

**REPORT ON PROJECTS EXECUTED BY THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, INFORMATION AND
CULTURE FROM MAY 2007 TO JUNE, 2010 AND
PRESENTED TO THE PEER REVIEW TEAM FROM
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM SECRETARIAT.**

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Information and Culture is basically a service Ministry charged with the primary responsibilities of information dissemination, public enlightenment and mass mobilization as well as promotion, preservation and development of the cultural heritage of the people of the state.

2. The Ministry is made up of five departments, namely; Information Services, Home Affairs and Culture, Planning, Research and Statistics, Personnel Management and Finance and Supplies. These departments are headed by Directors who are answerable to the Permanent Secretary and himself answerable to Honourable Commissioner.

3. Like its sister ministries, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Information and Culture has five Parastatals under its supervision, namely; Yobe Broadcasting Corporation (YBC), Yobe State Television (YTV), Yobe Printing Corporation (YPC), Council for Arts and Culture and History Bureau. It has two Zonal Information Centres located at Potiskum and Gashua to disseminate information at the grassroots. As the mouthpiece of the State Government, the Ministry liaises with all media representatives and establishments in the state to ensure effective coverage of activities of the State and Local Governments.

4. To ensure that the people of the state are adequately mobilized to embrace government's policies and programmes for the overall development of the state, the information sector had been given adequate attention by the present administration since its inception in May 2007.

5. In this regard, government started with the establishment of an FM Station whose contract was awarded to SUBOTECH NIGERIA LIMITED, Abuja at the cost of N275 million in November, 2007. This is to complement the effort of the already existing AM Station, the YBC in the areas of revenue generation and public enlightenment. The project was successfully completed in March, 2008 and has been in operation since then.

6. The Yobe State Television (YTV) which commenced transmission in December, 1995 has suffered neglect by successive administrations in the state. Fourteen years after its establishment, the YTV despite the enormous burden vested on it has not undergone any major rehabilitation exercise in terms of structure and equipment. This situation greatly affected the smooth and efficient operation of the state.

7. In addition, other smaller jobs amounting to N145 million have been carried out to improve the services of the YTV. This include the rehabilitation of the transmission and booster stations, construction of a mini studio at the transmission station along Potiskum road to serve as a back-up to the main studio along Gashua road. Others are landscaping and road network at the ambience of the main station, provision of generator sets and re-construction of 400m fence wall at the booster station, Garin Alkali .

8. The present administration under the leadership of His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FCNA, CPA having recognized the important role of the media especially under a democratic dispensation decided to change this ugly situation. A contract for the rehabilitation and expansion of the building structure, complete furnishing and supply of three utility vehicles was awarded to DESIX INTEGRATED SERVICES, Bauchi at the cost of N152,303,732.40.

9. After the completion of the rehabilitation exercise, government again came to the rescue of the station by awarding another contract to the same company for the complete

digitization of the broadcast equipment of the YTV at the cost of N450,344,531.00. Work on this project has been progressing satisfactorily and it is expected to be completed in the second week of August 2010.

10. At the level of the Ministry, a state – of – the – art public address equipment was procured at the cost of N50 million. The system is composed of Prado Jeep, transmission gadgets and public equipments, and a generator. This facility has enabled the Ministry to provide public address system at functions and conduct periodic public enlightenment at the grassroots on new policies and programmes of government.

11. As a means of enhancing cordial relationship with other media establishments in the state, the state government undertook a comprehensive renovation of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Damaturu building structures at the cost of N10 million. The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Centre Damaturu was also given a face lift at the cost of N700,000.00. Similarly, government settled Press liabilities amounting to N27 million which it inherited from the previous administrations in the state.

12. In the cultural sector, the present administration inherited an uncompleted cultural centre project at Damaturu the state capital. The contract for this project was awarded to BCC TROPICAL NIGERIA LIMITED, Jos at the cost of N79.5 million. The contract was reviewed twice, first from N79.5 million to N102 million and eventually to N155 million.

13. Because of the uncooperative and lackadaisical attitude of the contractor towards the execution of the project, government after due consultations with the Ministry of Justice decided to terminate the contract on 27th January, 2010. Contract for the completion of the project was then awarded to DESIX INTEGRATED SERVICES of Bauchi at the cost of N58.7 million on 19th April, 2010. Work on the project is expected to be completed on 20th July, 2010.

14. Government also intends to rehabilitate the AM radio station (YBC). Already three proposals have been received and is undergoing the tender process. The present administration will continue to give the information sector the necessary support and attention it deserves to ensure that the whole populace is fully mobilized to bring about the desired progress and development in the state

CHALLENGES

15. Information dissemination and mass mobilization are capital intensive especially with the advent of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Although the present administration has been doing its best in funding the information sector, still there is the need for increased funding to adequately take care of the following:-

- i. Routine maintenance and servicing of the broadcast equipment and vehicles. The YTV has three (3) stations namely, the studio complex, along Gashua road, the transmission station, along Potiskum road and the booster station at Garin Alkali. The management and maintenance of these stations at separate locations require substantial amount of money. Similarly, the state radio (YBC) has two (2) stations namely, AM and FM.
- ii. Training and re-training of staff. The operation of radio and television stations requires some degree of expertise in handling digital broadcast equipment. In this regard, training and re-training of operational staff is paramount.
- iii. The promotion, preservation and development of the state cultural heritage is another area which requires huge funding. The state has a lot of artifacts which need to be harnessed and eventually exhibited, while a lot of excavations also need to be undertaken in some historical sites such as Birnin Ngazargamu, in Yunusari Local Government Area, Gorgaram in Jakusko Local Government Area and Daniski Hills in Fika Local Government Area. Only recently, a metal canoe was discovered in Ngalda town of Fika Local Government Area. This calls for further research and excavations to determine whether the canoe was indigenous to the area of discovery.
- iv. At the level of the Ministry, more funding is required especially for the procurement of additional public address vans, production of publications,

reactivation of the state's owned newspaper 'The Guide' and training and re-training of staff to improve their operational efficiency. Another other that requires funding is mobility. The Ministry requires utility vehicles for the conduct of its operations which include news gathering, supervision of its two (2) Zonal Information Centres, attendance of conferences, seminars, workshops and national council on information and communications meetings.

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22nd June, 2010