

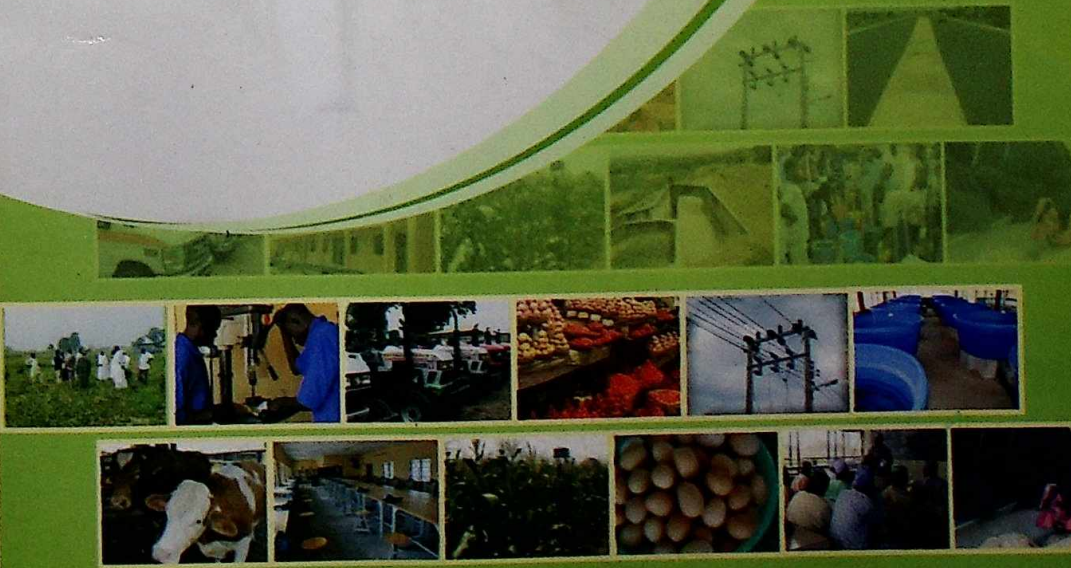


LETTER **1 TO
THE PEOPLE OF
ADAMAWA STATE**

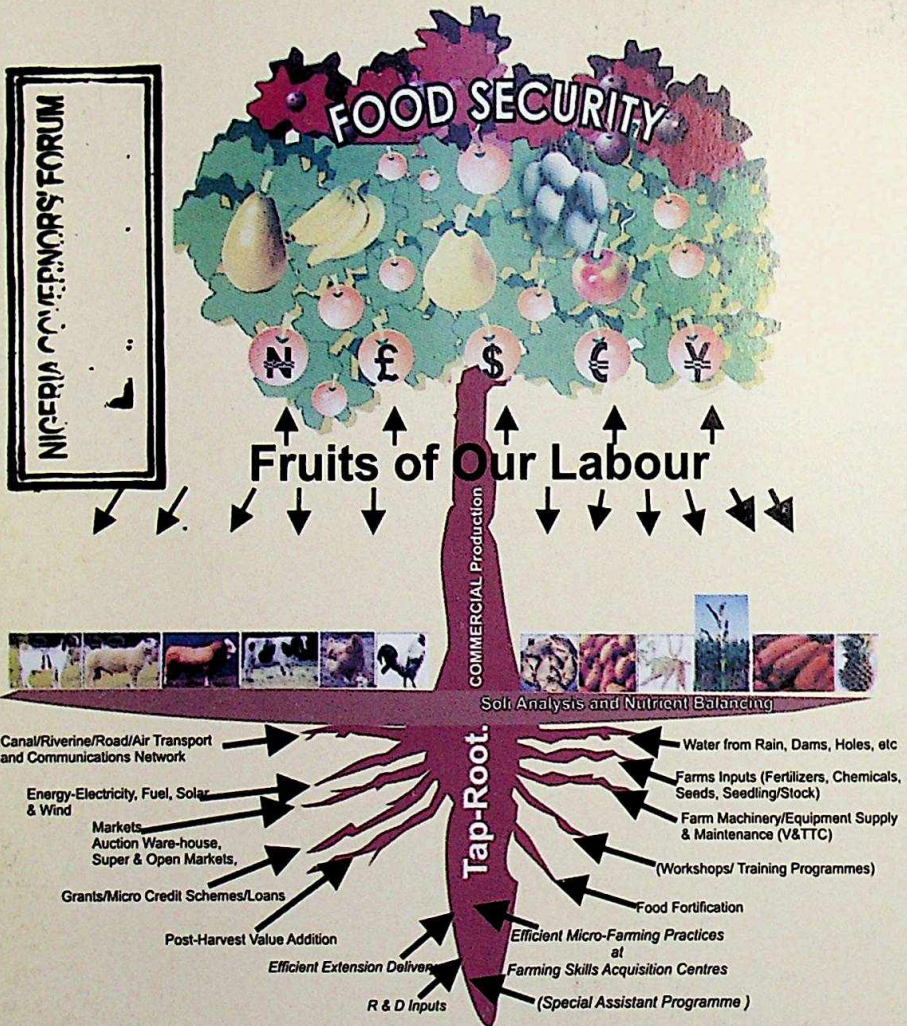
On

**NYAKO
ADMINISTRATION**

**VISION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF ADAMAWA STATE WITHIN THE CONTEXT
OF NIGERIA'S VISION 20:2020**



AGRIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE CENTRE PIECE OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ADAMAWA STATE.



Agriculture for Food Security and Grass Root Empowerment

Fellow citizens of Adamawa State, I am writing you this Letter to acquaint you with the **NYAKO ADMINISTRATION VISION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ADAMAWA