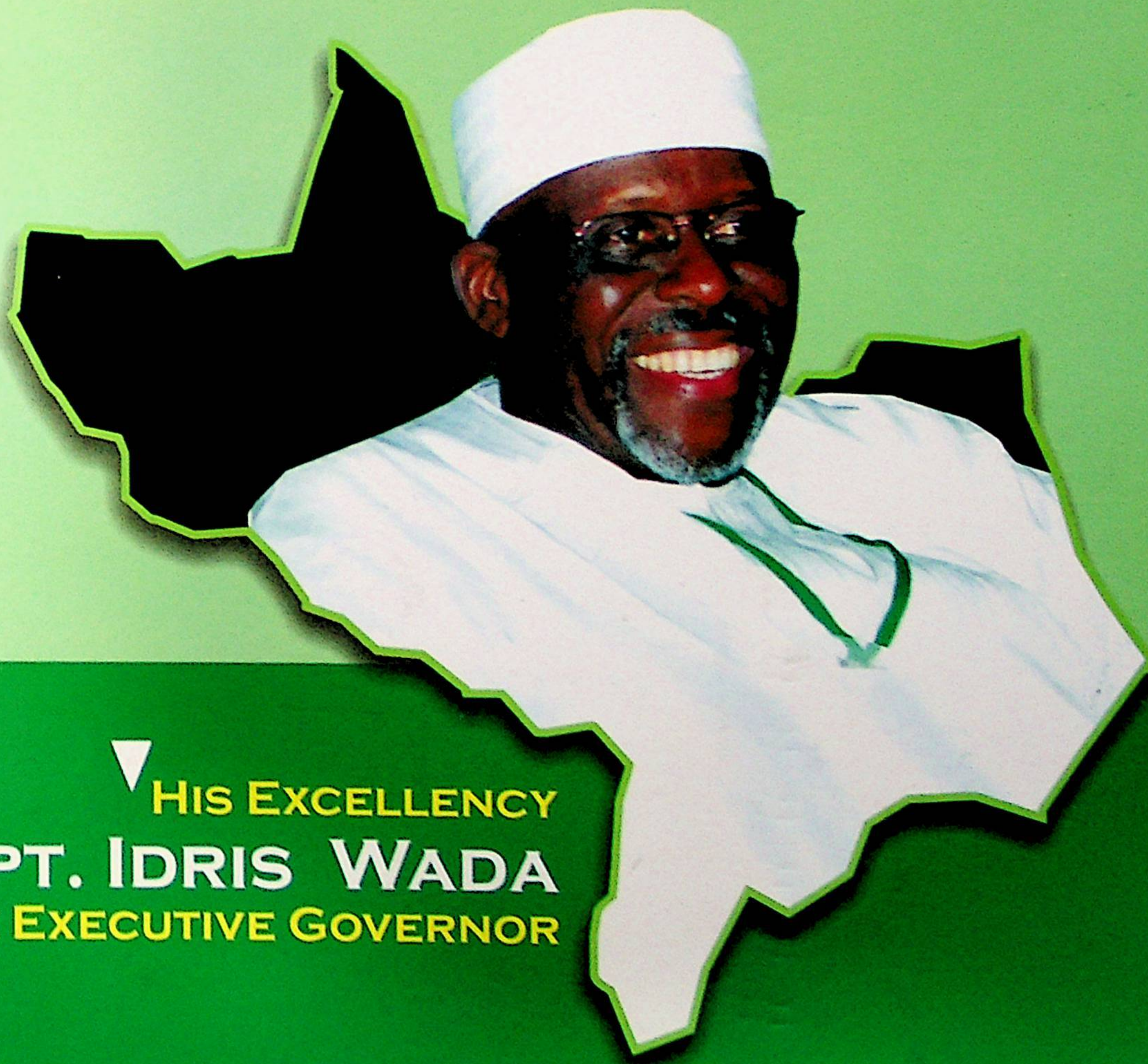




100 DAYS OF EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN KOGI STATE



▼ HIS EXCELLENCY
CAPT. IDRIS WADA
THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

The Confluence State



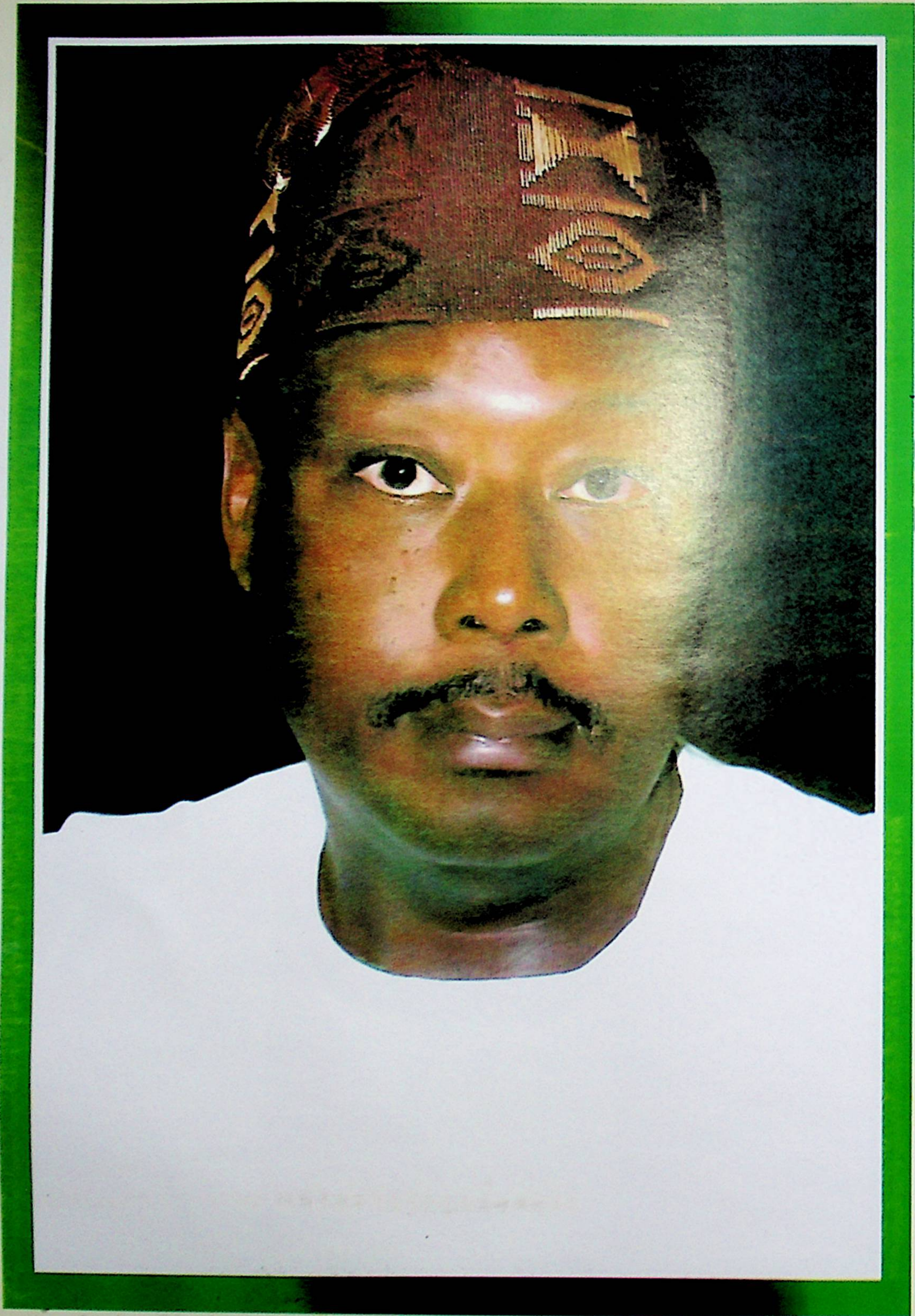
His Excellency
DR GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN GCFR
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED-FORCES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



His Excellency
ARC. MOHAMMED NAMADI SAMBO GCON
VICE PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



His Excellency,
CAPT. IDRIS ICHALLA WADA
Executive Governor of Kogi State



His Excellency,
ARC. YOMI AWONIYI
Deputy Governor of Kogi State



RT. HON. ABDULLAHI BELLO
Speaker Kogi State House of Assembly.



JUSTICE NASIRU AJANA
Kogi State Chief Judge

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We will run an All-inclusive
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Chief Executive
and his Deputy



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The Journey of
100 Days

Following the landslide victory recorded by Capt. Idris Ichalla Wada and Arc Yomi Awoniyi as governor-elect and deputy governor-elect respectively in the Saturday December 3, 2011 gubernatorial election, both men had set their sights on the first week of April 2012 as the date for their inauguration and formal assumption of office.

Eight months before their elections, specifically on Friday April 15, 2011, the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja had ruled that the incumbent Governor at the time, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris and his colleagues in Adamawa, Bayelsa, Cross River and Sokoto States, commenced their new terms in office with effect from the dates of their re-inauguration after their re-run elections, variously, in 2008. This was in response to a suit jointly filed by all five governors, seeking the elongation of their tenures of office.

Former Governor Idris was re-elected in the re-run election of March 29, 2008 and inaugurated a few days later, on April 6, 2008 to be specific. The import of that Court of Appeal judgement, therefore, was that April 6, 2012, would be former Governor Idris' exit date, and Capt. Wada and Arc Awoniyi's inauguration. All

that changed, however, on the harmattan morning of Friday January 27, 2012. In a landmark judgement that day, the Supreme Court of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, ruled that the tenure of the five governors had ended on May 29, 2011, exactly four years after they took their oaths of office and allegiance, for their second terms of office respectively.

Against the backdrop of the holistic consummation of the processes leading to their emergence as governor-in-waiting and deputy governor-in-waiting in consonance with the rule of law and due process, however, history was made that Friday January 27, 2012.

Both men were sworn-in same day as Executive Governor and Deputy Governor of Kogi State, respectively, almost 10 weeks ahead of the earlier expected April 6, 2012 date.

For the first time in 20 years after the pioneering effort of the very first Chief Executive of Kogi State, then Col Danladi Zakari whose administration produced a blueprint for the socio-economic development of the State within its four months in office in 1991, Capt Idris Wada is helping to reinvent a structured intellectual and pragmatic approach to governance.

Ever since, days have added up to weeks and weeks to months. And here we are, reckoning the initial 100 days of the new administration. Within the period, Capt Wada has moved with the characteristic thoroughness, presence of mind and unblinking focus of the aviator that he is, to give a new vision to the state, a novel impetus to governance and a new orientation to the conduct of government business.

For the first time in 20 years after the pioneering effort of the very first Chief Executive of Kogi State, then Col Danladi Zakari whose administration produced a blueprint for the socio-economic development of the State within its four months in office in 1991, Capt Idris Wada is helping to

reinvent a structured intellectual and pragmatic approach to governance.

No more the putsch-style, impulse-driven, error-prone manner of public administration. This explains why the foundation of the new administration has been largely predicated on thorough conceptualisation, rigorous planning and painstaking execution, to avoid the mortal pitfalls of the past. In tandem with Capt Wada's approach and temperament is that

of his deputy, Arc Awoniyi who comes from a professional background where profound creativity, functionality of concepts and frameworks, attention to detail and aesthetics are its defining hallmarks.

Both leaders are forging a new rapprochement which will be an archetypal study in harmonious relationships between governors and their deputies, especially in a milieu

where frequent frictions and avoidable acrimonies have blighted several tickets.

And the results are becoming manifest by the day, an evidence of a shared vision, a common mission and a unanimous commitment to serve Kogi State selflessly, unlock its variegated potentials and reposition the geo-

polity in the comity of states in the country.

It is an act of very rare courage for instance, for many leaders to insist on commencing their work only after attempting a clinical, seminal re-examination of the past, to establish the status quo and to use this as a basis to project into the future. It is within this context that fertile minds appreciate the constitution of a State

It is an act of very rare courage for instance, for many leaders to insist on commencing their work only after attempting a clinical, seminal re-examination of the past, to establish how we got to where we are and to use this as a basis to project into the future

Policy Advisory Committee, the "Think-Tank", a collection of some of the finest intellectuals, professionals and technocrats of Kogi State origin, to chart a new course for the state.

The Transition Committee which took an inventory of the state-of-the-state as at the time of the inauguration of the new administration and made salient recommendations which will assist the work of the new leadership and the articulation of a new budget to guide the pattern of fiscal expenditure in the first year of the new administration, have engaged the attention of the new government, among other things.

Indeed, the lavender of the fresh air of the new dispensation, wafts through the state now, as the new administration, quietly, albeit firmly, has gradually stamped an era of seriousness in governance which has mitigated the erstwhile culture of social deviance and misconduct.

