagree with them within a short span of time of the new administration.

4. There is no prescribed role for former Governor but your activities may depend on your standing amongst your people and your stature within the party. However, no common formula that fits all, you must therefore, approach your challenges on your own way – you are the one who should determine and find your level of contentment. However, if you adopt as I said earlier to govern as a servant of the people either four or if you are lucky eight years, see it as assignment, the period will come and pass quicker than you expect. Your goal is to govern well to the satisfaction of the majority of the people, especially the weak and vulnerable in your state. To do that you may need to pay attention to the concept of good Governance.

5. Good Governors is often defined as "a process of measuring how public institutions conduct public affairs, and manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights in manner essentially free of abuse, corruption and with due regard for the rule of law". This



relates to the political and institutional and outcomes that are necessary to achieve the goals of development. In this case your activities should be guided by sense of responsibility, accountability, awareness, impartiality and transparency. You should be the guiding light of participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness consensus oriented, equity, accountability, inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency.

6. This pre-supposes that you shall pay attention to how you appoint your political officers as well as situate the civil service for effectiveness and efficiency. Too much happens in the civil service that could determine your success or failure.

7. Nevertheless, whether you prove to be good or bad, you must know like death, you must leave that office, Please prepare to leave without too much baggage, no

regret only nostalgia for the good things you have done. In my personal experience immediately I handed over to my successor, my first travel was to Saudi Arabia to perform lesser Hajj and to further thank Allah (SWT) for the opportunity given to me, next I went to Harvard and later to Oxford universities which gave ample time to reflect and to transit to my new position of 'former governor'. Unfortunately my state is not very rich to have large severance package.

8. So you may need to prepare yourself and determine how you handle your financial needs and requirement, Most importantly you should be concerned with your physical and emotional health to be in good shape. Arrange how you travel and move about as you gradually join the larger society. It may be beneficial to be involved in some routines like farming, livestock, mining, transportation and some clean business to augment your revenue as there is no more free food, convoy or large security. Keeping a journal of your activities may help you

write your memoir or autobiography. If you are well off you can establish a foundation to help less to do and the vulnerable or pursue some worthwhile goals, whatever it is get busy doing something worthwhile. Certain people to avoid once you are out of office competitor, abuser, user, complainer and blamer.

9. In conclusion, I appeal to all former governors to come together to strengthen the former governors forum. We may not appreciate the fact that we are probably the main group with better experience in governance, administration, macro and micro economics. We appreciate the covert and overt nuances of our society, so we can be the main bridge of unity, growth and development of Nigeria.



LP's Otti sworn in as Abia Governor

Dr Alex Otti of Labour Party (LP) has been sworn in as the fifth democratically elected Governor of Abia.

Otti was sworn in by the Abia Chief Judge, Justice Lilian Abai.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the swearing-in took place at the Umuahia Township Stadium in Umuahia.

NAN reports that Otti, who had in 2015 and 2019 contested to become Governor of Abia on the platform of All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), was able to clinch the position on his third attempt on the platform of the LP.

Otti, a native of Nvosi community in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area of the state, scored 175,465 votes to defeat his closest rival, Chief Okey Ahiwe of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who had 88,529 votes during the March 18 governorship election.

In his inaugural speech, Otti said that he was committed to bequeathing a better Abia to his successor, adding that task forces had been set up to evolve a vision and roadmap for further development of Abia.

He said that his emergence as governor marked the beginning of an era of rebuilding the values, infrastructure and fiscal coffers of the state.

"Today I stand before you, my good people of Abia State, to declare once again, boldly that in line with my campaign theme you should 'Weep No More, Help is Here'.

"My task is to dry your tears and help you to rediscover who you are and lead you back to the pathway of sustainable growth, development and prosperity," he added.

He said that his administration would establish a harmonious relationship with the legislative and judicial arms of government, considering their roles as critical to the success of the government and prosperity of Abia.

He said the state government would work with the media, traditional institutions, faith-based

institutions, to build harmony and understanding in the state for the good of the people of Abia.

Otti said that under his watch, as Governor of Abia, there would be zero tolerance for corruption and Abia Government would not be a "government of excuses".

"We have a treasury that has been criminally ravaged to the extent that we have an alleged N50 billion in unpaid salaries, gratuities, and pensions.

"Our local and foreign debt overhang is reported to be in the region of N200 billion, in addition to other debts to contractors.

"We have a poorly motivated workforce, extreme youth unemployment, collapsed physical infrastructure, a terribly frail primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare delivery system.

"These are in addition to a broken educational system, urban waste disposal crisis and a large army of citizens, especially civil servants who feel blatantly betrayed by successive administrations that wilfully and unconscionably abandoned them."

Otti extended an arm of fellowship to members of opposition political parties and urged them to join him in delivering good governance to further improve the standard of living in Abia.

He commended the officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that showed courage and commitment to preserve democracy and ensured that the will of the electorate prevailed.

Otti thanked Mr Peter Obi, the LP Presidential Candidate and the party's leadership for projecting the ideals of transparent and good governance.

He also thanked the people of Abia for their support and promised to serve the people of Abia and meet their high expectations.

The dignitaries that graced the event included Dr Ahmed Datti, LP Vice Presidential Candidate, Mr Julius Abure, National Chairman of LP, Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe, former Vice President of Nigeria.



Communique

**ISSUED AT THE
END OF THE 7TH
EMERGENCY
MEETING OF THE
NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
FORUM HELD ON
TUESDAY, 23RD
MAY 2023**

We, members of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), at our meeting held today, received briefings on various interventions, and issues of national importance and resolved as follows:

1

On the leadership of the Forum, the Governor of Kwara State, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, emerged the new Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum through a consensus, and the Governor of Oyo State Seyi Makinde is now the Vice-Chairman.

2

Members expressed satisfaction with the success of the just concluded Induction for new and returning Governors that took place between 14th and 19th of May, 2023. Members committed to sustained collaboration among the States through enhanced peer review, learning at the sub-national level and deepening the relationship with the Federal Government and other institutions.

3

Finally, members were briefed by the Chairman of the Forum that the Hon. Minister of Finance has granted the request of the Forum to immediately stop further deductions from the accounts of States to meet Local Government Councils London Paris Club obligations and the monies so far deducted be paid back to the States.



*Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal Chairman,
Nigeria Governors' Forum and Governor, Sokoto State
23rd May 2023*

BORNO

My vision for the next four years

Zulum

I stand before you today with absolute gratitude to the Almighty Allah, the Giver and taker of power.

I stand before you with absolute humility.

I stand here with the greatest sense of responsibility to you, the good people of Borno State as I accept the mandate to begin our shared journey, which we hope will be of enduring stability and prosperity, for a second term of four years, insha'Allah.

For me, serving you, the good people of Borno State has been the greatest honour of my life and I hereby reaffirm, that insha'Allah, I will never lose focus in the discharge of my obligation towards the people of Borno State.

I will like to once again thank you the people of Borno State for renewing our mandate for a second term. I thank all the stakeholders of our party, the APC, from the national to our state, local government and ward levels for their extreme hard work in persuading and mobilizing voters which led to our resounding victory in the February and March, 2023, elections.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is expected that standing here to begin another term should make me the happiest person in our midst.

While this could be true, let me add that what makes me the happiest man here is not the commencement of a second term, but the fact that Allah is granting us peace in Borno State, and with that peace, one million fellow citizens are no longer living in IDP camps. They are safely living with their dignity in over 20,000 newly built and rehabilitated resettlement homes and in their ancestral communities which we rebuilt. In a similar vein, we restored civil authority and basic amenities, and re-opened for livelihoods.

Fellow citizens, nothing makes me happy like visiting and seeing our hitherto displaced brothers and sisters living in their safe communities, trying to decently earn livelihoods.