STATE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF NIGERIA'S VISION 20:2020**. The letter relates to the State's Food Security and Grassroots Empowerment Programme.

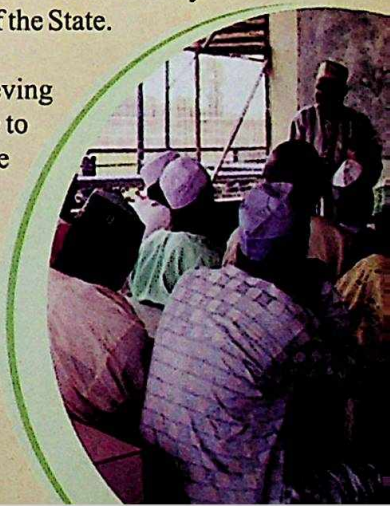
I am sure you are aware that our nation has come up with its Vision 20:2020 whereby our Country can be among 20 leading nations in the world by the year 2020.

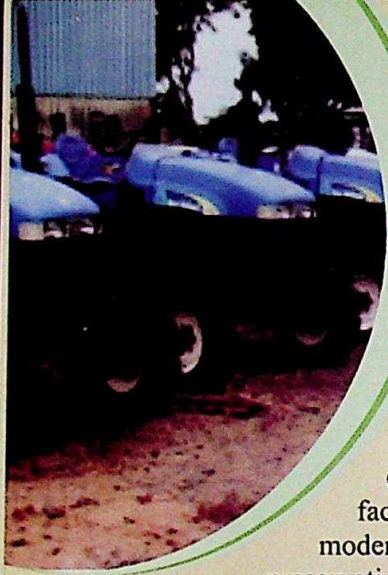
It is obvious that achieving this Vision would require considerable inputs from each Federating Unit, major stakeholders within and outside Nigeria, and the generality of Nigerians at home and in the diaspora.

