

The Executive

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SUMMARY



+
**ZULUM
FEEDS 23,000
HOUSEHOLDS**

Building Blocks States forming cabinets

+
**- SOUTH EAST GOVERNORS MAKE
SHORT-WORK OF SIT-AT-HOME**



Commentary

There is life after elections

A new set of eighteen governors have occupied different Government Houses across the country and are already setting up their cabinets. Looking at the new helmsmen, it becomes apparent that a reengineering of the electoral space is taking place.

Like the set of governors that just vacated office these ones too are a combination of the best among us as Nigerians. They range from accomplished businessmen to academics, bankers, administrators, technocrats and politicians. This is also reflected in the choices of commissioners that are sweeping the country. The Executive Summary has followed the trend and reports the messages of the Governors throughout the country clamoring to ignite the life that lies in the underbelly of politics and elections.

There is ample proof in the names submitted to the various state assemblies that states, like the Federal Government which, responded to the yearning of the youths of this country by nominating a young and upwardly mobile social media influencer and new business success story to join the ranks of the same people he criticized are choosing youths from their domains. States have even gone further to introduce ministries of poverty alleviation, power and public utilities, digital economy and SMEs and the like, in response to the demands of the day, especially by the growing youthful Nigerian population. More impressively, some governors pledged to bring measurable improvement to the living conditions of their peoples.

Inside this edition, is also a new section

that deals with the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum. This premier may have featured only the Chairperson of the Forum in overdose, but the intention is to encourage all other Governors' Wives to key in and also feature, just as elaborately. This will happen monthly in the form of a pull-out. The Executive Summary secured the endorsement of the CEO of the Governors' Wives Forum to float the pullout.

The visit of the President of the World Bank, Ajay Singh Banga to Nigeria, and his meeting with Governors under the twin aegis of the World Bank in Nigeria and the NGF is also featured.

The working dinner was held behind closed doors to, according to the organizers, avail all those in attendance the opportunity and freedom to discuss their states' situations dispassionately.

Another important issue, by all means, is the distribution of palliatives by governors since the fuel subsidy removal. Some state governors have attached a human face to the exercise by distributing the palliatives in person.

We may soon see more governors touch their people with palliatives to give a personal dimension to governance, going forward. This indicates that more of public money is channeled to public use.

Please note also that a group of NGF staff were in Akwa Ibom State to herald the take-off of the state's new administration and the launching of its Arise Agenda. There are snippets of the visit in this edition.

All of this is indicative of the saying, there is life after elections.

it is a must read.

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Subsidy Removal

EKSG rolls out palliatives for Ekiti workers, citizens

Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyebanji has approved the recommendations of the committee set up to look into the various measures the government could take to cushion the effect of fuel subsidy removal on the citizens of the state.

Briefing Journalists at the Conference Hall of the Governor's Office, Ado-Ekiti, the State Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, who is chairman of the committee, Mr Akintunde Oyeboode, said the palliative measures cover people in the formal and informal sectors as well as the elderly and the indigent citizens.

According to Oyeboode, some of the succour to be enjoyed by workers, tagged Ekiti State Subsidy Relief Programme include immediate payment of consequential adjustment of the minimum wage to officers on Grade levels 14-17; leave bonus of 2017 as well as the implementation and payment of 2020 and 2021 promotion arrears.

Other palliatives as approved by the Governor for the

informal sector are N5,000 monthly conditional cash transfer to 10,000 poor and most vulnerable households from August to December 2023 with particular emphasis on the aged; while another 10,000 residents and most especially the aged would be considered for free medical attention through the EKHIS programme (Ulera wa).

To cushion the effect of the high cost of transportation especially on workers and students, the Ekiti government would make available mass transit buses as free shuttles for workers and students to and from their places of assignments while foodstuff would also be distributed to the poor and most vulnerable households.

Other approval of the Governor, according to the committee included the implementation of 90 percent CONHESS and 100 percent Hazard allowance for local government Health Workers as well as salary parity for clinical staff of the Hospitals Management Board.

Oyeboode restated the commitment of Governor Oyebanji led government to the people of the state and assured them that the increased revenue which culminated from the removal of fuel subsidy would lead to improved service delivery from the government as Governor Oyebanji was irrevocably committed to his vision of shared prosperity driven by the six pillars of his administration.

"In response to this discomfort, Governor Oyebanji set up a committee to propose an urgent intervention that will soften the impact of these necessary decisions. The committee which I had the honour of chairing, met with various stakeholders, including representatives of organized labour to discuss possible interventions, within the limited resources available to us. We have now completed our assignment, and will now present Ekiti State Subsidy Relief Programme to you.

"In addition to the already mentioned interventions, the Governor has also approved additional interventions designed to directly impact our poorest and most vulnerable residents to include a food distribution programme that will commence this month, distribution of inputs to farmers as well as financial support to small businesses and our informal sector." The Commissioner stated.

In their responses, leaders of organized labour in the state including Chairmen, Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Kolapo Olusola; Trade Union Congress, Sola Adigun and Joint Negotiation Council, Comrade, Ajoloko Oluwafemi, who were present at the media briefing, took turns to express their appreciation to Governor Oyebanji for his love for workers and the entire citizens of the state, describing him as the first Governor who had taken stringent and enduring measures to ameliorate the suffering of the people inherent from fuel subsidy removal.

The labour leaders described the action of the Governor as unprecedented in the annals of labour-government relationship in Nigeria, stressing that Governor Oyebanji assented to all the proposals brought before him without hesitation.

Other members of the committee at the briefing included Secretary to the State Government, Dr Habibatu Adubiario and Head of Service, Barr. Bamidele Agbede.

Governor Oyebanji set up a committee to propose an urgent intervention that will soften the impact of these necessary decisions

Tinubu's food emergency:

Zulum visits Baga, shares food to 23,000 households

About 23,000 households received food palliatives recently at distributions that were directly supervised by Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum in Baga town of Kukawa Local Government Area.

"Distribution of palliatives is one of the agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He (Tinubu) has declared an emergency on food security, and in line with this objective, Borno State Government is distributing food items to communities. We have provided food and non-food items to over 20,000 men and women (today)" Zulum said.

While working on permanent livelihoods through revival of commercial activities and farming, Governor Zulum frequently distributes food palliatives to beneficiaries who could not farm in substantial quantity to feed them year round due to over 10 years of the Boko Haram insurgency.

Zulum's latest intervention in Baga reached 13,000 households in Baga town itself, 3,500 at Cross Kauwa, a town near Baga and 6,500 in Doro Baga, another community, making 23,000 households in total.

Each of the 23,000 households received bags of rice, spaghetti and maize grain with women getting a wrapper each.

In Baga the 13,000 households were made of 4,000 males heads of households who received a bag of rice and a bag of maize grain each, and 9,000 females, each of who received a carton of spaghetti and one wrapper each.

In Doro Baga, 3,500 male heads of households received a bag of rice and maize grain each, and 3,000 females received carton of spaghetti and a wrapper.

In Cross Kauwa, another 1,500 male heads of household received a bag of rice and maize grain and 2,000 females received carton of spaghetti and a wrapper.

Borno's palliative task force Chairman, Engr Bukar Talba, and Dr. Barkindo Muhammad Saidu, Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) led

officials to Baga on Sunday to begin the distribution before Zulum joined them on Monday morning and completed the exercises.

The distribution had other participants who included the member, Mamber house of representatives for Kukawa, Abadam, Guzamala and Mobbar federal constituency- Babagana Malam Gana Kareto, Member representing Kukawa at the Borno State Assembly- Karta Maina Ma'aji Lawan, the Special Adviser on Monitoring and Evaluation, Engr. Baba Bukar Gujbawu, Executive Secretary of the Borno Geographic Information Services (BOGIS), Engr. Adam Bababe and the Executive Secretary, Borno State Primary Healthcare Agency,



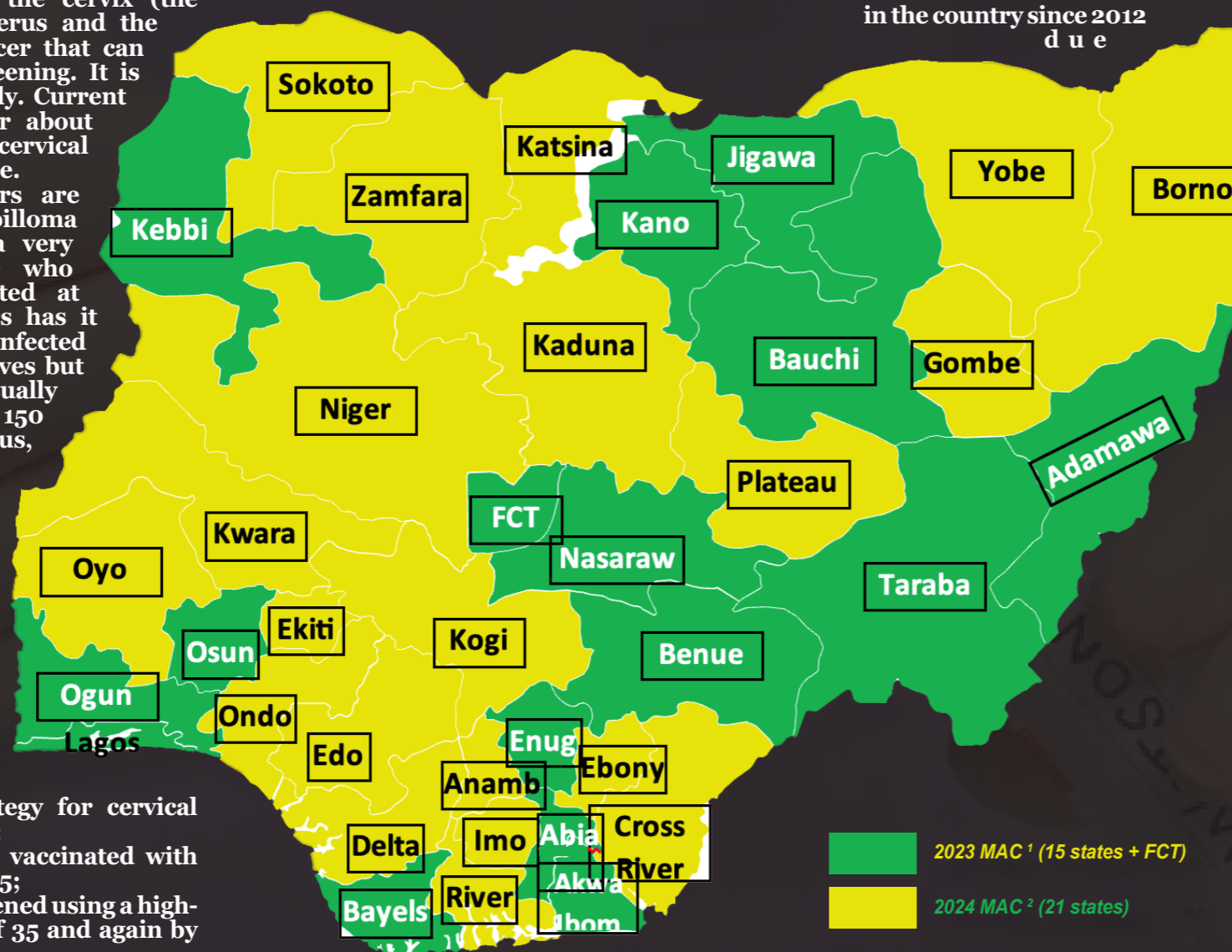
Tackling Cervical Cancer – The preventative way

...As Nigeria launches vaccine for Human Papilloma Virus

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women and also the second most frequent cancer death among women aged 15 to 44 years in Nigeria. Cervical cancer forms in the tissues of the cervix (the connecting organ between the uterus and the vagina). It is a slow growing cancer that can be prevented through regular screening. It is curable if detected and treated early. Current estimates indicate that every year about 14,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 7968 die from the disease.

About 99.7% of cervical cancers are caused by persistent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection. HPV is a very common virus as such anyone who is sexually active can be infected at sometimes in their lives. Statistics has it that about 80% of individuals are infected at one time or the other in their lives but the body immune system will usually help in clearing it off. Of the over 150 strains of the human papillomavirus, 25% are genital strains and hence transmitted mainly by sexual contact. The HPV types 16, 18, 31, 35, 51, 52 are all high risk and are prevalent serotypes in Nigeria with serotypes 16 and 18 responsible for 66.9% of Nigeria's cervical cancer prevalence. About 3.5% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time. To raise awareness and call for action against the silent killer, the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2020 adopted the Global Strategy for cervical cancer elimination and this include:

- Vaccination: 90% of girls are vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15;
- Screening: 70% of women screened using a high-performance test by the age of 35 and again by



Map showing the introduction of HPV Vaccine in Nigeria

- the age of 45;
- Treatment: 90% of women with pre-cancer treated, and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed.

HPV vaccines prevent infection by certain types of Human Papillomavirus. The HPV vaccines have the potential to prevent more than 90 per cent of HPV-attributable cancers.

Nigeria with support from Partners especially Gavi plans to introduce the HPV vaccine using a phased approach. This approach has been used for other new vaccines introduced in the country since 2012

due

to Nigeria's population and global shortage of the vaccines. For the HPV vaccine, phasing is done to ensure equitable based on disease burden and cold chain capacity. Indices have shown that Nigeria is a country where sexual intercourse is initiated by the age of 15 years in 19% of women thereby increasing the risk of HPV infection. There is also evidence that shows a slow momentum of secondary and tertiary prevention and treatment options thereby leading to increased mortality of women with cervical cancer. About 80% of cervical cancer cases present with advanced disease. Potentially Nigeria's HPV vaccine introduction for girls aged 9-14 is expected to avert 71,000 deaths annually if target coverages are achieved.

The key criteria for the selection of the 19 states are;

- Level of risk of cervical cancer disease among women;
- Optimal cold chain capacities at State and lower local government levels; and
- Good Pentaz coverage as reported through admin and survey data.

Phase 1 of the HPV vaccine rollout is expected to commence in September 2023 with 16 states. The mode of delivery of the vaccine to these young girls is the campaign style which involves delivery at health facilities and any place where the target population can be reached such as schools, communities, markets, social gatherings, religious houses, traditional leaders' compounds where temporary fixed post will be cited. The vaccine is expected to be included in the routine immunization schedule in 2024 for girls 9 years of age.

The Introduction across the States will take place in two phases over the next two years:

Phase 1: Reach 16 States by September 2023

- Abia, Adamawa, Akwa

Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Enugu, FCT, Jigawa, Kano, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, Osun, Taraba,

Phase 2: Reach 21 remaining States by May 2024

- Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Gombe, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara Imo, Niger, Oyo, Ondo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara

The second phase is expected to commence in Q1 2024 with 21 states using the same method as that of phase 1 with a bid for the vaccine to be routinized in 2025 for girls 9 years of age in the phase two states.

The target age group for the introduction is 9 – 14 years girls which are found mostly in schools except the out of schoolgirls. Majority of this age group are children still leaving with their parents or guardians.

Funding for the introduction is being provided by the Federal government of Nigeria and Gavi, though little counterpart funding is expected from the states.