I am always happy whenever I visit Baga, Damasak, Kala Balge, Monguno, Gwoza, Bama, Damboa, Askira, Banki, Baga, Gamboru, Dikwa, Ngoshe, Kirawa and all other liberated communities across Borno State.

I am at my happiest level when I see how life has returned to liberated communities and how our fellow citizens go about their social and economic activities not only during the day but also at night.

This is essentially the reason I enjoy spending nights in local government areas.

I am happy that with Allah's Graciousness; with the gallantry of our military, police, DSS, other paramilitary establishments and our volunteers in the CJTF, hunters and vigilantes, Borno secured the peace that enabled us to execute over 700 capital projects sited across our three senatorial zones of north, south and central.

Ordinarily, I ought to skip enumerating the projects we executed, but I also need to account to you and justify your decision in re-electing us for a second term.

This is why I should take some time to say that with your support, we came up with development plan for Borno State and we are following that plan carefully.

We have built, rehabilitated and equipped over 100 healthcare centres, and we have recruited over 1000 medical staff made up of doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, radiologists and lab scientists. We are currently building our own State University Teaching Hospital.

With your support, we have invested heavily in our existing state University and commenced academic activities since 2019. We now have Federal Polytechnic in Monguno and a Federal College of Education in Gwoza.

We have built 24 new mega schools some of which are dedicated to technical education. We rehabilitated 108 existing schools, employed about 1,000 teachers and in the process of recruiting about 4000 more.

On the issue of teachers, we took a drastic measure of subjecting all our teachers to quality evaluation the outcome of which has enabled us to identify those who cannot teach in our schools, while we identified those eligible for payment of minimum wage and started paying the minimum wage for the qualified ones.

As part of building Borno's future, we have banned political thuggery and are reforming our youths previously into thuggery. We have drastically reduced street begging by giving conditional cash and other social support to physically challenged persons and other vulnerable citizens.

We are training thousands of youths on vocational skills. We have built an outstanding Vocational

Training Institute in Muna, Mafa and Magumeri and one of them is so far training hundreds of youths on different skills. We have other vocational centres coming to limelight in other parts of the state.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, in the midst of all that we have achieved, we must recognize that without peace, we could never have executed all these projects.

In the last four years, we have distributed close to 1,500 patrol vehicles with logistics as part of support to our military, other armed forces and volunteers in the Civilian JTF, hunters and vigilantes in our fight against Boko Haram. We drastically recruited, equipped and mobilized thousands of volunteers and we have supported families of armed forces, and volunteers with scholarships for their orphans.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our soldiers, police, DSS, paramilitary and volunteers have made supreme sacrifices. Hundreds of them died so that we can safely gather here in peace. We must at all times continue to remember them. These fallen armed forces, paramilitary and volunteers are the real heroes of Borno State. We must not only remember them in our prayers, but we must try to support their families.

During our second tenure in shaa Allah, we shall sustain the current peace in Borno and shall strengthen our security architecture to completely eliminate all forms of insurgency in the state. Open up our rural roads and in shaa Allah will resume Night travels in Borno.

Provision and access to basic Health services to every citizen is paramount, to that effect, we will recruit additional 1500 health workers, construct orthopedic Hospital in

Maiduguri, construct Eye Hospital and a Dental unit one each in Northern and Southern Borno. Build two (2) school of nursing one each in Southern and Northern Borno for training of our upcoming Nurses and in our effort to adequate provision of human resources for the health sector. Complete the ongoing construction of State Teaching Hospital and build additional three (3) Hospitals in Maiduguri.

Insha'Allah, we will in the coming days and weeks, implement some policies, especially on education, because education is the foundation of growth. Without sound education, a society may not easily attain its vision.

Although we have built dozens of new Mega-Size schools and expanded existing schools with about 1000 new classrooms, we are still faced with

issues of congestion in classrooms, and with the worse problem of having thousands of out-of-school children despite being of school-ages.

I am happy to announce that Borno State will soon commence afternoon primary and secondary schools system.

I am appointing an implementation committee to workout modalities of starting afternoon school system, and it will be identifying pilot schools to be selected from some of our mega schools in Maiduguri which have good



lightening systems.

I recognize that having morning and afternoon schools system will entail increased staffing. As part of the staffing of our afternoon schools, I recommend that the committee should work with the office of the Head of Service to carefully identify well certificated and competent civil servants, especially many of those who are currently redundant at secretariats, We can train them on school-orientation and post them to hold teaching and non-teaching positions in our afternoon schools.

Towards preparing ourselves for afternoon schools, we recognize that teaching in classrooms may extend to early portions of the night, for that we will adopt some security measures.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I had said earlier that we will be introducing some measures that we hope will improve the standard of our basic education in our dear State like the re-introduction of Mock Examination in secondary schools, we will establish 6 (six) centres of excellence to harness potentials from less privileged children by providing an enabling environment for them to full realise their potentials, construct additional secondary and primary schools and as well rehabilitate 100 schools, recruit additional 5000 teachers and ensure adequate resources for Education.

I am sure some people may argue that why are we particular about education, and even at that, why focusing on primary and secondary schools?

The obvious reason is because the foundation of education is the primary and secondary school. When a student gets it wrong at the primary and secondary level, he or she is unlikely to do well at tertiary schools, to that effect, I must say that some of our policies will be tough.

Another obvious reason is that all disciplines whether to become doctor, engineer, lawyer, pharmacist, nurse or whatever profession, the foundation will be primary and secondary school. A bad start will end up with bad professionals in whatever field, to give effect to a good start, we shall provide vehicles to education secretaries and zonal inspectorate officers to strengthen their capacities for effective monitoring.

This is why we are particular about primary and secondary schools. But let me add that our measures will not only be punitive but also rewarding.

Fellow citizens, in this our second term, we will continue our ongoing efforts and drill 200 Hybrid Powered Boreholes, and also construct water works in MMC, Jere, Gajiram, Magumeri, Gubio and Azare Town of Hawul

I however caution that we should be realistic in our deliberations. We should aim to identify projects that are achievable within the limits of our resources, time, our capabilities and the realities of usefulness

Local Government Area. Increase the capacity of Alau Dam supply scheme to release more raw/treated water to MMC and its environs.

We plan to establish sprinkler and drip irrigation systems in all Local Government areas and construct Nine (9) Earth Dams in the State. We also plan to continue the procurement of Agricultural implements (Harrows and Ploughs) which we will attach to 312 Tractors procured by my predecessor, for onward distribution to farmers across our 312 wards so as to provide food security through enhanced modern Agriculture.

We also plan to construct Teachers' quarters in Biu, Hawul, Dikwa and Gajiram Towns of the State; establish 3 Mega Higher Islamic Colleges in Gwoza, Bama and Kukawa Local Government Areas of the State, Construct additional 20 High Islamic Schools in our quest for all Local Government Areas to have at least one higher Islamic school, and construct more Mega-size Community Schools in the state.

We intend to consolidate in our resettlement effort by resettling of Abadam, Malumfatori, Gudumbali, Kareto, Ashigashiya, Wala, Yamteke, Modube, Bitu, Dalwa, Sandiya, Kumshe, Gulumba, Gajibo, Logumane, Kala, Wumbi, Karnowa, Mile-fourty, Kekeno, Kumowon, Mbuta, Koshebe, Maiwa, Kirenuwa, Marte, Ala, Kaje, Gashigar, Asaa amongst others. We also plan to close all or greater percentage of IDP camps in all the 27 LGAs and resettle them in a dignified manner in collaboration with our development partners and international communities.

It is also part of our immediate target to construct 500 Housing Units in Biu and Magumeri Local Government Areas just as we work towards completing ongoing construction of 500 Housing Units in Logumani and Gajibo towns. In addition, we shall construct additional 10,000 low-cost houses and rehabilitate thousands of destroyed ones.

