

Directorate of Economic Empowerment

THE WAY FORWARD

April 2010

Officer of the Deputy
Governor – Dutse,
Jigawa State.

Jigawa State Economic
Empowerment Programmes

Being a Paper Presented at the Peer Reviewing Tour to Jigawa State
By Nigerian Governors' Forum Secretariat

Introduction

The Directorate of Economic Empowerment under the Office of the Deputy Governor is charged with the responsibilities of implementing government empowerment programmes aimed at eradicating poverty and providing entrepreneurial training of youths, women and the physically challenged through Skills Acquisition Training as well as training as Agricultural Production and Processing ICT Programmes and also the conventional Skills Acquisition Training being taught at our Skills Acquisition Centres spread across the State.

The programmes for the purpose of this presentation can be divided into three categories: -

1. Skills Acquisition Programme
2. Adhoc trainings – Selected trades
3. Access to Capital through Micro-finance.

All these programmes are designed to address the issues of poverty which is pervasive and requires multiple approaches. Though eradicating poverty is a global issue and the first of the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals is the issue of eradicating poverty. This can be achieved by reducing the number of people living below \$1 per day by 2015.

Poverty eradication initiative and programmes are put in place by the government to survey and monitor poverty incidences across the state. These was informed by the CBN report which rated Jigawa State as one of the states in the federation with high incidence of poverty. This posed a challenge to the newly elected Governors who considered it a point of duty to reformat their efforts. And in Jigawa State as soon as the present Government was sworn in.

The present Government has set aside an allowance for the physically challenged and a Bill on Social Security was presented to the State Assembly and was passed into Law.

The Jigawa State Government went ahead with mapped out strategies and mounted a critical study on how best to implement its programmes geared towards Poverty eradication.

Interventions

Apart from social security allowance, the Talakawa Summit was convened to listen to the voice of the grassroots, their needs and their expectations from an elected government which they perceived and believed to be theirs.

As a result of the summit, this Directorate was created so also other related agencies i.e. Agency for Mass Education and Nomadic Education Agency. The JGSG then made economic empowerment as one of its priority areas in the 2009 and 2010 Budget.

The establishment of the Directorate of Economic Empowerment is a laudable programme which cut across the socio-economic life of the people of Jigawa State. The D.E.E was established on the premise that it will assist to eradicate poverty in the state and is the first time an agency was established to address poverty from its root. This was informed by the series of consultation and considerations on the major causes of poverty and unemployment in the state.

The major causes of poverty and unemployment identified are: -

1. Prevailing low labour absorption in the key sectors i.e. absence of skilled labour.

3. Under-utilisation of Human Resources.
4. High and increasing incidence of restive youth and their bad social habits.
5. Prostitution and child abuse, poor health malnutrition and ignorance.

Achievements

1. The Jigawa State Government has renovated, rehabilitated and re-equipped the five (5) Skills Acquisition Centres at Hadejia, Gumel, Kazaure, Ringim and Birnin-Kudu towns.
2. Dutse Pilot Centre designed for ICT and other Trades is under construction at Limawa, Dutse LGA.
3. The Jigawa State Government and MDG Office intervened with the Construction of Workshops, Classroom blocks, and Supply of Tools and Equipment for the five centres. About 380million will be spent this year.
4. One hundred and fifty (150) youths received training in Photography and Chalk Production and each was empowered with equipment and materials to start off business (120 Photography, 30 Chalk Production).
5. One hundred and fifty (150) women received training in Home Economics at Limawa, Dutse Local Government Area. The training covered Knitting, Soap Making, Snacks and Pastries preparation, etc.
6. One Thousand five Hundred (1500) youths received training from the Directorate of Economic Empowerment (DEE) in conjunction with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) on various trades ranging from tailoring, hair dressing, vulcanizing and auto-mechanic repair.
7. Fifty (50) instructors in leather works, comprising 30 males and 20 females including the leading testifier at the Talakawa Summit Mallam Abdu Baduku, received a four (4) weeks Training of Trainers' (TOT) course at the Birnin Kudu Skills Acquisition Centre. These beneficiaries are expected to go back to their Centres and train some selected youths from the 27 LGAs.
8. Four Hundred (400) youths have completed training on nine (9) selected trades at Hadejia Skills Acquisition Training Centre and are presently

undergoing attachment with some identified Master Crafts Men for a 3 – month period.

