



JAMA'A FORUM



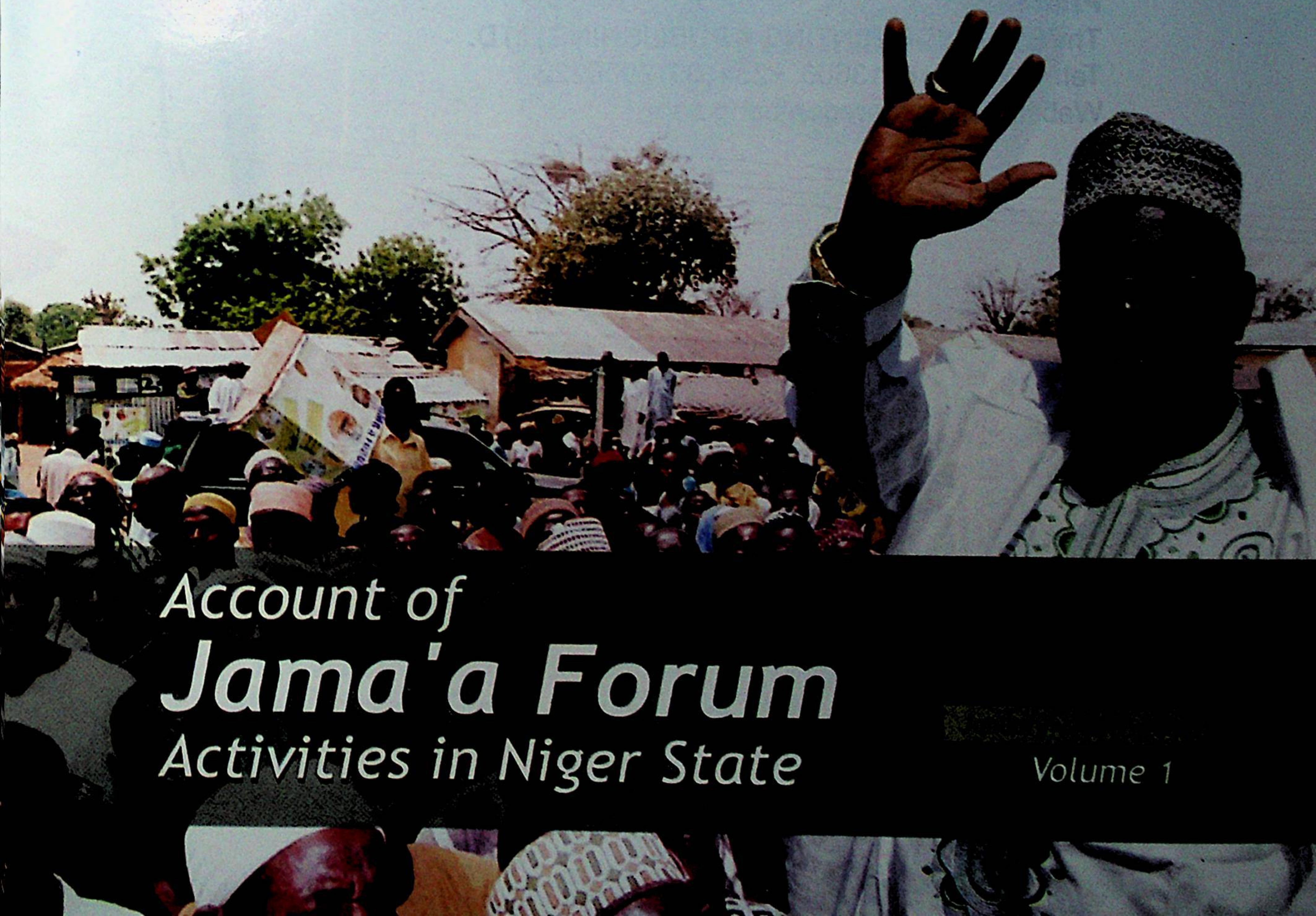
Account of Jama'a Forum Activities in Niger State

January - April 2008

Volume 1



JAMA'A FORUM



Account of
Jama'a Forum
Activities in Niger State

Volume 1

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Chief Servant
Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON
Talban Minna
The Executive Governor, Niger State



JAMA'A FORUM

...defining tomorrow for our common good



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FOREWORD

JAMA'A FORUM:

The Strength in Dialogue and Transparency

I would like to preface this special publication with few words of fulfillment and greater expectation on our vision and achievement of the JAMA'A Forum.

The concept of JAMA'A Forum is one which we have developed to form an important cornerstone of service, responsibility, representation and empowerment of all stakeholders in the administration and progress of Niger State.

It is a platform whereby the people and the elected representatives meet to discuss issues that affect them and their communities, particularly those that require Government intervention. For the avoidance of any doubt, the Forum is not designed to be a platform for party politics and sloganeering; the Forum is not meant to serve the mandate of selected representatives within the ruling party; and the Forum is not conceived to be a one-way channel of communication, nor is it established for the advantage of any political, religious or ethnic affiliation.

In conception, design and execution, the Forum is a facility for social development, perhaps the most important informal avenue which brings the electorate and their elected representatives together in a common purpose of dialogue, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and responsibility for the betterment and transformation of Niger state.

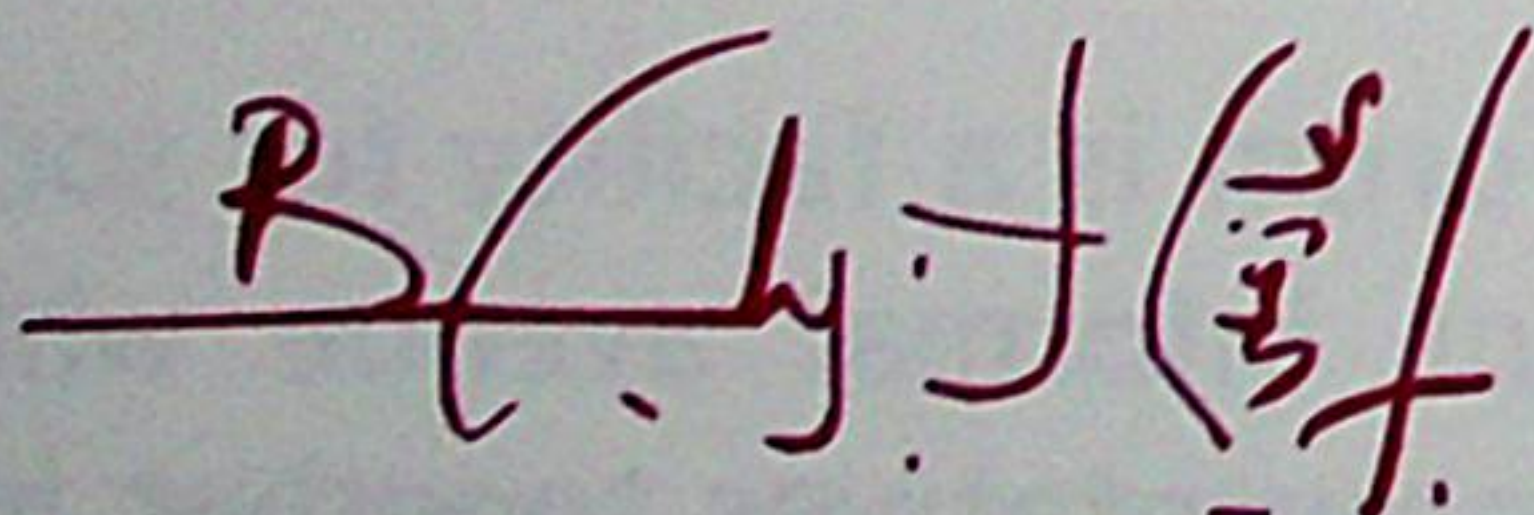
The Jama'a Forum affords community leaders and elected representatives the opportunity to relate and share their collective and individual views on socio-political matters as these relate to governance and followership in the State. It is an avenue for the electorate in wards and local government areas of the state to express their hopes, aspirations and expectations from government and also for the government, through its representatives, to respond to issues and take stock of matters arising from the interactive session.

Therefore, the Jama'a Forum is in a sense the practical actualization of the true spirit of the democratic process, indeed, it is the lubricating wheel of democracy in action. Our Jama'a Forum facilitates the meaning and the many advantages of representative governance because it offers the chance for reflection, accountability, stock-taking, openness, frankness and above all, of responsive governance in the spirit of true servant leadership.

On July 27, 2007, during the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony of our commissioners and special advisers, I drew attention to our resolve to revive the Jama'a Forum because it will give our people "the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process about policies that affect their lives, among other avenues..."

I must therefore thank the good people of Niger State and all those who have participated in one way or the other to make the programme a huge success. I am sure that we, all of us, stand to gain more and more in the continuation of this laudable programme. We shall not rest on our successes until every nook and cranny of our State is touched by the dividend of democracy, through the Jama'a Forum.

Thank you and may Allah bless you all. Amen.



Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON,
Talban Minna
Executive Governor of Niger State.



COMMENDATION

Since the commencement of the Jama'a Forum by the administration of the Chief Servant, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, Executive Governor of Niger State, with the maiden edition at Kontagora on January 27, 2008, marks another watershed in the annals of good governance in participatory democracy in Nigeria.

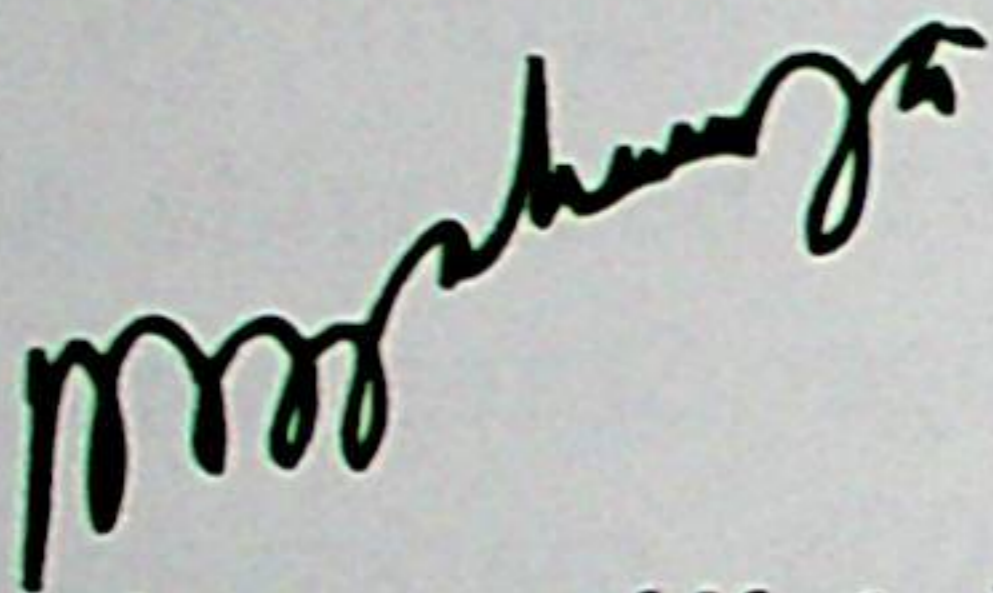
The content of this publication reveals the outcome of interactions and feedbacks across the length and breath of Niger State that could be referred to as a bold step towards openness, transparency and dogged determination of the present administration to bridge the gap between the governed and the government.

As further proof of the importance the Forum has become in the life of this administration, we now have a Director General, Jama'a Forum who will take charge of this very challenging and exciting assignment under the leadership of the Chairman, Jama'a Forum, Honourable Umar Mohammed Nasko, Commissioner of Tourism and Culture. He has been a pillar in this endeavour from inception to date with such innovative dimensions in branding and facilitation of the entire processes at various levels.

Therefore, this publication is dedicated to the great vision of the Chief Servant who has left no one in doubt that his administration is people-centred where the yearning and aspirations of the people cannot be ignored.

This is the proof of our dream, and indeed to me, our action. This no doubt is a challenge to all stakeholders in governance enterprise, especially the leadership of the local government councils and wards throughout Niger State and indeed the country at large.

I commend all the team players in this endeavour and strongly recommend this book for stakeholders in the development of Niger State in particular and Nigeria as a whole.



Dr. Mohammed Kuta Yahaya
Secretary to the Niger State Government



PROLOGUE

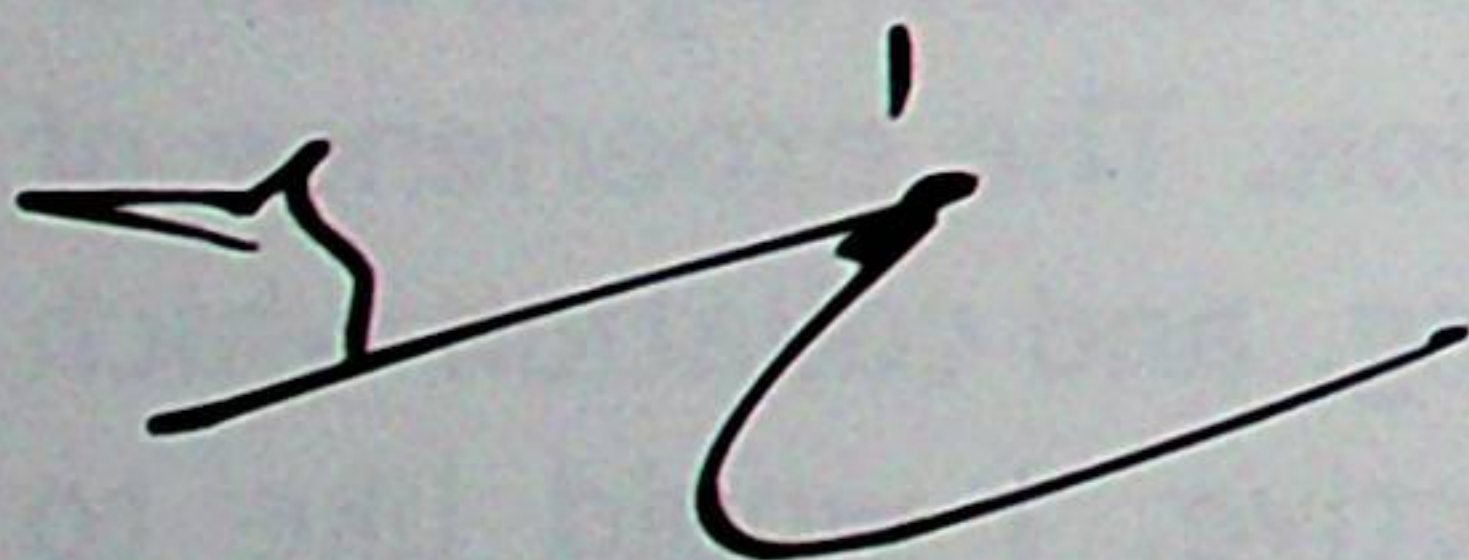
It is with delight that I introduce this historical book which documents the reports of the Jama'a Forum in a number of local government council areas of Niger State. No doubt, the laudable initiative of the Chief Servant, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON, Talban Minna, Executive Governor of Niger State, is hereby marked in concrete golden letters for posterity, a document which is made available for generations of administrators, politicians, technocrats, bureaucrats and students alike. And for those who are interested in records, this is perhaps the first book of its kind anywhere in the history of democratic governance at the state level in the Nigerian federation, a book which is devoted mainly to the subject of interactive dialogue and accountability between the elected leaders and the electorate of a State.

At the time the idea of the book was mooted, I was serving as Senior Special Assistant, Monitoring and Implementation. The experience of the fieldwork, information gathering, monitoring, and collation which went into the process has been very instructive. I would like to appreciate all the support that my office enjoyed from colleagues, the office of Chief of Staff and the office of Secretary to the State Government. We have indeed come a long way, and this book, which I am highly honoured to edit, is a testimony to the achievement and transparency of the Chief Servant. As it has been noted by the Chief Servant himself, the Forum is "a facility for social development."

As you will discover in this book, the Jama'a Forum takes the form of interaction between the Chief Servant and the people. On arrival at forum venue, the Chief Servant introduces members of his entourage and speaks with the people in a language they will easily understand and in some cases interpretation will suffice. Thereafter ward representatives are invited to present their requests and challenges and sometimes proffer solutions to government on the way forward. After representations by the wards, the Chief Servant responds to all issues accordingly and in many instances directs relevant MDAs for further necessary action.

This book is therefore a result of such interactive dialogue in some Local Government Councils between January and April, 2008. The remaining Local Councils will no doubt be covered by subsequent editions because we believe the initiative deserves adequate recording especially for the purpose of referencing and for gauging the measure of progress in the State. Indeed, the operations and successes of the Chief Servant's administration will not go undocumented.

For this reason, I am highly privileged and honoured to introduce this book to all.



Barr. Muhammed Datti Mu'azu

Principal Private Secretary I to the Chief Servant

The Maiden Flag-off Ceremony Of
Jama'a Forum
In Zone 'C' Niger North
Senatorial District



The Chief Servant acknowledging cheers from the crowd as he arrives the venue of Kontagora Jama'a Forum

Venue: Kontagora Town Field Stadium
Date: January 26, 2008
Time: 10:50am

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Kontagora.



The Chief Servant of Niger State, the Deputy Chief Servant, the Speaker of the State House of Assembly and the Senator representing Zone 'C' Niger North Senatorial District observing the National Anthem at the commencement of the Jama'a Forum.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY ALH. UMAR ABDULLAHI RAGADA, DIRECTOR GENERAL, NIGER STATE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The Director General began by thanking Almighty Allah for this epoch making event. He declared that for the first time since the return of democracy, Kontagora has made history with the maiden edition of Jama'a Forum taking place on its soil. He said the idea behind the Forum is to enable the people interact freely with those at the helm of affairs.

He traced the history of the Forum to the religion of Islam which supports this form of interaction between the rulers and the ruled by citing the example of Sayyidna Umar who resolved issues through interactive dialogue and transparency. The Director General therefore appealed to the people to come out *en masse* in an orderly manner and state their problems for the government's attention.

The Director General noted that with this visit, the Chief Servant will certainly pay attention to issues of education in the zone which truly require Government intervention. He praised the Chief Servant for the payment of backlog of pension and gratuities to retired civil servants. In addition, the government is almost ready to commission 500 housing units in Minna, a

remarkable feat which he hopes zone C will also benefit from. He also praised the free education policy of government as well as the free medical care for children aged 0 to 5 and the aged above 70 years old. Pregnant women too are enjoying free antenatal services. He observed that civil servants and local government employees are equally happy with salary increases as well as the end of year bonuses paid to them in December 2007. He concluded by saying that the above reasons and many more are a pointer to the fact that the Chief Servant is an action Governor who bows to the wishes of the people, so they should not hesitate to come out and present their problems and requests.

EMAFI B. ALI, M. DANLADI UMAR ABDULHAMEED, TAMBARIN KONTAGORA, STATE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA)

In his remarks, Alh. Danladi Umar Abdulhameed congratulated Nigerlites for having Dr. Abba Babangida Aliyu as their Governor. According to the Director, the Chief Servant is a Son of the soil who feels their pain and knows their dreams and aspirations. He said the concept of Jama'a Forum, like democracy, involves compromise, free speech and accommodation of each others view point. He went on to say that any leader who has a hidden motive will not accept to hold a Jama'a Forum. By accepting to participate in this Forum, the Chief Servant has displayed rare courage which is lacking in several of our leaders.



The State Director General of National Orientation Agency explaining the concept of Jama'a Forum

Alh. Danladi explained that the Forum will no doubt promote cordial relationship between the people and their elected representatives. The Forum will also assist in policy formulation and implementation as well as encourage probity, transparency and accountability on the part of people in position of responsibility. Furthermore, the Forum will give people the opportunity to appreciate government's efforts and to access information on the direction of government policies. In addition, Alh. Danladi said the Forum will provide a platform for the assessment of political performance in a given

community, build confidence amongst the electorate and their representatives as well as give room for the sustenance of democracy through participation, understanding and trust. In conclusion, he called on everyone in politics to emulate the example of the Chief Servant.

CHIEF SERVANT FLAGS OFF THE MAIDEN EDITION OF JAMA'A FORUM

The Chief Servant thanked the people for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage. He requested all Commissioners and State House of Assembly Members present to stand up for recognition as a mark of respect to the people of zone c. In his opening remarks, the Chief Servant stated emphatically that the Jama'a Forum was not a political event. According to him the Forum seeks to provide a platform for people from all nooks and crannies of the zone to participate in decision making on issues that affect their lives without hindrance and to afford those in authority the opportunity to listen and discuss with the people in an atmosphere devoid of officialdom. The Chief Servant admitted that several leaders do not provide such avenue for their people but he has come to do so due to his unshakeable commitment to the concept of servant leadership.



The Chief Servant flags off the Maiden Edition of the Jama'a Forum in Zone 'C' Niger North Senatorial District

The Chief Servant then went down memory lane in respect of education. He said Niger State was historically ranked very high educationally, but today we are graded very low. He stated that this situation was unacceptable and must be reversed without further delay.

Closely related to education is the issue of health care delivery which the Chief Servant stated will be given priority attention. Indeed the Chief Servant had earlier on given directives for the removal of a mountain of refuse beside the stadium observing that such garbage was a source of disease and sickness.

The Chief Servant noted the wanton destruction of the Secretariat, the Works department and other houses during the political crisis of the old

administration and blamed public officials who think they are lords and stated that he will never jeopardize any one's position unless that person does so himself.

The Chief Servant also noted with concern the need to resolve several issues affecting the emirate and suggested that the Emir should meet with his Council and marshal out a Nagwamatse-type action plan which government could assist to implement.

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ENTERTAINMENT

In entertainment, there were performances by several groups:

1. Members of the Niger State Cultural Troupe, Gwape International, performing at the Forum
2. Gwape International
3. Atiku Makadin Mai Sudan
4. Ibro na Suleja



The Niger State Cultural Troupe, Gwape International, performing at the Forum

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Global Education Foundation

The GEF listed its needs as follows:

- scratch cards to enable students sit for their NECO/WAEC examinations
- a study centre
- need for an additional higher institution because there is only one College of Education.

Alh. Umaru Maigede - Mashegu Local Government

The representative commended the Chief Servant for the electricity they are enjoying but called on government to look into the issue of roads, especially from Mashegu to Fellagi.



One of the ward representatives presenting his requests at the Jama'a Forum

Secondly, they want government to look into the problem of security of lives and property which is a serious cause of concern in the local government.

Rijau Local Government

The representative made the following requests:

- Rehabilitation of the hospital at Tung Maajiya

- Provision of a transformer
- potable drinking water
- repair of Rijau to Kontagora road.

Chief Servant's Response

- a). The Chief Servant stated that Government will commission 250 housing units in Kontagora in the month of February 2008.
- b). The Chief Servant reminded the people that government does not have any candidates for the forthcoming elections but if the party backs a candidate then that candidate will have the support of government.
- c). The Chief Servant promised to look into the issue of electricity and water. He reminded the people that the Commissioner of Water Resources is from the local government so every effort will be made to alleviate the people's suffering in this regard.
- d). On the issue of transformers, the Chief Servant reminded the people that even though it is not the responsibility of the State Government to provide transformers, the State Government will nevertheless continue to do so and seek refund from PHCN.
- e). The Chief Servant expressed happiness that work is on going at the Mashegu road. He stated that the government will review contracts

given in respect of other roads in order to appreciate the issues involved.

- f). In response to the level of women participation in government, the Chief Servant stated that his government has 40% women involvement, thereby surpassing the 30% national minimum requirement. The Chief Servant however expressed concern over female enrollment in schools, especially in Kontagora emirate and called on the Honourable Commissioner for Education to brief the people on the position of school enrolment in the Emirate.

Ballal Mohammed - Ward Chairman, Agwara

The representative from Agwara decried their condition and appealed for government assistance in the following areas:

- a). Roads
- b). Water
- c). General Hospital for Agwara area, and
- d). Request for electricity: poles have been erected for several years but no connection to the national grid yet.

Borgu Local Government

The representative, Alh. Mohammed Shamaki, commended the government for providing transformers but decried the general condition of the roads in Shagunu. He also called on government to put in place policies that will empower the teeming youth.

Mariga Local Government

The Representative from Kotonkoro described themselves as "prisoners" because they lack electricity, hospital and water despite the fact that they have illustrious sons like Prof. Musa Abdullahi.

He stated that they only see these amenities in the neighbouring states of Zamfara, Kebbi and Kaduna. The representative demanded to know from the Chief Servant if there was an agreement between the Zamfara State Government and Niger State to construct the road from their local government to Dan Sadau in Zamfara State.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that there was indeed a pact with the governments of Zamfara and Sokoto to construct the road and Insha Allah, it shall be done.

The Chief Servant added that as Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum, other issues of common interest that affect the Northern states are also being looked into.

In addition, the Chief Servant stated that he has witnessed first hand the terrible state of roads between Agwara and Yauri and Rijau to Kontagora during the campaigns and assured that government will do something soon.

On Tungan Magajiya Hospital, the Chief Servant Promised that government will begin rehabilitation work in six 6 weeks' time.

Responding to the problems of electricity and water in Agwara the Chief Servant admitted that Agwara has indeed been neglected. He added that this situation was unacceptable and will be reversed soon. On the issue of hospital, he stated that it was shameful that Agwara people had to attend hospital in neighbouring states.

Auna Local Government

The representative of Auna prayed for the following:

- a). Repair of Auna to Borgu road
- b). Rehabilitation of Salka market
- c). Electricity for Mamba village, and
- d). A bridge to be constructed between Shagunu and Fellagi.

Salka Local Government

• The representative from Salka made the following requests:

- a). Rehabilitation of Salka market which he described as the food basket of Niger State
- b). Electricity for Mamba village, and
- c). Repair of Kura to Wando road.

Rijau Local Government

The representative Alh. Sule Shamaki put forth the following requests:

- a). Repair of Saminaka to Rijau road
- b). Repair of Kontagora to Rijau road: Alh. Shamaki said that even though the road is a Federal Government road and only about 82 kilometres, it has become a death trap as accidents occur almost every day due to the bad condition.
- c). Repair of Rijau to Duku road: the representative stated that no work has been done on the road even though the Commissioner of Works is reported to have said that work has been done.
- d). Schools: the representative stated that there are no schools in Rijau local government as such they are appealing to the government to provide them with schools.

Chief Servant's Response

On Markets

The Chief Servant directed the rehabilitation of markets generally. In particular he expressed concern over the lack of basic amenities like toilets at the Mariga market where he was informed that the local government collects about 1 million Naira as monthly revenue.

He therefore directed the Commissioner of Works and the local government Chairman to note and act accordingly.

On Mamba Town Electrification

The Chief Servant was informed that only 3 million Naira was required to complete the electrification of Mamba town. He assured the people that the money will be ready by Friday.

On Kontagora to Rijau Road

The Chief Servant stated that even though this was a Federal Government road, discussions will be done with the authorities as well as the Senator and the House of Representatives member concerning the road. He assured the people that contract for the repair of the road will be given this year, by the grace of God.

On Rijau to Duku

The Chief Servant promised to look into the issues concerning this road and the involvement of the Commissioner of Works.

Comments By General Mamman Kontagora

On Education

The General stated that no one knows about issues of education more than the Chief Servant. As Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, the Chief Servant is eager to implement emergency measures to correct the falling standard of education in the emirate. He therefore called on the people to support the Chief Servant actualise this laudable objective.

On Villages

General Kontagora stated that villagers will not forgive him if he does not mention their plight before the Chief Servant. He said the villages close to Kontagora require electricity, water and roads. The General therefore called on the Chief Servant to provide basic amenities to these villages to ameliorate the suffering of the people.



General Mamman Kotangora commenting on issues affecting the Emirate

On Burnt down Public Buildings

The General called on the Chief Servant to have mercy and forgive the emirate and to assist in the repair of the burnt down Works department, the secretariat and other buildings destroyed during the mayhem that occurred during the political crisis of the last administration. He stated that the action of the arsonists was regrettable and now the entire emirate is suffering.

On General Rehabilitation within Kontagora Town

General Mamman Kontagora thanked the Chief Servant for the removal of the garbage heap by the stadium. He stated that it was shameful that they could not remove the refuse themselves but had to wait for the Chief Servant to do it for them. He called on the Chief Servant not to relent in his efforts and to assist them in other ways possible.

Chief Servant's Response to General Kontagora's Comments

On Secretariat

The Chief Servant stated that today is not a promise making day but an action day. He said government has already given deadline for the completion of the repair of the Secretariat.

On roads

The Chief Servant stated that the budget proposal has captured some of the roads and projects General Mamman Kontagora mentioned.

With respect to Kontagora metropolis, the Chief Servant informed the people that the main road in the town will be dualised, subject to consultation by elders on modalities for removal of houses that may be affected. In addition, the Chief Servant stated that construction of a southern bye pass will commence this year.

Briefing by the Honourable Commissioner of Education on the State of School enrolment in Kontagora Emirate

The Commissioner, Hajiya Asmau Yusuf Usman stated that in Kontagora emirate, the total enrollment in secondary schools is about 24,000 out of a total of 180,000 students state wide. Out of the 24,000 only 6,000 are female. In Mashegu local government, the enrollment figure is 2,000 students out of which only 600 are female.



The Honourable Commissioner of Education Hajiya Asmau Yusuf Usman briefing the Forum on the State Education in Kontagora

She decried this situation and called on parents and guardians to take advantage of the government's free education policy and enroll their wards in schools.

In his response, the Chief Servant also called on parents to send their female children to school, stressing that the Shari'a Legal System is not averse to western education but infact complement was especially in today's competitive and globalized world. He stated that a Committee will be set up to advise government on ways and means of ensuring female enrolment in schools.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE NAPEP POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

The following Cooperative Societies were presented with cheques by the Chief Servant, under the NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Programme

1.	Waziri Multi Purpose Society, Ibetu	N 10,000.00
2.	Musamman Multi Purpose Society	N150,000.00
3.	Kanwuri Kontagora Multi Purpose Society	N100,000.00
4.	Kalakuta Youth Multi Purpose Society	N200,000.00
5.	Himma Kontagora Multi Purpose Society	N250,000.00
6.	Rijau Multi Purpose Society	N150,000.00
7.	Asbel Multi Purpose Society	N150,000.00

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The Chief Servant was presented with a carved walking stick by the Wambai Group with the blessing of the Mai Sudan of Kontagora.

The Deputy Chief Servant and the Head of Service were also presented with gifts.

VOTE OF THANKS/CLOSING

The vote of thanks was done by the Deputy Chief Servant. He thanked the Chief Servant for his efforts at improving the lives of the people and prayed Allah for long life and health for the Chief Servant. He also thanked the Committee Members, the elected representatives, the Royal Fathers present and all distinguished guests and the people who attended the Forum. Above

all, he thanked Allah for the opportunity of hosting the Forum and prayed that Allah will ensure that the deliberations at the Forum will come to fruition.

The Chief Imam of Kontagora said the closing prayers, bringing the Forum to close at 2:08pm.



Pre-Forum (Kaffi)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KWAKUTI

Date: January 24, 2008
Time: 11:10am

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant paid a visit to Day Secondary school, Kwakwuti to see for himself the condition of classrooms and other school infrastructure. He was on his way to Kaffi Jama'a Forum.

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS

After inspecting facilities of the school which were in very deplorable condition, the Chief Servant interacted with the students.

A senior prefect in the school, Michael Yakubu commended the effort of the Chief Servant in uplifting the standard of education generally in the State. He thanked the Chief Servant for payment of NECO/WAEC fees for all students but appealed for his intervention to ensure that those who have already paid get refund. He called on the Chief Servant to provide transformers and assist in the rehabilitation of the school. Finally he prayed for a successful tenure and God's guidance for the Chief Servant.

THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant observed that the school and indeed the entire community require immediate intervention. He recalled that during campaigns, he was so

saddened by the condition of the school observing that the entire community truly suffered neglect by past administrations. He promised that his government will reverse the situation by providing water and a health care facility to alleviate the people's suffering. The commissioner of finance was advised to note. On good representation, the Chief Servant advised the people to always know their representatives well, and elect only credible people with the fear of God to represent them well.

In addition, the Chief Servant informed the people that government will soon begin releasing the sum of N500,000 to all 274 wards in the state for development purposes. He admonished them to utilize the fund well and not allow the money to be stolen.

In respect of the school, the Chief Servant observed that the school requires at least 200 seats, laboratory equipment and 4 blocks of classrooms.

DONATION

The Chief Servant announced a personal donation of N200,000.00 to purchase seats for the school. Senator Dahiru Awaiusu Kuta and Hon. Baitachi, also donated the sum of N100,000.00 each toward purchase of seats.

The Chief Servant thanked the students and the people of Kwakuti and departed at about 11:25am.



Pre-Forum (Kaffi)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHIMBI

Date: February 24, 2008

Time: 12:20pm

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant visited the Junior secondary school, Chimbi on his way to Kaffi. He was received by the students and the Hakimi who appealed to the Government to come to the aid of the community by providing water, electricity and rehabilitate the school.

In his response, the Chief Servant promised to look into their demands accordingly.



Pre-Forum (Kaffi)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO GOVERNMENT GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, KAFIN KORO

Date: February 24, 2008

Time: 12:35pm

The Chief Servant thanked the students for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage. He stated that he had for a long time wanted to visit the school on his own due to several complaints he received about the condition of the school hostels, dinning hall and classrooms. In response to an appeal for perimeter fencing of the school by the Vice principal, the Chief Servant promised that soon the Commissioners of Finance and Education will visit the school for a thorough assessment of their needs to ensure that the school is brought back to its former glory.

DONATION

The Chief Servant announced a personal donation of the sum of N300,000.00 to the school to assist in rehabilitation work before government intervention. Senator Dahiru Awaisu also donated the sum of N200,000.00 while Hon. James Baitachi gave N150,000.00

The Chief Servant thanked the people and students and departed at 12:55pm.



Pre-Forum (Kaffi)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL, ADUNNU

Date: February 24, 2008

Time: 1: 40pm

INTRODUCTION

At the school premises, the Chief Servant enquired from the Hakimi details regarding an uncompleted classroom block.

HAKIMI'S RESPONSE

The Hakimi informed the Chief Servant that the classroom project has become controversial because the contract was not awarded to a single contractor thereby making it impossible to hold any one contractor responsible for non compliance. He pleaded with the Chief Servant to ensure completion of the project and advised government not to involve multiple contractors for such projects in future.

THE CHIEF SERVANT 'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant directed the Hon. Commissioner of finance to ensure that UBE completes the project within one month. He called on the people of Adunnu to eschew politics of bitterness and advised them to elect only credible people with integrity who will bring peace and development to their community.

DONATION

The Chief Servant donated the sum of N300,000.00 while Senator Dahiru Awaisu and Hon. James Baitachi donated N200,000.00 and N100,000.00 respectively.

The Chief Servant departed Adunnu at about 1:500pm and made brief stops at Amale, Beji and Ishau communities where he enjoined the people to be law abiding and elect only credible leaders to run their affairs for the overall development of their societies.

Jama'a Forum Kaffi



The Chief Servant, with top government dignitaries at the forum

Venue: Central Pimary school, Kafin Koro playing field
Date: February 24, 2008
Time: 3:50pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

Opening Prayers

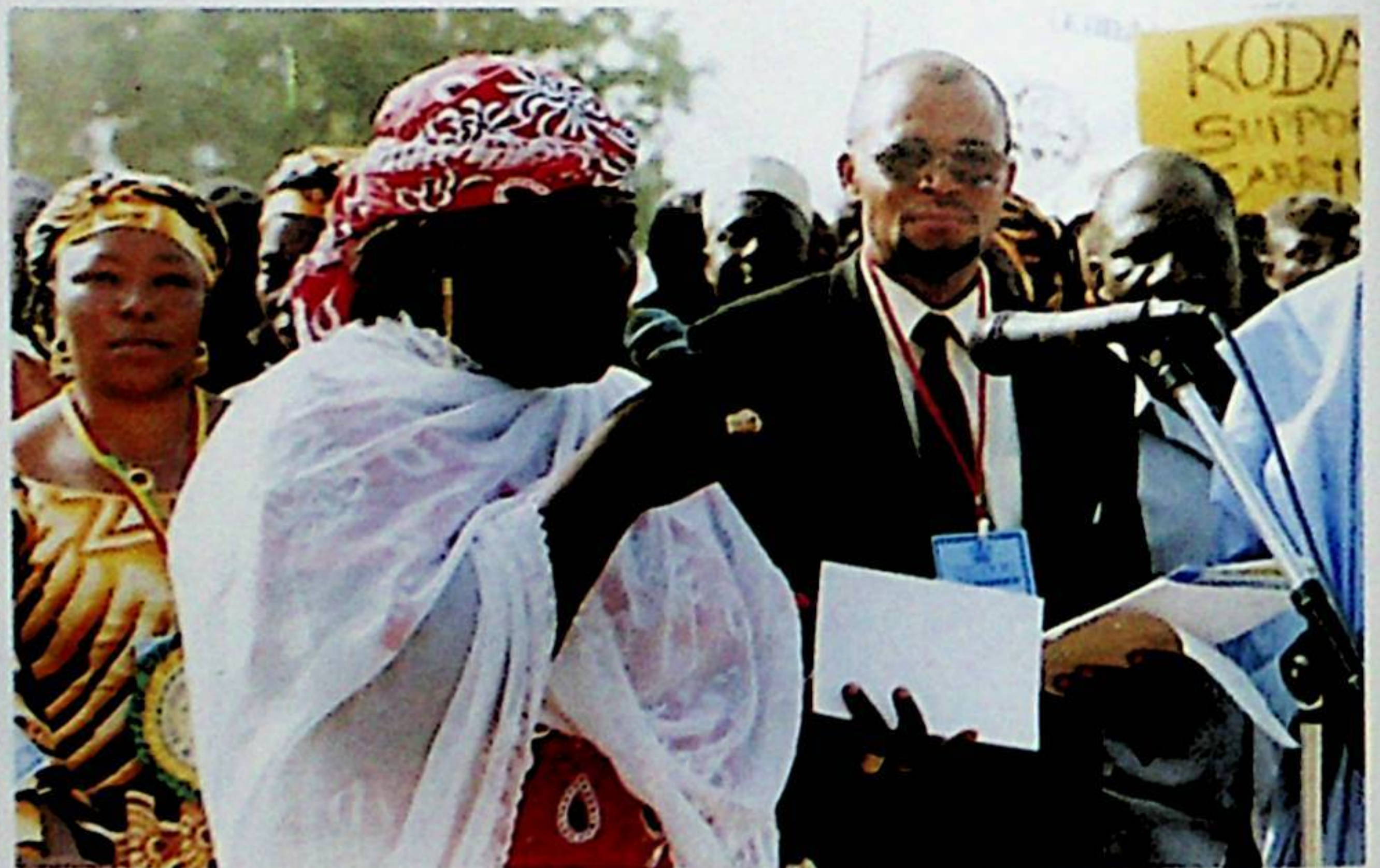
The opening prayer was said by the Chief Imam of Kaffi.

REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION, ALH. IBRAHIM B. UMAR (BARWAN MINNA)

In his remarks, Alh. Ibrahim B. Umar stated that today was the happiest day in the life of Kaffi people to have the Super Governor amongst them. While noting that the Chief Servant's administration is indeed a good one, he observed that it has no room for rumour mongering and corrupt persons. Although the administration is still young, numerous projects have already been executed, while several others are on going. He thanked the Chief Servant and his entourage for the visit and remarked that Kogi State has never had a Governor like the Chief Servant.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY GIMBIYAN KAFFI

In her address, the Gimbiya welcomed the Chief Servant and his entourage to Kaffi and commended the administration as being the Government of the masses. She praised Madam Chief Servant, Hajiya Jummai Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu as a role model whose exemplary leadership qualities should be emulated by all good women. She concluded her address by appealing to the Chief Servant to look into the rehabilitation of Kwakwuti to Ishau road as the road is fast becoming un-motorable.



Gimbiyan Kaffi delivering her address



A local artist performing for the crowd

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ ENTERTAINMENT

Several local musicians and artistes performed to the excitement of the crowd.

PRESENTATION OF GIFT ITEMS TO THE CHIEF SERVANT

The Chief Servant accepted gift of hoes and marfa (locally made hat) from the people of Kaffi on behalf of the Government, Senator Dahiru Awaisu, Member of House of Representatives, Capt. James Baitachi and others.

THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Kaffi for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage and stated that he has a special attachment to Kaffi which dates back to the time his father lived there. He observed that the Kaffi people are very enterprising and his Government will ensure that they attain their full potential.

The Chief Servant drew the attention of the people to the forthcoming Council elections and stressed on the need to elect credible people with integrity who will provide selfless service and not loot public treasury.

On the rehabilitation of Kwakuti to Ishau road, the Chief Servant prayed to Allah to grant them the strength and resources to construct the road within the lifetime of the administration.

On education, the Chief Servant informed the people of Kaffi how happy he was with the people of Adunnu who have shown interest in education through their Community school effort. As a result N600,000 was donated for the rehabilitation of the school. The Chief Servant also promised that Chimbi community will enjoy electricity in a few months' time.



The Chief Servant holding a hoe responds to the People

In respect of Kwakuti to Farindoki road, the Chief Servant assured the people that work will soon start and all financial commitments related to the project will be made public.

Finally, the Chief Servant informed the people that under a new Government policy, every ward in the State will be given N500,000 monthly for community development projects so as to ensure grass root development and participatory democracy.

NATIONAL ANTHEM 5:00pm



The Chief Servant in a warm handshake with the Emir of Minna at the Kaffi Jama'a Forum



Post-Forum (Kaffi)

30pm After leaving the Jama'a Forum venue, the Chief Servant stopped
perfect bus stop named after him with the following inscription:

DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU BUS STOP

by

Concerned Youth Association

Supported by Capt. James Baitachi.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

In his response, the Chief Servant promised to discuss the matter regarding
the Village head with the Council of Elders.

The Chief Servant instructed the Concerned Youth Association to submit
reports for the rehabilitation of school roads and village roads.

Before leaving Kaffi, the Chief Servant instructed the Concerned Youth Association
to submit reports for the rehabilitation of school roads and village roads.
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reports for the rehabilitation of school roads and village roads.



Post-Forum (Kaffi)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO B. ID IA

Time: 6:15pm

On the way back from Kaffi, the Chief Servant paid a visit to the school in Baidna where he noticed with dismay the dilapidated classroom structures and called on the people to do something so that Government will complement their effort.

While observing that work has since started on the electrification project, the Chief Servant however urged the people to be patient about the road construction assuring them that work will soon commence on the road to Kwakuti. Finally he advised the people to know their representatives well and to always elect credible leaders with integrity who will steer their affairs well and bring development to their communities.



Post-Forum (Kaffi)

1517 THE CHIEF SERVANT TO FARINDOKI

Time: 6:30am

After leaving Maidna, the Chief Servant stopped at Farindoki where a large crowd had gathered to receive him. The ward secretary, Alhaji Hashim spoke on behalf of the people.

Alhaji Hashim welcomed the Chief Servant and thanked him for visiting Farindoki. He then read out the following requests:

- a. No drinking water and the borehole is faulty
- b. Secondary school requires rehabilitation
- c. Roads need resurfacing/ construction
- d. Hospital needed
- e. Appeal for the upgrading of the Village Head.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

In his response, the Chief Servant promised to discuss the issue of upgrading the Village head with the Emir of Minna.

The Chief Servant instructed the Commissioner of Finance to note the requests for the rehabilitation of school and roads and bring up for further action.

Before leaving Farindoki to Minna, the Chief Servant promised to look into their other requests and advised the people to be vigilant and elect only credible leaders who will lead them well and develop their community and not those whose sole ambition is self enrichment at the expense of the people.



Pre-Forum (Magama)

THE CHIEF SERVANT AT THE WEDDING CEREMONY OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF SERVANT, HON. AHMED MUSA IBETO AND TURBANNING OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF SERVANT AND FORMER MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ALH. ABUBAKAR A. TANKO

Venue: Emir's Palace, Kontagora
Date: March 12, 2008
Time: 11:05 am

PROTOCOL

WEDDING FATIHA

The wedding Fatiha was presided over by the Chief Imam of Kontagora at the Emir of Kontagora's palace. The Chief Imam announced the taking into holy matrimony of Princess Saratu Saidu Namaska by the Deputy Chief Servant after payment of a dowry in the sum of N50,000.00.

Prayers were offered for the successful union and marital bliss for the newly wedded couple.

Thereafter, the whole congregation moved to the palace council chambers for the turbanning ceremony of the Deputy Chief Servant and the former Minister of Internal Affairs Alh. Abubakar A. Tanko.



Pre-Forum (Magama)

TURBANNING CEREMONY

Venue: Emir's Palace, Kontagora
Date: March 12, 2008
Time: 11:40 am

The opening prayer was offered by the Chief Imam of Kontagora.

First to be turbanned was the Deputy Chief Servant. He was turbanned as the *Santurakin Kontagora* by the Emir of Kontagora, HRH Alh. Saidu Namaska OON.

Alh. Abubakar A. Tanko was also turbanned as the *Naibin Kontagora* by the Emir of Kontagora, HRH Alh. Saidu Namaska OON.

The turbanning ceremony was done in the presence of the Chief Servant of Niger State, the Speaker of the Niger State House of Assembly, the Chief Judge of Niger State, the Emirs and the other dignitaries present.

EMIR OF KONTAGORA'S REMARKS

The Emir of Kontagora, HRH Alh. Saidu Namaska, OON welcomed all the dignitaries present and declared that the gathering was to honour two worthy sons of the Emirate. He stated that the Emirate had carefully deliberated before arriving at the decision to turban the Deputy Chief Servant as *Santuraki* and Alh. Abubakar A. Tanko as *Naibi*. He said both sons of the Emirate are no doubt worthy of the appointments.

The Emir declared that the Deputy Chief Servant is a good and honest man of integrity, qualities that the position requires. He added that the title is given

only to worthy and notable individuals in order to carry out certain roles to complement the affairs of the Emirate council. He explained further that the role of the title holders has to do with all matters regarding religious and educational matters in the Emirate.

The Emir noted that the Deputy Chief Servant should have been turbaned long before now but for his busy schedule and the fact that Allah has willed it to happen today.

In respect of Alh. Abubakar A. Tanko, the Emir stated that the same procedure was applied before the choice of Alh. Abubakar was made and the whole Emirate council agreed that he is a man of integrity worthy of the title of *Naibi*.

The Emir of Kontagora therefore wished both *Santuraki* and *Naibi* well and prayed to Allah to give them the wisdom and the will to use their new positions for the betterment of the Emirate.

Finally, the Emir prayed for the Chief Servant and wished him Allah's guidance in the task of piloting the affairs of Niger State. The Emir also thanked all those who were present and prayed for their safe return home.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant expressed gratitude to Allah for granting this day when his Deputy, Alh. Ahmed Musa Ibeto, was crowned the *Santuraki Kontagora*: the first of its kind in the Emirate. According to the Chief Servant, this privilege is an indication that right from his family background, the Deputy Chief Servant is known for his good qualities and religious forthrightness.

The Chief Servant recalled that his own late father (may his soul rest in peace), used to say that no matter how small a title or position is, it will grow bigger depending on how one handles it. He observed that both *Santuraki* and *Naibi* are important positions which, if well managed, will become even more exalted. He therefore advised the new *Santuraki* to utilize the position well and, who knows, it may even diminish or override his real name, just like the title of *Talba* has done to the Chief Servant's actual names, having become a special signature by which the people identify the Chief Servant more. The Chief Servant wished both the *Santuraki* and *Naibi* well and prayed for Allah's guidance in their new positions.

The closing prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Kontagora at 12:15pm.



Pre-Forum (Magama)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, IBETO

Venue: Government Secondary School, Ibeto
Date: March 12, 2008
Time: 12:45pm.

Chief Servant's Remarks

The Chief Servant thanked the staff and students of the school for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage. He stated that education is a priority of his administration and that is why he is calling on all stakeholders to join hands together to provide quality and qualitative education for our children.

The Chief Servant informed the students that government has introduced a policy of paying NECO and WAEC fees for students in the State to alleviate the hardship on parents. He added that from this year, uniforms and textbooks will be supplied free to students in order to



A student of Government Secondary School, Ibeto, presenting the students' demands to the Chief Servant. The Deputy Chief Servant and the Hon. Commissioner of Education look on

encourage them to face their studies and to excel in their academic pursuits.

The Chief Servant then solicited the cooperation of staff and students towards the successful take off of the new school of Basic and Preliminary Studies to be located in their school.



The Honourable Commissioner of Education responding to students requests and informing them that their school has been chosen as the site of the new School of Basic and Preliminary Studies

Commissioner for Education's Remarks

The Commissioner for Education informed the staff and students that their school has been chosen as the site of the new School of Basic and Preliminary Studies which will take off sometime this year. She advised the students to study hard and take advantage of the present government's policies on education to ensure a good life after graduation.

Interactive Session with Students

An interactive session took place with the students posing questions to the Chief Servant who gave on-the-spot answers.

Some of the students requested the Chief Servant to go round their school to see for himself the dilapidated condition of their hostels and classrooms.

Others requested a school bus and boreholes to alleviate their water problems.

Chief Servant's Response to the Student's Requests

1. Borehole

- a) The Chief Servant promised one borehole in the next 3 weeks
- b) Another borehole will be provided by the time the School of Preliminary Studies takes off.

2. School Bus

The Chief Servant promised to provide a school bus in the next one month.

3. NECO/WAEC fees

The Chief Servant promised that refund will be made within 2 weeks and the Deputy Chief Servant and the caretaker committee chairman who are both from Ibeto will report back to him on the refund.

Sporting Equipment

The Deputy Chief Servant pledged to provide sporting equipment in 3 days' time.

Inspection of Classrooms and Hostels by the Chief Servant

The Chief Servant inspected some classrooms where he was surprised at the level of graffiti on the classroom walls including a timetable apparently drawn by teachers.

He directed the Caretaker Chairman to ensure the classroom walls are washed and cleaned in 3 days time.

At the hostels, the Chief Servant was confronted with an even more sordid sight of dilapidated hostel accommodation with no window panes and dirty surroundings with no functional toilets.

Chief Servant's Departing Remarks

The Chief Servant directed the Deputy Chief Servant to see to the rehabilitation of the school as a personal challenge which he has to shoulder. He stated that the school is particularly a test case for him because it is to be made a School of Basic & Preliminary Studies. He wondered how any good could come out of any child that grew up in such sordid environment.

Chief Servant signs the School Register

The Chief Servant signed the School Register thus,

“Impressed with the students but the facilities are like all the other places. We need to do more”.



Pre-Forum (Magama)

**VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT
IBETO BI-WATER PROJECT**

Venue: Ibeto Bi-water Project site
Date: March 12, 2008
Time: 3:30pm

The Chief Servant inspected facilities at the water project site. He was informed by the Caretaker Committee Chairman that the project repair included the purchase of a transformer at a cost of N2.5 million and 7 submersible pumps at the cost of N170,000 each.

The Chief Servant demanded to know if Ibeto town is being supplied with water from the project site and the caretaker chairman answered in the affirmative.

The Chief Servant then departed to Salka town after going to the deputy Chief Servant's house in Ibeto town. On the way to the Deputy Chief Servant's house, there was noticeable laterite grading work being undertaken on Ibeto township roads.



Pre-Forum (Magama)

**VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO THE
CONSTRUCTION SITE OF A BLOCK OF
CLASSROOM PROJECT AND TOWNSHIP MARKET
AT SALKA TOWN**

Venue: Salka Town
Date: March 12, 2008
Time: 5:10pm

The Chief Servant visited the construction site of a block of classroom project undertaken by Hon. Usman Bahago at Salka town. He also inspected the ongoing work at the township market. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of work at the school and urged the Hon. Member not to relent in his efforts.

The Chief Servant was on his way to Nasko for the Jama'a Forum scheduled to hold later that day. He stopped to inspect the ongoing projects at Salka amidst a rousing reception from the people.

The Chief Servant departed Salka town for the Jama'a Forum at Nasko.

Jama'a Forum In Nasko Town, Magama Local Government Area



Venue: The Primary School Field, Nasko Town
Date: March 12, 2008
Time: 6:05pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL:

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayer was said by the Chief Imam of Nasko.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMA'A FORUM BY THE SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT, JAMA'A FORUM

The Senior Special Assistant, Jama'a Forum, explained the concept of the Forum as a platform whereby the people meet their elected representatives to discuss issues that affect them and their communities. The Forum enables communities to freely discuss all matters that affect them particularly those that require government intervention.

INTRODUCTION OF NAPEP PROGRAMMES BY THE COORDINATOR, ALH. ILIYASU DHACKO

Alh. Iliyasu Dhacko, the Niger State coordinator of NAPEP gave a brief history of NAPEP stating that the fight against poverty is no mean task. He explained that at inception, the Niger State Government had approved the sum of N60 million Naira for poverty alleviation. He stated further that only recently the State Government approved the additional sum of N300 million Naira to support the N140 million Naira released by NAPEP to fight poverty in the State through conditional cash transfer which is meant to alleviate the plight of poor women and their orphans.



Niger state Coordinator of NAPEP explaining Poverty Alleviation Programmes of NAPEP

The coordinator also mentioned that cheques worth 1.2 million naira will be issued to 12 beneficiaries through their cooperatives by the Chief Servant.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMA'A FORUM BY THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY, ALHAJI DANLADI UMAR ABDULHAMEED

Alh. Danladi Umar Abdulhameed, the Director of the National Orientation Agency, explained that democracy is about government of the people by the

people and for the good of the people. That is why the Chief Servant, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu OON, Talban Minna, Executive Governor Niger State discarded the lexicon of "Excellency" for Chief Servant because he believes that as servant leader, he is here to serve the people who are the



Director NOA explaining the concept of jama'a Forum

leaders and the lexicon of Excellency is usually reserved for Presidents and foreign

Abdulmuneed enumerated the several achievements of the Chief Servant since assumption which include payment of NECO/WAEC fees for all students in Niger State irrespective of tribe or religion. Other achievements are the ongoing construction of township roads, provision of housing units for civil servants and others, payment of pension to retirees and payment of bonuses to civil servants. In addition, by May 2008, all polytechnic and university graduates of Niger State origin will undergo an induction training to prepare them for gainful employment. Furthermore, fertilizers will be provided directly to farmers at subsidized rates and tractors will be leased to farmers through cooperatives, in order to avoid past abuses.

He therefore called on the people of Nasko town to come out *en masse* and participate at the Forum by articulating the problems of their communities in order to find lasting solutions.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

The Chief Servant began by thanking Allah for the opportunity to serve the people. He expressed joy at the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage by the people of Nasko. He thanked Allah for the life of General Gado Nasko who is not only a father but a God-fearing person. He stated that unlike several of his contemporaries who choose to live in Lagos or Abuja after retirement, General Nasko chose to live in his home town in order to help out his people in several ways. This is indeed most honourable and commendable.

The Chief Servant stated that one of his government's main objectives is to fight ignorance and illiteracy. He recounted his experience while visiting schools in the State where he had to struggle with tears due to the deplorable conditions he witnessed at the schools visited. He decried the living condition of the students of Government Secondary School, Ibeto pointing out that it was unacceptable for children to be dumped in conditions not conducive for good learning and proper upbringing.

The Chief Servant therefore urged the people to seek knowledge pointing out that the Prophet (S.A.W) admonished us to seek knowledge from far and wide. He said it was imperative to assist the poor because if your neighbour is not comfortable, you obviously can not live in peace. He pointed out that the religions of Christianity and Islam preach peaceful coexistence and abhor acts of disunity and discrimination.

The Chief Servant then declared that in addition to the NAPEP programmes of conditional cash transfer (CCT) and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme, the State Government will provide N500,000 monthly to every ward in the state including of course Magama Local Government, for development purposes.

In respect of the Niger State/NAPEP programmes on Poverty Alleviation, the Chief Servant explained that the very indigent persons including women and orphans will be on a stipend for one year after which a loan will be given to them to start a business.

On the issue of monthly allocation to the wards, the Chief Servant said arrangements have been concluded with some banks to give loans to any community that provides 10% of the cost of any project to be sited in that community.

The Chief Servant stated further that the Government has concluded plans to establish a School of Preliminary Studies in Ibeto in order to boost education in the State.

He therefore called on the people of Magama Local Government to support his administration's vision by ensuring that his party, the PDP, records resounding success at the forthcoming local government elections.

**PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES TO SOME BENEFICIARIES
OF NAPEP PROGRAMME**

The Chief Servant presented cheques totaling One million, two hundred thousand naira (N1.2 million) to the following cooperatives under the NAPEP poverty alleviation programme:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------|
| 1. Tungan Maje Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 2. Tungan Mangoro Bisalla Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 3. Wankan Shawa Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 4. Nasko Fada Youth Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 5. Kinkuli Group | - | N100,000 |
| 6. Nasko Yama Farmers | - | N100,000 |
| 7. Nasko Yama Fuwa | - | N100,000 |
| 8. Lisule Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 9. Nasko Anachi Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 10. Kamfanin Jibrin Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 11. Tungan Mangoro Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 12. Fatiko Women Cooperative | - | N100,000 |



The Chief Servant presenting a cheque to a beneficiary under the Niger State/NAPEP programme on Poverty Alleviation at the Jama'a Forum - Nasko

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Nasko Ward

The representative of Nasko Ward made the following requests for the Chief Servant's attention:

- a). Provision of drinking water
- b). Provision of transformers for Nasko ward
- c). Repair of Nasko to Ngaski road, and
- d). Rehabilitation and provision of classroom furniture for schools in Nasko ward.



A cross section of people at the Forum

Auna Central Ward

The following requests were made by the representative of Auna Central ward:

- a). Education should be given special attention
- b). Provision of furniture for the Day Secondary school
- c). Upgrading of the Auna Rural Hospital to a full fledged General Hospital, and
- d). Repair/Rehabilitation of the road from Auna to Kainji.

Salka

The representative from Salka made the following requests for the Chief Servant's attention:

- a). Upgrading of the Salka market to a modern market
- b). Appeal for the piping and completion of the Bi-water project which was started during the Shehu Shagari government to enable Salka enjoy good drinking water

- c). Provision of electricity in Mamba. In addition, the people are appealing for the unblocking of the dam in Mamba which also doubles as a grazing and feeding spot for their livestock, and
- d). The need for a roundabout or speed breaker for the main road to check the reckless waste of lives due to over speeding vehicles.

Kura Ward

Mallam Gamba B. Gamba who represented Kura ward put forth the following requests:

- a). Provision of a transformer. In addition, he appealed for the extension of electricity supply to Rabah town
- b). Repair of Tungan Kade to Rabah road, and
- c). The representative further advised on the need for religious tolerance. He decried the attitude of some misguided persons who chanted religious slogans and called for Jihad during the last election primaries. In view of the impending crises that may have occurred, Mallam Gamba said they had no option but to withdraw their candidate in order to avert a potential crisis.

Nassarawa Ward

The representative of the ward made the following requests:

- a). Construction of a bridge on the road to Bussa
- b). Repair of the road from Nassarawa to Auna
- c). Provision of hostel accommodation and classroom furniture for the Secondary School in Nassarawa which has been in existence since the Sardauna days, and
- d). The need to rehabilitate the water project like the one in Salka which has not been functional.

Ebelu Ward

The representative of Ebelu ward made the following requests:

- a). The need for either a speed breaker/bump or roundabout along the main road in Ibeto to check over speeding vehicles

- b). Appeal to the Chief Servant to consider and change the name of the Primary School to be known and called *Gado Nasko Primary School*, and
- c). The repair of the road from Magama to Rijau.

Yangali Ward

The representative of Yangali ward made the following requests:

- a). Provision of electricity to Yangali
- b). Provision of pipe borne water, and
- c). Repair of the parking spot along the road to avert further accidents.

Anaba Ward

The representative of Anaba ward made the following requests:

- a). Construction of roads
- b). Provision of drinkable water
- c). Rehabilitation of the market which caters especially for tomatoes farmers from Maje, and
- d). Completion of electrification project started since the administration of General Musa Inuwa.

Magaman Daji Ward

The representative of Magaman Daji ward stated the following:

- a). Electrification of Magaman Daji ward
- b). Construction of roads: the former Governor Engineer Abdulkadir Kure visited twice and made promises but nothing has been done till date.

Representative of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)

Reverend Ibrahim Uzari, who spoke on behalf of the Association, stated that Christians were being discriminated against and disenfranchised in Magama Local Government Area.

He also appealed for the introduction of Christian Religion Knowledge (CRK) in the teaching curricula of schools and the engagement of teachers for the subject. He thanked the Chief Servant for the assistance rendered to Christians during the last Christmas stating that as a God-fearing person the Chief Servant will grant their request.

Chairman, Fulani Youth Association

Mallam Umar Musa, the Chairman of Fulani Youth Association, requested the following on behalf of the Association:

- a) A new school for the Fulani; indeed they are requesting for a permanent place of abode.
- b) Provision of drugs for their cattle, and
- c) Need for drinkable water because their only source is the dam built by General Gado Nasko.

Representative of the National Youth Council Of Nigeria (Magama Branch)

The representative decried the backward condition of education in Magama Local Government and appealed for government's intervention to raise the standard.

He also appealed for the provision of drinkable water and repair of roads.

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ ENTERTAINMENT

The crowd was entertained by Mallam Yauri who showered praises and sang songs depicting the Chief Servant's achievements in the short time he has been in office.

At the end of the performance, which thrilled everyone, the following presentations were made to the artiste:



A local musician performing at the Forum

- a). The Hon. Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Alh. Umar Nasko, offered to pay for the artiste to perform the Holy Pilgrimage.
- b). The former Local Government Chairman of Magama donated a motorcycle to the artiste.
- c). The Director General of Radio Niger provided airtime slots for the artiste, and
- d). The Commissioner for Information, Alh. Ahmed Adamu Kagara, offered to provide fuel for the artiste's motorcycle for one year.

The Chief Servant's Response to the National Youth Council of Nigeria

The Chief Servant stated that Magama Local Government is indeed lucky to have several worthy personalities in government. These include the Deputy Chief Servant, the Senator, the Honorable member as well as the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism. Above all there is General Gado Nasko, who is father to all.

The Chief Servant therefore advised the National Youth Council to itemize their problems to the leaders who will articulate the issues for government's attention.

Water

The Chief Servant acknowledged that water is a major problem not only in the Local Government but all over the State. He quipped that the Commissioner for Water Resources is their neighbour from Rijau so they should cajole him into providing water for them. In addition the Chief Servant said the dam will be effectively utilized to ensure water supply.

Electricity

The Chief Servant stated that he has confirmed from the Deputy Chief Servant that the several electricity projects in the Local Government are generally Federal Government projects which the State government will review and refer for appropriate action.

Fulani

The Chief Servant declared that the Fulanis indeed need help. Many of them turn to armed robbery because they lack several basic facilities. He stated

that since the Commissioner for Health is unavoidably absent, the Commissioner for Water Resources should liaise with the Special Assistant (Nomadic Education), Mallam Sadiq, to handle the health issues of the Fulani. The Chief Servant therefore directed Mallam Sadiq to write to government articulating all issues relating to the Fulani.

Roads

The Chief Servant stated that he has discussed with the Deputy Chief Servant regarding the construction of a bridge along the road leading to Kontagora. He assured that very soon a bridge will be in place and he will personally ply the road instead of using boats.

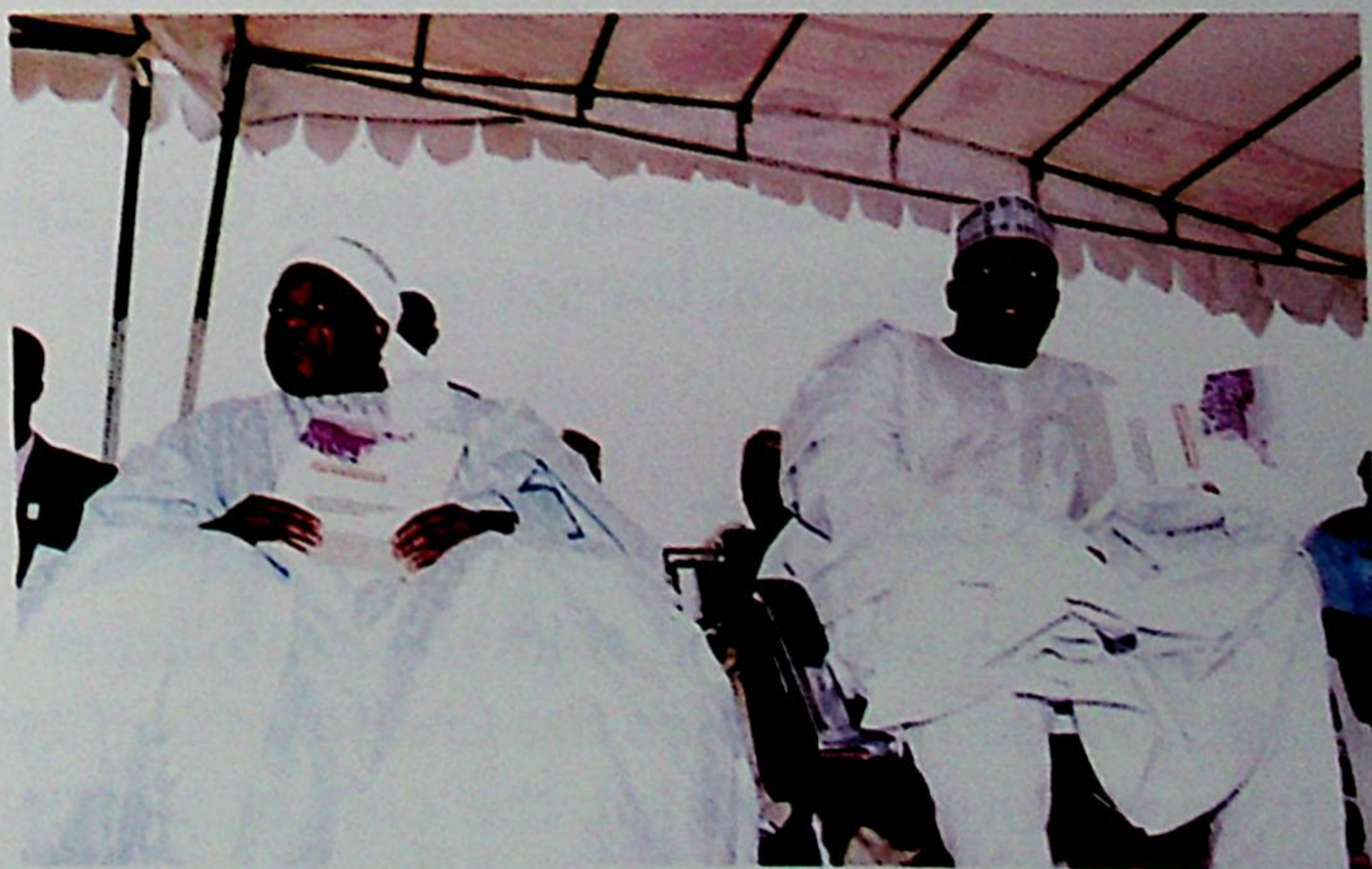
Muslim-Christian Relationship

The Chief Servant enjoined the people to live together in peace and to shun acts which do not augur well for the progress of the society. He said what people need is educational Jihad to ensure that our children, both Muslims and Christians, become knowledgeable in their religious duties and to live together in peace for the overall peace and progress of the society.

The Chief Servant appealed to the people to accept the election verdict which saw the emergence of Alh. Idris Aliyu Babangida as Chairman. He urged the people to however look at the position of Secretary dispassionately in the overall interest of the society.

CLOSING

Closing prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Nasko bringing the Forum to a close at 8.30 pm.



*General Gado Nasko and the Secretary to the State Government
at the Jama'a Forum, Nasko*



Post-Forum (Magama)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, NASKO

Venue: Local Government Secretariat, Nasko
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 11:05 am

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant paid a visit to the Local Government Secretariat where renovation work was undertaken at a cost of N2m.

OPENING

The Chief Servant demanded to know from the Chairman why renovation work was carried out at the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

The Chairman explained that the renovation work is to be done in two phases. Phase I comprises the Chairman's offices and some administrative offices which was done at the cost of N2m with the renovation of the deteriorating building, especially the leaking roof. Phase II will be undertaken at a later date when funds become available.

The Chairman explained that the rehabilitation became necessary in order to provide a conducive working atmosphere for the Council staff.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant expressed satisfaction at the level of work done and urged the council to continue the good work they are doing. He advised them to always seek government's input in their community efforts and to be transparent so that the people will understand what they are doing and to also be able to check the Council's action where necessary.

Generally, the Chief Servant was very impressed with the Council's efforts and urged the management to carry on with the good work.

CHIEF SERVANT SIGNS THE COUNCIL REGISTER

In the Council visitors' register, the Chief Servant noted:

*"An excellent performance, keep it up wherever
you find yourself."*

CLOSING

The Chief Servant left the Secretariat for the new General Hospital, Nasko at 11:15 am.



Post-Forum (Magam)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO THE NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL, NASKO

Venue: Construction site of New General Hospital, Nasko
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 11:30pm

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant inspected the ongoing construction work at the New General Hospital, Nasko. He was taken round the site by Prince Eze Anante, the Project Manager and representative of SENEKO Group of Companies.

REMARKS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

The Commissioner of Health, in company of the Project Manager, showed the Chief Servant round the construction site. He stated that on completion, the hospital will compare favorably with any of its type in the world. He observed that the ongoing work at the hospital is of good standard because of the quality of work by the contractors and the supervisory role of the community especially the active role of General Gado Nasko who is committed to the success of the project.

The Commissioner explained that the overriding goal of government in the alleviation of poverty through good healthcare delivery is in line with the vision of the present administration to become one of the three most developed economies in the country by the year 2020.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant expressed delight at the quality of work and the active involvement of the community. He praised SENEKO Group who are collaborating with the State government under the Public Private Partnership arrangement. He explained that the developers are investing their money which the government will pay back at a later date. He added that other adjustments not in the original plan will be captured in the 2009 budget but he was impressed with the modifications to the hospital plan whereby the wards are to be built behind the main buildings.

According to the Chief Servant, the new design will capture the African idea of health care delivery by incorporating paid accommodation for relations of patients within the hospital grounds instead of leaving them to sleep along hospital corridors or even in the wards with patients. He was also impressed with the living quarters of the doctors and nurses but wondered if more flats could be built to accommodate several more doctors in the design under review.

To accommodate the modifications, the Chief Servant directed that a letter be written to General Gado Nasko to thank him for the land and request an extension. The Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism is to follow up on this matter and to explore the possibility of compensation in the event the extension is granted.

Finally, the Chief Servant directed the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and the Hon. Member to plant 500 trees within the hospital grounds to beautify the environment and to check desertification.

The Chief Servant left for the Nasko Dam site at 12:05 pm.



Post-Forum (Magama)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO NASKO DAM SITE

Venue: Nasko Dam Site
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 12:10pm

OPENING REMARKS BY OFFICIAL OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

An official of the Local Government Council who was on site to receive the Chief Servant explained that pipes have been laid from the site to the town of Nasko since the construction of the dam but water could not be pumped because the treatment plant lacks adequate capacity.

The official further explained that nothing could be done when the dam overflows because the generating machine is not functional. He stated that the River Basin Authority was informed about the dam's related problems during the last administration and about N2 million was earmarked but nothing has been done. He therefore appealed to the Chief Servant to come to their assistance.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant directed the Ministry of Works to send an expert to review the project. He stated that he is aware that money has been appropriated for the dam project in the 2008 budget. He explained that it was imperative to get the dam functional so that the town of Nasko and the new General Hospital will benefit from the project.

The Chief Servant departed the Dam site for Tungan Bunu at 12:25pm.



Pre-Forum (Rijau)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO TUNGAN BUNU

Venue: Hakimi's Palace
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 1:30pm

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant paid a visit to Tungan Bunu on his way to Rijau Jama'a Forum. He addressed the people of Tungan Bunu at the Hakimi's palace.

CHIEF SERVANT'S REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Tungan Bunu for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage.

He explained that government will continue discussions with the representative of Tungan Bunu in order to provide water and electricity to the community.

In respect of education, the government will begin to provide free books and uniforms as well as employ more teachers for schools. He explained that already, government is paying for NECO and WAEC fees to students in Niger State. He therefore enjoined parents to complement government's efforts by encouraging their children to go to school as education is the surest way out of poverty.

The Chief Servant asked the people of Tungan Bunu to keep praying to Allah to grant him the wisdom and the will to succeed in providing basic amenities for the people.

Chief Servant departed Tungan Bunu for Tungan Magajiya at 1:40pm.



Pre-Forum (Rijau)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO GIRLS SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, TUNGAN MAGAJIYA

Venue: Girls Senior Secondary School, Tungan Magajiya
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 2:25pm

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant paid a visit to the Girls Senior Secondary School, Tungan Magajiya in response to information regarding students' dwindling population and to carry out on-the-spot assessment of facilities as well as interact with staff and students.