On infrastructure, we intend to do so much in the second term. We already awarded contract for a flyover around Borno Express. We plan to construct an outer ring road by-pass from Auno, Kano Road to Chabbal, Gubio road and from Auno, Kano road to Damboa/Biu road. We also plan to construct township roads in Monguno and to embark on some critical road in Northern

Borno just as we plan to complete Maiduguri - Bama Road possibly this year. In addition, we also plan to construct feeder road from Ngala - Rann. We also plan to complete Damboa - Chibok road, and rehabilitate Maiduguri - Damboa, Bama - Banki, Dikwa - Ngala, Maiduguri - Monguno amongst others. We plan to complete the Miringa - Gunda and the Marghi Highway. We also plan to address flood problems in Maiduguri, UBA, Bayo amongst others.

We shall complete rehabilitation of all our destroyed Energy Lines and ensure that all our LGAs are connected to the National Grid. Resuscitate our moribund industries, establish industrial parks, free trade zones and dry ports in sha Allah with a view to creating job opportunities to Youths and

Women.

In shaa Allah, I will provide strong commitment and political will to support NNPC in its on-going Oil exploration in Borno and ensure that Borno becomes Oil producer before I leave.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have a lot in my mind, but as we did at the start of our first term, I will like to visit all our 27 local government within the next three months, and hold interactions with community leaders, with a view to providing community driven approach projects.

At the headquarters of each of our 27 LGAs, I will like us to discuss and agree on priority projects that we will achieve within two years of our second term.

Before my visit, I implore stakeholders and community leaders to start holding discussions to identify the priorities of their communities. I however caution that we should be realistic in our deliberations. We should aim to identify projects that are achievable within the limits of our resources, time, our capabilities and the realities of usefulness.

Fellow citizens, we all have obligation to make Borno work. For me, that many of you address me with the prefix of Your Excellency, you remind me that I am required to deliver excellence in order to merit that title. Leadership, for me, has less to do with the title but more to do with the services we can render, more to do with the peace we can establish, the progress we can develop and the social, economic and environmental changes we can bring.

Our vision is to open more pathways to progress for the people of Borno State by opening up the rural areas, bringing services closer to the people more especially setting up 27 micro finance banks to ensure financial inclusion of our people, setting up 27 ICT centres in the state, listening to the people, identifying, nurturing and developing talents that will take Borno to the next level in the nearest future.

I am very conscious of the fact that we cannot use the ideas of yesterday to run the dreams of tomorrow. That is why this second term will be about consolidation and strengthening the state systems to domesticate good practices in service delivery and

response to the needs of our people. We plan to be flexible in continuing the things that we did well in the first term while we find new solutions to old problems.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I humbly invite you on the journey of

consolidation, the journey of dreams, our collective adventure into legacy. Let us work together and bring ideas that can help our state to move forward. Our languages may be many. Our tribes and ethnic affiliation may be different. Our political persuasion might not be the same. We must understand that as human beings and as people of Borno State, we hold a common destiny and have a duty of care towards all citizens regardless of their position in society. In fact, we owe more to those who have no voice. We owe greater debt of responsibility to those who are struggling.

Borno State remains a huge construction site of progress. Consolidating the gains that we have made requires focus and determination. We cannot be distracted by any other ambitions, no matter how pressing those may be. It is therefore important for us to maintain stability, continuity and strengthening our system to a point where things would be even better than they were in the past. I will not fail you in the sacred duty entrusted in our care in this respect, In Sha Allah.

In summary, our promises remain the same. Our commitment is unwavering. In fact, we will review the promises we made and identify which ones have not been met and why. We will take these issues forward and do more within the limit permissible by law and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Today is not the day of long speeches. There is work to be done.

I will round up by congratulating His Excellency Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the President, Command in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and his Vice, our very own Distinguished Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, for their victory at the polls. We commit ourselves to supporting them to succeed in every capacity required.

I take this opportunity to profoundly thank His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, for his unflinching support, dedicated attention and concern for Borno State and the northeast in general throughout his tenure as the President of Nigeria.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies, Gentlemen and leaders of thought, every voice in Borno State counts and we will continue to listen to good ideas that are selfless and in the interest of all the people of Borno State. Borno project is a collective project and we count on your support every step of the way.

Finally, my dear people of Borno State, this is the time yet again for all of us to unite towards returning the greatness of Borno State.

To all government officials- those in offices and those to be appointed, let us be in the constant reminder that the good people of Borno demand high level of probity, accountability and transparency from us, as such we must continue to demonstrate leadership for the sake of selfless services and with fear of Allah.

May Allah (SWT) bless the land of Borno, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you so much.

- Being text of Governor's inauguration speech at his swearing-in for second term in office, May 29, 2023; Ramat Square, Maiduguri, Borno State.

Otti to recruit 5,000 teachers in Abia

Gov. Alex Otti of Abia has said that his administration plans to recruit at least 5,000 teachers to fill the shortage in the primary and secondary schools.

Otti made the disclosure in his inaugural speech, shortly after taking the Oath of Office and Allegiance at the Umuahia Township Stadium.

He said that it was part of his administration's resolve to rebuild the school system so it could produce quality students that would be relevant to the needs of modern society.

He said that within the next one month, he would work closely with his team and relevant stakeholders to design an appropriate framework to be used to drive the recruitment.

The governor said that priority would be given to young graduates in education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics and those willing to serve in rural communities.

He said: "We shall see to it that our teachers undergo regular

refresher courses to update their knowledge and teaching skills so that they will stay relevant in their chosen fields.

"It must also be stated that under our government, teachers shall never be shabbily treated as reportedly had been the custom in the past.

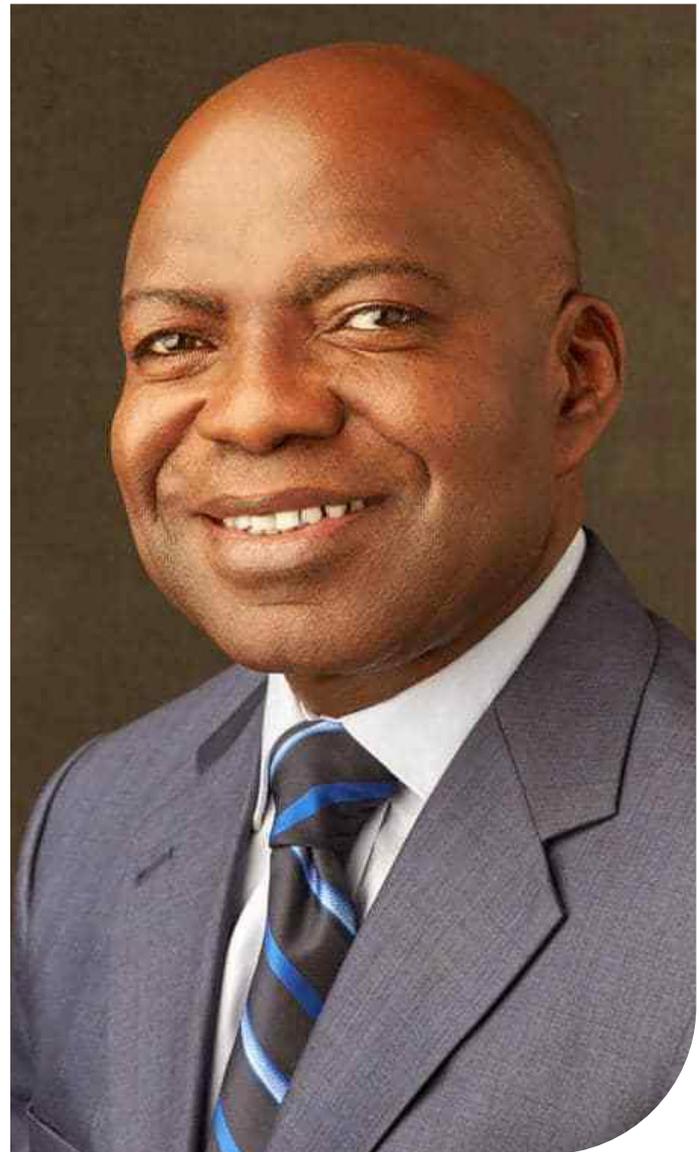
"The paucity of infrastructure in our educational system shall be addressed stridently."

