

**BRIEF ON DAMATURU CULTURAL CENTRE/CITY HALL BY
THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER, MINISTRY OF HOME
AFFAIRS, INFORMATION AND CULTURE, BARRISTER YUSUF
BALA HALADU TO THE PEER REVIEW TEAM FROM
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM SECRETARIAT**

The idea of constructing a befitting Cultural Centre in Damaturu, the state capital was conceived in the last quarter of 1999. Provision for the construction of the complex was made in the 2000 appropriation bill and the contract was subsequently awarded to BCC Tropical Nigeria Limited, Jos at the initial cost of N79.5 million on 20th November, 2000.

2. The project was meant to serve as a centre of cultural activities in the state and to provide conducive venue for holding of conferences, workshops, seminars, national council meetings as well as social gatherings. It would also serve as a source of revenue to government as its services were intended to be commercialized.

3. However, as a result of delayed payments to the contractor and sometimes rising cost of building materials, the contract was reviewed twice, first from N79.5 million to N102 million and eventually to N155 million. As at October, 2006, the sum of N110 million had been paid to the contractor leaving a balance of N45 million. The balance was also paid to the contractor upon the production of a performance bond from Diamond Bank Plc Jos, branch.

4. The contractor abandoned work on the project after injecting the sum of about N22.3 million. Several efforts made by government to bring back the contractor on site proved abortive. Government had no alternative other than to formally terminate the contract in accordance with clause 12 (a & b) of the contract agreement and demanded the refund of N22.7

million from the contractor being estimate of work not done after collecting the sum of N45 million in November, 2007.

5. The Ministry of Housing was then requested to assess the project and the sum of N58.7 million was estimated to complete the project. Based on this assessment, government awarded the contract for the completion of the Cultural Centre to Desix Integrated Services Limited, Bauchi on 19th April, 2010, based on a performance bond obtained by the contractor from Guaranty Trust Bank Plc., Bauchi. Work is now in progress and from all indications, the project will soon be completed and commissioned.

Barr. Yusuf Bala Haladu
HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER