

The

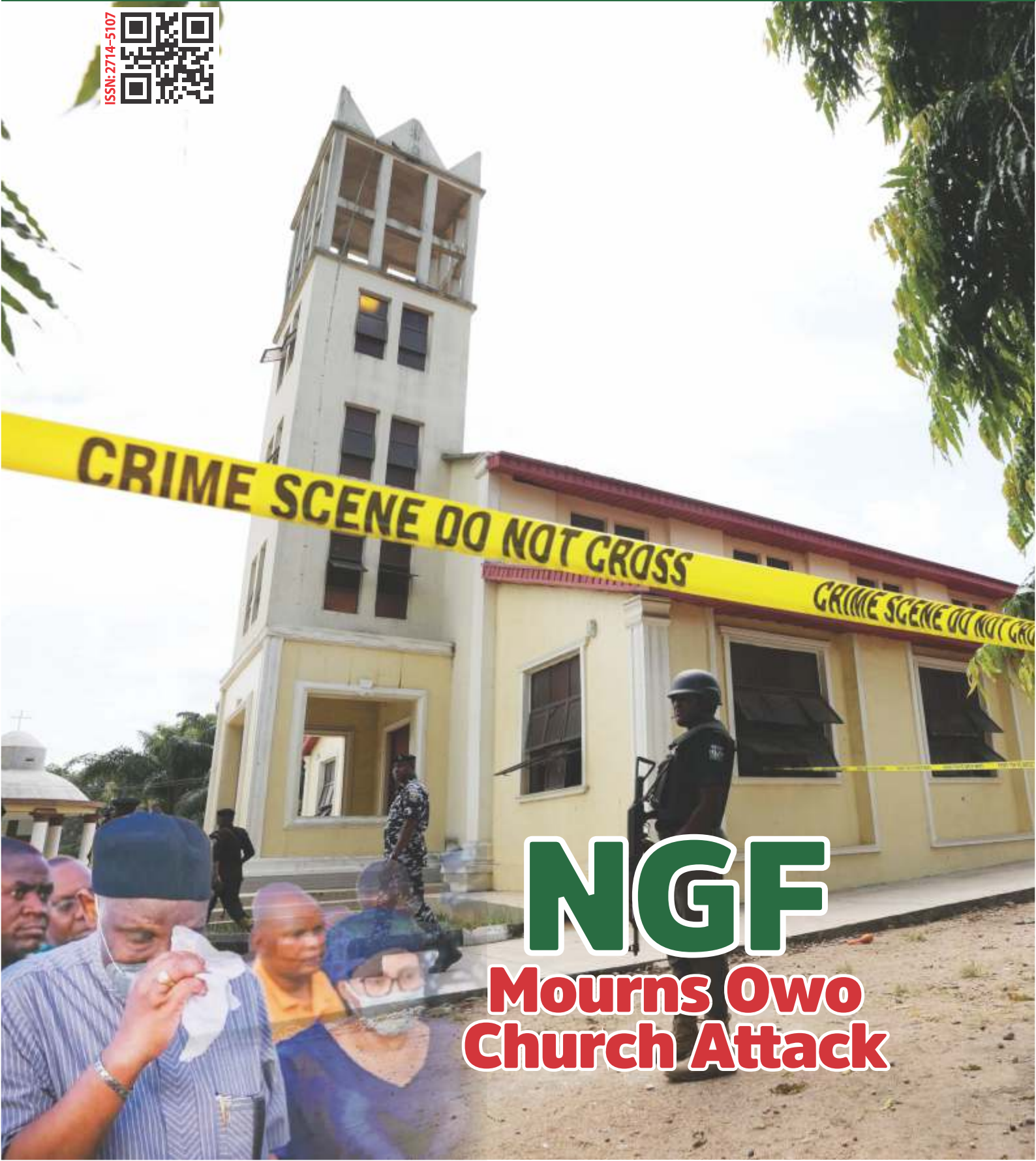
AN NGF MONTHLY PUBLICATION

EXECUTIVE

SUMMARY

Vol.2. No. 40, June, 2022

ISSN: 2714-5107



NGF

Mourns Owo Church Attack



How Russia-Ukraine war affects global food security

BY PROF. ABBA GAMBO

On February 24th, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in an avoidable war, as the whole world simply stood by and watched, leading to a most catastrophic refugee crisis since World War II. More than 7.5 million Ukrainians are currently fleeing their ancestral fatherland, and about one third of the whole Ukrainian population is now officially displaced. The destruction of Ukraine's infrastructural is beyond human comprehension.

Ukraine has a population of 44.13 million people according to a 2020 world bank report, and agriculturally, Ukraine is the 5th largest global exporter of wheat, 4th largest exporter of maize and 3rd largest exporter of rapeseed. According to the food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO/UN), Ukraine is very critical to global food security. Russia and Ukraine the two countries currently at war can feed the whole world.

Global Food Crisis:

Global Food prices increased by 12.6% within the very first week of the Russian invasion. It is strongly believed in the agricultural circle that Ukraine can feed the whole world. The country boasts of around 42 million hectares of viable arable land, and is already among top three grain exporters, and a global leader in the production and exportation of soya beans and sunflower oil.

The Russian/Ukrainian war has ignited the following, globally.

Rising price of wheat where more than 45 countries, 18 in Africa depend on Ukraine for their wheat demands. Today, wheat is the scarcest grain in the international global agricultural market.

The World Food Programme of the UN (WFP) also gets 50% of its annual demand for support to hunger prone areas from Ukraine. The war has led to a drastic reduction in the support given to crisis prone areas (both natural and Man-made) across the world.

The cost of fuel, a major export of both Russia and Ukraine has skyrocketed across

the world, with the USA being the worst hit.

Ukraine also accounts for more than 25% of global Fertilizer demand. No wonder, today a 50kg bag of NPK costs N30,000.00 in Nigeria, while in the last raining season, the same bag was selling for N7000.00. This development is likely to result in a massive drop in agricultural activities in Nigeria, and hence increased food insecurity.

Ukraine is also a global supplier of seeds, especially organic seeds, whose shortage has already started manifesting globally. Ukraine also exports heavy-duty agricultural machinery especially tractors, a major product in the agricultural value chain.

The effects of all of these above-mentioned factors on global food security cannot be overlooked. Recently, the chairman of the African Union, President Mackey Sall of Senegal, was in Russia to lobby for softer restrictions on Ukrainian exports particularly of wheat to Africa. The EU is also lobbying for the release of about 22 million metric Tonnes of wheat stored in Ukraine, presently. As for Nigeria, the almost 50% rise



in the prices of bread, flour, pastas, and cakes, will continue unless an alternative to wheat is found. The shortage wheat in the world would be less hurtful if India, another great exporter of wheat had not banned exportation for the whole of 2022. To make matters worse, Indonesia, the world's largest exporter of sunflower, the closest alternative to wheat, has also banned exportation for now.

The solution lies in an urgent and speedy resolution of the Russian/Ukrainian crisis, and the whole world must rise to this challenge. The United Nations has a crucial role to play in this unpleasant impasse, and the war is increasing not just hunger but also global food insecurity. The bottom-line being that global security is directly related to food security.





Commentary

The 5th June 22 attack by terrorists on the St Francis Church in Owo town in Ondo State consumed more than forty lives and left many injured. Call it mayhem, or even massacre, but one thing that you can't take away from it, is that it was a most ungodly and heinous spectacle.

What else would you call the killing of worshippers inside the temple of God on Pentecost Sunday? Governors' swift response in support of their brother Governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, SAN, symbolised the gruesomeness of the attack and how much it exposed, even demonised, a once sleepy town. The Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, and Governor of Ekiti State, Dr John Kayode Fayemi said, to the Bishop of the Akure Diocese, Dr Jude Arogundade, that the attack diminishes us all as Nigerians. The bishop concurred by adding that the action does not represent us as Nigerians. "How are we presenting ourselves as primitive and backward? People who have no sense of humanity", he wondered, adding that, "Ondo State does not deserve this. Nobody deserves this. Christians don't deserve this. Muslims don't deserve this. I call on all of you (Governors) to do something."

NGF visited the scene of the attack, commiserated with the Owo traditional ruler, Olowo of Owo, Oba Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye and greeted the injured people that were still recuperating in the hospital. All of that is covered with pictures in this edition.

Still more depressing news for the living. The effect of the war in Ukraine on global wheat supply is also put under watch by the NGF Agric Advisor. It is an eye-opener. The professor leaned very heavily towards the assertion that global insecurity is a metaphor for global food glut.

Away from depressions. Not many would admit knowing the existence of a World Milk Day. The Nigeria Governors' Forum joined several groups around the country to celebrate the day with a conference at the Ladi Kwali Conference Centre in Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, on June 1, 2022.

The conference was hosted by the Commercial Dairy Ranchers Association of Nigeria in partnership with Sahel Consult-

ing. The theme of the conference is: "Catalysing a Milk Revolution in Nigeria through Strategic Investments in Dairy Development".

It was well attended.

On an even brighter note, the NGF Secretariat a while ago shot its profile a notch higher amongst its neighbours. Domiciled in the highbrow Maitama District, the management of the secretariat figured that it would be difficult to explain why the school that youths of those who serve the high and mighty would be without instructional materials. It stepped up to the plate and made available for the Maitama Model Secondary School, a conducive learning environment. Was the school elated? Find out from the views expressed by the school principal inside.

On a very serious note, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) along with the International Republican Institute (IRI) visited the NGF to brainstorm on Nigeria's political development.

Although the NGF team led by its Director General, Mr. Asishana B. Okauru made it expressly clear that the forum insulates itself from politics, a healthy conversation ensued, but the Chatham House rule was invoked ahead of talks.

NDI's Global Elections Director, Richard Klein led the team assisted by Programme Director, Courtney Hess.

The Attorneys General of the federation also came together in Lagos to deliberate on matters affecting the states towards providing a collective front in litigations whenever they arise.

These and many other stories from the Health section, Education Analyst, the NGF digital library and other sectors provide ample insight into the value that the NGF adds to governance in Nigeria.