Meanwhile, the governor has declared a state of emergency on refuse disposal and waste management in Umuahia and Aba, the commercial nerve centre of the state.

According to him, a healthy urban environment shall be a major priority for this government.

He therefore directed the leadership of the State Environmental Protection Agency to roll out everything at its disposal and see that all refuse heaps within the two cities were promptly evacuated.

The former bank chief said that his administration would,



within the next few days, commence the payment of May salaries and pensions to all civil servants and retirees.

"There shall be no more distinction between the so-called 'core' and 'non-core' civil servants in the state.

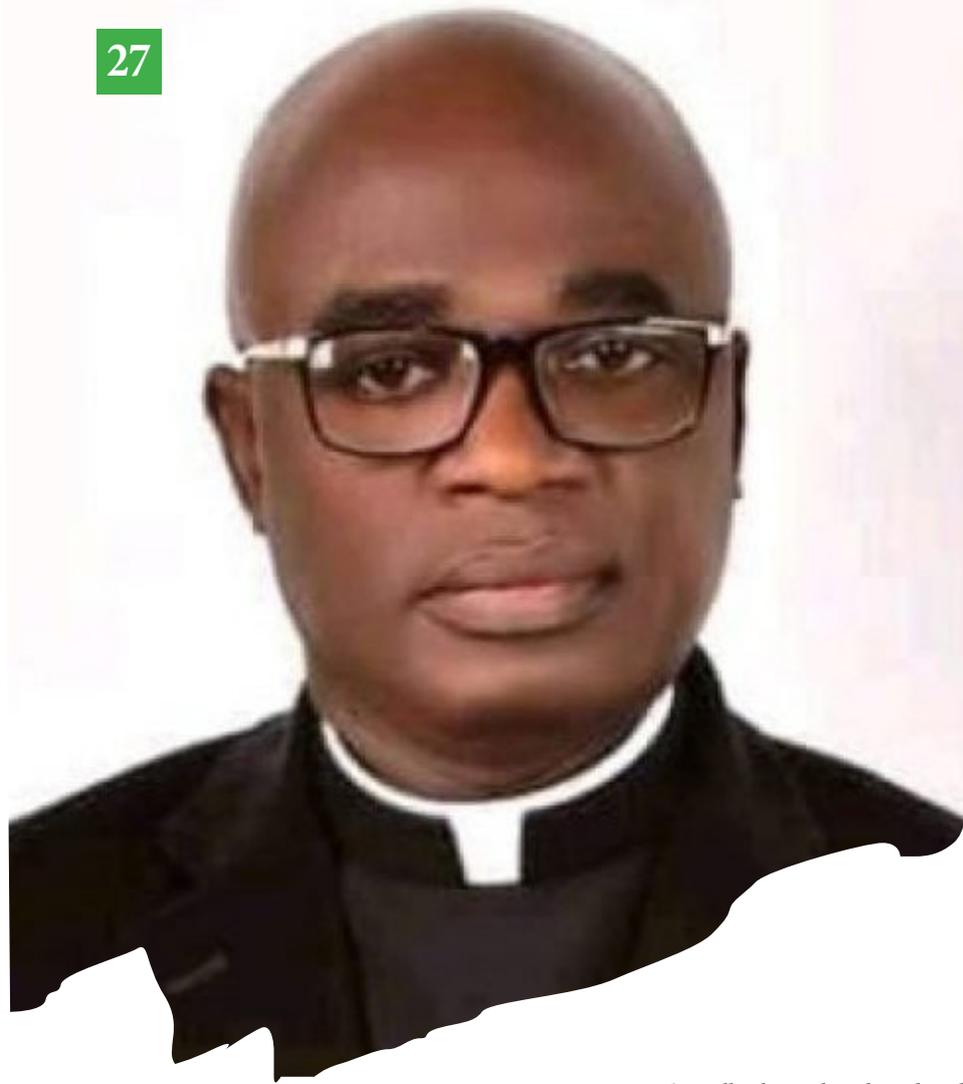
"From June, all salary and pension obligations of the state would be settled by the 28th of every month.

"My commitment during my campaigns to pay

off all outstanding salary and pension arrears remains sacrosanct.

"Within the next one week, I shall set up appropriate mechanisms to ensure that all legitimate employees and retirees are identified and paid their due entitlements," Otti said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that Otti won the March 18 governorship election on the platform of the Labour Party.



Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia sworn in as Benue Governor, unveils 7-point agenda

Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia has been sworn in as the sixth Executive Governor of Benue, alongside his Deputy, Dr. Sam Ode. Born in 1966, Alia becomes the second priest of the Roman Catholic Church to rule the state since creation in 1976.

Alia who was sworn in by the Chief Judge of Benue State, Hon. Justice Maurice Ikpambese, immediately froze all bank accounts belonging to the Benue State Government.

“May I announce that with immediate effect and until further notice, all Government Bank Accounts in all Banks are hereby frozen. A ‘Post No Debit’ instruction shall remain in force until all Signatories are changed. Any Bank that violates this instruction does so at its own risk,” he warned.

He said his administration would be guided by a seven-point development agenda featuring security of lives and property, industrialization, trade and investment, as well as human capital and social development.

Other priority areas include care for the environment to mitigate the effects of climate change, investment in information and communications technology, Civil Service and local government systems reform, as well as the review of laws to make Benue state

investor-friendly through political and economic governance.

“My fellow Benue citizens, these seven pillars represent a Social Contract between our Government and your good selves. On these promises, we shall be held to account. You hired us with your votes to deliver on these promises. We will do everything in our powers to fulfill our side of the contract,” he promised.

He promised to work closely with security agencies and the Federal Government to ensure the safety of lives and property of Benue people.

“We will also work tirelessly to address the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.”

The Catholic Priest pledged to prioritize job creation and economic empowerment by promoting private sector-led industrialization, with a particular emphasis on agriculture.

As part of measures to address the perennial problem of flooding in the state, Gov. Alia said Government would engage the Federal Authorities towards the dredging of the River Benue to address the flooding problem in Makurdi and other parts of the state.

According to him, Government has already set in motion machinery for clearing blocked drainage systems in Makurdi metropolis, pending when a comprehensive solution would be found to the perennial flooding of the state capital.

“To provide immediate succour to the army of unemployed youth in the state, we shall execute this exercise through a public works scheme or direct labour”.

He assured that in the next 100 days, work would commence on the design of a comprehensive infrastructure development programme involving unemployed graduate youth in continuation of government’s public works programme.

“In addition, our industrial parks and technology incubation centers, designed to bring the best out of our youth and provide gainful self-employment, would be equally unveiled within the period.”

To bring succour to the very poor people in the state, government had commenced negotiations with credible partners for soft revolving credit facilities based on good repayment record, particularly to women in all the council wards in the state, he said.

“In addition, we have commenced discussions for revamping the moribund Benue Microfinance Bank and repositioning it as a vehicle for microcredit delivery in the state. This would domesticate the delivery of microcredit to the poor as a cardinal pursuit of our administration.”

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Alia is the second priest to govern the state as late

Very Rev. Fr. Moses Adasu (12 June 1945 – 20 November 2005) became governor on 2 January, 1992, elected on the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).



Investor unveils plan to establish \$75m Kaduna agro-industrial complex

A privately owned and funded \$75 million Agro-industrial complex is being planned for Kaduna State. The complex named TMDK Agro-Industrial Park is a fully funded strategic investment TMDK Oil Traders Limited designed to leverage the vast investment opportunities to diversify the economy of Kaduna State in particular and Nigeria in general.