Gone are the days when a new administration, out of residual angst and malice would jettison projects initiated by its predecessor. The Wada regime is pursuing the completion of projects initiated by the former

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government, notably the redevelopment of the Confluence Beach Hotel; the Lokoja ultra-modern stadium as well as various road and water projects among others. Disturbed by the rising cost of governance and dwindling inflows

from the federation account, the government is moving very swiftly not only to check waste and leakages, but also to diversify the single-track resource base of the state. This explains the seriousness with which the development of agriculture and its downstream potentials are being brought to the front burner.

The new administration is equally confronting the hydra of environmental sanitation especially in the state capital; prosecuting the gradual beautification of the state and breaking new grounds in road rehabilitation and road construction, among others.

This prefatory piece is to whet our appetite, not to substitute the more detailed bouquet we shall be savouring on various strands of the work of the new administration in its first 100 days, on the pages which follow.

Enjoy this copy!



Profile

of His Excellency,
**The Executive Governor
of Kogi State,
Capt. Idris Ichalla
Wada**

Captain Idris Ichalla Wada, a doyen of the aviation industry was born to the family of Wada Ejiga of Anyigba, Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State on 26th August, 1950. His father, Pa Wada Ejiga, a retired judge of the Upper Area Court hails from Odu village in Dekina, Kogi State while his mother, Hajiya Rekiya Wada Ejiga of blessed memory is from Ogudu in Omala LGA of Kogi State.

An accomplished pilot and business man, he became a first class flying instructor at the record age of twenty-three (23). Indeed he was credited for training the best set of pilots ever produced in Nigeria in his generation.

He attended the then Native Authority (NA) Primary School, Dekina Government Secondary School, also in Dekina and also studied at the Federal Government College, Sokoto, where he obtained the First School Leaving Certificate, General Certificate of Education

(O' Levels) with distinction and his Advanced level GCE respectively. He was at the Nigerian Civil Aviation Training Centre, Zaria from 1970 to 1972 and also studied at the Air Service Training College, Perth, Scotland, United Kingdom from 1972 to 1973 and undertook another training programme at the Bornside-ott aviation College, Opa-Locka Airport, Miami Florida, USA in 1973.

Idris Wada joined the then national carrier, Nigerian Airways as a line pilot where he attained the summit of his career and ascended the height of "Captain in Command" at the tender age of 29. In 1983, He joined the United Air Service (UAS) where he rose to the position of Chief Pilot and General Manager, within a very short period.

Captain Wada's brief stay at the United Air Service (UAS) crystalized into his becoming one of the pioneer indigenous airline operators in Nigeria when he founded the Executive Aviation Service EAS in 1985 with some prominent Kogi indigenes, some of whom he trained in NCAT, Zaria. He was the founding Managing Director of the Airline.

Wada attended several high level aviation management and proficiency training programmes in Nigeria, Brazil, Germany, UK and USA within the past 25 years. He also attended several simulator conversion/ recurrent flight training programmes regularly at Varig Airlines, Brazil, Lufthansa Airlines, Frankfurt, Sabena Airlines, Brussels, Pan-AM flight academy, Miami, USA and many other high quality training facilities.

Captain Wada is not only proficient as an aviator. He is equally an academic who completed his Masters Degree Programme in Business Administration at the University of Abuja in 2006, after rounding up the B.Sc degree in Business Administration from the same University.

His other professional qualifications include aviation diploma; commercial pilot certificate; flying instructor certificate as well as airline pilot license. He possesses the Nigerian Airline Transport License No. 992; British Airline

Transport Pilot License No. 104990; USA/FAA Air Transport Rating No. 2223411 and Qualified Flight Instructor rating (QFI) UK. He also has Certified Flight Instructor Instrument (CFII) USA; Aerobic Instructor Rating UK and Certified Flight Examiner, UK and Nigeria.

Idris Wada's Air type ratings include: Boeing 737; Boeing 727; Boeing 707; Douglas DC.8; Fokker F28; HS125; BAC1-11; Jet, Dorinier 228.

Captain Wada has had a varied working experience. He functioned variously at Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria, as Flight Instructor from 1973-1978 and Nigeria Airways Limited as Pilot from 1978-1982. He equally worked at the United Air Services as Chief Pilot and General Manager from 1982-1985. At the Aviation Services Nigeria Ltd, he was the Chief Executive from 1985-1988 and also served at the NICON Airways Ltd, Nigeria, as Executive Vice Chairman, the position he was holding until he was elected Governor of Kogi State.

Other positions he held before he assumed leadership of the state include: MD/CEO of EAS Aviation Limited, Chairman/CEO of Acroconsult Limited, Chairman/CEO Taskit Nig. Ltd and Chairman/CEO Horizon Construction Co. Ltd.

Captain Idris Ichalla Wada held several national and public appointments. These include: Chairman, Ministerial Committee on Airline Operations, 2006; Chairman, NACAA Implementation Committee on Airline Operations for ICAO Audit, 2006 and Chairman, Governing Council, Federal College of Education Technical, Potiskum, Yobe State, 2009 to 2011.

Captain Idris Wada has delivered several lectures and presentations at seminars and workshops in Nigeria and abroad over the last 20 years.

Over the years, he has distinguished himself both in the public and private sectors of Nigerian economy as a humble, trustworthy and detribalized Nigerian.

Captain Idris Ichalla Wada is happily married with children.



Profile

of His Excellency,
The Deputy Governor
of Kogi State,
Arc. Yomi Awoniyi

Stoic perseverance in the face of unprovoked adversity as well as calm unobtrusiveness in situations where others would easily lose their cool, could be among the guiding principles, indeed the staying power that have so far paid off handsomely for Arc. Abayomi Sunday Benjamin Awoniyi, Kogi State Deputy Governor.

The route to greatness as defined by William Shakespeare is a three-way course. It could be by birth. It could be by attainment. It could be also by recognition. In this journey of life, **Yomi Awoniyi**, has been able to bestride these three paths and he is still ascending the pedestal of greatness.

Once he wanted to be a Senator. He lost. But fate was not through with him. Just when he least expected, fate

thrust upon him a bigger responsibility. In the face of stiff political challenges, **Arc. Yomi Awoniyi** soldiered on like the proverbial patient dog and the rest is now history.

If you believe in destiny, then perhaps you will not wonder what bound Architect Awoniyi to his boss, Captain Idris Ichalla Wada. Both are children of destiny. It was destiny that catapulted both men to the corridors of power.

However, what further influenced Architect Awoniyi's

choice as Captain Wada's running mate is his rich background in the private sector. Besides, Architect Awoniyi is known for his quiet mien and unassuming disposition and these qualities have earned him the confidence of his boss and admirers.

Born in Lagos, September 4, 1960, Architect Awoniyi attended Government Secondary School Okene, between 1971 and 1973 and

thereafter moved to Barewa College, Zaria, where in 1976, he bagged his West African School Certificate (WASCE) Grade one. He was subsequently admitted into the School of Basic Studies, Zaria, for his Higher School Programme. That was between 1976 and 1978. He completed the programme in flying colours and got admitted into Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to study Architecture.

In 1981, he bagged a Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture and proceeded to bag a Master of Science, Architecture in 1983, also from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Determined to be a core professional, he moved to University College, London in 1983 and by 1984, he had bagged a Master of Science in Urban Development Planning.

Arc. Yomi Awoniyi, son of the late political icon and seasoned Administrator, Chief S.B. Awoniyi, a member of several professional bodies including, Nigeria Institute of Architects, Architects Registration Council of Nigeria and Nigeria Institute of Management, established Awoniyi Associates, a Firm of Architects and Urban Planners in 1988.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

An Architect with vast exposure and experience, Architect Yomi Awoniyi, has availed the Nation his professional competence in some key National projects.

Some of these projects are: The National Library Project, Abuja; an Official residence in the Presidency Abuja; the Millennium Tower Project Abuja; CAC Prototype office buildings in different States across the country; the Abuja Light Rail Project; Itakpe Iron Ore Project; Ajaokuta Steel Company projects; Construction of Silos for Grains storage in different Locations across the country; The Lagos Ibadan expressway Project and so many others.

He has also been commissioned on many corporate projects. These include: development of Wema Bank Plc Office Complex in Abuja; Development of Housing Estate for National Intelligence Agency, Abuja; Development of several Bank premises for Union Bank Plc Lagos; Support services to Shell Petroleum Development Company also in Port-Harcourt, support services to Mobil Nigeria Unlimited at the QIT, Eket; Development of Kwara State Liaison Office Complex, Abuja; Development of Kogi State House of Assembly, Lokoja; Development of Kabba-Ogidi-Ayere Road, Kogi State; Rural Electrification Project at Kabba-Olle-Illuke axis of Kogi State, etc.

PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SERVICE

He is vastly traveled having visited over a dozen countries across all continents of the world for both business and leisure. Architect Yomi Awoniyi is also a philanthropist. He is the founder and sponsor

of the Yomi Awoniyi Organisation; an organization that has been involved in the provision of scholarships to students in institutions of higher learning as well as providing micro-credit to some individuals in Kogi West Senatorial District. These are gestures that aided the victory of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in the last Governorship election in the area. He has had the privilege of serving in a number of public establishments. He was on the Board of Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority, among other appointments.

Before his election as Deputy Governor, he was on the Board of several Companies including Candid Oil Services Limited, Boja Industries Limited, Bold Concept Construction Company Limited and Howas Services Limited.

SOCIAL LIFE

A member of several Associations and Clubs, **Architect Awoniyi**, holds the membership of the following Clubs: Ikoyi Club 1938, Lagos; Ivory Health Club, Ikeja, Lagos; Barewa Old Boys Association, ABU Zaria; Alumni Association and University College, London Alumni Association.

He finds pleasure in community Development work, reading of management books and biographies. He also finds time to play squash and badminton. He is married and the union is blessed with three exceptional children.



A New Epoch: Capt. Idris Wada taking Oath of Office as Governor of Kogi State.



The making of history: Arc. Abayomi Awoniyi takes his oath of office as Deputy Governor Of Kogi State.

Inaugural *Speech*

We will run an All-inclusive Government

It is barely two months ahead of the date originally envisaged. The circumstances are well known to all of us. Our duty is not to question the design of God but to rise vehemently to the occasion and provide the good people of the State with the leadership and direction that this difficult time demands of us.

It is however appropriate for me to congratulate my friend, my brother and my leader, Alh, Ibrahim Idris for successfully steering the affairs of Kogi State for almost nine years. To be exact, eight years and eight months. Congratulations, Sir.

Given the complexity of this State and the onerous demands of governance, the achievements you have recorded in the areas of physical development, social integration and communal stability are highly commendable. It is not mere rhetoric when I say, as I have often done, that there is a solid foundation for Yomi and me.

Next, I want to express my profound gratitude to the entire people of Kogi State who have given me and my Deputy overwhelming victory in the keenly contested election that has been adjudged free and fair.

My Deputy and I feel highly challenged to work assiduously to justify the confidence reposed in us and to take Kogi State to where it ought to be. We will lead the example by subjecting ourselves to the highest ideals of good governance, which are hard work, integrity, discipline, transparency and accountability, as our watch word. We will conduct ourselves as if we are not protected by the now controversial provision in our constitution; the immunity provision. The reality of course is that there is no immunity for Governors and their Deputies in the court of public opinion and public scrutiny. That is why, in our conduct of government business and the management of available resources, we will strive to be completely above suspicion. Once we do that, it will be easy for us to demand the same standard from our team. In this regard, we will seek to

Being text of Inaugural Speech delivered by the Executive Governor of Kogi State, His Excellency, Capt. IDRIS ICHALLA WADA, on the Occasion of his Swearing-in on Friday 27th January, 2012, in Government House Lokoja.

"We will lead the example by subjecting ourselves to the highest ideals of good governance, which are hard work, integrity, discipline, transparency and accountability, as our watch word."

bring on board, as members of our team, people we believe by their antecedents, will have no difficulty, whatsoever, in sharing our commitment and values. People who do not only possess the requisite qualification, knowledge and experience, but are more interested in making history than making money

Like all other societies that are genuinely striving for rapid socio-economic transformation, we realize that our greatest resources are our own people - their attitude, their skill, their knowledge and their creative energy. Since my election as Governor, I have been amazed by the number and quality of people who have volunteered to help in the implementation of our Transformation Agenda.

It is my considered view that as a nation and as a State, our development efforts have been hamstrung by lack of deliberate and systematic integration of our talented people into our development efforts. This is why we are going to advance the idea of the symphony of Kogi, where all our people, all over the world, who have been practising had to develop their individual skills and talents, can come together to work in concert for the development of our State. Kogi State should mean bringing out the best in each of us for all of us.