Opening Remarks by the Principal

The Principal, Hajiya Hauwa Yahuda welcomed the Chief Servant on behalf of staff and students of the school. She enumerated the following problems of the school:

- a). The need for perimeter fencing of the school to avoid encroachment and as a security measure.
- b). Rehabilitation of the staff room
- c). Rehabilitation of the multipurpose hall
- d). School library
- e). Generator for School
- f). Grinding machines, and
- g). School Bus.

Commissioner for Education's Remarks

The Commissioner for Education observed that the students' perception is fine but wondered if their performance is equally good. She assured the students of government's commitment to provide an enabling environment for good learning and enjoined the students to study hard and record good results in their academic pursuit.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant thanked the staff and students for the warm reception. He told the students that one of the reasons for his visit to their school is the information he received through a text message that their school was empty without students. Even though he has seen for himself that the message was exaggerated, he wondered why the student population of the school is very small. He also wondered why the school environment is so barren without trees. He therefore directed the Commissioner for Water Resources to provide seedlings so that each student will plant a tree this rainy season.

The Chief Servant counselled the students to study very well and record good academic results. He informed them that the government has started a policy of paying NECO and WAEC fees for all students of the State. He added that as



The Chief Servant inspecting a student's book

from this year, government will provide uniforms and text books free to students; government will also increase the budget for feeding per student.

In addition, graduate unemployment in Niger State will be a thing of the past because by May/June this year all graduates, whether ND or Bachelor degree holders, will be gainfully employed in the service of the State government.

In respect of their teachers and principal, the Chief Servant stated that a new government policy will determine their promotion based on a number of criteria including courses attended as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. He therefore advised the students to study hard and to keep him informed of any development in their school through text messages.

He then read out some mobile phone numbers which the students took down.



The Head Girl of Government Girls Secondary School, Tungan Magajiya, presenting the students' demands to the Chief Servant during an interactive session at the school

Interactive Session with Students

Several students took time to speak about problems of their school which generally are as follows:

- a) Lack of a school bus
- b) Hospital
- c) Insufficient teachers
- d) Insufficient beddings and mattresses
- e) No generator
- f) Their school mosque is too small and the Christian chapel lacks windows and doors
- g) Poor quality food

Water

The Chief Servant advised the Hospital Management to liaise closely and cooperate with the Commissioner for Water Resources who is a son of the soil to ensure adequate provision of water to the hospital.

Salary/Allowances

The Chief Servant stated that the government will soon review salaries and allowances of doctors and nurses to make it more competitive. After the exercise, government will source for additional doctors to employ. He added that a colleague of the Governor of Imo State, has offered him the services of about 2,000 doctors whenever the State is ready to engage them.

Local Government Councils and Service Delivery

The Chief Servant stated that we all need to join hands to ensure good service delivery to our people. He said that the local governments are part of the whole process of governance, whether PDP or not. He then called on all Commissioners to liaise with their local government Chairmen and articulate positions that will ensure proper development and good service delivery to the people.

THE CHIEF SERVANT SIGNS THE HOSPITAL REGISTER

The Hospital Management informed the Chief Servant that the Hospital Register was last signed about 15 years ago. They thanked the Chief Servant for the visit and wished him God's guidance in his onerous assignment of piloting the affairs of State.

The Chief Servant then signed the hospital register thus:

"We need to do more".

The Chief Servant departed General Hospital to School of Health Technology, Tungan Magajiya.



Pre-Forum (Rijau)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY, TUNGAN MAGAJIYA

Venue: School of Health Technology, Tungan Magajiya
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 4:05pm

[Anthem]

THE PRINCIPAL'S OPENING REMARKS

The Principal welcomed the Chief Servant and gave a brief history of the school. He said the school was built in 1955 and has graduated thousands of students over the years with Diplomas and Certificates in Community Health. He praised the efforts of Rijau Local Government which recently completed rehabilitation work on some classroom blocks. He informed the Chief Servant that the school came second in the just concluded nationwide examination in National Community Health Technology Certificate.



The Principal requested assistance from the Chief

The Chief Servant listens to comments by a student of the School of Health Technology, Tungan Magajiya, during an interaction with the students

Servant for two additional classroom blocks. He informed the Chief Servant that the school has forwarded a request for the standardization of teaching aids to the Commissioner of Health and are still awaiting his response.

The Principal appealed for lifting of employment embargo to enable graduates of the school secure employment. Finally, he made a request for funds to renovate the school classrooms.

Inspection of Classrooms and Interaction with Students

The Chief Servant visited some classrooms where he interacted with students who were at lectures. From the interaction, the students commented on the following:

- a). Shortage of staff
- b). Shortage of accommodation
- c). Scholarship for students
- d). School has generator but requires funds to buy diesel even if twice a month
- e). Need for a school bus
- f). Sporting equipment, and
- g). Shortage of water.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS OF THE STUDENTS

Local Government's Effort

The Chief Servant praised the effort of the Local Government in rehabilitating some classroom blocks.

Legal Backing

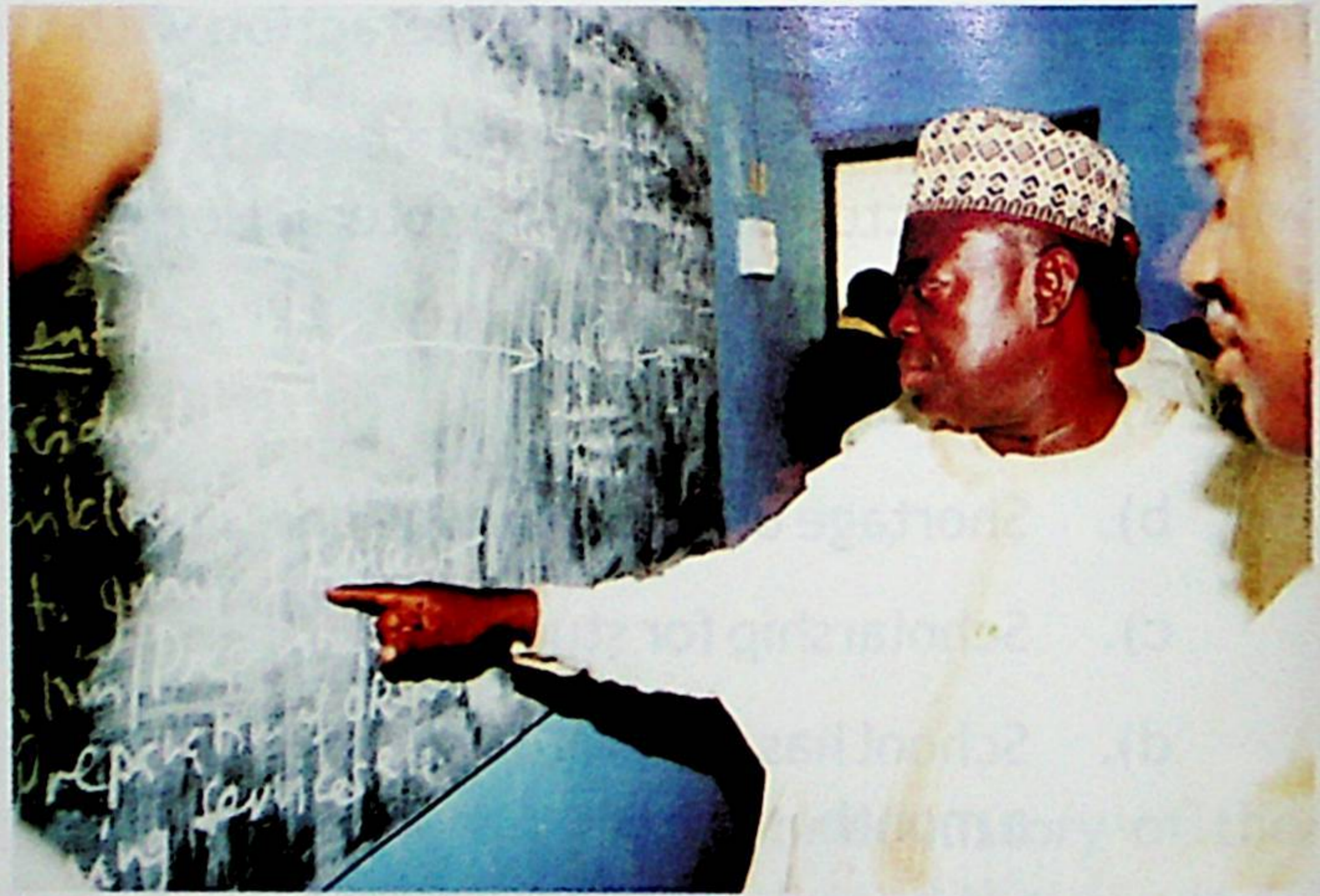
The Chief Servant expressed concern over the legal status of the school which has no legal framework establishing it. He assured the students that a

memorandum would be sent to the State House of Assembly to ensure that the legal framework is put in place. He called on the member representing Rijau at the State House of Assembly, Alh. Abubakar Sa'adu Usman to note.

Employment Embargo

The Chief Servant informed the students that a new government policy will ensure that all graduates of Niger State are gainfully employed by May/June, 2008.

In respect of graduates of the School, the Chief Servant directed the Commissioner of Health to coordinate with the Commissioner for Local Government as well as the Caretaker Chairman of Rafi Local Government to ensure that all wards in the State have a Community Health Worker in their employment. He explained that the so-called employment



The Chief Servant makes an observation while responding to a request by the students of the School of Health Technology, Tungan Magajiya

embargo was a farce because in 1999 when the so called embargo took effect, staff strength in the State Civil Service was 19,000 but by 2004, it had catapulted to 34,000. It means therefore that there was no embargo in the real sense but people were being employed through the back door.

He reassured the students that government will give them employment as a matter of policy and every local government will be directed to employ them but they need to study hard and obtain good results.

Water

On the instruction of the Chief Servant, the Commissioner for Water Resources was to direct the Local Government Chairman to provide water for the school.



A cross section of top government functionaries during the interactive session with the students

- h) The school lacks grinding machines, and
- i) Security men in the school are old men who cannot handle weapons and may easily be overpowered.

Chief Servant's Response to the Students' Demands

Security

The Chief Servant informed the students that by the time the perimeter fencing is in place, security will be boosted and the old men will indeed be better suited for the job since it is a female school.

Quality of Food

The Chief Servant stated that at the time he took over, the budget per student was twenty naira which has been increased to the present thirty naira, but he assured them of yet another increase after the budget is passed.

The Chief Servant however noted that issues concerning poor food quality are the responsibility of the Principal to take charge and improve upon.

Multipurpose Hall

The former Minister of State, Internal Affairs Alh. Abubakar Tanko Achituwo took the responsibility of rehabilitating the school's multipurpose hall and ensuring that the hall is in order.

Games Equipment

The Deputy Chief Servant of Niger State offered to buy sports jerseys for the students. He also offered to pay the transport allowance for the Games Master to travel to Minna for collection of the jerseys.



The Commissioner for Water Resources responding to issues raised by students of the Girls Senior Secondary School, Tungan Magajiya

OTHER RESPONSES

- a). Alh. Mohammed Danrangi, Member, Federal House of Representatives, promised to provide 3-seater seats and tables for one classroom.
- b). Alh. Garba Isah Abara, the Commissioner for Water Resources promised to provide 20 sets of 3-seater seats and tables for the school.
- c). Alh. Umar Nasko, the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism handed over the sum of N100,000 Naira in cash to the school Principal to purchase grinding machines for the school.

The Chief Servant departed the school for the General Hospital, Tungan Magajiya at about 3:15pm.



Pre-Forum (Rijau)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO GENERAL HOSPITAL, TUNGAN MAGAJIYA

Venue: General Hospital Tungan Magajiya
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 3:30pm

OPENING REMARKS

The Assistant Chief Medical Officer welcomed the Chief Servant and thanked him for the visit to their hospital. He explained that the 120 bed capacity hospital was built in 1949 and that there are only two doctors and twenty-six nurses who work on a regimen of three shifts a day. He added that the hospital has two theatres. The modern theatre has not been operational for five years and the equipment have become obsolete. The second theatre, on the other hand, has been in existence since 1949 but the suction machine has not been functioning for some time.

He added that the hospital electricity is irregular and erratic and the sanitation condition very poor. In addition the hospital requires perimeter fencing. Furthermore, the hospital is in need of additional doctors and nurses to complement the overworked ones. The mortuary is not functional due to lack of freezers and the staff houses are dilapidated and almost eaten up by termites due to neglect.

The Assistant Chief Medical Officer however commended the efforts of the Ministry of Health and the Local Government but pleaded for more assistance. He said due to the effort of both the ministry and the local government, work is ongoing at the laboratory and the hospital could now screen patients' blood and conduct HIV test and CD4 count. The hospital also has a functional X-ray machine as well as a new scanning machine. He explained that the services



The Chief Servant with personnel of the General Hospital, Tungan Magajiya

provided by the hospital have become very competitive in view of their proximity to Kebbi State.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant expressed joy that things have started changing at the hospital. He stated that at the time he took over, facilities in hospitals all over the State were in a terrible state of disrepair.

He therefor instructed the hospital management to write to the Commissioner for Health and articulate all their demands which he promised to look into .He assured them that the government was already looking into the issues of electricity, water resources and the review of salaries among others.

Electricity

The Chief Servant informed the hospital that an MOU will be signed next week with an American company to provide solar energy for use by schools and hospitals in the State as a matter of priority.

Electricity

The Chief Servant informed the students that government will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding with an American solar energy company that will provide electricity to schools and hospitals as a matter of priority; he therefore sued for patience.

CHIEF SERVANT'S DEPARTING REMARKS

The Chief Servant declared that there is the urgent need to ensure that graduates of the school have jobs waiting for them on graduation, especially with their impressive second position result at the National Community Health Certificate Examination. He opined that at this rate, the State will realise its Vision 3:2020 sooner than expected. He directed the Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board to meet with him and articulate all issues regarding the school.

The Chief Servant departed the school for the KSG Primary School Rijau, at 4.30pm.



Pre-Forum (Rijau)

THE CHIEF SERVANT COMMISSIONING IS CLASSROOM BLOCKS IN RIJAU

Venue: KSG Primary School, Rijau
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 4:50pm

COMMISSIONING

The Chief Servant formally declared the two classroom blocks built by the Hon. Member, Niger State House of Assembly, Alh. Abubakar Sadiq Usman, for use.



The Chief Servant, the Secretary to the State Government and the Hon. Member representing Rijau at the State House of Assembly watch as the plaque is unveiled at the commissioning of two classroom blocks at KSG Primary School built by the State Assembly member, Hon. Abubakar Sadiq Usman

Student Song

The students sang a beautiful song in Hausa language praising the Chief Servant's efforts and deploring the corruption.

In the song the students pointed out the following problems of their school:

- a). Shortage of classrooms
- b). Lack of water
- c). Shortage of classroom seats and tables, and
- d). Shortage of teachers.



The Chief Servant listening with admiration as the students of KSG Primary School, Rijau sang a beautiful song welcoming him to their school

RESPONSE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF WATER RESOURCES

The Commissioner of Water Resources promised to provide the school with water within two months.



The Chief Servant signing the visitors book at the commissioning of new classroom blocks at KSG Primary School, Rijau

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant directed the completion of the classrooms under construction before the end of tenure of the incumbent Chairman.

The Chief Servant assured the students that teachers will be provided for their school by July 2008.

Finally, the Chief Servant commended the effort of the Honourable Member for his contribution towards the development of the community but cautioned the local government Chairman on the security implication of location of projects in the future.

Chief Servant Signed the School Register

The Chief Servant signed the School Register with the following comment:

"This is what representatives should be doing, getting involved in the development of their communities".

The Chief Servant departed the school for the Rijau Jama'a Forum.

Jama'a Forum In Rijau, Rijau Local Government Area



The Chief Servant waving to the crowd as he arrives the venue of Rijau Jama'a Forum

Venue: Bakin Sabon Kasuwa, Rijau

Date: March 13, 2008

Time: 5:30pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Rijau.

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Rijau for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage. He informed the people that he wants in Rijau to listen to their problems and to be corrected where he errs because what the people have given him is a trust.

He added that the people are the masters and he is only their servant leader; as such they must not hesitate to intimate him and their elected representatives like Alh Isa Sidi and Alh. Hassan Danrangi with their problems. The Chief Servant stated that government is already aware of some of their problems like the construction of the bridge along Rijau to Kontagora road as well as rehabilitation of Rijau township roads.

The Chief Servant further informed them that he has visited schools in Tungan Magajiya and Rijau and he is moved by the abject poverty among parents whose wards are in schools. This has reinforced his determination to make education free for students in Niger State. Already, government has started a policy of payment of NECO/WAEC fees to alleviate hardship to parents.

Contracts

The Chief Servant stated that contracts are usually given to assist the people by embarking on developmental projects that touch the people's lives directly. He therefore enjoined the people to be vigilant and ask questions so that their representatives will not steal their money.

Tribalism

The Chief Servant noted that only cowards involve in tribalism. He observed that the Kambari blood is no different from the blood of Rijau people. He reminded the people that the Almighty Allah made us different because of the need for us to understand ourselves more.

Elders and Local Government Elections

The Chief Servant challenged the elders to ensure resounding victory at the forthcoming Local Government Elections even as he declared that Allah gives and takes victory away from whomsoever he likes and no one can challenge

him. It is therefore imperative for elders, like elected representatives, to carry the burden of trust. Only by so doing shall they be true elders of their communities.

Forum not Political

The Chief Servant declared that the Forum is not a political gathering of any one party but rather a medium through which the people express their feelings and aspirations for the collective good.

Ward Development Communities

The Chief Servant announced that each ward in Rijau Local Government will be given N500,000.00 monthly for development projects. He stated that as custodian of the people's trust, he intends to bring development closer to the people by providing monthly allocations to enable every ward identify and execute projects dear to them through a committee of elders.



The Chief Servant and other Government functionaries chanting the "Sai Talba" song along with the crowd

NAPEP Programme on Poverty Alleviation

The Chief Servant announced that in addition to the N500,000.00 monthly allocation to each ward, NAPEP has introduced a programme called conditional cash transfer (CCT) and Village Economic Empowerment Scheme (VEES). He added that the State Government has provided N300m to complement the N140m provided by NAPEP for the programme. He explained that the programme is meant for the very indigent in the society, especially

widows and orphans to take care of their upkeep and school fees for one year after which a small loan will be given to them to set up a small business.

In addition to the above, any community or cooperative society that is able to raise 10% of an identified project, the Government shall facilitate the funding for the project through a designated Bank.

Tractor Hiring and Fertilizer Distribution

The Chief Servant announced that tractors will no longer be hired out to individuals but to cooperatives to ensure standards and effective monitoring and to avoid misuse.

He also announced that fertilizers will be sold to farmers directly at subsidized rates. Distribution will be monitored to ensure middlemen do not cash in to exploit farmers as obtained in the past. He therefore called on elders and community leaders to be vigilant and to assist government in ensuring the success of the policy.

Education

The Chief Servant declared that Education must be given top priority. But parents must pay more attention to the education of their wards. He observed that there are schools where probably the students are more knowledgeable than the teachers.

Ghost workers in the service

The Chief Servant stated that there are ghost workers in the Civil Service. Even in the Local Government councils, officials reportedly include their spouses and other relations on the council payroll. He said the ongoing Bio-metric exercise is intended to check these abuses and ensure correct placement in the nominal roll.

Water

The Chief Servant acknowledged that there are indeed several problems with regard to water. He asked the people to pray for him and ask God to give him the will to provide water and other amenities to them. The Chief Servant pointed out that the Commissioner of Water Resources is from Rijau and he

will no doubt utilize his vantage position to provide good drinking water for his people.

Electricity

In this regard, Chief Servant urged the people to be patient with the government. He stated that the government was exploring other sources of energy and will in fact soon sign MOU with an American solar energy company for the provision of electricity to schools and hospitals.

Judicial Commission of Inquiry

The Chief Servant informed the people that he was happy with the government's decision to set up the Judicial Commission of Inquiry. He stated that even before the commission completes its assignment, some of those indicted have either already commenced work on the contracts given to them by the former administration or have indicated their desire to return monies collected for jobs not done. He said this was a good sign because he could not stand by and allow the people to be short-changed.

PRESENTATIONS/DONATIONS

The Senior Special Assistant, Jama'a Forum announced donations as follows:

- a). Senator Nuhu Aliyu donated 40 motorcycles to be distributed in the following order - each ward Chairman and Secretary in the local government are to be given one motorcycle each totaling 22 motorcycles; the remaining 18 motorcycles left are to be distributed among other eligible party members.
- b). The Honourable Member of the Federal House of representatives also donated 20 motorcycles to be distributed among deserving party members.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Rijau Central

Alhaji Yahuza Carpenter Rijau, spoke on behalf of Rijau central ward. He thanked the Chief Servant for the opportunity of the Forum and stated that

this has never been done before and prayed Allah to grant the Chief Servant the wisdom and the will to conduct the affairs of Niger State successfully.

Alh. Usman Jambo, another representative from Rijau central ward, presented the following requests for the Chief Servant's attention:

- a). Provision of drinking water
- b). Rehabilitation of township roads in Rijau
- c). The need for a booster station in Rijau to replace the current one
- d). Provision of an industry and a higher institution of learning in Rijau or possibly locating a campus of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU) in Rijau
- e). Lack of postal services in Rijau, and
- f). Appeal for the vocational centre in Rijau to be connected to the national grid.

Tungan Magajiya

Major Hanya, the representative of Tungan Magajiya, said that words alone could not describe how elated they were with the Chief Servant's visit. He made the following requests on behalf of his ward:

- a). Employment of graduates
- b). Need for a legal framework for the School of Health Technology
- c). Request for transformers
- d). Provision of a new pump for the Ruwatsan water project, and
- e). Rehabilitation of the road from Tungan Magajiya to Kontagora.

Sabongarin Ushe

The representative of Sabongarin Ushe put forth the following requests:

- a). Need for a junior secondary school
- b). Need for feeder roads to link the market

- c). Appeal to be connected to the national grid in Kebbi State which is just 2 kms away from Sabongarin Ushe, and
- d). Creation of a ward out of the present Sabongarin Ushe ward because the ward is too large.

Dukku Ward

Alh. Suleiman D. Dukku, the representative of the ward, made the following requests:

- a). Additional doctors and nurses for the hospital
- b). Installation of facilities at the water pumping station
- c). Upgrading of the Day secondary School to a boarding school
- e). Rehabilitation of the Road from Dukku to Rijau, and
- f). Request for electrification of Dukku



Ward Representatives taking turns to present their requests at the Jama's Forum Rijau

Danrangi Ward

Alh. Muhammadu who represented the ward requested the following:

- a). Rehabilitation of the road from Tungan Bahago to Danrangi which becomes flooded and impassable during rainy season
- b). Boreholes at Sabongarin Gwaram and Gada Daya for potable water
- c). A standard hospital or basic health centre to replace the existing dispensary which is insufficient to take care of their needs
- d). Upgrading of the Junior Secondary school, and
- e). Provision of a transformer for Danrangi, Kwabo and Gida.

Dugge Ward

The representative, Alh. Abubakar, requested the following:

- a). a bridge along the road from Gidan Dogo to Gulbin Dugge
- b). Provision of drinkable water, and
- c). a secondary school in Dugge.

Jama'are Ward

The representative expressed gratitude to their elders like Alh. Abubakar Tanko, He then presented the following demands:

- a). Fertilizer for the farmers
- b). Roads
- c). Bridge at Gulbin Kukiji
- d). A tertiary Institution in Rijau Local Government Area
- e). The rehabilitation of classrooms which lack infrastructures,
- f). Deployment of teachers to schools which are short-staffed, and
- g). The representative assured the Chief Servant of their unalloyed support for his administration.

Genu Ward

Alh. Mamman Genu, presented the following demands:

- a). Drinking water
- b). Transformers for electrification
- c). Rehabilitation of the road from Ibetto to Rijau
- d). Upgrade of the secondary school to a boarding school
- e). General hospital, and
- f). The suggestion of award of cash prizes any ward that records the highest votes during elections.

Shambo Ward

The representative of the ward requested the following:

- a). Fertilizer for farmers
- b). Resuscitation of the dam project which stopped with the demise of Alh. Bawa Shambo, the initiator.



The Chief Servant edging closer to listen to an elderly woman's request

Warari Ward

Alh. Ibrahim Babangida, the representative, put forth the following requests:

- a). Rehabilitation of the road from Warari to Inana and the construction of a bridge along that road; and the rehabilitation of the road from Warari to Genu
- b). Drinking water, and

- c). The completion of the mosque project which started six years ago and has since stopped.

The representative assured the Chief Servant of 100% support from the people of Warari ward.

Tungan Bunu

The representative, Alh. Ibrahim Maigoro demanded for provision of transformers and drinking water for the benefit of the people.

Representative from Fulani Community

Alh. Usman Adamu, the Chairman of Miyetti Allah, expressed gratitude to the Chief Servant for appointing a Special Assistant on Fulani and Nomadic matters. He appealed for government's intervention in providing schools for the Fulani. In addition, he requested for a permanent settlement for the Fulani as against their present itinerant nature.

Finally, he called on all Nigerlites to support the Chief Servant and prayed Allah to grant him the will and the wisdom to move the State forward. He also prayed for the Chief Servant to become President.

Mrs. Habiba Musa

Mrs. Habiba Musa, a teacher in Kigo Primary school, Tungan Magajiya stated that the school is in bad shape with no classroom infrastructure.

Secondly, Mrs. Musa appealed for upward review of teachers' salaries. She also requested for perimeter fencing of the school to avoid encroachment.

In addition, she stated that she graduated from secondary school since 1982 and that she has been in the teaching profession for a long time. She attributed her eye condition and the use of medicated glasses to the effect of chalk dust over the years. She therefore called on the Chief Servant to review the welfare of teachers in order to make the profession more rewarding.

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ ENTERTAINMENT

Alh. Yahaya Tondi performed to the delight of the crowd.

PRESENTATION OF TITLE TO THE CHIEF SERVANT

The pupils of Central Primary School, Rijau presented a plaque conferring on the Chief Servant the title 'Sarkin Yaki Primary School'.



Pupils of Central Primary School, Rijau presenting a plaque to the Chief Servant

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant thanked the people for their invaluable contributions at the Forum. He stated that their demands have been noted and all issues raised will be reviewed and itemized for implementation. He added that they will be informed of those projects that will be implemented in this year's budget and those that will spill into 2009 budget.

On Electricity and Water Projects

The Chief Servant stated that some of the electrification and water projects have been captured in the 2008 budget, but a clearer picture will emerge after the passage of the 2008 budget by the State House of Assembly.

Mrs. Habiba Musa

The Chief Servant stated that the eye problem suffered by Mrs. Habiba Musa is not necessarily the result of chalk dust alone. He assured her that as a former teacher himself, other factors may be responsible for her condition which only medical experts could determine. He promised to look into it.

Perimeter Fencing

The Chief Servant directed that the perimeter fencing of the school will be carried out by the Chairman, Alh. Sidi Ali even after he hands over to a new Chairman.

Classroom infrastructure will be provided for schools but there is need to be patient because government is working on a new arrangement to provide single seating furniture for schools.

Tungan Bunu

The Chief Servant informed the Forum that there is no longer demarcation between junior and senior secondary schools. A new government policy has collapsed them into what one main system, so those seeking upgrade of their schools should rejoice.

Genu and Warari Ward

The Chief Servant stated that the Honourable Member will be involved in the completion of the mosque in Warari just as he had participated actively in the building of schools in Genu.

The Chief Servant remarked that as Muslims, we should minimize dependence on governments for our religious obligations; rather, we should see such acts as personal forms of worship to our Creator.

Cash Prizes for Votes

The Chief Servant stated that the Chairman of PDP has confirmed to him that there is already in place a system of cash prizes for highest votes in respect of chairmanship and councillorship positions. The Chief Servant therefore announced that Alh. Tanko Abubakar, will henceforth take charge of votes as well as cash prizes for those wards that poll the highest votes.

Fertilizers

The Chief Servant announced that fertilizers will be subsidized for sale to farmers in Niger State and the subsidy will discourage sales outside the State. The Deputy Chief Servant will become the Chairman of the distribution committee. The Chief Servant therefore called on the people to be vigilant in order to ensure success of the policy.

Transformers

The Chief Servant informed the people that it is not the responsibility of the State Government to provide transformers but the government will continue to do so in order to alleviate the suffering of people in this regard. The Chief Servant enjoined the people to be vigilant and safeguard public utilities under their care. He introduced the new District Police Officer (DPO) to the people and further advised that people should jealously guard their installations and not to permit refurbished transformers to be installed.

Hospital

The Chief Servant stated that as soon as the 2008 budget is passed, the government shall itemize and prioritize on building of hospitals which will be spread over the years up till 2011.

Radio House

The Chief Servant promised to look into the issue of Radio Booster Station for effective dissemination of news and information.

Ibrahim Babangida University (IBBU) Campus/Tertiary Institution

The Chief Servant admitted that it may be more feasible to look into the possibility of providing a tertiary institution for the local government rather than locating a campus of IBBU.

Vocational School/School of Health Technology

The Chief Servant admitted the sad state of affairs concerning the legal framework and accreditation of the vocational school and the School of Health Technology in Rijau. He stated that the committee responsible for tertiary institutions will look into this issue with a view to sending a memorandum to the State House of Assembly as soon as possible.

Ruwatsan Project

The Chief Servant noted that an estimated N98m has been budgeted for the review of the spoilt bi-water projects all over the State. He advised Major Hanya to note.

Women Education

The Chief Servant made a passionate appeal for the education of women as they are more sympathetic to parents. The Commissioner of Education painted a rather gloomy picture of the enrolment statistics in the local government. She said that in Niger State, the total enrolment into schools is about 180,000. Magama local government records about 6,500 while Rjau has only 3,000. She decried the situation as very pathetic and urged parents to send their wards to school.

CLOSING

Closing prayers was said by Hon. Abubakar Sadiq, at 7.55pm bringing the Forum to an end.



Post-Forum (Rijau)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO LIOJI

Venue: Lioji village
Date: March 13, 2008
Time: 9.30pm

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant made a brief stop at Lioji village on his way from the Jama'a Forum held in Rijau.

OPENING REMARKS

Alh. Mikah introduced the Chief Servant and apologized for his coming late.

CHIEF SERVANT'S REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Lioji and also apologized for coming late. He admitted that government needs to do more for Kontagora emirate. He therefore promised that something will be done about the Rijau-Lioji-Kontagora road.

In addition, the Chief Servant observed that the problem of drinking water cuts across the whole State. He appealed for the people's understanding as his government is working towards alleviating this problem. Furthermore, the Chief Servant decried the level of illiteracy among the people and urged parents to send their wards to school. He prayed to Allah to give him the will to shoulder the burden of leadership.

The Chief Servant commended the efforts of both Generals Mamman Kontagora and Gado Nasko for their immense contributions to the development of Kontagora Emirate.

Finally, the Chief Servant appealed to the people of Lioji to support Alh. Ibrahim Magayaki at the by-election which comes up on the 15th of March, 2008.

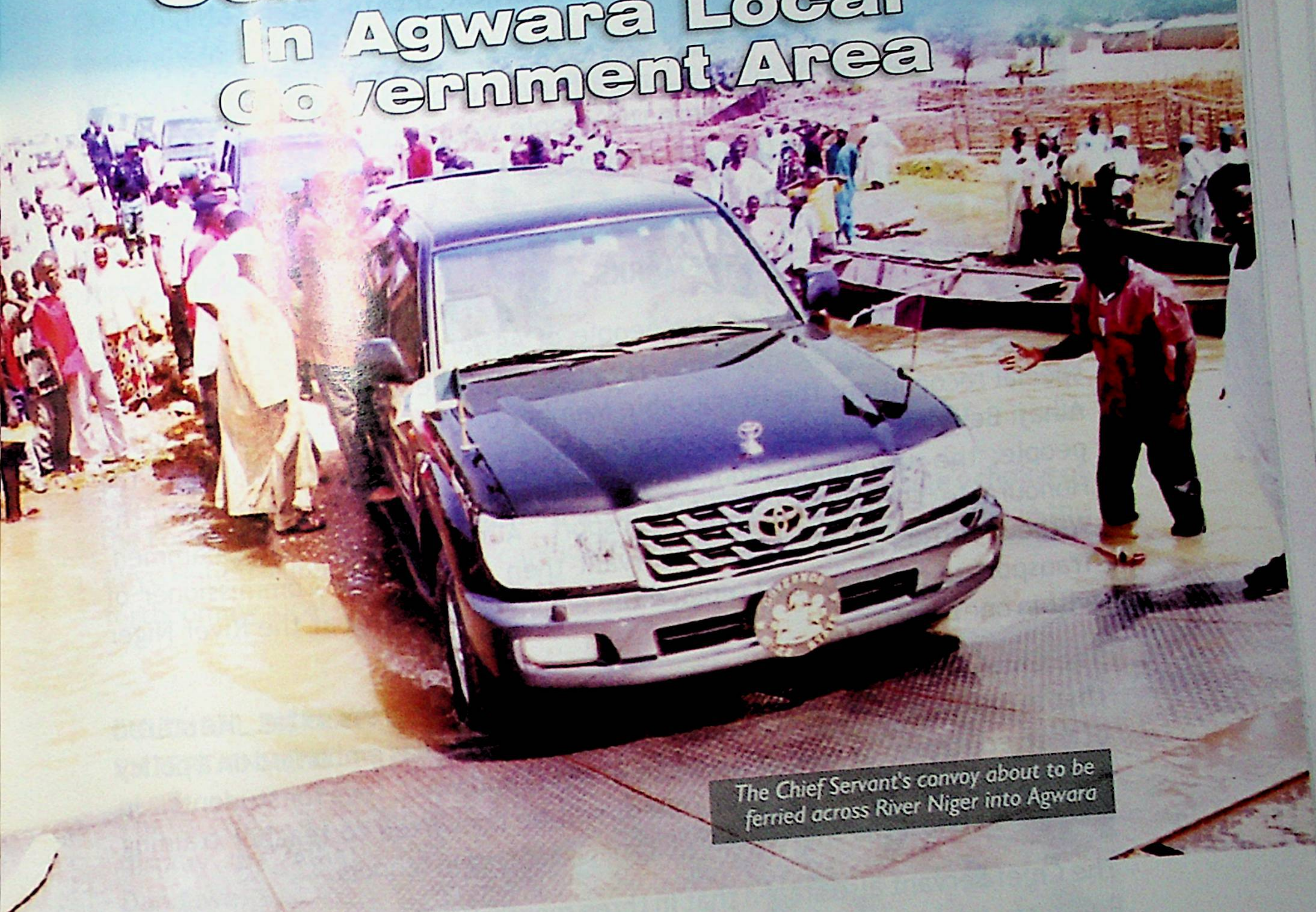
HAKIMI'S RESPONSE

The Hakimi of Lioji thanked the Chief Servant for the visit and remarked that no leader has done what the Chief Servant is doing for the people of Niger State.

The Hakimi, who is also the Sarkin Dukawan Lioji, a title bestowed on him by the Sarkin Sudan of Kontagora, promised to ensure that his people vote Alh. Ibrahim Magayaki at the March 2008 by-election.

The Chief Servant departed Lioji village at about 9:55pm.

Jama'a Forum In Agwara Local Government Area



The Chief Servant's convoy about to be ferried across River Niger into Agwara

Venue: Agwara Township Square
Date: March 23, 2008
Time: 3:20pm

[National Anthem]

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was led by the Chief Imam of Agwara.

INTRODUCTION OF JAMA'A FORUM BY SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT, JAMA'A FORUM

The Senior Special Assistant, Jama'a Forum, explained the rationale behind the Forum as a platform where the people would convene to highlight their problems and to get on the spot answers and solution from government.

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Agwara for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage. He singled out the three 'sons of the soil' for special recognition: the Honourable Member of the State House of Assembly, Alhaji Bello Ahmed whom he described as a very good representative of the people; the new Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr. Ishaya S. Majambo; and the Honourable Commissioner for Transport, Alhaji Mahmud B. Mohammed. Without further ado, the Chief Servant then directed the Commissioner of Transport to purchase and replace the engine of the ferry at the River Niger within one month.

The Chief Servant then informed the people about progress so far. He stated that in line with campaign promises, the government has embarked on a policy of free education as well as payment of NECO and WAEC fees for students. In addition, three schools within Zone C will be converted to teacher training colleges to boost the shortage of qualified teachers in schools.