The Planning & Project Consultant, Sani Sabiu, said on Sunday in Abuja that the complex, which would contain shared infrastructure for seven industrial processing companies under a single roof, would massively impact the economy of Kaduna State and environs.

Promoters of the project, led by the Consultant, Sani Sabiu, briefing the former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai during a visit to the site recently.

Apart from providing employment for 960 workers of various grades directly, he said the facility would also provide income sources to thousands as suppliers, distributors, farmers and technical support services providers.

Also, he said it would provide employment, improve livelihood, guarantee a market for soya beans and corn (major produce) of Kaduna State and provide revenues to the government at state and federal levels.

Sabiu listed the proposed processing companies to include a 300 tons per day Soya extraction and refining facility with the capacity to process about 10 trailers loads of soya beans to be sourced from local markets in Kaduna State and part of northern Nigeria.

"The major products from the facility will be high protein soya bean cake, which can be further processed into animal feeds or high protein meal for human consumption, with some of it to be used in-house to process animal feeds for poultry, fisheries and livestock," Sabiu said.



Promoters of the project, led by the Consultant, Sani Sabiu, briefing the former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai during a visit to the site recently

Also to be located within the precinct of the proposed industrial complex, Sabiu said, would be a 50 metric tons per cycle oil refinery with the capacity to process the crude soya bean oil into food grades for domestic consumption by households.

He said the Packaging sections for refined oil and soya bean cake would comprise automatic bagging, weighing and sealing section, injection moulding and blowing sections for plastic containers as well as filling and capping units for the refined oil.

The other facility planned for the complex, the consultant said, includes a 750 tons per day corn mill (25 trucks loads daily capacity) comprising a 250 tons per day line and a 500 tons per day capacity line to produce corn flour and grits of various sizes for domestic and industrial uses (in house, local and international markets).

Other facilities planned for the complex, which would have a 300 tons per hour plant to manufacture high-protein cereal meals and baby food products,



include a 500 tons per day production line for animal feeds for cattle, chicken, and fish.

The mill would principally utilize products from the soya bean solvent extraction facility (soya cake) and the corn mill and other additives to produce various grades of feeds for poultry (powdered or pellets), fish (floating) and livestock feeds in powdered or pellet forms.

Besides, noodles' latest model machinery in three different production lines with the capacity to produce more than one million packets of various sizes of noodles daily for sales in the domestic markets is also planned to be part of the industrial complex.

"Our noodles will utilize some percentage local contents to blend for higher protein and reduce dependence on 100 % imported wheat flour," Sabiu said.

Also planned for the complex, Sabiu said, would be a 200 tons per day pasta production facility that would use the latest technology to blend local contents and wheat flour to produce high-grade best-in-class healthy pasta of various sizes and shapes for domestic markets.

In addition, a products packaging sacks production facility for various sizes and categories of poly woven sacks (laminated and non-laminated multi-colour) for farmers and agro-processing companies, including rice mills, in-house flour, soya beans cake, and feed mill sections are also part of the industrial complex, which would also have fully-equipped Administrative, security, weight bridges, and control sections.

Other sections of the complex include those for solvent extraction, refinery, packaging (liquid and powder products), corn mill, feed mill, noodles, pasta, product packaging sacks, Staff overnight quarters, silos and warehouse facilities, waste treatment system as well as other support facilities (mobile conveyors, forklifts and safety equipment, testing laboratories for quality control, logistics for operations safety, maintenance, and security.

To forestall disruption of production operations as a result of an epileptic source of power supply, the complex would be serviced with an independent power generation system, comprising high-capacity generators and transformers control unit, distribution lines, and fuel dump, the consultant said.

Apart from the endorsement by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) of the business viability and technical feasibility of the proposed industrial complex, Sabiu confirmed the Kaduna State government, through its one-stop investment promotion agency, Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA), was lending its full support to the vision to establish the industrial complex in its domain.

Already, he said under the first phase of the project implementation involving Civil Engineering and equipment procurement, about 85 percent of the first phase of equipment required to get the complex operational have since arrived the country, with the first set of 15 units 40 feet containers at the Kaduna Inland Container Port facility awaiting clearance this week.

He said projections are that the complex would become functional latest by the year-end as the second phase of equipment procurement is expected to be concluded latest in November.

During the inspection visit to the site of the proposed industrial complex by the former State governor, Nasir el-Rufai, the consultant thanked the state government for its effort in making Kaduna a conducive environment for investment.

"TMDK could have situated this plant in a number of other states, but due to your administration's effort in making Kaduna a conducive environment for investment, we are here today.

"We are very grateful for the support from your team and your government. We want you to consider this plant as part of your legacy to the people of this great state, for both its job and wealth creation opportunities," he said.

Our noodles will utilize some percentage local contents to blend for higher protein and reduce dependence on 100 % imported wheat flour



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PROFILE

ISA GUSAU**Zulum's media strategist**

Gusau served as media strategist to Governor Kashim Shettima from March 2012 to May 2019 during which he did an outstanding job. After the 2019 governorship election in Borno State, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, in June 2019, appointed Gusau as his media strategist

Gusau also holds certificates from campus-based courses on Leadership and Persuasive Communication at Harvard University's Division of Continuing Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States.

He holds another certificate from campus-based programme on Creative Writing at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Continuing Education in Cambridge, UK; and another on Reputation Branding, Media Relations and Political Campaigns and Communication from Thompson Reuters in New York, United States.

He had, at different times, undertaken intensive online certificated courses organised by Harvard University on Communication Strategies and Crisis Communication.

Gusau also attended dozens of other media relations, communication and journalism courses within and outside Nigeria.

He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations, UK; the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations; the Public Relations and Communications Association, PRCA, UK; the International Public Relations Association, UK and the African Public Relations Association.

Gusau has attended several conferences, summits and bilateral meetings across 18 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa as for purposes of media relations for government delegation, for professional networking, trainings and journalistic reporting.

He had, at different times, visited 16 states across the United States for similar purposes.

Gusau also practised as a journalist for years before moving into PR.

At the Daily Trust, Gusau was the first to win the Board Chairman's Star Award and cash prize for integrity in the journalists' category.

He was also a recipient of the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief's letter of commendation and cash reward for integrity.

He also received series of commendations from the company's Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer for prudence, transparency, accountability and productive management of regional offices in the Niger Delta and the North East, Nigeria.

Gusau also received performance-based incentives and accelerated promotions.

Gusau resigned from Daily Trust in March 2012, the same week he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Editor, to venture into public relations activities following his appointment by the then Borno State Governor Kashim Shettima as Special Adviser on Media and Publicity.

Gusau served as media strategist to Governor Kashim Shettima from March 2012 to May 2019 (throughout the two tenures) during which he did an outstanding job.

After the 2019 governorship election in Borno State, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, in June 2019, appointed Gusau as his media strategist; a position he held until May 2023 when Zulum terminated all political appointments ahead of his second term.

Now in his second term, Governor Zulum has just reappointed Gusau as his media strategist with effect from June 2023.

Gusau has, since 2012, been mentoring more than 300 Borno youths on aspects of Public Relations using the social media. He organises workshops at which he personally trains and evaluates participants and has also engaged services of academic and professional institutions to train the youths within and outside Borno State.

Malam Isa Gusau is a retired football player and coach who owned a football team in Maiduguri with dozens of youths.

Gusau plays table tennis and was a track runner in 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters relay. He holds medals from secondary school games.

Gusau is a reader and prolific writer who always argues that "no single write-up is perfect", hence the need for second eye on every writeup because of which he often subjects his own writeups to corrections by those he teaches and mentors.

Gusau has memorized many portions of the Qur'an and he is happily married with children.