I have already put this in motion with the constitution of a high powered committee of some of our best and brightest minds to develop a blue print for the transformation of the State based on

our vision and mission.

The committee will give us strategic policies and programmes as well as the headway for our transformation agenda. They will cover the broad areas of infrastructure development, Agriculture and Natural Resources development, commerce and industry including small and medium scale enterprises and solid minerals, social services, rural development and poverty reduction, youth empowerment, women empowerment and governance.

In the meantime, the people of Kogi State have already mapped out our priority for us in the course of our electoral campaign. Most of the requests from all the local governments centered on infrastructure, especially water, road and youth empowerment. Our aim is to work extremely hard to bring about notable changes in these areas as quickly as possible. These immediate measures as well as our strategic initiative in the areas of agriculture, health and education would be well spelt out in my address to the people.

I wish to assure the good people of this State that we will run an all-inclusive government. I therefore crave the support of all of you. We must make serious effort to be forward-looking and trust our leaders. We should not be engaged in recriminations on the past, because we cannot be outshining to the future with our eyes fixed on the rear view mirror.

My good people of Kogi State, there is work to be done. In order to allow for a smooth transition, all appointees are to remain in their positions.

So my good people of the State, let us join hands together and get on with that work.

Thank you and God bless you.

"...We are going to advance the idea of the symphony of Kogi, where all our people, all over the world, who have been practising had to develop their individual skills and talents, can come together to work in concert for the development of Our State."

The Journey of 100 Days

Born to run! That would be a suitable appellation for the administration of Kogi State Governor, Capt Idris Ichalla Wada, and his closely knitted Deputy, Arc. Yomi Awoniyi, who were sworn-in with a fiat on Friday, 27th January, 2012 following a Supreme Court judgement that terminated the extended tenure of the preceding administration. For an administration that came almost three months before its scheduled time, and the flag bearers just coming out of their well deserved rest after a well-fought election of Saturday, 3rd December, 2011, 100 days would simply have been a time to take a look at the books and to assess what is on the ground. But, not with this government that began to run immediately it was born. Following is a concise presentation of the strategic and

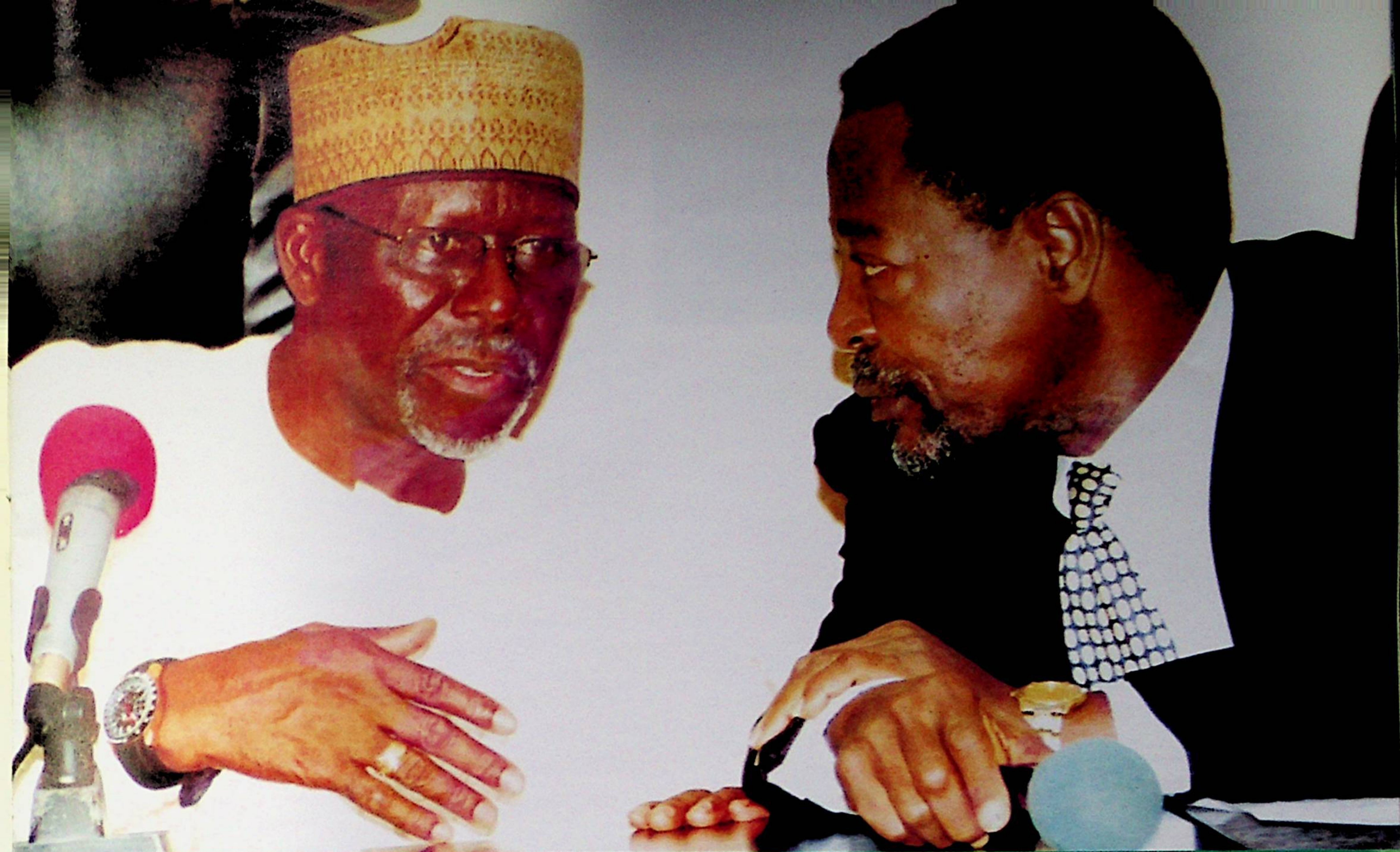
visionary intervention projects and programmes enacted by the administration to put its bold footprints on the landscape of the State within the first 100 days of its dramatic assumption.

LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION The First Signal

At the spontaneous and simple swearing-in ceremony of the Governor and his Deputy on Friday, 27th January, occasioned by the Supreme Court judgement of the same day that nullified the extension earlier granted to the preceding administration of Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, Capt Wada left no one in doubt as to the fact that he meant business, and that his regime would re-invent Kogi State. He said he would seek for people with proven integrity and sound track record of service, and bring them on board. He gave a hint

The Wise men: Some members of the Think-Tank Committee pose with Governor Wada after a meeting.





Envisioning a new Kogi State: Governor Wada in a tête-à-tête with Prof. Francis Idachaba, Chairman of the Think-Tank Committee, during the inauguration of the Think Tank Committee.

on setting up a committee to fashion out the administration's transformation agenda for the four-year tenure. He disclosed that cardinal sectors like agriculture, education, health care services, potable water and poverty reduction programmes would take the front burner.

And the Atmosphere Changed

People could hardly believe that Lugard House, the seat of the State Government, could be rid of the habitual and obnoxious presence of miscreants and hangers-on, (usually called thugs in political parlance), within "a twinkling of an eye". It happened with the coming of the Wada/Awoniya administration. That was the first sign that the music had changed; that a new order, an era of seriousness in governance, devoid of social disorder and deviancy, had been enthroned. The Governor and his Deputy are now attending to the critical business of steering the ship of State without the objectionable intrusion of the sightseers. Much is the accolade being received by the administration for this salient accomplishment.

Think Tank Committee

Robert Sieger, a British business executive, was quoted as saying that "Planning is as natural to the process of success as its absence is to the process of failure." This statement aptly summarises the crux of the 21-member Think Tank Committee set up by the administration on Wednesday 1st February, 2012, exactly five days after the administration assumed office. As its name implies, the committee was to produce a blueprint for the development of the State. In the words of Governor Idris Wada, the committee was to outline strategic development policies and programmes to be implemented in the State for the next four years. This all-important committee consisted of a team one can describe as the best brains from the academics and commerce that the State could boast of. It was headed by a world-renowned Professor of Agricultural Economics, Prof Francis Idachaba, OFR.

The New and the Old: Governor Wada and former Governor Ibrahim Idris exchanging banter.





Others in the committee include Prof Eytayo Lambo, former Minister of Health; Eng. Joseph Makoju, CON, former Special Adviser to the President on Power; and Alhaji Abdulrazak Kutepa, Industrialist and former Governorship aspirant. For the very young administration to have assembled the formidable team was seen by many as a sign of its sagacity, sense of mission and a sign of better days ahead. Since the pioneer military administration of the then Col. Danladi Zakari, who administered the State between August and December, 1991, and produced a blueprint that was not implemented, no other regime had thought it fit to produce one. No wonder that all the socio-economic signposts of Kogi State attest to the fact that its progress has been tortuous and haphazard in its over twenty years existence. The birth of this committee, no doubt, shows the desire of the new administration to be thorough, scrupulous and unpretentious. The committee swiftly went headlong into business, and was able to submit an interim report on 4th February, and later the final report on Tuesday, 27th March, 2011.

Transition Committee

In less than three weeks in office, (15th February to be precise), the administration inaugurated a Transition Committee. The committee was headed by

Alhji Sule Iyaji, former Deputy governor of Benue State, assisted by Chief Patrick Adaba, former Deputy Governor of Kogi State, while the Director General of the Wada/Awoniya Campaigning Organization, Chief Olusola Akanmode, was named the organiser. The Committee was to document the situation of things in the State in terms of assets and liabilities and other facts and figures, to situate the new administration for a guided take-off. The committee consisted of an all-inclusive team of technocrats in the public sector, public officials, opinion moulders and party leaders. Highlights of the committee's terms of reference included obtaining handing-over notes from all Ministries, Departments and Agencies, ascertaining all on-going projects and making recommendations on them. Other topical assignments of the team include examining all issues raised in all Local Government Areas during the election campaigns, compiling a comprehensive list of political offices and their wage bill, and recommending a formula for a fair distribution of political offices. The nature and the brief of the committee are seen by many as showing the desire of the new administration to be thorough, selfless and methodical.

On 6th March, 2012, the Transition Committee submitted its report, segmented into four volumes, during which the chairman

expressed his confidence that the work would meet the expectations of government. Receiving the report, Governor Wada promised that government would constitute a white paper team to study the work and recommend actions to be taken on them.

It was after these initial foundational exercises that the administration did the needful, which is, the dissolution of the State executive council, and the termination of other political appointments, so that the field might be cleared for a new team best suited for the season to be assembled.

Strategic Continuity

Continuity in governance is an inevitable approach during transition of regimes if waste must be avoided. The administration of Capt Idris Wada, which took over from an administration run by the same party, the PDP, found it easy to continue to fund projects initiated by its predecessor. The administration has been releasing funds to service landmark projects such as The New Confluence Beach Hotel, The New Stadium, road projects in various parts of the State, the Greater Lokoja Water Project and other water schemes.

The Making of Budget 2012

At the inception of the administration, the State Budget 2012 was still in the making at the State House of Assembly. Good relationship



Budgeting for Development: Gov. Idris Wada receiving a copy of the 2012 draft budget from speaker of the State House of Assembly, Alh Abdullahi Bello

with the Legislature engendered the passage of a realistic budget that is amenable to the principles and philosophy of the new administration. Governor Idris Wada assented to the Appropriation Bill on Tuesday, 10th April. At this ceremony, attended by the leadership of both the Legislature and the Executive, the determination of the administration to do things differently was brought to the fore when the Governor disclosed that it was the first budget in the State to have 50% for both the recurrent and capital expenditures. The Governor pledged to block all drains to public fund, and to shore up the internally generated revenue.

Sanitation and beautification of Lokoja

A comprehensive programme for the environmental sanitation and beautification of Lokoja, the State capital, was one of the first major projects embarked upon by the administration. The import of the programme

could never be lost on anyone who had visited Lokoja before the commencement of the exercise as the town was untidy, and characterised by indiscriminate dumping of refuse, mounds of uncleared refuse sites, operation of roadside markets and erection of makeshift shops on road setbacks, among others. The entry point to the town from Abuja gives motorists nightmares due to the bottleneck created because of uncontrolled parking of trailers. Government found this situation unacceptable for a State capital that is a gateway to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory for travellers from about 17 States of the country.

To put an end to this indecency in the State capital, the administration put together a committee on special sanitation and beautification of the town. To ensure effective delivery, the Deputy Governor, Yomi Awoniyi was made to head the inter-

ministerial committee, which consisted of professionals from relevant agencies and the media.

Governor Wada inaugurated the committee on Friday, 9th March, and charged them to find immediate and lasting solutions to the environmental anomalies associated with Lokoja, clean up the town and make it attractive and welcoming to residents and visitors. The committee has since been working, and has covered a lot of ground. All the heaps of refuse around the town have been cleared. Roadside markets in various parts of the town, namely the very unwieldy Old Market, Adankolo Market, Pata Market, and Lokongoma Market, have been disbanded. The affected traders have been appropriately relocated to newly created and rehabilitated neighbourhood markets in Adankolo, Lokongoma, Ganaja village and Zango Daji. Some of the roadside traders and the GSM village community by the Post Office have been absorbed in the hitherto under-utilised International Market, which has undergone an audit to ensure its full utilisation. Illegal structures and shop extensions along major roads have been removed. A mechanic village is being constructed for mechanics and allied technicians to keep them away from the roadsides. As a long term plan, a beautification programme, which will involve the building of walk ways, monuments and parks in the State capital, has been drawn up. Also, a sanitation programme for the entire town is being worked out under a Public-Private Partnership arrangement.

The committee was working on the establishment of a trailer park near Banda village, when the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation came up with a plan to set up a modern trailer park with a mega filling station in the same vicinity in partnership with the State government. This project will offer a permanent solution to the incessant traffic

logjam at Nataco area of Lokoja.

As part of the beautification programme of Lokoja, a monument is under construction at the entrance of the Lugard House, the seat of the state government.

Education

Governor Idris Wada appreciates the pivotal place of education as the bedrock of development. He demonstrated this through the attention he has given to the sector. A myriad of projects have been executed in the sector within the 100 days. Six days after his assumption of office, the Governor paid an unscheduled visit to Kogi State University, Anyigba, to apprise himself of the state of that important institution. There he saw the hardship faced by the students due to shortage of hostel accommodation. He subsequently approved the construction of new student hostels in the University. He has also visited the State Polytechnic in Lokoja, and has also approved the construction of two new hostel blocks for the students. As part of his humane gesture towards the students, the administration has sustained the payment of bursary to all students of Kogi State origin in higher institutions in the country. Furthermore, the government released the sum of N10 million to sponsor a Capacity Building Workshop for over 200 teachers in the State on the implementation of the new Senior Secondary School Curriculum in collaboration with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council, Abuja. Government has also released fund for the completion of ongoing projects at the recently established College of Education, Technical, Kabba. Government Science School was recently relocated to give way for the Federal University, Lokoja. The relocation threw up a need for the provision of some facilities for the school. The Governor wasted no time in approving the provision of a borehole, procurement and installation of a transformer and provision of

buses for the transportation of students to and from school. Still on education, the Idris Wada-led administration has released the sum of N20 million for the Mathematics Improvement Project in collaboration with the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja. The project will greatly impact on students and teachers for better teaching and learning of the all-important subject.

Health

Governor Idris Wada has approached the issue of health care delivery with such passion that is unparalleled

A peep into the future: Both Governor Idris Wada and Deputy Governor Yomi Awoniyi put heads together for the growth of Kogi at a State function.

ed in the history of the State. A free Rural Medical service targeted at the rural poor was conceived and executed by the Governor in collaboration with CEDIO organization based in Lagos. One thousand patients were treated in 24 centres by the two medical teams raised for the programme, consisting of personnel from both CEDIO and the State. More than 2000 surgical operations were carried out, including eye related surgery. In addition, 1000 long lasting insecticide treated nets and thousands of eye glasses were distributed free.

The Governor has given approval to the Health Management Board for the recruitment of new medical personnel for the State hospitals, to facilitate improved health care delivery.

This is in spite of the heavy wage bill the State is already saddled with. New Cottage Hospitals are being constructed at Umomi in Ofu Local government Area and Icheke in Omala LGA, among other projects.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a sector in which Kogi State is well-endowed in terms of vast arable land, forest belts, fadama and water bodies. Ironically, agriculture has been unjustifiably neglected. However, the present administration has taken quick steps to redress the situation. To show government's commitment to making agriculture the fulcrum of the State economy, the Deputy Governor Yomi Awoniyi, has undertaken an agricultural facility tour to Kwara State. This



move, apparently, was to understudy Kwara State's special agricultural schemes, which have been applauded nationally. In order to boost food production in the State, government has given attention to the multi million Naira Neem Based Fertilizer plant at Agbeji in Dekina Local Government Area. The industry has since commenced production of organic fertilizer which has many advantages over the conventional fertilizer

Rural Electrification

The administration has committed over N120 million Naira to electrification projects in 10 communities in various parts of the state. These are Odar Adangere, Icheke, Okeoffin/Olle, Adangere Ugo, Ette-Odah, Okpakili Ate, Okpakili Ogane, Ofugo, Ogboyaga and Ogaminana.

Road

Kogi State has more than its fair share of roads of all categories which are in deplorable conditions. The administration therefore found it compelling to commence the construction of six roads in the three zones of the state. These are Koton-karfe township road, Iyara township roads, Kabba township roads, Itakpe-Kuroko-Okene by-pass, access road to the School for the Disabled, Iyale as well as Ogugu-Adum-Ikem road.

In addition, the State government has commenced discussion with the federal governments to undertake the rehabilitation of Obajana-Kabba-Ilorin road and seek reimbursement from the Federal Government later. All these projects will bring great comfort to the people of the State.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Government has performed the ground breaking for the construction of a Jathropha Bio-diesel Fuel Refinery located in Itobe in partnership with Global Green Field Development Group. Government has also approved N50 million for a comprehensive Geological Investigation of Solid Mineral resources in the State. This project will no doubt enable government to jump-start exploration and exploitation of the vast mineral resources available in all parts of the State. Government has opened discussion with the Federal Government on the need and ways to complete the gigantic Ajaokuta Steel Industry and the reactivation of the abandoned Itakpe Iron Ore Mining Industry in the State. As part of the efforts to boost commercial activities in Lokoja, the State capital, government conducted an audit of the Lokoja International Market, and discovered that the market was under utilised, due to over-pricing of the shops, among other issues. Government thereafter took a bold and greatly applauded decision to reduce the rent of all categories of shops in the market by 50%.

Water

The administration has approved payment of N50 million to the contractors who constructed the Lokoja Greater Water scheme as part of the work done on the project. Government has also released about N22 million for the construction of a booster station and for pipeline work for the extension of pipe-

borne water to Chari Maigumeri Barrack area in Lokoja. More than N37 million Naira has also been approved for the rehabilitation of the dilapidated Water Works in Ankpa town, including the procurement and installation of pumps and transformers to boost water supply in town.

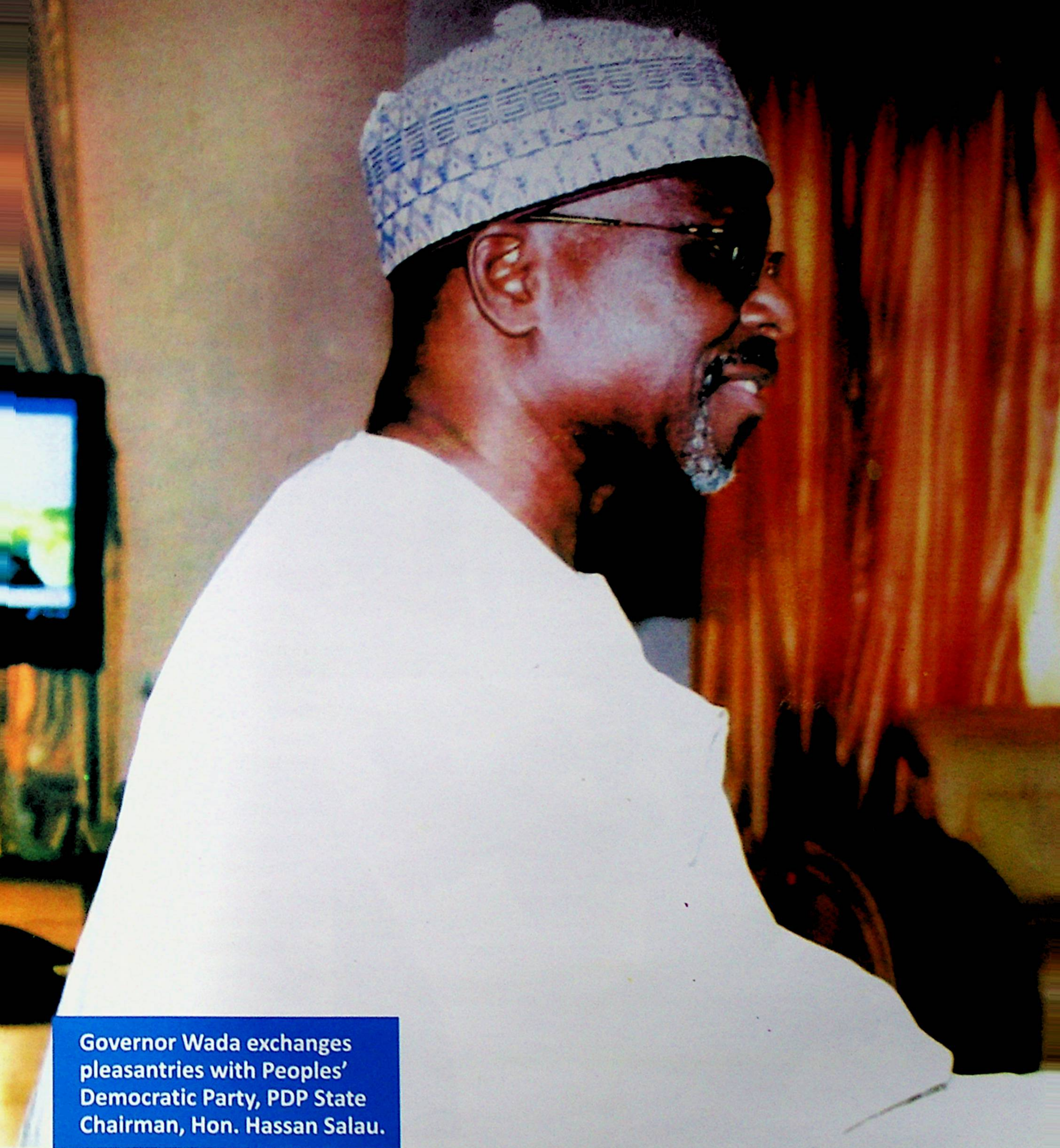
Social welfare, youth and women development

Steps have been taken to build the capacity of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development through infrastructure development. To this end, the Social Welfare area Offices in Idah, Dekina, Kabba and Okene are being rehabilitated at the cost of over N5 million. A State-wide sensitization programme on Child Right was sponsored by the government. A workshop was also organised for the women by government in conjunction with Nestle Foods.

A vocational training programme for 200 youths drawn from all parts of the State was inaugurated in Lokoja by Governor Idris Wada. He has also indicated plans to build more Skill Acquisition Centres in the State to train the teeming youths and create jobs. Government has also given assistance to the Ministry of Mercy Orphanage Home in Otutulu.

General administration and the civil service

Government has ensured prompt payment of



Governor Wada exchanges pleasantries with Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP State Chairman, Hon. Hassan Salau.

salaries as and when due, and has, as policy, adopted the recently approved National Minimum Wage in the State, though the wage bill has taken the lion share of the revenue available to the State government. Similarly, the

administration has continued to pay pension to all retirees regularly. The administration has set in motion, the process for the take-off of the National Contributory Pension Scheme in the State.

Propelled by the need

to reposition the State Public Service, the administration gave approval to the Office of the Head of Service to embark on massive retraining exercise for all cadres of the workforce, which is the first of its kind



three Ministries and other departments is receiving a facelift, with complete landscaping.

In response to the security challenge confronting the nation, the new administration has embarked on a State-wide Security Awareness Campaign to educate and sensitise the citizens on security issues. Government has made it clear that it is poised to give the issue of protection of lives and property in the State the priority attention it deserves.

Conclusion

It is not practicable to capture all that the State Government has accomplished within these hundred days as many more things have happened after this publication went to Press. Due to the strength of mind, fortitude and commitment with which the Governor and his Deputy are approaching the Kogi Project, decisions and actions with far reaching effects are being taken daily. The administration is moving at a speed never experienced in the history of the State. If the

since the creation of the State in 1991. In the same vein, government recently inaugurated a uniform identity card scheme for all civil servants in the State in order to improve security in

government offices, and give civil servants a sense of belonging and oneness. The premises of the office of the Deputy Governor, which houses the office of the Secretary to the Government,

administration sustains its present tempo, and the State's human and natural resources effectively harnessed in the period ahead, Kogi State may as well take its rightful frontline position in the country in no distant time.



