

NGF TOUR OF YOBE STATE

MONDAY, 26TH – FRIDAY, 29TH JUNE, 2010

Brief History

Yobe State was created in August 1991 from the old Borno State. Yobe State, with its capital in Damaturu, was carved out of the present day Borno State in August 1991. The state has a population of 2,532,395 people (2005 Census estimate) spread across the 17 local government areas in the state. Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam, an All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) member, is the governor of Yobe State.

NGF Team Arrival in Yobe State

The NGF team of policy consultants, media men, documentary crew and some staff of its Secretariat led by Mr. Asishana Okauru, its Director-General, arrived Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State on Sunday, 20th June, 2010 for the purpose of peer review exercise which had been completed in 32 other states of Nigeria.

The team's visit to Yobe State began with ministerial briefings by Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries and Directors of the state MDAs. The briefing was presided over by Engr. Baba Goni Machina, Secretary to the State Government.

The team thereafter, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency, the Governor of Yobe State, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam (*FNCA, CPA*) in the Government House. While addressing the team, His Excellency commended the initiative of the Governors' Forum to embark on the peer review mission of the states for the purpose of developing a sustainable framework for the socio-economic development of the states and Nigeria as a whole.

Furthermore, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam sounded a note of caution in developing a framework for development, advising that the team should be cognizant of the peculiarities of individual states within the federation in order to make the process all-inclusive. He however demanded some feedback from the team for continuous re-appraisal of his government strategies for project formulation and execution, expressing his administration's readiness to share the state's positive experiences with other states within the federation.

As a demonstration of the respect the state government had for the traditional institutions in the state, the team from NGF was led on courtesy calls to the Emir of Fika, Alhaji Mohammed Alkali Ibn Abali (Chairman, Yobe State Council of Traditional Rulers) and the Emir of Damaturu, Alhaji Shehu Hashimi II Ibn Umar El-Kanemi. Both rulers were full of appreciation for the developmental efforts of His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam, as exemplified by projects in sectors such as health, education, water, road, etc, all of which formed the core of people's expectations from the government.

The team's visit to Yobe State was concluded with another session with His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam, who gave further clarifications and explanations to some constructive assessments of his administration as observed by the media men and the policy consultants.

Human Resource Development and empowerment

▪ Education

The administration of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam was in full realisation of education as a basic tool in accelerating the economic and social growth of Yobe State. Therefore, Gaidam's administration had been pursuing programmes aimed at providing quality education to the people of Yobe State by consistently

allocating 26% of the state's total annual budget to the education sector in accordance with United Nation's recommendation on resource allocation.

The present administration had made tremendous progress in primary education sector. With a view to strengthen the primary education sector, the state government had released ₦2.2billion as part of the counterpart funding to the state UBE Board towards the end of 2008.

Considering the need for acquisition of qualitative primary education, Gaidam administration reintroduced boarding primary schools in all the 17 LGAs of the state. The model boarding primary schools were comprehensively designed to include access to computer/ICT facilities, library, dormitory, dining and adequate classroom space to accommodate the target population of 480 selected pupils from the 17 LGAs of the state.

X Apart from the boarding primary schools initiative of Gaidam administration, a prototype model of which the NGF team visited in Babangida area of the state, enrolment into primary schools across the state had increased from 625,766 in 2009 to 693,859 in 2010.

X At the secondary school level, Gaidam administration had embarked on upgrading of 6Nos senior secondary schools in Gadaka, Buni Gari, Dagona, Potiskum, Ngelzarman and Dapchi at a total cost of ₦1,364,180,632.12 while 4Nos Senior Science Secondary Schools were renovated and their laboratories fully equipped with reagents and chemicals.

Also, in order to provide quality education and ensure excellence in accordance with international standard, the state government constructed in collaboration with Turkish government, Yobe Turkish International College in Mamudo, Potiskum LGA. The 1,000 students capacity secondary school which currently had 350 students on enrolment was constructed with necessary ICT facilities, science equipment, library and visual teaching aids provided for

effective teaching and learning to take place. Students at the school were drawn from the 178 electoral wards of Yobe State at no cost to their parents and who were devoid of preferential treatment as the book requirement into the college was outstanding performance in qualifying examinations for the prospecting students. Yobe State government bore 100% the tuition, accommodation, feeding, supply of textbooks of every student in the College. The state government which had expended over ₦1billion providing facilities at the College was, according to the Turkish Principal, Mr. Remzi Burfae Giray, fully responsible for the hardware provisions in the College while the Turkish collaborator provided the software components.