Malam Isa Gusau is potentially the only government spokesperson in Nigeria who combines undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Public Relations; a discipline that specializes in creative and strategic reputation management through planned and spontaneous publicity activities.

Nigerian universities do not offer undergraduate programmes in Public Relations as a specialized area, but offer such courses in Mass Communication which broadly touches on multiple areas rather than graduate specialization available in the United Kingdom and other developed countries.

Gusau holds a Bachelors Degree in Public Relations, Media and Advertising with First Class Honours from Middlesex University in London, United Kingdom.

He also holds a Masters Degree (MA) in Public Relations and Media with the highest classification of distinction from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

Unlike Nigerian universities which only classify graduate degrees, UK universities classify masters degrees starting with 'Pass', 'Merit' and 'Distinction'.

Gusau holds another Masters Degree and Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial and Labour Relations from the University of Maiduguri.

He also holds OND and HND in Mass Communication from Kaduna Polytechnic and remains one of the most outstanding graduates of the department.

Ismaila Uba Misilli

Experienced, Committed & Loyal DG (Press Affairs)

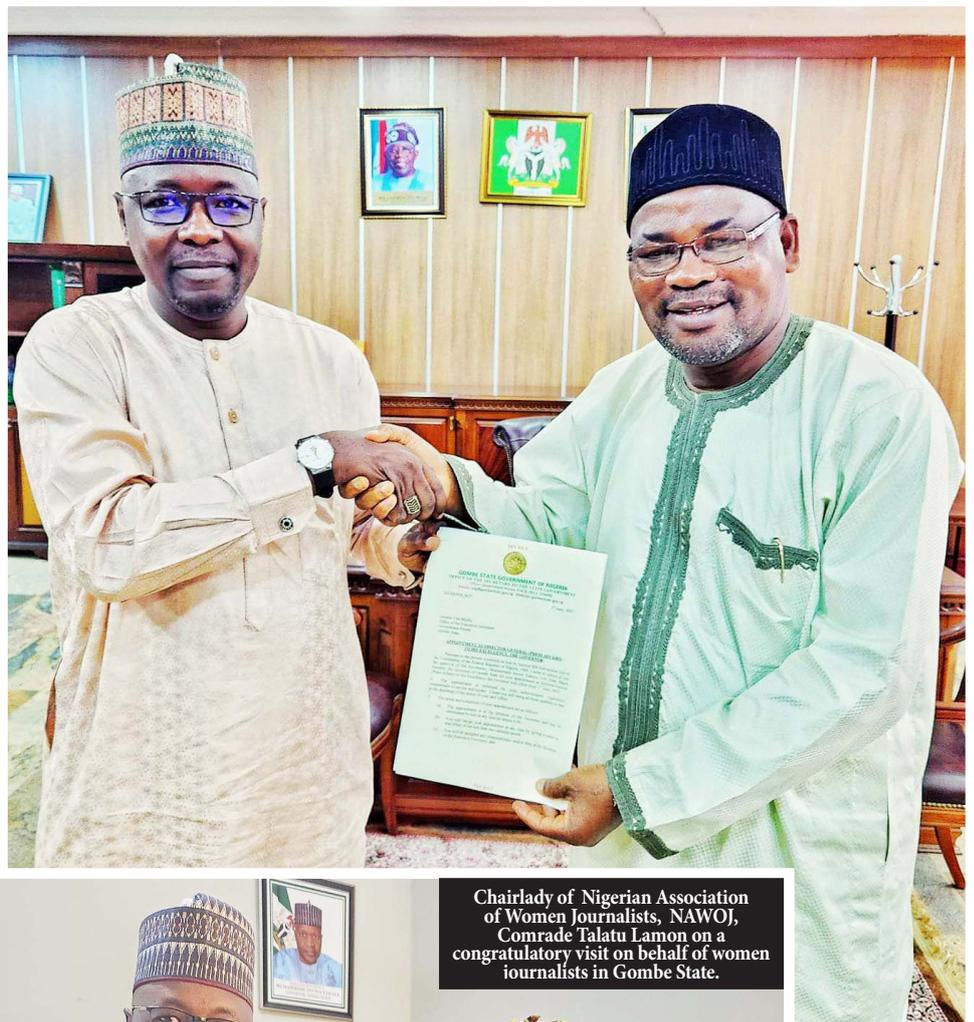
Earlier today, I received my appointment letter as DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe from the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi.

The letter states in part " This appointment is informed by your achievements, experience, commitment to service and loyalty ". With all modesty, this is indeed instructive and heart-warming. I'm highly honoured and humbled!

This is to also appreciate His Excellency for the confidence reposed in me, and to also give my commitment to bring to bear my modest expertise and professionalism in discharging my duties.

I also wish to thank friends, colleagues, associates and family members for their messages of goodwill, solidarity and prayers following my reappointment by H.E Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, Dan Majen Gombe, the Governor of Gombe State and Chairman, Northern States Governors' Forum.

I will continue to count on your continued partnership, support and camaraderie as we begin the new phase where we shall beef up the media engagement to add value to what has already been done by the team and provide more platforms for the citizens to have better understanding of the efforts, projects and programmes of His Excellency towards consolidating the gains of good governance in Gombe State for a secure future.



Chairlady of Nigerian Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ, Comrade Talatu Lamon on a congratulatory visit on behalf of women journalists in Gombe State.

World Bank

supports 6,062 Lagos farmers with agric inputs, assets

No fewer than 6,062 farmers in Lagos State have received agricultural inputs and production assets from the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (N-CARES) programme, a World Bank supported project.

Mr Jonathan Obayemi, State Project Coordinator, Lagos N-CARES, stated this at the distribution exercise in Alimosho Local Government Areas (LGAs) on Saturday in Lagos.

He said the initiative was second cycle of the implementation of the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (N-CARES) programme.

Obayemi noted that beneficiaries were drawn from across the 20 LGAs and 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) of the state.

He said that the farmers from Oshodi, Ikorodu, Agege,

Kosofo, Shomolu, Surulere, Ifako-Ijaye and Ikeja had received the support.

He added that the programme would bridge the resource gaps that hinders production and productivity of small scale farmers in the state.

Obayemi said that the programme was designed to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable households in the state.

“The distribution of agricultural inputs and assets to farmers is a part of fulfilment of Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s electoral promises to Lagosians as well as part of measures to cushion the impact of the recent fuel subsidy removal on agricultural production in the state.

“In this cycle, 2,652 farmers will receive crops (maize seeds, cassava cuttings, vegetable seeds, fertiliser, herbicides and insecticides), and livestock

(broiler chicks, poultry feeds, fish juveniles, fish feeds and medication) inputs.

“Also, 3,410 farmers will receive production and processing assets including pig weaners, point of lay birds, sheep and goat weaners, water pumps and hoses, battery cages, fishing nets, motorised sprayers, smoking kilns and grinding machine,” he said.

Obayemi said that these initiatives would increase food production and enhance food security.

“In addition, 2,299 farmers will benefit from improved agricultural infrastructure support including culverts, walkways, roads rehabilitation and small scale irrigation facilities.

“Also, water and sanitary facilities will also be upgraded in about 50 wet markets across the state to improve sanitation in the markets.

“All support will spread through the end of the year

2023,” he said.

Obayemi said that Lagos FADAMA was implementing four Disbursement Linked Indicators under Result Area 2- Enhancing Food Security and Safe functioning of Food Supply chain under the N-CARES programme.

He said that in the first cycle of disbursement, 2,000 farmers benefitted from the supply of inputs, while 2,025 farmers benefitted from production and processing assets.

He added that water and sanitary facilities were upgraded in 20 wet markets while 1,531 farmers benefitted from infrastructure improvement.

On her part, Mrs Olatokunbo Emokpae, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, re-emphasised that food security was key to making Lagos a 21st Century Economy being one of the pillars of Sanwo-Olu’s THEMES agenda.