Follow us on:



@ngfsecretariat

THE TEAM

Director-General
Asishana B. OKAURU
Executive Director (Fin & Admin)
Abubakar JIBIA
Executive Director (Res & Str)
Abdullateef SHITTU
Director Media & Public Affairs
Abdulzaque BELLO-BARKINDO
Snr. Publications Officer
Halima S. AHMED

Social Media Officer
Isioma N. Ononye
NGF Health Advisor
Dr. Ahmad ABDULWAHAB
Chief Economist
David NABENA
Agric Economist
Bunmi AKANBI
Senior Economist
Abdulaziz OLORUNISHOLA

Librarian
Naomi UBOGU
IT
Bassi HEMAN
Ubong ESSIEN
Photography
Saeed SANUSI
Director Legal
Chijioke CHUKU
Research
Imogen I. HENRY



NGF Mourns Owo Church Attack

The gruesome attack on worshippers at the St Francis Church in Owo, headquarters of the Owo Local Government Area of Ondo State in which scores of people were murdered in cold blood can only be described in one word: Ungodly. The Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, roundly condemned the attack and viewed it as dastardly, unconscionable and devoid of all human feeling. The murderous groups behind this have murdered their own sleep and are desperate to remain relevant even in retreat. Their display of barbarism can never pass for heroism, and the killing of innocent worshippers only confines its executioners and their promoters in damnation. It is important to note that good always prevails over evil. As the body count of victims continue, last put at 41, the NGF expressed its deepest sympathies to the Owo catholic community, the government and people of Ondo State and the country in general. The NGF team led by its Chairman Dr John Kayode Fayemi was in both Akure and Owo, where the massacre took place. After very careful consideration, the Chairman invited the former Governor of Ogun State and serving Senator, Ibikunle Amosun to accompany him on the trip.

After the NGF Chairman and Governor of Ekiti State paid a condolence visit to their brother, Governor Akeredolu, the team proceeded to the residence of Bishop Jude Arogundade, the head of the Catholic congregation in Ondo State.

The NGF Chairman painted a very gruesome picture of the incident which he said "happened in the house of God on Pentecost Sunday in such a peaceful environment. This is a foreboding on a very serious and unusual attack on the Ondo people". Dr John Kayode Fayemi wondered what people would "do if they can't go to their farms? They can't walk freely on their streets. They can't even go and worship in bulk in peace and quiet?"

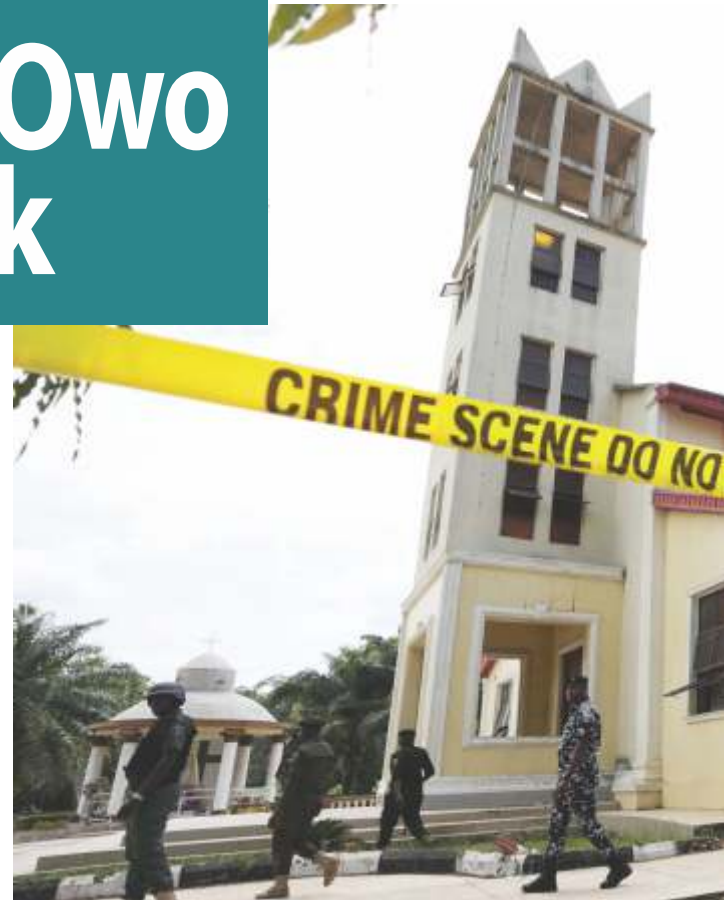
"We are all shocked. All dumbfounded", he said on behalf of the governors.

The NGF Chairman reiterated the assurance of the Governor of Ondo that "just as our brother has stated, these people can't go scot-free. All efforts would be geared towards ensuring that the criminals are brought to book. This can't save the lives lost. This can't save the wounded from their discomfort. But we know that the God we serve can heal and protect our land".

"As Governors, we are responsible for the welfare of our people", according to Dr Fayemi adding that "we will double our efforts in our states to secure our people because it underscores why we must be concerned and worried. Every death diminishes us", he emphasised.

The Ekiti State Governor turned to Bishop Jude Arogundade and showered words of consolation. "We know how troubled you must be. We know that this is something that befuddles the mind of all of us.

While the government at the federal level is working together to ensure that these people are brought to book, the least we can do is to offer relief and support to the diocese. At this point the NGF Chairman announced a donation of N50m to the Diocese, before declaring sternly that "Governors also promise the perpetrators that no matter how far they run, they will eventually be overcome, their brutality against the Nigerian people halted and all killers ultimately brought to book to face the consequences of their actions." In his response, Bishop Arogundade did not mince words while showing his annoyance with the attack. "They must be fished



out" he began, "I've been on the phone talking with everybody and everywhere in the world. It's no longer local news. I got calls from the representatives of Switzerland and Rome. In fact, the Holy Father already responded."

"My colleagues in America are all calling to ask what they can do? I've contacted more than three government representatives from the Hungarian government," he added.

Having lived all his life in the United States, Bishop Arogundade presented a comparison between how we as Nigerians portray ourselves before the international community. "How are we presenting ourselves as primitive and backwards? People who have no sense of humanity", he wondered. Getting bitter and emotional, the Bishop stated that, "Ondo State does not deserve this. Nobody deserves this. Christians don't deserve this. Muslims don't deserve this. I call on all of you to do something." "I thank you all and the Chairman of the Governors' Forum for being here. Tell your people that this does not present us well. They are laughing at us. This does not present us well and Nigerians are the finest no





▶ matter where they are. I've lived in United States and I know what I'm talking about. Nigerians are the finest. Nigerians are confident. They are handsome. They are beautiful. They are strong. They are intelligent. This diminishes us. This does not present us well. It is far away from who we are, and the earlier we begin to say that and put our feet down and make sure that it doesn't happen again. I'm not going to wait and allow this to continue. Nigeria is a regional power. Nigerian soldiers have fought everywhere and the whole world respects Nigerian military. How will a group of thugs come and make a mess of our military? Something is happening our dear brothers. I don't want to be angry and emotional, but I must speak clearly," Bishop Jude Arogundade explained.

"Whatever is happening, let the international community ask the right questions. Of course, the Archbishop of New York, I spoke with him three weeks ago. He will speak to their President and say that this is what is going on. Every influence we have anywhere in the world, we are going to use it to get to the bottom of this," he concluded resolutely. Governors' regional associations from all

over the country also sent their group condolences to the government and people of Ondo State. According to a presser from the office of Plateaus Director Press, Makut Simon Makam, the Northern Governors' Forum says it is infuriated over the attack on worshippers at the St. Francis Catholic Church Owo, Ondo State which left many dead and others injured.

Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau State Simon Bako Lalong said the Forum totally condemns the unprovoked attack on the Church and its worshippers which is a clear attempt by criminals to instigate religious hatred and inflame passions among Nigerians.

While commiserating with the survivors, families of victims, the Catholic Church and the Christian body in Nigeria, Lalong said the Northern Governors want security agencies to do all that is possible to apprehend those behind the sacrilege, their sponsors and collaborators. This he said will not only ensure that justice is served, but ensure a clear message is also sent to criminals who are bent on causing chaos in the country.

He also said the Northern Governors are in solidarity with their colleague Governor

Rotimi Akeredolu and the Government of Ondo State, assuring him of their prayers and support at this very sober moment.

The North Central Governors' Forum through its chairman and Niger State Governor North Central States Governor's Forum (NCSGF), Abubakar Sani Bello described as heinous, satanic and heart-breaking the killing of worshippers, that Sunday, at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo, Ondo State.

The Governor, in a statement, expressed outrage over the terrorists attack which has reportedly claimed the lives of many innocent worshippers and left several others injured. While condemning the attack, Governor Sani Bello regretted the increasing, widespread cases of armed banditry, kidnapping, extra-judicial killings, and other horrific crimes in the country stressing that Nigerians must remain united to end such unprovoked attacks and wanton killings. "The satanic attack is a condemnable act of terrorism. Everything must be done to bring the assailants to justice. We must, as Nigerians, resist any attempt to undermine our unity and peaceful coexistence", the Governor said.

He rationalised that the deadly terrorists attack on the Owo Catholic Church, much like other gruesome killings in the country, is a calculated attempt to destabilize the country and make it ungovernable assuring that the nation will come out of these trying times stronger as 'evil will never prevail over good'. Governor Sani Bello prayed God to expose the perpetrators and their likely sponsors and bring peace and stability to the country as well as quick recovery to those injured.

He also sympathized with the families of those killed as well as the government and people of Ondo State.

The Governors of the Southwest, took a deep dive on the matter with a direct statement issued at the end of their meeting held, virtually, on the 10th June, 2022. They deliberated extensively on the rising wave of insecurity in the country, especially the Southwest and decided on some measures, deemed immediate in stemming the tide of banditry, kidnapping and terror attacks in the region.

They stated that the attack on St Francis Catholic Church, Owaluwa Street, Owo, compels immediate intervention in the whole of the Southwest to nip the insidious phenomenon of insurgency in the bud. The meeting, consequently, took decisions, some of which are expected to have far-reaching implications in the quest to ▶▶



► protect lives and property in the region.

The governors deliberated on issues which pose great risk to the collective well-being of the people and resolved as follows:

1. The Governors condemned, in very strong terms, the horrendous crime perpetrated by Terrorist against the people and residents of Owo, Ondo State, and, by extension, the peace-loving people of the Southwest. The Governors sympathised with the victims of the mindless attack in Owo.