With the improving access to secondary school education in Yobe State, Gaidam administration had recognized the necessity of expanding access to University education by the people of the state. Hence, Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, which was established in 2006 but had to shut down for facilities deficiency, had been impressively turned around with modest infrastructural development in internal roads, water provision, facilities/departments office buildings, lecture halls/classrooms and laboratories provided by the present administration for effective take-off of the University some six months ago.

According to Professor Musa Alabe, Vice-Chancellor of the University, the university had had to phase the development of its academic programmes in terms of mobilization, allocation and utilization of human and material resources. Thereafter, starting with four faculties of Arts, Education, Science, Management and Social Sciences, the management of the University had designed a twenty-year strategic plan for the university beginning from 2009 to 2030 at the end of which all other faculties, departments and programmes would have been fully established.

At present, to ensure the university had unrestricted access to fund for its development, Gaidam administration had granted autonomy to the university which would now have a dedicated budget separate from that of the Ministry of Education in addition to local government areas annual subvention to the university to enable it to fully realized its objectives of developing high level manpower for the overall development of Yobe State.

Also, according to Alhaji Abdulkadir Hamza, Director, Special Duties, who represented the Commissioner for Education, Yobe State government had recruited additional 1,000 teachers for posting to both the existing and the newly constructed boarding primary schools. He also mentioned that Arabic and Islamic Education Board had been established purposely to oversee the provision of enabling environment for the teaching of the almajiri pupils for whom the state government had established 3Nos Tsangaya Integrated Koranic Schools (Boarding schools).

While access to education from pre-primary to senior secondary level was completely free to encourage school age indigenes of Yobe State to fully explore the growth opportunities in education, Yobe State government, according to His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam, during the interactive session, informed the team of complementary motivating 27.5% increment in the basic salary of teachers in the state while the Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) had been fully implemented since January 2009 for teachers with professional teaching qualification to further make teaching profession attractive and purposely to retain quality teachers in the service of Yobe State.

- **Health**

The Gaidam administration in Yobe State had given priority attention to improve health care service delivery to rehabilitate and fully equip all four

general hospitals in Damaturu, Potiskum, Gashua and Geidam, at a total sum of ~~₦~~372,308,453.00 while medical equipment and consumables worth ~~₦~~384,344,245.35k were purchased and distributed to all hospitals and health centres across the state. The breakdowns of hospital renovations were as follows:

- ❖ Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital – ~~₦~~92,039,096.50k
- ❖ General Hospital, Potiskum – ~~₦~~99,318,818.70k
- ❖ General Hospital, Geshua - ~~₦~~14,557,546.17k
- ❖ General Hospital, gaidam – ~~₦~~66,392,992.14k

The Gaidam administration had also commenced expansion of the state healthcare facilities to enable access of people in the state to quality health service by initiating plans to build a 150-Bed Specialist Hospital in the senatorial districts of Potiskum, Gashua and Damaturu. Already, the 200-Bed Specialist Hospital, Damaturu (which would also doubled as the teaching hospital for the Bukar Abba Ibrahim University when its medical programme ~~would~~ come on stream) had reached 80% completion stage at a contract sum of ~~₦~~1,607,578,032.00k and was slated for completion in August 2010 by Design and Build Limited which commenced construction on 25th September, 2007.

The Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Idrissa A.B. Machina, also informed the team of the state government efforts at improving the 111 medical doctors and 837 trained nurses/midwives in the service of the state with an additional recruitment of 22 Egyptian medical doctors in special areas while medical manpower sustenance efforts of granting automatic employment through bond to 200Nos medical students of Yobe State extraction in universities across Nigeria was on-going.

The other measures taken by Gaidam administration to revitalize healthcare delivery facilities in Yobe State was through the provision of comprehensive primary healthcare centres to complement the state free medical

care programme to pregnant women, children under 5, and accident victims for the first 42 hours for which the state had spent ₦100million at monthly release of ₦20million since May 2009. The 60-Bed Primary Health Centre, Jaji-Maji, Karasuwa LGA visited by the NGF team was eloquent of Gaidam administration healthcare policy thrust. The ₦49million hospital project was fully equipped with necessary drugs, surgical operation theatre, incubator, scanning machine and an ambulance. It had 12Nos nurses and a youth corps medical doctor on its service with 3Nos consultants on regular one week visit to the facility. To further enhance the capacity of the 508 primary health care facilities in Yobe State towards improving on the health indices of the state, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam administration had recently established the state primary health care management board.