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Measuring The SDG Challenges Of Data & Coordination Across Nigerian States

A methodological approach to subnational reporting

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What you don't know, you can't measure

What you can't measure, you can't improve

How can you report SDG performance in a way that is credible and reliable?

SDG Reporting on Nigeria is supposed to be an aggregation of the sum of its parts

Participation from the 36 States FCT

SOLUTION METHODOLOGY

- Our approach to building subnational data is to make the subnational responsible for its data, by mapping each goal with an MDA.
- Then build capacity within the MDA to track the targets and indicators
- This can be done through sensitization workshops
- Collation of data over a period Validation of data
- Reporting of data

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce, Industries and cooperatives Ministry of Education 	 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Ministry of Health 	 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Ministry of Health Ministry of Social, Youth, and Sports 	 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bauchi State Sports Council Ministry of Information, Tourism, and Culture Ministry of Education
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bauchi State Sports Council Ministry of Social, Youths, and Sports Ministry of Education 	 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Environment and Solid Minerals Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency 	 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce, Industries, and Cooperatives Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing Ministry of Environment and Solid Materials Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency Bauchi State Urban Development Board 	 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives Ministry of Education Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing Bauchi State Civil Service Commission Office of the Auditor General LG Services
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing Bauchi State Urban Development Board Bauchi State Transport Corp (Yankari Express) Office of the Auditor General for LG Services 	 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social, Youth, and Sports Bauchi State Sports Council Ministry of Education 	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social, Youths and Sports Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives Ministry of Justice Bauchi State Urban Development Board 	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives Ministry of Justice Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing Ministry of Environment and Solid Minerals Bauchi State EPA Bauchi State Treasury Department

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing
Ministry of Environment and Solid Minerals
Bauchi State EPA
Bauchi State Urban Development Board
Bauchi State LG Services

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



1. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing
3. Ministry of Environment and solid minerals
4. Bauchi State EPA

15 LIFE ON LAND



Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing
Ministry of Environment and Solid Materials
Bauchi State EPA

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



1. Bauchi State Sports Council
2. Ministry of Education
3. Bauchi State LG Service Commission

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



1. Ministry of Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs
2. Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Next Steps: Achieving the Goals

- What you know you can measure
- What you can measure you can improve
- Collation and Validation of data over a period
- How can you report the subnational's SDG performance in a way that is credible and reliable?

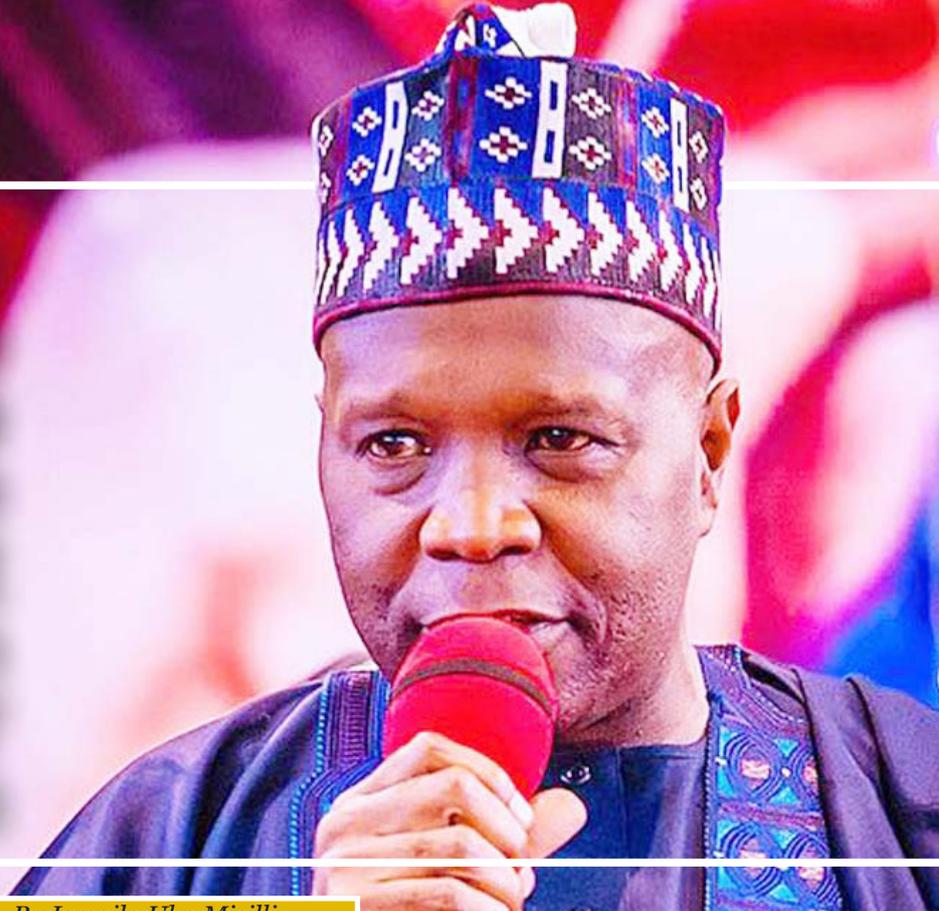
18 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



1. Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives
2. Ministry of Education
3. Ministry of Works, Lands, and Housing
4. State Civil Service Commission
5. Office of the Auditor
6. General LG Services



Ray Of Hope As Inuwa Yahaya Mounts The Saddle At Northern Governors' Forum



By Ismaila Uba Misilli

"If you possess the stuff of a champion you can't stay too long in the abys of the minnows". The above aphorism is a terse formulation of a truth that captures the fate of Gombe State governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, when his colleagues across the northern region unanimously elected him to chair the highly influential Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF).

Governor Inuwa took over from the immediate past governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong, with effect from May 29, 2023. The former chairman of the forum had, while handing over to the new chairman, said Governor Inuwa was elected to chair the NSGF in view of his experience, sterling leadership qualities and commitment to good governance.

That Inuwa was unanimously accepted to lead the governors from Northern Nigeria under the auspices of the Northern States Governors' Forum is not fortuitous at all. It was a deliberate consensus of a people who have come to recognise the sterling leadership ambience of the man who shines in tandem with the slogan of his state, Jewel in the Savannah.

The Gombe governor has been consistent in terms of performance. He has been outstanding in political dynamism. He has been persistent in the delivery of quality projects that have drawn the binoculars of writers and historiographers to Gombe State across the globe. He has become an epitome of political altruism.

He stands shoulder high among political promise keepers, and among nobilities he is a super power. All these attributes cannot be overlooked.

The governors from Northern Nigeria are, therefore, not toying with the destiny of this great zone in anyway. They needed a man that is capable of taking the region to the next level of infrastructural advancement. Yes; in Inuwa they found worthy treasures. The Gombe governor has crossed the threshold of history in governance and performance, and he is creditably recording superlative achievements in his State to merit the historic position.

Inuwa symbolises tangible hope, palpable progress and capable leadership. With him in the saddle, there is now a new horizon of industrial transmogrification of Northern Nigeria. Under the chairmanship of the Dan Majen Gombe, I see the North shining so brilliantly as the true Northern Star.

While taking over the mantle of leadership from Lalong, Governor Inuwa did not mince words when he said, "We will work hard to ensure that we catch up with the rest of the country, possibly with the developed parts of the world so that our people will feel the impact of good governance we all pursue".

He also said that the NSGF will continue to work with past leadership of the forum in order to consolidate on the gains so far recorded to properly place it on the smooth trajectory of social cohesion, economic emancipation and infrastructural development.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya expressed delight with the commencement of drilling activities in the Lake Chad Basin which has brought to three drilling sites in the North, including Kolmani in Gombe and Bauchi as well as the one in Nasarawa State. He assured that the forum will see to the actualisation of the exploration of the large oil and gas deposits in the North for the benefit of the people.