2. The Governors declared a 3-day mourning period in memory of the victims of the 5th June, 2022 terror attack on St Francis Catholic, Owaluwa Street, Owo, Ondo State, starting from Monday, 13th June, to Wednesday, 15th, June, 2022

5. The Governors, as Chief Security Officers, resolved to continue to assist the security agencies in the areas of crisis management and intelligence gathering;

6. The Governors reviewed reports from various States on the factors militating against peace and security in the region. They expressed grave concern on the influx of Okada riders into all parts of the Southwest, especially the State capitals. The meeting further resolved that those efforts be geared toward identity management of Okada riders and stringent regulation put in place for their operation.

7. Consequently, the Forum decided it was time to reconvene the Southwest Security Committee to look critically into this creeping menace before it blossoms into another



to symbolise our collective loss across all South Western States in Nigeria.

3. They agreed that all the Governors should direct the flying of Flags at Half Mast in all public buildings, facilities and official residences across all the States in the South West in honour of the victims of the Owo terror attack.

4. The Governors noted, with great discomfiture, the increasing agitations about spaces taken over by unidentified and unknown migrants in all Southwest States and therefore, recommended that an increase in the scope of surveillance of the activities of these undocumented settlers by relevant security agencies in all the States must be immediately embarked upon.

er intractable social problem. The Committee will be expected to submit its findings on the desirability of Okada operations in the region. It is also expected to submit a multi-level template to combat the threat of insurgency and terrorism in the region.

8. The Forum agreed to convene forthwith a physical meeting of the Southwest Governors to deliberate on the security challenges confronting the region.

Meanwhile, The South-West Governors' Forum declared a three-day mourning period in memory of the victims of the June 5 terror attack on St Francis Catholic, Owaluwa Street, Owo, Ondo State.

A communique issued after a virtual meeting of the governors stated that the mourning period would hold between

Monday, June 13, and Wednesday, June 15, to symbolise the collective loss across the South-West.

The communique signed by all the governors, led by their chairman and Ondo State Governor, Mr. Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (SAN), also expressed concern about the influx of commercial motorcycle (okada) riders in all parts of the South-west.

Meanwhile, churches in Owo Local Government Area of Ondo State, yesterday, recorded poor attendance the Sunday during services, perhaps, for fear of another attack, following the attack on St Francis Catholic Church, Owo, which happened during Sunday service.

The governors' communique read, "The recent attack on St Francis Catholic Church, Owaluwa Street, Owo, compels immediate intervention in the whole of the South West to nip the insidious phenomenon of insurgency in the bud.

"The meeting, consequently, took decisions, some of which are expected to have far-reaching implications in the quest to protect lives and property in the region."

They condemned, in very strong terms, the crime perpetrated by the terrorists against the people and residents of Owo, and, by extension, the people of the South-West.

The communique said, "The governors agreed to declare a 3-day mourning period in memory of the victims of the 5th June, 2022 terror attack on St Francis Catholic, Owaluwa Street, Owo, Ondo State, starting from Monday, 13th June, to Wednesday, 15th, June, 2022, to symbolise our collective loss across all South Western States in Nigeria.

"The meeting agreed that all the governors should direct the flying of flags at half-mast in all public buildings, facilities and official residences across all the states in the South-West in honour of the victims of the Owo terror attack.

"We noted, with great discomfiture, the increasing agitations about spaces taken over by unidentified and unknown migrants in all South West States. The meeting, therefore, recommends an increase in the scope of surveillance of the activities of these undocumented settlers by relevant security agencies in all the states. The governors, as Chief Security Officers, resolved to continue to assist the security agencies in the areas of crisis management and intelligence gathering at all times."

"The governors reviewed reports from various states on the factors militating against peace and security in the region. They expressed grave concern on the influx of Okada riders into all parts of the South West, especially, the state capitals."



No Evidence Has Linked Owo Church Attack to ISWAP – Gov. Fayemi

Following the Owo, Ondo State Church attack, Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) and Governor of Ekiti State, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, recently spoke with Channels Television on related issues, the surrounding security challenges and the way forward. Excerpts:

What's your reading of the recent attack on the Owo Church in Ondo State by armed gunmen?

What happened on June the 5th will go down in the annals of Nigeria's history as one of the most heinous and vicious attacks on innocent citizens of this country.

When citizens get to the point where they are living in fear of going to their normal places of worship, of going to their farms or workplaces, then that's almost a state of Armageddon. When we Governors met, we were not just reviewing what happened which led to the loss of now over 40 innocent people in Owo, Ondo State but the general security situation in the South-West as well as in the country. We're still finding it very hard to comprehend what happened because this is the first time such an attack would happen in the South.

But this has been happening in other parts of the country...

Yes, we know that this may have happened in other parts of the country in times past, but we've tried within the limits of our powers to anticipate and prevent this sort of heinous crime against humanity. That was partly what led to the establishment of Amotekum, which we did almost two years ago now to complement the efforts of the main-



stream security agencies.

Now, we don't want to jump to any conclusion as to why what happened in Owo, until full investigations are conducted, and we await the result of those investigation. Pending the time that happens, we feel that we need to build the confidence of our people, address the agitations that are widespread in all the South-West at this moment and work with the federal institutions, particularly the intelligence agencies, the security agencies to re-organize and refocus the architecture to respond and address this very unfortunate development.

This is a war on the people and there's no other way to describe it and that's why we're taking the steps we're taking. Flying the flag at half-mast is just a symbolic indication of how much of a crisis of security that we're in and why an attack on Owo is an attack on all of us in Nigeria. We are all from Owo and we must do everything to stop a repeat of this and we

hope that the security institutions will cooperate with us to address this tragedy that happened in Owo.

But this particular incident raises several questions. For instance what is the role of intelligence; more specifically actionable intelligence in pre-empting such attacks and also the governors' roles...

As to why the incident happened, governors are privy to all manners of intelligence and all manner of security, but it's not all intelligence that is actionable intelligence and when intelligence is actionable, our duty is to pass it to the relevant institutions responsible for this even when they come to our attention.

I don't want us to jump the gun as far as this is concerned and that is why I'm not going to go into any detail as to what intelligence we had and at what point we had it but suffice it to say that security institutions are conducting their own investigations now.

We are also in our own way comple- ►►



menting that effort. The governor of Ondo State has already reassured the citizens of the state that he's going to go after these people, track them, apprehend them, and ensure that they are held culpable for this crime against humanity.

This is a crime that has attracted global attention, so it's not just us that are now tracking this. There are sister institutions that are not necessarily even Nigerian that are helping to track what transpired on June the fifth. I would just say that let's tarry. Let's await the outcome of the investigation, whilst we continue to provide necessary measures to protect the citizens of our states.

But the federal government has made some inferences that ISWAP is behind the attack. What's your take on this?

As far as I'm concerned, whether our intelligence points to ISWAP, statements about ISWAP or Boko Haram or whatever other institutions is responsible for this is purely speculative at this stage. I haven't seen any evidence that concretely puts these in the corner of any of these rogue elements that we have.

But it really doesn't at this stage matter because they've committed this crime. They've demonstrated capacity to cause maximum damage to our people. Our duty as our security officers is to ensure that this does not occur again and that we go after elements of this nature, whichever organization they may represent within our domains and that's precisely what is happening right now.

The statement issued in the communique around immediate interventions to resolve insecurity challenges means exactly what it says. Intervention would require a range of interventions with security, economic, political, and otherwise. We would continue to work with those institutions that are empowered to take steps to stem the tide of this unfortunate development.

These bloody and very damaging attacks apparently brings back the issue of state police to the front-burner. Do you expect it to intensify the push for state police by governors?

When it comes to state police, the reason why we don't have state police is simply because internal security is in the exclusive list of the Nigeri-

an constitution, and anything that is in the exclusive list of the Nigerian constitution resides in the domain of the federal government, the central government.

I know for a fact that currently, the country is going through a constitutional reform process. We don't know yet if that is something that will come out of that process but that is a process, it's not an event.

If citizens have come to the conclusion just as governors have that multi-level

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WHETHER OUR INTELLIGENCE POINTS TO ISWAP, STATEMENTS ABOUT ISWAP OR BOKO HARAM OR WHATEVER OTHER INSTITUTIONS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS IS PURELY SPECULATIVE AT THIS STAGE

policing that will complement both federal is the way to go or that state police to bring security closer to the people - there are representatives of the citizens in the National Assembly and they're the ones responsible for the amendment of the constitution.

We would expect that that's something that would be of concern to them and that they

would activate in the process of constitutional reform. As to the Presidency affecting why we don't have state police, I don't think it's fair to blame the President for not having state police. The President may have a personal opinion on this, and he is entitled to his opinion just as other citizens are entitled to their own opinion.

Also, I don't believe that this administration micromanages the legislative process. This administration is a recipient of legislative ideas and thoughts.

Beyond the current administration, APC, the political party that birthed it has a specific position on state police. What happens?

The ruling party, the All-Progressives Congress (APC) has a position on this. We had the Nasir El Rufai Committee on true federalism and one of the recommendations of that committee which the party adopted was that most state police should form part of the constitutional reform.

If members of the National Assembly have not come to that decision, it may well be it's because they did not get enough numbers. You know for constitutional reform process to happen, they need two-thirds of the membership of the legislative body and that's something that may not have been attained in that process. But don't forget that the process is going through state assembly ratification at this point in time.

I am aware that the state assemblies may have also indicated that they would like to have this as an issue reflected in the constitutional reform process.

As to the question of the purpose of our meeting, well I have not told you that





▶ nothing would come out of our meeting. As a matter of fact, we are holding a physical meeting.

What's the way forward?

Our initial meeting was a virtual meeting in the immediate aftermath of what happened in Owo but we have now called a physical meeting that would also have security chiefs involved in it. We continue to engage with federal security officials on this matter and we just urge our people to be patient.

We can understand the grief and the agitation in our communities as far as this issue is concerned but precipitate action is also not what would get us to where we want to be.

We need to be measured. We need to be focused. We need to be driven by data and fact and we need to ensure that technology

begins to play a much more significant role in our security operations and that's precisely what would come out of this exercise.

Looking at the big picture, the issue of funding to firm up efficient and effective security interventions cannot really be glossed over...

As concerns funding - it will always be a concern of government because we're dealing with competing demands. When you are in government and all these demands are important, but nothing is more important than the security of our citizens. #at is why in the hierarchy of needs, we need to provide for the security of the citizens and we will stop at nothing in spending whatever is required to attain a level of security that we're comfortable with.

When it comes to funding in terms of having all the available resources, it would always be a challenge, but we will prioritize security over other things and if that means expanding the capacity of the local security network: Amotekun and supporting the security agencies which we have always done.

