

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MINISTRY
FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, SOKOTO

2010

BRIEF ON THE MINISTRY FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

1 Creation of the Ministry for Religious affairs

The then Department for Religious Affairs was upgraded to a full pledged Ministry in June 2008. The Ministry was created to handle matters relating to Religious in the State such as construction and rehabilitation of mosques and islamiyyah schools, provision of reference books to Jurist, shari' ah courts and Qur' anic/Islamiyyah Schools, provision of standard measures (Mudus & Scales), control of preaching activities, collection and administration of Zakkat and Waqf, overseeing the zakkat and endowment committees, preaching and establishment of Jumu' at mosques committees as well as promotion of Shari' ah Education in the State.

The Ministry Comprises the following departments:

- a. Shari' ah Education Department
- b. Zakkat and Endowment Department
- c. Daawa Department
- d. Community Services Department
- e. Administration and Finance Department

2. Appointment of Standing Preachers

A committee of three standing preachers was appointed in each of the twenty three Local Governments. In compliance with the need to promote unity among the muslim people of Sokoto State, the preachers were objectively drawn from various Islamic Groups such as Jama'atul Nasril Islam, Tijjaniyyah and Izalah respectively. A motorcycle, preaching gadget, and monthly allowance of six thousand five hundred Naira (N6,500.00) was provided to each of the sixty nine preachers to enable them go in to every nook and corner of the State.

Among the committees responsibilities is to educate the citizenry on the importance of immunization against Polio, Antenatal and Post natal care e. t. c

3. Provision and Distribution of mudus and scales

To support the implementation of Shari'ah, mudus and scales were purchased and distributed free to the market men and women across the state. This is to ensure lawful sales and purchase of food items. The usage is also being monitored by the Ministry.

4. Provision of six buses to Associations

In order to ensure wider publicity and sanitization on laudable government programs, associations in the State were given logistics support to enable them go into nooks and cronies to educate the citizens on polio, peaceful co-existence and other important issues.

5. Distribution of Mats

Mats were also purchased and distributed to Qur'anic Schools in order to promote hygiene and healthy environment for learning in such schools.

6. Distribution of Hijabs

Hijab were distributed to women and adolescent girls mostly in the villages who cannot afford them.

7. Establishment of marriage and family Couseilling Service.
Guidance and Counseling Services in the areas of marriage, family issues, conflict resolution are also being offered by the Ministry and so many cases were handled with positive result.

8. Disable monthly allowance.

All the disables in Sokoto State receive monthly allowance of six thousand five

hundred Naira (N6,500.00) only. These disable were short listed from their respective villages and hamlet.

9. Establishment of Zakkat and endowment committee

This committee was created to cater for vulnerable groups in the state such as Disable Persons, needy widows, orphans, sick, aged mentally retarded and the Needy. State Government contribute the sum of Two million Naira (N2,000,000.00) only and each local Governments Contribute two hundred and fifty thousand Naira (N2,000,000)Naira monthly to give financial backing to the Committee. while people of the State are being sanitized to willingly contribute a certain percentage of their Zakkat to the committee. Under this committee there are four sub-committees as follows:

- (a) Needy people committee: the committee is charged with the responsibility of assisting those people who have nothing and were left to go for begging.
- (b) Sick people committee: The committee is assigned to take care of people who are sick and has nobody to cater for their medical bills. Money were kept at Specialist Hospital and Usman Danfodio University teaching

hospital treat those who are considered by the committee, likewise, some were kept at Binji, Zumunchi, and Maigobir pharmacies to give patient drugs prescribed by physicians from any of the Hospitals. The committee is also relating with A.B.U Teaching Hospital, Zaria and orthopedic Hospital, Kano on those whose case were referred there.

(c) Mentally sick people committee:

These committee is charged with the responsibility of taking mad people to Federal Psychiatric hospital Kware. Already the committee had entered into agreement with the Hospital to treat any person taking to the Hospital by the committee. Certain amount of money were also deposited in the Hospital in that respect.

(d) Shelter, welfare, empowerment committee:

The committee is responsible for going round the State to find out those who need assistance in terms of accommodation, financial assistance to start some petty business e.t.c. So far more than twenty rooms were constructed to those elderly people sourced as well as more than four hundred people are also assisted with money to do a petty business in their domain.

10 Introduction of Almajiri School project

The ministry has started the almajiri education project aimed at redressing the undesirable aspect of misconceived Almajiri system of schooling. This has of course been along standing issue. The project had already taken off with six hundred number of students. Being the School is integrated model school some teaching of western education was introduced so as to make the children know how to read and write. Basically, the school has about four number teachers that teach English, Mathematics, social study, and Physical health education. The children are drawn from various parts of the State as well as other neighboring State.

11 Reflective Internaional Scholarship Collaboration

- a. The Ministry is in collaboration with following:

International institution:

1. African International University, Sudan
2. Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
3. Al' azhar University, Cairo, Egypt
4. Ummul Qurah University, Mecca Saudi Arabia

- b. A number of Students are currently studying at Ain Shams University while another set has left for university of Medina, Saudi Arabia.
- c. Memorandum of understanding (MOU) is also in the pipeline in respect of the proposal for the establishment of Al' azhar institute in Sokoto.

12 Relationship with other Ministries, establishments, parastatals and agencies

The Ministry is in close collaboration with following institutions or organizations:

- a. Ministry of Education
- b. Department of Student Matters
- c. Ministry for women affairs
- d. Ministry of Health
- e. USAID NEI Projects
- f. Federal Neuron Psychiatric Hospital
- g. A. B. U Teaching Hospital
- h. UDUTH, Sokoto
- i. Orthopedic Hospital Kano
- j. Specialist Hospital Sokoto
- k. Binji Pharmaceutical Services
- l. Zumunchi Pharmacy
- m. Maigobir Pharmacy

13. INTER-RELIGIOUS.

Despite the fact that, Sokoto being muslim state Christian enjoy freedom of worship without any hindrance. There are numerous Christian evangelistic Ministries, organizations, denominazation and churches in all most every nook and cronies of Sokoto State. It is in line with the above ,that the Ministry is looking into the proposal submitted by an NGO (Inter faith peace forum Sokoto State Chapter) of organizing workshop for 'complete resolution and inter religion peaceful coexistence in Sokoto State.