Infrastructural Development

- **Roads**

The achievements of Gaidam administration in the road sector were enormous when assessed against the background of the utter decay and near collapse of the sector at the inception of the present administration.

According to the submission of the Yobe State Commissioner for Works, Alhaji Alkali Jajeere Abdulkadir, the Gaidam administration inherited about 5Nos road projects all of which had suffered delay owing to poor funding by the previous administration. Gaidam administration had since completed 21Nos road and bridge projects covering over 510kilometers. Details of the completed and on-going road and bridge projects were as follows:

S/N	Projects	Contractor	Amount	Year of award	Remarks
A.	Inherited from Previous Govt.				
1	Geidam-Maine-Soroa road 35km	CGC Nig. Ltd.	N3,152,200,138.38	10/10/05	Completed
2	Damaturu Inner ring road 18.6km	EEC International Ltd.	N2,055,000.00	23/5/06	Completed
3	Damaturu Township roads phase 1, 15km	CGC Nig. Ltd.	N1,088,000,000	3/5/06	Completed
4	Nguru-Machina road 65km	F.K Const. Ltd.	N2,247,279,065	30/13/02	On-going
B.	Awarded by this Administration				
1	Kaliyari-Bayamari-Geidam 109km	Bukham Eng (Nig.) Ltd.	N3,849,158,250.00	15/4/09	On-going 63% level
2.	Garin Alkali-Jakusko Potskum 155km	Eighteen Eng Coy int. Ltd	N5,193,829,485.42	26/11/08	53% level
3	Damaturu township roads phase 2		N1,733,617,557.26	25/3/10	30% level
4	Geidam-Buakarti road 35km		N4,029,710,712.70	15/4/09	49% level
5	Jajimaji-Karasuwa road 17km		N1,595,609,519.19	4/6/10	Just awarded
6	Damaturu new drainage 12km		N2,836,286,424.00	15/5/08	50% level
7	300 housing estate roads 10.38km		N680,000,000	On-going	56% level
C	Awarded by Ministry for Local Govt. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Works				
1	Gulani Bridges & Culverts	Ric Rock Cont. Nig. Ltd.	N1,432, 204, 600.21	June 2009	88% level
2	Geidam Barley bridge		N219.54million	Nov.2008	90%
3	Usur-Azbak road 4.5km	Bindigari Gov Ltd	N293,009,942.00	11/2/09	Completed
4	Bukarti-Azam	NA	N329 million	11/2/09	90% level

5	Dogonkuka-Wachakal	NA		Ditto	40%
6	Babangida-Chirokusko	NA		Ditto	49% level
7	Babbangida Koriyel	NA		Ditto	57% level
8	Ngelzarma- Mashio 17.5km	Hajaig Const. Nig Ltd	N530,540,132.85	11/2/09	Completed
9	Ngelzarma Ngelzhegele 16km	Hajaig Const. Nig Ltd.	N747,126,544.60	11/2/09	80%
10	Dogonkuka-Daura 13km	Hajaig Const. Nig. Ltd	N570,787,585.91	11/2/09	98%

* In spite of the lean resources of ~~N~~[₦]1.7bn FAC monthly allocation to Yobe State coupled with capital intensive nature of road construction, Gaidam administration had remained determined and committed to making living in Yobe State more enjoyable in every corner of the state by damming the daunting challenges of prohibitive cost of construction and unavailability of laterite, chippings and water which had to be imported to construction sites at extra cost.

- **Housing**

The thrust of Gaidam administration policies on housing and urban development was to establish a sustainable housing delivery system that would be able to provide houses for the majority in Yobe State at affordable prices through the Yobe State Housing and Property Development Corporation, an agency saddled with responsibility of building low-cost houses, shops and office space and the disposal of such houses on owner-occupier scheme and had, on approval of the state executive council, constructed over 2000 housing units across the state.

Achievements of Gaidam administration in the housing sector visited by NGF team included:

- (a) 300 Housing Units Maiduguri-Damaturu road comprising of 60 blocks of 3-bedroom flats, 60 blocks of 2-bedroom flats, 30 blocks of 2-bedroom duplex (60 units) and 20 blocks of 6 units of 2-bedroom blocks of flats (120 units), constructed at the sum of ₦2,265,423,263.80. The 300 units had been completed with perimeter fencing, internal and external electrification and water reticulation completed while construction of the internal road networks and drainages were ongoing.
- (b) 256 Housing Units (Maiduguri-Gashua Inner Ring Road) which started in November 2009 and were completed in a record time of sixteen weeks, cost a total sum of ₦1,024,160,558.08k. Utility services such as road, drainages, water and electricity were ongoing at the site.

