

# **GOMBE STATE OF NIGERIA PEER REVIEW MISSION REPORT FOR THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM**

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## **A. STATE PROFILE**

Gombe nicknamed "Jewel in the Savannah" was created by Late General Sani Abacha on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 1996. The State has an area of 20,265 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 2,353,000 people according to the 2006 estimates. It has 11 LGAs. It is bordered by Borno and Yobe States to the North and East, Taraba and Adamawa to the South and Bauchi to the West.

Gombe is an agrarian State. Crops grown include maize, sorghum, groundnuts, beans, soyabeans and vegetables.

## **B. AGRICULTURE**

"Agriculture, which is the main occupation of majority of our people will receive a boost by means of statewide extension services, enhanced livestock production facilities and the expansion and maintenance of grazing reserves and cattle routes. Government will also provide agricultural credit facilities and improved high yielding variety seeds. It is rather unfortunate that the issue of fertilizer has been highly politicized. We shall ensure that adequate and highly qualitative fertilizers is provided at affordable cost to our farmers." *Gov. Goje – 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2003.*

### **Achievements**

1. Procured and distributed 91 new tractors to individuals, organization and institutions across the State to boost farming.
2. Annually procured and distributed over 35,000 metric tones of assorted fertilizers to farmers at 50% subsidized rates to cater for both dry and wet season farming.
3. Established and equipped Agricultural Training Centre to train young school leavers in modern farming methods.
4. Assisted dry season farmers with farming inputs.
5. Provided free annual vaccination of livestock.
6. Guaranteeing of loans to farmers.
7. Gombe State has consistently being faithful to all counterfund projects and had paid in full all dues under the NPFS, Fadama II and the Commercial Agric Development Programme.

## **C. WATER SUPPLY**

"This administration will attack headlong, the perennial problems of water supply in Gombe Township and all other parts of the State. The abandoned Gombe regional Water Supply

contract will be re-examined and any funds found to have been wrongly paid to contractors would be recovered. The Gombe State Water Corporation, which has been a drainpipe, without corresponding services will be re-organized and re-structured to ensure effective performance and accountability”

Governor Danjuma Goje during his inauguration as the Executive Governor of Gombe State on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2003.

### **Achievements**

1. Constructed and commissioned the Gombe Regional Water Supply Scheme at the cost of ₦8.2 billion. The Scheme currently supplies water to the State Capital and 15 other towns and villages.
2. Constructed Kumo, Dukku and Filiya Township Water Schemes.
3. Currently constructing new water schemes at Bojude, Pindiga and Boh.
4. Procured and distributed 27 brand new water tankers to the eleven local government areas of the State for short term supply relief in 2003.
5. More than 300 boreholes so far sunk across the State.
6. Rehabilitated various water supply schemes in small towns in the 3 Senatorial Districts.
7. Provided 128 hand pumps/boreholes in Primary Health Care Centres, Primary Schools and rural communities in 10 LGAs.

### **D. CHALLENGES**

1. Power for both agricultural and water-driven purposes.
2. Low FAC, Gombe State gets among the least allocation in the country.
3. Tough, rough and hilly terrain in the Southern parts of the State that makes infrastructural development very difficult and expensive.
4. Snakes at the Kaltungo axis.

### **E. BENCHMARKS**

1. The Gombe Regional Water Supply Scheme is the best seen all over the country. It's accessories include:-
  - 3 Nos heavy duty high lift pumps.
  - 6,300 KVA transformer, connecting the plant to the National Grid.

- Latest makes of back wash pumps.
- 4 Nos heavy duty standby power generating plants (1,000 KVA each) at the treatment plant to ensure 24 hours service.
- Digitalized high lift backwash control panels and a system monitoring panel.
- 6,400m<sup>3</sup> Tabra Hill Reservoir that receives water directly from the treatment plant, which is 40km away located at Dadin Kowa.
- Upper and Lower Zone Booster stations distributing water by gravity to Gombe Metropolis and Environs.

#### **F. RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS**

1. With the massive production of tomatoes in the State, Gombe should provide post-harvest losses mitigating strategies, either through good marketing outlet (export), processing or storage.

#### **G. CONCLUSION**

With a short period of just 7 years, Gombe had been transformed from a glorified local government headquarters to a modern town. This is highly commendable and the issue of sustainability and continuity must be given serious thoughts.