We've always supported the police; we've always supported the military. We've always supported civil defence. #at is something we do as a matter of fact in all our states. We will not relent at doing this.

There is the issue of undocumented residents in the South-West, where the problem arises and this speaks to the matter of even being sure who Nigerian citizens are?

You have mechanisms for documenting people who come into communities right from way back. Even before we have modern technology, we have always had systems in communities. You cannot come into any local community in the South-West without someone notifying the Royal Father, the Oba in that community and then asking questions about who is this

person and what they're doing there and so on and so forth.

But some of the ungoverned spaces being referred to are our forests. Many of these forests are being taken over by elements that are unidentified and one of the measures that we are taken across the length and breadth of the South-West is clearing those forests of unidentified elements who constitute a threat to our people and the citizens of Nigeria residing in that area.

You have a lot of forest in the South-West, it's a heavily forested area but many of the forests have been taken over by people whose provenance, whose antecedents and knowledge are not available to government agencies.

Working in concert, we would ensure that we do that and the reason why we must come together the way we've al-

“
WHAT WE CANNOT DOUBT EVEN IF AS YOU CORRECTLY IDENTIFY THE INSURGENCY HAS NOT BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE SOUTH-WEST
 ”

ways done is that those forests traverse our states.

I mean you can come from the Obesi forest in Ondo State and come into Emory-ise in Ekiti State and you still can go into Kwara. You can go into Kogi via those same heavily forested areas and it's only common-sense that we work together to stop this influx that is now constituted itself into a security threat to our citizens.

Also, insecurity comes in different guises. What is insurgency in the North-west may transform itself into banditry or kidnapping in the South-West utilizing the resources that you get from that to continue to fund insurgencies in other parts of the country.

What we cannot doubt even if as you correctly identify the insurgency has not been a problem in the South-West. What is not in doubt is the inexplicable nexus that now exists between those responsi-





► ble for insurgency in the North-Eastern part of the country and those involved in banditry in the North-West are now coming South in search of resources to fund their nefarious activities in the areas where they have heather to operate it.

It is that chain that must be broken - that nexus. That is why we in the South-West that are seeing these activities metamorphosing into insecurity in our space must be concerned with what is going on in other parts.

We must concern ourselves with insecurity in any part of Nigeria. That is what this has pointed to. We cannot just play the ostrich and say, insurgency in the North-East is the problem of the Governor of Borno and Adamawa.

Apparently, all must become engaged in these issues with a view to clearing all these problems from the country.

That is really the ultimate. It's not just to take an isolated view because as I said, these things are inextricably linked. We must respond to them in an integrated fashion, retool our security architecture, recruits more men into our security agencies, increase the use of technology, satellite surveillance, drone coverage, telephone tracking; all these things need to now be much more accelerated and revved up to address the problem that has now come upon us.

Would then say that the South-West is now an insurgency zone?

We may not be an insurgency zone but all these things are pure terror. They are acts of terror. There's no other way to describe what happened in Owo and it is not different from what had happened in Madala or near Abuja or what has been going on in the North-East of this country.

We must take an integrated approach to resolving this problem not an isolated hard-up approach. As to the question of when the federal government comes into the equation, well the federal government is already in. The federal government has assets in all our states. The military is here, the security service, the DSS is here, the police have always been here. But we need a much more integrated response.

We're talking to the National Security Adviser about many of these issues. The President himself is very concerned about the challenges that we face in the southwest. I would indulge your audi-

ence to work with agencies and taking measures that are visible, measurable and can see as being taken in the interest of the citizens which is not just tracking these people but bringing them to book in the shortest possible time.

Coordination with the security agencies is critical to outcomes. How do you enhance this?

When it comes to coordination with security agencies, we're not military people and we're not police officers, we're concerned primarily by the challenge that we are confronted with in security

we then need to do to support the security institutions to help achieve that then we will do it and we have been doing it including providing the necessary support to those security institutions in our state and collectively.

For agitated citizens over insecurity challenges, yes, the temptation would always be there for citizens to engage in self-protection. But we can only urge them that the best form of self-protection that we need from our citizens at this point in time is vigilance.

They need to give us information when they notice anything in their own



of our citizens. How the security institutions do their work, that's their professional duty. They're trained. They know how to undertake joint operations and they do that from time to time.

If there is conflict in their areas of responsibility or confusion in delineating who is responsible for what I'm sure, there are mechanisms within the security architecture to address those and we'll continue to encourage them to do that.

All we can do as leaders of our people and chief security officers in our state is to highlight what we see and then call for measures that would enable us sleep with our two eyes closed and whatever

community, in their farms or in any part of their area of residence. They need to give relevant information to the security agencies.

Yes, we have seen the impact of citizens-led security outfit like the civilian JTF in the North-East and we've also seen the impact of citizens driven a security outfit like Ameotekun in the South-West. Citizens can be part of that, and we would encourage them to be part of that because internal vigilance is the price to pay for our freedom and liberty.

All of us are security agents and we need to play our part for the mainstream official security agencies to be effective at what they do.



NGF at World Milk Day

The Nigeria Governors' Forum joined several groups around the country to celebrate the World Milk Day with a conference at the Ladi Kwali Conference Centre in Sheraton Hotel on the June 1, 2022.

The conference was hosted by the

importance of Data in Dairy Sector Transformation: Lessons for Nigeria by Dr. Ayoola Shoyombo, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Landmark University, a panel discussion on taking practical steps to promoting backward integration for milk suffi-

with Akanbi Olubunmi .O, the Senior Research Officer, Muhammed Musa, Researcher.

Professor Abba Gambo, the Senior Agricultural Advisor gave an opening remark at the event. He began by saying that NGF determines and advises the Governors on policies they can implement in their state for the betterment of humanity.

He added that the reasons why all stakeholders should partner with the NGF is because the NGF is the fastest, safest, the most effective and the most efficient means of getting to the Governors.

"The Governors meet every month. If there is something you want the Governors to know, we will make it part of the agenda and priority for the Governors," he said.



Participants at the workshop

Commercial Dairy Ranchers Association of Nigeria in partnership with Sahel Consulting. The theme of the conference was on "Catalysing a Milk Revolution in Nigeria through Strategic Investments in Dairy Development".

The Conference consisted of presentations such as Investment Opportunities in Animal Feed Commercialization in Nigeria Dairy Sector, Unlocking Wealth Creation Opportunities in rural Communities through Financial Inclusion, Food Safety: Understanding Nutrition Fact Labels on Dairy Products,

ciency in Nigeria and an interactive feedback session with the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) featuring the Minister of Agriculture representative and Director, Department of Animal Husbandry Services, FMARD; Mrs. Winifred Lai-Solarin, MD/CEO Integrated Dairies Limited, Jos; Mr. Sheyin Shekarri, GM, Delifrost Caterers Nigeria Ltd; Anthony Alkoseifi and Mr. Deji Adebuseye, Principal, Sahel Capital.

In attendance of the conference was the Senior Agricultural Advisor, Professor Abba Gambo along

Furthermore, he stated that NGF is ready to partner and collaborate with all those that are interested in moving the agricultural landscape in Nigeria forward.

At the conference, there was a presentation by the President, Agricultural Correspondents Association of Nigeria (ACAN); Mr. Oba Olasunkanmi John who said that Nigeria has the highest population of cattle in the world, ranking at number 5.

He stated that Nigeria is supposed to be the country that invests more in milk production because of the financial potential in providing jobs and the



The high table

► GDP. However, the statistics show that Nigeria only produces 40% and is exporting 60% of its dairy products.

He added that the private sector is trying but they can invest more, and they should take advantage of the benefits of dairy products because Nigeria is not producing up to 10% of the milk needs.

At the conference, there was also a keynote address by Dr. Hope Pachena, the Operations Officer at the Upstream Manufacturing, of Agribusiness and Services, Sub-Saharan Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC).

He stated that there is a big opportunity in the milk production sector and that the milk sector can bring developmental impact and change the lives of Nigerians.

“Domestic milk production in Nigeria is insufficient to meet the national demand for milk; 60% of the milk consumed is imported to bridge the local supply gap,” he said.

Dr. Pachena added that if there are any challenges with the policy, at the World Bank, they work directly with the government to handle issues that relate with policy.

In his presentation, he stated that the IFC can support the development of Nigeria's dairy sector leveraging a three-step up-

stream engagement approach.

The first step is to “identify like-minded sponsors willing to develop the local dairy sector.”

This would involve selecting sponsors that are willing to develop the local dairy value chain alongside IFC MAS Upstream.

Then, they would negotiate and agree on engagement terms.

After, they would finalise the required processes and approvals for engagement to work together on project development activities.

Secondly, step two is the “Diagnostics of dairy sector challenges and identifying the right business model.”

This entails working with like-minded sponsors to assess the

dairy industry status in selected and agreed state, including (if necessary) detailed feasibility studies to gain an understanding of the existing dairy production and farmer aggregation models in use.

There is the need to have a clear picture of what is working, and what is not working well in the value chain in the identified State.

Next is the identification/diagnosis of the key blockages/ bottlenecks preventing full integration/growth in the dairy value chain.

Plus, what is needed would be to prepare a roadmap and timelines and proceed with agreed project development activities.

Step three is to implement agreed project development activities with identified sponsors.

This means working with identified like-minded sponsor and using the diagnostics findings of Step 2 to implement project development activities.

They would have to consider the state of the industry in the state and performance gaps identified.

In addition, they would need to create a project plan with an investment line in sight.

”
DOMESTIC MILK PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NATIONAL DEMAND FOR MILK; 60% OF THE MILK CONSUMED IS IMPORTED TO BRIDGE THE LOCAL SUPPLY GAP
”



► **Challenges:**

- Farmer Productivities Challenges such as indigenous cow with low yield of milk, Limited access to water and field, Limited access to input such as vaccine, multi-vitamins, Health care services etc.
- Farmers limited participation in the formal dairy sector.
- Gender-Specific Challenges in the Dairy Sector e.g Access to fund, Limited access to Extension agent.
- Nutrition Challenges etc.

Way Out:

- Awareness, orientation & re-orientation of current highest dairy producer.
- Training & re-training of personnel involved in dairy data collection
- Selection and re-selection for desired dairy trait.
- Cross breeding with compatible exotic dairy breeds.
- Desired gene stabilization.
- Reduction of Milk Import.
- Increase participation of small holder farmers in the formal sector and value chain.
- Increase extension agent specialist etc.