The Chief Servant also stated that in three months' time, work will start on the Rofia to Agwara to Bakin Ruwa. While asking people to pray for his government to succeed, the Chief Servant announced that a new government policy will provide N500,000 monthly payment to every ward in the state to enable them carry out developmental projects. In addition, every local government will have Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) which will cater for small and medium scale industries. In this regard, the Bank of Industry will assist the state through counterpart funding to the tune of one billion Naira. The Chief Servant therefore advised Agwara to set up cooperatives which will be used to access the funds, as well as establish two or three micro-finance banks. He further advised that Agwara people should raise at least twenty million Naira before the Ambassador leaves for his posting to ensure the establishment of the banks.

The Chief Servant also spoke about the misconception of 'mad'. He said the concept is about helping others and about effecting radical change from evil to good deeds. It should therefore not be misconstrued to mean the wanton destruction of lives and property.



A cross section of crowd at the Agwara Jama'a Forum

Finally, the Chief Servant stated that even though the Forum was not a political gathering, he is happy with the people's choice of Aliyu Halidu Muhammad as the candidate for the Chairmanship position in the forthcoming local government elections.

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ ENTERTAINMENT

There was a cultural display by Alhaji Sani Dandawo.



A local musician entertaining guests at the Forum

INTRODUCTION OF NAPEP PROGRAMMES BY THE STATE COORDINATOR

The State Coordinator, NAPEP Alhaji Iliyasu Dhacho declared that Niger State has never had a Governor like the Chief Servant. He stated amongst others that the Chief Servant has paid pension arrears, increased salaries of civil servants, paid NECO/WAEC fees for students and approved free uniforms and textbooks under a new free education policy for students in Niger State.

The NAPEP Coordinator explained the introduction of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme (VEES), all aimed at alleviating poverty and providing succour to orphans and widows. Under the VEES, beneficiaries will be placed on a one year stipend of about N5,000 after which they will be weaned off the programme and given a loan to set up a small business. The State Coordinator also announced that cheques will be issued to cooperatives under the NAPEP programme of poverty alleviation.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES TO COOPERATIVES SOCIETIES BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | Galla Women Cooperative Society | - | N250,000.00 |
| 2. | Mayawa Cooperative Society | - | N250,000.00 |
| 3. | Kahini Rofia Society | - | N250,000.00 |
| 4. | Mago Cooperative Society | - | N250,000.00 |



The Chief Servant presents a cheque to a representative of a cooperative society under the NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Programme

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ ENTERTAINMENT

Alh. Aminu Yauri entertained the gathering.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Rofia Ward

The representative, Alhaji Danjuma, observed that a bridge was supposed to be built at the River Niger but during the military regime, it was taken to Kebbi State. He therefore prayed for the Chief Servant's intervention.



Representative of a ward making his presentation at the Agwara Jama'a Forum

Mago Ward

Alhaji Haliru Umar, the representative, stated that one of the major problems of Agwara was lack of channels of information dissemination like television and radio. He added that Agwara people rely on Kebbi State and Benin Republic for news. He stated that the people require GSM services, and the rehabilitation of Mago-Galla road which has been in terrible condition and in fact impassable during the rainy season.

Kikoli Ward

The Sarkin Hausawa, who represented the ward, wanted to know the fate of Kikoli and Kasalli wards in respect of electrification. He stated that when he was party Chairman, he was involved in the electrification whereby poles had been planted and nothing else has been done ever since.

Papiri Ward

Alhaji Yusuf Magaji stated that his people are predominantly farmers and they require fertilizers, tractors and *galman shanu*. They also want to benefit from the agricultural credit scheme.

Kasabu Ward

Alhaji Umaru Tara, a local government party Chairman, stated that his people are predominantly fishermen who need help with fishing implements and boats.

Agwara Ward

The representative, Alh. Bala Tanko, prayed for the success of the Chief Servant and requested for a general hospital in Agwara and the repair of the dam which he said has been left dormant for several years.

Suteku Ward

Alhaji Adamu Maikifi decried the condition of the roads in Agwara and stated that the roads become impassable especially during the rainy season and this situation affects them because they could not transport their farm produce.

Adeke Ward

Alhaji Ali Mai Wake also stated that they are predominantly farmers of several crops like wheat, onions etc. They need assistance in acquiring improved seedlings, fertilizers and farm implements.

Galla Ward

Alhaji Audu Mai Leda said their major problem is the road network. He thanked the Chief Servant for the promise to construct the Agwara road because it will alleviate the problem of getting pregnant women to hospital on time.

Bunsuru Ward

Mr. Jeremiah Paul decried their backwardness in education which he attributed to the lack of teaching methods and classroom infrastructures. He also called for the payment of entitlements of reinstated workers of the local government which is about ten million Naira.

Sarkin Yarbawa

Alhaji Muftan requested government's assistance in respect of provision of water, processing of groundnuts, provision of more schools and assistance on the sale of farm produce.

Sarkin Fulani Agvwa

Alhaji Suleiman Sadiq expressed gratitude to the Chief Servant for the appointment of Mallam Sadiq as the Special Assistant, Nomadic Education. Secondly, the Fulanis are requesting for a dam or borehole to nurture their cattle and for the strict enforcement of bush burning laws. These measures will ensure the return of Fulanis who have migrated.

Sarkin Papiri

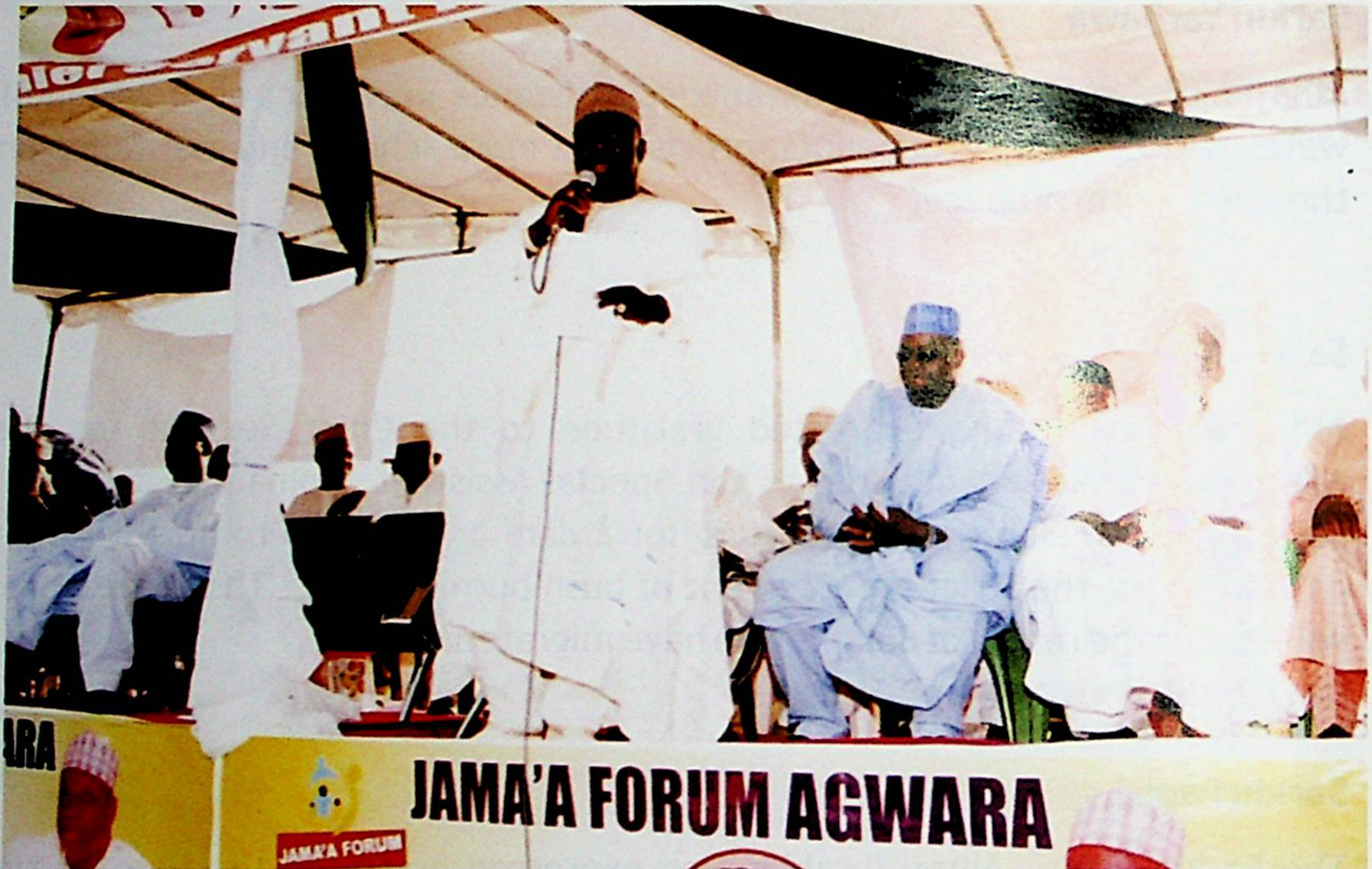
The Sarkin Papiri, Alhaji Ibrahim also expressed gratitude to Allah for the opportunity of presenting their problems to the Chief Servant. He made the following requests:

- a). the provision of a groundnut mill
- b). need for a general hospital
- c). submitted that about four District Heads have not been paid their allocations for several years now because they were caught up in the political intrigues of the old administration; even their allowances are outstanding. As a result, their vehicles have broken down. They are therefore appealing to the Chief Servant to look into the issue and redress the situation.

THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS OF THE DIFFERENT WARDS

On District Heads

In respect of Sarkin Papiri's demands, the Chief Servant stated that one must be paid for his toil. As a result, the government shall review the issue of District Heads' allowances within three weeks.



The Chief Servant responding to the requests / presentations made by the wards

In response to Groundnut and Sugarcane Industries, the government shall invite investors under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) as well as block water drains to assist farmers. This will indeed assist in the development of the whole State.

The Chief Servant advised traditional rulers to avoid confrontation and to always partner with government for the development of the people and the State.

General Hospital

The Chief Servant stated that indeed Agwara was to be the first choice for a general hospital but part of the conditions given by the Federal Government was that there had to be a clinic or some sort of dispensary which will then be upgraded to a general hospital. He however assured that by the grace of God, the fourth General Hospital shall be cited in Agwara. He added that it was shameful to him that the people of Agwara had to attend hospital in Kebbi State.

On Reinstated Staff of Local Government

The Chief Servant stated that the people do not observe the true test of leadership. He was responding to the request of Mr. Jeremiah Paul of Bunsuru ward who requested for payment of about ten million Naira to reinstated workers of the local government council. The Chief Servant instructed the Commissioner of Local Government to pay the reinstated workers in three instalment the first instalment within one month.

Ferry Services

The Chief Servant directed the Commissioner of Transport to buy and replace the engine of the ferry within one month.

Roads

The Chief Servant promised that in three months' time, construction work will commence on the road from Rofia to Agwara to Bakin Ruwa.

Dam

The Chief Servant promised to look into the issue of the non-functional dam. He also promised to bring the technology of earth dam to Agwara.

News Dissemination

The Chief Servant promised to definitely look into this issue stating that it was unacceptable that Agwara people learn about happenings in their State only from radio and television services of neighbouring states.

GSM Communication

The Chief Servant promised to invite service providers to bring their services to the local government.

Electricity

In response to Sarkin Hausawa's request, the Chief Servant stated that the State Government will gear more efforts toward providing electricity. He however urged the people to be patient and await the outcome of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry which may shed more light on some of the abandoned electrification contracts in the local government area.

Bridge

The Chief Servant promised a feedback in three to four months time, as to whether the Federal Government will build the bridge or the State Government will build it and get a refund from the Federal Government.

Education

The Chief Servant stated that another secondary school will be built to complement the existing one. He urged chiefs, parents and other stakeholders to pay more attention to issues of education. He stated that Northern Nigeria is generally backward, that Niger State is behind and that all stakeholders need to buckle up in Zone 'C' Agwara.

VOTE OF THANKS/CLOSING

The vote of thanks was given by Alhaji Bello Ahmed and the National Anthem was recited at 5:50pm.



Pre-Forum (Borgu)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO EMIR OF BORGU'S PALACE

Venue: Emir of Borgu's Palace
Date: March 23, 2008
Time: 10:00am

The Emir of Borgu's Welcome Address

The Emir heartily welcomed the Chief Servant and his entourage. He observed that this was the first time a sitting Governor was visiting his domain on official assignment. The Emir reminded the Chief Servant of the problems of the Borgu people which the Chief Servant was not unmindful of especially as he himself had witnessed during the campaigns.

The Emir informed the Chief Servant that the Borgu Emirate had set up a Committee and charged it with the responsibility of itemizing the problems of the Borgu people which took about one year to articulate in a document tagged "Borgu Vision 2015." The Emir regretted that since the submission of the report, nothing has been done to implement it by the old



The Chief Servant receives the Borgu 'Vision 2015' document from the Emir of Borgu at the Emir's Palace

government. He noted however that with the advent of the new government of the Chief Servant, several great strides have been witnessed reinforcing their belief that all hope was not lost.

Education

On education, the Emir expressed joy at the citing of a School of Basic and Preliminary Studies in the Emirate and appealed to the Chief Servant to pay the money due to the Emirate in respect of the Education fund. The Emir also praised the efforts of the local government for rehabilitating some schools in the Emirate. He said these efforts are very commendable and will definitely enhance the quality of education in his domain and environs.

Resettlement of People Affected By Flood

In respect of resettlement of the people affected by flooding, the Emir hoped that the Emirate will enjoy the compensation due to them while urging the government not to relent on its effort at pursuing the HYPPADEC bill which will bring additional succour to the people.

Tourism

The Emir noted that the Emirate was well endowed in the tourism industry. He stated that the Emirate has just discovered an ancient cave with relics of an old empire. He said that the Mungo Park tomb in Bussa is also another tourist attraction that needs to be developed. He called on the government to develop the potentials of these tourist spots for the overall benefit of the State.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant thanked the Emir for the rousing reception. He observed that both the Emir's enthronement and his own are definitely the handiwork of God because of the trials and tribulations the Emir suffered and which he, the Chief Servant is still undergoing. He noted also that Barrister Aliyu Wara is another personality in the Emirate who also underwent trials but eventually God has given him victory.

The Chief Servant stated that in view of the way he came to power, he has resolved to deliver service to the people with the fear of Allah. He therefore called on the Emir and the people of the Emirate to support him so they could collectively develop Borgu Emirate. He noted the abject poverty in Agwara and resolved that something must be done urgently to reverse the situation.

Education

The Chief Servant informed the Emir that the School of Basic and Preliminary Studies will start off this year. He also informed the Emir that the N25million for the Borgu Emirate Education fund will be brought to him within the next three weeks after the time of visit.

The Chief Servant expressed satisfaction that the local government councils are living up to expectation and urged the Emir to continue to partner with them in order to bring more progress in education and improvement to other sectors in the Emirate.

Tourism

In respect of tourism, the Chief Servant promised to develop the cave as well as the games reserve into befitting national monuments to boost tourism.

Borgu Vision 2015

On the issue of the Borgu Vision 2015, the Chief Servant stated that the government shall study the document and see how it tallies with the State Government Vision 2020 for further implementation.

NTA and State Radio Station

On the lack of NTA or State Radio in Borgu, the Chief Servant expressed dismay but assured the Emir that government is taking measures to reverse the situation.

Closing

The Forum came to an end with the departure of the Chief Servant and entourage at 10:35am.



Pre-Forum (Borgu)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, NEW BUSSA

Venue: Government Secondary School, New Bussa
Date: March 24, 2008
Time: 11:10am

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant paid a visit to Government Secondary School, New Bussa which has been chosen as the temporary site of the proposed School of Basic and Preliminary Studies. He met with two Principals of both the senior and junior schools.

Presentation by Principals

During the interaction, the Chief Servant was dismayed to learn that the principal of the senior secondary school has not undergone any course in six years. Both principals complained about the distance of the schools to the town and the difficulties encountered by students regarding transportation.

The Principals requested internet facility for their schools.

Chief Servant's response

In order to alleviate the suffering of school children in respect of transportation, the Chief Servant directed the local government Chairman to

purchase two additional buses to complement the existing two they have. The Chief Servant pointed out that in Katsina, students pay a token amount to enjoy school township buses.

Comments on Students' Conduct and Performance

The Chief Servant was informed that the school scored 68% in NECO and 55% in the WAEC examinations. The Vice Principal, Academics (Senior) informed the Chief Servant that their students do not get involved in examination malpractices because the school ensures that students are engaged in study hours including night prep studies. The Commissioner of Education wanted to know how the students come for prep studies and the Vice Principal replied that the school PTA assists by way of transportation.

Inspection of Renovated Classroom Blocks

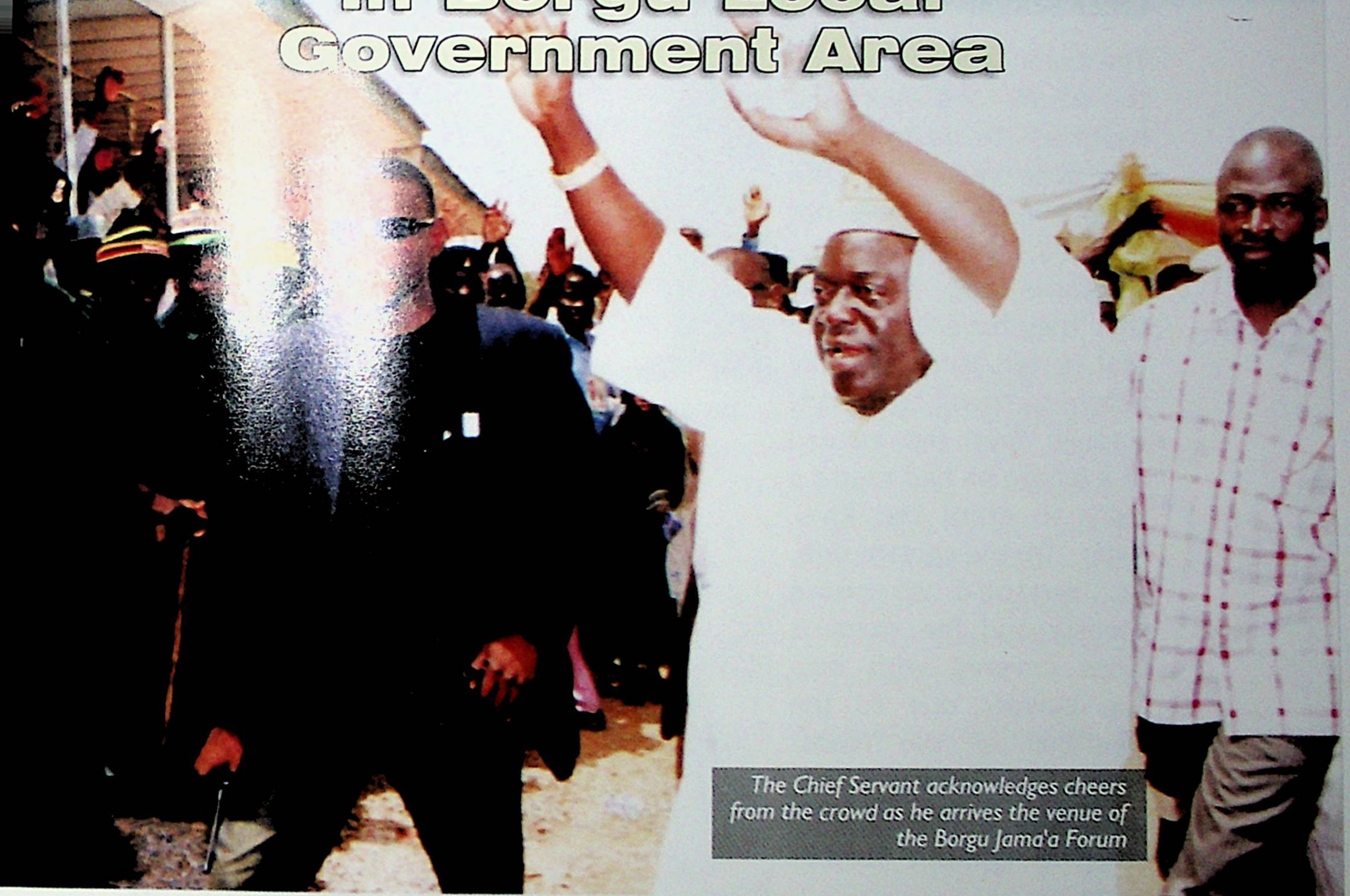
The Dodo of Wawa took the Chief Servant to a block of classrooms which he said was renovated by four local councils - Agwara and Borgu local governments, and Shagunnu and Babanna development areas.

Chief Servant's Declaration on School's New Status

The Chief Servant announced that the school (GSS, New Bussa) has been chosen as the temporary site of the new School of Basic and Preliminary Studies which shall take off before the end of the year. To this end, the Chief Servant approved the release of the sum of 10.5million Naira as takeoff grant.

The Chief Servant departed the school for the venue of the Borgu Jama'a Forum at 11:30am.

Jama'a Forum In Borgu Local Government Area



The Chief Servant acknowledges cheers from the crowd as he arrives the venue of the Borgu Jama'a Forum

Venue: Sabuke Square, New Bussa
Date: March 24, 2008
Time: 11:45am

(National Anthem)

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Borgu.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

The Chief Servant thanked the people and expressed happiness to be in Borgu. He observed that the people of Borgu have not utilized the God-given resources and potentials that they have. He stated that he left Minna the day before to travel to Agwara through Yauri but instead of a bridge he had to use a ferry to cross the River Niger. On the Agwara side, he noticed extreme poverty and the women's faces covered with dust like powder due to the condition of the roads. This situation is unacceptable and must be reversed without further delay.

The Chief Servant stated that he was informed that there are only four secondary schools in Borgu despite the fact that the children like to attend school. He expressed happiness however that the Borgu people are ready to assist government in starting off the school of Basic and Preliminary Studies this year. He asked the people to pray for the administration and to do away with the thieves among them. He also observed that because parents are unable to send their children to school, government approved a policy of payment of NECO/WAEC fees for students and another policy aimed at ensuring that as from May/June this year there will be no graduate



The Chief Servant, the Deputy Chief Servant, the Speaker of the State House of Assembly and the State Chairman of the P.D.P. observing the National Anthem at the Borgu Jama'a Forum



The Secretary to the State Government and some members of the State Executive Council at the Borgu Jama'a Forum

unemployment. A committee is in place to enlist all unemployed graduates from Niger State as well as others with little or no formal education.

The Chief Servant recalled that during the campaigns, he had promised Agwara a hospital by the grace of Allah, the fourth hospital will be built in Agwara. He advised leaders to be open, transparent and be vigilant. He added that the Judicial Commission of Inquiry has so far revealed how contracts given in 2007 are being executed today. Without the commission, such contracts would not have been executed but would have gone down the drain. He urged the people to keep their elected representatives on their toes and to demand from them information about developments affecting them.

In respect of community development, the government has approved the release of N500,000 monthly to all the wards in the State for development purposes through a Committee of Elders. On poverty alleviation, he noted that the Federal government has released N130m through PEP while the State has approved N300m for programmes aimed at the indigent in the society including widows and orphans. He explained that the two programmes known as conditional cash transfer (CCT) and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme will provide a monthly stipend for a year to beneficiaries after which they will be given a small loan for a trade or business of their own.

The Chief Servant also announced that the Bank of Industry will provide one billion Naira counterpart fund to match the State government's one billion Naira which will be used to drive the small and medium scale industries within the State.

Finally the Chief Servant called on elected representatives to work diligently and not to tamper with public resources but to hold it as a trust. He declared that he will not swear against any person who steals government funds but rather there are rules and regulations that guide the workings of government which will apply to erring officers.

REMARKS BY COORDINATOR OF NAPEP

The State coordinator of NAPEP, Alh. Iiyasu Dhacko observed that since the Chief Servant took over governance (about 8 months ago), there have been 28 different developmental projects in Borgu. He said at this rate, Borgu will turn into a small London in four years' time. He added that in the history of NAPEP, the Chief Servant is the only Governor who ever complemented NAPEP

programme with a contribution of N300m. He stated that a number of cooperatives and associations will receive cheques at the Forum from the Chief Servant and advised other interested persons to register their cooperatives in the appropriate local government offices.



The Chief Servant presenting a cheque to a representative of a beneficiary Cooperative Society under the joint state government/NAPEP Programme of Poverty Alleviation

1. Nali Cooperatives	N100,000
2. Sheri Boys Women Association	N100,000
3. Karakunde Women Cooperative Society	N100,000
4. Numa Doyagari Farmers Cooperative	N100,000
5. Malale Youth Association	N100,000
6. Suwa Kelibi Mere	N100,000
7. Nassarawa Based	N100,000
8. Islama Babanna Cooperative Society	N100,000
9. Kwankwaso Cooperative Society	N100,000
10. Kabe Cooperative Society	N100,000
11. Peace Group	N100,000

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ENTERTAINMENT

There was a sing-song praising the Chief Servant by Wasigidi musician. At the end of the performance, Senator Nuhu Aliyu promised the musician a motorcycle, while Walin Borgu promised him a Hajj seat.

Also, Ciroman Waken, Sarkin Borgu, performed to the joy of the crowd; this was followed by another performance by Yusuf Tondi from Kebbi.



A local musician thrilling the crowd at the Forum

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS (INCLUDING THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE)

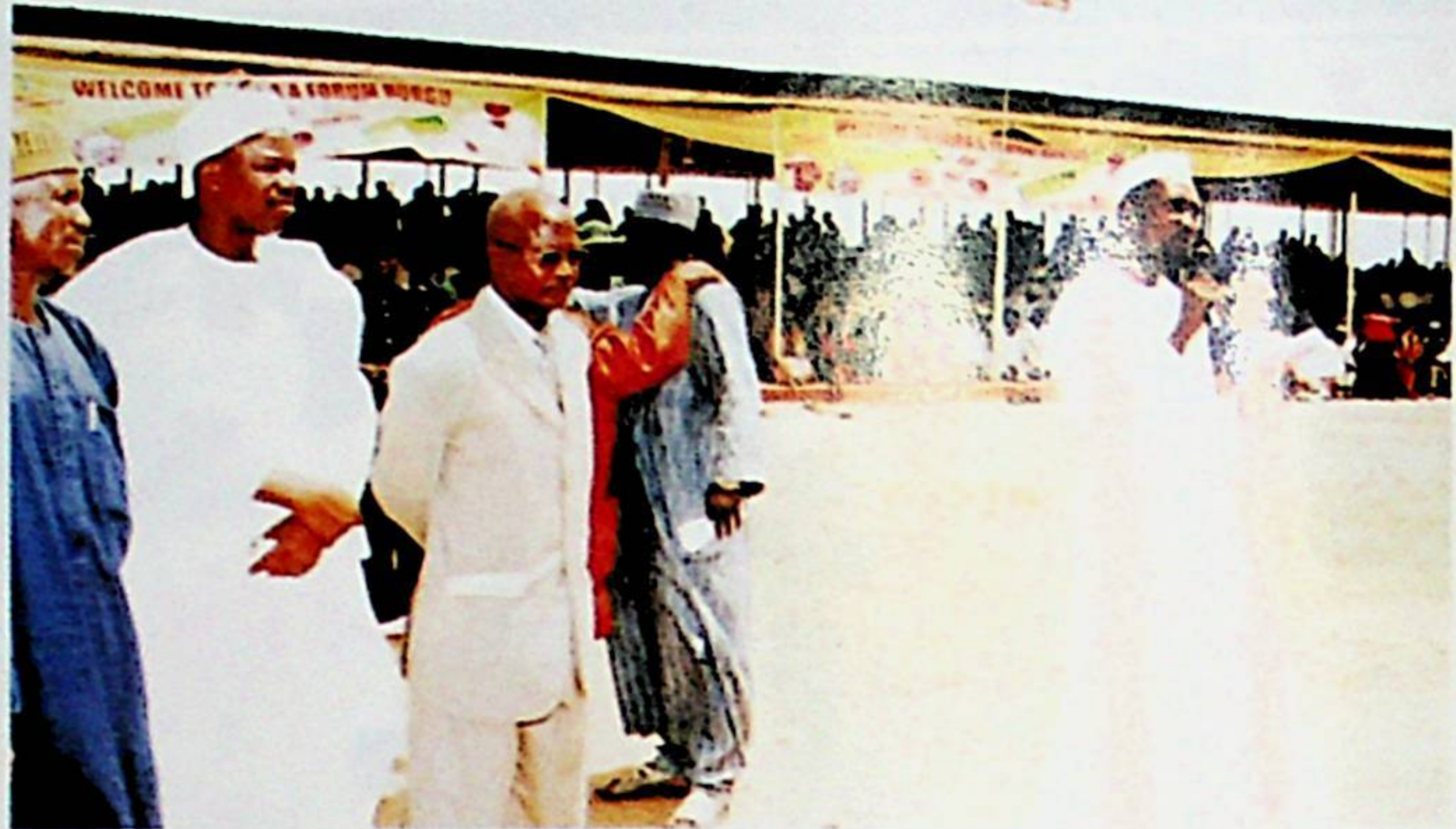
Bussa Ward

The representative, Senator Aliyu Gari acknowledged the enviable character of the Chief Servant as a man of action and integrity. He thanked the government for:

- a). Approval of 10.5 million Naira for the School of Basic and Preliminary Studies
- b). Promise of transformers and connection of electricity to the national grid
- c). Approval of 25 million Naira for the Emirate Education Fund
- d). Approval for the Emir to embark on travel
- e). Resolving the Mungo Park issue
- f). HYPPADEC
- g). Water works
- h). GSM connection (Babanna Shagunu), and
- i). the composition and work of the Caretaker committee.

Furthermore, Senator Gari requested the Chief Servant to assist with the provision of Fire service, noting that when the Secretariat was burning, nothing much could be done in the absence of anti-fire backup.

Also, he called for reinforcement of the vigilante to ensure effectiveness of security and protection of lives in the ward.



A ward representative presenting his requests while others wait to take their turn

Wawa Ward

The representative, Aliyu Adamu Barnabas remarked that the provision of water is of the utmost importance; as he noted, a jerry can of water is sold for N50.00. Also, he noted that Wawa town now enjoys electricity supply, and thereby called for the extension of the same facility to the surrounding villages of the town.

Karabundi Ward

The ward representative requested government support for the following:

- a). Roads
- b). Classrooms
- c). More boreholes
- d). Assistance for fishermen
- e). youth empowerment programme

Dugga Ward

The representative of Dugga ward, Mall. Danjuma gave a list of their wants:

- a). Request for upgrading of secondary school
- b). Need for hospital in Guffanti
- c). Rehabilitation of Sashi to Rofia road
- d). Electrification
- e). Provision of fertilizer/pesticides
- f). Youth employment, and
- g). Cable connection

Kwankwaso Ward

A list of demands provided by the ward representative included the following:

- a). Access roads
- b). Hospital
- c). Electrification of communities up to Kwankwaso and Bakin border
- d). Drinking water, and
- e). Need for a Junior Secondary School

INTERLUDE: PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

Several motorcycles and sewing machines were donated to the local government by Senator Nuhu Aliyu. The Chief Servant presented the motorcycles in the presence of the Senator and other dignitaries. Each ward received one motorcycle.

The Local Government Chairman of PDP was promised a motor vehicle by Senator Nuhu Aliyu in three weeks' time.



The Chief Servant presenting motorcycles donated by Senator Nuhu Aliyu to some beneficiaries

Also, the women's leader was presented with sewing machines by Senator Nuhu Aliyu.

Senator Aliyu stated that he had presented a bus to the immediate past Caretaker Committee for their campaigns. He promised to provide a new bus to the new Caretaker Committee.

Babanna Ward

The representative Adamu Dodo Usman made the following requests:

- a). Additional teachers to complement the only two teachers in their two secondary schools
- b). Need for an explanation as to why PTAs were cancelled in schools, and why other teaching aids were stopped.
- c). Call for the care of Babanna Road especially considering the fact that it is an international route
- d). Rehabilitation of border market
- e). Electrification
- f). Boosters, to help actualise the operations of NTA and the state radio services as it is embarrassing that people do not have access to news coverage or any media programme
- g). Fertilizers and other farming implements for farmers who are predominantly cotton producers, and
- h). Need for an explanation over the creation of local governments

Rafi Ward

The representative, Mall. Salihu Saje, stated that most communities in their ward are in the riverine area close to the dam, yet they lack electricity and other amenities. He appealed for the resettlement of Paho people who had experienced flood disaster. He added that lack of good roads due to a terrible terrain has made transportation of agricultural products difficult. Other demands included a health centre, secondary school, the king's palace, and a

bridge between old and new Awuru. (Mall. Saje noted that a claim by the former AC member that he and his party are doing the job is untrue).

Chief Servant's response

The way and manner the representative of Babanna ward presented his request was as if they were blackmailing government. As a former labour leader, the Chief Servant stated that he knows blackmail when he sees one.

Generator at Forum Venue

Meanwhile, he noted that arrangements should have been made for a power generator at the venue of the Forum even though Borgu has electricity supply.

School Principals

The Chief Servant said that it is disheartening to note that principals in the school where the Basic school will be sited have not attended any course since 2001.

Budget

He informed the gathering that once the Budget is passed for the fiscal year, government will start paying attention to schools.

International route

The Chief Servant admitted that discussions are ongoing on the issue of international market and that government will rehabilitate the road in due course.

Electricity

The Chief Servant stated that he has himself observed the erection of several poles in communities where there are no signs of electricity. He urged the people to be patient and await the outcome of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry which will unravel the issues surrounding some of the contracts that have not been executed.

GSM Providers

The Chief Servant promised to invite GSM service providers to invest in the communication business in the local government and adjoining areas.

NTA/Radio service

The Chief Servant said he has discussed the issue of lack of media service with HRH, the Emir, and government will do something soon.

Creation of Local Government

In respect of Local Government, the Chief Servant stated that by constitutional provision, the National Assembly have to approve the creation. He observed that the problem was not peculiar to Niger State alone, so government was left with no other option than to turn them into development centres. Therefore, Babanna and Shagunu will be made development centres with their own staff and resources but they will be reporting to the elected Chairmen.

Schools

The Chief Servant announced that junior and secondary schools have now been merged, so the request for either one as a unit is no longer necessary.

General Hospital

The Chief Servant admitted that Agwara and New Bussa are top on his priority list.

Roads

Rofia to Agwara road will be given priority.



The Chief Servant presented sewing machines donated by Senator Nuhu Aliyu to some beneficiaries

Agriculture

The Chief Servant stated that the Commissioner for Agriculture is a son of the soil and that fertilizer sale will commence soon. He informed them that fertilisers will enjoy 50% government subsidy and the Deputy Chief Servant will head the Committee on distribution to ensure probity and accountability.

Katafisa Ward

The ward representative requested the rehabilitation of Babanna road and appealed for more teachers in their schools.

Shagunnu Ward

The ward representative made the following requests: noted the need for the roads to be tarred, since they are usually unmotorable during the rainy season. He added that Sheshi, Sansari and other communities need water, hospital, mosque and electricity.

President, Borgu Youths

The President of Borgu Youths expressed gratitude to the Chief Servant over the payment of NECO/WAEC fees but observed that some Principals are yet to refund payments made by students. He reminded the Chief Servant of their request of 3,500KVA transformers and intimated the Chief Servant of the frosty relationship between Borgu people and the Chief Operating Officer of PHCN in Borgu who has remained insensitive to the plight of the people despite several agreements reached.

On youth empowerment, the youth leader recommended the following:

- a). Establishment of a Youth development centre in New Bussa and fulfilment of a promise to build a stadium
- b). Loan scheme for fish farming system
- c). Decentralisation of Scholarship award, and
- d). Rehabilitation of Women Development Centre.

On education, the youth leader noted that the Borgu people are grateful for the School of Basic Studies and are eager for the commencement of studies.

He observed that the Joint Account System of the past administration system crippled the Borgu people and advised against its continuance.

Finally, he called on the Chief Servant to rescue Borgu from the news blackout they are suffering by ensuring that they receive television and radio service.

Representative of the Federal College of Wildlife Management

The representative stated that the college was established 30 years ago under the auspices of FAO, UNDP and FGN, and focused on wildlife management, production and other courses accredited by government. Due to explosion in the number of students, the college is faced with several challenges including the following:

- a). Lack of access roads
- b). Need for larger theatres, lecture rooms and equipment, and
- c). Development of a tourist village

Shugaban Mahautan Borgu

The Shugaban Mahauta made the following requests:

- a). Need for a modern abattoir in Bussa because the present one is in bad shape even though the Council Chairman has tried to rehabilitate it, and
- b). Need modern Health Centres.

