

**A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**



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Governor, Plateau State*



**A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**



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*Deputy Governor, Plateau State*



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**Mr. Bukar Bello,  
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# A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

## Introduction

The 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 will remain memorable in the history of Plateau State. It marks the first successful civilian-to-civilian transition in the state. It equally marks the beginning of the Redemption Agenda of the Da Jonah David Jang led Administration piloted on the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

It is now one year since the redemption government mounted the saddle of leadership. Prior to this development, Plateau State has had its image battered from all fronts due to political instability, sectarian crises, planlessness, financial recklessness, economic stagnation and the pariah status of the government. It was this appalling situation that prompted the Jang led administration to embark on the Redemption Agenda which has been described as most appropriate and timely.

The administration therefore inherited a state that was in ruins physically, psychologically and mentally. The task of restructuring and rebuilding collapsed foundation was certainly enormous. As a starting point, the administration had to clear backlog of several months of arrears in salaries, leave grants and contractual obligations. It took the government six months to surmount this daunting task. But even then, when success was being achieved in this dimension, the hydra headed 15% salary increase suddenly occupied the domestic scene.

In spite of these hurdles, this administration has not left the people of Plateau State in doubt regarding its resolve to make Plateau State great again. This it has done through its enunciation of the Ten-Point Agenda. This agenda which focuses on security, peace, development and ethical reorientation is fast changing the face of the state.

Through this agenda, we have witnessed a cleaner and more hygienic environment, smooth and motorable roads, the unveiling of a new Master Plan, unprecedented releases of funds to Ministries and Parastatals, a fresh impetus for the development of the educational sector, and heightened confidence in the ability of government to promote





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economic growth and stability. If anything else, the ability of the Jang administration to ensure prudence, accountability, application of the due process and social justice is what has restored sanity, respect and confidence to the art of governance in the state. This laudable gesture has rekindled the flames of patriotism, selflessness and efficiency in the entire gamut of public life in the state.

The one-year of this administration has therefore witnessed remarkable successes in the various sectors of public life, which have been carefully documented for reference purposes and preserved for the benefit of posterity. It is hoped that our readers will find the information contained in this publication useful and instructive in the consistent efforts at reshaping the course of our destiny.



# Foreword

I appreciate the evaluative work on our democratic rebirth in Plateau State and the various themes that now constitute chapters of this book, which attempts to capture the first one year of my administration. Indeed, there is a compelling need for a proper appreciation of "where we are coming from," "where we are", "where we want to be" and most importantly, "how to get there."

One year into our administration, it is evident that most people grossly underestimate the extent of social, political and economic decay of this State. In general, the people expect to be fed, better clad, and better housed, to be educated and to be cared for; they expect as a matter of urgency to be redeemed from hopeless economic, social and political problems that have characterized our existence in the most recent past.

While there is much to be thankful for, our preliminary survey of the state of affairs in the State, to say-the least, is disheartening and in dire need of the collective utilization of our resources and energy to bring about constructive changes for the good of our people. Our fate as a state and our future as a people, rests, not upon one citizen, but upon all citizens. I am convinced that Plateau has all it takes, human and material, to become one of the leading States in Nigeria.

Our effort at ensuring the much needed change in this direction has however revealed certain personal and interpersonal responses from the people. While some people appear threatened by change and are eager to preserve the existing status-quo, others appear constantly dissatisfied with the status-quo and are ready to challenge the existing paradigm. Some people on the other hand are reluctant to take small calculated risks while others seem too eager to take dangerous explored risks. Happily too, there are those who are able to balance all perspectives and see both sides of an issue, while responding so effectively to gradual incremental change. Others however seem oriented towards radical systematic change, but there are those who appear stuck and unable to take a position in a change situation.

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One thing is clear in all these. Change is inevitable in a world that has become more competitive and more volatile so much so that doing what was done yesterday or doing it 5% better, is no longer a formula for success. Many changes are therefore more and more necessary to survive and compete effectively in this new environment. That is why the redemption agenda envisions a better future with minimal cost, preventable pitfalls and maximum benefits.

This book is indeed a significant addition to the ongoing and necessary discourse about the current state and the future of Plateau State, anchored on an assessment of the efforts of this administration to bring about positive change within the first twelve months. I therefore recommend it to the general reader.

**JONAH DAVID JANG**

Governor  
Plateau State

## GOVERNOR JANG'S MAIDEN STATE BROADCAST.

**June 4, 2007**

**M**Y Dear Citizens of Plateau State, some few days ago, I formally assumed the mantle of leadership of this State as Governor following the swearing-in ceremony on the 29 of May 2007 that climaxed the successful transition from Civilian to Civilian administration. This is my first broadcast to the State in my capacity as the duly elected Governor and I want to take this opportunity to thank God for His divine assistance in our mission for the redemption of Plateau State.



We are assuming office as a result of free, democratic and peaceful elections wherein the

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untempered wishes of the people found expression. The massive turn out at the swearing-in ceremony was indeed a clear manifestation of the peoples' high expectations and evidence of a serious and purposeful rekindling of hope and confidence that democracy will usher in a new and glorious dawn for our state and country. We of the Peoples' Democratic Party have obtained an overwhelming mandate from the people of Plateau State. We must be proud of this and we must be grateful to God and to all those who have worked so hard to make it possible.

Against the background of the unstable nature of governance in the State, the down trodden silent majority, who had patiently endured untold hardships, have used the only weapon at their disposal, the ballot paper, to signify their desire for positive changes in our political, social and economic life. On behalf of myself and all others that have been elected as servants of the people to help steer the affairs of this State for the next four years, I would like to assure the people, including those holding different political opinions, that we intend to fulfill our promises as much as is humanly possible.

This is a time, which calls for sober reflection on the problems of the immediate past in the State in order to appreciate the magnitude of the tasks ahead. Surely we have learned great lessons, suffered significant losses, wasted countless opportunities, and endured a near total state collapse characterized by unprecedented mismanagement of government resources with an external debt profile of over seventy billion Naira!. We have also passed through ethno-religious conflicts, endured a state of emergency (the second in the history of this country) and witnessed a series of impeachment moves on account of the betrayal of public trust culminating into the gradual loss of public confidence in governance and in government institutions and agencies. This is the context in which this administration is assuming office. These experiences are indeed a challenge as well as a new opportunity for us as we patiently work towards building a new era of progress which requires turning away from old policies, values and practices that have failed us and embracing the responsibility to try better ways of doing things. Like a pregnant woman in labour who smiles on successful delivery, we must be prepared to endure the painful period of sacrifice to redeem the image of our state which has been battered. This State deserves a purposeful rekindling and fulfillment of the confident assurance of better life for our people.

While Government activity touches on almost every facet of a citizen's life, it is necessary to



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state here and now the position of this administration on certain vital issues. The policies that we have adopted and intend to execute include the following:

### **Sustainable Peace and Security**

The main task and constitutional duty of any government is to guarantee the security of life and property. This state cannot afford another crisis and as a result, appropriate mediation mechanisms, peace advocacy, sensitization, peace consolidation and monitoring shall be vigorously encouraged and supported especially the noble activities of the Plateau State Inter-Religious Council for Peace and Harmony. This administration shall study all previous reports on communal conflicts including the Plateau Peace Conference Report with a view to adopting the recommendations where necessary. Effort shall be made to assist in rehabilitating displaced persons as part of the healing process while community policing, effective patrolling and crime detection/prevention is provided with the necessary logistic support to the security agencies.

Traditional rulers have a big role to play in ensuring security within their domains. They must work closely with the security agencies and promptly report suspicious characters or strange happenings that are capable of disrupting the peace.