Since the inception of my Administration in the year 2007 we have been exerting every effort towards the realization of this laudable Vision. My Administration has come to the conclusion that the most apt approach is to declare in very clear terms that **Agricultural Development is the Centerpiece of the Economic Development of our State, Adamawa.**

This declaration entails that all other development efforts in manpower, solid minerals, oil and gas, infrastructure, etc would be balanced to aid the development of agriculture. Our fellow citizens of Adamawa State beside is the pictorial view of this objective which clearly depicts that all our effort is geared towards achieving **Food Security and Economic Empowerment of the People**. Each feature of the diagram would have to be looked into thoroughly and developed effectively to facilitate massive production, distribution and marketing of various commodities that would ensure Food Security and the realization of our goals for the development of the State.

My Fellow Citizenry, it is platitude to state that achieving the foregoing requires the mobilization of our people to pick up the gauntlet of effective participation in the development drive of the State. The educational system has to be reoriented to inculcate the acquisition of modern techniques for attaining high yield and better quality products of all selected agricultural units. The education should also inculcate technical skills for maintenance of all agricultural machinery and equipment in use,





prolonging their life to what it is in the developed nations of the world. Appropriate skills also would have to be imparted to our people for the operation of irrigation dams and reticulation systems.

Making agricultural development the centerpiece of economic development also entails the local production and effective supply of all agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals, seeds/seedlings/stocks, and credit facilities; and the continual training of farmers in the modern practices of production, harvesting, storage, preservation, and processing of commodities.

We have to create an effective system of ensuring that all appropriate farm inputs such as improved seeds/seedlings/stocks, fertilizer, chemicals, traction facility etc are made available to the farmer as close as possible to his farm's gate; electricity and other forms of energy must also be available not only for production of commodities, but also for harvesting, preservation, processing, storage and transportation of food and other agricultural product; there should be a network of feeder roads to enhance evacuation of produce as well as the supply of goods.

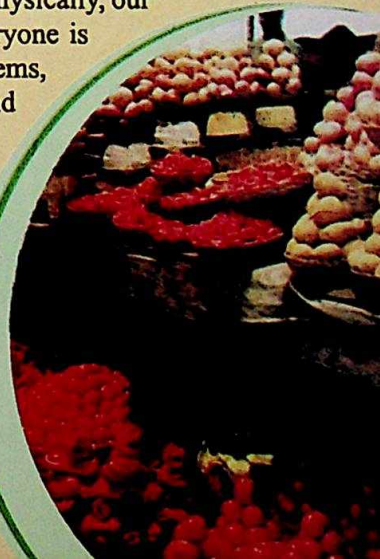
Adamawa State has resolved to take the first step towards achieving the foregoing.

For a start, fellow citizens, may I state the definition of Food Security as we understand it? Food Security is *the local production, distribution and availability of essential food items to all citizens at affordable prices*. The word "Food" in this respect is defined as edible items containing one or more nutrients. Food security will only have meaning if every citizen could take enough of the specified amounts of the 6 nutrients in food that are required by the human body for its growth, good health, body cell maintenance and repair and of course, for the productivity of individual persons. These nutrients are:

- **Carbohydrates** (energy/calories) the main fuel for the body that come Substantially from grains, vegetables, fresh fruits, sugar, honey, malt, sweet etc.

- **Protein** the building block of the body in the form of amino acid; protein is vital for growth and for the repair of body tissues and come from meat, poultry, fish, eggs, cheese, pulses (beans), cereals, nuts, potatoes, etc.
- **Oil** a rich source of additional calories and vitamins (A, D, E and K), come from animal products (meat and fish), nuts (soya beans, peanuts), corn, sunflower, olive, etc.
- **Minerals** for strengthening bones and teeth, maintaining a healthy immune system and helping vitamins to do their work. Minerals constitute 3-4% of the weight of the human body and come mainly from the food we eat which has absorbed them from the soil.
- **Vitamins** essential for the normal functional of our bodies (eyes, respiratory system, etc), promoting growth (bones, healthy skin, hair, teeth and gums), vitality and general well being come in minute quantities in all organic foods as retinol or carotene, or from dietary supplements.
- **Water** the most important nutrient constituting one-half to three quarters of the weight of the body. Water is the basic solvent for all products of digestion and is essential for removing waste and regulating body temperature. It is obvious, therefore, that achieving meaningful food security would require lifelong nutritional programme.