Malalo Ward

The ward representative requested the rehabilitation of roads and electricity for their ward.

Representative of the Fulani Community

The representative of the Fulani community expressed gratitude for the appointment of Mallam Sadiq as the Special Assistant (Nomadic Education). He

said no government has ever done the Fulani community that well in Niger State before. He requested the following:

- a). Water sources for their cattle
- b). Government to check bush burning, and
- c). Provision of adequate schools for the education of Nomadic pupils.

Chief Servant's response

Referring to the issue of Constituency Project allowance, the Chief Servant noted that the State government has released the sum of N15m to each member of the State House of Assembly, whether PDP, AC, ANPP, and the honourable members have been advised to return to their constituencies to embark on projects.

The members were charged to involve their people in instituting projects within communities. A monitoring team will soon undertake inspection of the projects.

In Agwara, the Chief Servant was impressed with the constituency office and the furniture workshop of the Hon. Member from Agwara but even at that the member is still expected to give account of how the money was spent. The Chief Servant therefore advised the people to be vigilant and demand to know from their members how the constituency allowance is spent.

Joint Account

The Chief Servant stated that the joint account was not properly run before and that gave room for abuse and misappropriation. He assured the people that there will be joint projects between the state and the local government especially on projects which the local government cannot



A cross section of the crowd at the Jama'a Forum

handle alone because the financial implication may be too much, the state government will become involved.

VOTE OF THANKS/CLOSING

The vote of thanks was said by Engineer Mahmud Umar. The National Anthem was recited at 2:40pm bringing the Forum to a close.



Post-Forum (Borgu)

**COMMISSIONING OF THE IBBI
SECRETARIAT**

Venue: Ibbi Secretariat
Date: March 24, 2008
Time: 3:15pm

[National Anthem]



The Chief Servant cuts the tape to commission the Ibbi Secretariat, Zugurma Development Council

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant stopped to commission the Ibbi Council Secretariat on his way from the Borgu Jama'a Forum.

The Chief Servant inspected the Secretariat building.

Chief Servant's Remarks

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Ibbi and praised the effort of the Council Chairman in building the Secretariat.

On constituency allowance, the Chief Servant advised the people to be vigilant and to demand accountability from their representatives. He stated that it was wrong for representatives to convert constituency project allowance for their personal use when in fact it was meant to be utilised for constituency projects. He warned that any representative who does not utilize the money properly will be apprehended and made to face the law.

On the future status of Zugurma Area council, the Chief Servant stated that it will be known as Zugurma Development Council with full complement of staff and resources but reporting to Mashegu Local government Chairman.

Response by the Sarkin Zugurma

The Sarkin Zugurma thanked the Chief Servant for the visit and praised him for the giant strides he has recorded in the short time since assumption of duty.



Response by the Council Chairman

The Chairman expressed gratitude over the commissioning of the Secretariat by the Chief Servant. He

The Chief Servant with Sarkin Zugurma delivering his remarks at the Ibbi Secretariat,

informed the Chief Servant that his people demanded nothing of him but the completion of the Secretariat building which he is proud to have accomplished. He requested the assistance of the Chief Servant to provide furniture for the secretariat. Finally, he assured the Chief Servant of the council's total support in the forthcoming local government council elections. The Chief Servant departed Ibbi at 3:40pm to Mokwa College of Agriculture.



The Chief Servant with the Council Chairman on an inspection tour of the new Secretariat



Post-Forum (Borgu)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, MOKWA

Venue: Permanent site
Date: March 24, 2008
Time: 3:55pm

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant made a brief stopover at the proposed permanent site of the College of Agriculture, Mokwa on his way from the Borgu Jama'a Forum. The College Provost was on hand to receive the Chief Servant at the site where construction work is yet to begin.

Remarks by the Provost

The Provost of the College of Agriculture, Mokwa welcomed the Chief Servant to the School. He stated that the Education Trust Fund is to assist the College in building the female hostel.

Chief Servant's Remarks

The Chief Servant stated that he was happy the school has found a way with ETF to build the permanent site of the school. He added that the State government will build 250 housing units in Mokwa and arrangement will be made to allocate 50 units to the College.

At the Old Site; Time: 4:15pm

Chief Servant's Remarks at the Old Site

The Chief Servant observed that the college should be given priority attention. After consultation with the Commissioner of Works and the Provost, the Chief Servant approved 23million Naira for the rehabilitation of the 8 hostel units. He declared however that any future development will be done at the permanent site of the college and that when the college moves to the permanent site, the old site will be turned into a Youth farm centre and integrated with the college. While promising to invite investors to help develop the college, the Chief Servant appealed to all stake holders to join hands with government in order to turn around the fortunes of the college.

The Chief Servant departed the College for Kutigi at 4:45pm.



Post-Forum (Borgu)

VISIT OF THE CHIEF SERVANT TO KUTIGI

INTRODUCTION

On arrival at Kutigi, the Chief Servant paid a visit to General Hospital, Kutigi before proceeding to the Township hall. The Chief Servant was on his way to Minna from College of Agriculture, Mokwa.

Venue: Kutigi Town hall

Date: 6:40pm

Time: March 24, 2008

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was said by Alh. Jiya

WELCOME ADDRESS BY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, LAVUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Chairman thanked the Chief Servant and expressed the gratitude of Kutigi people over the visit. He informed the Chief Servant that Kutigi people are very



The Ezonuwa of Kutigi receiving the Chief Servant

supportive of his administration because they have seen the laudable programmes of his administration. While assuring the Chief Servant of the peoples support, the Chairman appealed for government assistance to

complete the hospital and provide perimeter fencing for the Government College to avoid encroachment.

CHIEF SERVANT'S REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Kutigi for the rousing reception accorded to him and his entourage. He observed that Kutigi people are industrious, peace loving and progressive. Above all they are not hypocrites.



Chief Servant acknowledging cheers from the people at Kutigi

The Chief Servant reminded the people on the need to be law abiding and peaceful during the Local government elections next week as this will bring peace and an enduring democracy to the community. The Chief Servant remarked further on the following:

1. Hospital

The Chief Servant assured the people that the hospital which was started in 1978 will be completed by his administration, God willing.

2. Education

The Chief Servant promised to reverse the neglect in the education sector with support of teaching aids and other class room infrastructure. He assured the people that teachers and Doctors will be provided.

3. Perimeter fencing for Government College Kutigi.
The Chief Servant promised to look into this.

4. School fees

The Chief Servant stated that in this year textbooks and uniforms will be free. Already government pays NECO/WAEC fees. Indeed refunds are being made to those who already paid.



A mammoth crowd (young and old) waiting to receive the Chief Servant

5. Constituency allowance

The Chief Servant announced that the Government has released the sum of 15 million Naira to every member of the State Assembly for Constituency projects. He commended Hon. Maali and Hon. Daminu as hard working members of the Assembly working for their people's interest.

6. Ward development

The Chief Servant informed the people that government has approved a monthly allocation of N500,000 to every ward for community development projects. He advised the people to be vigilant and not to allow their money to be stolen.

The Chief Servant then presented Maaji to the people as the PDP candidate for the Chairmanship election next Saturday.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was recited at 7:10pm bringing the visit to an end.

Jama'a Forum In Sabon Wuse, Tafa Local Government Area



The Chief Servant, the Deputy Chief Servant and the Special Adviser HYPPADEC, observing the National Anthem at the Jama'a Forum, Sabon Wuse

Venue: Rural Hospital Site, Sabon Wuse
Date: March 25, 2008
Time: 12:05pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers were said by the Chief Imam of Tafa and CAN President, Mr. Emmanuel.

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Tafa local government for the rousing reception and the massive support his administration has been enjoying from them. He expressed happiness over the unity which exists among the people, a unity fostered by the absence of religious, tribal or ethnic differences and prayed for that unity to continue.

The Chief Servant explained the significance of the Jama'a Forum saying it is an avenue to interact with the people and inform them on how government generates and spends money as well as to let them know how various projects are carried out. He stated that the Forum was also an avenue for them to express themselves and to let government know how policies impact on them.

The Chief Servant also explained some of the development plans of his government which include the granting of N500,000 monthly to all the 274 wards in the State to enable each ward undertake developmental projects peculiar and beneficial to it.

With the construction of the general hospital in progress, and the additional plan for modification which he is in receipt of, the Chief Servant advised the people to be vigilant and to keep watch on the project in order to ensure probity and high standard.

On the issue of fallen standard in the educational sector, the Chief Servant said problems of congestion in classrooms and the shortage of qualified teachers remains one of his priorities. To this end, Teacher Training Colleges will be established with the aim of producing qualified teachers. The government will also reintroduce the Grade II system with teaching assistants who will be so called until they acquire the NCE qualification. In addition, students will be exempted from paying for uniforms and school textbooks as from this year; he added that government has started paying NECO/WAEC fees for students.

On the issue of poverty alleviation, the Chief Servant disclosed that the Federal government had, through NAPEP, provided the sum of N140m which the State government complemented with N300m to ensure a wider and more effective coverage. He explained some of the programmes to include the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Village Economic Empowerment Scheme which seek to place orphans and widows on a monthly stipend for a year after which they will be weaned off and given a loan to set up small businesses of their own.

The Chief Servant also spoke on the drive by his government to industrialize the State and making it one of the three best economies in the country by the year 2020. This will be done partly with the support of the Bank of Industry which promised counterpart funding



The Chief Servant explaining some development plans of his administration during his opening remarks at the forum

of N1b to match the State government's N1b. To actualize this industrialization drive, the Chief Servant hoped that by 2009, all local government areas would have established micro-finance banks as there are currently only ten in the State. It is instructive to note that the national PDP has directed all PDP States to emulate the example of Niger State in this regard.

The Chief Servant stated that he has discussed with the Minister of the FCT to ensure that Tafa benefits from the Ija Gwari Dam project. He therefore admonished the people against building or erecting structures on water pipes.

In respect of constituency projects, the Chief Servant stated that the State House of Assembly members are expected to undertake projects for the overall benefit of their people and it is wrong for some of them to go taunting the people and claiming the money as their own. He therefore promised to always consult with elected and appointed members of the government to discuss and find ways and means of solving issues.

In respect of youth employment, he stated that by May 2008, all graduates from Niger State who have registered will undergo six months of induction training in preparation for eventual employment. Other youths with minimal or no formal education will be trained in skills acquisition. On schools enrollment, he declared that about 2,200 females enrolled in six primary schools, one Girls Secondary School and one vocational college.

Finally, he emphasized that Jama'a Forum is not a political gathering but an interactive platform where all people irrespective of political or party affiliation come together to discuss issues of mutual concern. He thanked the

people and said he knows he will still come back and thank them again after the local government council elections when Samuel Gommna would have been elected, adding that he believes Samuel Gommna will work with all sense of responsibility.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS FROM DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

New Bwari Ward

Alh. Aminu, the representative stated that their major problem is that Iku and Dogun Kurmi wards need electrification.

Garam Ward

The representative of Garam ward, Mr. Victor Gimba, stated that the roads from Wuse to old Bwari, old Bwari to Ijah Gwari, Wuse to Ijah, and Gwari to Gwaka are in terrible states of disrepair.

Wuse East

Muhammadu Akawu, the representative of Wuse East said that water shortage is their major problem. He added that although the local government tried to help by building boreholes and water reservoir, the effort did little to save the situation. He also said that most villages resettled from the Federal capital, such as Sabon Wuse, have not been paid compensation.

Dogon Kurmi Ward

The representative, Auta Jimada, requested agricultural implements, such as tractors, fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides for the farmers in the ward.

Wuse West Ward

Saidu Bako, the representative, said schools in Tafa need furniture and laboratory equipment. In addition, the ward needs qualified teachers for schools, safety of children against the rampant incidence of kidnapping, more child-friendly government nursery and primary schools, and a women secondary school.

Iku Ward

Barrister Kallamu, representing Iku ward, said their major problems are acute shortage of water in Suntu and compensation were not paid to resettled villages from Federal Capital Territory.



One of the ward representatives making his requests at the Jama'a Forum, Tafa

Tafa Ward

The ward representative, Mal. Umar Bala made the following demands on:

- a). Nomadic Education
- b). Cattle route
- c). Veterinary Hospital, and
- d). Water.

Ijah Gwari

The representative, Mal. Sabo Dangana, said they wanted the construction of a road from old Bwari to cut across all ten wards in the local government area. In addition, he said they need three bridges on the existing road which is always non-motorable during the rainy season. He thanked the government for the schools at Garam and Ijah Gwari but said the classrooms are inadequate to cater for the large student population.

Zuma East

The representative, Hajiya Abu Sanadi, said they need more women involvement especially in the award and execution of contracts.

Ijah koro Ward

Speaking on behalf of the ward, Mr. Charles Abu, said that they need electricity, roads and water.

Inter-tribal Group, Tafa

The leader of Inter-tribal group, Alh. Adebayo prayed for the Chief Servant and expressed gratitude that the Commissioner for Local Government is from Wuse.

Youth Leadership, Tafa

The youth leader, Abara Dangana, wanted government action in youth empowerment and employment in general. He also called on the youth to shun violence in politics.

PRESENTATION OF NAPEP CHEQUES

The following groups were presented with cheques as beneficiaries under the NAPEP scheme:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Son Jama'a Association, Gauraka | - N100, 000 |
| 2. Azabo Association, Bwari | - N100,000 |
| 3. Akwarache Women Assciation, Ijah Koro | - N100, 000 |
| 4. Mutunchi Women Assciation, Aso | - N100, 000 |
| 5. Atenan Yanchi Women Association, Iku | - N100, 000 |
| 6. Chachi Cooperative Union | - N100, 000 |
| 7. Ajelo Women Association | - N100, 000 |
| 8. Garam Women Association | - N100, 000 |
| 9. Azhi Women Association | - N100, 000 |
| 10. Agudu tare a tsira tare mutunchi Association | - N100, 000 |

Sarkin Fulani

The Sarkin Fulani requested rehabilitation of schools, drugs for cattle, waterways for cattle and also honoured the Chief Servant by conferring on him the title of "Sardaunan Fulanin Tafa."

THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

Veterinary Issues

The Chief Servant responded to the issue of lack of doctors and veterinary drugs, he promised to act on the provision of a clinic and veterinary drugs for needy communities.

On Employment

The Chief Servant stated that by May 2008, all graduates will be gainfully employed. He said a committee is already working on drafting the youth. He further explained that skills acquisition training will be introduced for non-graduates.

To this effect, he noted that by next week (April, 2008), some youths would be sent to Sapele for underwater welding apprenticeship while red brick molding will follow thereafter. Umaru Dangana, the Youth Leader should see the Local Government Secretary and ensure the youths are enlisted.

On Rural Infrastructures

On the issue of road rehabilitation and reconstruction, the Chief Servant enjoined the people to pray for financial resources to enable government embark on these projects. He stated that indeed Munya and Agwara need special attention.



Representatives of cooperative Association and beneficiaries of the NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Scheme being introduced to the Chief Servant by the Staff Coordinator of NAPEP

The Chief Servant promised that the 7km road between Sabon Wuse and Ijah will be addressed immediately. Thus, Victor Gimba of Garam ward was asked to note.

The Chief Servant stated that the dredging of boreholes will be done through joint projects between the state and local governments and that the issue of joint account no longer exists.



A cultural display to the thrill of the crowd at the Jama'a Forum Tafa

On Electricity

The Chief Servant stated that the State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an American solar energy company in view of the gross inadequacies of the energy production of the national grid. He also stated that the government is looking into the possibility of reactivating the Rural Electrification Boards.

On Tourism - Zuma Rock

The Chief Servant promised to invite investors who will turn the Zuma Rock into a tourist haven like the Olumo Rock in Abeokuta, Ogun State. The Chief Servant added that the hotel beside Zuma Rock will also be turned over to interested investors.



The Chief Servant responding to requests made by the ward representatives

On Fertilizer

The Chief Servant stated that the government will launch fertilizer sales in a few weeks' time and the Deputy Chief Servant shall head the distribution committee to ensure that fertilizers get to the farmers directly. He advised the people to be vigilant and not to allow middlemen hijack the well intentioned policy of government.

On School Levy

The Chief Servant stated that education is free and Principals will be given imprest accounts to run schools but they are not to collect school fees from parents. However, school PTAs could levy parents for particular projects. He advised parents to write to the local government Chairman in respect of any primary school teacher who collects fees and to also write to the Commissioner of Education if any secondary school Principal collects fees. Saidu Bako of Wuse II was requested to note.

On Boarding Schools

The Chief Servant stated that in view of the dilapidated structures in schools and other unpleasant happenings associated with the boarding system, the State Government is working on a new policy of providing boarding for only schools in rural areas while schools in urban areas will be run as day schools.

On Resettlement Compensation

The Chief Servant stated that at creation, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) was supposed to assist the resettled areas. He promised to look into the issue of 'DIYA' and advised that the Tafa and Suleja local governments should come together and discuss this. Barrister Kallamu was requested take note.

On Idakoro Market and Garage

The Chief Servant stated that the Government shall invite investors to partner with Government and provide market and garage under the Private Public Partnership (PPP) arrangement. The Commissioner for Local Government and the Commissioner of Commerce/Tourism was asked to note.

On Senior and Junior Villages

The Chief Servant wondered the basis for this act of segregation and stated that clarification will be sought from Umaru Dangana.

CLOSING

The Forum came to a close with a closing prayer and the National Anthem
2:25pm.

Jama'a Forum In Sarkin Pawa, Munya Local Government Area



The Chief Servant, greeting the people on arrival
at the venue of the Jama'a Forum, Munya

Venue:

Primary School Field

Date:

March 25, 2008

Time:

5:30pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYER

The Opening prayers were said by the Chief Imam of Sarkin Pawa, Alh. Suleiman and Reverend Father Emeka Geoffrey.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CARETAKER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Chairperson, Caretaker Committee Munya Local Government Council, Mrs Grace H. Zegi (JP) welcomed the Chief Servant and his entourage. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity given to her to serve her people.

The Chairperson quickly enumerated some of the achievements and challenges recorded within the short time she assumed leadership as follows:

- a). Renovation of the burnt rural hospital
- b). Renovation of Secretariat and the construction of a gate
- c). Construction of a block of three classrooms at Dan-Daudu
- d). Construction of a block of three (3) classes and head teacher's office at Kudu primary schools
- e). A block of four classrooms at GSS Sarkin Pawa
- f). Renovation of Chibani dispensary
- g). Mararaban Dan-daudu dispensary
- h). Culvert bridge at Fuka
- i). Repair of boreholes in all the wards
- j). Construction of slaughter slab at Dan-daudu, and
- k). Construction of cattle shelters at Sarkin Pawa market.



Some dignitaries at the Jama'a Forum, Munya

The Chairperson requested assistance from the state government in the following areas:

- a). Appealed to the Chief Servant to lift the ban on employment
- b). Enlist doctors and nurses for the rural hospital in Sarkin Pawa
- c). Provision of medical drugs and equipment

- d). Provision of 500kva transformer, and
- e). Need for caterpillar grader

PRESENTATION OF MUNYA BABES FOOTBALL CLUB

The Munya Babes Football Club was presented to the Chief Servant. They had done the state proud by coming first in the youth tournament in Nigeria and second in African Federation of Youth Soccer Competition (FESOC).

The Chief Servant was presented with the trophy by the national President of FESOC.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant congratulated the Munya Babes football Club for doing the State proud and prayed for their continuous success. He also prayed for the success of the state football team, the Niger Tornadoes.

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people for the warm reception accorded him and his entourage and stated that there is need for our societies to come together and forge ahead in an atmosphere devoid of religious and ethnic sentiments. As he mentioned in Nasko and Rijau, the Chief Servant declared that what we need is educational Jihad and not unnecessary religious bickering. He expressed unhappiness at the information that some people were said to be planning a Jihad of destruction, observing that even in the days of the Holy Prophet, Jihad was a means to changing the lives of people positively. He therefore appealed for a Jihad of meaningful change, sober reflection, brotherly love and unity in diversity.



The Chairperson, Caretaker Committee Munya Local Govt. Council, delivering her welcome address at the Jama'a Forum

The Chief Servant announced that while in Tafa information reached him that the Niger State House of Assembly has passed the budget. He promised that the executive will study it and assent to it after review.

On constituency allowance given to members of the Niger State House of Assembly, the Chief Servant said that the money (N15m) belongs to the people and should be used judiciously in the overall interest of the people. He advised people to be vigilant as regards projects being undertaken on their behalf and to disregard those members who claim that the money belongs to them.

The Chief Servant expressed delight with the renovation of the burnt hospital in Sarkin Pawa and praised the Chairperson for "putting her money where her mouth is". He said any government that does not yield to the yearning and aspiration of the people is not a responsive one and should be reprimanded.

The Chief Servant also expressed delight at the massive support for Alh. Mohammed Rico. He said although the Forum is not a political platform, he used the occasion to advise Mohammed Rico to endeavour to reach people in the interior and let them know he would use their money judiciously for their benefit. He stated that he has noted the deplorable state of roads in the state, poor educational standard and facilities in schools as well as poor water supply and promised that government will do something soon.



The Chief Servant being presented with a trophy won by the Munya Babes Football Club

In respect of unemployment, the Chief Servant stated that by May 2008, all graduates from Niger State will undergo a six-month induction training before they are gainfully employed and those with little or no formal education will be trained in skills acquisition. He informed the gathering that arrangement has been concluded to send some youths for a specialised welding training course in Sapele, Delta State, while another 100 youths would also go for red brick moulding training in due course.

The Chief Servant also declared that government has approved the release of 500,000 Naira monthly in all the wards of the council area for developmental projects.

In line with the administration's poverty alleviation project, NAPEP has established the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme. The scheme would give allowance of Five Thousand Naira to widows and sponsor orphans in schools for one year after which they would be trained in skill acquisition and given a small loan to set up a small business or trade of their own. In this regard, the Chief Servant said the Federal Government, through NAPEP, provided N140m while the State Government gave N300m for poverty alleviation in the state. He advised the council to set up micro-finance institutions to facilitate the disbursement of loans to co-operatives, adding that the State has been praised by the National PDP headquarters which advised other PDP states to copy the example of Niger State in respect of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) for small and medium scale industries. He informed the people that the Bank of Industry has provided one billion Naira to match the state government's one billion Naira for industrialisation.

The Chief Servant stated that there will be free education from primary to secondary school, noting that already government has started implementing the policy of paying WAEC and NECO examinations fees for all students in Niger State.

On the shortage of qualified teachers in schools, he said it will soon be a thing of the past because the government has re-introduced the Grade II system of teacher training to hasten the availability of qualified teachers. He added that two schools from each zone will be converted to Teacher Training Colleges.



The Chief Servant with HRH the Emir of Minna & the Hon. Comm. of Education conferring on an issue at the Jama'a Forum, Munya

He promised that the sale of fertilizers would commence next, stating that the State government will subsidize the fertilizer price by 50% to assist farmers. He warned that anyone caught selling fertilisers at unofficial prices will face the full wrath of the law. He advised people to be vigilant and to check any sharp practices. In addition, tractors will be hired through cooperatives and not through individuals to ensure standard accountability.

On the issue of water and roads, the Chief Servant stated that there will no longer be joint account but the government will utilise a policy of joint projects on a basis of 60:40 which will be open and transparent. In response to electrification, the Chief Servant said government is thinking of reverting to the old REB in order to reduce the challenges faced by PHCN. Meanwhile, the Chief Servant said an MOU has been signed to provide solar energy for electricity

PRESENTATION OF NAPEP CHEQUES

The Coordinator, NAPEP presented the following cooperative associations with cheques under the poverty alleviation scheme:

1.	Zumunchi Women Development Association	-	N100,000
2.	Sarkin Pawa Youth Association	-	N100,000
3.	Ariyaye Multi Purpose Development Association	-	N100,000
4.	Nasara Bako Daga Association	-	N100,000
5.	Agbagiza Daza	-	N100,000
6.	Achiachagwa Development Association	-	N100,000
7.	Dan Daudu Youth Association	-	N100,000
8.	Igwe Beke Development Association	-	N100,000
9.	Alaytun Multi Purpose development Association	-	N100,000
10.	Gini Matasa Progressive	-	N100,000

PRESENTATION OF BOOKS AND READING MATERIALS

The Chief Servant presented some books and other reading materials, to illustrate the policy of government on education, to the Secretary, Caretaker Committee of the Local Government.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS (INCLUDING CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE)

Sarkin Pawa Ward

The ward representative, Alh. Idi Yakassai made the following requests:

- a). Low cost housing units in all Local Governments
- b). Need electrification in the new settlements
- c). Fertilizers and other farm implements
- d). Provision classroom materials like chalks

He expressed gratitude to government on the refund of NECO/WAEC fees to their wards, and sought explanation on the term "Chief Servant".

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant explained that he chose to be addressed so because he believed in the servant leadership concept which he espoused at the inception of his administration. He added that he discarded the term "Excellency" because he believes it should be reserved for Presidents and sovereigns of other countries.

In respect of low cost housing the Chief Servant promised that government shall build houses in all local government areas.

On the issue of chalk, the Chief Servant stated that it does not stop school PTAs from assisting schools even though each Principal will be provided with imprest for chalks and other sundries.



The Chief Servant presenting a cheque to a beneficiary of the Niger State/NAPEP Programme on Poverty Alleviation

Dangunu Ward

Alh. Musa Husseini, the ward representative made the following requests:

- a). Wide drainages to prevent erosion and flooding
- b). Provision of electrical lines to already installed poles, and
- c). Schools

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant called on the people to support the candidacy of Rico to enable government work to provide for the people. He also promised to investigate the issue of missing poles in order to ascertain if the matter should be before the Judicial Commission of Inquiry or not.

Kuchi Ward

The ward representative expressed gratitude over the free education policy of government. He reminded the Chief Servant of his promise to provide them with electricity as well as resurfacing of roads.

Kabula Ward

Alh. Abubakar Babanladi who represented the ward requested the following:

- a). Repair of 3 kms road leading to Kasuwar Zazzaga
- b). Infrastructure for schools
- c). Provision of drinking water, and
- d). Rebuilding of the Palace

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant promised that by the grace of God, the road to Kasuwar Zazzaga will be repaired.

Guni Ward

Alh. Mohammed Lawal, the ward representative assured the Chief Servant that his ward will support Rico unanimously in the forthcoming council elections. He requested the following:

- a). Adequate classrooms for the Senior Secondary school
- b). Rehabilitation of hospital

- c). Provision of electricity, although there are electrical poles
- d). Construction of the 6kms Bega to Guni road

The representative also announced that Guni people have crowned the Chief Servant as the "Shugaban Talakawa"

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the Commissioner of Education has noted the issues raised and these will be addressed accordingly.

Kazai Ward

The ward representative Mallam Salihu made the following requests:

- a). Repair of Roads in Kazai Gwari, Ekwa and Kadara
- b). drinking water
- c). Hospital, and
- d). Repair of mosque

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant advised Muslims and Christians to contribute in the rehabilitation of their places of worship and to see such acts as a form of reward. He declared that a committee will soon be constituted to advise on the issue of religious buildings.

Gini Ward

The representative of Gini Ward, Captain Sale appealed for the rehabilitation of Kwakuti to Ishau road.

Dan Daudu Ward

Alh. Shehu Dan-daudu, the ward representative made a request for the provision of transformers for their area.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant promised to unravel the issues of Fuka and Dan-Daudu transformers.

The Chief Servant noted that work will be done on Kwakuti-Ishan road if not this year, then definitely before 2011.

He further directed the Commissioner of Education to look into the call for the sustenance of the College.

Fuka Ward

Alh. Abubakar requested the following on behalf of the ward:

- a). Repair of Gwada-Kafinkoro road to enable easy conveyance of agriculture products
- b). Provision of classrooms for the Government Secondary school which shares facilities with the primary school, and
- c). Electricity for the hospital

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant responded that there will be electricity at the General Hospital once the issue of transformers is settled. On the issue of roads, he said that Senator Dahiru Awaisu has also made a good case for the road, so government will respond positively.

Daza Ward

Alh. Barazana, who represented the ward made the following request:

- a). Repair of the bridge which has caused accidents due to its terrible condition
- b). Appealed for the resolution of the problem of transformers for Fuka, Daza and Dan-daudu, and
- c). Request for a college

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant promised to unravel the issue of transformers.

Beni Ward

Alh. Haruna Beni, the representative reminded the Chief Servant of his campaign promises and appealed for a secondary school.

The representative also called for the construction of the 7kms Adunnu to Beni road which was started during the IBB regime but yet to be completed. He also appealed for the construction of Beni to Guni road.

Finally, he called on the rehabilitation of the Dagaci's palace.

Women Leader

Madam Aminat Abdulsani, the representative, requested for:

- a) establishment of banks because several robberies are being recorded in Munya due to lack of banks, and
- b) Women's empowerment in terms of political appointment.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant assured the women that Senator Dahiru Awaisu, the Emir and himself will ensure women's upliftment and their empowerment.

Sarkin Fulani, Kuchi

Alh. Mohammed Yako, the Sarkin Fulanin Kuchi, expressed gratitude over the Chief Servant's visit. He made the following requests:

- a). Veterinary Clinic and drugs for cattle
- b). Water holes for cattle
- c). Pathways for cattle, and
- d). Nomadic Education

The Sarkin Fulani presented the Chief Servant with a glass framed portrait of the Chief Servant.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant thanked the Fulani community and observed that their problems are the same all over. He assured them that the Special Assistant (Nomadic Education) will articulate their problems for government attention. He stated that government is working towards appointing veterinary doctors at competitive salaries to boost health care delivery in that sector.

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Chairman

The CAN Chairman thanked the Chief Servant for the visit, declaring that he is God sent. He made the following requests:

- a). Rehabilitation of the Education Authority which he says is in ruins
- b). Payment of "PDP" teachers who are yet to be paid
- c). Presentation of a bus to Christians for conveying the sick to hospital
- d). Creation of a welfare board, and
- e). Appointment of CRK teachers in Munya.

Chief Servant's response

In his response to a number of issues raised, the Chief Servant confirmed that Samuel Shaba and Amb. Bawa Salka shall coordinate activities of the welfare board.

To avoid abscondment in the holy land, the Chief Servant advised on proper screening of intending pilgrims.

On CRK teachers, he is saddened by the lack of specialised teachers citing an example of a school he visited where the chemistry students claimed that they have never seen a chemical reaction.

On PDP teachers, The Chief Servant said that government will employ them if they are qualified.

Presentation by Fishermen Association

In appreciation of his visit, the Fishermen Association presented a big fish to the Chief Servant.

Closing

The Forum came to a close with the recitation of the National Anthem at 7:35pm.



Post-Forum (Munya)

THE COMMISSIONING OF MARRABAN DAN DAUDU DISPENSARY

Following projects were to have been commissioned during the Jama'a Forum that was held on March 25, 2008 but had to be postponed to April 8, 2008 due to time constraint.

Venue: Marraban Dan Daudu
Date: April 8, 2008
Time: 10:15am

INTRODUCTION

The dispensary at Mararraban Dan Daudu was newly built by the Munya Local Government Caretaker Committee headed by Mrs. Grace H. Zagi. It was among several projects billed to be commissioned by the Chief Servant during the Jama'a Forum at Munya but was postponed to April 8, 2008.

COMMISSIONING

The Chief Servant commissioned the dispensary to the glory of Allah and the benefit of the people of Dan Daudu.

REQUEST BY THE PEOPLE OF DAN DAUDU

The people of Dan Daudu used the opportunity of the commissioning to make the following requests to the Chief Servant:

- a). Provision of drinking water, and
- b). Electricity

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant instructed the new Chairman of Munya, Alh. Mohammed A. Ricco to put in place a stepdown transformer which will enable Dan Daudu village to enjoy electricity.

The Chief Servant departed Dan Daudu village at 10:30am for Chibani.



Post-Forum (Munya)

THE COMMISSIONING OF CHIBANI DISPENSARY

Venue: Chibani Village
Date: April 8, 2008
Time: 10:45am

INTRODUCTION

From Dan Daudu village, the Chief Servant arrived at Chibani village where he also commissioned a dispensary.

PRAYERS BY THE CHIEF IMAM OF CHIBANI

The Chief Imam of Chibani prayed for the Chief Servant and prayed Allah to protect, guide and grant him the wisdom to continue piloting the affairs of the State.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MATRON/NURSE

The Matron/Nurse on duty welcomed the Chief Servant and his entourage and thanked him for the visit and the commissioning of Chibani dispensary.

INSPECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF DISPENSARY

The Chief Servant inspected the dispensary from room to room. He commissioned the dispensary to the glory of Allah and for the people of Chibani as well as humanity.

The Chief Servant departed Chibani village for Senior Secondary School, Sarkin Pawa, at 11 :00am.



THE COMMISSIONING OF BLOCKS OF CLASSROOMS IN SARKIN PAWA

to: Senior Secondary School, Sarkin Pawa
date: April 8, 2008
time: 11:15am

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the staff and students of the school for the rousing welcome. He thanked Allah for the progress made so far; he charged the staff and management of the school to put in their best in the overall interest of the students.

INSPECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF CLASSROOM BLOCKS

The Chief Servant inspected and commissioned four blocks of classrooms built by the Munya Local Government Caretaker Committee headed by Mrs. Grace Zegi.

He also inspected a new block of red bricks classrooms under construction by the Minna Emirate Education Foundation, and another block of classrooms under construction by the Education Trust Fund (ETF).

HOSTELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Chief Servant remarked that the hostels, when completed, should be utilized to accommodate those students from outside Sarkin Pawa.

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS

Miss Tina Joy Shashere, on behalf of Geography students, thanked the Chief Servant for visiting the school and enjoined him not to relent in his efforts at improving the standard of education in their school and in the state generally.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE TO THE STUDENTS

The Chief Servant informed the students that he has taken the school as a personal project and advised them to be of good conduct and to take their studies seriously and make good results in order to become one of the best schools in Niger State.

The Chief Servant departed the school for Sarkin Pawa Rural Hospital at 11:35am.



COMMISSIONING OF THE SARKIN PAWA RURAL HOSPITAL BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

Rural Hospital, Sarkin Pawa
April 8, 2008
11:50am

[NATIONAL ANTHEM]

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayer was said by the Chief Imam and Reverend John B. Garuba.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE IMMEDIATE PAST CARETAKER CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Servant and his entourage to Sarkin Pawa and expressed gratitude that the Chief Servant could find time to come for the commissioning.

She recalled that at the time she assumed duty as Chairperson of the Caretaker Committee, she met a turbulent political terrain which she was able to successfully navigate.

She stated that the last time any project was executed in Munya local government was in 2002. Poverty has eaten very deep into the communities as there are no accessible roads into the interior to convey farm produce to the markets and no drinking water.

Against this background, the Chairperson said her council did not fold its arms but decided to embark on extensive mobilization, reconciliation and confidence boosting efforts which provided the enabling environment for the execution of projects.

The Chairperson stated that the Sarkin Pawa rural hospital that is about to be commissioned was initiated in 2001 by the Kango administration. Three

successive administration later, the hospital remained un-commissioned until April 2006 when it was gutted by fire, and equipment and drugs worth 15million Naira were destroyed.

According to the Chairperson, her council was faced with the daunting task of putting the hospital structure in place and ready for today's commissioning. She hoped that this will serve as a befitting legacy of the Chief Servant's administration which the people of Sarkin Pawa will forever remember.

Finally, she called on the Chief Servant to assist the hospital with following:

- a). Qualified medical Doctors and Nurses
- b). Drugs and hospital equipment
- c). Theatre, and
- d). Ambulance

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Sarkin Pawa for the rousing reception accorded him and his entourage. He expressed happiness and was thankful to Allah that the hospital was at last being commissioned. He stated that people wondered why he came to visit the burnt down hospital and the Sarkin Pawa secondary school. He explained that he was told that for several years Sarkin Pawa had no befitting secondary school and that is why he decided, together with the Emirate Education Foundation, to rehabilitate the secondary school.

The Chief Servant traced his special attachment to Sarkin Pawa to his childhood days and the fond memories he still has of Sarkin Pawa. With the cooperation of the people he promised to make Munya local government a shining example.

The Chief Servant also expressed happiness that the newly elected Chairman is a mature man who took over from a 'great woman'. He called on the people of Munya to support the new Chairman so that he will succeed.

The Chief Servant however expressed unhappiness with the attitude of the Honourable Member representing Munya at the National Assembly, Honourable Pius Wakili. He called on Munya people to demand more from the member and to make him realize that opposition does not pay. The Chief Servant wondered why a representative of the people would stay away from occasions like this where projects that impact positively on the lives of his people are being commissioned.