### **Governance and Administrative Reforms**

The fundamental justification for government at all levels is the protection of lives and property as well as service delivery for the promotion of the general welfare of the citizenry. Thus, the basic responsibility of government lies in the efficient harnessing of both human and material resources for the betterment of the generality of its people. For this lofty objective to be realized, the requisite and enabling environment (good governance in all its ramifications) needs to be in place.

This administration is of the view that the Civil Service is the engine house of government activity and should be reorganized and reoriented so that it can cope with the aims and objectives of good governance. Structural and staff changes will therefore soon be made. Ours is a peoples' government in which all ranks must see themselves as a tool for social transformation and the redemption of Plateau State. Service to the people must be rendered faithfully, loyally and efficiently. All public officials must see themselves as

servants rather than masters of the people. The idea of regarding public office as a private property to be used at will must stop. Public officials who are unable to adjust themselves to the new system must be prepared to give way to those willing and able to render loyal and efficient service.

The workers must be ready and willing to make necessary sacrifices in resolving contending issues so that they can get back to work in their own interest and in the interest of the state. Government on its part will do all that is humanly possible to ensure prompt payment of salaries, allowances and other entitlements including pensions as this administration stands committed to ameliorating the conditions of our people, through appropriate measures including consultations and legislation. We are determined to run the affairs of this state with a high sense of fairness, equity and patriotism, conscious of the fact that each period of our history has had its special challenges. In this regard, this administration shall depart from the practice where government appointments were concentrated in one Senatorial Zone to the near exclusion of others.

### **Education and Human Resource Development**

It is widely believed and generally accepted that, as a human resource development industry, education is the bedrock of development in every society and the foundation upon which the future of our youth depends. This being the case, it deserves every attention by any serious and purposeful government.

It is a matter of grave concern that Plateau State, which was educationally in the forefront in Northern Nigeria and the country at large, has in the immediate past degenerated in standards by becoming Second-to-the-last nationwide in the SSCE. The rot in the sector is discernible at all levels of education. These range from poor infrastructural facilities, inadequate number of trained teachers to poor conditions of service for teachers, etc. It is our determination to give every attention to education. This therefore calls for a revolutionary approach to the entire system of education at all levels-pre-primary, secondary and tertiary, in order to provide the kind of education that is useful and relevant to the citizenry and the State for higher achievement and better productivity.

Qualitative Education can only be achieved through the collective efforts of government



State. In particular, the construction of a 5-kilometre road network in each Local Government Area headquarter re-enforces the resolve of this administration to their gradual transformation into semi-urban cities.

### **Health**

The sum of N2. 252 billion has been proposed for the provision of various health and health related projects in the 2008 financial year to address the deplorable condition of infrastructure and obsolete equipment. We need to complete and equip existing health facilities to set the stage for the establishment of at least a sixty- bed hospital in each Local Government Area and one Specialist Hospital in each of the Senatorial zones of the State.

### **Tourism**

The Tourism sector has an estimated N1.277 billion in the 2008 provisions based on the overriding consideration of ensuring Public- Private-Participation (PPP) in the regard, it will interest Honourable Members to note that we are at the verge of concluding arrangement with private investors for the takeoff of large scale Tourism activities in and around the State capital and other parts. This administration shall focus attention on tapping the full potentials of this specialized industry in which Plateau has a comparative advantage. We have proposed N500 million for the Film City Project and N100 million for the expansion and rehabilitation of Jos Wild Life Park among others.

### **Women, Youth, Sports And Social Development**

The sum of N2.119 billion representing 7 percent of the capital expenditure has been proposed to take care of Information, Youth, Sports, Women Affairs and Social Development. This is based on the realization that our Women and Youth continue to suffer in terms of access and opportunities to resources, responsibilities and privileges. The provisions in this sector are therefore in line with the 10 Point Agenda of this administration, which takes into cognisance the importance of information dissemination.

### **Administration**

Mr. Speaker, this administration is of the view that the Civil Service is the engine room of government activity. Consequently, the working environment must be made conducive to enhance greater productivity. Mere acquisition of capital assets without adequate maintenance can only lead to distortion of government programmes. The opportunity-cost



of lack of maintenance of assets for the economy of this State is no doubt enormous. The reckless abandon with which our assets, like the J.D. Gomwalk Secretariat Complex, were neglected has inevitably worsened our environmental and sanitation problems. In consideration of these attendant problems, the 2008 Draft Estimates envision a capital expenditure of N5.643 billion representing 15 percent of the capital expenditure estimates covering the executive, legislative and judicial arms of this administration.

### **Sustainable Peace And Security**

This administration attaches a lot of importance to the sustenance of peace and security which is the main task of any government. This administration shall therefore provide official support to the security agencies in this State with a view to maintaining and sustaining the peace. Our Traditional and religious leaders, community development associations, non-governmental institutions and all stakeholders shall be mobilized to ensure that our society maintains peace without which no meaningful development can take place.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Speaker, I shall not end this address without referring to the facilities and provisions proposed and already undertaken for the State House of Assembly. I am aware of the unfavourable circumstances in which Honourable Members have been obliged to work. These difficulties form part of the teething problems of our democratic experience. I wish to express my appreciation of the understanding and sense of duty with which you have faced these initial difficulties.

This administration hopes that as the constraints facing Honourable members become something of the past, the problems which have beset our initial efforts will fade away. We look forward to a period of greater cooperation between all arms of government for the upliftment of the welfare of our people and for the attainment of peace, unity and stability of our State.

I thank you for listening patiently to me.



As a matter of priority, Government will endeavour to pay all outstanding counterpart funding relating to all externally aided projects in order to attract further resources from these sources especially in relation to the FADAMA projects (phases II & III). We shall also strive to take full advantage of Federal Government interventions in agriculture especially in the area of cash crops such as cotton and cassava with a view to creating commodity-chain marketing arrangement.

A substantial part of the state agricultural development depends on off-season/dry season farming and Plateau being the hydrological centre of Nigeria from where the major rivers and river channels originate should have multipurpose and small earth dams. Government will therefore take deliberate affirmative action in relation to the various dams in the state for the purpose of impounding sufficient water for all-year-round irrigation.

No meaningful agricultural development can take place without the compliment of basic infrastructures such as feeder roads, rural electrification and rural water supply. The relevant Government Agencies charged with the responsibility must be up and doing to fill this critical gab. There is need for a strong programme/project monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which should be established for agricultural projects.

Finally, full cognizance must be taken of the need to promote sustainable development. In this regard, agriculture and rural development programmes will be carried out without prejudice to protecting or conserving green belts under a holistic environmentally friendly and ecologically sustainable manner. Thus this government intends to earmark three agricultural Zones within the state with outfits fully equipped with soil testing laboratories, tractors and other necessary farm implements. PADP will be required to work closely with the local farmers to impart skill and ensure high yield/agricultural output.

### **Health**

Health Care Delivery service in Plateau State is inadequate to meet the needs of the ever growing population. The infrastructures are in a deplorable condition, the equipment are obsolete and the morale of the personnel is low. All levels of health care will need to be revamped by this administration including the completion and equipping of existing health

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facilities. We shall also establish at least a sixty-bed hospital in each local government area and one Specialist Hospital in each of the Senatorial Zones of the State. We will ensure that the Local Governments properly monitor and supervise the Primary Health Centers. The distribution of drugs in the state and ensuring the enactment of the law for strengthening our tertiary health institutions will be vigorously pursued. Government shall also endeavor to meet up its counterpart- funding obligation as at when due because a vibrant health sector can be achieved with adequate budgetary allocation and timely release of funds.

A State of Emergency on Sanitation in Plateau State has become imperative in the light of the total neglect of waste management and sanitary conditions especially in our major cities. As a matter of policy, this government shall reintroduce Sanitary Health Inspectors to ensure and enforce a culture of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.