Few Statistical Data at the Event:

- Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Sudan are the highest milk producing country.
- Ethiopia has the most cow.
- South Africa has the greatest milk production per cow.
- Only Ethiopia and Kenya are self-sufficient.
- Nigeria spend N570 Billion in importing Dairy product to Nigeria.
- Pastoralists account for 95% of Milk production in Nigeria.
- Commercial farmer account for only 5% of local milk production.

In his presentation, he elaborated on what must be adhered to when distributing dairy products such as packaging, packaging materials, label and labelling information, nutrition facts and laws that govern labelling in Nigeria. He emphasized that a good and well blended product should have protection, safety, attractiveness, useability, and sustainability.

The packaging of the products matters because it has direct influence on how far a product will go. The material used in packing a product depends on the nature of the product, the associated hazards – chemical, physical, and biological, the mode of distribution and the integrity of the product.

He also provided some nutritional facts being that the declaration of nutritional information is a statutory requirement – Section 19 of Pre-Packaged Food, Water, and Ice Labelling Regulations, 2019, nutrition claims must be declared and substantiated – scientific evidence is important. Also, nutritional facts must be declared per 100gm or 100ml or per serving of the product of all ingredients and including additives must be declared. Also, specific requirement for Nigeria population is in Regulations 3(5), 4, and 5 of Milk and Dairy Products Regulations 202. He also concluded that the nutrition fact label is a statutory requirement by law that both manufacturer and consumer must note for proper information sharing.

Secondly, adherence to the instructions on the label will enhance the efficacy of the product. Lastly, the label will also enhance trade and help to resolve dispute. The close of the conference involved other breakout sessions on unlocking wealth creation opportunities in Rural communities through financial inclusion and then there was a summary of the breakout session.



Attending the workshop



NGFS' deep dive in education

...embarks on CSR

Officials of the Model Secondary School Maitama Abuja could not believe their eyes when a whole retinue of NGF staff led by their Director General Mr Asishana Bayo Okauru strolled into their premises bearing bountiful goodies in support of education.

The idea of the management of the NGF was to aid in the creating of an enabling environment for study through the renovation of the school and to equip the institution by donating science equipment and computer lab materials in order to embellish the schools already proven high standard of erudition

The gesture is in demonstration of the Nigeria Governors' Forum's strong belief in education and its determination towards supporting Nigerian youths to attain lofty education standards and collectively strive for higher pursuits.

In its letter to the principal of the school, the NGF stated that as part of its corporate social responsibility it is delighted to handover a renovated laboratory, ICT equipment for the school's computer lab among other modern

tools. These materials, the NGF hoped would go a long way in improving the quality of education in the school.

It is imperative to note that the NGF did not have to go far to make the donation as it provided this golden handshake to a school just across the fence from its secretariat's premises in Maitama, Abuja.

The school equipment was received by the Principal of the Model Secondary school, Mrs. Emagum Elizabeth Goodwill and the Vice Principal, Academics, Mr. Ojini Vincet Chibuzo.

Reacting, the Principal and Vice Principal, Academics were both elated to receive the instructional materials as they said that it would go a long way in aiding the students in their studies. The Vice Principal, Mr. Ojini revealed that prior to the NGF's donations, the school did not have functioning computers.

"We didn't have computers. These come as a great help especially for the students writing WAEC," he said, adding that before now, the school had usually requested the students to bring their personal computers to accomplish their classwork.



Director General of NGF, Mr. Asishana B. Okauru and the Principal of Model Secondary School, Maitama, Mrs. Emagum Elizabeth Goodwill



Education And National Development: THE ROLE OF NGF EDUCATION UNIT

Education is a sustainable tool for socio-economic and political development of nations. Across the globe, federating units understand the importance of education for national development. Most written constitutions assign educational responsibilities to both the central and sub-national levels of government. In Nigeria and most federal countries, education is in the Concurrent Legislative List. However, based on the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), Second Schedule, Part 1, item 60 (e); the Federal Government has the exclusive legislative power to establish regulatory activities for the Federal or any part thereof, and to prescribe minimum standards of education at all levels. This provision confers on the federal government the powers to formulate educational policies and programmes for implementation by sub-national levels of government.

Furthermore, Part 2, Second Schedule, Item 27 (Concurrent Legislative List); the constitution provides that both the National Assembly and State House of Assembly have powers to make laws with

respect to university education, technological education or such professional education as deemed necessary. The National Assembly has powers to establish an institution for the purpose of university, post-primary, technological or professional education. The State House of Assembly has power to establish an institution for the purposes of university, post-primary, technological or professional education. Furthermore, the States House of Assembly has power to make laws for the State with respect to technical, vocational, post-primary, primary or other forms of education, including the establishment of institutions for the pursuit of such education. This shows that it is the exclusive preserve of States to establish primary schools.

Similarity paragraph 2 (a) of the Fourth Schedule of the same constitution provides that the functions of local government council shall include participation of such council in the government of the state with respect to the provision and maintenance of primary, adult, and vocational education. As part of the statutory responsibility of the Federal Government in the formulation of educational policies for the Ni- ▶▶



NGF Staff and their donation to Maitama Model Secondary School

NGF IS THE RIGHT PLATFORM TO CREATE MORE SYNERGY AND IN HIS ROLE, HE SEEKS TO ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, THE RESPECTIVE STATES, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY AND MDAS TO PUT EDUCATION BACK ON THE RIGHT PATH

▶ Mr. Ojini was full of commendation for the NGF, and wished that the NGF would extend the same support to other public institutions in Nigeria.

The DG of the NGF, Mr. Asishana B Okauru, applauded the principal for the maintenance of a positive and conducive learning environment at the Maitama Model Secondary School and said that NGF was more than glad to lend its support to encourage academic excellence.

In-house at the NGF Secretariat, the NGF had only recently recruited an Education Analyst in the person of Dr Ebenezer Leo the Great, to serve as the Head of Education at the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat.

Through the NGF, Leo the Great would coordinate and contribute to NGFS interventions in educational development across the federation.

He stated that when it comes to education, the biggest challenge is what the sub-nationals would need to do more to resolve the encumbrances that are inimical to primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions' development.

He added that NGF is the right platform to create more synergy and

in his role, he seeks to engage and collaborate with stakeholders, the federal ministry of education, the respective states, the national assembly, and state houses of assembly and MDAs to put education back on the right path.

Furthermore, the forum has engaged with associations such as the Joint Action Committee of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), and will continue to do so in the furtherance of learning and administrations at their institutions.

At the meeting, they tackled issues that would be needing interventions such as the funding of State Universities and non-payment of salaries of workers, the governance of the university system, the union/management of employee/employer relationships, the keying into agreements reached between the Federal Government and the Unions, the mediation into the ongoing industrial dispute between the university-based unions and government, and the non-payment of national minimum wage and arrears including consequential adjustments.



When 1st Ladies *Clapped!*

Bye bye COVID-19!! The 36 states first ladies stood on ovation via zoom with each **CLAPPING HER HANDS** as a sign of respect and a pat on the back for all health workers who used their skills to help patients affected by COVID-19 through out the pandemic. No doubt the period was a moment of truth as we all had to adapt to the new normal of wearing masks and social distancing. May all the souls of the COVID-19 Victims rest in perfect peace. The good news is that Covid 19 has drastically declined in number of cases, reduced restriction on movements, gatherings and other community and social activities. The 1st ladies deemed it fit to stand in ovation via TikTok from each of their State homes and Clap for the teaming health experts. Here is wishing the whole of humanity a covid free life.



Haj. Magajiya Badaru Abubakar
First Lady of Jigawa State



Dr. Fatima Babagana Umar Zhulum
First Lady of Borno State



Haj. Mariya Tambuwal
First Lady of Sokoto State



Chioma Uzodinma
First Lady of Imo State



Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu
First Lady of Lagos State



Kafayat Oyetola
First Lady of Osun State



Bamidele Abiodun
First Lady of Ogun State



Haj. Silifat Abdullahi A. Sule
First Lady of Nasarawa State



Rashida Bello
First Lady of Kogi State



Haj. Asmau Mautawalle
First Lady of Zamfara State



Rachael Ugonna Umahi
First Lady of Ebonyi State



Nkechi Ikpeazu
First Lady of Abia State



Haj. Asmau Yahaya
First Lady of Gombe State



Haj. Aishatu Mohammed
First Lady of Bauchi State



Lami Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri
First Lady of Adamawa State



Haj. Binta Masir
First Lady of Katsina State



Eunice Ortom
First Lady of Benue State



Besty Obaseki
First Lady of Edo State



Mrs. Olufolake Abdulrasaq
First Lady of Kwara State



gerian Federation; the Federal Ministries of Education (FME), the 36 State Ministries of Education (SMOEs), and the FCT Education Secretariat as well as the 774 Local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs) are statutory partners. The policy framework is carried out by the FME in conjunction with sub-national levels of government whose roles cut across policy formulation, domestication, and implementation. Therefore, the National policy on Education (NPE, 2014) recognized the composition of the National Council on Education (NCE) and the Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE).

The National Council on Education (NCE) comprises of the Minister of Education as Chairman; Hon. Minister of State for Education, State Commissioners of Education and the FCT Education Secretary as members. This is the highest body for formulating education policies in Nigeria. The NCE provides a forum for consensus building on education policy directions to be implemented at different levels of education, with varying degree of adaptations for specific needs and peculiarities of states. The Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) comprises of Professional Officers of the Federal and State Ministries of Education and FCT Education Secretariat, and their Parastatals, as well as other relevant stakeholders. The JCCE provides the necessary framework and recommendations for consideration by the NCE. Both NCE and JCCE are very strategic in the process of formulating educational policies for national and subnational utilization and development.

Therefore, based on the directives and resolutions of NCE, and its statutory responsibilities, (constitutional provisions); the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) has the overall responsibility of formulating national education policies, coordinating implementation of policy provisions, and quality control in service delivery. The States are charged with the responsibilities of policy implementation, domestication, evaluation, monitoring and feedback from education agencies and institutions. To perform its statutory functions adequately and satisfactorily; the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) is divided into Sixteen (16) Departments. These include: Tertiary Education, Basic and Secondary Education; Education Support Service; Technology and Science Education; Federal Education Quality Assurance Service; Education Planning, Research and Development; Federal Scholarship; Information and Communication Technology; Human Resource Management; Finance and Accounts; Procurement; Reform Coordination and Service Improvement; Internal Audit, Library Services, General Service Department; and Polytechnic Education and Allied Institutions. These Departments are also expected to be established by the State Ministries of Education to perform similar functions at the

state levels.