Inuwa is a born leader who does not joke with his beat at all. He may look unassuming, but he's a serious minded personality who cannot stand mediocrity. He has no patience with non-performers. You have to be downright hardworking and finicky in your delivery of assignments to earn membership of his team. He thinks on his toes and philosophises upstairs about the best option always and settles for it.

If you look at the rapturous applause Inuwa Yahaya has been receiving, with awards for quality output, you cannot but agree with the governors from Northern Nigeria that they have found a worthy leader in the Dan Majen Gombe. Afterall, governance is all about people and what their needs are. Inuwa stands so tall at the roll call of promise-keeping governors in Nigeria.

Like a performance generalissimo, Inuwa always has a chart handy where he keeps gazing at the list of promises he made to the electorate.

He keeps all and stick to delivery timelines.

Talking about development and infrastructure, Inuwa Yahaya has a ready blueprint that any state in Northern Nigeria will gladly love to replicate. When the issue of stopping nomadic herdsmen's movement across Nigeria came to the national fore, Inuwa Yahaya was the one who went to the presidency and put down Gombe State's 144,000 hectares Wawa-Zange Grazing Reserve as a panacea for the debacle.

His infrastructural pursuit is worthy of emulation. In Inuwa's Gombe, all the eleven local government areas have at least a hundred kilometers of road network under the Network 11-100 Project. The ease with which people and goods move in Gombe State is quite fascinating.

He initiated a 10-year Development Plan for Gombe State, the first in the 26-year history of the state called the Jewel in the Savannah. He itemized the timelines for attainable landmarks and put capable individuals in charge of each task, monitoring them like a farmer monitoring his very first harvest.

Go-Health is an initiative that brought quality healthcare to the high and low in Gombe State. Governor Inuwa's exemplary execution of the COVID-19 programme and subsequent commendations by WHO and UNICEF merited his invitation to the world acclaimed Chartham House to share his Universal Health Coverage with the whole world. Under him Gombe now boasts of three specialist hospitals and 114 functional primary healthcare centers among other healthcare facilities.

His education and public service reforms are huge.

GOINVEST, the first ever investment summit in Gombe State, has turned the Jewel in the Savannah to investment destination at the moment. Both local and international development partners and investors are falling head over heels to have a taste of Nigeria's investment

bride. Yes, you can say this about Gombe State without equivocation.

Gombe State has won Nigeria's Best State in the Ease of Doing Business award back to back, in 2021 and 2023. You can do your business with a modicum of equanimity, requisite business speed and expected pace. This is an empirical evidence about Gombe State.

Talking about safety, Gombe State is the safest in Northern Nigeria at the moment. The topography of the state is such a scenic picturesque which also serves as a security buffer against unwanted intruders. This is an advantage for the peaceful Gombe.

Gombe State is blessed with the Kolmani Oil project which Governor Inuwa Yahaya worked tirelessly to see that Muhammadu Buhari flagged off during his tenure. Gombe has oil that can benefit Northern Nigeria.

What is more, under the focused, dynamic and dedicated leadership of Inuwa Yahaya, the Dadinkowa Hydro Electricity Powerplant stunted for over 40 years was commissioned in the last week of the Buhari administration. Power generation into the national grid and its cascading effects among the states in Northern Nigeria have received a big boost by the commissioning of the Dadinkowa Power Plant. Gombe is indeed a beacon of hope for the northern states.

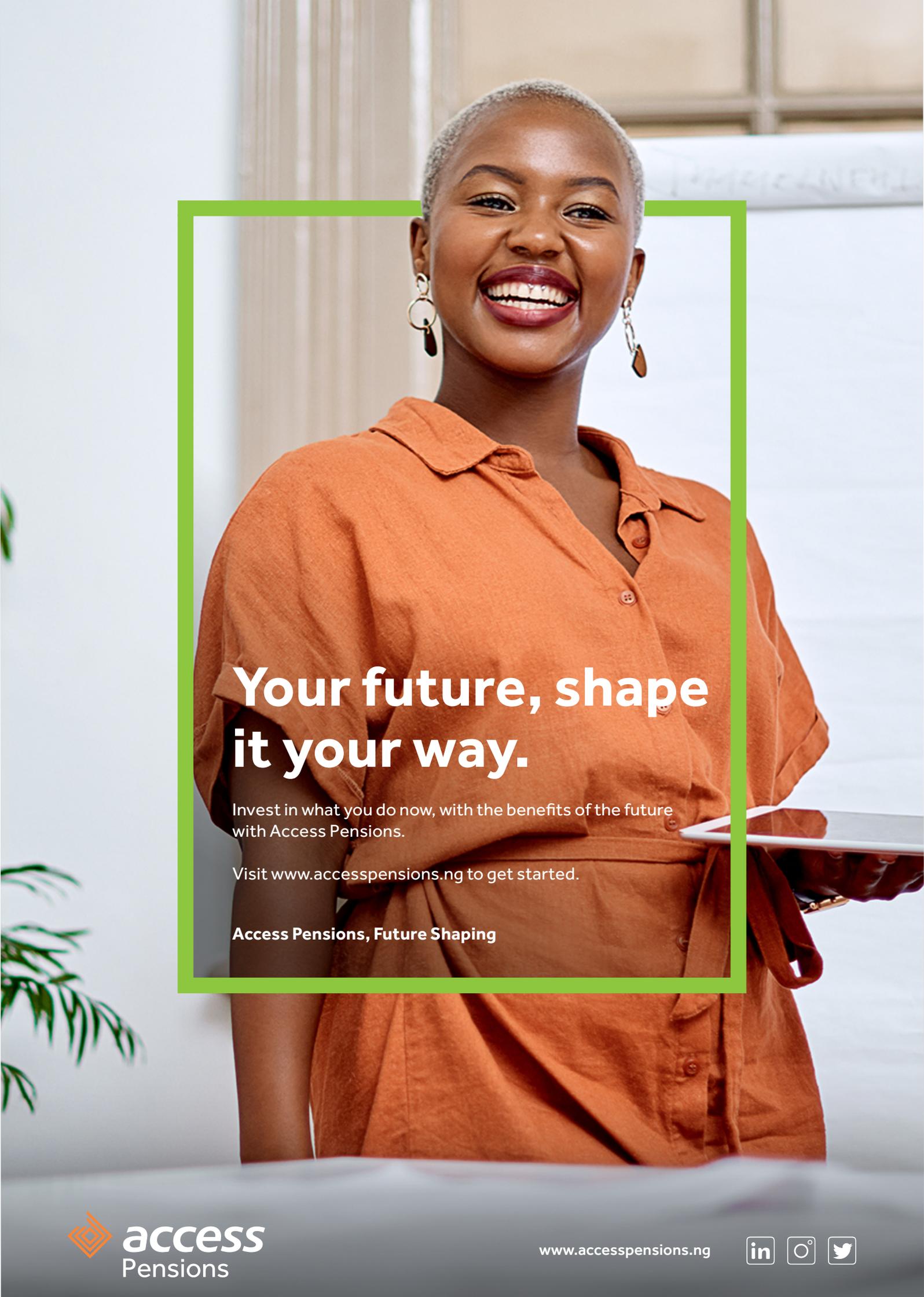
Most importantly, the industrial revolution going on in Jewel in the Savannah cannot be overlooked. The 1000 Hectares Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park is an industrialisation bravado whose chain reaction in employment and development of the region cannot be overemphasised.

The choice of Governor Inuwa Yahaya for the position of Northern Governors' Forum chairman is therefore a good vehicle on a smooth road. A beautiful destination is in sight for the Northern region.

– Misilli wrote from Gombe

PHOTOS FROM
**NGF Chairman's visit to
Sen. Abdul'aziz Yari Abubakar**





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