Governor Wada at the launch of the State Uniform Identity Card Scheme



Operation Wipe out Polio: Governor Wada launches a campaign against polio in Lokoja.



Arc. Awoniyi receiving instructions on how to improve the agricultural sector.



Deputy Governor, Arc. Yomi Awoniyi inspecting an Agricultural facility in Ilorin Kwara State



Governor Idris Wada laying the foundation stone for an Ultra Modern Lecture Theatre at Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja



Back to Land: Governor Wada at the flag-off of Jathropha based Bio-diesel Refinery at Itobe, Ofu L.G.A., Kogi State



Governor Wada presenting cheque to a Fadama Farmer.



Food For All: Deputy Governor Awoniyi inspects Animal Husbandry at the Shonga Farms, Kwara State, as a potential model for Kogi State.



E-Governance: Governor Wada operating a computer at the Continuous Development Centre, Lokoja



Lugard House Round-About being built in front of Government House Lokoja, as part of the beautification programme of the new administration



Beyond Politics: Former Governor of Kogi State, Prince Abubakar Audu with incumbent Governor Idris Wada at the wedding of the son of the former Governor.



Work in progress on the New Government House Clinic being built by the Wada Administration.



Funds for Development: Governor Wada signing into law the 2012 State Appropriate Bill, while Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Hon. Abdullahi Bello looks on



Governor Idris Wada (Fourth Left); Deputy Governor Yomi Awoniyi (Fifth left); at the flag-off of the Itakpe-Kuroko-Eika Road Rehabilitation Project in the Central Senatorial District



Governor Wada welcoming men of the Federal Road Service Commission, FRSC into his office



Governor Idris Wada (Third left); Deputy Governor Yomi Awoniyi (second left); Permanent Secretary, Kogi State Ministry of Works, Mr. Nuhu Elujah, at the Flag-off of the Kabba Township Roads recently.



Cleanliness is next to godliness: Deputy Governor Yomi Awoniyi launches the State Sanitation and Cleaning Exercise.



Governor Idris Wada having a discussion with one of the expatriates providing free medical services in the State

Diary of a Workaholic Chief Executive and his Deputy



The following is a reflection of the day to day activities of the Governor Capt. Idris Wada and his Deputy Arc. Yomi Awoniyi. The diary covers the First One Hundred Days in office Jan.27th-May 5th 2012 as tracked by a reporter.

JANUARY

Friday 27-10-2012:

Capt. Idris Ichalla Wada, and Arc. Abayomi Awoniyi sworn in as Governor and Deputy Governor of Kogi state respectively by President Customary Court of Appeal, Justice Shuiabu Atadoga.

Saturday 28-01-2012

The new Governor and his Deputy not in Public view.

Sunday 29-01-2012

Still out of Public view.

Monday 30-01-2012

The new governor and deputy governor triumphantly returned to Lokoja, the state capital and went straight

to Government House at about 1130 am.

The governor subsequently convened meetings of the Security Council and EXCO.

Maiden broadcast to people of the state.

Tuesday 31-01-2012

The top echelon of the judiciary led by the Chief Judge, President Customary Court of Appeal and the Grand Khadi paid a maiden visit to the Governor.

Traditional rulers from Dekina also visited.

His Excellency suspended courtesy calls to enable him settle down and to form the structure of his government.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 01-02-2012

Early morning unscheduled visit to Kogi State University Anyigba.

Back to Lokoja about 1 pm the Governor

proceeded to the office and later inaugurated a 21 man Think-Tank Committee on the reactivation of Kogi, chaired by Prof. Frank Okafor. Appointments of a Personal Assistant and two Special Advisers to the governor made. The governor later travelled to Abuja for a meeting with the President and other governors.

Thursday 02-02-2012

His Excellency returned from Abuja and headed straight for office. He had a brief interaction with members of the Think-Tank.

At about 3 pm, he excused himself for a courtesy call by members of the NUJ Kogi State council led by Chairman, Ali Atabo.

Prayer at about 6pm. He returned to the office before finally closing at about 730 pm.

Friday 03-02-2012

Early morning inspection of facilities in Government House by the Governor

Visit by the JP candidate in the governorship election, Chief Aisha Audu.

Think Tank consultation continued as His Excellency participates more fully in the sessions even till about 12 midnight.

Saturday 04-02-2012

Interim Report of Think-Tank Committee was presented to the Governor.

The Governor proceeded to Abuja after the report.

The governor later attended the wedding ceremony of son of former governor, Alh. Abubakar Audu in Abuja.

Sunday 05-02-2012

The Governor was still in Abuja for official engagement.

Monday 06-02-2012

The Governor was Still in Abuja for official engagement.

Tuesday 07-02-2012

His Excellency returned from Abuja straight to the office. General Ogbaha was the first caller today. He came to felicitate with the Governor.

The Governor later visited Kogi State Polytechnic.

About 4.00pm Speaker Bello led other members of the house on a maiden visit to the Governor.

Advance party for Lagos (Dangote assignment) departed. More meetings with lawmakers after closing at about 8.30pm

Wednesday 08-02-2012

The governor resumed office about 8.30am.

He held first meeting with DLGs.

He visited Federal Medical Centre to sympathise with Oba David Osanaye who was on admission for gunshot wounds promised to foot the bill.

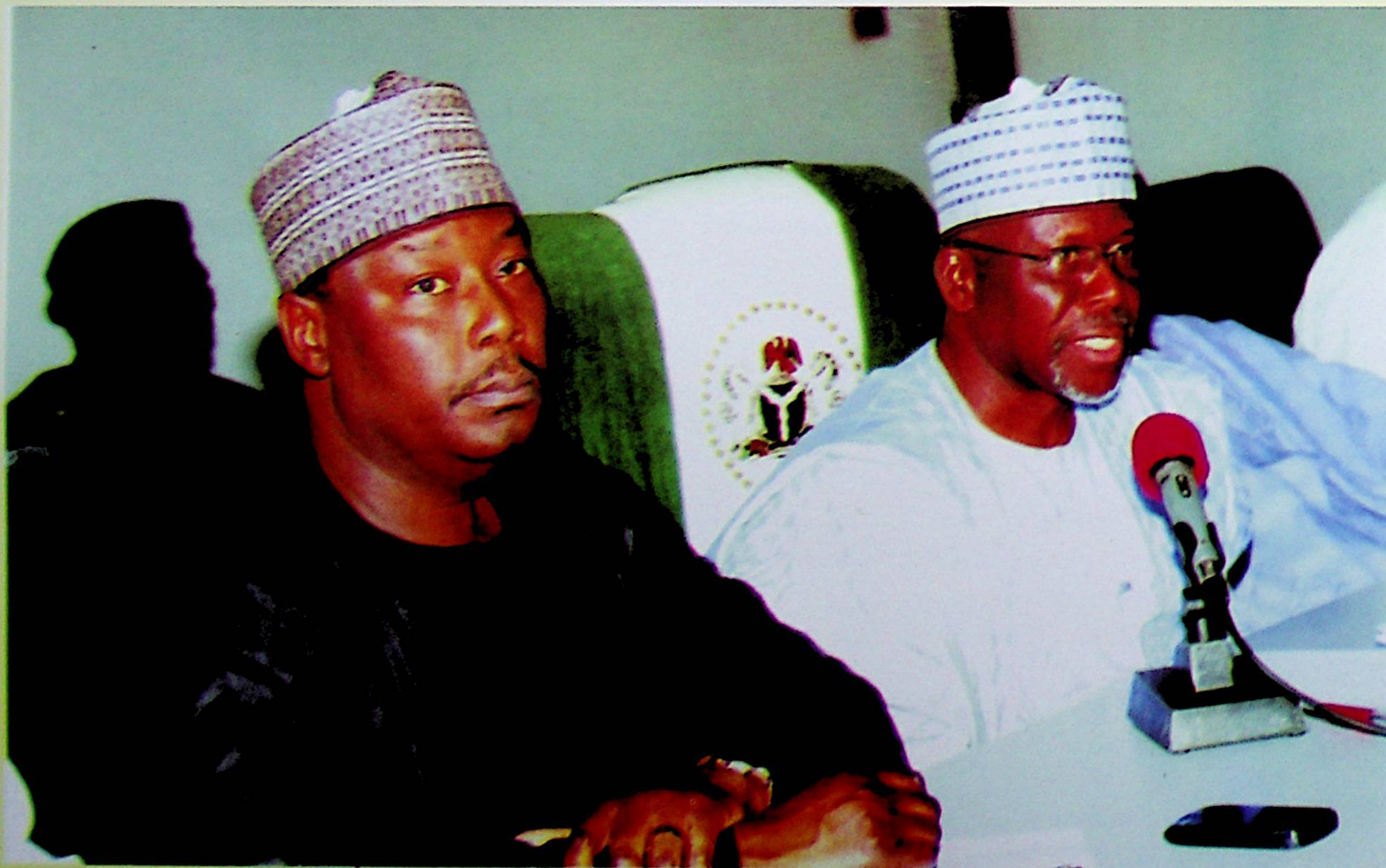
Courtesy call by First Class Traditional Rulers. The Governor explained the ban on courtesy calls.

Gov Wada later travelled to Abuja en route Lagos for inauguration of Dangote Cement Factory, Ibese Ogun State.

Thursday 09-02-2012

The Governor in Lagos for inauguration of Dangote Cement, Ibese

A Dinner/New year party by Echoes of Leadership magazine was organized in honour of Wada and



Awoniyi at glass house. SSG/COS represented the Governor. The Deputy Governor also sent letter to the organisers explaining his inability to come for the ceremony.

Friday 10-02-2012

His Excellency still in Abuja and later went to Kano for the burial of a relation of Dantata.

His Excellency in Kano and reports say after the burial he met with Governor Kwankwaso of Kano State and both men proceeded to government house, Kano.

Saturday 11-02-2012

The Governor was still out of town for official engagement.

Sunday 12-02-2012

The Governor was out of town for official engagement.

Monday 13-02-2012

The Governor attended the lunch of work and a youth empowerment foundation in Abuja organised by the economic team and subsidy reinvestment group. After the lunch, HE returned to Lokoja straight to the office about 3.30pm and closed about 7pm.

Tuesday 14-02-2012

Governor Wada and the Deputy Governor Inspected Confluence Beach Hotel.

Visit by governing council of Federal College of Education, Technical, Portiskum

Visit by PDP Executive from across the state.

The governor closed from the office about 10 pm.

Wednesday 15-02-2012

Visit by Vice Chancellor and Registrar of Federal University Lokoja led by Prof. Rafindadi.

Foundation stone laying ceremony at Kogi Poly for 4 projects 1000-capacity and 500-capacity lecture theatres, a library and so on.

Inauguration of Transition Committee under Alh Sule Iyaji and Chief Olusola Akanmode.

Stakeholders from the central visited the Governor. The Governor eventually left for Abuja for an official engagement.

Thursday 16-02-2012

His Excellency was still in Abuja for official engagement.

Friday 17-02-2012

The Governor came to Kotonkarffe Prisons to assess the level of damage done by suspected Boko Haram members. He inspected the permanent site of the prison and promised to help.

Minister of Interior was in Lokoja. Also the Minister in-charge of dams and water resources was in Lokoja.

Saturday 18-02-2012

His Excellency was in FAREC for immunization.

The governor later travelled to Abuja.

Sunday 19-02-2012

The Governor was still in Abuja for official

engagement.

Monday 20-02-2012

The Governor was still in Abuja for official engagement.

Tuesday 21-02-2012

His Excellency was back in Lokoja straight to office about 12pm

Wednesday 22-02-2012

His Excellency was in the office. The first caller was the management team of the Sun Newspaper from Abuja led by Eric Osagie.

The Governor convened Security Council meeting.

Governor Wada inspected the new stadium. The governor expressed satisfaction with the level and quality of work.

Thursday 23-02-2012

Condolence visit and burial at Okaba for the son of former Minister of Justice Mohammed Abdullahi.

The leadership of Kogi NLC paid courtesy visit to the Governor, after which he governor travelled to Abuja.

Dedicated lines for booking of appointment were given to the public.

Friday 24-02-2012

His Excellency was in Abuja for a meeting. Transition Committee meeting continued.

Saturday 25-02-2012

The Governor was still in Abuja for official engagement.

Sunday 26-02-2012

The Governor was still in Abuja for official engagement.

Monday 27-02-2012

The Governor was in Abuja for official engagement.

Tuesday 28-02-2012

His Excellency was still in Abuja for official assignment.

Her Excellency's first public programme in Government House sharing or distribution of Maggi and water to women.

The Governor visited Minister for Water Resources, Mrs Sarah Odukpe in Abuja and appealed for expansion of Greater Lokoja Water Works.

Wednesday 29-02-2012

The Governor was out of town for official engagement.