**Governor Jang acknowledging cheers from the citizens after taking his oath of office on May 29th 2007.**

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### **Women, Youth, Sports and Social Development**

Our women and youth continue to suffer in terms of access and opportunities to resources, responsibilities and privileges. This is characterized by unemployment, low education and economic base, which make them susceptible to manipulation.

To address these problems, Government will ensure the release of funds and mobilization of human resources to resuscitate dilapidated and ailing projects. The Zaria Road Stadium will be completed to attract national and international competitions to the State and to encourage sporting activities. We shall explore the possibility of collaborating with Donor Agencies, NGOs and Community Development Associations to execute other relevant programmes and projects.

We remain committed to the inclusion of women, youths and the disadvantaged to leadership positions, provision of resources and privileges. Women will be sufficiently represented in appointive and elective positions in the state. We have already taken this initiative by the election of the first elected female Deputy Governor in the history of Northern Nigeria.

We shall also encourage the Wife of the Governor to undertake programs that are beneficial to the life of our teeming rural dwellers.

To increase the capacity of our youth for productivity and leadership, government shall lay emphasis on formal and non-formal education, skill acquisition and increase of their economic base. Liquor Licensing laws shall be enforced to effectively regulate the timing, indiscriminate sale and consumption of alcohol especially the illicit Gin popularly known as 'Goskolo', which has ruined the lives of many of our youths. Henceforth, government prohibits the sale of alcohol to the under-aged and defaulting liquor houses stand the risk of the revocation of such licenses.

### **Tourism**

Tourism has been recognized as one of the world's leading industry that creates wealth and promotes socio-economic development. The significant contribution of tourism to global and national incomes makes it a viable tool for promoting economic well being.

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Plateau State is richly endowed with huge tourism potentials, which if properly harnessed and managed hold great promise as a major revenue earner for the State and country. Many of the tourist attractions are in a poor state and need to be developed.

This administration is committed to turning things around through focusing our attention to tapping the full potentials of this sector which the State has comparative advantage. As a specialized industry, relevant professionals will be required to nurture and maintain as well as see to the implementation of the relevant policies and programmes we will put in place. Government will also explore areas of collaboration and partnership with the Federal Government as well as the Organized Private Sector so as to ensure efficient operation and sustainability. One of such projects is the Jos Film City Project that is now ongoing.

### **Urban Governance**

With regards to urban management, it can safely be said that the efforts of the various government agencies charged with this responsibility, especially JMDB, have consistently waned in the past. Development control, the most important aspect of urban management has at best been epileptic in the recent past. Physical structures have been allowed to spring up without regard to planning and building regulations. Indeed it is safe to say that the Jos-Bukuru Master Plan has been totally abandoned with regards to urban management.

The multiplicity of Government Agencies performing similar functions without professional streamlining has created institutional conflicts that have militated against the effective control/management of the city environment. Government intends to bring this unacceptable situation under control within the shortest possible time. Government shall review all Certificates of Occupancy with a view to computerizing it. Owners of C of Os are expected to produce their certificates for authentication and revalidation. We intend to address the problem of the Greater Jos-Bukuru Master Plan and develop befitting plans for the 17 local government headquarters in Plateau State. In particular we shall construct 5-kilometer road network in each LGA headquarters.

### **Ethical Reorientation**

The task ahead of us is enormous and it is a task for all of us. For us to actualize the

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aforementioned policies, we must collectively resolve to imbibe core values of hard work, honesty, integrity, commitment to duty, respect for our traditions, loyalty to the State and the fear of God. Unless there is an attitudinal change, progress will be difficult.

Given the role of the traditional institutions as custodians of our cultural heritage, we must accord them the respect that they rightly deserve. This administration will ensure that the welfare of our traditional rulers is given the utmost attention to justify their time honored status and respect.

To also enhance aggressive public enlightenment on socio cultural values and communal self-help programmes/projects, the National Orientation Agency in the State shall be supported in the discharge of their public functions by the State and local governments. We shall also encourage religious leaders not to relent in their God-ordained role of providing the essential moral instructions to our people, especially the youth. To ensure the moral regeneration of our society, Civic Education and Religious Knowledge shall be encouraged at the Primary and the first three years (JSS) of post primary education.

### **Conclusion**

I cannot end this address without affirming the commitment of this government to fight corruption, which has been the bane of our nation in general, and Plateau State in particular. We are committed to the observance and application of the directive principles of Justice, Equity and Fair play in the conduct of governance. Righteousness, truthfulness and holiness under God shall be our watchword. Let us conscientiously join hands and rededicate ourselves to the service of this state and country so that it becomes a place we can, and shall be, proud of. We cannot afford to fail in this task and by the Grace of God we shall succeed. I therefore direct that the State observes a three-day prayer and fasting for forgiveness over our past and the vision to see clearly as we work towards sustainable peace and development in a New Plateau starting Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 June 2007.

May God bless and strengthen our hands for the good work ahead.

God bless Plateau State

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

# PLATEAU'S 10 POINT AGENDA

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## **Agenda Number 1**

### ***Sustainable peace and security***

- ✘ The main task and constitutional duty of any government is to guarantee the security of life and property. This state cannot afford another crisis.

## **Agenda 2**

### ✘ ***Governance and Administrative Reforms:***

- ✘ The basic responsibility of government lies in the efficient harnessing of both human and material resources for the betterment of the generality of its people. For this lofty objective to be realized, the requisite and enabling environment needs to be in place. In this regard, the Civil Service is the engine room of government activity and should be reorganized and reoriented so that it can cope with the aims and objectives of good governance.
- ✘ Ours is a people's government in which all ranks must see themselves as tool for social transformation and the redemption of Plateau State Service to the people must be rendered faithfully, loyally and efficiently. All public officials must see themselves as servants rather than masters of the people. The idea of regarding public office as a private property to be used at will must stop.

## **Agenda 3**

### ✘ ***Education and Human Resource Development***

- ✘ It is widely believed and generally accepted that, as a human resource development industry, education is the bedrock of development in every society. This being the case, it deserves every attention by any serious and purposeful government.
- ✘ It is a matter of grave concern that ours is not only one of the educationally backward States in this country, but has in the immediate past degenerated in standards by becoming second to the last nationwide in the SSCE! The rot in the sector is discernible at all levels and types of education. These range from poor infrastructural facilities, inadequate number of trained teachers, to poor conditions of service for teachers, etc.



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- ✘ It is our determination to give every attention to education.

### **Agenda 4**

#### ✘ ***Taxes and Finances***

- ✘ Our struggle for social justice, the redemption of the common man and elimination of corrupt practices is total and irrevocable. For the avoidance of doubt this government is poised to reexamine the administration of taxes in the state with a view to having efficient machinery for revenue collection. A situation where taxes are collected from the impoverished masses with no tangible social infrastructure for the people, while a greater part of it is swindled by government officials can no longer be tolerated.

### **Agenda 5**

#### ✘ ***.Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development***

- ✘ The general policy of agricultural development in Plateau State is to create a self-sustaining agricultural growth to provide food for the population; raw and value-added materials for agro-based industries and to exploit the local/domestic market as well as export opportunities.
- ✘ With about 70% of Plateau State's population of 3.2 million as rural dwellers engaged in agriculture or agriculture-related activities, this government is determined to explore areas in which the State has a comparative advantage in view of its near-temperate weather.

### **Agenda 6**

#### ✘ ***Health***

- ✘ Health Care Delivery service in Plateau State is inadequate to meet the needs of the ever growing population. The infrastructures are in a deplorable condition, the equipment are obsolete and the morale of the personnel is low. All levels of health care will need to be revamped by this administration including the completion and equipping of existing health facilities.
- ✘ A State of Emergency on Sanitation in Plateau State has become imperative in the light of the total neglect of waste management and sanitary conditions especially in our major cities and enforce a culture of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.



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### Agenda 7

- ✘ **Women, youth, sports and social development**
- ✘ Our women and youth continue to suffer in terms of access and opportunities to resources, responsibilities and privileges. This is characterized by unemployment, low education and economic base which make them susceptible to manipulation. We remain committed to the inclusion of women, youths, and the disadvantaged to leadership positions, provision of resources and privileges. Women will be sufficiently represented in appointive and elective positions in the state.
- ✘ We shall also encourage the wife of the Governor to undertake programmes that are beneficial to the life of our teeming rural dwellers.
- ✘ To increase the capacity of our youth for productivity and leadership, government shall lay emphasis on formal and non-formal education, skill acquisition and increase of their economic base. Liquor Licensing laws shall be enforced to effectively regulate the timing/indiscriminate sale and consumption of alcohol especially the illicit Gin popularly known as Guskolo which has ruined the lives of many of our youths.

### Agenda 8

- ✘ **Tourism**
- ✘ Tourism has been recognized as one of the world's leading industry that creates wealth and promotes socio-economic development. The significant contribution of tourism to global and national incomes makes it a viable tool for promoting economic well-being.
- ✘ Plateau State is richly endowed with huge tourism potentials which if properly harnessed and managed hold great promise as a major revenue earner for the state and country. Many of the tourist attractions are in a poor state and need to be developed.
- ✘ This administration is committed to turning things around through focusing our attention to tapping the full potentials of this sector for which the state has comparative advantage.

### Agenda 9

#### ✘ **Urban Governance**

- ✘ With regards to urban management, it can safely be said that the efforts of the various government agencies charged with this responsibility especially the JMDB, have consistently waned. Development control, the most important aspect of urban management has, at best, been epileptic. Physical structures have been allowed to spring up without regard to planning and building regulations. Indeed the Jos-Bukuru Master Plan has been totally abandoned.
- ✘ The multiplicity of Government Agencies performing similar functions without professional streamlining has created institutional conflicts that have militated against the effective control/management of the city environment.
- ✘ Government intends to bring this unacceptable situation under control.

### Agenda 10

#### ✘ **Ethical Reorientation**

- ✘ The task ahead of us is enormous; and it is a task for all of us. For us to actualize the aforementioned policies, we must collectively resolve to imbibe core values of hard work, honesty, integrity, commitment to duty, respect for our traditions, loyalty to the state and the fear of God. Unless there is an attitudinal change, progress will be difficult.

#### ✘ **Conclusion**

- ✘ This Government is determined to fight corruption which has been the bane of our nation in general and Plateau State in particular.
- ✘ Let us conscientiously join hands and rededicate ourselves to the service of this state and country so that it becomes a place we can and shall be proud of.
- ✘ We cannot afford to fail in this task and by the Grace of God we shall succeed.
- ✘ May God bless and strengthen our hands for the good work ahead.

## FOUNDATION BUDGET 2008

**BEING FULL TEXT OF THE 2008 BUDGET SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE, JONAH DAVID JANG TO THE PLATEAU STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2007**



Permit me, Mr. Speaker to thank you most sincerely for arranging to receive me at this session convened specially to enable me present the 2008 Budget proposals of this administration to the distinguished members of the Assembly.

My hope and prayer is that this Honourable House

will find itself in the position to pass the 2008 Appropriation Bill and give timely approval to enhance our ability to pursue the objectives of economic well-being of our people as well as the peace and stability of the state.

### **Budgetary Reforms**

Mr. Speaker, I consider it appropriate at this point to state that this administration upon taking office, immediately recognized the need to have a coordinated and comprehensive budgetary system. Over the years, the budgetary process had tended to emphasize organizational units and their objectives of expenditure in an incremental fashion. Plateau State deserves a development oriented budget which focuses attention on

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Ministry of Agriculture has, for the first time, fashioned out a policy thrust on agriculture for the state. As a result, the Jonah Jang Administration has devoted N60 million as Trust Fund Model (TFM) and 1% of its 2007 budget size (N354.2m) for Micro-Finance in line with the policies of the Federal Government and the Central Bank of Nigeria. As further proof of its serious commitment to the Federal Micro-Finance Policy, additional N50m for TFM and another N364.3m for micro finance programmes have also been committed in the state government's 2008 Budget.

Plans have reached an advanced stage for the establishment of a micro-finance Agency for Plateau State in this regard.

Similarly, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Plateau State, Commercial banks operating in Plateau State, the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) is in progress. When finally put in place, this will provide farmers in the state and others who may go into micro-enterprises, access to credit.

As part of the new policy thrust in the agricultural sector, the state participated in the 2008 World Agriculture Expo held at Tutare in California, USA in February. The delegation, which was led by Governor Jonah Jang, showcased the agricultural potentials of the state to foreign investors. Several agricultural products and brochures on the people, land and Government of Plateau State were displayed at the Expo to market the state.

The Agricultural Engineering Services of the Ministry got a boost from the Jang administration when 23 tractors and implements were procured for distribution to farmers which shall be commissioned this farming season. Similarly, plans are underway to procure additional 100 units of tractors, vehicles and working tools; and the refurbishing of 20 units of tractors. Furthermore, the Kassa agricultural workshop is to be fenced while electricity and water would also be provided there; two workshops are to be provided in the central and southern senatorial zones. The two farm centres in the central and southern zones are to be fenced, and offices constructed there; while solar energy systems would be installed in the three farm centres.



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In providing livestock and veterinary services, including animal health and production, the Veterinary Services Department carried out a state-wide rababies vaccination campaign and supervision between August and September, 2007. Over N3.6m was spent in executing the campaign during which a total of 11,165 dogs and cats were vaccinated. Aside from renovating the Avian Influenza Control Office, several seminars and workshops were organized for the awareness and sensitization of stake-holders on Avian Influenza disease control in the state. Since the inception of the present administration, 79,156 cattle, sheep and goats, 17,895 pigs, dogs and cats and 214,852 birds were treated against various diseases and conditions.

In the area of counterpart contribution to agricultural programmes, the Governor of Plateau State, Da Jonah David Jang approved the release and payment of N9.96m for the Root and Tuber Extension Programme (RTEP) as its counterpart fund contribution for 2007. The Fund promotes the production of cassava, cocoyam, yam, Irish potato and sweet potato, thereby boosting the income and living standard of farmers. Also, the sum of N42.4m, being counterpart fund for the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) has been paid for the year 2007. The NPFS's major activities include water control, crop intensification, agro-processing, soil fertility, pest control, etc. At the moment, the Fadama II outstanding counterpart funds for 2006/07 is about to be paid.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the Da Jonah Jang Administration is poised towards creating a self-sustaining agricultural growth in the state so as to provide food for the entire population; raw materials for agro-based industries and also to tap the domestic market as well as export opportunities.

The present administration is determined to pursue its agricultural programmes to their logical conclusions in order to leave a sound agricultural base in the state.



with consolidated Revenue Fund charges amounting to N6.648 billion bringing the total Recurrent Expenditure to N25.675 billion.

### **Revenue Estimates**

In order to move the State away from the much talked about "Civil Service State" status, I have maintained that we need to gradually raise our Internally Generated Revenue to a point of self sufficiency to such an extent that whatever comes from the Federation Account becomes a useful addition towards addressing the urgent development needs of the State. Consequently, from our Ministries, Departments, Boards and Parastatals, we propose a modest internally generated revenue estimate of N5.238 billion for 2008 as against the actual Internal Revenue of N1.432 billion in 2007.

Federal Statutory allocation for 2008 is estimated at N26.2 billion up from N22.1 billion in 2007. We expect re-imburements and refunds totaling N10.136 billion arising from excess foreign debts deductions. Other capital receipts as anticipated in the draft estimates include Value Added Tax of N4.2 billion and N5.850 billion from excess crude. We are also estimating to transfer from reserves N6 billion from savings accumulated since the inception of this Administration.