In respect of the hospital about to be commissioned, the Chief Servant stated that the sum of 18 million Naira will be spent to provide facilities like mortuary, a walkway, a generator and a borehole. In addition, another building block will be built to upgrade the hospital into a befitting one. The Chief Servant then directed the Commissioner of Health to provide an ambulance within 2 weeks and to ensure that other hospital equipment are provided as a matter of urgency. He thereafter commissioned the hospital to the glory of God and benefit of the people of Munya.

STATEMENT OF THANKS BY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of Munya Local Government Council, Alh. Mohammed Ricco thanked the Chief Servant for visiting Munya and commissioning the projects. He stated that the Chief Servant's vision is in line with the ideals and aspirations of the people of Munya. He called on Munya people to reciprocate the Chief Servant's love by doing good.

He also informed the Chief Servant that the people of Munya have demanded that the secondary school be renamed "Da Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu Secondary School" in appreciation of all the good that the Chief Servant is doing for them.

Finally, Alh. Ricco called on the member representing them at the State House of Assembly, Honourable Pius Wakili to eschew politics of bitterness and rancour and join hands with them to ensure the peace and development of Munya Local Government.

CLOSING PRAYERS.

The closing prayers was offered by Reverend John B. Garuba and the Chief Imam of Sarkin Pawa.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was observed at 12:40pm bringing the event to an end.

Jama'a Forum In Lapai, Lapai Local Government Area



School children lined the streets to welcome the Chief Servant to Jama'a Forum, Lapai

Venue: Muhammadu Kobo Secondary School, Lapai
Date: March 26, 2008
Time: 12:15pm

[National Anthem]

OPENING PRAYERS

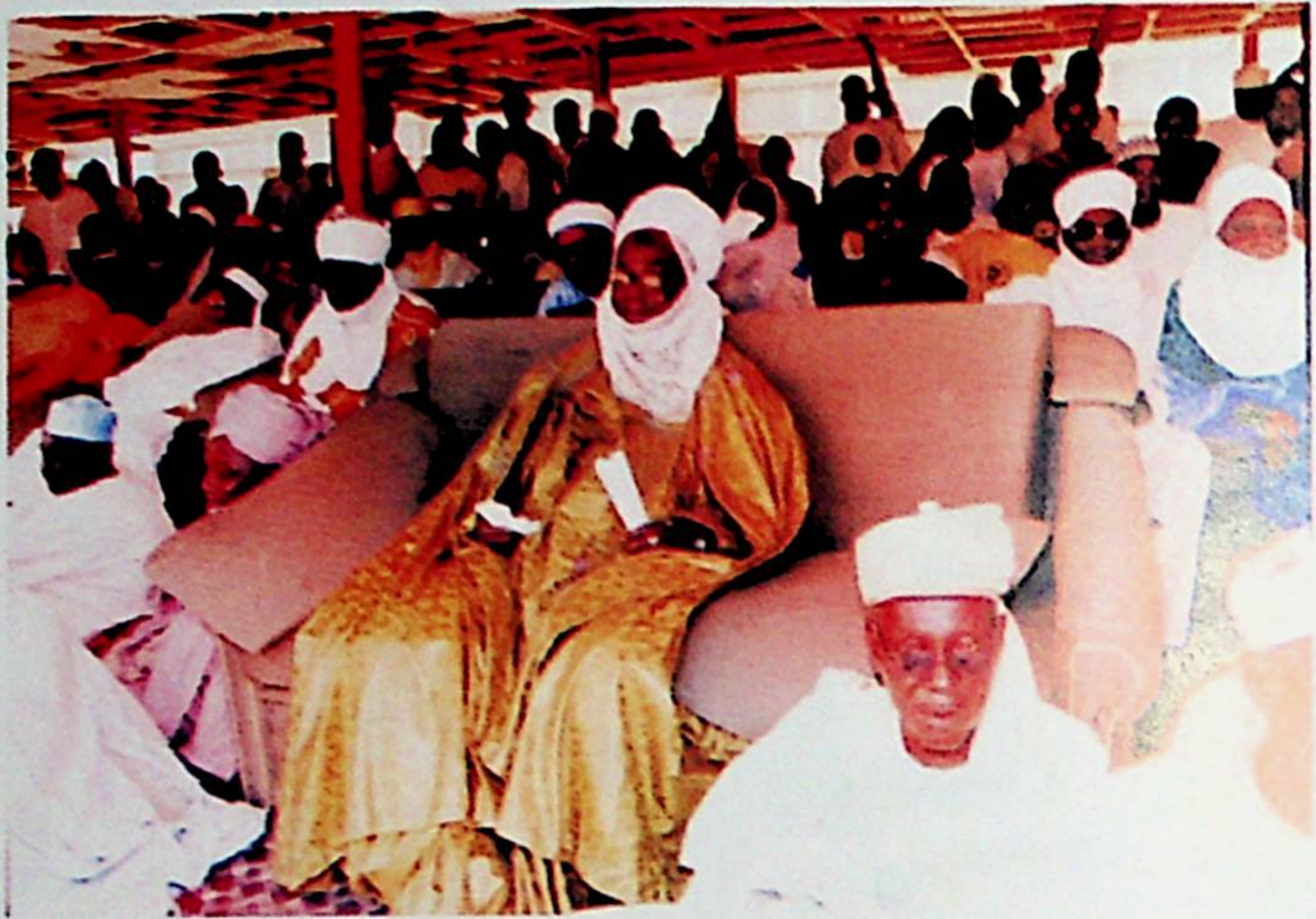
The opening prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Lapai.

THE CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Lapai for the rousing welcome accorded him and his entourage. He began by introducing the Deputy Chief Servant, the State PDP Chairman, the Secretary to the State Government, Chief of Staff, Commissioners and other top government functionaries in his entourage.

The Chief Servant also introduced the State Coordinator of NAPEP. He informed the people that Niger State has been chosen among 12 states in a pilot scheme under the poverty alleviation programme of NAPEP. According to him, this involves providing for the less privileged in the society for a period of one year after which they will be given loans to set up their own small businesses. He added that the Federal Government has released the sum of One Hundred and Forty million Naira (N140m) while the state government provided Three Hundred million Naira (N300m) for the two programmes known as Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Village Economic Empowerment Scheme.

On fertilizers, the Chief Servant declared that fertilizer sale will begin in a few weeks time at 50% government subsidy. He advised people to be vigilant and ensure that middlemen and other unscrupulous persons do not hijack the well



His Royal Highness, the Emir of Lapai at the Jama'a Forum



On arrival at any Jama'a Forum venue, the Chief Servant in his characteristic manner makes the round greeting the people before taking his seat

intentioned government policy. The distribution and implementation will be headed by the Deputy Chief Servant.

In respect of education, the Chief Servant lamented over the deplorable condition of schools in the state. He recalled that once upon a time, classrooms used to contain only 40 students but today, some classrooms have excess of 100 students. He observed also that some teachers are not as proficient as the students they teach. This situation is unacceptable and must be rectified.

In addition, the Chief Servant announced the return of teacher training colleges which will produce teachers to be known as teaching assistants. There will be two teacher training schools in each zone. In this zone, Gulu and the Teachers' Colleges have been chosen.

The Chief Servant also announced that by May 2008, all unemployed graduates from Niger State will benefit from a six-month induction course which will prepare them for gainful employment. Others with no or formal education will also benefit from this policy.

In respect of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU), the Chief Servant debunked rumours that government intends to abolish the university. He stated that this was the handiwork of detractors as government has no such plans; rather, the government is intent on reforming the accounting system of the university. He added that the university has come to stay for the benefit of our children and grand children but that the crucial issue has been the argument that since all local government councils are involved in the institution's funding, it is only reasonable that they benefit. This is why schools of Preliminary and Basic Studies are being established and affiliated to the university.

On drinking water, the Chief Servant assured the people that the Federal Government will construct the Lapai/Agaié dam and the Niger State Government will lay pipes for the water supply to Lapai and Agaié towns. The Chief Servant declared that he will formally present the Niger State Development Action Plan which will contain programmes and policies of government. He therefore advised the people to peruse the plan and see what their communities will benefit in terms of basic amenities and to feed government back on their needs where necessary.

On roads, the Chief Servant stated that all road projects by his government will be completed. He assured the people that his government will not leave

abandoned projects and that he is aware of Hon. Magaji Usman's motion on abandoned projects before the State House of Assembly.

On his relationship with former Governor Kure, the Chief Servant stated that his relationship is not frosty but cordial. He said hypocrites will soon be exposed and that those who claim to be 'hounded' are only being called to answer to the state Judicial Commission of Inquiry. The Chief Servant recalled the history behind the setting up of the Commission of Inquiry right from the formation of the debt reconciliation committee to the seeming inability of the EFCC until the decision was taken to set up the Judicial Commission of Inquiry after several options were suggested. He stated that anyone who says the Committee was established to hound and victimise people is only being mischievous.

The Chief Servant reaffirmed his confidence in his trusted lieutenants like the Deputy Chief Servant, the Secretary to the State Government, the Chief of Staff, etc and that they must ensure written approval by him for any given instruction.

The Chief Servant declared that elected representatives including himself are servants and the people are masters who can call the servants to explain whatever decision the servants may have taken. He said the delay in executing some projects was due to the time taken to review them in the overall interest of the state.

He concluded that the State House of Assembly has passed the budget only yesterday (March 25) and that the executive will peruse it before assenting.

NAPEP PROGRAMME ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The State Coordinator of NAPEP requested everyone to stand up and acknowledge the Chief Servant for his stand in alleviating poverty in the state. He also recognized the efforts of Senator Zainab Kure who is the chairperson at the Senate Committee on poverty



Senator Zainab Kure presenting a cheque to a beneficiary of the joint Niger State/NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Programme

alleviation. He praised the efforts of Lapai Local Government which has executed 26 projects so far and then imagined what Lapai local government would be like in the next few years going at this rate.

The coordinator then called on the Chief Servant to present cheques to beneficiaries under the NAPEP programme.

1.	Evuti Mata Arewa Women	-	N100,000
2.	Nandiya Farmers Cooperative Society	-	N100,000
3.	Sawa Lapai Cooperative Society	-	N100,000
4.	Yeborolo Women Cooperative	-	N100,000
5.	Mala Yanzu Cooperative Association	-	N100,000
6.	Eshif Investment Cooperative	-	N100,000
7.	Old Kind Poultry Farmers	-	N100,000
8.	Dan Malle Women Cooperative	-	N100,000
9.	Gulu Vatsa Community Cooperative	-	N100,000
10.	Kpati Atsa Yakuta Women Cooperative	-	N100,000

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GOURPS AND WARDS (INCLUDING THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE)

Arewa Yamma Ward

Alhaji Ahmadu Zango stated that even though the gathering was not political, they wanted to show appreciation by honouring the Chief Servant with the title of "Good Brother".

They also wished to thank and express gratitude to the Chief Servant for those projects that he promised them. The representative stated that they have sighted surveyors working at the low cost site. In addition, the ward requested for drinking water, considered as their most pressing need.

Gabas Kudu Ward

Alh. Wakili Dogon Tella introduced himself as the PTA Chairman of several schools. He praised the Chief Servant in Hausa by stating "Bakin tukunya mai

fidda farin tuwo". He expressed gratitude for government policy of free education and of paying students' NECO/WAEC fees. He also requested the Chief Servant to clear the air on rumours making the rounds that the government will not give Lapai people contracts.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant responded that such a rumour is the work of mischief makers.

Takuti Shaku

Alh. Sule Gabi stated that his ward is the largest in Lapai local government area and therefore the ward's needs are enormous. He explained that Bargu, Gabi, Ndagi, Efugi and Shako have electric poles and lines including transformers but are yet to be connected to the national grid. They need transformers for Ndeji and Dakuma while Tako, the largest village in the local government, lacks electricity.

He added that the access road that links to Gurara local government has been graded but yet to be tarred. The ward requires a standard rural health facility. Gabi village also requires classrooms to promote educational development.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the Commissioner of Education has taken note and will implement the policy which provides that any community that puts up 30% of any project will enjoy the government's subsidy to complete the project.

On electricity, the Chief Servant stated that government is thinking of returning to the old Rural Electrification Board (REB). He added that government has also signed an MOU with a solar energy company.



A cross section of Royal dignitaries listening to the proceedings of the forum

Birnin Maza Ward

Alh. Abubakar thanked the Chief Servant for the primary schools provided in the ward. He stated their problems as follows:

- a). Poles have been installed but no light
- b). Dangana - Maijaki - Kango road not accessible
- c). No road from Duma to Mayaki
- d). Poles have been installed at Taka Lafiya to Tango but no light
- e). Main road to Dangana needs electrification, and
- f). No teachers in schools

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant noted that the new policy on the recruitment of teaching assistants will take care of the problem of under staffing.

On electricity and poles, he called for patience and positive expectation of the report of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry.

The Chief Servant stated that the Commissioner of Works is working on the issue of road network, and added that it is instructive to note that there are local government, state and federal government roads. He referred to the advantage of joint projects where necessary, otherwise each level of government will handle its own.

Duma Zago

Alh. Adamu Abdullahi, the representative, stated the following problems:

- a). Lack of electricity due to faulty transformer
- b). Zago-Guruci road is in terrible state of disrepair, and
- c). They need government assistance to rebuild the existing Junior Secondary School.

The Chief Servant's response

The Local Government Chairman and Hon. Usman Magaji are advised to note the request on the faulty transformer. On the rebuilding of the school, the Chief Servant promised that it will be done.

Gulu Anguwa/Gulu Vatsa

The representative, Alh. Aliyu Vulegbo stated his ward's needs as follows:

- a). He prayed for the completion of the Hospital in Gulu
- b). Requested assistance for the repair of roads and boreholes
- c). Expressed gratitude for the position of Commissioner for Health
- d). Appealed for the completion of the Yaba-Gulu road started 20 years ago but abandoned
- e). the rehabilitation and embankment of Gulu-Legbo-Rafi road, always inaccessible during rainy season, and
- f). Request that WTC be upgraded to a full fledged tertiary institution.

Chief Servant's response.

The Chief Servant promised to look into all the issues raised.

Ebbo/Gbachiku

The ward representative Mohammadu Gana requested the following:

- a). Repair of Lapai-Muye road
- b). The relocation of General Hospital to Gulu
- c). Shortage of teachers in schools, a situation which has caused Yebo students to act now as teachers
- d). All three transformers in Ebbo are faulty and not functional, and
- e). he called on the Chief Servant to mend his relationship with former Governor Kure.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant noted that his relationship with the former governor is cordial, adding that they have since discovered the mischief of hypocrites at work.

On transformers, the Chief Servant was surprised that all three could be faulty at the same time. He directed the local government Chairman to immediately look into the matter.

Muye Gbako Ward

Alh. Nda Ebo who represented the ward made the following observations and requests:

- a). Need for speed bumps in Lapai town to check speeding vehicles
- b). General hospital transformer has been faulty for the past six months
- c). Need for boreholes, and
- d). a request for a road to link the venue of Forum to Muye Gbako ward.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that government shall look into the issue of bumps and if resources become available the road will be dualised.

In respect of the transformer at the General hospital, the Chief Servant noted that the administration was informed that it has been bad since it was brought, and he promised to look into the matter.



The Chief Servant enjoys a light moment with the Deputy Chief Servant and Senator Kure after responding to requests by ward representatives

Evuti Pada Ward

Alh. Abubakar Adamu Evuti, the ward representative, made the following requests:

- a). Need for government assistance to construct the network of roads linking Pada, Peleni, likidi, and Ebbo, estimated at N500m; the community has gathered about N1m
- b). The repair of Gulu-Ewugi-Evuti-Ebbo road network noted as the first motorable way in the land but which is now in a very terrible state of disrepair
- c). Repair of the bridge along Ebbo-Magaji pass
- d). Request for laboratories and teachers in Evuti Secondary Schools, and
- e). Need for transformers in Pelemi, Evuti and Pada communities.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that all the issues raised have been noted and that government will liaise with strong representatives like Baba Shehu to assist.

Gupa Ward

The ward representative, Alh. Nasidi Alhassan stated the following:

- a). Wanted special recognition for the Commissioner of Education; happy that there is a new PDP in Lapai local government; and appealed to Lapai people to shun violence and other anti party activities
- b). Wanted the junior secondary school in the ward to be upgraded
- c). Appealed for the construction of Evuti-Gupa-Lambata road which the Chief Servant promised during campaign
- d). Requested for a hospital which was also earlier promised, and
- e). Wanted to know if the constituency allowance has been given to Hon. Magaji because his ward also needed some allocation for projects.

The Chief Servant's response

In respect of upgrading of the junior secondary school, the Chief Servant stated that there is no longer a demarcation between junior and secondary school systems.

On the issue of constituency allowance, he advised people to shun rumour mongering. He promised to look into this and other issues raised.

Wakilin Fanni

The Wakilin Fanni, h. Abdullahi made the following requests:

- a). Drinking water for themselves and their cattle
- b). Veterinary clinic and drugs, and
- c). Establishment of nomadic schools in the area.

Lapai Emirate Students Association (President of Students Union)

The President of the Students Union, who represented the Lapai Emirate Students Association, made the following requests:

- a). Appealed to the Chief Servant to visit IBB University
- b). Wanted the University to offer admission into preliminary studies, and
- c). Requested for the payment of students' scholarship which has not been effected since 2007.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant responded that by law, the State Governor is the Visitor to the University, and he has to have a major reason to visit the institution.



A cross section of the people at the Jama'a Forum, Lapai

On academic programmes at the institution, the Chief Servant stated that a committee has been set up in respect of issues relating to the University. The committee is to submit a report in four weeks' time, but since the SSG and the Commissioner for Education are present at the Forum, they have noted the issue and will look into it.

Also, the Chief Servant informed the students that a committee is in place on youth empowerment and related issues that will advise government accordingly. The Chief Servant invited the Student Union President to meet with him in Minna the following Tuesday.

PRESENTATION

The Chairman of the Party was advised to see Alh. Baba Shehu to collect a number of motorcycles for distribution.

VOTES OF THANKS/CLOSING

The Commissioner for Health gave the vote of thanks. The National Anthem was recited at 3:00pm bringing the Forum to a close.

Jama'a Forum In Agaie, Agaie Local Government Area



The Emir of Agaie waiting to receive the Chief Servant at the Jama'a Forum , Agaie

Venue: Emir's Palace, Agaie
Date: March 26, 2008
Time: 5:30pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was said by Garkuwan Agaie.



The Chief Servant and other dignitaries observing the National Anthem at the Jama'a Forum, Agaie

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

The Chief Servant began by congratulating the Deputy Chief Servant for the double celebration of taking a new bride and the recent conferment of the title of "Santurakin Kontagora."

He also acknowledged the Speaker of the State House of Assembly and praised the House for passing the budget which he said would be carefully perused before signing.

The Chief Servant stated that the gathering was not a political one. He said top government functionaries including all the big PDP stalwarts in Agaie gathered to brainstorm and chart a new course for Agaie. According to him, the Commissioner for Education was conspicuously present because the issue of education is considered a high priority.

The Chief Servant added that Engr. Dabban, the Special Adviser on HYPPADEC and Roads, was present to reassure the people that the roads promised for Agaie will be done by the grace of Allah.

The Chief Servant then informed the people that government has taken policy decisions in respect of the following:

- a). All 274 wards in the State will enjoy monthly allocation of N500,000 for community development projects;
- b). The indigent in the society will be accommodated under the NAPEP programme of conditional cash transfer [CCT] and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme. These programmes seek to provide some allowances to beneficiaries for one year after which they will be weaned off and provided with a loan to set up a small business;
- c). The Bank of Industry is to assist the State in its industrialisation drive. As a result, all local government councils should ensure that they establish at least one micro-finance institution (MFIs) before 2009 for small and medium scale business. Currently, there are ten MFIs in Niger State doing well. Indeed the PDP National Headquarters has commended the State's effort and directed all PDP States to emulate Niger State;
- d). The government has begun a policy of free education from primary to secondary school level. In addition, students are exempted from paying NECO/WAEC fees to alleviate hardship on parents. Those who have already paid will be refunded;
- e). The government has returned to the Grade II Teachers system; thus, two schools have been chosen as teacher training colleges in each zone of the state;
- f). Induction courses will commence for all graduates from Niger State and also for those with no formal skills, as a prerequisite to employment, by May 2008. The Committee responsible for enlistment will come to Agaie;
- g). Government shall ensure completion of the dam that will supply water to Agaie/Lapai; and
- h). On Electrification government shall await the outcome of the Judicial Commission of Enquiry in order to have a true picture of the situation.

PRESENTATION OF THE STATE ACTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Chief Servant presented the Niger State Action Development Plan, 2007-2011. He stated that copies of the plan will be left with the Emir, the local government Chairman, schools and the Secretary to the State Government's Officer for Distribution.

He also said that work on the Agaie library project will be completed.

OTHER COMMENTS OR REMARKS

The State Coordinator of NAPEP, Alh. Iliyasu Dhacko stated that the poverty alleviation programmes will not be possible without the support of the Chief Servant. He said initially the Chief Servant approved the sum of N60m which was later increased to N300m to complement the N140m released by the Federal Government. He said that NAPEP has officially given out several cheques to beneficiaries before now through representatives but today as a symbolic gesture, ten cooperatives will be issued cheques. These are:



Thee Chief Servant assisted by the State Coordinator of NAPEP, presents a cheque to a beneficiary of the Niger State/NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Programme

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|----------|
| 1. | Magaji Dagaci Women Cooperative | - | N100,000 |
| 2. | Agaie Embroiders Cooperative Society | - | N100,000 |
| 3. | Agaie Kolanut Seller Cooperative Society | - | N100,000 |
| 4. | Bugana Crop Farmers Cooperative Society | - | N100,000 |
| 5. | Nasallah Cooperative, Agaie | - | N100,000 |
| 6. | Ena Ababa Women | - | N100,000 |

7.	Ebawo Soho Women Development	-	N100,000
8.	Soho Maji Training Cooperative	-	N100,000
9.	Zaki Women Cooperative Society	-	N100,000
10.	Esangi, Ewugi, Boholo Cooperative	-	N100,000

**PRESENTATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND MOTORCYCLES
BY MEMBERS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ALH. BABA SHEHU**

The Local Government PDP Chairman, Hon. Ndeji A. Umar, was presented with a car. Other leaders and Chairmen who were presented with motorcycles come from the following wards:

Baro, Boku, Eko Boleggi, Eko Wuna, Eko Wugi, Eko so Chai, Ewugi, Kutiriko, Mayaki, Gagagi and Etsu Agaie

**REPRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND
WARDS (INCLUDING THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE)**

Kutiriko Ward

Alhaji Mohammed Ndagi Kolo, the representative requested solutions to the following:

- a). Problems of water supply especially in Ebani. There are boreholes but they are faulty, and
- b). The road from Agaie to Kutiriko is in deplorable condition and needs repair.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant instructed the Local Government Chairman to liaise with the Commissioner of Works to ensure the road construction. On boreholes, he directed the Chairman to repair the faulty ones and assured that Government will sink more boreholes especially where Fulanis are resident to ensure they also benefit.

Etsu Agaie Ward

Alh. Audi Etsugaie, the representative stated that they have hospital and water but require roads in Agaie as well as the electrification of Mayaki and Shata.

Boku Ward

Alh. Mohammed Shata of Boku ward stated that the electorate is happy with the Chief Servant's efforts in education but the ward needs roads and repair of broken down boreholes.

Chief Servant's response

He noted that tractors will be given to cooperatives and not to individuals to ensure accountability and standard; he also said that the government will liaise with the local government to ensure the roads are done.

Ekowuna Ward

The representative, Alh. Baba A. Audu reminded the Chief Servant of his promise in September 2007 to do the township roads. In addition, the ward required upgrading of the Agaie rural hospital as well as the citing of a School of Preliminary Studies. This has become necessary in view of Agaie being an old local government with a large population.

The Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant said that the rural hospital will be upgraded in the current year and equipped as a comprehensive hospital and by 2011 it would be further upgraded to a General Hospital.

In respect of a tertiary Institution, the Chief Servant appealed to the people to give government some time.

Ekowugi Ward

On behalf of the ward, Alh. Yunusa Baba stated the needs of the people under the following headings:

- a). Water
- b). Township Roads, and
- c). Additional schools to complement the only one Day Secondary School in the area.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the problem of roads and water is not peculiar to the ward alone and government is making frantic effort to alleviate the problems. On the issue of schools, he said government has reverted to the old policy of one secondary school comprising both junior and secondary schools.

Yelwa Ward

Alh. Mohammadu, representing the ward, requested assistance on agricultural inputs and farming implements such as fertilizers, tractors and improved seedlings.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that tractors will be provided on loan to cooperatives rather than to individuals and that there will be monthly allocation to wards to ensure development projects.

Ekosa Ward

The representative, P.M. Gana stated the following:

- a). Appealed for road rehabilitation because drivers are always changing vehicle shock absorbers due to the bad condition of the roads

- b). Upgrading of the radio and TV Stations, and
- c). Requested solution to the perennial problem of water supply; he added that their women are tired of going to neighbouring Bakoji to fetch water.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the issues raised are captured in the State Action Development Plan [2007-2011] which he advised everyone to study. In addition he advised the representative to find time after the Forum to meet with the SSG and articulate their demands for government intervention.

Tagagi Ward

The representative of Tagagi, Alh. Suleman Tagagi, made the following requests on behalf of the ward:

- a). The road from Agaie to Tagagi to Baro needs rehabilitation
- b). Need for teachers in the primary school
- c). Rehabilitation of classrooms infrastructures
- d). Upgrading of Junior to Senior Secondary School
- e). Potable water, and
- f). Electricity

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant assured the representative that government has noted their demands and that some of the issues raised



The Honourable Commissioner of Lands responding to some issues at the Jama'a Forum, Agaie

will be done under the joint projects policy between the State and the local government.

Youth Leader: Magaji Ward

Alh. Mohammed Gimba, the youth leader and representative of Magaji ward, praised the efforts of the Chief Servant, observing that his 8 months in office so far is better than the past 8 years. He solicited for youth development and empowerment programmes, and requested for repair of boreholes in Magaji, Tatagi and ... communities.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant acknowledged that all the issues raised have been noted by government. He added that the member representing Agaie at the House of Assembly, the Hon. Commissioner of Lands should assist him in providing water and other amenities to the people.

Eko Badeggi

The representative, Alh. Abdul Zailani made the following requests on behalf of the ward:

- a). The local government motel has been sold and there is need for a hotel, and
- b). No tertiary institution in Agaie local government.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the farm centre will be rehabilitated for youths to learn agricultural skills. He has also instructed the Commissioner for Works to rehabilitate the Government Lodge in Agaie. In respect of hotels, the Chief Servant promised to invite private investors who will build hotels under the PPP arrangement.

Ewugi Ward

The representative Alh. Abubakar Magaji requested the following on behalf of his ward:

- a). Electricity
- b). Primary schools and a health institution because the ward is far from both Agaie and Baro
- c). Need for drinking water
- d). Request for the inclusion of the ward's women who have not benefited from NAPEP cooperative cheques
- e). Request for consideration of ward in terms of political appointment, and
- f). Appeal for the rehabilitation of Agaie to Katcha road.

Chief Servant's response

In respect of women benefiting from NAPEP programme, the Chief Servant stated that the state coordinator of NAPEP has taken note and will in due course ensure that the women are involved. On the other issues, the government has taken note and will act appropriately in due course.

Baro Ward

Alh. Aliyu Dangana representing the ward requested the following:

- a). Construction of the Baro refinery
- b). The dredging of Baro port
- c). The conversion of day secondary schools to boarding schools, and
- d). Need for a hotel.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the dredging of the river will soon commence because it has been captured in the budget. In respect of boarding schools,

Mrs Salome Ndakotsu, the Commissioner for Lands has promised to intimate the Commissioner for Education accordingly. On hotels, the Chief Servant said that the government shall invite investors through PPP.

Youth Leader

Alh. Aliyu K. Abdul reminded the Chief Servant about the following:

- a). Boro port
- b). Boro refinery
- c). Agaie-Katcha road, and
- d). Shortage of teachers and classroom infrastructure

The youth leader thanked the State House of Assembly member for building two classroom blocks, and praised the Chief Servant's efforts so far and advised him to match his words with action.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that government will continue to provide for the people and also to keep informing people so that they understand government programmes and policies.

Women Leader

Hajiya Nnawo, the women's leader made demands for the following:

- a). Children nursery
- b). Drinking water, and
- c). Small scale loans to assist women.

While appealing to Chief Servant to ensure more active participation of Agaie women in his administration, the women leader wished him well and prayed that his administration will be in office for 12 years, and not only 8 years.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant thanked the women leader and promised that their requests will be looked into.

Sarkin Fulani

The Sarkin Fulani of Agaie thanked the Chief Servant for remembering the Fulani and requested the following:

- a). Drinking water for themselves and their cattle
- b). Veterinary clinic and drugs, and
- c). Nomadic schools

In addition, the Fulani will like a permanent place of abode in order to settle down and to remove the stigma of being recognised only as wanderers. The Sarki also assured the Chief Servant of Fulani support in the forthcoming council elections.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant observed that in fact everyone is a wanderer and a visitor, so the Fulani should not feel intimidated. He advised them to liaise with the Special Assistant (Nomadic Education), Mallam Sadiq, who will articulate all their demands for government's attention.

Agaie Development Association

The representative of the Association commended the Chief Servant for his untiring efforts at ensuring development of the people and his love for the people of Agaie. On behalf of the association, he appealed to the Chief Servant to kindly ensure the completion of the Agaie library project.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant instructed the association to meet with the Hon. Commissioner of Lands to enable government have a clear picture of what is at stake.

The Chief Servant thanked everyone for attending the Forum and prayed that Allah (S.W.A) will assist them in providing for the people.

CLOSING

The National Anthem was recited at 7:30pm, bringing the Forum to a close.



Pre-Forum (Bida)

OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF SENATOR ZAINAB KURE CONSTITUENCY PROJECT OFFICE HELD AT THE BAGUDU WAZIRI PRIMARY SCHOOL BIDA



The Chief Servant, Senator Zainab Kure and Madam Chief Servant observing the National Anthem at the Commissioning of Senator Zainab Kure's Constituency Office, Bida.

Date: March 27, 2008
Venue: Bagudu Waziri Primary School Bida
Time: 10:45am

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Servant attended the official commissioning of Senator Zainab Kure's constituency office and projects as well as disbursement of cheques to beneficiaries of her Micro Finance initiative.

SENATOR ZAINAB KURE'S WELCOME ADDRESS

In her welcome address, Senator Zainab Kure thanked the Chief Servant for attending the official commissioning of her constituency office and projects. She also thanked him for the support and encouragement she has been enjoying and prayed Allah to grant him good health and wisdom to continue to pilot the affairs of State successfully. She then paid tribute to the late Chief Ladan who has been a pillar of support to her and prayed Allah to have mercy on his soul and to grant him Al Jannah Fidausi.



Senator Zainab Kure addresses the crowd at the commissioning of her constituency office and project in Bida

Senator Zainab Kure continued her address by stating that the essence of a constituency office is to enhance flow of information by the electorate and the need to have one voice so that together the society can move forward and make meaningful progress. Finally, she called on the electorate to vote PDP in the forthcoming elections so that the task before government will be easier and progress would be achieved in the overall interest of the people.

At the end of her speech the Senator presented the Council Chairmen for Bida, Lapai and Gbako Local Government Councils to the Chief Servant.

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF OCCASION [TSAIWAN LAPAI]

The Chairman of the occasion, Senator Jibrin Salihu thanked the Chief Servant for the honour done to them by attending the commissioning of Senator Zainab Kure's constituency project office. He congratulated the people of Niger State for having Dr Mu'azu Babangida as their Governor and enjoined them to support him observing that the State was going to experience very exciting times under his administration, While noting that politics has dramatically changed from what it used to be in those days he stated however that it was imperative that all hands must be on deck in order to move the State forward. He called on politicians to sheath their swords for the overall interest of the State.

The Chairman also congratulated Senator Zainab Kure for establishing a project office and advised other politicians to emulate her by embarking on projects that impact positively on the lives of the people that elected them.

REMARKS BY ZONAL PDP CHAIRMAN

Alh. Abdulkadiri Agaie, the PDP zonal chairman who spoke in Nupe also thanked the Chief Servant for attending the commissioning of Senator Zainab Kure's constituency office. He advised politicians to come together and ensure the peace and development of the State. Finally, he assured the Chief Servant of a resounding victory at the forthcoming Local Council elections.

ENTERTAINMENT

Several local artistes performed to the thrill of the crowd

MADAM CHIEF SERVANT

Madam Chief Servant presented cheques to some beneficiaries of Senator Zainab Kure's Micro Finance initiative.

REMARKS BY THE SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR, PROF. SHEHU BIDA

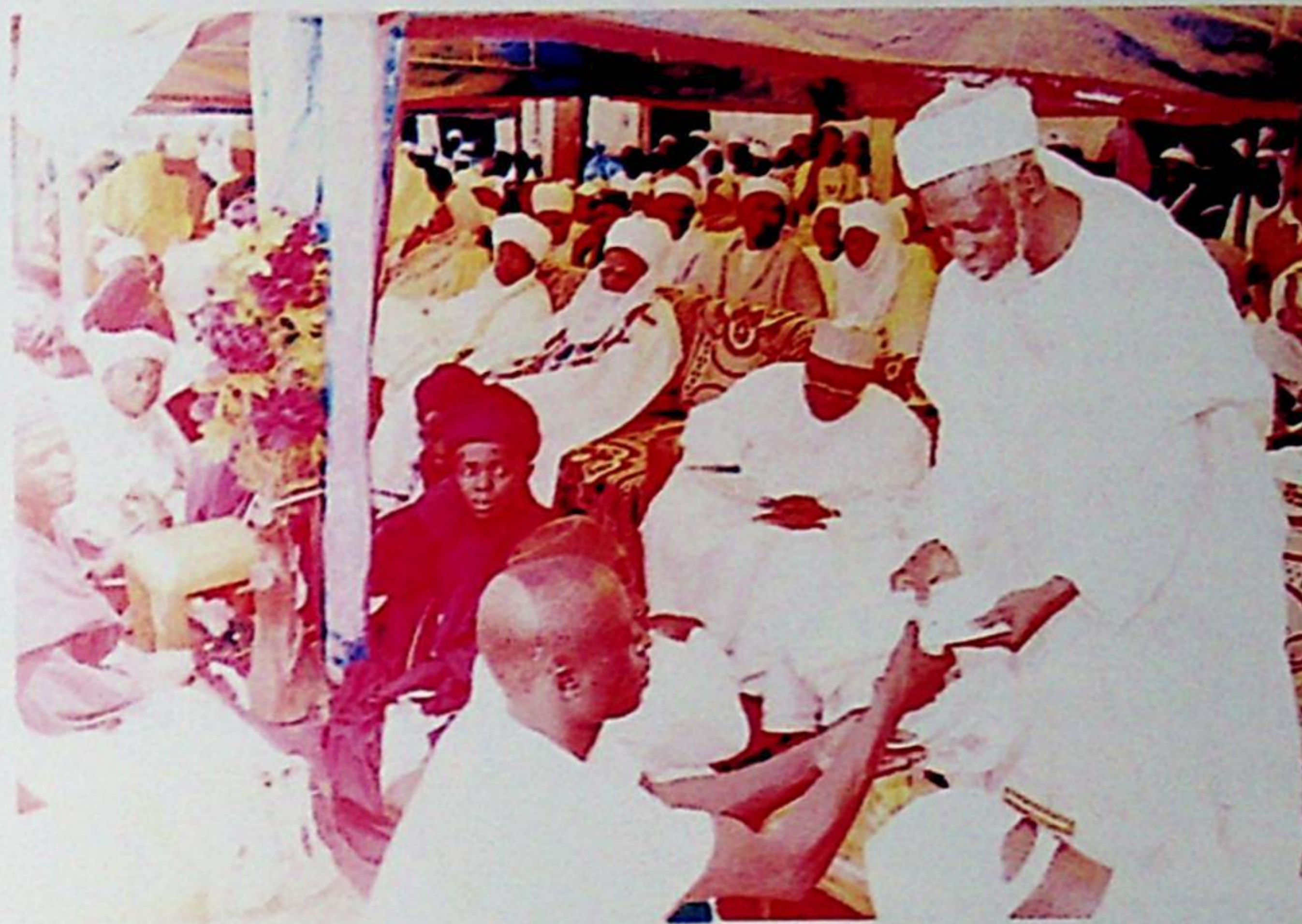
Professor Shehu Bida remarked that Senator Zainab Kure needs to be respected especially for her involvement in poverty alleviation and Agriculture in the Senate. He added that whether we like it or not we must respect her for her involvement in politics. He called on Etsu Nupe to give her the due blessing.