Other housing projects executed by Yobe State Housing and Property Development Corporation since inception of the present administration in 2007 were as follows:

- (a) 136 Units of 2-Bedroom at Zanna Zakariya Estate, started in July 2008 and were completed in March 2008 at ₦1,500,000 per unit.
- (b) Construction and fencing of 10 units of 3-bedroom legislative quarters from July 2007 to December 2008 at ₦3,800,000 per unit.
- (c) Construction of 100 units of 2-bedroom housing units at Zanna Zakariya Estate extension, starting August 2008 and completed in April 2010 at ₦3,000,000 per unit.

- (d) Construction and fencing of 12 units of 3-bedroom legislators quarters, starting June 2009 and were completed in February 2010 at ₦6,764,563.05 per unit.
- (e) 170 Housing Units in the LGAs (10 units per LGA)
- (f) 30 Housing units in each of the senatorial zones.

In addition to the relatively cheap cost of allocating the houses to their owners which was as low as ₦2million for 2-bedroom apartment, Gaidam administration had waived 50% of the total cost of all houses sold or to be sold to civil servants in the state with payment spread over a period of 15 years.

- **Water**

In the area of water supply and development, Gaidam administration had made significant achievements towards meeting the water requirements of the people of Yobe State. Those achievements were made possible through enhanced budgeting allocations which had culminated in the drilling of several borehole water scheme in Damaturu, the state capital and in many other areas of the state.

Furthermore, the present administration in Yobe State had concluded plans to embark on the completion of the Damaturu Greater Water supply project started by the Federal Government in 2005. The scheme which was designed to generate water through 30Nos, 8 inch boreholes with an average yield of 10 to 15 litres of water per second would be sustained with a 5million litres capacity surface reservoir and another 1million litres capacity overhead tank with a reticulated distance of 260 kilometers in Damaturu, the state capital. To fully address the challenges of producing accelerated access to safe drinking water to residents in the state capital, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam had earmarked a sum of ₦1billion to complete the abandoned ₦3billion FG water project.

Allocation /
distribution /
model?

Also, as part of measures to sustain water supply in rural communities in Yobe State, Yobe State Agency for Community and Social Development had evolved community participatory programme in the provision of basic amenities like water. At Unguwar Kuka, Damagum visited by NGF team, the agency in collaboration with the community had sunk borehole complemented with 20,000 litres overhead tank and a diesel-powered generator to augment PHCN. The project which cost ₦4,944,000 was completed with 10% contribution of the total cost by the beneficiary community whose development association maintained the water facility for efficient service delivery.

- **Electricity**

In realization of the importance of electricity to the socio-economic development of the people in Yobe State, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam had taken bold strides in electrification of towns and villages in Yobe State. According to the Commissioner for Transport and Energy, Alhaji Mohammed Dakasku, the state government in collaboration with the Federal Government had completed the connection to the national grid the headquarters of 15 out of the 17LGAs of the state and many other towns and villages which consumed over 600 concrete poles.

In furtherance of its determination to provide electricity and in consideration of the enormous cost of procuring concrete poles which were usually not durable, the Gaidam administration embarked on the establishment of the Pre-stressed Concrete Pole Industry in Damaturu. The contract for the establishment of the company was awarded to SYAL Engineering Company Limited at the cost of ₦210,825,520.00.

It was hope that the company, when completed, would have the capacity to produce 70 concrete poles (HT and LT) per day and would assure quality of

the concrete poles for electric cables in Yobe State. The project which was 85% completed, comprised of administrative block, casting bay/workshop 1000KVA generator, borehole, two soaking pits with capacity of 600 poles, concrete mixer, pre-stressed jack, etc.

In order to keep the streets of major cities in Yobe State lit at night, towards ensuring safe night driving, Gaidam administration harnessed the potential of solar energy to provide solar powered street lights which spanned over 18.5km in Damaturu, the state capital at the cost of ₦980million.

Economic Development

- **Agriculture**

To underpin its commitment to improve agriculture which was the mainstay of the majority in Yobe State, Gaidam administration had continued to support small and large farm holders in the state with necessary farm inputs ranging from subsidized fertilizer to tractors and farm implements.