MARCH

Thursday 01-03-2012

The Governor returned from Abuja. EXCO meeting

Friday 02-03-2012

Governor Wada addressed Permanent Secretaries and Directors on the need to co-operate with the Think-Tank Committee and the Transition Committee Prof Idachaba at the meeting.

Swearing-in of new Judge for Customary Court of Appeal Justice Elias Egwu.

The Malaysian Ambassador Kamal Ahmed visited Governor Wada. They had bilateral talks on partnership in agriculture, education, tourism and youth empowerment.

Obolo Opkanachi gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP decamped to PDP at party Secretariat.

Visit of Igbo Community in Kogi State on the death and burial of Late Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu.

Saturday 03-03-2012

Visit to Odu Ogbega in Dekiina LGA for PDP ward congress

Sunday 04-03-2012

The governor travelled to Abuja for official engagement.

Monday 05-03-2012

The governor was still in Abuja for official engagement.

Tuesday 06-03-2012

The Governor returned and went straight to the office. Had meeting with Peoples Democratic Party stakeholders.

Governor Wada received report of Transition Committee in the Glass House and later lunched Youth Empowerment Scheme for 200 participants at the Youth office opposite Crowther Memorial College.

Wednesday 07-03-2012

The governor went to Abuja for a trip to Saudi Arabia on lesser Hajj.

The Deputy Governor was in Kaduna for meeting of Northern Governors Forum.

Thursday 08-03-2012

Still in Umra

Friday 09-03-2012

The Deputy Governor launched the state environmental sanitation exercise.

Saturday 10-03-2012

Still in Umra

Sunday 11-03-2012

Still in Umra

Monday 12-03-2012

Still in Umra

Tuesday 13-03-2012

News of the Governor's return filtered in

Wednesday 14-03-2012

The Governor was in Abuja for official engagement.

Thursday 15-03-2012

Deputy Governor went to Lafia, Nassarawa State for meeting of Kogi/ Nassarawa inter boundary committee.

Friday 16-03-2012

Governor Wada returned to Lokoja- then

travelled to Idah for condolence to former Governor Idris who had lost a relation.

Saturday 17-03-2012

Early morning trip to Abuja en route Yenegoa with the President for PDP State Congress.

Returned to Abuja after the congress

Sunday 18-03-2012

His Excellency returned from Abuja in the evening preparatory for Idah trip

Monday 19-03-2012

Early morning (8.00am) trip to Idah for the 8th day prayer of the Guardian and Aunty of former Governor Idris

He returned straight to the office at about 1pm

Tuesday 20-03-2012

Governor Wada declared open a workshop on new secondary school curriculum at event centre Lokongoma, Lokoja.

The governor later travelled to Makurdi for PDP convention.

Wednesday 21-03-2012

The Deputy Governor on behalf of the governor called a fruitful reconciliatory meeting between two communities in Yagba West Local Government Area.

Thursday 22-03-2012

The Governor travelled for official engagement.

Friday 23-03-2012

The Governor not back yet from the official engagement.

Saturday 24-03-2012

The Peoples Democratic Party PDP held its National Convention at Eagle's Square Abuja..

Sunday 25-03-2012

The governor came back to Lokoja.

Monday 26-03-2012

The governor attended opening ceremony of retraining workshop for maths teachers from the maths improvement project pilot schools at science school Lokoja. He addressed the students on discipline and the school a transformer, play ground and a bus. His skill as a Mathematician was commended.

His Excellency went on inspection of facilities at temporary site of Federal University Lokoja. He promised government assistance.

Tuesday 27-03-2012

The governor held private meetings with the Ohinoyi of Ebira. He also granted audience to Provost College Of Education Ankpa and Rector of Kogi State Polytechnic. At a ceremony in the Glass House, cheques were presented to Fadama Farmers.

Governor wada received final report of the Think-Tank with promise of total and unbiased implementation.

He later presented a bus to Ministry of Mercy Orphanage Home Otutulu.

Grand breaking ceremony for bio-diesel fuel refinery at Itobe

National Association of Women Journalists NAWOJ paid a courtesy call on the governor.

The governor visited Board of Internal Revenue.

Wednesday 28-03-2012

There was a meeting of the Executive Council. The council gave approval for the establishment of motor parks at Felele.

Council also gave a commitment to the exploration of 20 mineral resources in the state and approved the establishment of an oil palm plantation at Acharu in Dekina LGA

The EXCO was dissolved.

Thursday 29-03-2012

His Excellency was in the office all through.

Friday 30-03-2012

Officials of the Nigerian Union of Teachers paid a courtesy visit to the Governor.

Juma'at service.

Address or meeting with permanent secretaries.

Saturday 31-03-2012

The Governor planned to travel but the journey was eventually postponed.

Governor Wada visited Federal Medical Centre to see victims of a gun battle between Joint Task Force, JTF officials and suspected Boko Haram members in Ihima, Okene. His Excellency promised to take over the hospital bills. 11 people consisting of 2 officers and 9 members died in the unfortunate encounter.

APRIL

Sunday 01-04-2012

The Ohimege of Kotonkarffi Dr. Mamman Lafia suddenly passed on and the Governor promptly paid a condolence visit to the community in the morning about 8.30am.

He proceeded to Abuja for a journey outside the country with the Presidency

Deputy Governor attended burial and other state matters.

Monday 02-04-2012

Governor Wada was in Sudan with the Vice President Arc. Namadi Sambo on state assignment.

Tuesday 03-04-2012

The Governor returned to Abuja from Sudan where he had gone with the Vice President.

Deputy Governor Awoniyi played host to labour leaders in the state. He also represented the Governor at a Christian musical concert tagged Igala Praise at Lokoja Township Stadium.

Wednesday 04-04-2012

The governor was in Abuja for Governors forum meeting.

Thursday 05-04-2012

The Governor was still in Abuja to attend National Economic Council NEC Meeting.

Friday 06-04-2012

Good Friday. The governor came back in Lokoja.

Saturday 07-04-2012

His Excellency was in Kotonkarfe for 8th day prayer of the late Ohimege.

He also went to Okene for justice Ajana's mother prayer.

From Okene he went to Okura Lafia for the wedding of daughter of former Chief of Defence Staff Salihu Ogohi

Sunday 08-04-2012

Deputy Governor Awoniyi was in Ilorin, Kwara state to understudy the agricultural initiative of the state.

Monday 09-04-2012

Easter Monday. The governor was in the house. No public activities.

Tuesday 10-04-2012

In the office and signed the State Appropriation bill into law.

Wednesday 11-04-2012

His Excellency was in the office.

Thursday 12-04-2012

Two indigenes of Kogi State who got NYSC Presidential award, Josephine Shuaibu and Modupe Ibrahim paid courtesy visit. The Governor promised to assist them gain admission for their Post Graduate studies.

Visitation Panel to FCE Okene came for courtesy call.

Issuance of Identity cards to public servants was flagged off by the Governor at the secretariat.

Friday 13-04-2012

The Governor was briefly in the office before going to Abuja.

Saturday 14-04-2012

The Governor was in Abuja for an official function.

Sunday 15-04-2012

The Governor returned from Abuja and went straight to Odu to monitor free medical treatment exercise of the state government in collaboration with CEDIO medical outreach.

Monday 16-04-2012

Nigerian Union of Journalists National President, Mohammed Garba led other officials of the union on a courtesy visit to the Governor who reiterated his promise of partnership with the media.

The report on the review of Saly Tibot screening was submitted to the Governor by Alhaji Sani Adamu former commissioner for budget and planning and other members of the committee.

Tuesday 17-04-2012

The management of NTA Lokoja paid courtesy visit to the Governor.

Also the Code of Conduct Tribunal, the Peoples

Democratic Party PDP executive members from Odu Ward 1 and the Presidential visitation Panel to Federal Poly, Idah came on courtesy visit.

Also management of Skye bank and that of GTB separately came to see the governor.

Wednesday 18-04-2012

Courtesy calls to the Governor by Fidelity Bank, Eco bank, National Youth Council of Nigeria (Central senatorial branch) and National Cashew Association.

There was a Gala Night for former Commissioner of Police Marvel Akpoyibo, Director SSS, and Commander Army Record.

Thursday 19-04-2012

The Governor went on an early morning trip to Abuja for a meeting of PDP governors with the party chairman Alh. Bamanga Tukur.

Friday 20-04-2012

Visit to Ogori for pre event lecture on Ovia Osese.

Saturday 21-04-2012

The governor travelled to Abuja for official engagement.

Sunday 22-04-2012

The governor was in Abuja for official engagement.

Monday 23-04-2012

The Governor was in Abuja for official engagement.

Tuesday 24-04-2012

Governor Wada commissioned Chest Clinic donated to Kogi State Specialist Hospital Lokoja by Agbani Oil Partners.

Okura State Creation Movement led by its chairman Gabriel Ameh came on advocacy visit to the governor.

The governor had meeting with the Task Force on Polio Eradication, Routine Immunization and other Primary Health care services in his office.

Courtesy call by Lokoja Forum of Patriots led by its

chairman Idris Baba-Ango.

Mr Solomon Yahaya led members of the physically challenged in Kogi on courtesy visit to the governor.

Wednesday 25-04-2012

The governor flagged off the State Security Awareness Campaign in the Glass House.

Governor Wada also commissioned a maternity ward structure at General Hospital Okene, donated by Family Care Association a charitable medical association.

There was a courtesy call on the governor by Kogi Central Elders.

Thursday 26-04-2012

The day started with a Courtesy Call by the Co-ordinator International Centre for the Control of HIV/AIDS USA Dr. Bola Oyeladun.

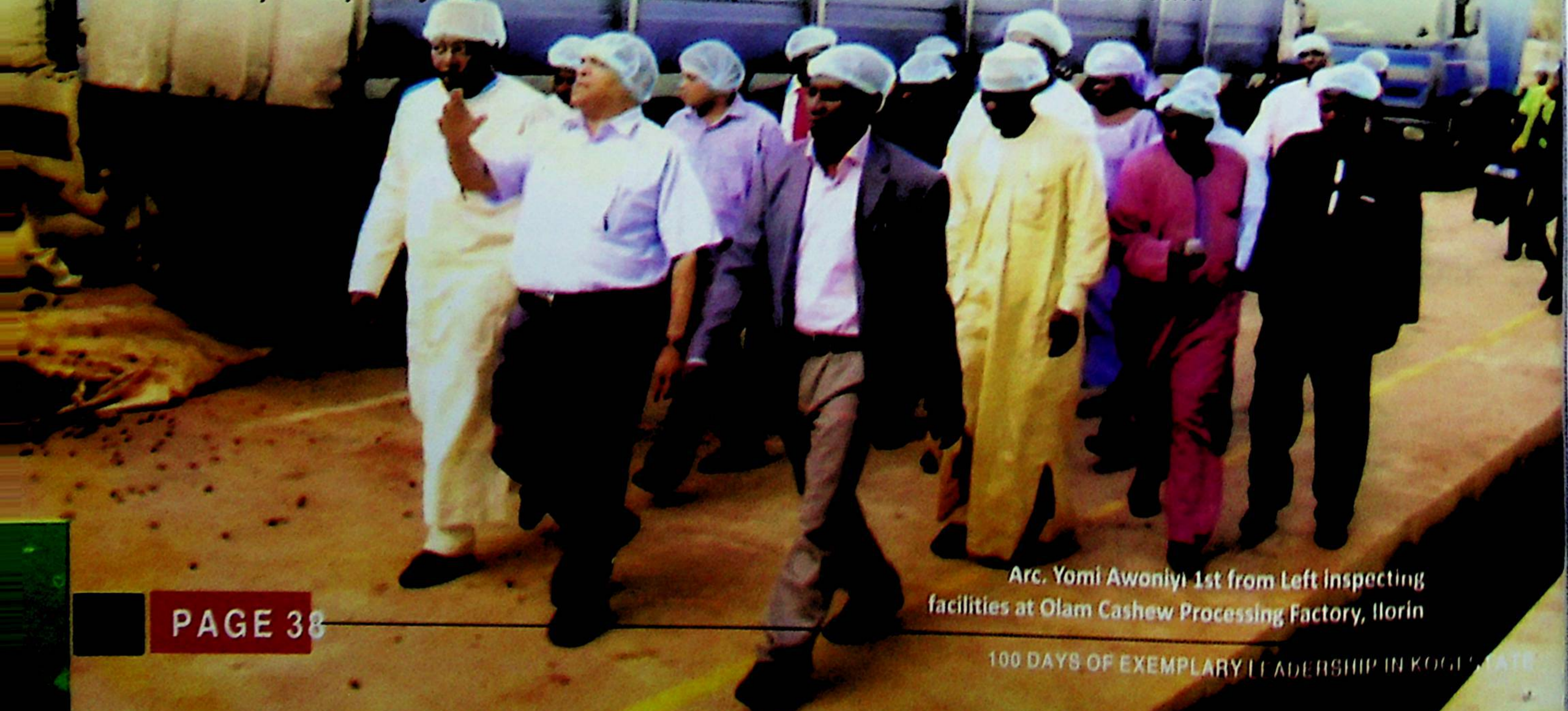
There was another Courtesy Call by the Co-ordinator, National Malaria Programme, Dr Audu Bala Mohammed.