Since recurrent expenditure is normally financed wholly from recurrent revenue with the balance passed to Capital Development Fund to help finance capital expenditure, we anticipate that the estimated recurrent expenditure budget of N25.675 billion can be financed from our internally generated funds and Federal statutory allocations amounting to N31.574 billion. Other resource gaps in financing the capital expenditure are expected to be covered by the expected Capital Receipts made up of draw-downs from counterpart funds and refunds expected from bifurcation (i.e. sharing) amongst others.

### **Sectoral Highlights Of The Capital Budget**

Let me now turn our attention to the sectoral highlights and priorities of the capital budget. Total estimated Capital Expenditure by this administration in the 2008 fiscal year is N37.341 billion. Broadly, the sectoral allocations for the 2008 budget shows 15 percent to the Administrative sector, 44 percent to the Economic sector, 22 percent to the Social sector and 19 percent to the Environmental sector. Allocations to some of our priority programmes are as follows: 31 percent to Works and Transport, 15 percent to Administration, 8 percent to Lands and Urban Development, 13 percent to Education, 9 percent to Agriculture and

Natural Resources and 6 percent to Health.

### **Works And Transport**

The provision of basic infrastructure, especially urban and rural roads, have been significantly considered in the 2008 budget estimate. This sector has a total allocation of N11.676 billion, representing 31 percent of the capital expenditure. Maintaining an efficient transport system and ensuring accessibility to our rural communities, is key to the movement of goods and services. A series of dualisation of major roads have been earmarked in the 2008 provisions to cope with the increasing rate of urbanization and modernization.

### **Agriculture, Water Resources And Rural Development**

The sector has a total allocation of N4.693 billion. This is to give impetus to our continuing efforts to increase agricultural production, provide food for the population, raw and value-added materials for agro-based industries and to exploit the local domestic market as well as export opportunities. This government has earmarked three agricultural zones within the State with outfits fully equipped with soil testing laboratories, tractors and other necessary farm inputs. We have also considered the need to set up a Marketing Board to effectively protect our farmers from the activities of middlemen.

### **Education**

This administration will continue to accord high priority to education. Our commitment to qualitative and functional education remains unshaken. To this end, the sum of N3. 758 billion representing 13 percent of total capital allocation has been earmarked for education. As a human resource development industry, education is the bedrock of development in every society and the foundation upon which our future depends. Through the collective effort of government spearheading communities, associations, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and public spirited individuals, we can address the rot in this sector especially at the primary and secondary levels. This will set the stage for dressing the acute needs in our tertiary institutions.

### **Lands And Urban Development**

This sector has N4.373 billion estimated provisions in the 2008 budget, constituting 8 percent of capital expenditure to address the problem of the Jos-Bukuru Master Plan and to develop befitting arrangements for the 17 Local Government headquarters in Plateau



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spearheading communities, associations, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and public-spirited individuals in the society. As part of government commitment to meaningful partnership with all communities in Plateau State we have decided to abolish differentials in school fees paid in State owned institutions by non-indigenes. It is our earnest hope that this gesture will be reciprocated by intensifying efforts in the direction of assisting to improve the standard of education in Plateau State. The government and the people must work together to find solutions to the ironic situation of the State being unable to cater for the educational and manpower needs of the state. To this end, government shall, within available resources, extend Grants to Community based Schools to encourage the spirit of self-help.

### **Taxes and Finances**

Our commitment to social justice, the redemption of the common man and elimination of corrupt practices is total and irrevocable. For the avoidance of doubt, this government is poised to reexamine the administration of taxes in the state with a view to having efficient machinery for revenue collection. A situation where taxes are collected from the impoverished masses, with no tangible social infrastructure for the people, while government officials swindle a greater part of it, can no longer be tolerated. Therefore, we are prepared to embark on the total reorganization of the Revenue Board with a view to establishing a result oriented Revenue Management Commission.

There is no government anywhere in the world that has either the resources or capacity to satisfy all the needs of its people. Government must be seen for what it is; partnership in which to succeed; each of the partners must contribute its quota. We must all join hands with government to make Plateau state the best and enviable state in the federation. Moving the state from the much talked about civill Service State status involves raising our internally generated revenue to a point of self sufficiency to such an extent that whatever comes from the Federation Account becomes a useful addition towards addressing the urgent developmental needs of the State. Consequently a new tax regime shall be introduced.

This government is also determined to encourage the local governments in tackling urgent problems of rural development. We intend not to temper with their finances, as has been



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the practice in the past. However, we shall enforce auditing of LGA accounts to ensure close monitoring and accountability. We cannot afford to have a situation where workers at the local governments remains without salaries and other entitlements for several months with little or nothing to show in terms of the development of our communities.

### **Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development**

The general policy of agricultural development in Plateau State is to create a self-sustaining agricultural growth to provide food for the population, raw and value-added materials for agro-based industries and to exploit the local domestic market as well as export opportunities.

With about 70% of Plateau State's population of 3.2 million as rural dwellers engaged in agriculture or agriculture-related activities, this government is determined to explore areas in which the State has a comparative advantage in view of its near-temperate weather with regards to such exotic crops as coffee, grapes, Irish potatoes, apples, wheat and strawberry. Government will concentrate in the short-term, on the procurement of critical farm inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and seedlings and facilitating the establishment of small to medium preservation and processing industries. We shall also concentrate on finding markets, both local and offshore for agricultural produce. The Fertilizer Blending Plant at Bokkos for which Government has made substantial investment, will be made functional in order to ease the intractable problem of fertilizer sourcing in the State.

Government will also intensify the promotion of agro-forestry, wildlife and bee-keeping in view of the huge untapped economic benefits derivable therefrom. We shall resuscitate the Plateau Agricultural Mechanization Services in order to assist farmers with land preparation but in conjunction with the private sector to ensure sustainability. As a deliberate step towards forestation, Tree Planting shall be encouraged so that for a tree cut down, ten should be planted.

This government is poised to deliberately and actively encourage/promote the establishment of farmer associations so that they can take over the procurement of inputs and the marketing of their farm produce. The stabilization of the rural finance infrastructure in the State will be encouraged to provide financial services for the rural people as a deliberate rural poverty alleviation strategy.

# OFFICE OF THE SSG

Those who know call it the engine room of Government business. The place is the Office of the Secretary to the State Government (OSSG) where policy matters are fashioned out and their execution pursued for the overall growth and development of the wider society.

For effective service delivery to be attained, the office is divided into two bureau headed by two permanent secretaries in charge of policy and general services, and cabinet and special services respectively.

### Policy And General Services Bureau

The Bureau handles matters relating to the formulation/implementation of Government policies and generally co-ordinates the entire machinery of State Administration. It monitors/co-ordinates the activities of all ministries/extra-ministerial departments and provides necessary input/support base for effective conduct of Government business.

Apart from processing of political appointments, meeting the needs of political appointees, and relating with other governments' among others, the OSSG through the Bureau has ensured that government machinery moves on smoothly.

For instance, vehicles have been purchased for the Deputy Governor, 23 Peugeot 406 saloons, 20 Peugeot 307, 2 Peugeot 206 saloon cars have been purchased and allocated to commissioners and other political appointees. The Ministry of Housing and Environment also benefitted.

Also noteworthy is the renovation of the Governor's/Deputy Governor's Lodge in Alga; the furnishing of the former Deputy Governor's Lodge at St. Piran's Avenue, Jos, and several government lodges in Jos and Abuja.



**Mr. Bukar Bello**  
*Secretary to the State Government*

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Apart from these, the Bureau handles many critical intervention programmes for the state. One such programme is the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP).