At the induction ceremonies for the Governors spouses, championing the introduction in their respective states was discussed since this is a girls/women affair and they are in a better position to champion it as issues related to women are better handled and appreciated by them. It is expected that the First Ladies will be the champions of the roll out in their respective states and will lead the advocacy for the successful roll out of the HPV vaccine.

In summary, the introduction of the HPV vaccine would be a highly cost-effective investment for the Nigerian government and it would have a significantly positive results for women's health in the country. Especially in the context of the challenges faced by the secondary screening prevention program in Nigeria, adding a primary prevention strategy could accelerate the reduction of disease burden and prevent the acquisition of infection in the vulnerable adolescent female population.

Gov. Dauda Lawal attends dinner with World Bank President, commends bank's vision

Zamfara State Governor, Dauda Lawal, has commended the World Bank for a client-led approach and result-focused interventions. The Governor made the commendation during a special dinner with the World Bank President, Ajay Banga, at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja.

A statement by the Spokesperson to the Governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, said that the dinner was attended by Governors of Anambra, Borno, Edo, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Oyo, and Zamfara States.

He added that the president of the World Bank was in Nigeria as part of his global tour to engage critical

stakeholders on deepening development efforts.

“While delivering a remark at the dinner, Governor Lawal applauded Ajay’s vision for a client-led approach and result-focused interventions; reechoing the points made by his counterparts.

“The Governor enjoined the Bank’s leadership to be more flexible, audacious and help to attract private capital for development.

“He further expressed the willingness of the Zamfara State Government to partner on the exploration of its mineral deposits for the good of its people.”

“On his part, the President of the World Bank, Mr. Ajay Banga stressed the determination of the Bank to work differently, embracing more collaboration and flexibility in its engagements.”



Ajay Banga is the 14th President of the World Bank Group. He began his five-year term as World Bank Group President on June 2, 2023.

Ajay Banga most recently served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, a global organization with nearly 24,000 employees. Under his leadership, MasterCard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world. He was Honorary Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as Chairman from 2020-2022. He became an advisor to General Atlantic’s climate-focused fund, BeyondNetZero, at its inception in 2021. Banga served as Co-Chair of the Partnership for Central America, a coalition of private organizations that works to advance economic opportunity across underserved populations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. He was previously on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods, and Dow Inc.

Ajay Banga is a co-founder of The Cyber Readiness Institute and was Vice Chair of the Economic Club of New York. He was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2012, the Padma Shri Award by the President of India in 2016, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Business Council for International Understanding’s Global Leadership Award in 2019, and the Distinguished Friends of Singapore Public Service Star in 2021.

Zamfara Assembly confirms 18 nominees as commissioners

The Zamfara State House of Assembly has screened and confirmed 18 nominees sent to the state legislature by Gov. Dauda Lawal for appointment as commissioners.

This is contained in a statement issued in Gusau, the state capital by the Public Relations Officer of the House, Mallam Nasiru Biyabiki.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the seventh assembly of the state recently announced the receipt of the 18 nominees for confirmation.

“The nominees were screened and confirmed at the Assembly’s plenary in Gusau.

“The confirmed commissioners included Sule Adamu, Salisu Musa, Kabiru Birnin-Magaji, Yau Haruna-Bakura, Abdurrahman Tumbido, Lawali Barau, Nasiru Ibrahim, Tasiu Musa and Mannir Haidara.

“Among the confirmed nominees also are Capt. Bala Mairiga (retd); Abdul’aziz Sani (SAN), Ahmed Yandi, Wadatau Madawaki, Aisha Anka, Bello Auta, Abdulmalik Gajam, Mahmud Muhammad and Dr Nafisa Maradun,” the statement read in part.

Earlier, the Majority Leader of the House, Mallam Bello Mazawaje (APC – Tsafe East), moved the motion on the governor’s request for the screening and confirmation of the nominees.

The motion was seconded by the Minority Leader, Mallam Aliyu Ango (APC–Talata-Mafara South).

Mazawaje appealed to his colleagues to agree and set aside the House Order XV Rule 6 (6) of its standing orders in order to admit the nominees into the chamber for the screening.

After the screening, the lawmakers unanimously confirmed the 18 nominees to serve as commissioners and members of the State Executive Council.



IPOB's sit-at-home: Enugu governor threatens traders who fail to open their shops

Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State has again threatened to revoke shops in various markets in the state if the owners in obedience to the sit-at-home order fail to open their shops on Mondays.

The sit-at-home order is being enforced by a faction of the outlawed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Mr Mbah stated this when he visited Ogbete Main Market in Enugu while monitoring the effectiveness of a ban he placed on the sit-at-home order in the state.

The governor had, in June, banned the Monday sit-at-home in the state, explaining that the civil action was killing the "spirit of entrepreneurship, commerce and creativity" of Igbo people in the South-east region.

He had, earlier ordered all public servants and political office holders in the state to begin reporting to their places of work on Monday or face sanctions.

Within the same week, he equally threatened to shut schools and markets that observe the civil action in the state.

It was however, reported that the civil action has continued to hold in the state despite the ban by the governor.

Apparently angered by the continued observance of the illegal order, the governor warned that he would begin revoking shops whose owners fail to open for business on Mondays.

"But you know, there are also consequences for (people) not heeding our orders. Going forward, I want to put you on notice.

"We are going to come with the Enugu Capital Territory Development Authority to put a seal on any shop that is found locked on Monday because of the illegal sit-at-home. We will take it that you are not ready to do business," he said.

"We are going to revoke your licence to operate. We will revoke your shop title and reallocate it to someone else, who is ready to do business. This is something we must enforce with immediate effect," Mr Mbah added.

Mr Mbah decried the impact of the sit-at-home order on businesses and the economy of the South-east. He urged residents of the state to ignore the illegal order.

"We are losing over N10 billion every Monday that we sit at home. Enough is enough. This foolishness must end now.

"We cannot be marginalising ourselves and still complain of marginalisation. We must say no to sit-at-home because what it means is that we are destroying our employment, our economy and our Gross Domestic Product," he said.

The governor, who met with some market leaders at the state secretariat Enugu, assured the business people that his administration would continue to provide adequate security on Mondays.

Responding, the market leaders pledged to cooperate with the governor by shunning the civil action on Mondays.

A leader in Abakpa Nike Market, Bernard Anike, said traders in the market had started complying with the ban on the sit-at-home order.

...Enugu traditional rulers commend Mbah's efforts, assure of cooperation on community policing

Traditional rulers across Enugu state have commended Governor Peter Mbah over his laudable security measures since assumption of office, assuring his administration of their unwavering cooperation in strengthening community policing in their respective communities.

The royal fathers, who converged at the House of Chief chamber, Enugu State



South East governors vow to deal with perpetrators, sponsors of insecurity

forum and Imo State Governor, Sen. Hope Uzodinma, said that the perpetrators and their sponsors were criminals and should not be seen as legitimate agitators.

Uzodinma said upon arrest of those criminals, they would be dealt with in accordance with the laws of the land.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that all the governors from the five states were present at the meeting including Prof Charles Soludo of Anambra, Alex Otti of Abia, Francis Nwifuru of Ebonyi and the host governor, Mr Peter Mbah of Enugu.

It was also the first meeting since the emergence of Gov. Uzodinma as the Chairman, Southeast Governors Forum.

"We wish to state categorically that the perpetrators of the insecurity in our region and their sponsors are criminals and should not be seen as legitimate agitators," he said.

He added that the forum firmly resolved to fight insecurity decisively in the region in partnership with the Federal Government and other stakeholders.

The governor added that the forum resolved to hold a security and economic summit on a date to be announced.

He further commended the security agencies for their cooperation so far and encouraged them not to relent.

The South-East Governors Forum has resolved to deal decisively with perpetrators and sponsors of insecurity in the region individually and collectively.

The forum made the declaration in a communique issued at the end of its first meeting in Enugu after inauguration of the new administrations.

The communique read by the new Chairman of the

House of Assembly Complex recently, further urged the governor to be more ruthless in flushing out kidnapers and enforcers of sit-at-home order, stressing that such aberrations were not known to the Igbo people.

At the interactive session with the governor, the traditional institution charged Mbah to deploy joint security operatives across different communities in the state in order to reinforce the confidence of their subjects so that they could go about their normal businesses.

They lamented that the illegal Monday sit-at-home order being enforced by some criminal elements to intimidate innocent residents did not represent the true identity of what the Igbo people were.

Explaining to the governor that they had resolved to support possible stringent measures that his government deemed proper to secure the state

and make it the choice destination for investment and hub of industrialisation in the Southeast zone, the traditional rulers assured of their readiness to take charge of their communities as chief security officers.

Some of the traditional rulers who spoke on behalf of their senatorial districts included Igwe Simon Osi Itodo, Igwe RSN Eze, Igwe Lawrence Agubuzu, Igwe Godwin Madu, Igwe Julius Nnaji, Igwe Greg Ugwu, among others.

They noted that kidnapping incidents and other security breaches in the state, particularly along the Nike-Ugwogo-Nsukka road had been flushed out as a result of the timely security response by the governor, enjoining him to keep up with the pace.

"Enugu State and all the traditional rulers in the state are behind any decision you are taking to secure the state against

enforcers of illegal sit-at-home order and other hoodlums. We are glad you are walking the talk, and security in the state has significantly improved.

"At Ugwogo Nike, we now feel safe with your security measures unlike what we used to have in the past. Your security architecture is clearing all the hurdles. We want you to reinforce community policing like the Neighbourhood Watch.

"We are equally appealing to the Governor to ensure that there is presence of security personnel in every street and community especially on their purported sit-at-home days. This will build the confidence of our people to come out and go about their normal transactions," the royal fathers said.

They also called on Governor Mbah to sanction erring public servants and other business owners who refuse to go to work or open their businesses for transactions.





The Blossoming Success of Governor Inuwa Yahaya's Tree Planting Campaign in Gombe

By Shuaibu Usman

In the heart of Nigeria's northeastern region, lies the fascinating terrain of Gombe State, amicably dubbed Jewel in the Savannah. Marked by its well-rounded hills and verdant landscapes, its beauty has been unfortunately marred by the harsh hand of environmental degradation. The constant adversary has been deforestation and desert encroachment.

The reality heralded a pressing need for change; a cry that has been answered by the state governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya. Experts had uncovered that desert encroachment was moving at an alarming speed of 600 metres per annum in Gombe State. The menace was said to have claimed over 12 kilometers of land across the state in decades before 2019.

On Monday, July 15th 2019, barely two months after he assumed office, as the governor of Gombe state, Governor Yahaya who appeared to have had the prior knowledge of the endemic situation of land degradation, setup mechanism to arrest the menace for the betterment of all including animals and other creatures around the state.

The governor's passion for restoring the lost glory of the soil

and preserving the environment as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change, engineered the development of his audacious initiatives of the tree planting campaign which was christened, Gombe Goes Green (3G) project. Through the campaign Governor Yahaya continued to display an unrelenting resolve to restore Gombe's naturally exquisite environment and the campaign has so far proved a promising solution to the State's environmental issues.

In its inception, the campaign aimed to planting four million trees in four years, which was a formidable task indeed considering the enormous challenges, economy hardships and financial stressed Gombe that the Governor Yahaya's administration inherited. Yet, demonstrating his unwavering resilience and mindful of the urgency of combating climate change, deforestation and other environmental issues, Governor Yahaya leaped into action.

Supported by an indefatigable team of local and foreign stakeholders, community leaders, and enthusiastic citizens, the campaign initiated a comprehensive strategy for the act of planting trees. Thousands of seedlings, sourced from nurseries within and outside the state, were distributed to local communities



...The Blossoming Success of Governor Inuwa Yahaya's Tree Planting Campaign in Gombe

throughout the state. In a splendid display of unity and communal synchronization, myriad hands reached out to partake in the campaign.

The project rapidly started making a discernible impact. Just within the first year of its operation, over 1.3 million trees had been planted, a staggering measure of its success that rapidly escalated the initial projection. While the state government in collaboration with a World Bank assisted project on Youth Employment and Social Support Operation employed 27,000 women and youths to nurture trees planted, an air of hope was breathed into the local communities as individuals and families volunteer and took beloved ownership of their newly planted trees.

To guarantee the sustainability of the Governor Yahaya's campaign on tree planting, measures were put in place to ensure that the newly planted saplings would grow and thrive. The youths employed were trained and spread across the state with the needed tools to enforce the necessity of tree care including watering, mulching, and checks for pests and diseases.

The Governor's tree-planting campaign, has shown considerable promise. With each passing season, as trees begin to grow and flourish, the prospects for a greener, healthier Gombe continue to materialize. Nowhere is this truer than in the state capital, Gombe City, and its surrounding areas where blotted landscapes are beginning to boast of young, growing trees.

However, the campaign's success is not just confined to the physical manifestation

of the trees. It has sown an unparalleled sense of environmental responsibility among the people of Gombe. It has fostered communal unity, given voice to collective action, and instilled an enduring legacy of care toward the state's environmental heritage.

The progress of the tree-planting campaign under Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya's leadership has been nothing short of inspiring. It is an affirming testament to his dedication to battling deforestation, environmental degradation, and climate change. Amidst the ongoing journey, one evident thing is that Gombe is well on its way to reclaiming its mantle as the Jewel in the Savannah.

The tree planting campaign spearheaded by Governor Yahaya is a perfect embodiment of the Nigerian adage that says, "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Indeed, the tangible success and the sustainable vision reflected in this endeavour prove that Gombe State's future generations will inherit a land notably greener and healthier than before.

With each successful tree planting season, the horizon of Gombe State shifts, moving away from a barren landscape and towards a verdant serenity that harmonizes with its pioneering spirit. Governor Yahaya's leadership, combined with the collective efforts of the supportive citizens, reinforces an unforgettable narrative that Gombe's environmental restoration is a triumphant rallying call to other Nigerian states to embrace sustainable environmental practices as well.

Gombe: Plans Underway To Shore Up Manpower In Health Sector



— AS GOV. INUWA TARGETS RECRUITMENT OF ADDITIONAL 200 HEALTH PERSONNEL

— RESTATES COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING GOALS OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE



Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON says the provision of quality and affordable health care services to the people sits at the heart of his administration's resolve towards attaining the Universal Health Coverage.

The Governor stated this when he granted audience to National Officials of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria PSN led by its President Professor Cyril Usifor who are in the state to perfect arrangements for their forthcoming National Conference schedule to in Gombe.

Represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, Governor Inuwa intimated his guests that his administration has since employed 260 health workers; among them Pharmacists, adding that plans are underway to recruit another 200 to shore up manpower in the soon to be completed hospitals in Kaltungo Kumo and Bajoga.

He explained that government has provided at least one functional health center in each of the 114 political wards of the state.

The Governor added that in addition to the remodelling of the state specialist hospital, the government under his leadership is reinvigorating the general hospitals in Kaltungo and Bajoga while a new one is being

constructed in Kumo to bring quality and affordable health care services to the people at the grassroot.