The new leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party PDP North Central zone came for courtesy call on the Governor.

The Governor thereafter started the flag off of some roads in the local governments. The roads are Itakpe-Eika-Okene Road 12-35 kilometres, Iyara township Road 10.52 kilometres, Iyara township Road 10.52 kilometres, and Kabba township road 7.7 kilometres. The governor also flagged off Community Leaders Campaign Against Polio at Kabba and visited College of Education Technical, Kabba.

Friday 27-04-2012

Governor Wada went to Ankpa to sympathise with victims of an inhuman robbery assault on a bank in which seven people were reportedly killed. While in the town, the Governor paid homage to the Eje of Ankpa and he also inspected facilities at the College of Education in the ancient town.



Arc. Yomi Awoniyi 1st from Left inspecting facilities at Olam Cashew Processing Factory, Ilorin



Hajia Halima Wada, wife of the Kogi State Governor, second left, Wife of the Deputy Governor Mrs. Tokunbo Awoniyi and some Women Leaders during the celebration of Maggi Day in Lokoja.



Hajia Halima Ladi Wada inspecting a women empowerment centre

Quotes

from His Excellency,
Captain Wada

"We will lead the example by subjecting ourselves to the highest ideals of good governance with hard work, integrity, discipline, transparency as our watch word."

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of his inauguration as the Executive Governor of Kogi State on Friday 27th January, 2012)

"We will conduct ourselves as if we are not protected by the now controversial provision in our constitution; the immunity provision. The reality of course is that there is no immunity for governors and their deputies in the court of public opinion and public scrutiny. This way in our conduct of government business and the management of available resources, we will strive to be completely above suspicion."

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of his inauguration as the executive Governor of Kogi State on Friday 27th January, 2012)

"We therefore earnestly urge all our people to appreciate that no matter where we come from, and no matter what we profess, we are all part of something greater than us: which is our dear Kogi State"

(Governor Wada on the occasion of his inauguration as the Executive Governor of Kogi State on Friday 27th January, 2012)

"Every single step we took was guided by the full consciousness that all this is not about us. It is not about power or our personal ambition or ego, it is about a sacred mandate which all our people gave us to chart the course that will take Kogi State to where it ought to be."

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of his assumption of office after the swearing-in crisis on Monday 30th January, 2012).

"We undertake to govern our dear state with charity for all and malice towards none, with firmness as God gives us to see the light."

(Governor Wada on the occasion of his assumption of office after the swearing in crisis on Monday 30th January, 2012)

"We are charting a new course of development orientation with emphasis on skills development as a sine qua non for economic empowerment."

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of his assumption of office after the swearing in impasse on Monday 30th January, 2012)



“There shall be a shift from doling out funds for its sake to investing in skills acquisition...The era of cash driven empowerment programme is being supplanted by a regime of entrepreneur development.”

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of the launching of Empowerment programme for widows and orphans in Dekina on Saturday 21st April, 2012)

“What I am doing is not an attempt to indict anybody. The schools I attended taught me to be methodical in doing things.”

(Captain Idris Wada while receiving interim report of the Think Tank on Saturday 4th February, 2012)

“In spite of the well known concentration of highly skilled, educated, competent and successful people in the state, it is not often that we succeed in bringing this number and this calibre together in the service of the state.”

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of the inauguration of Think Tank committee on Wednesday 1st February, 2012)

“Our greatest resource is our people their attitude, their skills, their knowledge and their creative energies...this is why we are going to advance the idea of the symphony of Kogi where all our people all the world who have been practising hard to develop their individual skills and talents can come together to work in concert for the development of our state.”

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of the inauguration of Think Tank committee on Wednesday 1st February, 2012)

“In the delivery of health and education services...we will return to the days when such services were effective and efficient because the programmes were owned by the people they were meant for. “

(Captain Idris Wada on the occasion of the inauguration of Think Tank committee on Wednesday, 1st February, 2012)

And as the saying goes, with strong will, we can achieve the difficult immediately; only the seemingly impossible will take a little longer.

Captain Wada on the occasion of the inauguration of Think Tank Committee on Wednesday, 1st February, 2012)

A NEW APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE

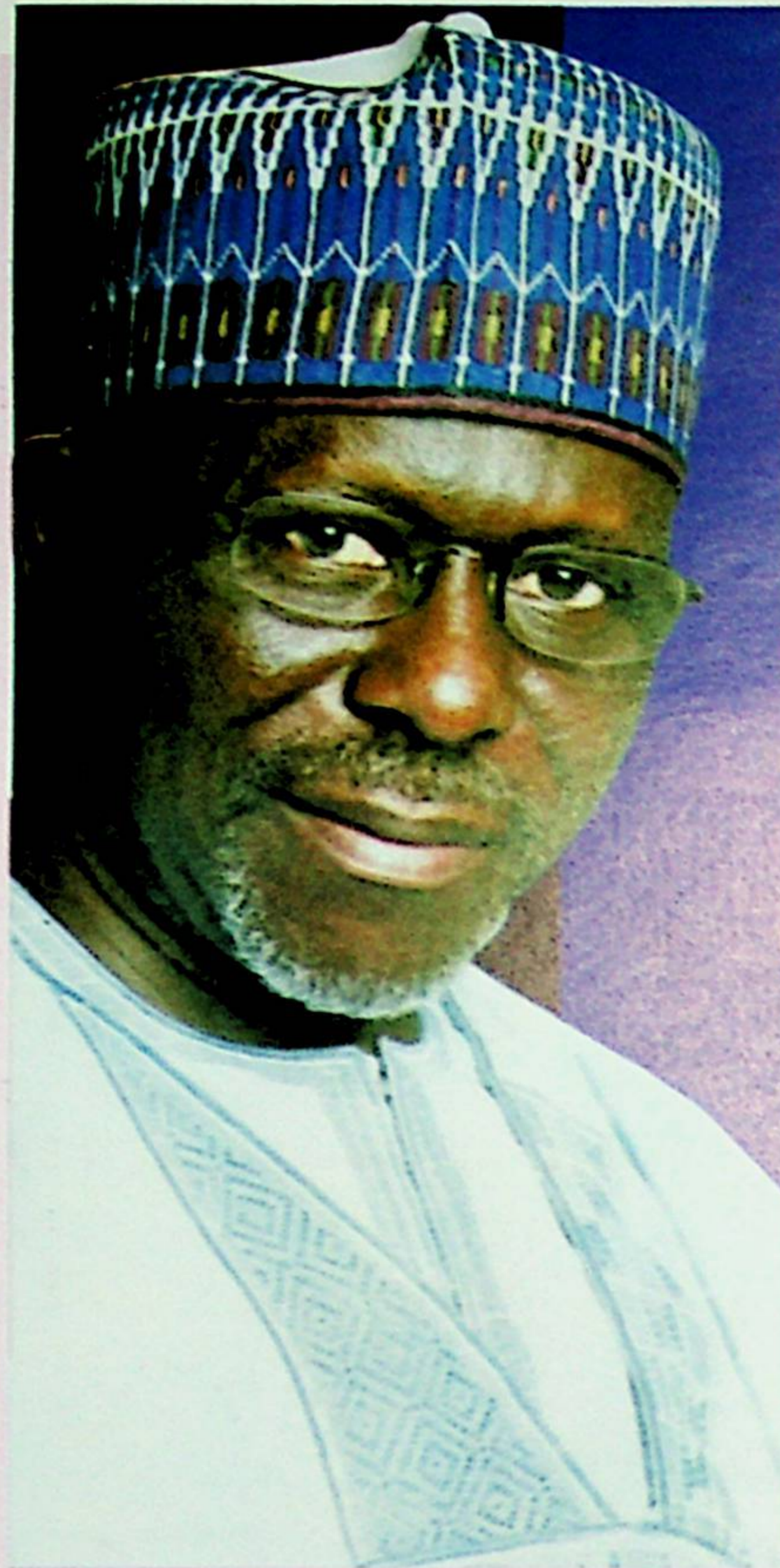
Being text of the address of His Excellency, Capt. Idris Wada at the Inauguration of the State Policy Advisory Committee, the Think Tank, Wednesday February 1, 2012

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel highly delighted and privileged to address this gathering of some of most eminent sons and daughters who are assembled here for the preparation of a Blueprint for the Transformation of Kogi State. I wish to state unequivocally that this is my most important assignment since my assumption of office as the Governor of our dear State.

In spite of the well known concentration of highly skilled, educated, competent and successful people in the State, it is not often that we succeed in bringing this number of this caliber together in the service of the State. I, therefore, wish to express my profound gratitude to you for accepting this onerous task of shaping the future of our people. It is my fervent hope that even after the completion of this exercise, you will continue to take active interest not only in the effective implementation of the Blueprint but also in the attraction of resources to the State.

It is appropriate for me to pay glowing tribute to those that God used to put me at the helm of the affairs of this State. In this regard, I wish to sincerely thank and congratulate my friend, my brother and my leader, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, for successfully steering the affairs of our State for almost nine years. Given the complexity of this State and the onerous demands of governance, the



achievements he recorded in the areas of physical development, social integration and communal stability are highly commendable. It is not mere rhetorics when I say, as I have often done, that there is, indeed, a solid foundation for us to build on.

Next, I want to express my profound gratitude to the entire people of Kogi State who gave us an overwhelming victory in a keenly contested election that has been adjudged transparent, free and fair. My Deputy and I feel highly challenged to work assiduously to justify the confidence reposed in us and to take Kogi State to **where it ought to be**. We will live by example, by subjecting

ourselves to the highest ideals of good governance hard work, integrity, discipline, transparency and accountability. We will conduct ourselves as if we are not protected by the now controversial immunity clause in our Constitution. The reality, of course, is that there is no immunity for Governors and their Deputies when it comes to public opinion and scrutiny. That is why, in the conduct of government affairs and the management of our resources, we will strive, like Caesar's wife, to be completely above suspicion.

Once we do that, it will be easy for us to demand the same standards from our team. In this regard, we will seek to bring on board, as members of our team people who, by their antecedents, will have no difficulty whatsoever in sharing our commitment and our values - people who do not only possess the requisite qualification, knowledge and experience, but are more interested in making history than making money.

Like all other societies that are genuinely striving for rapid socio-economic transformation, we realize that our greatest resource is our people their attitude, their skills, their knowledge and their creative energies. Since my election as Governor, I have been amazed by the number and quality of people who have volunteered to help in the implementation of our Transformation Agenda. It is my considered view that as a Nation and as a State, our

development efforts have been hamstrung by lack of deliberate and systematic integration of our talented people into our development efforts. This is why we are going to advance the idea of the **symphony of Kogi** where all our people, all over the world, who have been practicing hard to develop their individual skills and talents, can come together to work in concert for the development of our State. **Kogi State should mean bringing out the best in each of us for all of us.**

I have embarked on this process with the selection of some of the best and the brightest minds among our people to produce a Blueprint for the Transformation of the State. The Committee, which I am inaugurating today Wednesday, February 1, 2012, will develop the **Strategic Policies and Programmes** for actualizing our Vision and our Mission for the State. The exercise will cover the broad sectoral clusters of Agriculture and Natural Resources Utilization, Social Services (including Health, Education, Sports as well as Women and Youth Development); Commerce and Industry, including Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises); Rural Development and Poverty Reduction, and Employment Generation.

In order to facilitate the assignment, we have already forwarded to you, our Vision and Mission as well as your Terms of Reference which I wish to recapitulate as follows:

VISION STATEMENT

To see Kogi State emerge as a model of good governance and transformed into one of the top ranking states in the country in terms of rapid and sustainable socio-economic development, where we can provide opportunities for all and demand responsibility from all.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To unite the people of Kogi State for a collective vision.
- Create a conducive environment for unlocking the natural and human potential of the State.
- Attract resources from the rest of the world.
- Employ best practices for running a transparent and accountable government; and
- To support the emergence of a strong and knowledge-driven economy, promote effective service delivery and provide good quality of life for the people.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To produce a transformation blueprint for Kogi State, outlining strategic development

policies and programmes aimed at:

a) Accomplishing the mission and attaining the vision of the in-coming administration.

b) Taking Kogi State to where it ought to be in the next decade by effectively harnessing its human and natural resources as well as the boundless opportunities that are available nationally and internationally.