### **NAPEP**

NAPEP is not a specific sector implantation office, but rather an office responsible for coordinating poverty alleviation related activities of line Ministries. Accordingly, NAPEP's main mandate include multi-sectorally coordinating and monitoring all poverty eradication efforts in Nigeria with a view to harmonizing these efforts and bringing about focus, collaboration, partnership and complementation required at all levels to ensure better delivery, maximum impact, effective utilization of resources and easy review. NAPEP'S secondary mandate is to extend specific but scaled intervention programmes and projects on stressed, critical and sensitive sectors of the economy periodically to supplement and provide relief in the sector with a view to enhance the impact of the efforts of the statutory implementing ministries, agencies and parastatals.

### **NAPEP OSSG**

To effectively ensure execution of these mandates and subsequent benefits of the program, the state NAPEP OSSG was created in 2001 in order to serve as a fulcrum to coordinate poverty related activities in line ministries in Plateau State.

### **Prospects for NAPEP OSSG**

NAPEP is a success story in Plateau State evidenced by the number of programmes and beneficiaries. If given the required logistics, the office will be motivated to improve on the existing success obtained in the State.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

The year 2007 was exceptionally full of activities supported by both UNICEF and the State Government. The areas of collaboration and intervention between UNICEF and the State Government during the year 2007 were: Survival and Early Child Care (SECC).

UNICEF in the year 2007 spent about sixty seven million, one hundred and sixteen thousand, five hundred and fifty eight naira sixty kobo (N67,116,558.60) only in the State in the above areas of intervention. The cash support was paid to the implementing agencies.



### **Utilization Of The 2007 Government Cash Counterpart Contribution (GCCC)**

The present Administration graciously approved and released the sum of N23.5m as Government Cash Counterpart Contribution (GCCD) for the year. This amount is the highest ever released by any administration in the history of Plateau State Government collaboration with UNICEF. In line with the principles of transparency and accountability of this Servant Administration, due process and UNICEF procedures were followed in the utilization of the funds.

### **Performance**

The State UNICEF Coordinating Unit, Office of the SSG did well during the year 2007. Based on the high level performance of Plateau State, the State Coordinating Unit was the only one among the ten coordinating Units in the ten States of the Zone that was selected to participate in the National Review of UNICEF Country programme in the Country. Similarly, the State effort in releasing the sum of N23.5 within the first few months in office was noted with delight by UNICEF. The transparency of the Government in saving and re-channeling of resources to other areas other than the UNICEF approved activities was commended.

### **HIV/AIDS Units**

The HIV and AIDS Unit of this office has the Permanent Secretary (Policy and General Services) as its Chairman. The seven (7) man HIV and AIDS Committees successfully conducted the training of its staff on HIV and AIDS, care and support for People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA)/Work Place Policy, Stigma and Discrimination.

### **Liaison Offices**

The three (3) Liaison Offices in Abuja, Kaduna and Lagos are still in place. Contract for the construction of the Abuja Liaison Office was awarded to Eagle Construction Company Ltd at the cost N1,190,625.50. Extra works not anticipated were carried out in the foundations and a variation of N84,108,631.95 was approved totaling N1,274,729,997.45. The Abuja Liaison office was completed within the first quarter of 2008 and it is expected that Government would generate revenue from sub-letting some of the guest houses.

Similarly, work on the Kaduna Liaison office is still on-going, while the Lagos Liaison office is in dire need of renovation.

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The Lagos Liaison office is being evaluated by Estate Valuers for possible leasing to competent developers,. This process is yet to be finalized. Similarly, the Kaduna Liaison Office is in a dilapidated stage and a Memo was raised for the renovation of same.

### **Cabinet And Special Services**

The Cabinet and Special Services Bureau is made up of two Divisions namely; Cabinet Affairs Division and Special Services Division.

This Bureau is indeed a very sensitive one by virtue of its being the secretariat of policy and security matters for the State. The Bureau is directly under the supervision of the Permanent Secretary who in turn is answerable to the Secretary to the State Government. The Permanent Secretary (CSS) is the Deputy Secretary of the State Executive Council meeting by virtue of which he produces the minutes (conclusions) of such meetings.

### **Cabinet Affairs Department**

This Division handles all policy matters of the State Government hence it is also referred to as the Cabinet Secretariat of the Executive Council. As it were, the Secretary to the State Government is the Secretary to the State Executive Council while the Permanent Secretary, Cabinet and Special Services Bureau is the Deputy Secretary.

### **Special Services Department**

This Division may be regarded as the clearing house of all security matters in the State to ensure peaceful co-existence of the citizenry. Its functions include the collection, analysis and processing monthly intelligence/security reports from all Local Government Councils; collection, analysis and processing of Intelligence Reports from the various security agencies, other Government bodies- State and Federal; Newspapers, magazines and personal contacts, serving the State Security Council; and handling religious, citizenship, boundary, aliens, labour, students, Passport matters with appropriate agencies. It also liaises with the Federal and State Governments on Security matters; maintains Registers as well as storage of government Reports and white papers among others.

### **Local Government Peace And Security Committee**

On the directive of the Presidency, every local government council operates a Peace and



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Security Committee with membership drawn from representatives of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), Community Leaders, Police, SSS with the Local Government Chairman as its Chairman.

The Committee submits Monthly Intelligence Reports (MIR) (INTREP) to the Bureau for processing while situation reports (SITREP) on events of security interest are usually sent by the Committee instantly.

### **Building Of Security Posts**

The Bureau handled the Construction of permanent Security posts at major entry points into Jos such as Zaria Road, Bauchi Road, NIPSS Junction, Mararaban Jama'a Junction, Farin Lamba-Vom, Manchok Road Junction and Du Junction, to track down criminals wanting to flee out of Jos/Bukuru.

### **Restriction Of Movement Of Motorcycle Operatives**

The Plateau State Security Council having assessed the incessant cases of armed robbery as well as cases of bag snatching by some Okada operators, directed the restriction of Commercial Motorcycle operators within Jos and Bukuru Metropolis from the hours of 6 am to 8 pm daily. The restriction order is till being enforced.

### **Purchase Of Patrol Vehicles**

In order to further beef up security in the State, the Cabinet and Special Services department purchased and allocated 22 No Toyota Hillux vehicles with modern communication gadgets installed at the cost of N26,041,721.41.

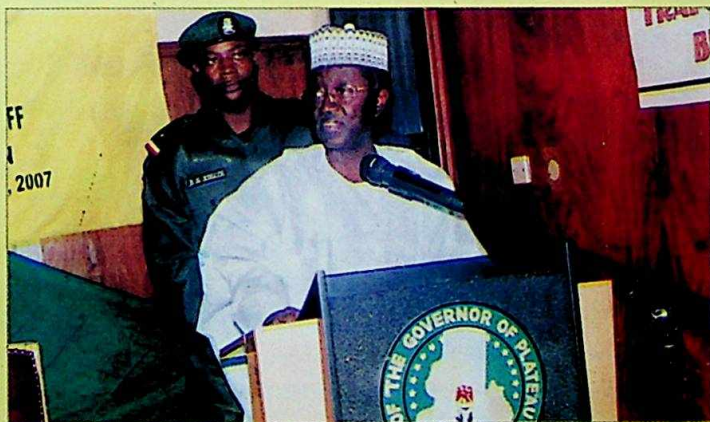
Similarly, the administration graciously approved the purchase of Executive Protection Armoured Vehicles at the cost of N190,002,456.00.

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**Governor Jang and the SSG, Mr. Bukar Bello (left) putting heads together at a function.**

**Governor Jang commissioning security vehicles assisted by the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Tallen and the representative of the CP, Alh. Abubakari Fana.**



**The Governor addressing the Ministerial Retreat of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) and the Directorate of Technical Co-operation in Africa.**

## OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE

**W**ith the advent of the present administration since 29th May 2007, the civil service has experienced tremendous achievements in the payment of salaries/allowances bringing renewed hope to civil servants. These are some of the achievements made by this administration in its first year in office:

### **Payment Of Backlog Of Salaries/ Allowances**

The first major step undertaken by this administration was to offset the backlog of salaries/allowances owed to civil servants in the State and Local Governments.