Evidence is everywhere that Nigerians do not take enough of these nutrients. Signs of malnutrition are glaring and wide-spread. Physically, our children are becoming shorter. It seems as if everyone is suffering from one ailment or another: knee problems, eyesight defects, diabetes, blood pressure, obesity and other forms of ailments of which 86% are known to be caused by improper diets. We also know that protein deficiency could result in a child losing 30% of his I.Q potential by the age of 6. We further know that certain nutrients are vital for stimulating creativity and critical thinking. There are other known but unseen effects of malnutrition. All this makes it mandatory for all to ensure there is actual Food Security for every citizen.





I believe that part of the Vision 20:2020 is to ensure that there is actual Food Security for every citizen of this country by the year 2020.

As Adamawa State's contribution to the Vision, we have embarked on a systematic approach to actualizing it with respect to Food Security and general empowerment of the citizens that would be a model for other States and major stakeholders of the country. We believe that the key steps toward the attainment of the 20:2020 are:

a. Improving the yield and quality of products of all selected agricultural units. Present yield of virtually every Nigeria agricultural unit, be it a plot of farmland for grains, fruits, vegetable, livestock such as cattle, sheep and goats, poultry bird for eggs or meat, or pond for fish production, is abysmally low when compared with a similar unit in agriculturally developed nations. This factor negates the realization of national Food Security and makes every agricultural undertaking a very risky business, pregnant with disaster! By way of highlighting low yield and poor products of our various agricultural units, we may compare the current yields of our own agricultural units vis-à-vis those of agriculturally developed nations:

- Groundnut - average yield per hectare: 400Kg as against 2,700Kg of a Turkish, Spanish or Egyptian farmer and of higher quality.
- price of own best quality is at best 40% of others.
- financial return from an agricultural unit is, therefore, 5% of those of other countries.

- Onions - average yield per hectare: 6 metric tons as against 120tons of a Yemen farmer namely 5%.
- Own onions are of much poorer quality than the Texas variety onion.
- Financial returns from a hectare not compatible.
- Tomatoes - average yield per hectare: 5tons as against over 100 tons for an Israeli farmer.
- Own tomatoes of much poorer quality than his Cherry tomatoes.
- Financial profit from a hectare less than N50,000.00 as against N14.5million (US\$100,000.00) of his counterpart.

- Potatoes - average yield: 6 tons as against 60-80 tons of that of a US or Irish unit.
- Rice - average yield: 1.5tons/hectare as against that of a Thai farmer who obtains up to 30 tons annually from the same unit through improved yield and multiple cultivation.
- **Cocoa - average yield per hectare: 150Kg as against 2,000Kg of that of Ivory Coast, Ghana, Malaysia, Brazil, etc.**
 - Cocoa butter: 50% at best as against 70% of other farmers
 - Price of own best quality about 70% of other farmers.
 - Financial return from a hectare is, therefore, less than 5% of those of other cocoa farmers.
- Cow - Average yield of: 150ltrs/lactation as against 10,000 ltrs of others, namely 1½%.
 - First calving 4-5 years as against 22-23 months.
 - Carcass weight at 3 years: 100Kg as against 1,000Kg of other exotic stocks.
 - Rate of calving: 2yrs interval as against annually.
- Maize - average yield per hectare: 1.2tons as against worlds average of 12tons per hectare.