9. One Thousand Two Hundred (1,200) trainees have undergone training in various trades at the Skills Acquisition Training Centres in Gumel, Birnin Kudu, Ringim and Kazaure towns. They have been posted to master craftsman for the mandatory three (3) months attachment.
10. Two Hundred (200) rural women have benefited from a training workshop on the use of renewable energy facilities for cooking and other household uses in conjunction with Alternative Energy Agency and the Ministry of Women Affairs.
11. Dutse Women Development Centre has been reactivated through the purchase and provision of working materials for various trades.

Access to Capital

12. Over Ten Thousand (10,000) local artisans and petty traders across the twenty seven (27) Local Government Areas, that is 408 artisans and petty traders per Local Government benefited from a grant each ranging from N5,000.00 to N100,000.
13. A total sum of thirty million naira (N30,000,000.00) has been disbursed as micro-credit facilities to nine hundred and forty (940) small scale entrepreneurs from the thirty (30) state constituencies, with each beneficiary collecting thirty thousand naira (N30,000.00).
14. Ten Million naira (10,000,000.00) from the Women Fund for Economic Empowerment (WFEE) was disbursed to one hundred and thirty (130) women groups across the State.
15. Five Microfinance Banks (MFBs) in the state, namely Dutse, Birnin-Kudu, Taura, Babura and Kaugama have granted different types of loans amounting to over two hundred and ninety three million naira (293,000,000.00) to five thousand, nine hundred and sixty one (5,691) beneficiaries.
16. The sum of 27 Million Naira loan has been granted to Hides and Skins buyers in Jigawa State through Micro-finance Banks.

Access to Modern Tools & Technology

17. Three (3) cassava processing machines have been ordered for the Kila Cassava Processing Plant in Gwaram Local Government Area at a cost of Twenty Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Naira (N22,800,000.00).
18. Twenty eight (28) prototype groundnut oil extraction machines have been purchased and distributed to women groups across the 27 LGAs in the state at a subsidized rate.
19. Ten thousand (10,000) units of improved cooking stoves have been fabricated and distributed across the state.
20. ICT Training Programme titled **"GSM REPAIRS, USING COMPUTER APPLICATION"** for the unemployed Youths in Jigawa State for a period of 8 Weeks. 90 trainees have completed their training and will be settled this month.

Challenge

The major challenge facing the Directorate is how do we translate the commitment of the Government to the causes of Talakawa into tangible and sustainable benefits of empowerment for the people of the State most especially the youth, women and physically challenged.

Present status

The commitment of the eradication of poverty has been well stated (policy speeches and government policies, deliberations at the level of executive council, the legislative and the key agencies of government that are the major stakeholders of poverty.

The government has set up two powerful committees namely:

1. The State Committee on Micro-Finance and Economic Empowerment headed by Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Rural Infrastructure and Community Development.

2. The Stakeholders Committee on Poverty Headed by the Deputy Governor with the SSG and four (4) Commissioners, with NDE and NPEP as mentioned while this Directorate provide the Secretariat.

Way Forward

For the state to move forward, we need a strong, comprehensive and well coordinated approach, which makes empowerment of the people the thrust and arrowhead into all operations of government with the aim of impacting visibly on the life and condition of people.

The Jigawa State Government has adopted a policy of empowering its citizens and poverty eradication as the guiding principle of governance in the state. The overall policy should be broken down into specific policy objectives and ensuring that empowerment is a share responsibility of all agencies of government.

In conclusion, we should adopt the following: -

- a. Planning and budgeting based on agreed policy objectives of the nine (9) identified sectors of the state comprehensive development framework document that was developed by each MDA in Jigawa State.
- b. Ethical re-orientation, to encourage the right conduct both within and outside the government – self reliance and dignity of oneself.
- c. Cooperation with all the stakeholders of Poverty including NGO's and CBOS
- d. Targeted capacity building within the civil services for competence and encourage professionalism.
- e. These should also be an effective monitoring and Evaluation Unit so that implementation and other activities are closely kept in check.

The correct past economic failure and increasing poverty, the JGSG should continue with revival programmes, such as seminars, workshops, summits for capacity building and human development.

Thank you.

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