Ministries have Departments and Agencies (MDA). This helps in the decentralization of policy frameworks, quality control assurance and the coordination of policies' implementation mechanism. This is also applicable in the Ministry of Education. At the Federal level, the agencies are called 'Commission', 'Board', 'Council' etc. in most cases. Their counterparts in the states are called 'Boards'. The FME has over Seventeen (17) agencies. These include: The National University Commission (NUC); Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN); Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB); National Board for Technical Education (NBTE); National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE); National Examination Council (NECO); National Institution of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA); National Library of Nigeria (NLN); National Mathematics Centre (NMC); Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC); West African Examination Council (WAEC); National Teachers' Institute (NTI); Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC); Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPRCN) and the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN). These agencies help the FME and SMOEs in the formulation, domestication and implementation of educational policies and programmes at both the federal and sub-national levels of government.

The Secretariat of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) understands that the implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and domestication component of all education policies are shouldered by sub-national governments. Also, identifying the main strategic transformations and levers for reimagining education for the 21st Century and accelerating education progress toward shared educational goals are challenges faced by sub-national governments in Nigeria. Therefore, it is imperative to critically review national educational targets, benchmarks, and frameworks; ensure sustained public financing of education and strengthen the capacity of sub-national governments to provide quality and sustainable education for the benefit of Nigerians.

NGF Secretariat as the technical and administrative arm of the forum that provides policy guidelines to the States; mandates the Education Unit to facilitate and coordinate the implementation, domestication and evaluation of educational policies and programmes on behalf of the 36 State Governors. This is done through a sustained cordial relationship and cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, State Ministries of Education, educational agencies, and relevant stakeholders and partners. (To be continued...)

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM (NGF) UNDERSTANDS THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND DOMESTICATION COMPONENT OF ALL EDUCATION POLICIES ARE SHOULDERED BY SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

*Ebenezer, Leo the Great Ph. D
Head, Education (NGF).*



Climate: NGF Partners Federal Ministry of Environment



A cross-section of participants at the conference



Standing up for the National Anthem

The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) and the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMoE), under mentorship of the Director of Climate Change, convened a meeting aimed at establishing a relationship with the department, bridging the information gap between the federal and the subnationals, garnering updates on current engagements and opportunities for collaboration in coordinating the

implementation of Climate Change initiatives in Nigeria.

The meeting addressed Nigeria subnationals' commitments at the 2019 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), discussed potential collaboration with NGF and feedback on activities from the climate change department.

Some updates from the Climate Change Department were that the NDC support program targets

emission reduction and includes the following sectors: Power, Transportation, Oil and Gas, Agriculture, Industry, Waste and Water Usage with an unconditional target emission reduction of 20% and conditional target of 47% by 2030.

The program will serve as a one-stop shop to identify projects and programs and match the identified projects/programs with funding sources (donor partners).

Other updates are that the implementation of the Energy Transition Plan approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) is in progress. This also includes an energy investment plan to ensure a seamless energy transition. The ETP was approved as a pathway towards achieving net zero target commitments.

In addition, a toolkit that provides relevant information on how states should relate with the federal government on climate change initiatives is being developed and will be implemented.

Furthermore, the Climate Change Department has mounted billboards in strategic locations in the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria, developed jingles in various Nigerian languages to sensitize the public on climate change, risks and immediate next steps towards making necessary changes to adapt and mitigate climate change. There also would be the adoption of Nigeria's Climate Change Act which will be inaugurated soon.

The NGF Secretariat has provided technical assistance support to 36 states at the subnational level to drive reforms through the World Bank project SFTAS and other in-house projects.

At the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) desk, which includes climate change, the NGF and World Bank are helping states to mainstream climate change in their budget process. This includes Accessing and Reviewing States Climate Change





- Budget Tagging (CCBT) results to track climate finance.

The NGF intends to bridge the gap in communication between the federal and the state governments. This will ensure that information is being cascaded through the federal to the subnationals to drive and sustain reforms.

The Climate Change Department should keep the Secretariat in the loop of their activities and where necessary ensure high level commitments through the governors and follow through with the focal State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

Sequel to the meeting with the Director of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment, the NGF was invited to participate in the launch of the The Next Steps which would be the inclusion of the NGF in the Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, which was setup for sharing of updates on existing projects and programmes as it relates to the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards achieving Nigeria's 2030 targets.

The NGF will also work with the Department in the review and development of the toolkit, notification of upcoming projects and programmes, roundtable review of states CCBT 2021/22 appropriations, a tool kit review and possibly revision to reflect subnationals' context for ease of implementation.

The next step for subnationals' coordination would be to facilitate. There would be an introductory meeting between the Climate Change Department at the federal level and the relevant MDAs at the subnationals' level. This will also seek to harmonize States' efforts on climate change and kick-start a framework for peer review.

Mr. Eghososha of the NGF stated that as far as Nigeria is on track to achieve the SDG goals, it seems the strategy has been to focus on a few and not the entire 17 goals. This is evident from recent efforts in renewable energy through the Rural Electrification Agency which is deliberate in achieving Goal 7 and its indicators.

Other initiatives from the health sector are perceived to achieve Goals 3 and 6 which focus on Universal Healthcare and Clean Water and Sanitation. "However, I believe more can be done, especially through collaborating with the NGF to coordinate subnationals' activities which will subsequently contribute to the overall national performance," he said.

He added that the biggest challenge is the judicious use of the time left, as performance is periodically reviewed towards the 2030 target, which is in eight years' time.

Though the NGF is partnering with Ministry of Environment to tackle climate change challenges, the Head of Stakeholder Relationships stated that the race is not for governments alone but for all humanity.

"Everyone should be involved. Everyone can do their part to save the planet. Proper hygiene habits towards waste disposal and the culture of using re-usable materials for production will go a long way."

For humanity to be actively involved towards solutions of solving climate changes, we must do away with myths such as the earth's climate has always changed, plants need carbon dioxide, global warming isn't real as it's still cold. Climate Change is a future problem and understanding that renewable energy is not just a 'money-making scheme.'



Participants



Overview of the Implementation Review meeting of the 8 Gavi States



The Gavi MoU states of Bayelsa, Gombe, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger Taraba and Zamfara had a Kick off review meeting with Gavi and relevant stakeholders on the Gavi HSS support on 18th and 19th May 2022. The HSS support which is governed by an MoU signed by the states and Gavi with the Federal Ministry of Health having an oversight function aims to strengthen Routine Immunization and PHC systems to significantly contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality from Vaccine preventable diseases (VPDS). This HSS support is aligned with the Nigeria Strategy for Immunization and PHC Systems Strengthening (NSIPSS), IA2030 and GAVI's 5.0 strategy for 2021-2025, which are premised on strengthening national and subnational capacities to improve and sustain immunization coverage and maintain PHC service delivery with strong emphasis on zero dose children. Throughout this process, the state Governments will receive inputs and support from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria Governors' Forum, Gavi, UNICEF and WHO to help ensure programmatic targets are met. Following the signature of the MoUs in February 2022 and commencement of implementation, the relevant stakeholders were brought together for an inception review meeting which was held on 18th and 19th May 2022 at the Wells

Carlton Hotel, Abuja.

The main aim of the review was to assess implementation status and progress towards the expected PHC MoU results across all the eight states, identify program constraints and recommend remedial actions as well as encourage sustainable planning leveraging on Partners comparative advantages.

The Participants at the inception meeting were the commissioners of health from Bayelsa, Gombe and Taraba Executive secretaries of states Primary Health Care Development Agencies/Boards, directors of Disease Control and Immunization as well as the project managers of the State Emer-

gency Routine Immunization Coordinating Committee (SERICC) of the participating states. Also in attendance were the WHO zonal and state coordinators, UNICEF health specialist of their field offices, BMGF, FMOH, NPHCDA and NGF. The UNICEF and WHO country office HSS Focal Officers were also in attendance.

The meeting started with good will messages delivered by a representative of the states, FMOH, NPHCDA, NGF, UNICEF and WHO. This was later followed by a brief presentation by Gavi and UNICEF on the purpose of this engagement and the expected outcomes. Subsequently, each state made a presentation on their current status, ►►



Dr Emedo with Dr Eduardo of UNICEF



Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Dr Newton Igwele at the GAVI event

► challenges they have and mitigation recommendations. Other presentations were from UNICEF Finance team on Finance Accountability that risk mitigation which gave the states the details of the fund management – the dos and don'ts expected from the states in the management of the funds channeled to the states from UNICEF. Similarly, the UNICEF procurement team made a presentation on the procurement items in their work plans. These presentations attracted lots of comments from the states and at the end it was agreed that for small procurement items that will not attract advantages using the central UNICEF procurement mechanism, the states will be asked to make such procurements.

BMGF shared their experiences in previous and ongoing tripartite MOUs with the states the highlights of BMGF contribution were:

The BMGF MOUs had same context of improving the immunization coverage as their MOU are also mechanism to support a government transition toward full financial and managerial ownership of their RI program

Recommended State PHC development Agencies/ board and partners develop milestones and detailed annual work plan, including a state-level all-partner

harmonized “one plan” for RI

Plenary discussions were held to discuss the states presentation on PHC Implementation and progress, challenges, and proposed mitigation measures. States were asked questions based on what their presentations and solutions were discussed on burning issues that cut across all the states.

Common issues across most of the states include:

- **Discrepancy in data between administrative records and survey information.**

It was agreed that the states should look at possible house-hold enumerations to address the denominator issues common to most of the states. They were also encouraged to do quarterly data quality self-assessment to get a verification factor to be used for correction of administrative data.

- **Insecurity across most states affecting Service delivery:**

This problem cut across all the states and various suggestions ranging from the “hit and run” approach deployed in the Polio program were suggested. This strategy has proven to be swift, re-

liable, and safe. The Honourable commissioner of Health Gombe State, further called on states ravaged by insecurity to give special attention to internally displaced persons as they are the most vulnerable in terms of access to health care. He also requested that the development partners should consider additional support for these exceptions. In response to that, Dr Ibrahim Ali Mohammed (Gavi) reiterated that there is a bucket of funding support for countries in humanitarian crises and Gavi is working on modalities to make support available to states grappling insecurity in the country.