On the Chief Servant, Professor Shehu Bida said that he has shown by his actions so far that he is a man of action with a vision. He advised the Chief Servant to remain focused and not to allow the antics of detractors to deter him from executing policies that will impact positively on the lives of the common people. He prayed Allah to grant the Chief Servant long life and the wisdom to shoulder the responsibilities of steering the affairs of State.

The Professor presented some cheques to beneficiaries in the category of carpentry and vulcanization.

CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE

The Chief Servant noted that the purpose of the gathering was indeed the foundation of democracy. He said that Senator Zainab Kure would not have become a Senator until she was presented by the PDP and that the Senator was one more reason why his administration identifies with the education of the girl child and women folk generally.



Prof. Shehu Bida presents a cheque to a beneficiary of Senator Zainab kure's Micro Finance initiative.

He added that we all started our education one way or the other on the knees of our women and sisters and from what has transpired today it has confirmed that Zone A has indeed made an excellent choice in electing Senator Kure to represent them.

Like the Senator, the Chief Servant stated that he considers his election as a gift from God and a trust, and that is why he has repeatedly declared that there will be no imposition of candidates. In this regard the Chief Servant believes we are creating our own variation of democracy just like the differences in the democracies of the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

On the issue of party members decamping to the opposition as a result of loss of primaries, the Chief Servant believes that Bida will return to the PDP family after the elections of the coming Saturday just like Kontagora has already done.



The Chief Servant making his remarks at the commissioning of Senator Zainab Kure constituency office and projects.

On the perceived misunderstanding between former Governor Abdulkadir Kure and himself, the Chief Servant stated that there was no quarrel between them but only the handiwork of persons who want to cash in and reap where they did not sow. He therefore called on all Nigerlites to eschew politics of bitterness and join hands with his government in order to move the State forward.

Finally the Chief Servant praised Senator Zainab Kure for all the good works she was doing and congratulated her for establishing a constituency project office.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Bida PDP Party Chairman thanked the Chief Servant for honoring their invitation to commission Senator Zainab Kure's project office and promised to deliver 100% votes at the forthcoming Local Government election.

CHIEF SERVANT COMMISSIONS THE PROJECT OFFICE

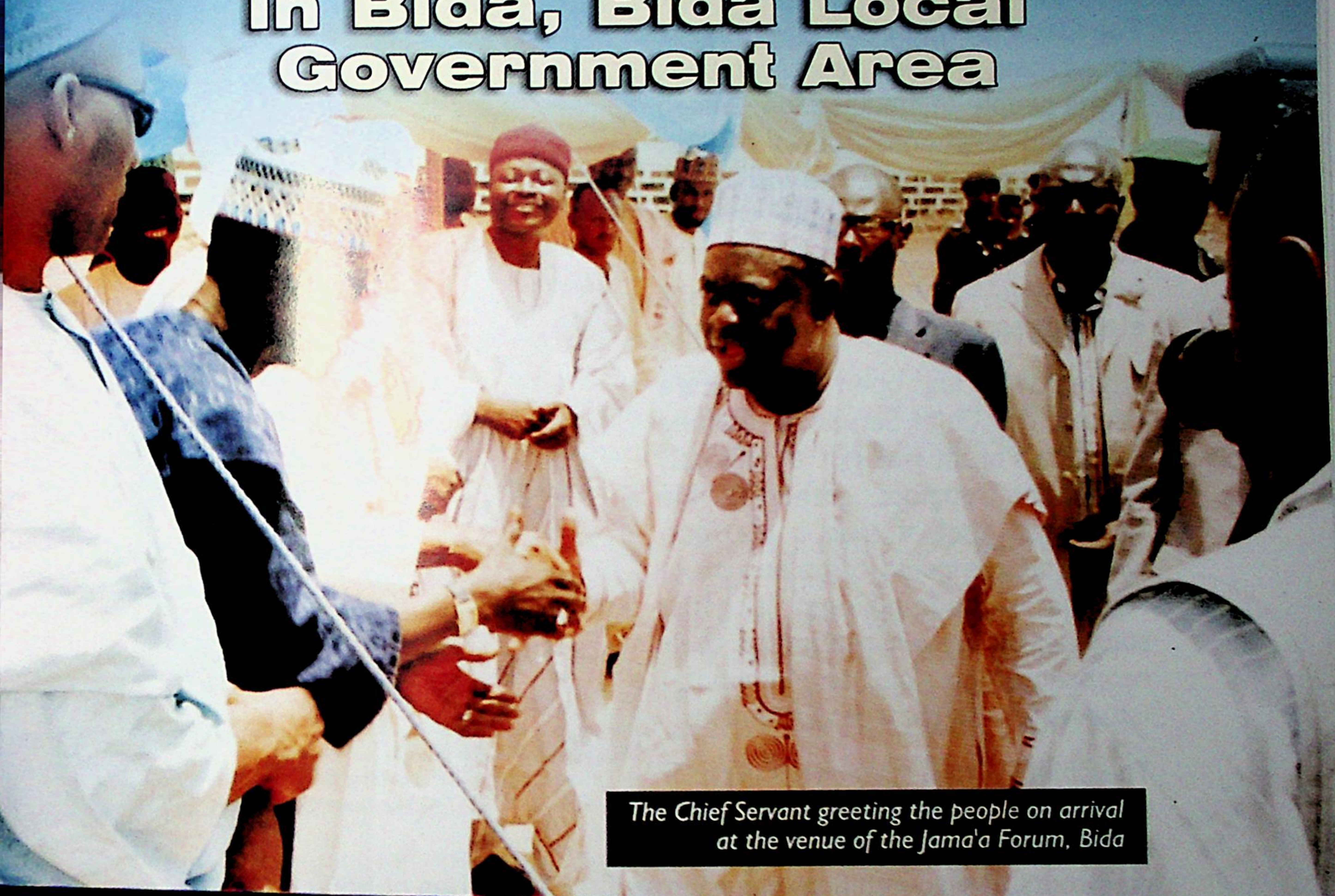
The Chief Servant inspected the project office and commissioned it to the glory of God and for the benefit of Bida people.

The Chief Servant departed the venue for the Bida Jama'a Forum.



The Chief Servant cutting the tape to commission Senator Zainab Kure's constituency office

Jama'a Forum In Bida, Bida Local Government Area



*The Chief Servant greeting the people on arrival
at the venue of the Jama'a Forum, Bida*

Venue: Aliyu Ndayako Memorial Stadium, Bida

Date: MARCH 27, 2008

TIME: 1:00pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Bida.

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARK

The Chief Servant began his remarks by advising elected representatives of the people to emulate Sen. Zainab Kure and open constituency offices, saying by that gesture the wishes and aspirations of the people will be conveyed quicker and interaction between the people and their elected representatives will be easier.

While declaring open the Jama'a Forum, the Chief Servant explained that the Forum was not a political, ethnic or religious gathering. He reiterated that it was a platform where people could come and make requests, suggestions, proffer solutions and even reprimand their representatives on developmental issues affecting their constituencies.

The Chief Servant stated that in order to achieve development that would be felt by everyone, especially at the grassroots, the government has approved the allocation of N500,000 monthly to all the 274 wards in the state. This allocation is meant for the development of each ward based on their priority needs. He said that elders and stakeholders in the ward will come together and deliberate on projects to be undertaken in the ward.

In addition, wards may decide to accumulate their monthly allocation to enable them undertake projects which require a lot of financial commitment. He emphasized that the money is not meant for party purposes and anyone who steals or embezzles will be prosecuted accordingly.

The Chief Servant also advised Local government councils to establish micro-finance institutions and advised people to form co-operative societies to enable them access loans for their businesses. Currently, there are ten micro-finance institutions in Niger State and the Chief Servant hopes that by the end of 2009 each local government council should have established at least one



The Chief Servant delivering his opening remarks at the Jama'a Forum, Bida

micro-finance institution. Indeed, the Chief Servant advised the Bida Forum to establish a micro-finance institution stating that he has, along with his Deputy and other top government functionaries, already bought some shares in the bank. He added that such investments are indeed worthwhile and beneficial.

On the whole, the Chief Servant stated that the Niger State micro-finance scheme is so well planned that the national leadership of the PDP has advised all PDP states in the Federation to emulate Niger State.

The Chief Servant declared that the sale and distribution of fertilizer will begin next month and a Committee headed by the Deputy Chief Servant. He stated that the Federal Government has subsidized the cost of fertilizer by 25% and the Niger State government will complement that effort by a further 25% subsidy. He warned that anyone caught diverting or selling at unofficial rate or indeed involved in any sharp practice will be prosecuted.

On the issue of industrialization, the Chief Servant informed the people that the Bank of Industry has approved a counterpart fund of One billion Naira to complement another One billion Naira budgeted by the State government for industrialization and the establishment of small and medium scale industries. Additionally, the administration has come up with a developmental plan tagged Niger State Development Action Plan 2007 - 2011 and other plans that are intended to propel Niger state into becoming the third largest economy in the country by the year 2020.

On poverty alleviation, the Chief Servant spoke on the State Government's partnership with NAPEP through programmes like the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme. Under these programmes, orphans, widows and the very indigent will benefit from a year long monthly stipend after which they will be weaned off and provided with regulated loans to enable them set up small businesses.

The Chief Servant decried the terrible state of education, poor infrastructures and the shortage of qualified teachers in schools. He stated that government is taking steps to reverse this situation by the introduction of the Grade II teachers training to complement the shortage of qualified teachers. He said Grade II teachers will be employed to serve as teaching assistants and will be paid relatively well until they acquire the N.C.E and B.Ed qualifications. To this end, Zone A will have two Teacher Training Colleges: one in Gulu and the other in Bida.

To encourage enrolment in schools, the government has from this year exempted students from payment of textbooks and uniforms. Already, government has embarked on a policy of payment of NECO/WAEC examination fees for students. These measures are intended to alleviate the suffering of parents as regards the education of their wards.

On the issue of unemployment, the Chief Servant said it is quite disheartening to find graduates without gainful employment. To tackle the problem, registration of graduates in Niger state is on going with the aim of providing them with six months induction training commencing in May 2007 to prepare them for gainful employment. Other youths with minimal or no formal education will be trained in skills acquisition.

On the issues of water shortage, electrification and roads, the Chief Servant said these were problems peculiar to all parts of the State and have been highlighted in the Development Action plan of the state which has been especially formulated to tackle the various problems afflicting the State.

PRESENTATION OF NIGER STATE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN TO THE ETSU NUPE

The Chief Servant presented the Niger State Development Action Plan 2007-2011 to His Royal Highness, the Etsu Nupe.

INTRODUCTION OF NAPEP PROGRAMMES AND PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES UNDER THE NAPEP POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

Alh. Iliyasu Dhacko, the State co-coordinator of NAPEP spoke on the commitment shown by the Chief Servant on poverty eradication. He declared that the Chief Servant is the only governor truly in the vanguard of fighting poverty. He advised people interested in accessing loans to form cooperatives by registering with the Ministry of Commerce.



The State Coordinator of NAPEP with some beneficiaries of the Joint Niger State/NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Programme

As beneficiaries of the NAPEP Poverty Alleviation Programme, the following cooperatives were presented cheques by the Chief Servant:

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------|
| 1. | Alheri Multipurpose Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 2. | Embroidery Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 3. | Edigifu Fish and Poultry Society | N100,000 |
| 4. | Bida Tailoring Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 5. | Rayi-wako Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 6. | Soyayimma Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 7. | Sogda Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 8. | Bida Palm Oil Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 9. | Talaka Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 10. | Al Shaba Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 11. | Edoghigo Cooperative Society | N100,000 |
| 12. | Doko Cooperative Society | N100,000 |



Senator Zainab Kure hands over a cheque to a beneficiary of the Joint Niger State/NAPEP Programme on Poverty Alleviation. The Chief Servant and Senator Grace Bent look on.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Bambara Ward

Hon. Ibrahim Buhari who represented the ward is concerned that implementation of government programmes should reach the grassroots.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant observed that there is need for constituency offices like Senator Zainab Kure's office where people could place their grievances. He advised even councillors to open offices so their people could reach them.

Chenya Ward

Alh. Shehu Buhari commended the Chief Servant's efforts but requested drainage, water and youth empowerment. In addition, he recognized the efforts of Alh. Sani Ndanusa and Hon. Baba as the true representatives of the people.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant said the representatives are well bred so the recognition is well deserved but hardly surprising. In respect of demolition, the Chief Servant noted that it is sometimes a cultural issue which may be overcome by time and development. He stated that the Chairman of the Task force on Sanitation and Beautification, Alh. Sani Musa, otherwise known as "Mr. Demolition", will soon come to Bida after discussion with the Etsu Nupe.



The Chief Servant, with the Secretary to the State Government, as he responds to comments at the Jama'a Forum, Bida

On youth empowerment, the Chief Servant said the committee on youth registration is expected to submit a list in order to facilitate graduate employment by May 2008. In addition youth with minimal or no formal

education will be trained in skills acquisition and others will be given farm implements to go into farming.

Dokhoza Ward

Alh. Mustapha Bunu requested water, schools and transformer on behalf of the ward.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that the State and the local government will undertake a joint project but in respect of water, the government is looking into the possibility of utilizing the Wuya bridge instead of Tagwai dam.

Kyari Ward

Engineer Ndagitsu informed the Forum that their ward is suffering from serious erosion problem and they would also like the establishment of a Development Area in Bida due to the large landmass and population.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant responded that as people gradually take responsibility, a Development Area will evolve over time.

On the issue of water, the Chief Servant directed the Commissioner of Water Resources and the General Manager, Water Board to solve the problem.

In respect of erosion control, the Chief Servant stated that professionals will be involved and at the appropriate time Engineer Ndagitsu will be consulted.



A ward representative presenting the requests of his ward at the Jama'a Forum Bida

Ladhzun Ward

Alh. Isa Mohammed requested the following:

- a). Provision of a government-owned primary school as existing schools in individual houses are run by community effort
- b). Solution to the unique water problem with corrosion taking over waterways, and
- c). Resolution of the electricity problem caused by insufficient number of transformers.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant reiterated that State governments have no business buying transformers. He explained that Nigeria needs about 50,000 megawatts but today only 3,500 megawatts is generated. He added that the State is however exploring possibilities of solar energy. He directed Engineer Sharu to utilize the April allocation and provide transformers for Bida. He was also surprised that there was a ward which lacked a school and instructed the Commissioner of Education to note and act accordingly.

Masaba A Ward

Alh. Abdul Malik expressed gratitude to the Chief Servant for payment of NECO/WAEC fees. He informed the Chief Servant that a clinic was constructed by Hon. Saba known as A. A. Kure clinic but there are no doctors. In addition, he decried the present situation in the ward where UBE operates from peoples' houses. Finally, he called on Bida youth to massively support Engineer Sharu for the position of Chairman in the forthcoming council elections.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that salaries of doctors in the State have been reviewed to compare favourably with their counterparts in



Alh. Y.Y. Sani presenting the requests of his ward at the Jama'a Forum Bida

neighbouring states. He added that doctors, including veterinary doctors, will soon be recruited and posted to virtually all health centres.

Umaru Majigi A Ward

Hajiya Makama, who represented the ward, made the following requests:

- a). water
- b). electricity
- c). schools and
- d). support to alleviate the plight of women

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that women will be given their pride of place in his administration. As a result, all their rights and privileges will be accorded to them.

In response to the problem of casual workers which the local government Chairman said he had inherited, the Chief Servant expressed surprise and directed Engineer Sharu to pay the workers within six months of taking over and to stop the casualisation of workers.

Masaba B Ward

Hon. Bala Orlando of Masaba ward requested the following:

- a). Drainage
- b). Transformers, and
- c). Primary and Arabic School.

Chief Servant's Response

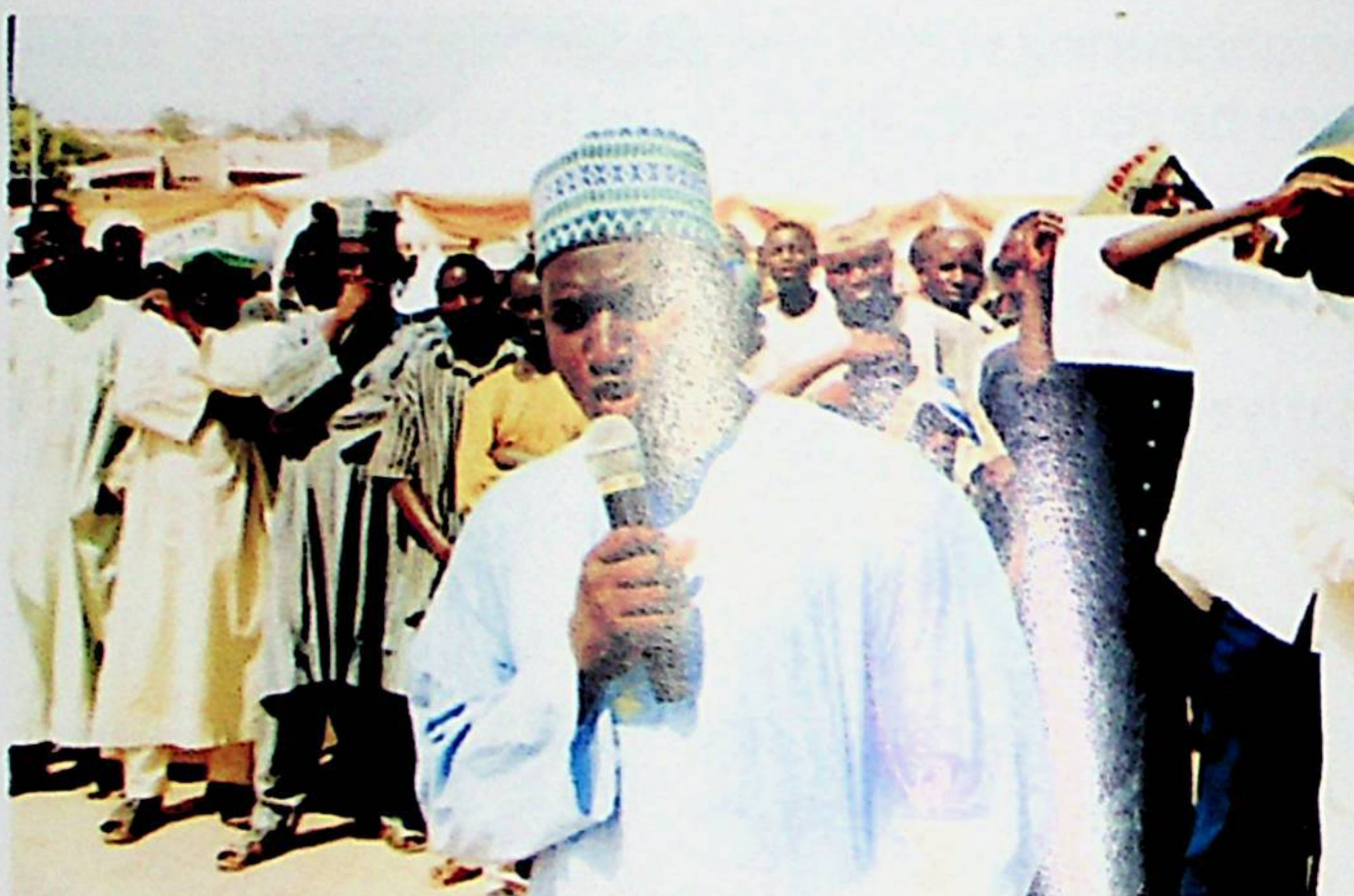
In his response, the Chief Servant advised that the Councillor and the Chairman that will be elected should meet with the Commissioner for Local Government and work out a master plan for Bida.

Masaga A Ward

Alhaji Wachiko, the Youth Leader, decried the abandonment of the people involved in brass and glass works and called for both financial and moral support from government for them.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant observed that if we had encouraged production of glass works items like plaques for awards, ornaments, etc, we probably would not need to import them. He advised Alhaji Wachiko to consult with Engineer Sharu and articulate a solution for government to rehabilitate the brass workers.



A ward representative presenting the requests of his ward at the Jam'ala Forum Bida

Masaga B Ward

The representative Alhaji Y. Y. Sani said the government should do something about the disabled. According to him one of the problems related with the disabled is that rehabilitation centres are built in far away places which make accessibility difficult.

Secondly, government should do something about the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) which only provides few hours of epileptic service a day.

Thirdly, drainage is a problem. He added that the past government gave out drainage contract but the contractor executed the job halfway and abandoned it.

Finally, Alh. Sani called on government to provide a modern and functional fire service department.

Chief Servant's Response

In his response, the Chief Servant said it is rather sad that we have beggars even among the Muslim community. Ideally, relatives should indeed be their brother's keeper but we are in a society where people not only give alms but sponsor beggars to the Holy Land. He remarked that while he was in the Federal Capital Territory, the issue of beggars was handled very well so

government will, in collaboration with NAPEP, come to Bida and render assistance in regard to the issue of beggars.

Mayaki Ndajiya Ward

The representative, Alhaji Mustapha Ndanusa, expressed gratitude that one of them is a Commissioner in the government. He made the following presentation:

- a). Repair of the bridge linking Ladzawa to Efu Madami
- b). UBE primary schools are operated in Katambas (azures) and are difficult to supervise
- c). The Bida Library is non-functional
- d). The ward is located by the riverside thereby prone to flooding and associated hazards; request is made for the tarring of Efu-Madami road to alleviate the people's suffering, and
- e). UBE teachers are on temporary appointment.



The Chief Servant with the Honorable Commissioner of Works as he responds to the requests of the people at the Jama'a Forum, Bida

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that all NCE teachers will be employed.

On the issue of the road and erosion, the Chief Servant invited Alh. Sani Ndanusa, the Commissioner of Works, to brief the people on what government is doing. In respect of erosion, the Commissioner stated that consultants have been commissioned for each zone to advise government on the ecological problems and, as soon as the report is submitted, government will send the report to the National Ecological Centre for further action. As regards the road,

the Commissioner said it will be done through a joint project arrangement between the State and the local government.

On the issue of the Library, the Chief Servant was shocked that the Chairman of Library Board has never been to the School. He promised that the government will look into this issue just like he promised to complete the one in Agaie.

Nasarafu Ward

Comrade Abdullahi Mahmud, the representative, made the following observations and requests:

- a). Appeal to improve on road construction, given the fact that most institutions are located in the ward



The Chief Servant, seeking clarification on an issue from the Hon. Commissioner of Health as he responds to the requests of the people at the Jama'a Forum, Bida

- b). Request for the boosting of power supply: the Chief Servant was implored to approve three more transformers for the ward, and
- c). NTA and Radio Niger services are epileptic and sometimes off air for a week.

Furthermore, Comrade Mahmud wanted to know the position of government on the following:

- d). Cornerstone University
- e). TAC Alliance Group
- f). HYPPADEC
- g). Baro Port, and
- h). Baro Refinery

He reminded the Chief Servant of his promise to pay debtors within three months after the debt verification exercise.

Finally, he called on people to emulate the politics of Late Barrister Bana and appealed to the Chief Servant to consider him worthy of appointment in his government.

Chief Servant's Response

In respect of communication services, the Chief Servant stated that the Niger State House of Assembly has just passed the budget and the government will study it to see how to help in the issue of communication facilities for Agwara, Borgu, Bida and some other parts of the State.

In respect of the application for a position, the Chief Servant stated that his application will be considered.

On the university, the Chief Servant stated that a certificate of occupancy has already been issued to them and they are waiting to raise funds to start off. He however cautioned that there is now a building code which everybody has to abide with in order to start any project.

In respect of TAC, the Chief Servant stated that there is a Director General who will see to any problem related to the organisation.

On the issue of HYPPADEC, the Chief Servant used the opportunity to thank all senators and other members of the National Assembly for their untiring effort towards the passage of the bill and assured that he was confident Mr. President will assent to the bill once it is passed.

For the dredging of Baro Port, the Chief Servant stated that we should await the passage of the Federal Government's budget. He assured that dredging will start this year and government will ensure that our people are involved if building of the port is through PPP.



The Chief Servant conferring with the Deputy Chief Servant and the Principal Private Secretary I to the Chief Servant

Umaru Majigi B Ward

Alh. Musa Tela, the representative, expressed gratitude over the appointment of Alh. Sani Ndanusa. He made the following requests:

- a). Repair of Bangbara road which has serious drainage problems
- b). Provision of standard schools to replace *taures* which have been turned to schools in the ward
- c). The ward needs additional boreholes
- d). A transformer is needed to enhance electricity supply
- e). Requests for qualified tutors to replace several *taures* teachers who are not qualified, and
- f). Hakimai need vehicles for movement.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant asked Alhaji Sani Ndanusa to take note of the road and drainage problems.

On the issue of teachers, the Chief Servant stated that even although the government is treating the issue, the Commissioner for Education should nonetheless take note.

On Constituency Project Allowance, the Chief Servant stated that State House of Assembly members have each been given N15m as project allowance. He urged the people to be vigilant and ensure that members utilize the allowance for the purpose they are meant.

Wadata Ward

Alh. Musa Baba of Wadata ward also expressed gratitude for the appointment of one of their own and stated that even though all the issues raised by the wards are virtually the same his people want the Chief Servant to pay special attention to:

- a). School dropouts
- b). Skills acquisition by youths who have little or no formal education, and

- c). School teachers especially in Maths, Science and technical subjects are required in schools.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that government shall look into these problems and that Remedial schools will take care of dropouts. Also, the Committee responsible for polishing youths will take care of the skills acquisition for youths.

In respect of Mathematics, Science and technical teachers, he stated that government shall look into this and probably increase their salaries.

Leader, Bida Forum

In his own presentation, the leader of Bida Forum called on NAPEP and MFIs to be transparent. He also called on the State Government to pay special attention to Federal institutions, and charged the government to solve ecological problems. Furthermore, he suggested that members should use part of their constituency project allowance for the repair of boreholes. He submitted that constituency allowance to be tied to projects.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that NAPEP, Ministry of Works, the DG MFIs and others are all involved and working closely with one another.

He added that the State government relates very well with Federal establishments in the State who also need their input. Indeed during a visit to the Federal Secretariat, the Chief Servant was informed that he was the first Governor to visit them.

The Chief Servant was also pleased with the suggestion that constituency allowances be tied to projects.

The Fulani

The representative of the Fulani community, Alh. Saidu Bida made the following requests:

- a). The Fulani are grateful to the Chief Servant for the appointment of a Special Assistant Nomadic Education
- b). The Fulani lack permanent settlements

- c). They lack drinking water
- d). Additional teachers are needed for Nomadic Education
- e). The Fulani supports the government 100% but have nothing to show for their loyalty. Indeed some senators made promises but nothing yet.
- f). Veterinary drugs are required for cattle.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant advised the representative to meet with the Special Assistant Nomadic Education, Mallam Sadiq and articulate all the issues for government's attention.

On the issue of Fulani in Politics, the Chief Servant stated that it was wrong to say that they have been neglected when the Deputy Chief Servant, the Commissioner of Education and even the Etsu Nupe are in a way all Fulanis.

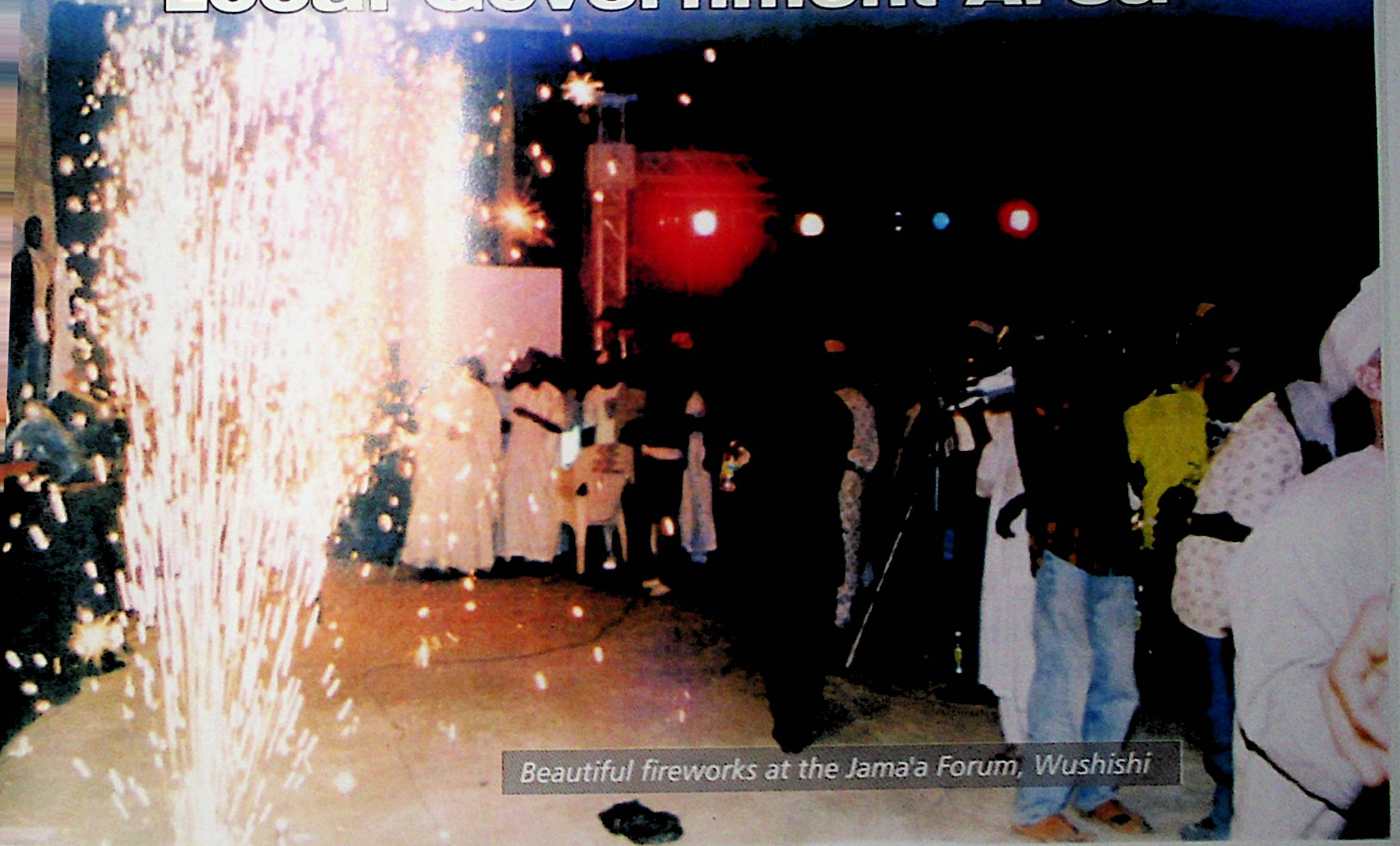
Finally, the Chief Servant declared that he was grateful to the Etsu Nupe and the entire people of the emirate for their cooperation during the Forum and promised that the government will continue to listen to the people.

VOTE OF THANKS/CLOSING

The vote of thanks was given by Chairman Caretaker Committee, Bida.

The National Anthem was recited at 3:30pm before the departure of the Chief Servant.

Jama'a Forum In Zungeru, Wushishi Local Government Area



Beautiful fireworks at the Jama'a Forum, Wushishi

Venue: Nnamdi Azikiwe Centre, Zungeru
Date: March 27, 2008
Time: 5:55pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL:

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was said by the Chief Imam of Zungeru, Mallam Mahe.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN CARETAKER COMMITTEE WUSHISHI LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Servant and his entourage. Due to time constraints, he went straight to give account of the achievements of his council in terms of projects executed within two months of its inception. These include:

- a). Electrification of Sofun Dabiri
- b). Electrification of Tungun Kawo
- c). Rehabilitation of 8km Matuni road
- d). Construction of N2.1m bridge linking Dabban
- e). Construction and renovation of 2 blocks of classrooms

The Chairman stated that the above listed projects were undertaken on a budget of N18.5m.

The Chairman further solicited for the assistance on the following issues:

- a). The completion of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Civic centre in Zungeru
- b). Rehabilitation of Kudu-Akere road
- c). Rehabilitation of Zungeru to Bida road
- d). Rehabilitation of Tungan Kawo dam to ensure free flow of canals for irrigation purposes
- e). Completion of the Zungeru Waterworks project
- e). Overhauling of the fertilizer company in Zungeru
- f). Assistance in the upliftment of the Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, and



The Chief Servant delivering his opening remarks at the Jama'a Forum, Wushishi

- g). Provision of two vehicles and five motorcycles for security patrol.

The Chairman concluded his speech by promising to deliver Wushishi Local Government to the PDP in the forthcoming council elections on 29th March, 2008.

CULTURAL DISPLAY/ENTERTAINMENT

The Gwape Intermission thrilled the crowd to a very interesting drama and dance songs.

THE CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people for the wonderful reception accorded him and his entourage but expressed dismay at the deplorable and neglected state of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Civic Centre. He promised to dialogue with the various stakeholders especially the South East Governors to ensure completion of the project which he described as an edifice.

He was also displeased with the condition of the state-owned fertilizer company in Zungeru, and promised that with God's guidance, a solution would be found to overhaul the fertilizer company.

The Chief Servant declared that the Jama'a Forum is a platform for the people to bring their problems to the attention of government and emphasized that his administration is very keen on entrenching democracy at the grassroots. To this end, the government has approved the monthly release of the sum of N500,000 to each ward in the state to be used for developmental projects. He advised the people to be vigilant about projects in their constituencies and avoid electing people who will steal their money.

On the issue of fallen standard in the educational sector, the Chief Servant said the problems of congestion in classrooms and the shortage of qualified teachers remain his major priorities. To this end, Teacher Training Colleges will be established with the aim of producing qualified teachers. In zone C, Wushishi and Nassarawa will benefit from teacher training colleges. The government will therefore reintroduce the Grade II system with teaching assistants who will be so called until they acquire the NCE qualification. In addition, students will be exempted from paying for uniforms and school

textbooks as from the current year, adding that the government has already started paying NECO/WAEC fees for students.

On the issue of poverty alleviation, the Chief Servant disclosed that the Federal government had, through NAPEP, provided the sum of N140m which the State government complemented by contributing N300m to ensure a wider and more effective coverage. He explained some of the programmes to include the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme which seek to place orphans and widows on a monthly stipend for a year after which they will be weaned off and given regulated loans to set up small businesses.



A ward representative presenting the requests of his ward at the Jama'a Forum Wushishi

The Chief Servant also spoke on the drive by his government to industrialize the State and making it one of the three best economies in the country by the year

2020. This will be done partly with the support of the Bank of Industry which promised counterpart funding of One billion Naira to match the State government's One billion Naira. To actualize this industrialization drive, the Chief Servant hoped that by 2009, all local government areas would have established micro-finance banks as there are currently only ten in the State. It is instructive to note that the national PDP has directed all PDP States to emulate the example of Niger State in this regard.

On the issue of the Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru, the Chief Servant promised to look into the means of assisting the institution by way of upgrading its status.

On the issue raised about the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Lapai, the Chief Servant emphasized that there is no where in the world where the development of a University can be done within three years. He said there is need to have a development plan of 25-50 years to enable the institution to

develop purposefully. He further emphasized that local government areas which contribute to the development of the institution should be able to benefit from it.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS (INCLUDING THE CHIEF SERVANT'S RESPONSE)

Kanwuri Ward

Alh. Maigari Iya who represented the ward requested the conversion of Government Secondary School, Wushishi to a Teachers' Training College.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that in a bid to improve the standard of education, the state government has reverted to the old policy of establishing Teacher Training Colleges to combat the problem of shortage of qualified teachers. As a result, Wushishi and Nassarawa in Zone C will be locations for the training college.

Baigo Ward

The representative, Alh. Ismaila Bello requested roads and good drinking water.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that government will join hands with Alh. Abubakar Saidu, whom he knows well and who is a candidate in the forthcoming Chairmanship elections, to ensure their demands are met. He advised the people to work for the victory of Alh. Saidu in order to actualize their demands.



The Women leader speaking at the Jama'a Forum Wushishi

Kanwa Ward

On behalf of the ward, Alh. Musa Madaki requested a school and the electrification of Kanwa ward as well as a barge for movement across the river.

The Chief Servant's Response

As in his earlier response to Baigo ward, the Chief Servant enjoined the people to vote for Alh. Saidu so that together with the State government, their demands will be met.