The present administration in Yobe State was not oblivious of the importance of fertilizer to the increase yield of farmers in the state, hence in 2009, the state government distributed 14,780 metric tonnes of fertilizer valued at ₦680,340,000 while 6,000 metric tonnes had been procured in 2010 from the federal government at the cost of ₦510,000,000 to supplement fertilizer produced in the state fertilizer blending plant.

Apart from the procurement of improved varieties of seeds and crops which were distributed to the generality of farmers in the state, Gaidam administration had been alive to the Quelea birds and grasshoppers, which had been devastating crops in farmlands before harvest. The state government had effectively carried out control measures through aerial spraying of the nesting and roosting sites of the birds. In 2009, over ₦50million was expended to procure

chemicals, sprayers and to pay for flight hours for aerial and ground control of the pests.

The present administration had also encouraged mechanization of farming activities by procuring 700 units of tractors and farm implements at the cost of ₦4.55 billion in 2009 through Yobe State Agricultural Mechanisation Authority. To encourage availability of the tractors in all the 17 LGAs of the state, 15 Nos tractor were distributed to each of the LGAs in addition to distribution of same to farmers' cooperative societies, large and small farm holders at subsidized loan rates.

- **Yobe State Strategic Grains Reserve**

Gaidam administration established the Yobe State Strategic Grains Reserve programme purposely to assure the state would be food secured and self sufficient in the event of food scarcity. The functional grains reserve depots at Gashua, Damaturu and Damagum, according to the Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Musa Maina Dumbri, had a buffer stock of 31,000 bags of assorted grains (millet, sorghum, maize and cowpea) for which the state government had expended ₦190 million to procure at ₦6,000 per bag.

To cushion the effects of high prices of foodstuff during scarcity, the state government would release the grains in its reserve at a subsidized rate of ₦2,000 per bag to ensure the common man had access to food always.

In addition, Gaidam administration had continued to honour the state obligations of counterpart funding of FG/World Bank Assisted Projects. Yobe State government had paid ₦85 million to the Third National Fadama Development Programme (FADAMA III) and ₦74.8 million as its counterpart fund for the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS).

- **Tourism**

In furtherance of the desire of the state government to diversify its source of revenue with a view to reducing its over dependence on the statutory allocation from the federation accounts, Gaidam administration was committed to the development of tourism as a potential source of income for Yobe State.

At present, work on the state 3-Star Hotel in Damaturu, which was intended to tackle the problem of accommodation of potential investors and tourists to the state had reached 80% completion. The 3-Star Hotel project which started in 2004 and was abandoned by the previous administration was approved for completion through direct labour by Gaidam administration at the cost of ₦364,889,229.00.

Similarly, Gaidam administration had awarded for renovation the 56 rooms Yobe State Hotel in Damaturu to Lake Chad Merchant Nigeria Limited at a total cost of ₦126,413,641.50. The renovation work, which had gone 90% completion stage included provision of functional borehole, 350KVA Perkins generator, landscaping, expansion of banquet hall and restaurant. The project started in September 2009 and was slated for completion in July 2010.

Culturally, Yobe State was prominent for durbar and other cultural heritage which included Bode Fishing and Cultural festival, Dagona Birds Sanctuary (nest of migratory birds from Europe). Tulo-Tulo Sand Dunes and Oasis, Old Ngazargamo City, Nguru Wetlands (host to migratory birds from Europe and America) and Dufuna Canoe of about 8,000 years.

Presently, Gaidam administration had embarked on the completion of a cultural centre project in Damaturu to consolidate the state gains in cultural activities. The project according to Alhaji Mammoh Musa, permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Information and Culture, which was initially awarded by the previous administration to BCC Tropical Nigeria Limited, Jos at the cost of ₦79.5million and had to be reviewed twice from ₦79.5million to ₦102million

and subsequently to ₦155million and was thereafter abandoned by the contractor. The project had been re-awarded to Desix Integrated Services, Bauchi at the cost of ₦58.7million in April 2010 and would be completed in July 2010.

- **Industrialisation**

Owing to the low investment status of Yobe State, Gaidam administration, through his Ministry of Commerce and Industry, had ventured into the establishment of some industries which the government intended privatizing soonest. The established industries included:

(1) *Sahel Aluminium Roofing Sheet Company Ltd., Potiskum.*

In order to ensure the right quality and quantity of aluminium which was critical to reversal in infrastructural decay of public buildings, the state government established an aluminium company in Potiskum to reduce cost of purchasing aluminium from private business concerns.

