

**BRIEF BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND
PROSPECTS OF THE MINISTRY UNDER THE PRESENT
ADMINISTRATION PRESENTED TO THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM**

PREAMBLE

I would want to start this briefing by spelling out to you the mandate of the Ministry. The Ministry is the organ of Government through which the State promotes, coordinates, regulates and implements policies on Commerce, Industry and Solid Mineral development. It is important to note that Commercial and Industrial activities in the State are largely private sector led. Government only acts as a motivator and coordinator to the various private individual and groups involved. It is also worthy of note that the State Government attaches great importance to the Ministry in view of its strategic roles which are very vital and crucial to the economic growth and development of the State. This is because of the fact that, Economic development as a process, is a situation through which people increase the efficiency with which they provide the desired goods and services, there by increasing their per-capita income and the general wellbeing.

STRUCTURE

The Mandate of the Ministry is carried out in the following departments as below:-

- i. Department of Planning Research and Statistics
- ii. Department of Administration and Finance
- iii. Department of Commerce
- iv. Department of Industries
- v. Department of Solid Mineral Development

Similarly, the Ministry supervises the following Parastatals:-

- i. Bauchi State Fertilizer Company

- ii. Bauchi Meat Product Company
- iii. Bauchi Plastics Company
- iv. Bauchi Hotel Limited (Zaranda)
- v. Bauchi State Hotels Board
- vi. Arewa Ceramics Limited Misau
- vii. Bauchi Inland Container Deport
- viii. Bauchi Investment Corporation (BIC)
- ix. Yankari Transport Company

Three of these Commercial out fits as

- i. Meat Product Company
- ii. Bauchi Hotels Limited (Zaranda) and
- iii. Arewa Ceramics Limited Misau are jointly owned by Bauchi and Gombe States.

POLICY ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

This department is responsible for the coordination of all Planning, Research and Statistics activities of all the other departments of the Ministry and establishments under the supervision of the Ministry. It prepares annual Budget estimates for the Ministry. Budgetary performance of each department is monitored and evaluated by PRS department through monthly progress reports submitted by each department. Consequently, when problems are identified, researches are initiated with a view to finding out the nature of the problems and their possible solutions.

In addition to the above, the department also liaise with other relevant bodies within and outside the State which are responsible for economic planning. This is in view of its strategic roles in project formulation, feasibility studies and appraisal.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The department coordinates the Ministry's financial, staff and stores matters.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

This department has the mandate of policy formulation and implementation regarding Commercial activities in the State. In addition, the department monitors and enforce commercial laws and regulations. It also liaise with relevant bodies within and outside the State responsible for commerce.

The department has five (5) units as follows:-

- i. Distributive Trade
- ii. Registration of Occupations and Business Premises
- iii. Trade Promotion
- iv. Export Promotions and
- v. Investment unit

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

As the name implies, the department is directly responsible for policy formulation, and implementation regarding Industrial business in the State. At you are aware, industrial business is a capital intensive ventures. Therefore huge capital is required to start any industrial business. For this reason, any viable industrial project identified, the Government through the Ministry float the business to maturity before inviting private individuals to invest in it.

DEPARTMENT OF SOLID MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

This department has the responsibility of policy formulation and implementation regarding solid minerals in the State.

ACHIEVEMENTS MADE OVER THE YEARS UNDER REVIEW OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

Despite the global economic melt down; for which Bauchi State is not an exception; some modest achievements have been recorded as follows:-

INTEREST FREE LOAN SCHEME

The sum of N2b has been approved as a start-up capital to new loan scheme which was designed to involve commercial enterprises who under normal circumstances will not have access to banking facilities perhaps due to lack of collateral. The sum of N500,000,000 has been disbursed to various trade unions as 1st Installment.

SUPPLEMENT OF PHCN

To ensure growth in the Industrial sector Government has registered a Power Company by name Yankari Power Company Limited to supplement the PHCN. By this, there will be regular and stable power supply for our Industries and the domestic uses. A German Company (AC Stan POWER SERVICE) Berlin is to supply and install GT 24 Turbine generating plant which has the capacity of generating 110MW of electricity.