- **Shortage of Human Resource for Health:**

Apart from the shortage of health workers, most of the states had challenges with unequal distribution of health workers in LGAs with more zero-dose children. They were encouraged by the partners to hasten the recruitment of new human resources for health as provisioned by the MoU and ensure equity in staff distribution going forward. The WHO senior health specialist, Dr Claudia Vivas in her contribution emphasized staff attrition and lack of replacement and called on states to ensure efficient utilization of MoU Support in the same light.

- **Zero Dose Children:**

In a presentation shared with the states from the recent MICS NICS, the eight MOU states contribute to 34% of Zero dose children in the country. This they agreed is a serious problem and requires the needed attention which the states agreed to address. They were reminded to hastily finalize their zero doses assessment in order to put the robust plans towards addressing them. They were asked to programmatically distinguish the zero-dose using the four domains of Zero dose programme failure, far to reach, difficult to reach and never reached as the solutions differ. During these discussions, the health specialist from UNICEF, Dr Joe Collins, emphasized on the need to expand the Zero dose estimates beyond the National estimates reminding the audience of the new national strategy of “Leaving no child behind”.

On states with recent improvement in coverage based on the MICS NICS, Kebbi state was commended for their consistent improvement in Routine immunization especially on their data quality. They were also commended on their achievements like ‘Operation Wurjanjan’ and ‘Jakadan Lafiya Initiative’. Dr Ibrahim Ali Mohammed (Gavi) also called on them to share their experiences for others to learn from. He further encouraged the state to sustain this momentum. In response to this, the ES Kebbi SPHCDA, attributed their success to strong political will, through timely release of funds from the state government to the agency.

Suggestions for better results were also recommended to the states by all partners to ensure that this MoU is a success.

Overall, it was an interactive session that was productive and built a tempo that will be sustained throughout the program.



Participants at kick off meeting of GAVI



The PHC Leadership Challenge Fund Steering Committee as Inaugurated

Ahead of the launch of the PHC Leadership Challenge Fund, the PHC Leadership Challenge Steering Committee (LCSC) was inaugurated on Thursday, 02 June 2022 by the Honourable Minister of Health. The LCSC, chaired by the Honourable Minister of Health, with Executive Director-NPHCDA as alternate Chair and the Director General-NGF Secretariat as Co-Chair is responsible for the overall governance and

oversight of the implementation of the PHC Leadership Challenge Fund. Other members of the LCSC are the country representatives for BMGF, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the Chair of Development Partners Group-Health and two nominees from the Nigeria Health Commissioners Forum which are the Honourable Commissioners of Health from Ekiti and Yobe States.

The PHC Leadership Challenge Fund is a leadership challenge among the 36 states of Nigeria and the FCT, designed to catalyse the implementation of the Seattle Declaration by State Governors and renew political commitments to improve PHC outcomes. The Seattle Declaration is a set of commitments made by Executive Governors towards prioritizing primary healthcare in their respective states and thereby accelerating the attainment of universal health coverage in the country. The NGF adopted the Seattle Declaration at the November 2019 National Executive Council meeting.

This Challenge is an opportunity for the 36 states and FCT to equitably compete with in each of their six geopolitical zones for an annual best performing and most improved



Director General of the NGF, Asishana B. Okauru with ED\CEO of National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Faisal Shuaib at the PHC leadership challenge steering committee event



Director General of the NGF, Asishana B. Okauru speaks at PHC leadership challenge steering committee event

- awards, which will bring high-level recognition, pressure to keep improving basic health services, and a monetary reward, while also encouraging neighbour states to do better. A national award will also be given to the best-performing state.

The Challenge Fund is funded by the BMGF, and it is managed by UNICEF, Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat and National Primary Healthcare Development Agency. It targets governance, leadership and commitment to PHC by governors across the 36 states and the FCT. The Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat will lead the engagement with the states in this programme and ensure that the State Governors and their teams have access to the evidence they require to improve their PHC systems while the NPHCDA will sustain its statutory role of providing technical assistance to States.

At the inauguration of the Steering Committee, the Director General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum reiterated the commitment of the Forum to

this Challenge and the overall improvement of PHC across the 36 states of Nigeria. He also commended the Executive Director of the NPHCDA for the support they provide to the states towards strengthening the primary healthcare system.

The NGF believes that this is a unique opportunity for all the states to increase the visibility of their PHC system and ultimately improve PHC outcomes across the country.



Chinekwu Oreh, NGF Health specialist speaks at PHC leadership challenge event



Fact finding by IRI, NDI at NGF

Who They Are and What They Do

The International Republican Institute (IRI) - is an American nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide by helping political parties to become more issue-based and responsive, assisting citizens to participate in government planning, and working to increase the role of marginalized groups in the political process.

■ The Institute's activities include assisting political parties and candidates develop their values and institutional structures, good governance practices, civil society development, civic education, women's and youth leadership development, to name a few.

■ IRI are experts in responsive politics, political processes, polling, technology, and party building."

National Democratic Institute (NDI) - NDI is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization that works in partnership around the world to strengthen and safeguard

democratic institutions, processes, norms and values to secure a better quality of life for all.

■ The Institute has helped citizens create and refine tools to advocate, organize and mobilize in ways that encourage governments to be more accountable and create opportunities for citizen-led social and political change. The Institute also works with governments to find better technological solutions for constituent services, bill tracking and outreach, as well as with political parties on technological tools for outreach, targeting, fundraising and resource allocation.

How their work may be relevant to NGF

IRI and NDI's core values link closely to that of NGF and their main aim and focus is good and fair governance. They are both experts in responsive political processes and are focused on improving Nigerians electoral process prior to the upcoming February/ March elections, where they were invited by INEC to observe.



Director General of NGF, Asishana B. Okauru and Courtney Hess, program Director



Courtney Hess, Asishana B. Okauru and Santiago Stocker, Resident program Director at IRI



DG of NGF Asishana Okauru, Courtney Hess, Santiago Stocker, Richard Klein, Global election Director



Director General of NGF, Asishana B. Okauru and Courtney Hess, program Director



...Fact finding by IRI, NDI at NGF



Dr Ahmad Abdulwahab, Isioma Ononye, Halima Ahmed, Abdulazeez Olorunshola and Mohammed Abubakar Jibia (EDF)



Halima Ahmed, Abdulazeez Olorunshola, Mohammed Abubakar Jibia, Hauwa Halliru and Abdulrazaque Bello Barkindo



LR- Hajiya Fatima Usman, Eghosa M. Omoigui, ED Strategy and DG, Asishana B. Okauru



DG Asishana Okauru speaks to Courtney Hess, Program Director, NDI



A cross section of the NGF team and visitors from NDI and IRI in a group picture



A Cross section of Attorneys General of states of the federation

Attorneys-General Reaffirm Justice, Public Interest

Against the background of incessant, unsettling threats by federal government agencies to the states, the Body of Attorneys-General of 36 States of the Federation (BOAG) has condemned the scenario and asserted that state governments are equal and not subservient to the federal government

Honourable Attorneys-General of the states of the federation converged in Lagos between 15th and 17th of June 2022 to take a fresh look at key issues central to their constitutional briefs as Ministers in the hallowed temples of justice in their various states.

In attendance were also the governors of Lagos State, Ondo State and the Honorable Attorney General of Federation amongst other invited dignitaries. The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Secretariat was represented by the Head, Legal, and Senior Legal Officer at the conference.

The Body of Attorneys-General in a communique issued at the end of its meeting in Lagos, frowned at the threat by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to recover unremitted tax deductions by states and local governments.

It could be recalled that FIRS had in a public notice warned that most states and local governments have failed to remit to the Service Withholding Tax (WHT) and Value Added Tax (VAT) deductions from payments made by them to contractors and service providers as required by law.

The BOAG conference undertook to send a formal response to the FIRS, underlining the agency's flawed position and providing specific clarification that the revenue agency lacks the power to impose any penalty on the states.

The communique was jointly signed by BOAG's Chairman and Secretary, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo and his Nasarawa State counterpart, Dr. Abdulkarim Kana.

Concerning the federal government's attempt to deduct States' funds to offset an alleged consultancy fee of \$418 million arising from the London/Paris Club Loan refunds, the conference resolved to continue legal resistance against wrongful deductions of States' funds under any guise.

Further, the BOAG held that the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Central Bank of Nigeria, and other relevant federal government agencies should cease all further action on the matter pending the final resolution of an appeal filed on behalf of the States.

Regarding the subsisting court action on the right of States to collect Value Added Tax (VAT) and the existing judgment to that effect, the conference also resolved that given its absence from the 1999 Constitution, VAT remains a residual matter that falls within the exclusive legislative competence of each federating state.

Holding that the judgment of the Rivers Division of the Federal High Court backs the constitutional position that VAT is a residual matter, BOAG said that states were not opposed to a political resolution of the dispute to balance fiscal federalism with equity.

Governor Rotimi Akerodolu of Ondo State in his speech appreciated the efforts of the Honorable Attorneys General in promoting peace and justice in their various States. He alluded to the fact that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, on issues of State policing and the need for States to set up an anti-graft agencies to tackle issues of corruption.

The Honorable Attorney General of Federation in his remarks noted that as Ministers in the hallowed temple of justice, they must be conveyors and promoters of peace, unity, and harmony at such a time as this, to promote brotherly relations and development in the country. He further noted that as a product of Sections 150 (1) and 195 (1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the very nature of their office demand that they should always be guided by public interest and the interest of justice in the conduct of the legal business of government as provided by the Constitution.

The NGF Director General's opening remark was taken on his behalf by the Head, Legal. He thanked the Honorable Attorneys General for their effort so far in resisting the \$418 London-Paris Club refund claims by consultants claiming to have worked for the Forum and hoped for more cooperation in other matters that affect the States going forward.

Following the Plenary, the Attorneys-General went into the Technical/Main business of the day. They were again addressed by the NGF Head (Legal) who brought them up to speed with the cases being handled by the Forum.



Inuwa Yahaya: Shining Light on Education Darkness

By Ismaila Uba Misilli

While lamentations ring loudly on the academic decay and debilitating state of Nigeria's education sector, one man is holding tenaciously the light of hope with his educational policies and projects. This man is Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State and tripple award winning Governor of the Year.