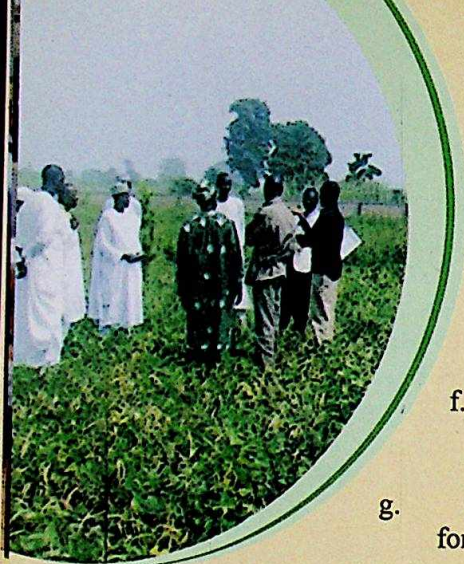
b. Producing commodities now being imported into the country that include the following:

- Rice - \$1,300M (N214B)
- Refined Sugar- \$400M (N66B)
- Dairy & Beef - \$300M (N49.5B)
- Vegetable Oil - \$470M (N78B)
- Fish - \$500M (N82.5B)
- Fruit juice - \$200M (N33B)

c. Increasing the production of commodities with highest multiplier effects on other productions such as those of livestock, poultry and fish.

d. Producing commodities targeted for





the international markets such as horticultural products, shell fish, yam and cocoa.

e. Upgrading of cattle and small ruminant production for local protein consumption and export.

f. Immediate introduction of modern Poultry farming and Aquaculture on a large scale

g. Mobilizing all stakeholders at home and abroad for the attainment of above targets.

h. Creation of an enabling environment to attract large scale agro-allied industries in the State for the production for farm inputs and post-harvest products

Fellow citizens, Adamawa State has advanced significantly, using State Funds, along the road to creating a sustainable future in agriculture and agri-business by implementing a major initiative of Grassroots Empowerment Programs (GEP). The GEP is designed to target the uneducated farmers and the unemployed youth and women to train them in Agricultural production and related skills. **THIS PROGRAMME IS ON GROUND AND ALL THE TECHNICAL PROPOSALS RELATING TO IT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED/ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED.**

This holistic approach to the development of agriculture in the State facilitates a dual approach of “bottom up” for the upliftment of the average person AND “top down” to ensure the commercial sustainability of agriculture and agri-business for all time.

I am delighted to state that the Programme is being supported by the Sassakawa Africa Foundation which is being funded by Nippon Foundation of Japan (Sassakawa), Carter Centre (Global 2000), Bill & Melinda Foundation (US) and the Rockefeller Foundation (US).

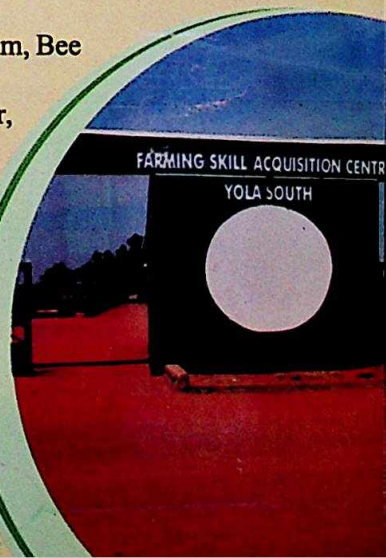
One-Stop Farming Skills Development Centre

Concerned over the high level of poverty, low agricultural productivity,

unemployment among the populace and related matters to our GEP, the Adamawa State Government has started a Farming Skills Acquisition Program (FSAP). The Program entails establishing, in each of the local government areas, a **One-Stop Farming Skills Acquisition Centre (FSAC)** whereby international best practices in agricultural production are imparted. A typical diagram of such a Centre is depicted below.