"For the want of time, these are just few out of the numerous interventions the Gombe State Governor has provided and is still providing to guarantee the health of the people".

On the industrial park which the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria PCN described as futuristic master class, the representative of the Governor said when completed, it will serve as a manufacturing hub with positive effect on employment and value chain.

Earlier speaking, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Professor Cyril Usifor said they were in the state for their Annual General Meeting AGM preparatory to their National Conference scheduled to hold sometime this month in Gombe.

He commended the administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for creating a business friendly environment for potential investors to explore and make fortune for themselves and the people of the state.

The PSN President described the Muhammadu Buhari industrial park as a revolutionary step taken by the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya to bring social and economic prosperity to the people of the state.

He said given the available necessary condition for the Ease of Doing Business in the state, the society will be left with no other choice than to market the potentials of the state to investors within and outside the country.



budgetIT

Gombe State Earns High Ranking in 2023 Fiscal Transparency Report

STATES FISCAL TRANSPARENCY LEAGUE TABLE

S/N	NAME OF STATE	MTEF (12)	PROPOSED BUDGET (13)	APPROVED BUDGET (21)	CITIZENS' BUDGET (15)	QUARTERLY BIR (16)	E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL (11)	STATE WEBSITE WITH FISCAL DATA REPOSITORY (12)	SCORE/100
1	JIGAWA	12	8	19	15	13	11	12	90
2	ONDO	12	0	19	11	13	11	12	78
3	KANO	12	0	19	13	13	11	9	77
4	ADAMAWA	12	0	19	11	13	9	12	76
5	OSUN	11	0	19	11	13	11	11	76
6	GOMBE	12	0	13	15	13	10	11	74
7	KWARA	0	4	19	14	13	11	12	73
8	OYO	12	0	19	10	10	9	12	72
9	KOGI	12	5	19	0	13	11	11	71
10	BAYELSA	0	0	19	15	13	10	11	68
11	IMO	0	0	21	12	13	10	10	66
12	NASARAWA	0	0	17	13	13	9	12	64
13	OGUN	8	0	11	13	13	10	9	64
14	ENUGU	0	7	19	13	13	11	0	63
15	BORNO	0	0	19	12	13	11	8	63
16	CROSS RIVER	0	5	19	13	13	11	0	61
17	KEBBI	0	7	19	10	13	0	12	61
18	DELTA	0	0	19	11	9	11	10	60
19	LAGOS	0	0	17	11	10	11	10	59
20	NIGER	0	0	19	13	13	0	12	57
21	KATSINA	0	10	19	0	13	3	12	57
22	ANAMBRA	0	0	19	0	13	11	12	55
23	EDO	0	0	19	0	13	11	12	55
24	AKWA IBOM	9	0	19	13	9	4	0	54
25	PLATEAU	0	0	19	0	12	11	12	54
26	EKITI	0	0	17	0	13	11	12	53
27	BAUCHI	0	0	19	0	10	10	12	51
28	KADUNA	0	0	19	0	9	11	11	50
29	ZAMFARA	0	8	21	0	9	11	0	49
30	YOBE	0	0	15	0	13	11	7	46
31	EBONYI	0	0	19	0	13	0	12	44
32	RIVERS	0	0	19	0	13	11	0	43
33	SOKOTO	0	0	19	0	13	0	10	42
34	ABIA STATE	0	0	15	0	13	11	0	39
35	TARABA	0	0	19	0	9	10	0	38
36	BENUE	0	0	19	0	9	0	0	28

SCORE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION	PROGRESSIVE	AVERAGE	POOR
SCORE	71 - 100	41 - 70	0 - 40
COLOUR	■	■	■

7

Gombe State's commitment to fiscal transparency and accountability has earned it a significant distinction in the 2023 Fiscal Transparency Index published by BudgetIT, a reputable fiscal policy tracking organization in Nigeria.

The state has been ranked an impressive 6th out of 36 states, with a commendable score of 74/100.

This achievement reflects Gombe State's dedication to transparent budgeting, procurement practices, and online fiscal reporting.

The report underscores Gombe State's accomplishments in various key areas, including budget transparency, procurement transparency, the integrity of the state's website, and fiscal transparency online. Particularly noteworthy is the state's Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), which has been recognized as comprehensive and well-structured. The report acknowledges that Gombe State's approved budget met several stringent criteria, while its e-procurement portal stood out for its accessibility and navigability.

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya's administration has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fiscal transparency and accountability, earning Gombe State esteemed recognition both on a national and international level. Notably, the state recently secured the World Bank's States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability, and Sustainability (SFTAS) award in multiple categories, a testament to the administration's impactful efforts in prudent public resource management.

Furthermore, Gombe State achieved a remarkable 7th position in Nigeria and clinched the top spot in the North East sub-region in the Transparency and Integrity Index by the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CETIW). This recognitions affirmed the state's position as a role model in good governance, financial prudence, and fiscal integrity.

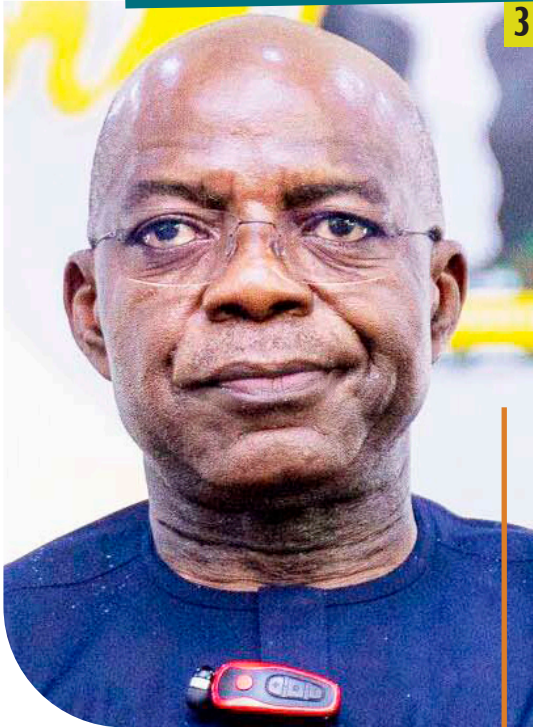
An associate professor and multi-disciplinary researcher, who also serves as the Director-General of Research and Documentation at the Government House, Dr. Mu'azu Shehu explained that based on his close monitoring of national and international open government and development ratings, Gombe State has performed credibly well in fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability. He noted that Governor Inuwa Yahaya's leadership has been pivotal in fostering a culture of good governance and transparency, positioning Gombe State as one of the most transparent and well-governed in the nation.

The remarkable strides taken by Gombe State underscore Governor Inuwa Yahaya's unwavering commitment to international best practices, as he continues to drive comprehensive reform to enhance the state's public finance management structure.

A new Abia

Gov Oti gets 16 of 19 commissioners

3 more nominees to be sworn in



although the governor had assigned portfolios to the 19 nominees.

The governor has inaugurated the 16 confirmed commissioners. During the swearing ceremony, Oti said that the three other nominees were yet to be cleared by the assembly. He said the nominees will be sworn in as commissioners when the assembly clears them.

The nominees, who failed to appear before the assembly for clearance, include Mike Akpara (Finance), Ngozi Blessing Felix (Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation) and Ikechukwu Monday (Power and Public Utilities).

Mr Akpara was said to be receiving medical treatment outside the country, while Mrs Felix and Mr Monday were said to have recently returned from a foreign trip.

The new commissioners

The 16 newly sworn-in commissioners and their portfolios include Monica Ironkwe (Agriculture), Eme Uche (Education), Joel Ogbonna (Petroleum and Mineral Resources), Kingsley Anosike (Budget and Planning), Philemon Asonye Ogbonna (Environment and Urban Renewal), Okey Kanu (Information and Culture), Ikechukwu Uwanna (Justice/Attorney-General) and Chaka Chukwumereije (Lands and Housing). Others are Uzo Nwachukwu (Local Government and Chieftaincy

Affairs), Chima Emmanuel Oriaku (Science and Technology), Nwaobilor Nwadiemma Ananaba (Sports and Youths Development), Chimezie Isaac Ukaegbu (Trade, Commerce and Industry), Otumchere Oti (Works), Okebugwu Onwuma (Transport), and Mathew Chikodi Ekwuribe (Digital Economy and SMEs).

Three professors were among the commissioners.

Mr Otti said the commissioners were carefully chosen for the job, urging them to show commitment, excellence and a sense of duty in carrying out their assignments.

The governor asked the new commissioners to justify the confidence reposed in them. He warned that excuses for failure would not be tolerated from the new commissioners, saying his dream of a new Abia, anchored on justice, service and economic rejuvenation, must be achieved.

“My target is to expand the frontiers of opportunities to enable Abians to accomplish their dreams of leveraging on the promises of the 21st-century environment to hand over a more functional society for coming generations,” he said.

The governor said his administration will focus on job creation, poverty alleviation and “measurable improvement” in the living conditions of the people.

Governor Alex Otti of Abia State has sworn in 16 new commissioners with a charge for them to work in line with his administration’s agenda for building a new Abia.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Banquet Hall of the Government House in Umuahia.

Mr Otti, in June, submitted a list of 19 commissioner-nominees to the State Assembly for screening. Three names fell short. 16 of the nominees were cleared by the assembly,

Kano: Deputy-governor heads local government, as 18 others get portfolios

Kano State Governor Abba Yusuf Gida-gida has appointed his deputy, Aminu Abdulsalam, as the state’s Commissioner for Local Government.

The governor also assigned portfolios to 18 other commissioners. The commissioners were sworn in at the Government House.

The deputy governor, Mr Abdulsalam, was the chief of staff to a former governor of the state, Rabiu Kwankwaso.

Other politicians who served as commissioners in the administration of Rabiu Kwankwaso and were appointed again into the new cabinet are Umar Doguwa, a former commissioner for higher education; Ali Makoda, a former commissioner for environment; Ladidi Garko, a former information commissioner; Abubakar Labaran, a former commissioner for health and Danjuma Mahmoud, a former accountant-general of the state.



Gender Issues

NIGERIA GOVERNORS' WIVES FORUM

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...An NGWF monthly publication

Olufolake Abdulrazaq

**Unveiling
the
Captivating
Charisma of
Our
New
Chairlady**





Unveiling the Captivating Charisma of Our New Chairlady

Her Excellency, Dr Olufolake Abdulrazaq, wife, mother, diplomat and First Lady of Kwara State, was born on the 2nd of August, 1967 in Lagos, South West Nigeria and proceeded to the United States where she started her early education and later returned to Nigeria to complete same.

Abdulrazaq was admitted into the University of Lagos where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in History in 1988 after which she proceeded for her one year mandatory National Youth Service Corp at the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna from 1988 to 1989.

In 1990, she bagged a Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication before she proceeded to acquire a master's degree in International Law and Diplomacy in 1991, all at the prestigious University of Lagos. On 5th of October 2019, Olufolake Abdulrazaq was conferred with Doctor of science Honoris Causa (DSC Hons) in Excellent Governance and social empowerment by the European American University.

Olufolake started her public service career in 1993 at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where through hard work, dedication and forthrightness, ascended the ladder to the peak of her chosen career. Abdulrazaq was the third secretary/foreign service officer at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lagos liaison office from 1994 – 1998, where she proceeded to the Nigerian High Commission, London, where she served as Counsellor; Political Affairs,

Trade, Investment and Administration from 1998 to 2004.

From November 2017 to September 2018, she served as the acting Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abuja; she was also the Acting Director and Head Trade, investment and economic cooperation division from September 2018 to April 2019.

While serving in South Africa, France and the United Kingdom, Abdulrazaq has been commended as part of the team that organised successful presidential visits to these countries. She is also the Alternate Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the board of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission.

Olufolake Abdulrazaq is currently the Director, Economic Consular and Legal Department, a position she held until October 2021. She is a lover of family, children, sports and all creative endeavours and has in many ways impacted the lives of the indigent and less privileged in the society.

The ascension of her husband Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq to the office of the Executive Governor of Kwara State, presented an avenue for her to broaden her humanitarian work through her office as the First Lady, and her personal initiative called Ajike People's Support centre, where through a well thought out strategy and an all-inclusive selection process, she hopes to reach even more indigent people.



in the beginning

I was born in Lagos, during the Civil War, over 50 years ago and it was a lovely childhood. Not long after, my dad went to the US as an information attaché to the embassy of the United States of America where I went with him. Much of my early childhood was there and he inspired me so much because apart from being the information attaché, he was also a prolific writer and he used to have so many stage plays in so many places around the US. I remember going with him to the University of Massachusetts to watch one of his plays. His plays were on Voice of America and so many others. So, those were my enduring memories as a child and I told him, (I think when I was seven), that I wanted to become a diplomat. We returned to Nigeria and the rest of my schooling was in Lagos. I did a first degree in history, and I did a postgraduate diploma in mass communication, and then I did a master's in international law and diplomacy and then later on I got the doctorates in good governance and social development. While I did that, we went ahead to get the necessary forms for me to join the Foreign Service.

My mum was a bit in the background, serene, but making sure things were on in the background as well. That was basically my childhood, very happy, always engaged in debates with my dad and his colleagues. So, it was a fabulous upbringing for a girl to grow up in because, you were not in any way hampered. I was always allowed to join the big people's table and discussions and to make inputs. He would turn to you and say "what do you think?", and that was always fantastic because, you now learn a lot more and also participate in the conversation. Even though I was interested in those big and important conversations, I was also girly and I did all those things that girls were doing. I did not miss out on anything. I always recall my childhood with a smile and I'm grateful to my parents for that.

What would you bring back from your childhood and why?

I told you I enjoyed going to the theatre. My dad in the early 60s ran what he called Stage Craft, so, he used to put on shows for people to watch. I wasn't born then. But later on, I got used to going to watch his stage plays which were featured all over. He was also one of the founders and early writers for Village Headmaster and my mum's elder sister was casted Fatia, who was the niece of the Village Headmaster. So, I loved the drama of those years and that type of life, it was very nice.

I grew up with a lot of events in the back garden, with entertainment and my dad played instruments. He would play the flute and the saxophone and things like that really inspired me. I didn't imbibe any of those things, but that was nice to grow up to, the garden with music, and laughter. Those are the things I would love to bring back from my childhood.

Getting into diplomacy

It was lovely to get into. You have representation from all the states of Nigeria and you go for training. Basically, the training for me, was what I had done in my masters in international law and diplomacy. So, a lot of it was similar. You have to go for a training to be a full-fledged foreign service officer and diplomat, and over the 28 years, I've served in different departments and I've been posted to different countries around the world, served in places like South Africa, the UK, France, and also, I've gone on different diplomatic trainings in different countries like Germany and Greece. Sometimes, you do exchange programs and all that. I've served in various offices such as the office of the honourable minister, permanent secretary and other such high-ranking offices.

Thankfully, it's been a wonderful 28 years of doing this. I will like to encourage women to get into such fields and make their mark because at the end of the day, half of Nigeria's population is female, so, why not go into diplomacy? I know sometimes women are a little bit reticent because it involves a lot of movement around the world and they wonder how to raise a family with such things to do. But I have to tell you that diplomatic children are one of the most exposed and learned children that you can find because, they've been exposed to various cultures and civilizations and they've seen a lot. Take for instance; my experience with my dad in the US was part of what shaped me into my diplomatic sojourn.

