

SPEECH PRESENTATION:-

**PRESENTED BY PRINCE CHIDI IBE (GLOBAL COORDINATOR)
INITIATIVE FOR DIASPORA KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER (IDKT) @ THE
NORTHERN IMPART SUMMIT, ORGANIZED BY: AREWA
TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE (ATEI), AREWA
HOUSE, KADUNA STATE**

**THEME: THE IMPACT OF STAKE-HOLDERS IN THE POSITIVE
TRANSFORMATION OF NORTHERN NIGERIA**

Before anything else, I want to, commend the conveners of this forum; you have demonstrated a high level of maturity and responsibility in that, while many others sit around and apportion blames, or bend their heads in fear and keep mute about our current national problems, you have stepped up to discuss the issues and carve a path for the North's Economic growth and transformation. Well done!

I want to also appreciate and commend you for inviting the INITIATIVE FOR DIASPORA KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER to this meeting. No man is an island. You have goodwill and so you need support in order to achieve the good goals you desire. IDKT will be very glad to partner in people-oriented projects that will change the fortunes of the North; especially in appraising the current situation and conducting a feasibility study so as to create a roadmap for a better tomorrow for this part of Nigeria.

IDKT has a simple approach to solving developmental issues, or causing development. We are, simply put, a bridge that links Diaspora solutions with domestic problems. Instead of spending time, energy, and resources in developing blueprints for development, we simply look at the various modules and ideas that have already worked for various countries and replicate same in our country. A clear example of knowledge transfer at work is very visible in the case of Dubai – a desert area – that has, in just about ten years, been transformed into one of the most beautiful and economically viable places on earth.

Our **Knowledge Incubation Center** is open to our friends and partners all over the world as we continue to receive and analyze these developmental ideas. Our willingness to partner with the **AREWA TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE (ATEI)** has been clear from the first time we met at our Knowledge Incubation Center and ran through some of the challenges facing the North, especially poverty.

We believe that education and mass enterprise, particularly in the economic strength areas of the North, hold the key to the socio-economic liberation of the North. Fortunately, we already have some solutions that can address some of the key issues. The North, being the main source of crops, meat, milk, hides and skin for the nation, will need urgent and sustainable ideas for example in her agricultural and educational sector to gainfully engage her youths to open doors for growth, development and transformation.

Our solutions to the above highlighted problems are: agricultural modules, public advice and enlightenment package as well as space making for transformation and beautification of our environment to attract investors and create jobs and hope for Northern Nigerians.

- IDKT has the **FRISOL GRAZING GRASS TECHNOLOGY FOR LIVESTOCK.**

FRISOL is a biodynamic grassing system, which is developed to establish fast, economic and permanent grass vegetation on problem areas. This technology, when planned and executed, provides rich animal feed for livestock all year round. It will improve the productivity of livestock farmers since there will no longer be need for nomadic treks across the length and breadth of the country in search of grass. Most importantly, the incessant clashes between herdsmen and farmers will be a thing of the past. As it is in Turkey, a wide range of industry can emerge around an optimally-functioning livestock business.

- Education of the mind is a starting point of building a law abiding citizen. An educated or enlightened mind will not give in to violence but will be open to useful development and transformation. In order to achieve mass positive orientation through the length and breadth of the North, IDKT is ready for partnerships that will domesticate the **PEOPLES ADVICE BUREAU (PAB)**. It is a tool for offering free, independent, confidential counseling and advice to needy citizens on almost all spheres of life, be it finances, academics, law, marriage, etc. The PAB is capable of positively orienting the mindsets of the people and bridge the widening gaps between the people and their

government. This is even more beneficial to the North in the background that it will provide more awareness, enlightenment and forestall issues that may trigger tension or crises among the people. For example, the PABs when up and running, shall address the triggers of youth restiveness by playing mediator between the citizen and the state. The citizen's issues shall be collated and offered up for consideration during policy formulations; and then the eventual policies shall always be better explained to citizens at their local PAB offices. This is in addition to a wide range of counseling and advice services offered to the public.

- In order to create extensive retail outlets that will deliver locally manufactured goods and services to the doorsteps of consumers, IDKT has the **HIGH STREET MALL INITIATIVE**. This is the transformation of moribund walkways into revenue-generating lock-up shops for both the government and the people.
- Our High Street Mall initiative is capable of turning the streets of the Northern States into what we see in other countries of the world. It will create an avenue for revenue generation to the government and her people. There will be room for all to run their businesses without having to suffer the vagaries of the weather.

Traveling round the Northern part of Nigeria, one can easily sight areas where desertification and gully erosions are becoming life threats. But I want to state that places such as Dubai and many others are good examples of desertification prone areas that have been turned to tourist homes through leveraging ideas and sustainable development.

What is most fascinating to me about this partnership is that, beyond these modules that can be implemented straightaway to revamp the fortunes of the North, IDKT's pool of Diaspora expert ideas and experiences will remain open to **Arewa Transformation and Empowerment Initiative (ATEI)** for the many developmental modules that continue to pour in. And when our roadmap is drawn, tailored searches for modules that will solve specific problems can be conducted around the world from the comfort of our Knowledge Incubation Center.

IDKT is here to bring hope and solutions to the people of the North. Discussing the problems alone and apportioning blames will not move us forward. I want everyone listening to me today to know that desperation, violence and blame-game will not open the doors that we seek. But team work, love, appreciation of everybody's contribution even down to the grass-root level can perform the magic of transformation and bring sustainable development solutions for Northern Nigerians.

Having said this, I commend, once more, this initiative, and pray that a positive change that will endure has started from this room today.

Thank you all!