(2) *Dofarga Spring Water Ltd.*

Dofarga Spring Water Limited was established to provide scientifically treated water, clean and hygienic for drinking. The company, which had been provided with modern production facilities in order to enable it serve its customers effectively, was according to Mr. Alli Mari, the Plant Manager, was capable of producing 220 cartons of bottled water daily which brought about ₦800,000 monthly income.

The company sourced its raw water from a clear spring which was piped and pumped into an overhead tank and subsequently taken through filtration process before being bottled for public consumption. Identification of easy-to-tap-sources of income generation which required not too large a fund to establish

should become parts of states' economic policy thrust just as Yobe State government was doing with the little spring at Dofarga.

(3) *Yobe Fertilizer Blending Plant.*

Yobe State being a typical agrarian state was usually confronted with challenges of supplying adequate fertilizer inputs to assist farm activities of the numerous farmers in the state, hence, the establishment of the Yobe Fertilizer Blending Plant at Gujba where the College of Agriculture was located.

The blending plant was strategically established to provide the state 80% farming populace with the required quantity and quality fertilizer at an affordable price. The state government had procured 40,000 metric tones of raw materials at the cost of ₦3.8billion to ensure sustainable production of the commodity in the state.

(4) *Hydraform Block Industry*

With the massive construction of affordable housing units across Yobe State, the need for cheap but quality and durable building blocks became expedient. To achieve its objectives at cutting down on the cost of cement and cement bricks, the state government imported 30Nos each of hydraform block moulding machines and mixers at the total cost of ₦380,000,000.

Apart from these machines environment friendly and cheap product, it required small amount of cement mixed with ordinary common soil to produce several pieces of hydra bricks. Already, Gaidam administration had begun exploring the potentials of that technology to create employment opportunity for more youth to produce more of the bullet-resistant hydraform blocks for easy access by majority prospective house builders in the state.

(5) *Yobe Investment House*

Bent on boosting the IGR base of the state, Gaidam administration embarked on the construction of Yobe Investment House in Abuja, Federal

Capital Territory. The project, which cost about ₦1.4billion would be let out to corporate organizations and interested individuals when completed in December 2010.

- **Solid Minerals**

The Gaidam administration had taken significant steps to diversify Yobe State economy through the development of the solid minerals sub sector. Specifically, the University of Maiduguri Consultancy Services unit had confirmed the availability in commercial quantity some solid minerals capable of supporting viable industrial ventures in Yobe State. Among the identified solid mineral deposits in the state were gypsum and potash. The Unimaid Consult reported that about 247million and 141.4 million tonnes of limestone and gypsum were available in large deposits in Fika, Fune, Gulani and Gujba LGAs while a proven reserve of 88.3million tons of potash was reported in Yanusari, Yusufar, Bade, Nhuru and Machina LGAs.

Now, Yobe State government had put in place mouth watering incentives to attract interested investors to harness the resources of potash in the production of soda ash, a basic ingredient for soap/detergent, water treatment, pharmaceuticals and fertilizer while gypsum was useful in the manufacturing of cement, Plaster of Paris (POP), chalk production and fertilizer. Incentives provided included prepared land equipped with basic infrastructures, provision of free feasibility studies to potential investors in partnership with Yobe State, assist potential investors in liaising with LGAs and FG agents where there were difficulties and provision of adequate security for investment.

Administration and Sustainability

▪ Government House

1. Office Complex for the SSG and HOS

Considering the dilapidated situation of office of the Secretary to the State Government and that of the Head of Service, it became imperative to provide a befitting office accommodation for the two very important officers of the state. Therefore, Gaidam administration awarded, in July 2009, contract for the construction of a decent office accommodation that befits the status of Yobe State for the SSG and HOS.

The project, awarded to Yusufana Nigeria Limited, an indigenous contractor, at a contract sum of ₦53,534,650.00 had made significant progress at the time of NGF visit to the project site with completion period set for July 2010. The three floors, double wing complex had in addition to the offices of the SSG and HOS, 12Nos offices for Permanent Secretaries, 17Nos offices for Directors, 63Nos offices for supporting staff and 3Nos conference halls.

Similarly, as the seat of power, the Government House including the offices of His Excellencies, the Governor and the Deputy Governor and offices of their supporting staff had recently been redesigned to provide befitting and conducive working environment for the governor and his deputy.