So, this is where we are, and obviously, the crowning glory of a diplomat, is when you're able to go out as an ambassador and represent your country somewhere. I think that's what every diplomat looks forward to in their career.

Being first lady of kwara state

I've been in government for 28 years and always exposed, at the highest level too. So, it wasn't a huge transition. For the governor, he has always been an international businessman. His background is in oil and gas management. He was an oil magnate and his company was the first indigenous oil company in Nigeria. So, He's always used to being very busy, active, and always traveling because his job entailed that anyway. So, I wasn't worried as per capacity or as per what we're going to bring to the table, as we were already practically in that environment. The only thing is, a lot of the times, your time is not your own anymore.

The governor drove himself to the inauguration, which made headlines because he has this attitude of being very simple and always likes to drive himself. So, he jumped into the car, I jumped next to him and the kids jumped into the back and we practically just drove ourselves to the inauguration and that made headlines about how simple he is. I think everybody can see that that is his nature, the simplicity that he brings to the job.

The first day was very amazing, it was good to meet everybody and it was very obvious that there was this quest for this type of development and for this type of change in Kwara. It was fantastic and everybody was on board. The support has been immense and I'm very happy with how everybody has been supporting across the board, helping with the vision for the state and it's been great to that effect.

What makes Kwara tick?

Kwara is like a melting pot. It's called the state of harmony. With all the different tribes in the state, they stay together. It's called a state of harmony because, it is very harmonious. It's fantastic to be there. Now, why would you want to be there? The food, the culture, there are lovely things to do, the Wara (cottage cheese) that's very well established in Kwara, it's fantastic to be there and there are sites to see, the amazing waterfall at Owu. There are so many different places to visit that are very beautiful. If you're so industrious, you come and you do so many things.

Championing the cause for TB in Kwara state

First of all, Nigeria has successfully eradicated polio. Which we played a part in doing that because; I also worked on polio vaccinations. Then, we were now told to do the TB and this now made us to go back to our states, and look at what was going on in the TB area. I had a meeting with the team from the state and also with the Stop TB team which works very well with the First Lady of Nigeria as well, and we

mapped out a strategy of how to go about things.

They gave us all the statistics and we saw that the TB centre in Kwara was working very and that it had the capacity to even take other people from other states. People were being properly looked after and the doctor who runs the centre is well versed.

Obviously, we have a few incidents, but we're happy to note that in the last 4 years, those incidents have been going down. Although, what was now reported was that, there seemed to have been a spike in drug-resistant tuberculosis and this is a worry because the drugs don't work. Nevertheless, we're working really hard to make sure that those types of cases are really taken care of and eradicated.

There is a massive campaign. I did some jingles on radio and TV with the Centre to tell people where they need to go if you have the problem or you think you have a cough. This was what my sensitization was about: that if you have a cough that has lasted for about two weeks, or a little bit more than that, you really need to go and check it out because it may be more than what you think it is. So far, so good, we're working on that, and we're hopeful that the same way we saw an eradication of polio; we'll be able to see an eradication of TB very soon.

Ajike Centre

I have to thank family members and so many other people who actually said, apart from being the First Lady, you also need to do something that would give you an additional platform to reach more people. I'm people-oriented, so, it was fantastic to have that idea to set up this additional platform with which to reach people. I had some people who came up to me, brought me a concept as well and they're still part of Ajike now and they're doing a fantastic job. This was the genesis of how we came about Ajike, and it's basically for me to be able to reach more vulnerable groups like women, youth, and children.

I talk about the youth a lot because I have a lot of youths around me, and like have them in everything that I do. The youths are our future, so the more we engage them, the better it is. So, that was why we did Ajike. I wanted to do things like skill acquisition for women, I wanted to be able to empower our children and reach the youth because I happen to be matron of many organisations, so, I knew I had to reach the youths. They are my target audience when I'm talking about drugs and sporting activities. We've done a lot on grassroots sports like softball, baseball, table-tennis, football, and this is the reason why Ajike is functioning.

Youths in substance abuse and cyber crime

I am the matron of the Drug Eradication Committee in Kwara and this is something that the committee has been working on and they are doing a fantastic job. We have a lot of other groups that are involved in this activity, including the governor, obviously, the governor as head of the entire government is well aware of what is going on and we're trying our best to curb this menace. In 2018, UNODC did a survey and Kwara was seen to have a 13 percent drug prevalent rate and therefore, we

were judged to be the highest in the North Central zone of Nigeria. In 2019, it became something that was on the back of our mind that we really needed to work on this and get to the bottom of it. So, that is why we started a lot of initiatives, making sure that a lot of youths are effectively engaged in grassroot sports and youth centres. They need avenues with which to channel their creativity. It's very important we put in avenues with which to engage our youths so that they do not go towards the negative curve. Apart from youth centers, there is also a need to create jobs. When you channel their energy into something positive, this is what works. The young people are generally restless; they need avenues with which to engage, so you cannot close off society from them. They need to be part of the discussion.

In Kwara for instance, the governor chose a 26-year-old to be commissioner for youth and sports, this was a very deliberate thing because, he made sure the youth are connected to that ministry so that they can engage themselves positively. So, this is the way we're trying to work and make sure

that we mitigate these effects of drug abuse. On Cybercrime, as a nation, we have very

computers. We're one of the best in the world and there was a time that Mark Zuckerberg visited Lagos and he went to the computer hub in Yaba centre. It's because around the world, everybody acknowledges that Nigeria is so good when it comes to computing. However, we need to make sure we channel them positively and the society needs to make sure that we endorse positive role models.

Increase in rape cases in recent times

We've seen that some states have passed the Child Rights Law and some states are urgently trying to make sure that it's passed. Some states have passed the VAPP Act and some are trying to get that passed as well. All these things together are making sure that we stem this tide and people are being caught and being made an example of because this is terrible, especially these young babies.

We're doing jingles to tell everybody that all hands are on deck to make sure perpetrators of rape are brought to book. I want to encourage people; if you see a child that is withdrawn or withdrawing, or suddenly stopped socializing and speaking, or you notice something is off, please try and reach out because we can't do this without the community. We need everybody to become part of this and to be involved. This way, we can rid our society of this menace.

The Nigerian Governors' Wives Against Gender-based Violence are doing our best to make sure that we lead the advocacy, that sexual assault referral centres are in place, to make sure that all the laws are passed, that everything is working well as it should be. The laws are getting stringent by the day, all the governors are assenting to all these laws to put these perpetrators behind bars.

How important is it for victims to speak their truth?

We're all built differently and some people are a bit more sensitive than others. The first thing I'll like to contribute to this is the fact that we have to break this stigma of silence around rape because, a lot of the times, people do not want to come out to say they've been raped. They're not even encouraged by their families or friends. A lot of people don't want to own up to the fact that their daughter may have been raped or their son because of the stigma. This makes sure that people keep quiet and when people keep quiet, the perpetrators go scot-free and the cycle continues.

Rape is one of the least reported crimes ever and it is also one of the least convicted crimes even when they do get reported because sometimes, the victims cannot

take the psychological trauma, the mental torture. They may report initially then later on, pull out because it's a very terrible thing to their psyche and their emotional well-being and they cannot continue, so they pull out.

For some, it takes a long time to heal to be able to talk about it to one person. Some people go to their graves with their secrets. So, we need to understand all those varying factors and encourage that the stigma around silence is broken, and that women will not be stigmatized for being raped because if women continue to be worried that they will be seen in a certain light if they speak about it, then they will not speak about it.

Why women should get involved in governance and leadership

It's important that everyone strives to achieve their dreams. We know there may be impediments along the way, for instance, people call me as early as 5 a.m., sometimes cold calls but those who dare to dream, tend to make a way in life. I want people to not limit their ambitions. Don't say 'oh no, this is not for me', 'I can't do this', 'I'm not from a certain background'. No. The billionaires around the world, a lot of them are hardly educated; a lot of them didn't even finish school. So, it is the courage and the conviction to your dreams that matters. And believe me, if you approach people with proper ideas, well-structured thoughts, doors open for you. We have some people who fall back; they may think they don't have the right capacity or don't know the right people. A lot of people don't know the right people, but they persevere in what they want to do and hopefully, we work on making sure that there are more jobs in the society.

However, I always counsel people not just to wait on jobs that can be given to you. If you've got the creative spirit, try to go into the creative industry. If you're entrepreneurial, try to go into the entrepreneurial industry.

I believe that parents need to support their children to achieve their goals and their aims and give them that confidence to believe in themselves. And for the young people themselves, please do not imbibe any negativity. Do not surround yourself with people who tell you that you cannot do something. Surround yourself with people who are positive, who wish you well, and who would make sure they lend a helping hand in your journey and help you along your way.

- Culled from Business Day Newspaper (Jul 10, 2020)



technical youths and they are very vast in using

Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum

A United Front Against Gender-Based Violence

In a country where gender-based violence remains a prevalent issue, the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum has emerged as a powerful and united force in the fight against this deeply rooted societal problem. Comprising the wives of state governors from across Nigeria, this influential group has taken on the responsibility of championing women's rights, empowerment, and safety, working tirelessly to eradicate gender-based violence and create a safer, more equitable society for all.

The Genesis of the Forum:

The Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum (NGWF) was established in 2007, with the primary objective of empowering women and promoting gender equality within the country. As the wives of influential politicians, these women recognized the unique platform they held and decided to leverage it for a greater purpose – to address the scourge of gender-based violence that affects millions of women and girls in Nigeria.

Collaborative Efforts:

The NGWF adopted a collaborative approach, bringing together the spouses of governors, irrespective of their political affiliations or backgrounds. This unity in purpose allowed them to transcend partisan lines and focus solely on the mission to combat gender-based violence. They understood that to bring about meaningful change, they needed to work collectively, engaging with stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

Awareness and Advocacy:

Central to their mission is raising awareness about gender-based violence and its devastating impact on individuals and society. The NGWF has organized numerous campaigns, workshops, and seminars across Nigeria to sensitize communities, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary about the importance of addressing this issue.

Additionally, the NGWF has actively engaged with the media to amplify their message, ensuring that the public remains informed about their efforts and the pressing need to eradicate gender-based violence.

Empowering Survivors:

The NGWF recognizes the critical importance of supporting survivors of gender-based violence. Through various initiatives, they have established safe spaces, shelters, and counseling centers to offer immediate assistance to survivors, providing them with the necessary resources to rebuild their lives.

Moreover, the NGWF has partnered with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international agencies to secure funding and resources for rehabilitation programs and vocational training, empowering survivors to gain financial independence and self-reliance.

Policy Advocacy and Legal Reforms:

Understanding that sustainable change requires a robust legal framework, the NGWF has been instrumental in advocating for policy changes

and legal reforms. They have actively lobbied for the implementation and strengthening of laws that protect victims of gender-based violence and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

One of their significant achievements was influencing the adoption of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act in some states, which provides comprehensive legal protection for victims and addresses various forms of violence against women and girls.

Partnerships with Government and NGOs:

The NGWF understands the power of partnerships and has collaborated with state governments, NGOs, and international organizations to further their cause. By forming alliances with relevant stakeholders, they have been able to amplify their efforts and ensure that gender-based violence remains high on the government's agenda.

Challenges and the Way Forward:

While the NGWF's efforts have undoubtedly made a significant impact in the fight against gender-based violence, numerous challenges persist. These challenges include cultural norms, inadequate funding, and the need for a more comprehensive and standardized legal framework across all states.

To address these challenges, the NGWF is committed to continuing its advocacy, collaboration, and awareness-raising campaigns. They aim to expand their reach to remote and marginalized communities, while also striving for better cooperation between state and federal governments to establish a nationwide approach to combat gender-based violence effectively.

The Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum stands as a shining example of the power of collective action and the commitment to effecting positive change. By uniting against gender-based violence, these influential women have shown that social issues can transcend political boundaries and that genuine progress can be achieved when people join forces for a common cause.

Their work is far from over, but the NGWF's dedication and resilience offer hope for a future where gender-based violence is relegated to history, and women can live their lives with dignity, safety, and respect.

Chairlady Pays Courtesy Visit To UNICEF Country Representative

The Chairperson of the Nigeria Governors Wives' Forum and First Lady of Kwara State H.E Dr Olufolake Abdulrazaq, recently paid a courtesy visit to the country representative of UNICEF Mrs. Cristian Munduate in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

The NIGWF Chairperson mentioned that the meeting is to deepen collaboration with UNICEF and all its different units.

Ambassador Abdulrazaq further added that first ladies have the convening power to drive advocacies and initiatives at different levels in their respective States.

In her own remarks the UNICEF country representative Mrs. Cristian Munduate highlighted the global mandate of the organization while assuring of UNICEF's readiness to continue to collaborate with the Nigeria Governors Wives' Forum.



Oyo First Lady attends HIV conference, seeks support for state health system

The wife of Oyo State governor, Engineer Tamunominini Makinde, attended the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science in Brisbane, Australia, where advancements in taming HIV were discussed.

At the conference, which is the world's most influential meeting on HIV research and its applications, hope for the cure of HIV was raised as delegates were

introduced to the "Geneva patient", the sixth person considered to be "cured" of HIV.

The Geneva patient is a Caucasian male whose viral load remains undetectable after 20 months of discontinuing Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).

Mrs Makinde, who led the Oyo State contingent to the conference which held between 23rd and 26th July, 2023, took the opportunity to solicit support not just for HIV programme in Oyo State, but also for the state health system, especially data management.

She held discussions with the teams from the University of Manitoba, Canada, led by the Project Coordinator, Institute of Global Public Health, Dr. Kalada Green and the Global Fund team through Dr. Greg Ashefor on the need to support the efforts of the government to improve healthcare delivery in the state.