The State Government has also registered another Company which will construct hydro-power at River Dindima which is expected to supply 60MW of electricity as well as reservoir for fishing and irrigation farming.

ZARANDA HOTEL LIMITED

For the successful hosting of Under 17 Youth World Cup Championship, Bauchi State Government has renovated Zaranda Hotel to the 5 Star Hotel Status at total sum of N548,464,800.37.

YANKARI TRANSPORT COMPANY

PURCHASE OF BUSES

In its effort to improve the Transport sub-sector the Bauchi State Government has purchased 48 Buses to Yankari Transport Company at the tune of N285,150,375.00 loan from Fin Bank Plc. The first set-of the vehicles were commissioned in March, 2009 by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Bauchi State Dr. Malam Isa Yuguda (Matawallen Bauchi).

From March to date the Company was able to make a repayment of up to Eighty Million Naira (80,000,000.00)

YUGUDA FREE SCHOOL BUS

In a related development some buses of Yankari Transport Company have been scheduled to be conveying students to and from school every day. This project has been extended to cover some LGAs of the State also. Butchers subsidized buses and trucks programme has been introduced.

SUPPLY OF TRICYCLES

This will go along way in solving the transportation problems of Women and Civil Servants as well as provides gainful employment to our teeming unemployed youth in the State. 500 units have been contracted while the remaining 500 are awaiting approval. So far the 293 tri-cycles supplied have generated up to Thirty Million Naira (N30,000,000.00).

BAUCHI INVESTMENT CORPORATION

RECAPITALIZATION

Bauchi State Government have injected the sum of N500,000,000.00 in Bauchi Investment Corporation as recapitalization fund to enable the Corporation meet its financial obligations and also allow the Corporation compete with its competitors.

NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE

Bauchi State Government have facilitated the establishment of Nigerian Stock Exchange Automated Trading Floor in Bauchi. This will no doubt boost the economic growth of the State. The sum of over N64m has been spent in the project.

MICROFINANCE BANK

Microfinance in the rural areas has granted N250m to Community Banks in different Local Government Areas to enable them secure license to commence operations as Microfinance Bank.

HOUSING UNITS

In its bids for Housing for all BASG had secured a loan of N6,995,000,000.00 through Bauchi Investment Corporation from the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria Abuja to build 350 Housing units at Tambari phase II Housing Estate Bauchi.

The breakdown of the types of the housing units is as follows:

- a) 120 Units of 3 bedroom flat
- b) 230 Units of 2 bedroom flat

120 Units of 3 bedrooms flat have been completed and allocated to 120 beneficiaries at 30% subsidy (the actual price is N4.3m).

BAUCHI MEAT PRODUCT COMPANY

A total sum of N57,007,000.00 was released for financial assessment and purchase of Refrigerated Van, 300KVA Generator and payment of inherited debts of outlets stations at Port-Harcourt, Enugu and Lagos.

BAUCHI PLASTIC COMPANY

The sum of N10m was released for the settlement of the accumulated liabilities and some rehabilitation work. The Company is still waiting for working capital to commence full production.

BAUCHI FERTILIZER COMPANY

CIVIL WORKS:-

An Administrative block was reconstructed at a total cost of N261,882,238.98.

In order to diversify the production activities of the Company, another N406,800,000.00 was released for the supply of Granulator Compactor which can be used to process raw kaoline for use by the fertilizer blending plant in the production of fertilizer for our farmers. The Granulator is currently at Lagos awaiting clearance.

INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS

In order to find ways and means of utilizing our immense potentials of the abundant mineral resources to accelerate industrial growth, four different clusters centers have been identified in four different LGA of the State as follows:-

- i. Alkaleri – Kaoline
- ii. Kirfi – Water Melon
- iii. Dass – Tomatoes and other vegetable
- iv. Zaki - Onions