Breakdown of the backlog cleared is as follows:-

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| (a) Salaries (State civil Servants)                                | -                   |
| N599,533,952.65  |                     |
| (b) Leave Transport grants (LTG)                                   | - N222,638,644.27   |
| (c) Salaries of Local Government Staff (through Bank loans)        | - N1,042,000,000.00 |
| (d) 12.5% and shortfall of salaries to Primary School Teachers     | - N234,044,204.39   |
| (e) 2005/2006 Leave transport Grant(s) to Primary School Teachers. | - N334,600,000.00   |



**Dr. Godfrey Mamzhi**  
*Head of Service*

### **Payment Of Backlog Of CTLS & Union Dues**

For a long time, the CTLS & UNION DUES deducted from the salaries of staff were not remitted until the present administration came on Board and settled the backlog Totaling = N75,000,000.00.

### **Payment Of Pension Arrears/gratuity To Retirees**

A good number of civil servants who served the State meritoriously and retired from the service were neither placed on Pension nor paid their Gratuity for a long time. However, the Jang administration from June 2007 to March 2008 cleared pension arrears to retirees to



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the tune of N726,759,3 15.40 and paid the sum of N271,546,237.40 as gratuity from June 2007 to date. Former members of the Plateau State House of Assembly were paid their severance gratuity which amounted to N97,574,422.50k

### **Payment Of Grants To Voluntary Agency Schools**

The Jang administration also paid arrears of **Grant to** Voluntary Agency Schools amounting to N105,750,000.00 from June 2007 to February 2008. He also paid grants to JUTH which accumulated from 2001-2007 totaling N21,000,000.00. On the whole, the sum of N3,730,346,776.61 was committed to the payment of backlog of staff salaries/allowances, pensions/gratuity, grants to V.A Institutions, etc from June 2007 to date.

### **Staff Promotions**

In order to motivate civil servants to put in their best in the service, a total of 755 staff were promoted to various Grade levels in 2007 alone. The breakdown is as follows:

- (A) Junior staff - 30No. (b) Senior staff - 250No.
- (c) Management staff - 465No.

Currently, promotion interview are going-on to clear backlog of staff promotion from 2007 to date. The total number involved is 630 (junior staff: 15No; senior staff: 288No; and Management staff:327No.

### **Renovation**

Also, plans have reached advanced stage to renovate and furnish the J. D. Gomwalk Secretariat to make it more conducive and comfortable for Civil Servants to perform their work.

### **Study Leave**

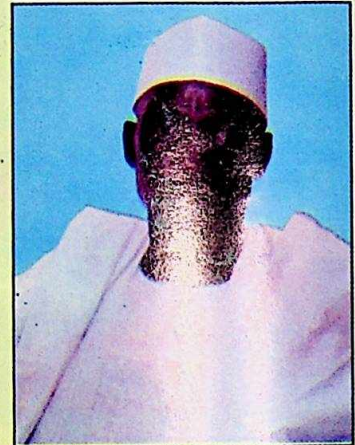
During the period under new, two (2) offices were granted approval to under take academic courses at United Kingdom (U.K) on study leave with pay. Similarly, three (3) officers attended workshop on Annual Performance Evaluation (APER) in Kaduna.

### **Leave Of Absence/Retirement Benefits**

Twelve (12) applications for leave of absence were received processed and approved. Also, 350 applications for retirement benefits were processed and forwarded to the Pension Board for payment.

# AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The strategic role of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the socio-economic development of Plateau State cannot be over-emphasized. This is because of the state's population of 3.2 million, over 70% are rural dwellers who are involved in agriculture or its related activities. The role of the Ministry under the Jang Administration is therefore, to promote the production of all items of agricultural produce for food and raw materials for agro-based industries in the state in particular and the nation at large. The Ministry is also engaged in enhancing the production of animal protein through the efficient engagement of the livestock industry and rendering of livestock services; including procurement, maintenance and servicing of farm machineries and vehicles of the Ministry and those of individuals.



**Nabassu A. Yakubu**  
*Comm. of Agric & Natural Resources*

To achieve the above, the Ministry has targeted the peasant farmer who has been the main producer of agricultural products and produce. Naturally, this is done through extension activities in various agricultural sub-sectors.

With a staff strength of 1,332, the main functions of the Ministry are carried out through a structure with seven departments. However, a Livestock Services Department was recently created out of the Veterinary Services, following the challenges that recently confronted the global livestock market. The departments are: Agricultural Engineering Services and Home Economic Services. Others include, Finance and Supplies, Livestock Development Service, Planning, Research and Statistics, and Administration/Personnel. In addition to these departments, the Ministry has three parastatals under it viz; Plateau Agricultural Development Programme (PADP), Plateau Agricultural Mechanization Services Company (PAMS) and College of Agriculture, Garkawa.

In order to place Plateau State in its rightful position as the food basket of Nigeria, the

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



**Governor Jang, assisted by PDP state Chairman, Prof. Shown, PLHA Speaker, Hon. Go'ar and the Commissioner for Agriculture, Nabassu, commissioning tractors and flagging off sale of fertilizer for the 2008 farming season.**



## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

what is achieved within the financial provisions that are made and whether what is achieved is in consonance with the declared political, economic and social objectives of our government policy as encapsulated in the 10 Point Agenda and the Kuru Declaration of 6th October, 2007.

The new system we hope to enshrine into our budgetary process in subsequent years is aimed at defining the objectives of the functional areas of government and articulating their programmes of activities. Criteria will be established for measuring performance against inputs, objectives and set targets. It is also expected to strengthen the linkages between planning, programming, budgeting, performance evaluation and review, through a feed-back arrangement.

That is why we have endeavoured to set up a Budget Monitoring and Evaluation Committee with clear-cut plans to hold Target Conference to usher in the implementation of the 2008 budget. The Target Conference will provide a platform for an objective reassessment of the revenue targets for each Ministry, Department, Board and Parastatal, to enhance the fortunes of our state and improve the quality of life of the common man. We have also set up our Strategic Planning and Implementation Committee, so that by 2009, God willing, the format of government estimates will be changed to reflect the full impact of the envisaged changes in our budgetary system.

### **Review Of The 2007 Budget**

The 2008 budget marks the coming into effect of the changeover to the new system we envisage for our budgetary process. As you may have known, the approved recurrent expenditure for the 2007 fiscal year is N23.792 billion and the approved capital expenditure is N11.693 billion in a budget of N35.427 billion with countless tentative provisions (IOTs') blurring the actual budget size. It will interest you to note that out of 959 provisions contained in the 2007 capital budget estimates, 511 items representing 53.3 percent of the provisions were reflected as IOT, thus making it unreliable for comparative analysis. Although the final figures of the budget performance are yet available, the indications from what is available are that there was little or no budgetary discipline before this administration took over. The actual recurrent revenue figures show that only 43.9 percent was generated and 19.3 percent capital expenditure incurred.

We are all living witnesses to the low performance of previous budgets in some key

## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

sectors and the attendant negative consequences on the socioeconomic well-being of our people. As I stated in my maiden broadcast to the state, this is a time which calls for sober reflection on the problems of the immediate past in the state to appreciate the magnitude of the tasks ahead.

Surely we have learned great lessons, suffered significant losses, wasted countless opportunities and endured a lot of misplacement of priorities in the management of government resources which have left us with a huge external debt profile running into billions of naira.