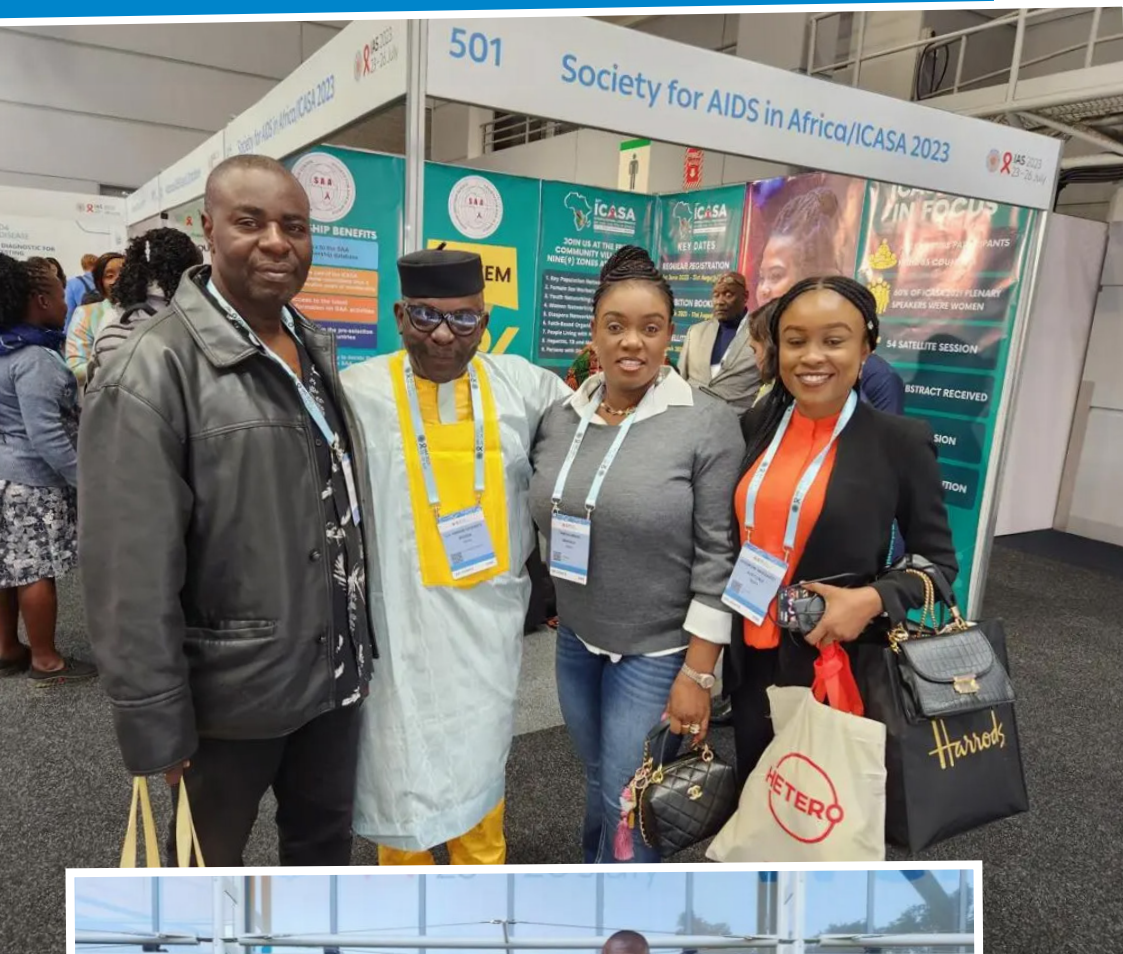
She also interacted with the World President of the International AIDS Society (IAS), Sharon Lewin.

The over 5000 people who participated at the conference physically and virtually were regaled with progress being recorded in taming HIV, including the discovery of a drug that can preferentially prime latent cells to die and facilitate clearance of the viral reservoir.

Using a humanised mouse model, researchers found that daily doses of the drug for a few weeks significantly delayed viral rebound following cessation of ART.

Sessions of the IAS 2023 explored all aspects of long-acting injectable options, including how to ensure this injectable reach all who need them.

Long-acting ARVs were described as probably the greatest advancement in HIV field in recent years.





Akwa Ibom

WE DON'T CHANGE A WINNING TEAM

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Umo Eno, has sworn in 23 new commissioners and a special adviser to assist in the implementation of his ambitious economic blueprints, "Arise Agenda". All the new appointees except one served as commissioners and special advisers in the cabinet of Mr Udom Emmanuel.

Mr Eno, who repeatedly addressed the newly sworn-in commissioners as "my colleagues", served as a commissioner for Lands and Water Resources in Mr Emmanuel's cabinet, before he resigned to contest the governorship election.

At the swearing-in ceremony, held at Government House, Uyo, the governor told the new appointees that they already have a condensed roadmap to guide them in the execution of their responsibilities.

Many people in the state, have expressed disappointment at the governor for reappointing all the commissioners but in his reaction, Gov Umo Eno described his former colleagues as his "foot soldiers" that have to be rewarded, adding that

besides being tested, they possessed vast experiences to deliver his economic blueprint.

"You do not abandon your foot soldiers shortly after a successful execution of an election victory. As old blood, we were together in all of the campaigns.

"A lot of you took bullets for me, a lot of you stood up for me when no one believed I could ever emerge, spent several nights strategizing for me. My conscience would not allow me to throw you away.

"Therefore, it is only fitting that we bring back tested hands with the right experience who understands the system to join us and work for the continuation of peace, growth and transformation of our state in line with the Arise Agenda," he said.

Speaking further, the governor announced the creation of the Ministry of Internal and Waterways Security and said the new ministry is to collaborate with security agencies to ensure peace and harmony in the state.

The governor directed that all other smaller security groups that feature at government functions would henceforth be trained and coordinated by the new ministry.

The Secretary to the State Government in a statement released hours after the swearing-in

assigned portfolios to the commissioners. About 80 per cent of them returned to their former ministries. They include, Eno Ibanga - Works and Fire Service, Ini Ememobong - Information; Uko Udom - Justice and Attorney General; Monday Uko - Youth and Sport; Linus Nkan - Finance; Iniobong Ekong - Lands; Bassey Okon - Special Duties and Ibom Deep Seaport; Imo Moffat - Ministry of Science and Technology; Augustine Umoh - Health; Frank Archibong - Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. Others are, Ini Adiakpan - Women Affairs and Social Welfare; Idongesit Etiebet - Education; Raphael Bassey - Housing; Bob Emem - Economic Development; Aniefiok Nkom - Labour and Manpower Planning; Offiong Offor - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Few were redeployed from their former ministries to new ones. For instance, Charles Udoh, former commissioner for Environment has been moved to Culture and Tourism, while Orman Esin who headed Culture and Tourism before has been moved to Transportation. Uno Uno is moved from Transportation to Environment and Mineral Resources.

Others include Camilus Umoh, now assigned to the Ministry of Power, Enobong Moffat, Water Resources and Sanitation, John Etim, Trade and Investment. The only new commissioner, Koko Essien, is assigned the newly created Ministry of Internal Security, while Amanam Nkanga retains his portfolio as Special Adviser - Bureau of Political and Social Re-orientation.

Gov Radda appoints Fadila Mohammed Dikko 20 others as commissioners

Katsina State Governor, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda has announced Hajiya Fadila Mohammed Dikko as the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.

Radda made the announcement at the Peoples Square.

The new Katsina State Commissioner of Justice, Barrister Fadila Mohammad Dikko holds a Bachelor of Law Degree and a Masters's in Public Law from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. programme in law at Bayero University, Kano.

Also appointed into Gov. Radda led cabinet are two other females: Hajiya Hadiza Musa Musawa and Hajiya Hadiza Yar'adua Tuga. While two others, Hajiya Hadiza Maikudi and Hajiya Jamila Abdu were appointed as Special Advisers to the Katsina Governor.

Among those newly sworn in as Radda's Commissioners are also three former commissioners who served under the immediate past Masari led administration.

They include Associate Professor Badamasi Lawal, (former Education Commissioner); Musa Adamu, (former Commissioner, Water Resources) and Dr. Bishir Gambo Saulawa, (former Commissioner, Sports and Social Development).

Two other Masari's aide who served as Commissioners were also sworn in as Special Advisers to Governor Radda. They include Alhaji Ya'u Umar Gwajo Gwajo (Garkuwan Daura) who was in charge of for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and Engr. Yakubu Nuhu Danja, the former Health Commissioner.

Addressing the mammoth crowd that graced the occasion, Gov. Radda appealed to the good people of the state to exercise

patients with his administration, stressing that measures are underway to better their lot.

Radda who described his administration as a government for the poor, said he will do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of the Katsina people.



Ebonyi

Your appointments not political patronage

Ebonyi State Governor Francis Nwifuru has sworn in 35 newly appointed commissioners in the state.

Swearing the Commissioners in at the Executive Council Chamber, Centenary City, Abakaliki, the governor charged them to be innovative and strategic in the discharge of their duties, noting the governor said their appointments were not based on political patronage.

He also swore in his Chief of Staff, Prof. Emmanuel Echiegu and Deputy Chief of Staff, Engr Timothy Nwachi; newly appointed Senior Special Assistants; Special Assistants; and Personal Assistants.

Addressing the appointees, he enjoined them to join hands with him to transform the state, adding that his administration will not tolerate indolence.

He said, "As you all know, this is a call to service, while I congratulate you, I implore you to take your duties seriously and I say it clearly, the appointments are not for political patronage.



"If I see lapses in your office, you are leaving the next minute and I can never call you back.

"Our state is very charged waiting for our leadership style and we must show them what we have for them and show them that we have the capacity to deliver." While thanking Ebonyians for their patience with his administration, he assured them he would hit the ground running to deliver on his campaign promises.

"We are grateful to Ebonyians for their patience especially when it comes to the environment and by

the grace of God we will deliver." Some of the Commissioners sworn in were Works and Transport, Engr Lebechi Mbam; Finance, Dr. Leonard Uguru; Lands and Survey, Dr. Matthew Nwobashi; Tertiary Education, Prof. Omari Omaka (SAN); Market Development and Parks, Prof. Nwogo Obasi; Skill Development and Job Creation, Elijah Oko-Udu; Internal Security, Prince Etta Ude; Environment, Hon. Victor Chukwu; Information and State Orientation, Jude Okpor; Commerce and Industry, Oguzor Offia Nwali; among others.

Why I'm not in a hurry to unfreeze Benue accounts – Gov Alia

Governor Hyacinth Alia of Benue state has said he is not in a hurry to unfreeze the bank accounts of Benue state after two months of placing restrictions on the said accounts for fear of perceived fraud.

He explained that the accounts would remain frozen because there were hyenas and hawks who were waiting to feast on them the moment the he lifts the embargo.

The Governor who made the disclosure during his maiden interaction with the media in the state said the embargo had not hindered the operations of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs of the state.

The Governor said: "On May 29 which was the day I was sworn in, few minutes after I called for the closure of

the accounts of Benue state. And I was so right to have done that.

"Even now as I speak there are hyenas and hawks waiting for just anything to drop into those accounts and they will take them out; because land mines were already planted.

"And in that context it is not yet time for the unfreezing to be done. I am still looking closely at each of the parastatals, each of the Ministries and each of the Agencies.

"And if I invite you to take a peep into what I am looking at, you will be so amazed and you will in fact ask me to close the accounts till next year.

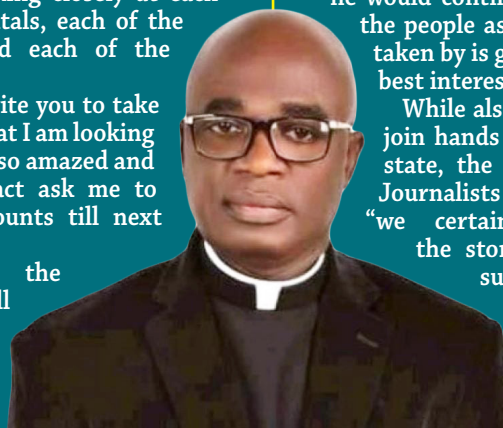
"But while the freeze is still

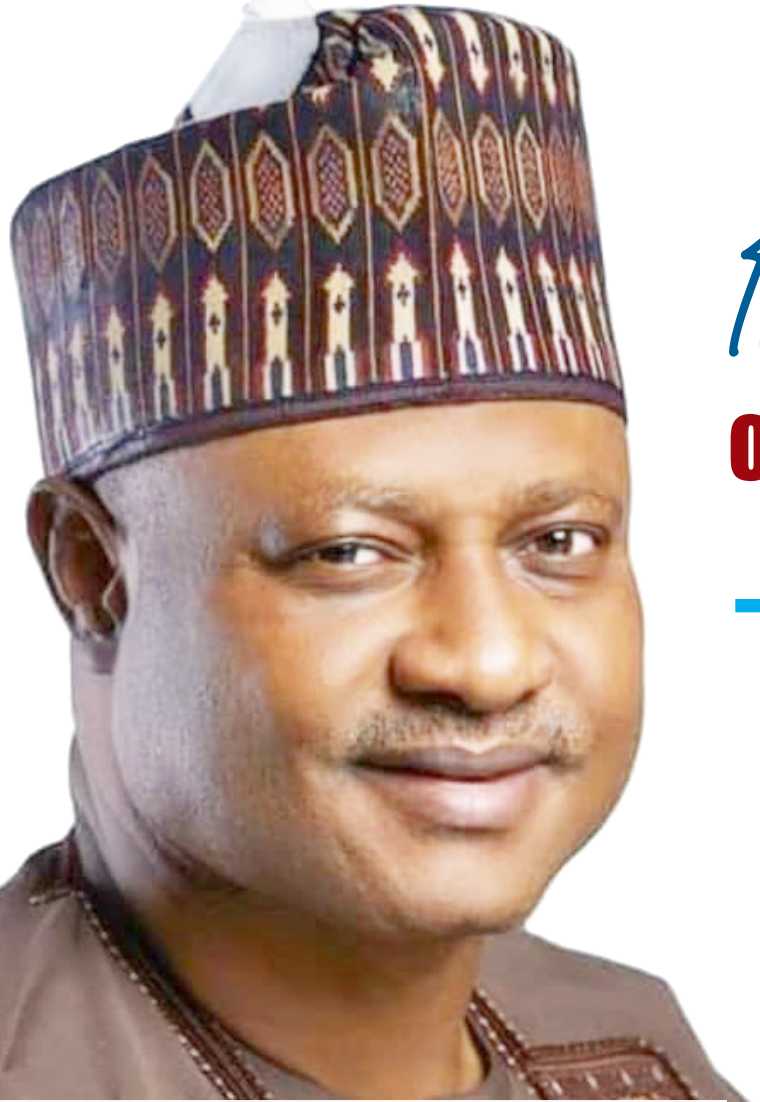
in place, it is very vital that any Ministry, Department or Agency, MDA, that has a need, they bring it to the appropriate quarters at the Government House and it is treated."

He urged Benue people to rally round his government and give him the necessary support to help him deliver on his promises.

He said his doors would remain open and he would continue to be accessible to the people assuring that all actions taken by is government were in the best interest of the state.

While also urging politicians to join hands with him to serve the state, the Governor appealed to Journalists to support him saying "we certainly cannot weather the storm alone without the support of the media."





Kaduna shape up or ship out, Uba Sani tells appointees

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna state has told the newly inaugurated Commissioners in the state that they shall be strictly assessed based on performance indicators and anyone who failed to measure up shall be shown the way out.

He said the state was in a period of emergency and must make grave decisions, and his administration will cut down on cost of governance to overcome its economic challenges.

The Governor spoke to the new commissioners at the Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna.

Kaduna state, he said, was confronted with economic and security challenges and his government will set up a trust fund to cater for the poor, the underserved and the vulnerable people.

He said he will donate 50% of his salary to the trust fund. According to him, “we count on you to bring your experience and competence to bear on governance in the state. You are coming into our administration at a period when we are confronted with serious economic and security challenges.

Creative and innovative steps are being taken to address the challenges. Our President took a hard and painful but necessary decision to remove fuel subsidy.”

“We are therefore in a period of emergency. We must cut down on cost of governance and ostentatious lifestyles.