The Program has the following as its Aims and Objectives:-

- a. To bring about economic empowerment of the people (communities) of Adamawa State
- b. To bring about poverty reduction among the communities
- c. To create wealth among all sectors of the communities
- d. To create employment for youths, women and the general populace
- e. To link communities with markets, and technical and financial institutions
- f. To increase yield and quality of agricultural unit to international standard; initial increase in yield of 400% to 500% is being targeted.
- g. To train at least 3 Farming Skills Acquisition Resource Persons/Agents per group of similar commodities in each FSAC for commercial production of the following commodities:
 - i. Root/Tubers Yam, Potatoes, Cassava
 - ii. Cereals Rice, Maize, Sorghum, Millet
 - iii. Legumes/Oil seed Soya bean, Cowpea, Groundnut, Sesame
 - iv. Fiber and others Cotton, Sugarcane
 - v. Tree Crops Mango, Citrus, Cashew, Oil Palm, Bee keeping
 - vi. Vegetables Onions, Tomatoes, Pepper, Spices
 - vii. Lettuce, Cabbage, Melon, Cucumber, Pawpaw
 - viii. Ruminants Large (cows) and Small Ruminants (Sheep and Goat)
 - ix. Fish To produce under high-technology practice
 - x. Poultry Layers in battery cages and Broilers





- h. To assist farmers to draw up individual business plan(s) for the production of commodities of their choice.
- i. To assist farmers to obtain credit for the production of commodities on which they have been trained.
- j. To teach farmers on basic value addition of their products.
- k. To encourage indigenes to establish Micro-Finance Banks across the State.

l. To create/find market for the products both at home and abroad

Fellow indigenes, we see higher yield and increased productivity as the "Taproot" of agricultural development. Without higher yields and increased productivity, agricultural development cannot be sustained and agricultural undertaking would perpetually remain an unprofitable business activity.

We have established Farming Skills Acquisition centre in each of the 21 Local Government areas of the State. The programme in these centres is intended to inculcate in our youths the dignity of agriculture and manual labour. Under the programme, our youths are being trained in the production of arable crops, fruits and vegetables, cattle, goats and sheep rearing, poultry and fish farming to attain increase yield by at least 400%. These trained youths will be in the vanguard of our revamped agriculture.

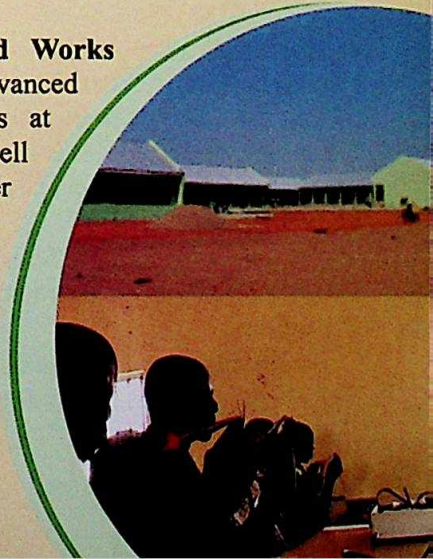
Technical Training Centres

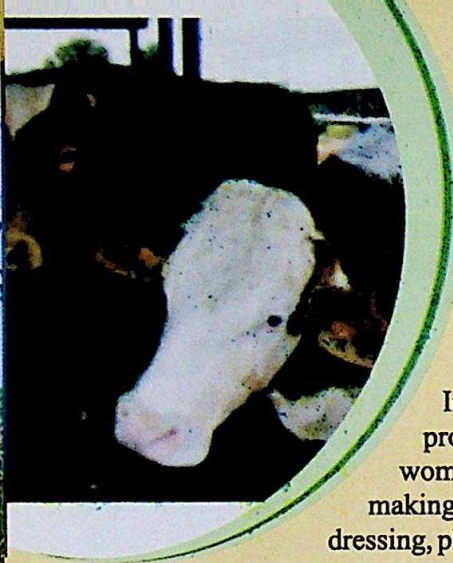
Fellow indigenes of Adamawa State, in addition to establishing the Farming Skills Acquisition Centres as part of the Grassroots Empowerment Programme, Adamawa State Government has embarked on intensive and large scale technical training of our youth to properly maintain and prolong the lifespan of automobiles, agrarian machines and equipment and home appliances. The Technical Training is divided into Vocational Technical Training, Professional (Type) Technical Training and Specialised Works Technical Training.