▪ The Legislative

The Gaidam administration had recorded significant achievements in infrastructural development and maintenance of facilities in the State House of Assmibly. Recently, the House of Assembly complex was completely renovated with a new entrance gate constructed, landscaping and construction of dual road completed with asphalt overlay.

In addition to the face lifting work done at the State House of Assembly, Gaidam administration had also completed 12Nos buildings, tagged *Legislators' Quarters*, to provide comfortable accommodation for the legislators in the discharge of their duties to Yobe State.

- **Environmental Protection**

The determination to protect the environment necessitated the evolvement of an action plan by Gaidam administration to effectively combat the challenges of desertification, flood and indiscriminate refuse and solid waste disposal in Yobe State.

Towards sensitizing the people on environmental degrading activities which included illegal felling of trees, the state government had constituted Local Government Environmental Protection Committee (LEPC) in the 17 LGAs of the state for effective and efficient implementation of programmes on environment protection.

Apart from concerted efforts in collaboration with the Federal Government to check desert encroachment and the recent "*Operation Keep Yobe State Clean*" launched by Governor Ibrahim Gaidam, the perennial incident of flood in Damaturu, the state capital was being put under check with the construction of a 12km trapezoidal concrete water channel in Damaturu, the state capital.

The project visited by the NGF team, which was designed to primarily collect and discharge all storm water within Damaturu, was awarded to Magpie Nigeria Ltd. in May 2008 at the cost of ₦2.8 billion.

- **Information and Technology**

To ensure that the people of Yobe State were adequately mobilized and informed to embrace government's policies and programmes for the overall development of the state, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam decided to give quality attention to the development of the state information media.

The present administration in Yobe State, considering the importance of FM radio station to development awarded contract to Subotech Nigeria Limited, Abuja in November 2007, to establish an FM radio station for the state at the cost of ₦275million. The project had since been completed in March 2008.

Similarly, Gaidam administration awarded for rehabilitation, expansion and digitalization of Yobe State Television (YTV) at the cost of ₦450, 344,531.00. The team from NGF was at the television house to inspect the digital broadcast equipment that had been provided at the station.

The General Manager of YTV, Alhaji Ibrahim Bulama Dachia, who conducted the team round the facilities at the television station, informed that the buildings of the television station which was established in 1995 had to be demolished to give way for the present transformation by Gaidam administration.

Other interventions by Gaidam administration in the media sector, according to the submission of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Information and Culture, Alhaji Mamman Musa, included:

- (a) Rehabilitation of YTV transmission and booster station, construction of mini studio at the transmission station on Potiskum Road as back-up for the main station in Gashua Road, construction of 400 meters fence well at the booster station in Garin Alkali and landscaping plus road network of the main station in Damaturu at the cost of ₦145million.

- (b) Purchase of a state-of-the-art public address vehicle which comprised a Prado Jeep, transmission gadgets and generator at the cost of ₦50million.
- (c) Comprehensive renovation of Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) building in Damaturu to enhance cordial relationship with other media organization at the cost of ₦10million.
- (d) Facelift renovation of Nigeria Union of Journalists Press Centre in Damaturu at the cost of ₦700,000.00.
- (e) Settlement of inherited press liabilities from the previous administration to the tune of N27million.

▪ **Local Government Administration**

The administration of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam governance style in Yobe State had always ensured LGAs in the state received allocations that were due to them. However, through the Ministry for Local Government and chieftaincy Affairs, a symbiotic relationship in guidance, assistance, support and encouragement were forged between the state government and the local governments.

That level of cordial relationship between the two levels of government had been further consolidated in the execution of joint projects in the local government areas, such projects were supervised by relevant ministry of the state government. The finance of such projects was from the Local Governments Joint Account which was recognized by the state Local Government Joint Account Law.

