

**BRIEF SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY, ALHAJI MUHAMMED
DAKASKU. ON THE OCCASION OF VISIT TO YOBE STATE TO
THE PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE POLE INDUSTRY DAMATURU
BY PEER REVIEW TEAM FROM NIGERIA GOVERNOR'S FORUM
SECRETARIAT, ON TUESDAY 22nd JUNE, 2010.**

The Director General, Governor's forum Secretariat,

Members of the D.G's entourage,

Gentlemen of the media

It is my singular honour and privilege to brief you on the development so far towards the establishment of the pre-stressed concrete pole industry in Damaturu.

Like most states in the Federation, Yobe State depends upon the electricity Generated and distributed by the PHCN and it's the least connected to the National Grid in terms of inter town connection (ITC) in the country.

This set-back was due to the fact that, the Federal Government through the PHCN is responsible for the connection of towns and villages to the National Grid and maintains them. Though the Federal Government has been spending billions of Naira to Generate, distribute and maintain these lines, yet it could not satisfy the need of Nigerians. Yobe State Government being dynamic and is largely concerned with the welfare of its citizens and knowing fully well that with the availability of Electric energy, productivity of our domestic economy and social status will be improved, poverty will be reduced through the establishment of small scale Business Enterprises, industries and in turn reduces Rural-Urban migration. For these reasons, the Yobe State Government under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency the Executive Governor Alh. Ibrahim Geidam FCNA CPA took a bold step on Electrification projects in the state to complement the effort of the PHCN in power distribution to towns and villages in the state.

I will also be proud to inform you that, Yobe State Government in collaboration with the Federal Government has completed the connection to the National Grid, the headquarters of 15 out of the 17 local Government areas of the state and many other towns and villages.

The electrical materials to carry out these projects are expensive and some times not readily available and of low quality in the market, such as concrete poles, wires e.t.c. From 2007 to date, over 6000 concrete poles were used by the State government. While the state Ministry of Transport and Energy has trained and skilled electrical Engineers, Technologist, Technicians and crafts men that are ever ready for electrical construction, their works are always perfect which are always certified by the FMP&PHCN.

In view of the above reasons, and looking at the numerous electrification projects in the state, attempts on how to reduce expenditures on electrification were explored, such as solar and wind power, establishment of an industry to produce or manufacture electrical materials at cheaper rate e.t.c. Hence, in 2008, the idea for the establishment of the pre-stressed concrete pole industry was conceived by state Government. Core Consult Associates, a consulting engineering firm was engaged to design and produce the working drawings, Bill of quantity (BOQ) and tender documents.

In November 2008, contract for the Establishment of the pre-stressed concrete pole industry was awarded to SYAL Engineering Co. Ltd at the cost of N 210,885,520:00. This industry when completed will have the capacity to produce 70 poles per day, both HT and LT poles. Some of the important features of the industry are; Administrative block, casting bay/workshop, 100KVA standby Generator, a borehole, Two soaking (curing) pits with capacity of 600 poles, concrete mixer, pre-stressed jack, amongst others.

Ladies and Gentlemen at this juncture, I wish to inform you that, the project is almost at completion stage of 85% and already the contractor was paid the sum of N 189,769,968:00.

Finally, I would like on behalf of myself and entire staff of the Ministry thank you for this inspection visit and wish you success throughout your tour in the state and safe journey back to your various destinations,

Thank you, God Bless.