The year-long **Vocational Technical Training** covers basic engineering, technology concepts and the acquisition of related basic skills. Three Vocational Technical Training Centres, one per senatorial district, located at Mubi, Yola and Mayo-Belwa fully took-off January 2008 with two others at Numan and Gombi taking off in January 2011. Each Centre admits 210 students that is ten students per Local Government area. Up to 70% of the participants are expected to qualify for the higher Professional (Type) Technical training.

During the **Professional (Type) Technical Training** phase, students continue their training, gaining hands-on experience with technologies and equipment directly related to their specific technical areas. Students in these Centres undertake courses in electrical/electronics as well as mechanical and automobile engineering. The graduates of these centres will be equipped with skills that will keep them permanently off the streets and unemployment queues. They will be given credit facilities to establish their own businesses. This skilled manpower will ensure that the lifespan of our tractors and other farm machinery and equipment as well as our home appliances is extended for many years. Three of the **Professional (Type) Technical Training Centres** have been established and are co-located with the Vocational Technical Training Centre in Mubi, Yola and Mayo-Belwa. Courses presently being offered include:- Advanced Technical Educational Studies, Agricultural equipment and Machinery, Cars and Trucks, Cooling system (Air Conditioning, Fridges, Freezers/Deep Freezers), Power Generation and Electrics, Office Equipment (Copy Machines, Printers and Computers), Hospital Equipment and Radio, TV and Electronics. Upon successful completion of a course at the end of each phase of the training, students receive Certification.

We are also developing three **Specialised Works Technical Training Centres** which offer advanced Carpentry and Steel/Concrete works courses at Fufore, Guyuk and Madagali. All 3 are being well equipped and will take off during the first quarter of 2011. Participants are drawn from those who have finished the Vocational Technical training or directly from Secondary Schools Leavers. The essence of this **Training** is to impart skills of construction of durable wood-works, slabs/culverts/bridges and iron works such as windows/door frames, fanciful gates/burglar proofs and fences.





The , aforementioned Centres will be producing about **2,300 technicians** every year, namely 1,050 from the **Vocational Technical Training Centres**, 630 from the **Professional (Type) Technical Training Centres** and 630 from the **Specialised Works Training Centres**.

In addition to these Centres, we have also provided skills acquisition arrangement for our women and unskilled youth to learn tailoring, soap making, shoe repairs, upholstery, vulcanizing, hair dressing, photography and other trades.

The strategic objective of the Technical training is the creation of a pool of highly trained technicians:

- a. To attract entrepreneurs to industrialize the State for the establishment of industries.
- b. To give technical back-up to existing industries/institutions.
- c. To increase the lifespan of privately owned machinery/equipment and home appliances.
- d. To ensure the establishment of small-scale industries in the State in form of Garage Repair units, effective machinery/equipment Hiring service.
- e. To establish spare-parts fabrication industries.
- f. Etc

Hydro Power Generation

We fully appreciate that all these programmes which are designed to ensure that every grown-up has enough skills to earn a decent living would require a steady electricity supply. To this end we have taken steps to ensure that the objectives of our programmes would not be aborted by the epileptic power supply from PHCN. Electric power is required:

- To drive more efficiently electricity driven irrigation pumps and other farm machinery and equipment so as to substantially increase yields and quality of products.
 - To process and store farms products.
 - To drive modern tools for fabrication of spare parts.
 - Etc