Prominent among projects jointly executed in education, health, road, etc from 2007 to date were as stated below:

Agriculture:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Procurement of 700 New brand Tractors	LGCs	4,665,500,000.00	

Electricity:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Procurement of 271KVA sound proof Generators	LGCs	346,500,000.00	
2.	Supply of 40KVA Generators to Boarding primary Schools		109,845,000.00	

Automobile:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Procurement of vehicles to Chairmen for Sanitation Programmes		127,000,000.00	
2.	Procurement of vehicles for Emirs and Chiefs			
3.	Supply of 34 units of Hilux 4WD	LGCs	225,000,000.00	
4.	Procurement vehicles for education secretaries.	LGCs	127,000,000.00	
5.	Supply of motorcycles	LGCs	348,400,00.00	

Housing:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Construction of 10 housing units in each Local Government and additional 10 housing units in each senatorial district	LGCs	1,260,497,568.34	

Education:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Construction of Boarding Primary Schools in each Local Government Councils	LGCs	1,169,999,999.99	
2.	Repairs of Girls Secondary School	LGCs	545,672,252.85	
3.	Renovation of 133 Primary Schools, provision of instructional materials and furniture		399,407,840.21	

Roads:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Babangida –Shekau – Koriyel Road in Tarmuwa LGC	LGCs	1,399,376,984.04	
2.	Babangida – Chirokusko Road	LGCs	675,768,169.60	
3.	Ngelzarma –Mashio Road	LGCs	439,838,919.77	
4.	Ngeizarma-Ngelshengele Road in Fune LGC	LGCs	747,126,544.50	
5.	Dogon Kuka-Daura Road in Fune LGC	LGCs	570,707,685.91	

6.	Fika entrance in Fika LGC	LGCs	136,650,848.12	
7.	Bukarti-Azam Road in Bade LGC	LGCs	293,036,976.00	
8.	Usur-Azbak Road	LGCs	219,587,923.00	
9.	Dogon Kuka-Wachakal Road in Karasuwa LGC	LGCs	329,308,692.10	
10.	Damaturu Township Road	LGCs	346,723,530.65	
11.	Damaturu Roundabout	LGCs	39,009,150.00	
12.	Kariyari - Bayamari - Geidam joint (40%)	LGCs	1,539,663,300	
13.	Bukarti Bridge by Geidam and Yunusari LGCs	LGCs	435,811,408.08	
14.	Geidam - Bukarti Road	LGCs	1,611,884,285.08	
15.	Gulani Bridge by Gujba and Gulani LGCs	LGCs	1,432,204,600.21	
16.	Garin Alkali-Potiskum Road		2,077,531,794.17	
17.	Road Network within Bukar Abba Ibrahim University		100,000,000.00	

Welfare:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Payment of omitted Local Government staff,	LGCs	583,000,000.00	
2.	Second payment of omitted Local government staff, 2008-2010	LGCs	208,000,000.00	
3.	Youth Empowerment programme		48,535,420.00	
4.	Supply of assorted drugs	LGCs	176,635,900.00	

Information:

S/NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT AMOUNT	REMARKS
1.	Rehabilitation of YTV		170,000,000.00	
2.	Supply and installation of VHF Radio Communication Equipment.	LGCs	104,203,159.00	

- **Youth Empowerment**

The administration of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam had initiated several programmes aimed at empowering the teeming youths of the state to make them self reliant. Among such programmes initiated was Yobe Youth Empowerment Farm Programme (YYEFP).

Tapping into the resources of the abundant fertile land that was capable of supporting any crops, unemployed youths in the state were trained in farming skills and were thereafter settled on some hectares of land with necessary farm inputs provided for them to boost their crop yield. At present, over 1,000 youths had been trained and settled on nearly 1,000 hectares of farmland in Damaturu, Potiskum and Gashua.

Also, another set of 1,000 youths who were sponsored to acquire skills in various trades at the Youth Development Centre, Kano, were empowered with a total sum of ₦260million. The administration spent ₦139million to train the youths while the sum of ₦121million was spent to provide tools for the trainees to set out on skills they had acquired in computer technology, electrical and electronics repair, carpentry, welding and automobile repairs.

In order to provide working environment that would be conducive for youths who embraced GSM phone repair as trade, Gaidam administration constructed a GSM Village in Damaturu. The village was strategically built to

encourage the youths in the buying and selling of phone handsets as well as repairs of same.

- **Yobe State Agency for Community and Social Development.**

The present administration of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam determination to ensure that the state resources were effectively and efficiently targeted at reducing poverty levels in the rural areas and to encourage a bottom-up approach in the initiation and implementation of project decision at community levels, instituted the Community and Social Development Project under the supervision of YBACSD.

Sequel to YBACSD sensitization and awareness programmes geared towards participation of all stakeholders for project implementation at community level, the agency instituted the participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), a process through which communities identified and prioritized for selection of micro projects in a socially inclusive manner. They take ownership of the projects for which they contribute 10% of the project cost. So far, communities in Yobe State had contributed over ₦200million in support of the social development scheme.