All commissioners must use their old vehicles. If we lead by example our people would follow. Excuses for lacklustre

performance will not be tolerated and we shall strictly assess you based on performance while anyone who failed to measure up shall be shown the door.”

The Commissioners were former Speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Hon. Abdullahi Aminu Shagali who was assigned Ministry of housing and urban development, the Director General, Kaduna state APC gubernatorial campaign, Prof. Muhammad Sani Bello was assigned ministry of education, a former commissioner for local government and chieftaincy affairs, Hajiya Umma Kaltume Ahmed was assigned ministry of Health.

A former chairman of Kaduna North local government, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos was assigned ministry of local government and chieftaincy affairs, the immediate past accountant general of Kaduna state, Shizzer Nasara Bada was assigned ministry of Finance, former permanent secretary, Kaduna state ministry of works and infrastructure, Malam Murtala Mohammed Dabo was assigned ministry of agriculture, a former House of Representatives member, Hon. Mukhtar Ahmed Monrovia was assigned ministry of planning and budget.

Barr. Sule Shaibu was appointed the attorney general and commissioner for justice, Hajiya Rabi Salisu was appointed commissioner for women affairs and social development, Lere local government chairman, Hon. Abubakar Buba appointed commissioner for environment, Mrs Patience Fakai was assigned ministry of business, innovation and technology, Arch. Ibrahim Hamza was assigned ministry of works and infrastructure, Prof. Benjamin Kumai Gugong was assigned ministry of sports development.

Delta State: Oborevwoori sends 26 names to assembly

Pledges to prioritise health of Deltans

Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwoori, has unveiled a list of his cabinet members, made up of 26 commissioners.

Oborevwoori, in a letter to the Speaker and members of the state Assembly, in Asaba, said the list has been sent to the House for consideration and confirmation to enable him effect their appointments, in line with powers conferred on him by Section 192 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (1999 as amended).

The commissioners designate are Odinigwe Odigie Daniel; Joan Onyemaechi Ada-Anioma; Jerry Ehiwario; Charles Aniagwu; Michael Ifeanyi Anoka; Pat Ajudua; Funyei Manager and Angele Godknows.

Others are Kingsley Ashibuogwu; Perez Omoun; Uduaghan Orode; Isaac Tosan Wilkie; Oligida Samuel; Tonukari Johnbull; Jamani Tommy Ejiro; Rose Ezewu; Onoriode Agofure; Oyibode Vincent; Emamusi Obiodeh; Tilije Fidelis; Etagherure Ejiro Terry; Agbateyimiro Isaac Weyinmi; Sonny Akpororkimo Ekedayen; Darlington Ijeh; Joseph Onojaeme and Reuben Rume Izeze.

Some former commissioners in Ifeanyi Okowa's administration also made the list, including Aniagwu and Tilije, who were in charge of Information and Finance ministries, respectively.

Also appointed into the cabinet are Orode, daughter of former governor of the state, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, and Funyei, son of former Senator representing Delta South, James Manager.

Meanwhile, the governor said his administration would pay priority attention to the health and well-being of Deltans, in line with his M.O.R.E agenda. Oborevwoori noted that his administration is willing to partner well-meaning bodies for growth and development of the state.

Speaking when the National Executive Council of Nigerian Optometric Association (NOA), led by its National President, Dr. Obinna Awiaka, paid him a courtesy visit at Government House, Asaba, yesterday, the governor assured the optometric body of the state government's support for its conference holding in Asaba.

The governor said: "As a state, we are very happy receiving visitors, because our state is peaceful, especially Asaba, the capital city. A lot of conferences have been held here.

"We are ready, at all times, to partner any sector that wants to collaborate with us. I believe the conference you are holding in Delta will bring a lot of awareness to our people in the area of proper eye care.

"It will encourage a lot of people to come and check their eyes. In my M.O.R.E. Agenda, we are not going to toy with the issue of health. "I know we have some optometrists working with Asaba Specialist Hospital, but now that you have requested for more of them, we will check if there are vacancies and employ more."

Awiaka commended Oborevwoori for the development in the state, and for approving Call Duty Allowance for their members, as well as for supporting the conference.

Fintiri swears in 23 commissioners

Gov. Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa has sworn in 23 Commissioners and charged them to be dedicated to duty for the development of the state.

Fintiri charged the commissioners to be committed and fair in the discharge of their duties. "You must eschew corruption and corrupt tendencies.

"I must caution early on that the call that you just answered is a call to service, it is not a call to riches.

"If all you desire is riches, you are in the wrong place and my free counsel to you is to voluntarily ship out before I ship you out," he said.

Fintiri said that his first term had laid the

foundation for the development of the State.

According to him, the second term is a consolidation phase aimed at building on the foundations already laid.

"I urge all of you to come on board with the desirable winning attitude, ingenuity and deep insight in handling every situation," the governor urged.

Abdullahi Prambe, Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development, who spoke on behalf of his colleagues thanked Fintiri for the confidence in them.

He assured that they would diligently discharge their duties, with the fear of God Almighty for the development of the state.



Jigawa Gov

Swears In 16 Commissioners

Governor Umar Namadi of Jigawa State has sworn in 16 new commissioners after their confirmation by the state House of Assembly.

The ceremony was held at the Government House Chamber in Dutse. The governor assigned portfolios to the newly appointed commissioners and also charged them with being committed to the actualization of the administration's 12-point agenda.

The new commissioners are Ibrahim Babangida Umar Ministry (Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning), Prof Hannatu Sabo Muhammad (Ministry of Finance), Dr Muhammad Abdullahi Kainuwa (Ministry of Health), Aminu Kanta (Ministry of Commerce), and Ahmed Garba MK (Ministry for Local Government).

Others are Ibrahim Garba Hannun Giwa (Ministry of Water Resources), Dr Lawan Yunusa Danzomo (Ministry of Basic Education), Dr Isah Yusuf Chamo (Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology), Sagir Musa Ahmed (Ministry of

Information, Youth, Sports and Culture) and Hadiza Abdulwahab (Ministry of Women Affairs).

The remaining are Col Muhammad Alhassan (retd.) (Ministry of Lands and Regional Planning), Dr Nura Ibrahim Dandoka (Ministry of Environment), Gambo Shu'aibu Mallam (Ministry of Works), Auwal Danladi Sankara (Ministry of Special Duties), Musa Adamu Aliyu (Ministry of Justice), and Muttaka Namadi (Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources).



Rivers: Fubara appoints Commissioners, demands patriotism in service

Rivers State Governor, Sir Siminalayi Fubara has charged newly sworn-in commissioners and other appointees to see their appointments as an opportunity to exude patriotism and offer selfless service to Rivers State to enable the new administration succeed.

The Governor gave the charge during the formal swearing of four Commissioners; Prof Zacheous Adango, Dr Alabo George Kelly, Prof. Chinedu Mmom and Barr Isaac Kamalu at the Executive Council Chambers of Government House, Port Harcourt, urging the appointees to be diligent and patriotic in the discharge of their official duties.

The four commissioners were with the immediate past Governor Nyesom Wike until his handover to Fubara.

Also sworn in were the new Head of Rivers State Civil Service, Dr George Nweke, whose appointment the Governor described as strictly on merit, and a member of the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission RSIEC, Ibiembo Thompson.

He disclosed that the task of governance before the new

administration was enormous, stressing that no stone would be left unturned to ensure that the administration started on a strong foundation and succeed.

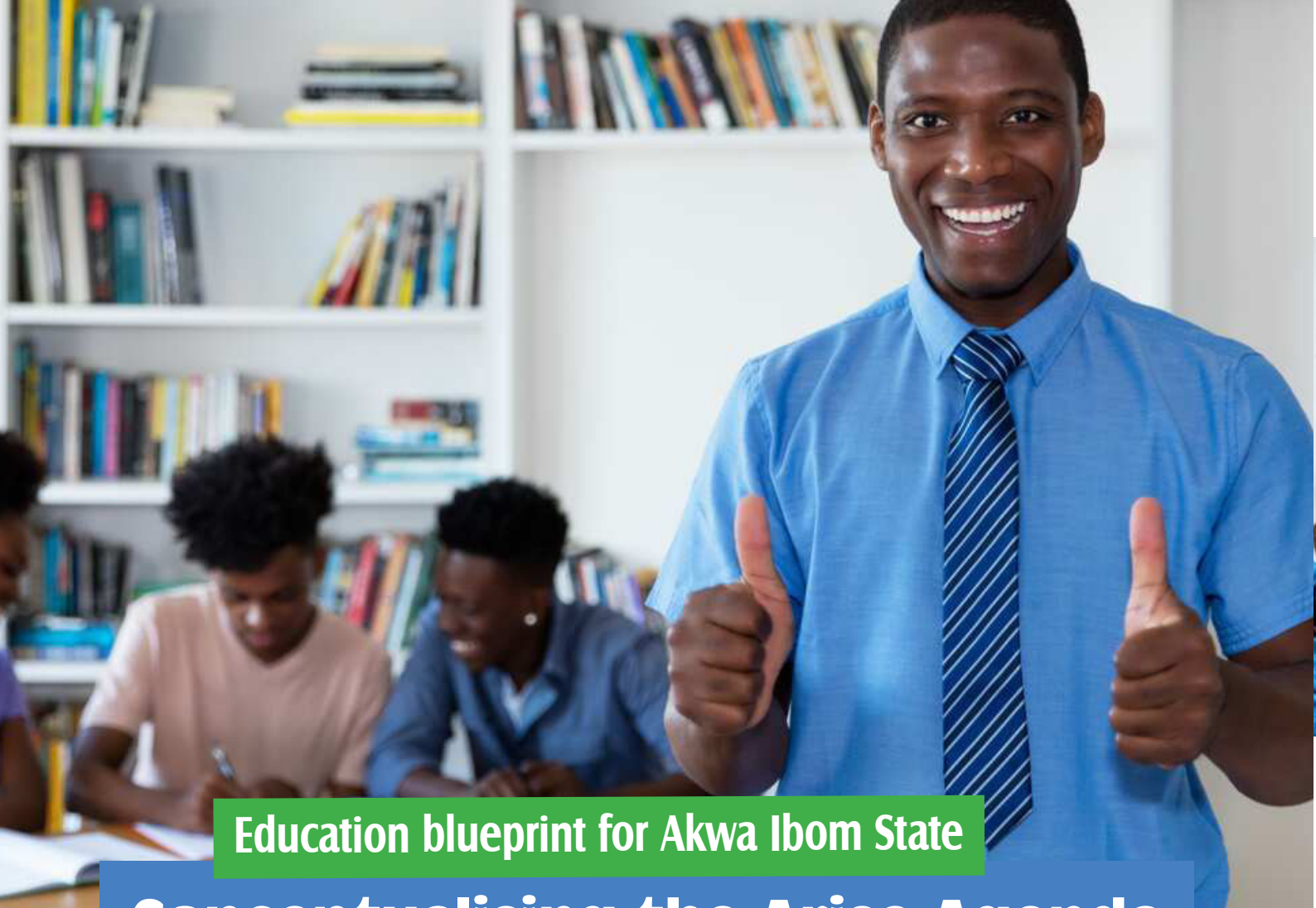
He assured that the right incentives and modalities would be put in place for the transformation of the state pointing out that the people of Rivers State were looking up to the new administration with high expectations that required a high sense of patriotism on the part of the executive.

The governor congratulated the appointees and urged them to deploy their wealth of experiences in the service as they had served the state in various capacities in the past, noting that the task of development in the state required the efforts of all stakeholders.

He cautioned against tendencies of undermining his administration, warning against unruly antics as no one should take his simplicity for granted.

Prof Zacheous Adango was assigned the portfolio of Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Dr George Kelly Alabo, Works, Prof Chinedu Mmom, Education while Barr Isaac Kamalu got the Finance portfolio.





Education blueprint for Akwa Ibom State

Conceptualising the Arise Agenda

Introduction:

The education sector in Nigeria is in crisis. Federal and subnational governments are expected to declare a state of emergency in the education sector to mitigate mirage of challenges bedeviling the sector. Unfortunately, this is not the case as we speak. However, this workshop is a step in the right direction to identify, contextualize and address challenges in the sector. The ARISE AGENDA of the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State is based on Agricultural revolution, Rural development, Infrastructural maintenance and advancement, Security management, and Educational advancement (ARISE). The government's Economic Blueprint is anchored on eight (8) goals: Poverty reduction, Job creation, Price stability, Sustainability of Economic growth, Improved standard of living, Environmental sustainability, highly educated, healthy, and skilled populace, and safety and security. These goals were further narrowed down to four (4) Aspirations: Agricultural Revolution, Tourism and Environmental Management; Rural Development, Women, and Youth Empowerment; Infrastructural Maintenance and Advancement; Security Management and Advancement, Quality Educational and Health Sector Management; and Economic, Industrial and Social Advancement.

The policy directions arising from the fourth (4th) Aspiration were to: ensure the safety and security of lives and property; further reduce illiteracy in the state and achieve optimal self-reliance of citizens; promote, and provide high standard education system, which will produce highly educated and skilled people to meet industry demands, creating jobs for themselves, as opposed to being job seekers; encourage digital inclusiveness in all education and training programmes for all level of citizens; and promote and strengthen research and development activities as well as innovation capacity in order to support industry development among others. The government hopes to build model primary and secondary schools in each of the ten (10) federal constituencies, prioritize training and retraining of teachers to enhance their productivity, embark on an extensive renovation of dilapidated school buildings and related infrastructure, establish and expand technical and vocational training centres, Sustain and improve the free and compulsory education policy with a view to making it more functional, and promote student scholarship schemes to qualified Akwa Ibom students in Nigerian public tertiary institutions. These are the focal action policies of the government in the education sector.

Synopsis of the Education Sector in Nigeria



Nigeria occupies an “enviable” position as the country with the highest out-of-school children in the world. The global estimate for out-of-school children (OOSC) is 258 million. In sub-Saharan Africa, 62 million children are estimated to be out-of-school. In Nigeria, over 12 million children are estimated to be out-of-school. In June 2022, UNESCO and UNICEF estimated that 1 in 3 children in Nigeria are out-of-school. 10.2 million at the primary school level and 8.1 million at the junior secondary school level. The report also stated that 12.4 million children in Nigeria never attended school and 5.9 million left school very early. This means that Nigeria accounts for 15% of the global figure of out-of-school children. Regrettably, 70% of children in Nigeria cannot read with meaning or solve simple mathematical problems.

At the senior secondary school level, 1 in 3 adolescents eligible for senior secondary school are not attending, and 50% of girls are not attending school in basic education level. 7.6 million girls are out of school in Nigeria, 3.9 million at the primary level and 3.7 million at the junior secondary level. Only 9% of girls from the very poor homes attend senior secondary school compared to 81% from the upper middle class.

Between 2001 and 2017, Nigeria allocated 1.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per year to education. In 2021, 2.1% of GDP was allocated to education. This was one of the lowest in Africa. 1.2% of public expenditure is allocated to education at the federal level. For both the federal and state budgets, 10% was allocated. This was below the recommended global benchmarks of 15-20% for pre-primary and primary education. Also, between 2018 and 2020, 36% (N792 billion) of the education sector budget in Nigeria was underspent. N46 billion of the Federal Government’s Universal Basic Education (FGN-UBE) Matching Grant to states have been un-accessed as of April 30, 2023. Let us look at education sector statistics in Akwa Ibom State.

BASIC AND SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN AKWA IBOM STATE

Akwa Ibom state has over 2,826 public and private primary schools as 2020. There are about 3.2 million children in these schools. The out-of-school children in Akwa Ibom state was about 581,800 in 2020 according to UBEC figures. Between 2015 to 2022, State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) received over N9 billion from the FGN-UBE matching grant. The state also made some progress in addressing out-of-school challenges through budgetary provisions.

From 2016 to 2019, the state budgeted N19.5 million and released N11 million for campaign against non-enrollment of school age children.

This was aimed at checkmating hawking and loitering of children during school hours in the state. The budget for awareness creation for free and compulsory education in remote areas in the state was N6 million between 2016 to 2018. The state also budgeted N277.5 million to conduct community and household research and survey on out-of-school children from 2019 to 2021. The collation and publication of report on out-of-school children in booklet form from 2019 to 2021 was N3.4m. Mass mobilization and sensitization program to mop up out-of-school children from 2019 to 2021 was N17m.

Subvention spent on education monitoring and evaluation between 2015 to 2020 in the Ministry of Education and Office of the Secretary to the State Government was N171 million. The amount budgeted for subventions for over 1164 public primary schools in Akwa Ibom state between 2015 and 2021 was over N3.6 billion. Budgetary provisions for interventions for 251 secondary schools between 2015 and 2021 was N4.2 billion. Data for actual releases and implementation are not available.

There is free and compulsory primary and junior secondary education in Akwa Ibom State (Free Education Law, section 4(10), 2015). Every child in Akwa Ibom state has the right to free, compulsory, and universal basic education and it should be the duty of the government of Akwa Ibom state to provide such education, (The Child Rights Law of Akwa Ibom State, 2008). On Friday, July 14, 2023, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State declared a state of emergency on primary education in Akwa Ibom state during an unscheduled inspection of Christ the King primary school, Uyo, in the state capital.



Tertiary Education in Akwa Ibom State

Akwa Ibom State has one state owned university, Akwa Ibom State University (AKSU). The university, just like the polytechnic has two campuses, Ikot Akpaden, Mkpatt Enin, and Obio Akpa, Oruk Anam. Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic is located at Ikot Ekpene and Ikot Osurua. Nigeria has over 123 public and 147 private universities. The former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Prof. Rasheed Abubakar said NUC is currently processing 292 applications for private and public universities in Nigeria.

Between 2017 and 2019, 187,942 students (2017 = 62,346; 2018 = 57,857; 2019 = 67,739) sat for the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) exams in Akwa Ibom state. However, only 71,166 students were admitted according to JAMB records (2017 = 14,899; 2018 = 36,884; 2019 = 19,383). JAMB applicants for 2023 from Akwa Ibom State was 66,380. Similarly, between 2017 and 2019, 164,450 students from Akwa Ibom state sat for the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE) (2017 = 55,152; 2018 = 54,986, 2019 = 54,312) out of this number, 104,932 students passed with five credits in English Language and Mathematics. (2017 = 33,583, 60%; 2018 = 39,621, 54%; 2019 = 31,728, 58%) according to reports from WAEC. That is 57% average.

In 2023, approximately 1.7 million students are competing for 700,000 places in the university system in Nigeria. However, the combined carrying capacity of all Nigerian universities is approximately 1.9 million. The

Nigerian universities offer over 2,300 academic programmes at all levels and have approximately 51,000 academic staff and 9,000 professors. The 2020, NUC report also stated that 43% of academic staff in the universities do not have doctorate degree, and 52% were Lecturer 1 and below. About 83% of all academic staff in the universities are men, and 16% women. Nigeria has about 22,548 academic vacancies across all disciplines in the universities according to the NUC 2020 report.

EDUCATION BLUEPRINT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION: THE ARISE AGENDA

1. The new administration in Akwa Ibom state has set the ball rolling by declaring a state of emergency in the primary education sector. Education should be at topmost priority of the government to address the out of school children challenges. Education stakeholders and development partners should team up together and present a blueprint on how best the challenges in the education sector should be addressed in the state. The drive to tackle out-of-school children challenges should commence with the prompt subventions to basic and senior secondary schools in the state. Building of ten model primary and secondary schools as part of the ARISE agenda will increase enrolment in the state and address out of school children challenges if there is adequate funding and releases of subventions to primary and secondary schools. Acceleration and retention of girls will be possible through empowerment to reduce poverty in the state.
2. Schools in Akwa Ibom State charge hidden fees. Pupils and students pay N500 for interventions, N500 for P.T.A, N1,500 for continuous assessments, N500 for opening of files among others in most public schools. Government should provide subventions to schools to accommodate these charges and activate the free and compulsory basic education in the state. As government intends to embark on an extensive renovation of dilapidated school buildings and infrastructural development, efforts should be made to ensure that schools receive prompt subventions to cater for running cost and limit opportunities for hidden charges.



3. Similarly, the state should appropriate about 15% of its fiscal budget to education. The global benchmark is between 15 and 20%. There should be prompt accessing of the FGN-UBE Matching Grant through the Universal Basic Education Commission with the payment of the counterpart fund every fiscal year. This should also be the case with the newly established National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC). NSSEC will receive 2% Consolidated Revenue Funds from the Federation Account to address senior secondary education challenges across the states. Funds for senior secondary schools will be accessed the same way UBEC Funds are accessed with counterpart funds. This will help the government to have funds for infrastructural development, training and retraining of teachers and establishment and expansion of technical and vocational training centres in line with the ARISE agenda. The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) will support NSSEC on state-based needs assessment. Akwa Ibom state should constitute a State Senior Secondary Education Board (SSSEB) like SUBEB in the state.
4. Passion for education should be the major criteria in the appointment of the Commissioner of Education in the state. There are programmes by the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, FCDO etc. to address out-of-school children, foundational literacy and numeracy, girl child education, acceleration, and retention of girl child education to senior secondary level, among others. The government should partner with donor agencies and international developmental partners to fund and support educational development in the state. For example, the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) project is a federal government project supported by the World Bank to create safe learning spaces in secondary schools, improving existing schools' infrastructure and empower the girl child on school enrolment, acceleration, and retention in senior secondary schools. Additional states are incorporated in the

phase two after the successful implementation of the project in seven states in phase one. Akwa Ibom state government should reach out to the Federal Ministry of Education on this project.

5. Bursary and scholarship should be provided for students in the tertiary institutions to ameliorate their financial burden. This is also part of what the ARISE agenda for education is set out to do. The existing tertiary institutions in the state should be adequately funded in the areas of capacity building and infrastructural development. Sustainability of the existing ones is far better than establishing new ones. The temptation to do that should be resisted at all costs. The

Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), Committee of the Vice Chancellors of the Nigerian State-Owned Universities (CVCNSU), Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), National Universities Commission (NUC), Tertiary Education Trust Funds (TETFund), and Federal Ministry of Education (FME) will carry out a needs assessment of all state-owned universities in Nigeria on manpower, funding curriculum development, governance structure, infrastructure, and human resources management, among others. The report of the Peer Review Mechanism of state-owned universities will be presented to the 36 states governors for evaluation and implementation. This will help to address challenges in the management of tertiary education and provide a policy document for implementation.

CONCLUSION

Finally, monitoring and evaluation of the education sector will go a long way in identifying critical challenges from time to time and proffer solutions on how to promptly address them. Educationists and community leaders with integrity and fear of God should be assigned duties of periodic monitoring and evaluation of basic, senior secondary and tertiary education to enable the state governor to be well informed on practical ways of addressing educational challenges in the state for the collective socio-economic benefits of citizens. The Nigeria Governors' Forum is committed to providing technical supports for states to enable them conduct independent and reliable evaluation of the education sector periodically.



Akwa-Ibom Dialogue

Background

The NGF-Secretariat in June 2023 hosted H.E Pastor Umo Eno, Akwa Ibom State Governor, at the NGF Secretariat. HE presented the blueprint of his Administration – the A.R.I.S.E Agenda, to members of the secretariat and invited the NGF Secretariat to collaborate with the State to host the first ever Akwa-Ibom dialogue. Members of the public would be drawn from various sectors with a charge on them to critique and provide tangible solutions and how they can be achieved for the actualisation of the vision of his government.

The ARISE Agenda is elaborated below:

1. Agricultural Revolution, Tourism & Environmental Management
2. Rural Development, Women & Youth Empowerment
3. Infrastructural Maintenance & Advancement
4. Security Management, Quality Educational & Health Sector Management
5. Economic, Industrial & Social Advancement

The Agenda seeks to consolidate on the economic gains of previous administrations while expanding the frontiers of the state economy in the post-COVID era. It is equally poised to highlight strategies and actions that will be deployed at the onset of the new administration to sustain all existing economic recovery efforts. According to HE the Governor, this would be achieved through the sustainable and efficient use of highly developed human and material resources within the framework of SMART solutions as well as innovative digital and green technologies in all sectors of the economy to create value and wealth, and improve the quality of life of the people in a clean, safe and secured environment

Over the period of the dialogue, 21 focal sectors within the ARISE agenda

were allocated to resource persons and facilitators to critique and provide tangible solutions and how they can be achieved for the actualisation of the vision of his government in these focal sectors.

Rural Development

Members were tasked with creating a rural development plan that seeks to gradually integrate the rural areas with the urban areas, that will lead to the sustained improvement of the quality of life of the rural population by increasing their access to finance, capacity building as well as basic services including potable water, electricity, good roads, education, healthcare, etc.

To strengthen rural development planning by adoption of measures that promote a better and more equitable integration of the rural sectors with the rest of the state's economy, the committee broke down the sector into the various thematic areas include Roads, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health Care, Electricity, Education, and Farmers' Support Programmes.

Sector analysis provided a clearer view of the prevailing conditions, possible solutions/recommendations, an action, and Sustainability Plan. Poor farm roads remain a challenge. To address this, members recommended additional funding of RARA to commence intervention in partnership with the 31 LGA Councils in line with the provisions of the State Roads Fund (SRF). Other recommendations include the creation

of primary and secondary markets, processing centres and farm settlement linkage roads should be prioritized in rural roads selection.

Conclusion

The dialogue provided an avenue for the administration to chart a pathway to sustained improvement of the quality of life of the rural population by increasing their access to finance, capacity building as well as basic services including potable water, electricity, good roads, education, healthcare, etc. And strengthen rural development planning by adoption of measures that promote a better and more equitable integration of the rural sectors with the rest of the state's economy.

The NGF Secretariat was well represented, the team was led by the ED Strategy and Research (representing the DG), others are Health Advisor – Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab, Agric Advisor – Prof. Abba Gambo, Head Stakeholder Relationship & SDG – Eghosa Omoigui, Senior Economist – Olorunshola Abdulazeed, Education Advisor – Dr Leo Ebenezer the Great, and Snr. Prog. Manager – Olarenwaju Ajogbasile.





TARABA: Youths dominate new cabinet

Taraba State Governor, Dr. Agbu Kefas has sworn in 22 Commissioners screened by the Taraba State House of Assembly with a charge on them to deploy their energy and talents in moving the state forward in line with his administration's blueprint.

Kefas gave the charge while delivering his speech shortly after the State Acting Chief Judge, Justice Filibus Agya administered the oath of office and oath of allegiance on the 22 Commissioners.

The Governor explained that the selection of the Commissioners was done with the spirit of inclusivity, fairness, and balance, adding that his administration recognized the importance of allowing the youths to grow hence the dominance of youths in the cabinet.

"The youths have demonstrated capacity with innovative ideas to leadership and we need to give them opportunities to grow and contribute their quota to the development of the society. We have equally involved women in our quest to ensure gender inclusivity.

"I know you will face challenges, but your experiences in the past will help you to overcome them all. So, work in synergy with your colleagues and other members of the State Executive Council," he charged.

While congratulating the newly appointed Commissioners, the Governor calls on them to discharge their duties diligently, listen to the concerns of the people and work towards addressing their concerns.

This is even as he said, with the appointment of commissioners in less than two months in office, his administration has taken a bold step toward accelerated development in the state.

The new commissioners and their portfolios are: Engr Naomi Tanko Agbu - Ministry of Energy and Economy Development Dr. Sarah Enoch Adi - Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning Yakubu Maikasuwa SAN - Ministry of Justice Dr. Augustina Godwin - Ministry of Education Mrs. Zainab Usman - Ministry of Information and Re-orientation Prof Nicholas Oliver Namessan - Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Mrs. Mary Sinjen - Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development Mr. Peter George - Ministry of Commerce and Industries Mr. Gideon Nonso - Ministry of Digital Economy and Innovation Mr. Joseph Joshua - Ministry of Youths and Sports Development Yakubu S Yakubu - Ministry of Transport Development Mrs. Aishat Abdul'aziz Barde - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Hon. Titus Joseph Dagombe - Ministry of Heritage and Eco-Tourism Dr. Bodiya Bansheya - Ministry of Health Mr. Habu James Philips - Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation Mr. Usman Muslimu Abdullahi - Ministry of Science and Technology Hon. Saviour Bazolig Noku - Ministry of Special Duties and Social Development Dr. Philister Ibrahim Musa - Ministry of Social Justice and Reorientation Daniel Ishaku - Ministry of Water Management and Aquatic Affairs Comrade Moseh Luka - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure Development. Comrade Julius Peter - Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

IYD 2023: Youths, drivers of our economy – Sanwo-Olu

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has described the youth as the drivers of the new economic frontiers of the country.

Sanwo-Olu, in a statement on Saturday, by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Gboyega Akosile, in commemoration of the International Youth Day, saluted Nigerian youths, adding that they were the drivers of the creative and digital economy.

He reaffirmed his administration's unflinching commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for Nigerian youths in Lagos through the THEMES+ agenda of his government.

Sanwo-Olu said Nigerian youths'

contributions to the creative and digital economy in the country were evidenced by the fact that they constitute the demographic of influence, who were the new employers of labour.

"We celebrate the heroic souls who are defying the odds of the new global economic headwinds to open up new economic frontiers for our nation.

"It is on account of your resilient spirits that we have become the beautiful bride of the world's technological leaders. Through you, our music rules the world and our movies travel across borders.

"We celebrate you on this occasion



of the International Youth Day and pledge our government's unflinching commitment to remain an enabler of your noble dreams.

"A significant part of our T.H.E.M.E.S+ Agenda is about you, putting the wind beneath your wings as creators of a new future for our dear state and indeed, our nation," he said.

Bago Appoints 26 more special advisers

Niger State's Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago has approved the appointment of 26 more Special Advisers (SAs) to serve in his administration. This brings the number of special advisers to 30 under the present administration.

Bago, while congratulating them, said their appointments were based on their track records.

He called on them to give their best and bring their wealth of experience to bear on their assignment for the growth and development of the state.