Governor Inuwa has demonstrated consistently in his three years in office via his policies, programmes and projects, that education of the citizens of Gombe is the number one priority of his administration.

As a hallmark of a principled administrator, on assumption of office as the 4th democratically elected

Governor of Gombe State, Inuwa Yahaya immediately declared a state of emergency in the education sector and moved on swiftly with the agility of a cheetah to match his promises with actions. The records speak volumes of the huge turnaround in the academic history of Gombe State.

What has never been done before in the history of education in Gombe was done with ease by Inuwa Yahaya in just three years.

He sounded it out and clear that he wants all children who are out of school to be returned to school. Whatever was responsible for that he promised to support the parents. He did just that.

He went on a public awareness campaign to educate parents on the huge benefits of enrolling children in schools. He made sure that the information is well mainstreamed. Many parents hap-

pily complied. Today, thousands of out of school children have been mopped up and returned to the classrooms.

On the occasion of democracy day celebration, Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya with a great joy and delight, commissioned the Alabura Model Primary and Junior Secondary Schools, Kumbiya-Kumbiya in the state capital. The Model School project is an initiative conceived and

commissioning of the school, on the day of the 2022 edition of democracy day celebration as part of the dividends of democracy to the people and his determination to bring vitality to the educational life of Gombe State.

It will be recalled that the foundation of the school was laid on 12th June 2021 and it was commissioned in exactly a year to commemorate the 3rd year of his administration.

This significantly paints Governor Inuwa's administration as a promise keeping one.

Before Governor Inuwa Yahaya came into office, Gombe State was confronted with the problems of high number of

out of school children, dilapidated structures and facilities in primary and secondary schools.

Hence, his administration wasted no time in declaring a state of emergency in the education sector which has since led to the total overhauling of the system.

In one of his speeches, he said "If we don't put our children in school and we continue to say children are the leaders of tomorrow, then what kind of leaders are we going to give to the future? If it takes emergency approach to bring them back to school, then know that we MUST get them back to school by all means possible". If this is not what leadership with compassion entails, then I wonder how else to reflect leadership.

From inception of the present administration of Governor InuwaYahaya in 2019 to date, significant achievements have been made in the Education sector of the state.



executed by his administration in the state to raise the bars of academic excellence above the near average status he met it.

During the inauguration of the magnificent twin complex, named after a famous educationist, Malam Alabura S. Kudi, Inuwa Yahaya stated that with the school being commissioned in that part of the State, he has brought to an end the unpleasant history of the Kumbiya-Kumbiya Community as the only ward without Government learning facility in the entire state.

The Alabura Model School is an edifice of 2 blocks of 18 classrooms each, totalling 36 classrooms, two offices, 2 staff rooms and 2 Computer rooms (e-Library) fully furnished and well equipped with modern facilities. In addition, the School has sporting facilities, water supply and good access roads to enhance total learning for the pupils and students.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya described the



A Jerusalem Pilgrim's story



The COVID-19 pandemic and financial paucity facing Nigeria and Adamawa State has not deterred Governor Ahmadu Fintiri from funding the airlift of more a thousand pilgrims of both the Muslim and Christian faiths from Adamawa State to the holy lands to perform this year's Hajj and Christian Pilgrimage to Rome to perform the yearly rituals of visiting the holy lands.

At a period most governors are grappling with salary payments, Fintiri took the bull by the horns, sponsoring thousands to the holy lands. He pioneered the airlifting of pilgrims to the holy land since the advent of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

He sponsored 119 Christians to Rome. The contingent cut across different denominations - including the Pentecostals and orthodox. The contingent headed by the Catholic Bishop of Yola Diocese, Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza, includes the President of EYN Rev. Joel Billi and the Vice Chairman Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria Bishop Peter Barthimawus.

Others are the first class traditional rulers of Lunguda Dishon Kurhaye, Mbula Altam Biyapo and a host of laymen and church members. The Pope blessed the contingent and prayed for the governor and people of Adamawa State. That the unity within the body of Christ as demonstrated throughout the visit was also commended.

Governor Umaru Fintiri, still displays as much enthusiasm for governance as he did three years ago, fuelled by the conviction that the people's wellbeing is the reason for the existence of government.

So, even amidst the flurry of politics and jockeying over continuity in 2023, there is still an unrelenting investment in sectors that enhance the people's living condition.

Just as in the early years of the Fintiri administration, there is a continuing upgrade of primary health care, sustained investment in schools rehabilitation and narrowing of the student-teacher ratio.

These interventions are a huge leap from the tokenism of previous years that unabashedly gave some facelift to the facade of hospitals and schools without a corresponding attention to staffing and equipment.

The success of state policies can often be gauged from the outcome their implementation yield. With regard to Fintiri's investment in the key sectors, there are many social indicators that prove how impactful they have been.

Yet, it is indicative of the progress the state would have attained in maternal and child care had previous administrations' attention been just as robust. The development scorecard of the Fintiri administration is indeed impressive despite the massive decline in revenue accruing to states from the federation account.

Indeed, it is important to note that declining revenue has been a recurrent feature of the last seven years, a problem the Adamawa State governor alluded to in his inaugural speech. Nigeria was, in fact, on the cusp of a recession at the time the inauguration (May 29, 2019) was held.

Governor Fintiri optimism was however tempered with some pragmatism, as he would later add: "We must match our faith

with the right decisions and good work". The significance of the Fintiri administration's achievements gets an added sheen because Adamawa State receives one of the least sums of the monthly federal allocation, which, ab initio, puts it at a disadvantage.

So, every progress recorded in the state has been through a deft deployment of resources and sustained dismantling of factors that impede the growth of business. This has enabled businesses to flourish and helped the state to shore-up its internal revenue.

As the Adamawa State governor has demonstrated, "matching faith with the right decisions and good work" means deploying funds optimally to benefit the entire populace. It means as well jettisoning the decadent practice of old where recurrent expenditure takes a disproportionately large share of budgets at the expense of capital expenditure.

This budgeting philosophy is the reason Adamawa State has substantially revamped its infrastructure in the last three years, even at the height of Covid-19 when many states scaled down their capital budgets due to the associated economic constraints of the pandemic.

Equally, significant is the administration's scrupulous budget award process. The impact is that every contract award for a capital project is sufficiently cash-backed, eliminating the risk of abandoning projects.

With the governor having barely one year left in his first term of four years, his performance already puts an immense weight of expectations on his would-be successor's shoulders in 2027. The people would expect no less.



Medical Varsity Igbo-Eno: Enugu Govt Gets NUC's Green Light

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has granted license to Enugu State Government recognising establishment of the State University of Medical and Applied Sciences (SUMAS), Igbo-Eno, Enugu State.

The license issued to Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State, at NUC headquarters, Abuja, on Thursday, was sequel to the enactment of the State University of Medical and Applied Sciences (SUMAS), Law, Igbo-Eno, Enugu State, on April 13, 2022.

Presenting the license, the Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, congratulated Gov. Ugwuanyi and the people of the state "on the establishment of the State University of Medical and Applied Sciences to be located in Igbo-Eno of Enugu State".

The Law establishing SUMAS was presented to NUC by Enugu State government alongside the Academic brief and Master Plan of the new University.

The License recognized SUMAS as the second Enugu State owned University.

With the final stage of granting the license, Enugu State will now have a brand new, full-fledged, State-owned University of Medical and Applied Sciences (SUMAS), Igbo-Eno, Enugu State.

SUMAS, Igbo-Eno has become



NUC Executive Secretary, Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, handing over the licence to the State Governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi for approval of the State University in Enugu State

the 59th State University in Nigeria. Enugu State with two State-owned Universities has now joined the league of states with more than one state University.

Reacting, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Government House, Enugu, Prof. Malachy Okwueze, who witnessed the presentation of the license to Gov. Ugwuanyi at the NUC headquarters, Abuja, said: "We can't thank the Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State enough for achieving this goal of providing the platform for increased access to quality university education for our teeming youths who struggle year after year to gain admission into the university without fulfilling their

desires and dreams for university education".

According to him "This is especially so for professional courses such as medicine. The existing Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) get over 2,000 applications from our youths to study medicine but only a paltry 50 applicants (candidates) are offered access to study medicine at the end.

"Even the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), the Federal University in Enugu State, offers only about 180 candidates admission into medicine leaving the dreams of thousands of our youths to study the course dashed year after year.

In keeping with his administration's Urban Renewal drive, Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State, recently inspected Trans Ekulu Bridge, Enugu, with a view to beautifying the area as one of the gateways to Enugu City.

Gov. Ugwuanyi also inspected vehicular traffic at the bridge and the connecting roads in order to proffer solution to the gridlock being experienced by road users in the axis basically caused by increase in population strength of the state.

Gov. Ugwuanyi further inspected the New Market axis of Enugu City, which is another gateway to the city, ahead

Gov. Ugwuanyi Moves to Beautify, Decongest Traffic in Enugu City

of his administration's plans to reconstruct and modernize the roundabout and maintain the roads to give the area the face-lift it deserves.

From the New Market, the governor moved to inspect the ongoing construction of Justice Nwazota-Ilogu Close Road, GRA, Enugu, with a spur to Works Road Layout.

Gov. Ugwuanyi thereafter inspected Leadway Insurance Street, GRA, Enu-

gu and other bypasses, for necessary interventions, aimed at decongesting traffic in the city.

Already, the newly constructed T-junction Flyover Bridge by Nike Lake Road, Enugu East Local Government Area, and the reconstructed and modernized Milliken Hill Road, Ngwo, Enugu North LGA, have provided the needed face-lift and traffic decongestion in the two gateways to Enugu City.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum Special Library
...a library worth checking out!



- ▶ LIBRARIES SHOULD NOT BE BORING
- ▶ LIBRARIES SHOULD BE THE NEW PLACE FOR INNOVATIONS
- ▶ A LIBRARY SHOULD BE A PLACE OF CREATIVITY AND IDEAS
- ▶ A LIBRARY SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF PATRONS

Modern libraries should be equipped with modern technologies to help patrons have a personal experience of easily accessing and retrieving information in the library.

A Special library which serves an organisation should be special indeed and meet the organisational goals and objectives.

The write up above captures what the Nigeria Governors' Forum Library is all about.



The NGF library is a place to read, learn and explore!

LINK: NGF Digital Repository: <https://ngfrepository.org.ng:8443/jspui/>
NGF E-Library: <https://ngflibrary.org.ng/>