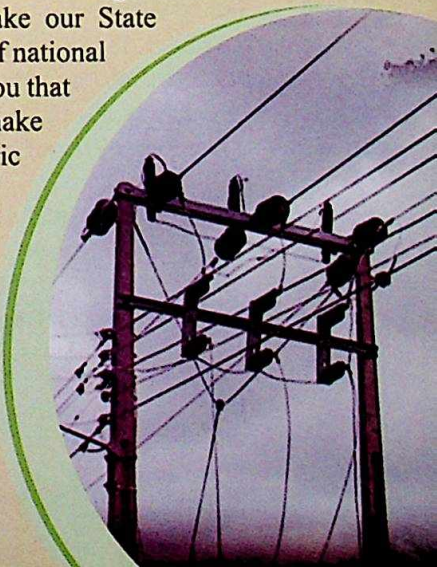


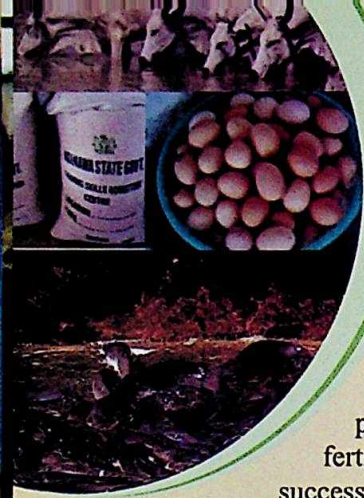
Our Administration has been recently complimented by the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Odein Ajumogobia, SAN as being the driving force to get the NIGERIA-CAMEROON FRAMEWORK FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION SIGNED. Within that, the two countries have also signed the AGREEMENT

ON ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTION. We will soon, therefore, finalize the signing of the Protocol for Electricity Inter-Connectivity between our newly created Adamawa State owned Gongola Basin Energy Development Company and the Hydro-Electric Dam Authority of the Cameroon. This will facilitate evacuation of electricity from Lagdo Dam power generating plant to Yola. Our Company would be supplied with up to **30 MW power** from the Plant located at a distance of 147 Km from Yola. Also, a tender for upgrading our Kiri Irrigation Dam to a Hydro-Electric Generation Plant to generate **30 MW Power** would be out in the next few weeks. Adamawa State will, therefore, have within the next two years up to **60 MW electric power** to achieve its agricultural programme as well as a scale of industrialization programme. We have also completed the design of hydro-electric Dam at Mayo-Ine capable of generating up to **73 MW power**.

Let me say that it is the articulated ambition of this Administration to wean the State from its over-dependence on the monthly revenue from the Federation Account. We will stimulate the State economy through increased agricultural production and industrial activities and generate enough internal revenue to sustain us. Our ambition is to make our State contribute substantially towards the attainment of national Food Security and Wealth Creation. We assure you that our ambition is realizable. We are determined to make our State a net supplier of foods and hydro-electric and other forms of energy to other States.

Furthermore, it is obvious that for our agriculture and indeed economy to pick up and flourish, People of means must **invest at home in appropriate enterprises** for the development of their community, State and indeed the Country. These enterprises should include obtaining franchise for the production





and marketing of copyright goods and services. Members of elite are not only to get into mining solid minerals and production of agricultural goods and services, they must get involved in the production and marketing of the machinery and equipment required in these businesses excavators, land-clearing machinery, harrows, riggers, tractors, planters, sorting and packaging equipment, processors etc. The agricultural sector in particular requires large quantities of chemicals and fertilizers and marketing companies, in order to be successful. They should participate in the development of the 'hair roots' of the Agricultural Development Pictorial Tree earlier depicted. The syndrome of 'sit-down-look' (*zaman kasha wando*) or unwarranted criticism should no longer be acceptable.

Let me urge that we in Adamawa State must grit our teeth and put the State on the road of rapid growth and out of poverty. And Agricultural development presently offers us the most viable option to achieve this!

We must all realize that there are great dangers for all if the plight of the ordinary people (including, poverty, insecurity, joblessness, etc) continues unabated. Building a productive economy even if limited to its agricultural aspect is the responsibility of all of us!

Let me, on behalf of myself and the people of Adamawa State, thank my Deputy and other members of the Executive Council of the State and the appropriate Government Ministries, the Special Project Programme Unit and other organs for their roles in achieving the above efforts. May we together deliver more dividends of Democracy to our people.

Fellow citizens, you should expect more of this type of Letter from me henceforth.

Long live Adamawa State! Long live Nigeria!!
Thank You!