2. To organize the proposed policies and programmes along the following sectoral clusters:

a) Agriculture and Natural Resources Development and Utilization including Environmental Issues.

b) Public Investment in Infrastructure Roads, Waterways, Dams, Housing, Airports, Urban Renewal etc.

c) Commerce and Industry including Tourism, SMEs and Solid Minerals.

d) Human Capital Development including High Quality Education, Skills Development as well as Research and Development.

e) Health and Social Services including Youth, Women Development and Sports.

f) Integrated Rural Development and Poverty Reduction.

g) Information and Communication Technology for development and knowledge-based economy.

h) Good Governance including best practices in economic management (transparency, accountability, due process and fiscal responsibility etc), service delivery, as well as effective roles of the Private Sector, Local Government, Communities and NGOs.

3. Establish strategies for the implementation of the proposed policies and programmes with clear performance indicators.

4. Establish performance targets and milestones with emphasis on what is achievable over the next four years.

Please, permit me at this juncture to share with you some of my own thoughts and ideas on our Transformation Projects.

One of the most important strategies for attaining the major objective of the Transformation Agenda, **which is to move us from where we are to where we ought to be**, is the comprehensive overhauling of the machinery of Government. At a time of dwindling resources and rising expectations from our people for the dividends of democracy, we have to fashion our new ways of doing Government business. Traditionally, the choice before Government is either to get more resources or reduce service delivery. But we have to find new ways of delivering more services even with less fund. One of the ways to achieve this is to redefine the role of Government as **catalyst and facilitator**, so that we can leverage on the enormous resources that are available in the Private Sector, the Non-Governmental Organizations, our Religious Organizations, our Local Governments and our Communities.

In the delivery of Health and Education Services, for example, we will return to the days when such services were effective and efficient because the programmes were owned by the people they were meant to serve. We will be guided by the conventional wisdom that responsibility for addressing problems should be with the lowest level of administration possible. This is because the closer an administration is to its citizens, the more they trust it and the accountable its officials tend to be. We only need to

consider the way our Community Associations are run to appreciate this fact.

It is true that in recent times, conduct of the affairs of our Local Governments has not always followed this norm. Whatever the reasons are, the present situation is totally unacceptable and there will be a thorough repositioning of our Local Governments.

One of the benefits of the on-going debate on the removal of Petroleum Subsidy is the strident and increasing demands for evidence that the enormous resources accruing to the three tiers of Government are being judiciously utilized. I have already made reference to our strong commitment to prudent management and fiscal responsibility at the State level. But since the development of the State is the aggregation of what happens at the State and Local Government level, we will beam the searchlight on our Local Governments. We will show more than passing interest in the caliber of people at the helm of their affairs. We will provide them with **incentives and support** in terms of **resources and executive capacity**. We will

create competition and rewards for outstanding performance. But there will also be real consequences for failure to perform either due to **incompetence**, mismanagement or graft.

I N V E S T M E N T I N I N F R A S T R U C T U R E

In terms of policies and programmes, investment in physical infrastructure, especially roads, electricity and water supply will be top on our agenda. In spite of the fact that the last Administration made commendable impact in the area of roads, about 70% of the requests were received during our campaigns from 17 out of the 21 **Local Governments** are on **Roads**. Since there is an indisputable link between infrastructural development and other social-economic activities, we shall pay attention to quality road construction across the Local Government Areas.

We will lay a lot of emphasis on the speedy completion of **on-going road projects**. Some of the completed ones will be upgraded to asphalt overlay,



while some critical new roads will be embarked upon. For effective maintenance, Area Engineer Offices, each with a full complement of road construction equipment will be established in each Federal Constituency. All the Federal roads in Kogi State will be put in good condition either through the efforts of the Federal Government or State Government or both. These efforts will start immediately so that we can make maximum use of the dry season.

In order to support our industrialization programmes (especially Small & Medium Enterprises) we will improve considerably the availability of electricity by facilitating a **Coal-based Independent Power Plant**.

WATER SUPPLY

In the area of water supply, we will embark on Regional Water Supply Schemes. Our target is to have one in each Senatorial District to start with. Since this cannot be a short-term solution, we will provide boreholes for our communities, educational and health institutions within our Millennium Development Goals and Rural Development Programmes.

EDUCATION

Our Education System leaves a lot to be desired and that is doubly unfortunate. First, because the old Kabba Province had a great reputation for its high level of well-educated manpower who were products of excellent educational institutions. Secondly, because we are living in a world where knowledge has become the major creator of wealth. That is why countries and regions of the world now



thirst for highly educated and skillful global citizens. That is also why countries and regions are now migrating from **production-based to knowledge-based economies**.

My Deputy and I are products of public schools. We, therefore, have firsthand experiences of the kind of education Public Schools offered in those days.

Today, our schools in Dekina, and Okene are sorry sights. We will, therefore embark on a comprehensive **Education Reform Agenda**, which we have tagged ERA that will involve the following:

- a) Head Start Programme designed to give all children access to Pre-nursery Schools which are now the preserve of the rich.
- b) New Public Schools with essential school reforms that will place teachers and communities at the centre of efforts to restructure schools and teaching methods.
- c) School to Work Transition to provide adequate vocational training to prepare those

who leave school and enter the workforce directly.

- d) Access to Higher Education This will require adequate preparation in secondary schools and the financial aid necessary for students to pay their way.

HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

In the delivery of health services, just as in education, the critical requirements are to make them qualitative, accessible and affordable. The first underlying principle is that the health and educational policies are not just social but economic. Educated and healthy citizens are more productive. The principle is that prevention is **better and cheaper than cure**. Lack of education and health, especially for children, will lead to higher social costs in the future. Our focus will, therefore, be on preventive and Primary Health Care as well as **the effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**.

Finally in health, education and other social services, the most important role of government will be to

provide leadership to the systems, articulate the common mission, specify goals, set targets and standards so that all the various players in the system i.e., Local Governments, Communities, Religious Organizations, the Private Sector and NGOs can key in for the benefit of all our people.

Finally, the main targets of our social services will be the disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society, namely: women, children, the aged, the physically challenged and the poor.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Our generous endowments in mineral, natural agricultural resources in Kogi State place us at an advantageous position to be one of the industrial hubs of this country. The success story of Obajana Cement Company has shown us the great possibilities that exist in the State in the area of cement production alone. It is noteworthy that the last Administration has also started to exploit the possibilities in fertilizer production. But by far, the most promising area is that of agro-based industries notably cassava, oil palm, rice, sugar cane, cashew and sesame processing. We will build on the ongoing efforts not only to embark on commercial agriculture but also facilitate establishment of large agro-based industrial projects in partnership with local and foreign investors. At the same time, we will provide support and incentives for indigenes of the State to establish small, medium and mini enterprises.

TOURISM

For too long, our nation

as a whole has paid lip service to the development of our tourism potentials. In view of the fact that tourism development has a lot of multiplier effects, particularly in the area of employment generation, we will adopt a holistic approach beginning with the development of a **Tourism Master-Plan**. We believe that the effective implementation of the proposed master-plan will take Kogi to where it ought to be on the Nigerian Tourism Map.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Rural Development and Poverty Reduction efforts have been characterized by many flaws. By far, the most serious of them is the fact that they were designed and administered from the national level. This is an area where we do not have to reinvent the wheel but carefully synthesize the various programmes that have been initiated over the years. The synthesized programmes will be well packaged, disseminated, owned and implemented by the State, Local Government, communities and NGOs. We will also emphasize the concept of **Integrated Rural Development** so that we can make our various efforts in rural roads development, primary health, education, improved agricultural practices, electricity and water supply. Millennium Development Goals and Poverty reduction can be **singularly effective and mutually reinforcing**.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The flaws we have identified with our rural development and poverty reduction programmes have also plagued our employment generation programmes. There are problems of lack of consistency

and integration. Furthermore, most of them have not been properly grounded and appropriated at the State and Local Government levels. Consequently, all our efforts in Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will focus on their employment capabilities especially for our teeming youth.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT MODEL

We are now in a world where the concept of development goes beyond the provision of **physical and social infrastructure**. The machinery for bringing about development is being overhauled daily. The resources available for development exist all over the world for those who know how to access them. Today, there is a development model in which Nations, Regions and States position themselves to compete and attract capital and markets from the rest of the world. But there are rules of the game. Investors want to move their money to Countries and States with good image, good leadership, good governance, as well as a stable, secure and peaceful environment. These intangibles, which have a lot to do with our quality of governance and public service, are the major determinants of how much resources we can attract from the rest of the world.

CIVIL SERVICE

A Governor cannot govern well without a skilled, knowledgeable and loyal civil service. But if civil servants are made to feel like liabilities rather than assets, they cannot be expected to return ridicule with hardwork.

I am not one of those who believe that civil servants or the bureaucracy are our problems. Rather, I believe the problems are the environment in

which they work, their level of training, motivation, their pay and what they can look forward to after service. We need a civil service that is result-oriented, customer-driven and enterprising.

I am glad to note that in recent years, effective and efficient service delivery has been promoted in the civil service. We will strive to create an environment in which our civil servants can function well. Above all, we will take immediate steps to sit with the organized labour to clear all outstanding issues on the minimum wage. Finally, we will map out a programme for clearing all arrears of pensions and gratuities within the shortest time possible.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

As I have earlier indicated in this address, we intend to utilize the abundant human resources of this State for the implementation of our Transformation Agenda. Another dimension to it is what I term Citizens' Participation in Development (CIPAD). This is in recognition of the fact that voluntary service constitutes a valuable resource that needs to be nurtured and supported. Apart from young people, there is growing pool of elders and retired people called **Seniors**, who can still make valuable contributions to our development efforts. We will encourage all citizens, regardless of their age, ability or skills to engage in voluntary service to the State and their communities through activities designed to help the poor, the disadvantaged, the elderly and the young. The areas to be focused on are literacy programmes, healthcare,

disaster management, environmental management, beautification schemes and urban renewal.

URBAN RENEWAL

For tourists and investors, Lokoja is the first port of call. Therefore, as part of our efforts to attract them to the State, Lokoja will be cleaned up within the first six months of our administration and given a total facelift within two years. Similarly, urban renewal projects will be undertaken in other major towns in the State such as Okene, Kabba, Idah, Dekina, and Ankpa and, indeed, all Local Government Headquarters. These towns will be provided with standard network of roads, drainages, play-grounds and ornamental trees. There will also be strict development control for sustainability. We want to demonstrate that it is possible to make all our towns and villages green again.

WE HAVE THE WILL

Some of the development policies and programmes we have unfolded can be achieved within a short time while others will be in the medium term. Some will even stretch beyond our tenure but all are critical to the attainment of transformation. All will require discipline, prudent management of resources, fiscal responsibility and **determined follow-through**. They will stretch our finances and managerial capability to the very limit. They will call for will and wallet. But I am inclined to believe that we will need more will than wallet. **And as the saying goes, with strong will we can achieve the difficult immediately; only the seemingly impossible will take a little longer.**

IT'S ALL ABOUT EVERYBODY AND FUTURE

Above all, a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere is a sine qua non to our development. Fortunately, in spite of the very challenging security situation the country, we have enjoyed relative unity and peace in the State. We have enjoyed an enviable record of religious harmony. We, however, need a lot of trust, sincerity of purpose and eternal vigilance to sustain these positive attributes. Our State should not be in the limelight again for the wrong reasons. As I said in my inaugural statement, **we cannot be rushing to the future with our eyes fixed on the rearview mirror**. That is why I wish to reiterate my appeal to the good people of the State to quickly put the events of the last few days behind them and **focus on the opportunities that will be ushered in by good governance, transparency, and accountability**. We will play our own part by running an all-inclusive government that can inspire confidence and a sense of belonging in everybody. We shall ensure Equity, Justice and Fairness in all that we do. We ask for the best of every one of you for the benefit of all our people.

I am committed to providing Leadership by example and promoting the spirit in all of us to ask not what Kogi State can do for us, but what we can do for Kogi State.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are welcome on board our Transformation flight.

God bless you all.



Vision Statement

To see Kogi State emerge as a model of good governance and transformed into one of the top ranking states in the country in terms of rapid and sustainable socio-economic development, where we can provide opportunities for all and demand responsibility from all.

Mission Statement



- To unite the people of Kogi State for a collective vision.
- Create a conducive environment for unlocking the natural and human potential of the State.
- Attract resources from the rest of the world.
- Employ best practices for running a transparent and accountable government; and
- To support the emergence of a strong and knowledge-driven economy, promote effective service delivery and provide good quality of life for the people.