Below is the full list of the 26 SAs:

1. Alh Mohammed Nma Kolo, SA, Political Matters
2. Hon Mohammed Bello Mariga, SA, Legislative Matters
3. Barr Manko Bagudu, S.A, Legal Matters/ Government House Counsel
4. Alh Mohammed Nda, SA, Economic Matters
5. Mallam Isah Audu, SA, Public Service Matters
6. Comrade Adams Mohammed Erena, SA, Labour Matters
7. Dr Isah Adamu, SA, Governance and Reform
8. Hon Abdulmalik Usman Dakachi, SA, Traditional Institutions
9. Hon Kabiru Abbas, SA, Project Monitoring and Evaluation
10. Umar Sanda Abubakar, SA, Policy and Strategy
11. CP Yusuf Kolo (ret'd), SA, Heinous Crime and Substance Abuse
12. Alqassim Abdulkhadir, SA, Inter-Governmental and Development Partners
13. Hauwa Bako Mohammed, SA, Social Investment Programme
14. Ndajiya Abdullahi Nma (Phd), SA, Solid Mineral/Bida Basin
15. Hon Habila Daniel, SA, Ecological Matters
16. Mary Noel-Berje, SA, Women and Affirmative Action
17. Hon Ibrahim Mohammed Panti, SA, Ward Development Programme
18. Mr George Dike, SA, Inter-Tribal Matters
19. Hajiya Hannatu Salihu, SA, Girl Education Initiative
20. Mr Jonathan Vatsa, SA, on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP)
21. Alh Baba Ndaman, SA, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
22. Mohammed Tijjani Wakili, SA, Security Matters
23. Abdullahi Suleiman, SA, Sports Development
24. Dr Mahmud Mamman, SA, Planning and Statistics
25. Tsalha Mohammed Buhari, SA, Sanitation Matters
26. Remi Makun, SA, Corporate Social Responsibility



Makinde swears in new SSG, HOS, COMMISSIONERS

The Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, swore in 16 newly confirmed commissioners by the state House of Assembly.

He also officially swore in the new Secretary to the State Government, Kudirat Adeyemo, and also the former acting Head of Service, Olubunmi Oni, into the substantive position of the HoS.

Performing the swearing-in at the Executive Chambers, Governor's Office Ibadan, Makinde, who also swore in the 13 newly promoted Permanent Secretaries and the newly appointed Accountant General of the state, Kikelomo Adegoke, expressed confidence in their capacity to bring their wealth of professional experiences to bear on governance.

The governor disclosed that it was the first time the state recorded a cabinet well represented from all the 14 Federal constituencies in the state, urging the new cabinet members to see their appointments as a call to service and not for personal

aggrandisement.

Makinde said, "To you all, this is a call for more work. Some of the commissioners worked with me during the first tenure and some of you already know how I worked and nothing is going to change. Some people have said that second-term administrations are usually a lame duck because they are not looking for anything. Well, we are looking for a strong legacy to give back to the state. So, we are not going to let our people down."

"I want you to know that we have a lot to do for our people. We already prepared the roadmap for sustainable development 2023-2027. Please, key into it. These are very difficult times."

A lot has happened in this second tenure, and from what we have seen, a lot will be required from us. Please, there should not be laxity. You have all taken the oath of office and I expect you to deliver according to the oath you have just taken."

He, therefore, assured them that he would continue to provide a platform that would engender personal growth while pursuing the overall development of the state.

The new commissioners and their portfolios are Akinola Ojo (Finance); Tunji Babatunde (Budget and Economic Planning); Seun Ashamu (Energy and Mineral Resources); Biodun Aikomo (Justice); Toyin Balogun (Women Affairs and Social Inclusion); AbdulMojeed Mogbojubola (Environment); Williams Akinfunmilola (Lands, Housing and Urban Development) and Wasiu Olatunbosun (Culture and Tourism) Others include Dotun Oyelade (Information), Segun Olayiwola (Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters); Fausat Sanni (Special Duties); Daud Sangodoyin (Public Works and Transport); Olanrele Olaleye (Agriculture and Natural Development); Demola Ojo (Trade, Investment, Industry and Cooperatives); AbdulWaheed Soliu (Education, Science and Technology) and Adeniyi Adebisi (Establishment and Training).



Borno: Zulum swears in, posts 17 commissioners; three chief advisers, Perm Sec

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on Thursday presided over the swearing in of 17 new commissioners to constitute the state executive council for the ongoing second term, which began on May 29, 2023.

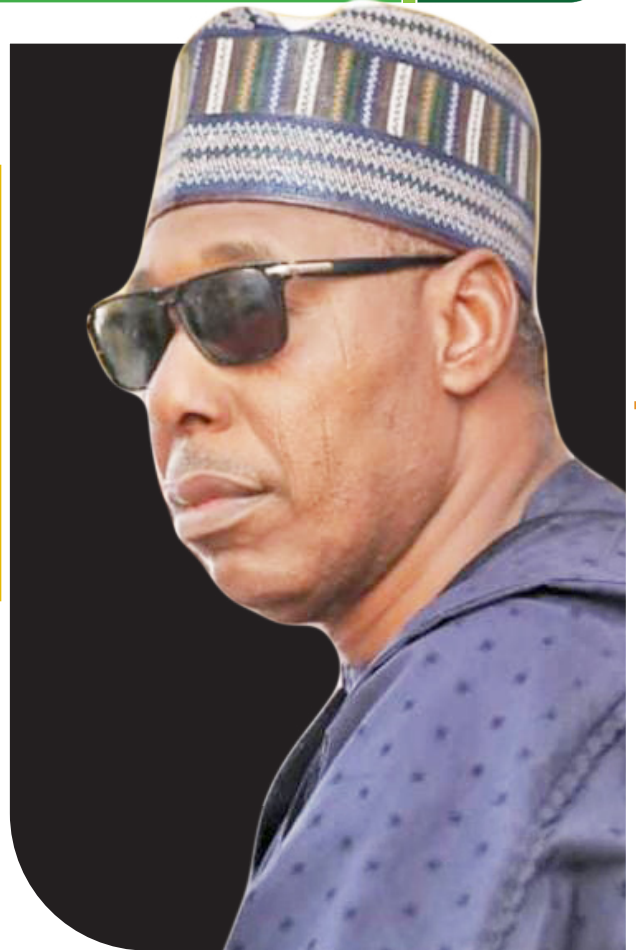
The governor later posted the commissioners to their respective ministries.

Aside from commissioners, three (3) chief advisers to the governor and one permanent secretary were sworn-in at the multipurpose hall of the government house in Maiduguri, during a ceremony in which the Chief Judge of Borno State, Justice Kashim Zannah, administered the oaths of office.

“I am indeed very delighted to stand before you today on this auspicious and the finest moment of our political history as we converge for the swearing-in ceremony of Honourable Commissioners who are members of Borno State Executive Council that will assist me in discharging the mantle of leadership during my second term as Executive Governor of our great state of Borno”, Zulum said.

The governor also approved the posting of the 17 commissioners with Barrister Hauwa Abubakar posted to the Ministry of Justice, Engr Dr Babagana Mallambe Mustapha, Ministry of Budget and Planning, Zuwaira Gambo, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Engr Mustapha Gubio, Ministry of Works and Housing, Engr Ēmat Kois, Ministry of Environment, Engr Lawan Abba Wakilbe, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Sugun Mai Mele, Ministry of Local Government and Emirate Affairs, Engr Tijjani Goni Alkali, Ministry of Water Resources and Professor Usman A Tar to the Ministry of Information and Internal Security.

Others are, Alhaji Babagana Malarima, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Engr Ibrahim Idriss Garba, Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Professor Baba M Gana, Ministry of Health, Ahmed Ali Ahmed, Ministry of Finance,



Engr Bawu Musami, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr Tarfaya Asriya, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Investment, Hon Saina Buba, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation Sports and Youth Development and Hon Tukur Ibrahim, Ministry of Inter-Governmental Affairs and Special Duties.

The three Chief Advisers were Dr Mairo Mandara, Chief Adviser and Coordinator of Sustainable Development, Partnership and Humanitarian Support, Amb. Adam Abbas, Chief Policy Analyst and Research and Barr. Simon Malgwi as chief adviser on legal and administrative matters.

Additionally, the principal secretary at the Government House, Barrister Mustapha Ali Busiguma, was sworn in as permanent secretary in the Borno State Civil Service.

The ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Governor, Umar Usman Kadafur, Senators Kaka Shehu Lawan and Mohammed Tahir Monguno, members of the House of Representatives and the State Assembly, Secretary to the State Government, Head of Service, the Shehu of Dikwa, Ibrahim Umar Ibn Alameen Elkabemi and rep of the Shehu of Borno, Ibrahim Wadama of Borno among other top government officials.

Your stay in office will be determined by performance, Oyebanji tells Commissioners at retreat

... Charges them to see appointment as a call to service



Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyebanji told his commissioners and special advisers to justify their presence in the government through excellent discharge of duties in their respective MDAs.

He said their continued stay in office would be guaranteed by demonstrated creative ability, ingenuity, innovative capability and impressive performance. He charged them to see their appointment as a call to service and not an avenue for self-aggrandizement.

Governor Oyebanji, stated this at the opening session of a three-day retreat for commissioners, Special Advisers, permanent secretaries, General Managers and Executive Secretaries held at the Adetiloye Hall, Trade Fair Complex in Ado-Ekiti.

The Governor stressed the need for political appointees and accounting officers to work together to realize aspiration of taking Ekiti to the next level of prosperity.

He further charged them to be proactive, innovative and creative in the business of government in order to achieve the desired results of ensuring growth and development of the state.

The Governor said the retreat with the theme, “Shared prosperity: From Promise to Reality”, was very timely and WWwapt at the moment when government is working towards actualising the state’s developmental plan. He called on all heads of MDAs to buy into the development agenda of the administration through the realization of its six pillars.

Governor Oyebanji added that the new commissioners would also be expected to commit themselves to performance bond as a way of ensuring their continued membership of the executive council.

He charged them to hit the ground running as soon as the retreat is over and not engage in frivolous celebration or seeking media bliss. Instead, he urged to demonstrate sense of decency, moderation and high sense of responsibility.

The Governor expressed his appreciation to the first set of executive council members for the solid foundation they have laid in the last nine months, stressing that their perseverance, support and understanding had helped stabilize the government and established a pathway for the new ones to ensure continuity of good governance.

“Let me add that after this retreat, you will be requested as you settle down to submit your work plan and to commit yourselves to a performance bond. Your ability on the job, creative ingenuity, innovative capability and impressive result

will be the major determinant of your continued membership of the state executive council. You will always be called upon to submit yourself from time to time for performance evaluation.

“I therefore urge you to hit the ground running, unleash your creative energy and approach every task with every sense of urgency.

“As you all know, we campaigned on a six-point agenda which has now crystallised to the six pillars of our administration, for us to have clear ideas of our development objectives, strategies, performance and performance evaluation.

“Let me throw this challenge to you as we go ahead in this journey, what can you do to make this administration outstanding. What gaps can you fill to make a difference and what fresh ideas can you bring to the table for the realization of our collective goals. This will make us have collective ideas on our vision and objectives, create ideas and strategies and generate the necessary capabilities to realize them.

“Besides the broader issue of vision, programmes and policies, the course work of this workshop, I’m sure will include the grandeur and tribal aspects of works and public life. You will be enlightened about reporting challenges, public service idiosyncrasies, rules and procedures, enabling laws, peer reviews, budgeting finesse, theme work, corporate governance ethics, development partnerships, public finance and accountability among other aspects that can enhance our knowledge of the totality of the work environment. The Governor stated.

In his opening remarks, the Lead Facilitator, Dr Otive Igbuzo highlighted the objectives and expectations to include effective implementation of government policies and programmes as all MDAs would be expected to develop a work plan towards achieving the six pillars of the administration.

Also present at the retreat were the Deputy Governor, Chief (Mrs) Monisade Afuye; Speaker, Ekiti State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adeoye Aribasoye; Secretary to the State Government, Dr Habibat Adubiaro; Head of Service, Barr. Bamidele Agbede and other top government officials.

Bayelsa Govt. to publish list of beneficiaries of monthly economic empowerment scheme'

The Bayelsa State Government has disclosed it would soon publish the comprehensive list of the beneficiaries of its monthly N200,000 Economic Empowerment Scheme for women and youths in the state.

The Deputy Governor of the state, Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, made the disclosure at a meeting with the Douye/Law Continuity Mandate Initiative (DLCMI) in Government House, Yenagoa, saying the present administration had done a lot in the area of empowerment through different programmes.

He pointed out that the publication of the names of the beneficiaries became necessary in order to correct some misconceptions about the initiative.

He further explained that such a publication would promote accountability and transparency about the programmes, including the Diri Digital Entrepreneurial Empowerment Programme (D-DEEP) geared towards supporting indigenous women and youths to grow their businesses.

Ewhrudjakpo, who was specifically responding to a remark that women in the rural areas were not being carried along in the scheme of things, said four women and youths were selected from each of the 105 wards of the state for the economic stimulus scheme monthly.

He noted that the Gov. Douye Diri-led Prosperity Administration had positively touched the lives of so many women, adding that

going forward, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Empowerment, and Social Development would publish the names of the beneficiaries according to their respective Local Government Areas (LGAs).

His words: "Even though we don't like parroting about our achievements as a government, let me just correct an impression. We are actually doing a lot for women in this state.

"This government empowers 4 persons (women and youths) in each ward every month with a minimum of N200,000. If you multiply that amount by the 105 wards we have, you will know what government is spending on this purpose every month.

"And they are not the same people. We give to new beneficiaries every month. You see, the problem with Bayelsa is that most Bayelsans are greatly ungrateful.

"This is a state where people even hide their appointments. That is why those who have benefited from this economic empowerment programme, hide it because they don't want people to know.

"They will even complain or cry more than those who have not benefited. So, we are going to publish the names of those who have benefited, local government by local government, for the world to know," he said.

Earlier, in his written address, the Coordinator of the Douye/Law Continuity Mandate Initiative, Mr Austin Okpeh, said the group was throwing its full weight behind the second-term bid of the Governor and his Deputy, because of their impressive performance.

While commending the Prosperity Administration for its laudable developmental strides so far, Mr Okpeh appealed to the Governor not to leave them out in the scheme of things.

In another development, Deputy Governor Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo gave a pass mark to the Tari-Ere Ogbo of Bayelsa State, for diligently spreading its membership umbrella to cover all the eight LGAs of the state.

He made the commendation while addressing members of the group at a meeting with them in Government House.

Ewhrudjakpo emphasized that women were a force to reckon with in terms of social mobilization, and therefore would be carried along in the present administration's scheme of things at all times.

In their separate remarks, the President of the Tari-Ere Ogbo of Bayelsa State, Mrs. Beatrice Yongesi, and the Political Coordinator, Mrs. Ngozi Ndiomu, applauded the Diri-led Government for its visionary leadership, legacy projects, and the appointment of non-indigenes that contribute meaningfully to the development of the state.

They affirmed the association's resolve to work for the re-election of Gov. Diri, and his deputy, and appealed for support towards their building project in Yenagoa, the state capital.



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