Tanko Kurebi Ward

Alh. Ndako Asibi, the ward representative, stated that they would like another ward carved out of the present ward because it is too large. They also lack good drinking water, electricity, and primary school.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant promised to look into the issue of school and water under the State and local government joint project policy but advised that INEC and the party Chairman should look into boundary adjustment issue.

Akare Ward

Alh. Suleman Akare pointed out that since the flood disaster that wreaked havoc on their land several years ago, they have not been resettled on their land. He called for a resolution of the matter.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant observed that there are some outstanding issues yet unresolved. He stated that as soon as issues of resettlement and related issues are sorted out by the people, government is ready to partner with the local council to bring the needed development to the area.

Lokogoma Ward

Speaking on behalf of his ward, Mallam Ahmed Lokogoma requested the provision of electricity, a rural hospital and a secondary school. He pointed out that their representative at the State House of Assembly, the Deputy Speaker, has provided some boreholes but more are needed.

The Chief Servant's Response

In his response, the Chief Servant stated that junior and senior secondary schools have now been merged, and the requests for electricity and water will be attended to under a joint project arrangement between the State and the local government councils.

Aminchi Ward

Alh. Ibrahim informed the Chief Servant that they need a bigger mosque, a hospital that is yet to be completed and assistance to resuscitate a borehole that has never provided water.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant observed that the contractor who dug the borehole must have cheated and behaved unethically. As regards mosques, a committee will be set up to assist in rehabilitation but generally Muslims should endeavour to build mosques as personal forms of worship to Allah, their Creator. The Secretary to the PDP and the former Head of Service should note and assist.

Kodo Ward

Alh. Isa Kodo, on behalf of the ward, requested a dam, road construction and the completion of the primary school in Kodo.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant promised that the dam shall be built by the grace of Allah. He observed that the road under review was also mentioned by the people of Bosso, so something will be done about it.

Gwarjiko Ward

The representative, Saidu Mohammed, requested the rehabilitation of Guji-Dabiji road, the repair of the Gwajirko bridge, as well as a boat for the people of Daboji.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant stated that the projects will be undertaken through joint project with the local government.

Sabongari Ward

Alh. Abdullahi Aminu, the ward representative, made the following requests:

- a). An isolation ward for the Wushishi General Hospital
- b). Relocation of the Business Management department to Zungeru main campus
- c). Empowerment of youths through provision of scholarships, and
- d). the assistance of the Chief Servant in securing the release of youths detained over the fracas in Zungeru.

The Chief Servant's Response

In respect of youths engagement, a new government policy will ensure that all graduates and other categories of youth from Niger State will benefit from the government's employment policy commencing in May 2008.

On scholarship, the Chief Servant noted that the government is working out a new policy to guarantee loans to students through some designated banks. And on the issue of youths detained during the fracas, the Chief Servant said it was now a case before the Police and the judicial arm of government; it would therefore be responsible of the executive arm of government not to intervene but allow the law to take its due course.

Wushishi Youth Development Association

The Association reminded the Chief Servant of his promise to construct a bridge between Wushishi and Zungeru during the flag off of Zone C campaign. They also appealed to the Chief Servant to look into the issue of hospital and to consider tying the local government's allocation to students scholarship.

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant informed the people that the Commissioner of Health has given assurance that the hospital will be ready in five months' time. In addition, the State Government will review the salary of doctors upwards to be at par with what obtains in other States in order to check the incidence of brain drain.

Women Leader, Wushishi Local Government

Hajiya Binta, the women representative, commended the Chief Servant but expressed displeasure at the condition of the women's hospital. She also called on the people of Wushishi to vote Alh. Saidu during the forthcoming elections.

Fulani Representative

The representative made the following demands;

- a). Veterinary clinics and drugs for their cattle
- b). School for their children, and
- c). Drinking water

The Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant noted that veterinary service in the State is at its lowest ebb with only 40 veterinary doctors. He stated that the Special Assistant (Nomadic Education) shall articulate the demands of the Fulani for government's attention.

PRESENTATION OF NIGER STATE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN, 2007- 2011

The Chief Servant presented the "Niger State Development Action Plan: 2007-2011", a document that highlights the various developmental plan and policy for the state. He advised that the people should



The Chief Servant presenting the Niger State Development Action Plan 2007 - 2011 at the Jama'a Forum Wushishi

go through the book to see what development plans the government has for their area, and noted that their contributions in terms of advice and recommendations are welcome.

The Chief Servant further explained the relationship between him and the electorate as that of "master/servant" relationship, saying the electorate who put him in power are the master while he is the servant.

Finally, the Chief Servant promised to address all the issues raised as most of these issues have been highlighted in the Development Plan of the state.

CLOSING

The Forum came to an end at 7:50pm after the closing prayers and the National Anthem.

Jama'a Forum In Mokwa, Mokwa Local Government Area



A farmer is presented with a bag of fertilizer by the Chief Servant symbolically signaling the commencement of the 2008 fertilizer sale

INCLUDING THE FLAGGING-OFF OF SALE ON THE FERTILIZER AND TRACTOR HIRE SCHEME 2008

Venue: G.S.S. Mokwa
Date: April 15, 2008
Time: 12:50 pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL:

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers were said by the Chief Imam of Mokwa, Alh. Danladi and the President, C.A.N Mokwa, Mr. James Kolo.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY HON. COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

The welcome address was given by the Commissioner for Agriculture, Alh. Mohammed Gunu. He described Niger State as an agrarian state because over 70% of the populace earned their livelihood from agriculture and the state is endowed with both human and natural



The Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture drives one of the tractors into the Jama'a Forum venue to flag-off the 2008 Tractor Hire Scheme

resources. He said the present administration has since 2007 began to harness the potentials and resources of the state vigorously. In this light, he said that resources have been allocated for the following:

- a). Procurement of fertilizer
- b). Payment of counterpart funding for programmes such as FADAMA 2, B.T.E. P (N50 Million) and N.P.S.F.
- c). Participation in FADAMA 3
- d). Procurement of 323 Tractors at the cost of N1.5b
- e). Order for 15,000 metric tons of assorted grain at a cost of N500m
- f). Procurement of 3,000 metric tones of grains from farmers to stabilize food prices under the Buffer stock programme
- g). Livestock vaccination at the cost of N500,000
- h). Engaging public private partnership initiative (PPPI)
- i). Engaging Maizube and Abu Turab farms in livestock research initiative, and
- j). Subsidizing of fertilizers to be sold to farmers.

The Commissioner then officially handed over the keys of the tractors to the Chief Servant.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF SERVANT

The Chief Servant apologized for being late and explained that he had come to Mokwa for two reasons. First, to launch the Sale of Fertilizers and Tractors Hire Scheme for 2008. He explained that Mokwa was chosen for this in order to acknowledge and thank the people for their support in both the gubernatorial and council elections. He said Mokwa polled the highest number of votes during the just concluded council elections. The Chief Servant solicited for more support and cooperation, and prayed for peace, prosperity and God's guidance.

The Chief Servant said he was also in Mokwa for the Jama'a Forum. He stated that he has seen the bad state of roads in Mokwa town and promised that something will be done.



The Chief Servant acknowledges cheers as he is about to address the crowd at the Jama'a Forum, Mokwa

On the issue of fertilizers, the Chief Servant explained that the government has further subsidized the prices of fertilizers this year and gave the breakdown as follow:

Year 2007

Urea - N1,800

N.P.K. - N1,700

S.S.P - N1,400

Year 2008

Urea - N1,500

N.P.K. - N1,500

S.S.P - N1,300

The Chief Servant stated that there are conditions attached to the sale of fertilizers and that a serious monitoring mechanism will be put in place to check sharp practices. He advised the people to be vigilant and also urged elected representatives not to betray the trust that has been reposed in them.

He said if the sale of fertilizers is not properly monitored, the commodity would be diverted to neighbouring states of Kwara, Kogi, Sokoto, etc but with the help of the Police and traditional rulers, any one involved in illegal diversion and sale will be made to face the law. In addition, with the aid of the media, every one will know the official price of fertilizer.

On the issue of health, the Chief Servant promised that contract will be awarded for the reconstruction of Mokwa General Hospital in three weeks' time. In addition, hospital equipment such as X-ray and scanning machines worth about N50m will be delivered to the hospital in three months' time. He promised that within the next three to five months, N95m would have spent on the Mokwa General Hospital.

The Chief Servant stated that the salary of doctors in the State has been reviewed upwards to compare favorably with their counterparts in other States such as Kebbi, Kwara and Sokoto. He recalled that doctors in the State were hitherto paid N75,000 before but are now being paid N123,000 to discourage brain drain from that sector.

On the issue of roads, the Chief Servant observed that even the road leading to the hospital is in bad condition. He instructed the Commissioner of Works to cost the road project and added that a committee will be set up to look into the issue of road construction within the town.

On Education

The Chief Servant promised that his administration will promote development in the educational sector.

He stated that in Niger State today, primary to secondary school education is free but the Parent Teachers Associations are encouraged to assist within reasonable degree in the development of schools. He warned against school officials collecting money from students under the pretext of developing schools.

He stated that N23m will be spent on some projects at the old site of the College of Agriculture, Mokwa. He gave immediate directive for work to commence within one week, but said that any other work will be carried out at the permanent site of the College.

He promised that in due course, the College of Agriculture, Mokwa will be affiliated to the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai.

He promised that a development committee will be set up to deliberate on the dualisation of the major road in Mokwa since the dualisation will necessitate the destruction of structures in the town.

On the issue of Rabbah road, after consulting with the Commissioner for Works, the Chief Servant stated that the contract will be signed for the project within 40 days.

On Employment

The Chief Servant declared that by May this year, all graduates of Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education from Niger State will be sent on a six months' induction course, preparatory to being given gainful employment.

On Ecological Fund

The Chief Servant informed the people that an ecological fund has been set aside by the Presidency to tackle ecological problems such as erosion and flooding.

He acknowledged the efforts of Alh. Muhammadu Egba Enagi who has been involved in the resettlement and provision of water supply to displaced persons of Muregi who were affected by flooding.

He charged the member representing the constituency, Hon Ndako and the Mokwa Council Chairman to work hand in hand by setting up a committee to see to the resettlement of the people of new Muregi.



One of the ward representatives handing over a list of their demands to the Chief Servant

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Jebba Ward

Mallam Isah Mohammed of Jebba Ward made the following presentation:

- a). Development of Mungo Park Tourist Centre
- b). Boundary demarcation between Niger and Kwara States
- c). Construction of Health Care Clinic, and
- d). Conversion of Junior Secondary School to Senior Secondary School.

Chief Servant's response

On the issue of Mungo Park Tourist Centre, the Chief Servant promised to sort out the mistake made as to the location of the centre. He cited an example of the Postmaster General who put the tourist site on stamp and credited it to being in Kwara State.

On the issue of electrification and liaison office, the Chief Servant promised to discuss with the State Attorney General.

Muwo Ward

Professor Samuel Tswana who represented the ward made the following presentation:

- a). Rehabilitation of Road from Muwo junction to Muwo town (8 km)
- b). Request for classroom blocks for Muwo Secondary School which was established in 1982, but which still shares classrooms with a primary school established in 1959
- c). On employment, P.H.C.N employs only unskilled workers, but not graduates of the state
- d). Request for the establishment of a school in Gabgiko
- e). Electrification
- f). Request for a dispensary
- g). Fertilizers and Tractors, and
- h). Need for ferry service across River Iku.

Chief Servant's response

On the issue of employment, the Chief Servant stated that government will engage graduates from Niger State who will be sent on six months education course by May 2008, to add value to their certificates

In respect of ferry service, the Chief Servant consulted with the Commissioner for Transport who said only three ferries were approved in this year's

budget. He promised to discuss with the Speaker of the House of Assembly in order to secure two additional ferries.

As regards tractors, the Chief Servant said only co-operatives will be given tractors on loan to ensure effective monitoring and maintenance.



Another ward representative handing over a list of their demands to the Chief Servant after presentation

Mokwa Ward

Alh. Mohammed Suleiman of Mokwa ward made the following presentation:

- a). Ward delineation: the people are asking for the creation of four additional wards in Mokwa as the existing wards are inadequate
- b). Upgrading of the traditional chiefdom to the status of Emirship
- c). Need to prevent erosion which is threatening the town of Mokwa
- d). Request for standard schools with high educational and infrastructural qualities
- e). Rehabilitation of College of Agriculture, Mokwa
- f). Rehabilitation of the General Hospital which is in deplorable condition, with overgrown weeds and lacking access road

- g). Need assistance to engage and pay vigilante groups to ensure security of lives and property, and
- h). Assistance in the completion of Mokwa Water Project.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant assured the people that in three months' time, television and Radio stations will be accessible to the people of Mokwa to ensure effective dissemination of news.

In respect of additional Hakimai, the Chief Servant promised to discuss with the Chairman of the Emirate Council.

Rabah Ward

The representative of Rabah ward made the following presentation:

On Electrification

The electrification project was started in 1994 by the community. In 1997, Governor Simeon Oduoye along with the then Council Chairman pledged N800,000 and N450,000 respectively to complete the project. Both pledges were unfulfilled. In 2002, Governor Abdulkadir Kure promised to complete the project by engaging Itakul lah Nig. Ltd. By 2003, the contractors had abandoned the project after replacing the wooden poles with concrete ones and since then nothing else has been done. They are therefore seeking the Chief Servant's kind intervention to enable them enjoy the fruits of democracy.

On Roads Rehabilitation

There was a call for assistance to rehabilitate the roads in the community which are in terrible condition. Some of the roads are Mokwa-Rabah, Mokwa-EppaTanapa-Ja'agi and Eppa-Jaangi roads.

On Education

The people are requesting the upgrading of the Junior Secondary School, Rabah to a Senior Secondary School. There was also a request for two additional Junior Secondary Schools at Eppa and Ndayako. In addition, some UBE schools are yet to be constructed while others require rehabilitation.

On Healthcare

The people are also appealing for the upgrading of the rural health centres at Rabah, Epa and Ndayako to Comprehensive Health centres as well as the construction of a Basic health centre at Railway station, Mokwa.

On Water Supply

They need government intervention in the supply of potable water in several communities.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant noted all the demands put forth by the people of Rabah and announced that government will employ a new policy of joint project between States and Local Governments to ensure that developmental projects are undertaken.

In respect of upgrading of healthcare facilities, the Chief Servant acknowledged the concern of Prof. Ndagi in this regards and assured the people that Sagi Rabah Nupe, Senator Zainab Kure will also assist the government to provide needed amenities to the people.

Bokani Wabi Ward

Alh. Abubakar Yunusa who represented the ward made the following requests:

- a). Completion of the 9km Wabi-Masha road which will open up the hinterland and ensure easy evacuation of cash and food crops
- b). Completion of electrification of Mokwa-Bokani as well as Masha-Kusogi-Wabi communities. No single village has been electrified in the whole ward
- c). Provision of water supply, housing for teachers as well as perimeter fencing of the Bokani Girls Secondary School to ensure security of the teeming young girls at the school
- d). Appeal to the Chief Servant to assist in the construction of a bridge linking Dapan, Tika and Gunjigi areas to Bokani. During the rainy

season, these communities are cut off from each other due to the bad condition of the bridge, and

- e). Request for assistance in providing classroom infrastructure at the UBE Schools for the benefit of young children.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant urged the people to be patient and await the outcome of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry which will expose the persons involved in the level of abandonment of the projects.

On education, the Chief Servant instructed the ward representative to present the paper containing their requests to the Special Adviser on Girl-Child Education, Haj. Kaka Wabi who is also from Wabi.

The Chief Servant declared that in addition to government intervention, part of the monthly allocation of N500,000 to the wards should be utilized for support of such purpose as purchase of classroom infrastructures.

Kpaki and Takuma Wards

Alh. Aliyu Takuma who represented the wards requested assistance in the following areas:

- a). Both Kpaki Secondary School and Takuma Primary School are operating on borrowed lands
- b). The road from Takuma to Wabi is in terrible condition, and in need of rehabilitation
- c). The desire of the people for the government's recognition and immortalization of two prominent politicians from Kpaki and Takuma - the late Alh. Alhassan Kpaki and the late Alh. Suleiman Takuma respectively.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that he personally knows the two prominent politicians and the government will recognize and honour them appropriately in due course.

In reference to the other issues, the Chief Servant said that the projects have been noted and will also be completed in due course.

Kudu Ward

Hon. Shehu A. Tuhani made the following presentation on behalf of the ward;

- a). The ward requested a bigger community hospital and maternity centre in Kudu
- b). Rehabilitation of roads between Kudu-Kpakiko, Kudu-Tutuntiko, Chaji-Tswankwagi and Kudu-Kinbokun-Wupo-Gbete
- c). Extension of rural electrification projects to Wupo, Gbete, Tswankwagi and Tutuntiko communities, and
- d). Construction of additional classrooms for Secondary and Primary schools in the ward as well as supply of borehole pipes within the ward.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that while some of the issues are captured in the State Development Action Plan, others are within the purview of Constituency projects.

Labozhi Ward

Alh. Abba, the ward representative made the following requests:

- a). Rehabilitation of access roads to link the large area covering the ward
- b). Appeal for completion of abandoned electricity projects, and
- c). Provision of adequate classrooms for primary schools in Batati, Emigi and Ekpagi.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant stated that the member representing them is like a bridge between the local government and the State government. The Chief Servant

advised them to call him for a meeting and ensure that the member starts his Jama'a Forum for the people's benefit.

Jaagi Ward

Mallam Ahmed Mohammed made the following requests on behalf of the ward:

- a). Rehabilitation of roads within the ward
- b). Provision of potable water
- c). Upgrading of Jaagi and Wuya-Kede Junior Secondary Schools to boarding Senior Secondary Schools, and
- d). The splitting of Jaagi ward into three wards.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant advised that these demands should be properly articulated for the attention of government.

Kede Ward

The following presentation was made by Talban Kede, Alh. Mohammed Baiwa on behalf of the ward:

- a). The Kede community is appealing to the Chief Servant to bring back Kede local government
- b). Ecological problems like flooding and erosion are affecting the lives of the Kede community. They want government to expedite action on the HYPPADEC bill to alleviate the people's suffering
- c). No electricity despite the havoc done to the community by the three overflowing dams namely Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro
- d). Rehabilitation of feeder roads
- e). No general hospital, only health centres and clinics
- f). Request for more schools and appeal for upgrading of the only Senior Secondary school to a boarding school, and

- g). Request for the Commissionship position relinquished by the present Chairman of the State PDP.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant admitted that Kede community has indeed done well and he cannot shy away from publicly recognizing their effort. He stated that if there will be any new hospital or school, it should be cited in New Kede.

In respect of Commissionship position, the members of Mokwa and Edati should meet and resolve the issue.

Jabi Ward

Alh. Jibrin Abdullahi of Jabi ward made the following presentation:

- a). Construction of roads
- b). Request for a new policy on resettlement issue of New Muregi
- c). Request for assistance on fish farming and fish pond
- d). Upgrading of Muregi rural hospital
- e). Request for ferry service
- f). Promotion of a fishing festival to promote tourism
- g). Request for the creation of Kede Local Government with additional wards and units, and
- h). There was an appeal on behalf of UBE teachers who have not been paid in the past 15 months.

Chief Servant's response

The Chief Servant directed the Hon. Commissioner of Commerce, Tourism and Culture to liaise with the Commissioner of Information and explore the viability or otherwise of a fishing and cultural regatta between December and January at Muregi. In addition, he charged the Commissioner of Transport to note the request for a ferry.

The Chief Servant declared that Kede like others is now a development centre but assured that the request for creation of a Local Government has to follow certain Constitutional provision.

On the plight of UBE teachers, the Chief Servant stated that the teachers in question were engaged without following relevant conditions of service. He therefore directed local governments to review all such cases and advise government on either to absorb the teachers, to negotiate some payment with them or to include them in the new group of workers who will assume the duty in May 2008.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES TO BENEFICIARIES OF NAPEP PROGRAMME

The following 10 cooperatives were presented cheques under the NAPEP poverty alleviation programme by the Chief Servant:

1.	Gunubawa Cooperative Mokwa	N100,000
2.	Jebba Cooperative Society	N100,000
3.	Jiaba Rabah Ndaya Cooperative	N100,000
4.	Kabuka Cooperative Society	N100,000
5.	Dasa Women Cooperative	N100,000
6.	Pawpaw Cooperative	N100,000
7.	Kpelo Cooperative Jebba	N100,000
8.	Edufe Lafiya Cooperative	N100,000
9.	Kpaki-Takuma Cooperative	N100,000
10.	Modiyo Cooperative	N100,000

PRESENTATION OF JAMA'A FORUM FLAG TO CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

While presenting the Jama'a Forum flag to the Chairman of Mokwa Local Government Council, the Chief Servant directed him to conduct Jama'a Forum in his local government. The Chief Servant advised the people to be vigilant and to ask questions from their Chairman, supervisors and councillors and to demand reports from them.



The Chief Servant presents the Jama'a Forum flag to the Chairman of Mokwa Local Government Council

FLAGGING-OFF OF FERTILIZER SALES

The Chief Servant, along with the Etsu Nupe, and the Speaker of the State House of Assembly flags off the sale of fertilizers and assured the people that by 2011, God willing, the State should boast of about 1000 tractors.



The Chief Servant, flanked by the Deputy Chief Savant, HRH the Etsu Nupe and the Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, cuts the tape to flag off the 2008 Fertilizer sale and tractor hiring scheme at the Mokwa Jama'a Forum

CLOSING

The programme came to a close with the rendition of the National Anthem and a closing prayer, at 3:20 pm.

Jama'a Forum In Edati, Edati Local Government Area



Masquerades and other cultural regalia at the Edati Jama'a forum

Venue: Primary School Field, Enagi
Date: April 15, 2008
Time: 4:15pm

[National Anthem]

PROTOCOL

OPENING PRAYERS

The opening prayers was led by Mal. Adama Enagi.

CHIEF SERVANT'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chief Servant thanked the people of Edati Local government for the support they gave him in the just concluded Council elections. He stated that Edati ranked fourth in the elections and he has come to repay them by hearing them out with a view to helping them.

The Chief Servant informed the people of Edati that the 2008 Fertilizer Sale and Tractor Hire Scheme has been flagged off in Mokwa. He assured them that the sharp practices which characterized the sale and distribution of fertilizer in the past will not be condoned adding that a monitoring mechanism which will regulate the sale of fertilizer has been put in place. He said tractors will be given on loan only to co-operatives and not to individuals. Other rules guiding the sale of fertilizers include:

- a). Fertilizers will be sold to farmers directly
- b). There will be strict monitoring and anyone caught distributing, selling or buying fertilizers at unauthorized prices will be prosecuted.
- c). Traditional rulers, law enforcement agencies and communities should be vigilant and ensure the success of the policy.

The Chief Servant then announced the price of fertilizers as follows:

Year 2007	Year 2008
Urea N1,800	N1,500
N.P.K. N1,700	N1,500
S.S.P N1,400	N1,300

The Chief Servant praised the efforts of some individuals like Alh. Egba Enagi who have been very helpful both within the State and Abuja.

In respect of the rural hospital, the Chief Servant stated that the hospital will be upgraded to a Comprehensive Health Centre.

The Chief Servant also announced that N500,000 will be allocated each month to every ward in the State through ward development committees to undertake developmental projects in their wards.

In respect of roads and water, the Chief Servant asked the Commissioners of Works and Water Resources to note and act accordingly.

On education, the Chief Servant stated that government has made primary to secondary school education free but advised that schools' P.T.A. could also help in the development of schools. On the lack of boarding schools, the Chief Servant promised to look into it and ensure that at least one is provided.

While praising the effort of the people in raising the sum of N1m for the town hall under construction, the Chief Servant encouraged them to raise yet another N1m and asked the local government to raise another N3m. He promised that the state government will provide N2m for the furnishing of the hall.

The Chief Servant then presented the Edati Council Chairman with the Jama'a Forum flag and instructed him to also conduct Jama'a Forum in all the 10 wards of the council before the end of year. He promised the Chairman that if he invites him to any of the Forum he would gladly attend if only he is given a timely invitation.

PRESENTATIONS AND REQUESTS BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND WARDS

Rokota Ward

Alh Aliyu Kpotun, the representative of Rokota ward, requested the following:

- a). Electrification of Diko junction to Rokota
- b). Road construction from Gboloti to Kobo
- c). Water supply
- d). Support for agricultural works, and
- e). Provision of benches and chairs for secondary schools in the local government.



One of the ward representatives presenting his ward's requests at the Jama'a Forum, Edati

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant asked if the Rokota ward has constituted its ward development committee and advised that the allocation to the committee be used to undertake projects in the ward.

Guzzan Ward

Alh. Mohammed N. Jiya, the representative of Guzzan Ward, requested the following:

- a). Construction of Diko to Guzzan Road, and the construction of Guzzan to Lafiagi road to link up Kwara State
- b). Electrification
- c). Water Supply, and
- d). Resuscitation of abandoned irrigation project.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant said issues regarding water supply have been brought to the attention of government by the Hon. Member representing them and other issues will be looked into.

Enagi Ward

Alh. Mohammed Ndabenu representing the ward requested the following: expansion and rehabilitation of poor road network.

Chief Servant's Response

On the issue of road rehabilitation, the Chief Servant said the people are not helping matters as they have erected structures along road paths.

As regards infrastructural development, the Chief Servant advised the local government Chairman to work out a 3-year development plan to enable government assist them in raising funds.

Etsu Tasha Ward

Alh. Baba Isah Sidi, the ward representative, made the following requests:

- a). The ward has acute water problems for which the old administration provided water tankers to alleviate the serious difficulties, but the tankers have broken down due to bad roads.
- b). The ward needs roads to convey farm products especially during rainy season.
- c). Need for at least one Basic health centre, the ward needs qualified teachers in primary schools, and
- e). Electrification.

Chief Servant's Response

On water scarcity, the Chief Servant said an agreement has been entered with the Federal University of Technology, Minna to work out modalities that will ensure water supply even if it entails breaking rocks. He promised that a temporary measure would be taken by repairing the two broken down water tankers and the purchase of two additional new ones.

On shortage of qualified teachers, he promised that with the reversion to Grade II system through teaching assistants and employment of graduates by May 2008, the strength of teachers in the state will be determined and the problem of temporary teachers will be a thing of the past.

On electrification, the Chief Servant said every one has the right to know about projects being undertaken in their area. He therefore wanted to know if the electrification project was stopped due to lack of funds or misappropriation or even embezzlement.

Fazhi Ward

Alh. Ibrahim Makunfu, the ward representative made the following requests:

- a). Construction of 7km Fazhi-Kutigi road
- b). Electrification of Shebe-Kusoti-Fazhi road, abandoned four years ago, and

- c). Construction of overhead water tank in Fazhi.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant replied that their plight has already been taken up by an illustrious son of the soil Barr. Abraham Yisa.



The Chief Servant with the Head of Service, at the Edati Jama'a Forum

Gonagi Ward

Alh Jibril B. Mohammed made the following presentation on behalf of the ward:

- a). Demand for fertilizers and agricultural implements like tractors as 85% of the communities are farmers
- b). Require for the rehabilitation of the 10km road project in the local government to ease the transportation of farm produce
- c). Rehabilitation and provision of classroom infrastructures at Gonagi Community Secondary School, and
- d). Appeals for the extension of electrification project (reactivated through the setting up of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry) to other communities in the ward.

Chief Servant's Response

On the issue of Gonagi Community School, the Chief Servant said the Commissioner of Education is away in Kaduna on official assignment but promised to look into the matter.

As regards the Commission of Inquiry, the Chief Servant reaffirmed the position that the Commission was not set up to witch-hunt any body but to ascertain the truth on the contracts and projects awarded.

Gazhe I Ward

Alh. Yusuf Baratsun, Gazhe I Ward made the following presentation on behalf of the ward:

- a). Construction of bridges along Kanti-Kpataki-Gazhe road network, and rehabilitation of the road itself
- b). Flood disaster relief especially for villages surrounding River Kaduna like Baratsu, Emiman, Gazhe Lati, Gazhe, Tadina, Gazhe Bafu, Shaba Legbo, etc.
- c). In respect of agriculture, 90% of population are farmers whose urgent request is for fertilizers and tractors. They would also like the fertilizers to be sold at the ward centres.
- d). On education, most of the classrooms are overpopulated. They also require assistance to complete the U.B.E primary school at Manturaki which requires roofing and other infrastructure. They also require a classroom at Emima village where the children are taught under mango trees.

Chief Servant's Response

On the issue of flooding, the Chief Servant charged the state PDP Chairman, House of Assembly members and the Council Chairman to put heads together to solve this problem.

On the issue of the uncompleted U.B.E. school at Manturaki, the Chief Servant stated the Commissioner for Education is away in Kaduna on official assignment but promised to look into it.

Sapke Ward

Alh. Abdullahi Sapke of Sapke ward made the following presentation:

- a). Wanted speedy conclusion of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry
- b). Suggested and sought for assistance in the use of cattle traction in farming. Appealed to the government to provide tractors and other farming implements, and
- c). Conversion of schools in Edati and Sapke to boarding schools.

Chief Servant's Response

The Chief Servant explained that most boarding schools will be sited in rural areas.

On the cattle traction mode of cultivation, the Chief Servant asked the Commissioner for Agriculture to examine its feasibility. The Commissioner explained that the cattle traction mode is not advisable or suitable for the land because of the rocky nature of the area.

Gbangban Ward

Hon. Alhassan Lukoro of Gbangban ward made the following observation and requests:

- a). Block of two classrooms in Gbangban not adequate as secondary school share classes with primary school.
- b). Many villages in the ward need electrification, and
- c). Water shortage.

Chief Servant's Response

As regards shortage of classrooms, the Chief Servant said the ward development committee should look at the problems of the school and intimate both the Commissioner for Education and the Director of the UBE who are unavoidably absent. He said the Development Action Plan would be given to them to afford them an insight into the intervention planned by government for the area.

On the issue of electricity, the Chief Servant asked to know if poles had been planted to ascertain if contract has already been awarded for the project.

On the issue of water shortage, the Chief Servant said that the Federal University of Technology, Minna is working towards finding a lasting solution to the issue of water supply.

Gazhe II Ward

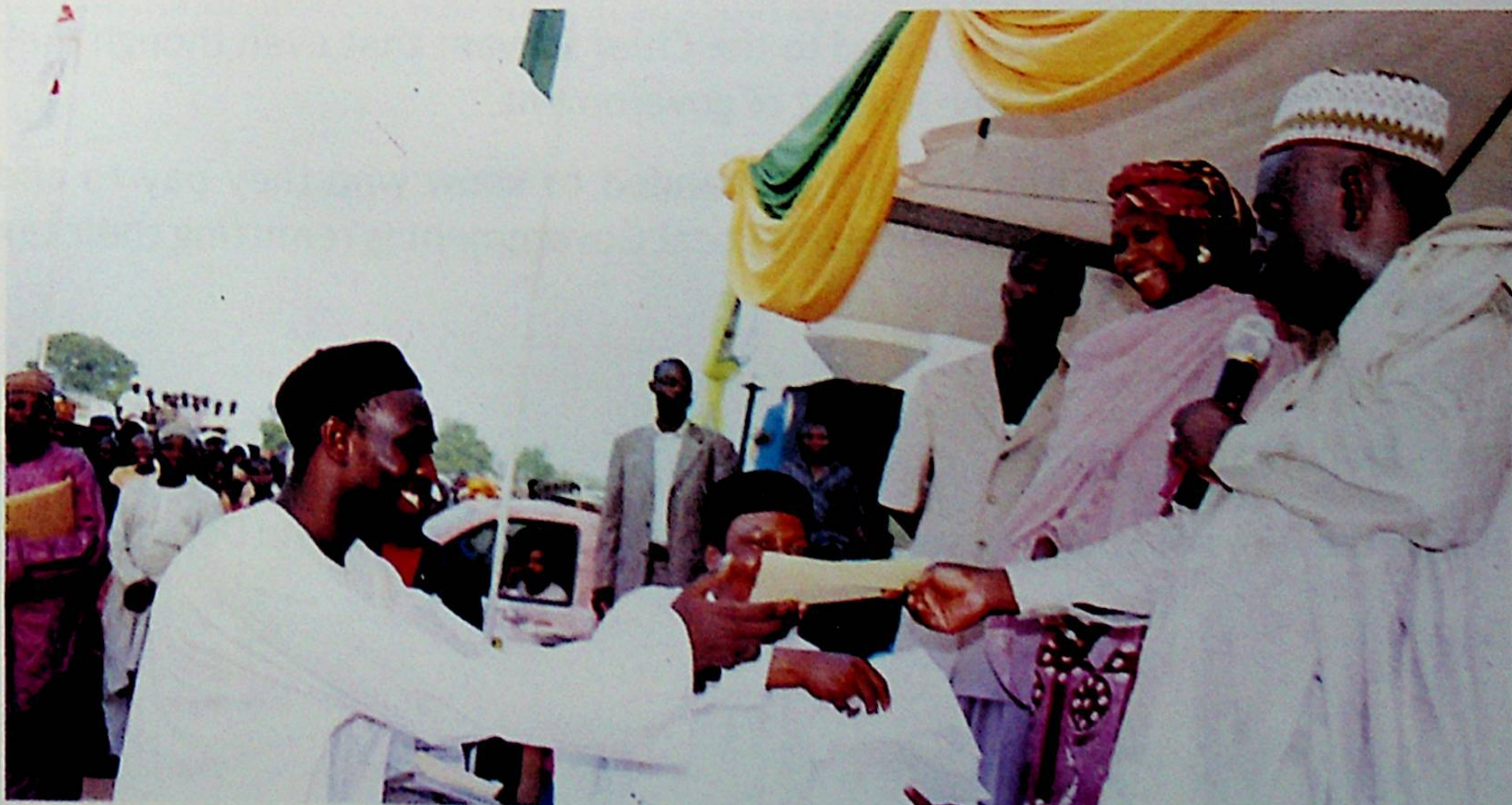
Mallam Babalaji of Gazhe II ward said the problems of the ward have already been highlighted by his colleagues and he has nothing more to add.

PRESENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

The Chief Servant presented the Niger State Development Action Plan to the Chairman, Edati Local Government Council.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES TO BENEFICIARIES BY NAPEP COORDINATOR

Alh Iiyasu Dhacko, the Co-coordinator of NAPEP in the State talked briefly of the programmes instituted by NAPEP aimed at fighting poverty. These include the Conditional Cash Transfer and the Village Economic Empowerment Scheme programmes.



The Chief Servant presenting a cheque to a beneficiary of the Niger State/NAPEP Programme on Poverty Alleviation at the Edati Jama'a Forum.

He advised people to form co-operatives in order to benefit from the poverty alleviation schemes.

The following cooperatives were then presented cheques by the Chief Servant:

(1) Bayacita Women Co-operative	N100,000
(2) Donko Women Co-operative	N100,000
(3) Emigun Co-operative Society	N100,000
(4) Nini Co-operative Society	N100,000
(5) Saida Men Co-operative	N100,000
(6) Nasara Enagi Co-operative	N100,000
(7) Kuzha Co-operative	N100,000
(8) Yebho Soko Women Co-operative	N100,000
(9) Yegborolo Enagi	N100,000
(10) Kupanko Emigi Kwale	N100,000

Fulani Representative

The Fulani community complained to the Chief Servant that even though they pay taxes they do not feel the impact of government.

In his response, the Chief Servant demanded to know who they pay to and promised to investigate to see if Edati Local Government is remitting their tax as appropriate.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

H.R.H the Bima of Enagi presented gifts to the Chief Servant and Deputy Chief Servant.



The Chief Servant being presenting with a gift at the Edati Jama'a Forum.

CLOSING

The National Anthem was sung at 6:35pm bringing the Forum to a close.



EPILOGUE

This book is dedicated to the memory of Barrister Muhammed Datti Mu'azu
[Mazee]
Principal Private Secretary I to the Chief Servant

Who passed on in active service on the way back from Jama'a Forum
Held at Bangi, Mariga LGA, on Thursday, August 28, 2008.

Adieu, Mazee
1962-2008

Not long ago, you were the silent star that ran relentless across the sky
Not long ago, you were the eager hand ready to plough the work and fly.

Then one August evening, you left your dream at the root of Mariga River
But the glory is already written and Death is not clever.

The clever ones are those who live as if there is no tomorrow
So when the end comes, they leave in minimum sorrow.

Mazee, you lived quickly as a born-worker, faithful and with honour
As other special ones, may you be blessed with Al-jannah Fridausi...

Death may drown the messenger but not the message.

Anon.
05-09-08