### **The Outlook For 2008**

To be consistent, we have prepared the 2008 Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure on the basis of our revenue expectations from internal sources as well as statutory allocation from the Federation Account. But in doing away with tentative provisions (IOT) in the 2008 budget, we are making a bold statement that we need to face squarely the challenging reality of making up for the wasted years and opportunities. For the avoidance of doubt and in keeping with the cardinal objectives envisaged in our 10 Point Agenda, this government is poised to reexamine the administration of taxes in the state with a view to having efficient machinery for revenue collection. A situation where taxes are collected from the impoverished masses with no tangible social infrastructure for the people, can no longer be tolerated.

This state deserves a purposeful rekindling and fulfillment of the confident assurance of better life for our people. That is why we make bold to say that the prospects for the economy in 2008 are good but we must be prepared to endure the painful period of sacrifice to redeem the image of our State.

### **The 2008 Budget Size**

The proposals for the 2008 fiscal year christened 'Foundation Budget'; is N63,016,732,833.00. This is informed by the dire need of rebuilding Plateau State from its very foundation.

### **2008 Budget**

I now come to the highlights of the budget and would begin with Recurrent Expenditure. For the fiscal year 2008, Recurrent Expenditure of N19.276 billion is planned,

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**T**he Ministry of Commerce and Industry is charged with the responsibility of transforming the State's abundant human and natural resources into diverse manufacturing, business and co-operative concerns, for the overall economic development of the State.

### **Markets**

In order to achieve this Objective, the present administration in its mission statement, mandated the Ministry to change Plateau State from the so-called Civil Service State to an industrialised State. Consequently, the Ministry got the approval in principle of eight hundred million Naira (N800 million) soft loan facility from Union Bank PLC to reconstruct and complete the Rukuba road satellite Market into a modern market. Also, it entered into negotiation with some banks to reconstruct Jos New Market located around Kwararafa Cinema into a modern market.



**Na'Allah Mutbam**  
*Comm. of Commerce & Industry*

In addition, it negotiated with Zenith Bank PLC for a loan facility to take over and complete the Jos North Local Government Farin Gada Market into a modern market as well as embarked on the redesigning of the burnt Jos Main Market taking into congisance the restructuring of the entire Terminus area and JUTH temporary site premises. The Ministry is also negotiating with Consultants in the area of building satellite markets in Bukuru and Lamingo Dam areas of Jos to serve the four corners of Jos/Bukuru metropolis in order to decongest the city centre.

### **Industries**

In order to industrialise the State, the Ministry sought and obtained the approval of the State Government to partner with DADTCO Nig. Ltd to jointly establish an Integrated Cassava Processing Plant. The sum of six million naira (N6 million) has been released to the Ministry for feasibility studies by DADTCO. Similarly, the Governor approved a collaborative partnership agreement between Africa Roundtable (led by Dr. Bamanga Tukur) and Plateau State Government for the economic development of Small and Medium Enterprises. Ten million Naira (10 million) has been released for membership and Governor Jang will be patron for 4 years.



**The Governor cutting the tape to declare open the 2007 Jos International Trade Fair. Left is the Deputy Governor, Mrs Tallen and Sen. Silas Janfa, while right is Hon. Go'ar, Speaker, PLHA.**

The Ministry has also intensified action on the resuscitation of the Highland Bottling Company, Barkin Ladi with production of soft drinks from the plant. Also, negotiations are ongoing with foreign investors (Patina Group Inc. USA) to establish two other medium scale industries for Tomato paste manufacturing and Potato chips/flakes production plant.

In addition, the Ministry trained about fifty (50) unemployed youths on the critical aspect of handcraft in September, 2007 and will provide them with micro-finance Loans to enable them establish profitable handcraft centres in the State.

### **Trade Fair**

In order to showcase the potentials of the state to the outside world, the Ministry hosted the Jos 2007 Trade Fair and also participated in the Niger Domestic Trade Fair (August 2007), Lagos International Trade Fair (November 2007) and Kaduna International Trade Fair (February, 2008).

## **EDUCATION**

**A**s a social service organization, the Plateau State Ministry of Education is responsible for the provision of educational services to the entire citizens of the state. Suffice it to say that the Ministry is the largest employer of labour in the state as it has more than two-third of the workforce of the state's public service and has the most rapid expansion capacity than any other ministry.

The Ministry also draws up and implements policies and programmes for the educational development of the state; establishes and runs government primary, post-primary and tertiary institutions; and provides general professional support services for schools established and managed by voluntary Agencies, communities and private proprietors. The Ministry of Education grants approval for the establishment of non-governmental institutions, supervises quality control and standard of the pre-primary, primary and post-primary levels; and provides financial support to recognized Voluntary Agency institutions, among others.



**PAULINE TALLEN**

*Deputy Governor & Comm. of Education*

The Ministry of Education which has the Deputy Governor of the State, Mrs. Pauline Tallen as its Commissioner, has 8 Departments for effective and efficient discharge of its functions. They include Administration, Planning, Research and Statistics, Schools and Inspectorate. Others are: Science and Technology, Educational Services, Higher Education and Finance and Supplies. In addition to the Departments, the Ministry has established 3 units to complement its activities. They are Special Programmes, Public Relations, 3 Zonal Offices in the state and Area Directorates in each of the 17 local government areas in the state.

The following are the parastatals under the Ministry: State Universal Education Board (SUBEB), College of Education, Gindiri, Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi, and College of Agriculture, Garkawa. Others include College of Arts, Science and Technology, Kurgwi, Plateau State University, Bokkos and Plateau State Scholarship Board.



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

In order to appreciate the enormity of its responsibilities, some statistical data would be necessary here. The Ministry has to contend with 2,498 primary schools of various types, 147,737 post primary schools in the state, while the total number of teacher's population (all categories) is put at 21,743. In addition, there are 14,360 Adult Education Centres with staff strength of 435. And to coordinate all these schools and more, the ministry has a staff strength of 4,499, excluding those of its parastatals.

At this juncture, it is pertinent to appreciate the fact that on assumption of the Jonah Jang Administration into office on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2007, there was back log of salaries and allowances, non payment of matching grants and counterpart funds, lack of overhead cost etc, leading to low academic performance.

After a deep reflection on the various problems bedeviling the development of education in the State, the Redemption Administration of Da Jonah Jang resolved to give adequate attention to the sector, bearing in mind its multiplier effect on other sectors of the economy. Consequently, a revolutionary approach to solving the problems in the entire education system at all levels was adopted. It was in the light of the above that a state of Emergency was declared on education. It is mainly aimed at providing the kind of education that is useful and relevant to the citizenry and the state for higher achievements and better productivity.

It was after a tour of some educational institutions across the state, and several interactions with stakeholders in the sector that the ministry was better placed to begin a systematic approach to tackling the problems in the education sector. As a result, the ministry, through the State Universal Basic Education Board, appointed new Education Secretaries for the 17 local government education departments based on merit. And this was followed by an orientation workshop for the successful candidates; Plateau being the only state to do so. The State government also released the counterpart funds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2005, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2006 in August last year totaling N785.148, 648.32. Again, the recruitment and placement of 120 teachers for JSS through the Federal Teachers Scheme was done, while a Nomadic Clinic at Ropp Community has been established by the National Council on Nomadic Education in collaboration with the SUBEB.

Within the period under review, inspection and supervision of schools in 12 local governments in the state have been successfully carried out including Adult and Non-Formal Education





**Governor Jang asking pupils of Gwong LGEA Primary School, Nabor, Jos North LGA questions, while the Deputy Governor who is also the Education Commissioner, Mrs Tallen and Headmaster of the school, Mr Francis Pam watch with keen interest.**

Programmes; SUBEB conducted Bid openings following strict adherence to Due process, for the construction of 56 two-classroom blocks using the intervention funds/counterpart funds, including the construction of 27- two-classroom blocks utilizing the ETF Funds, and provision of 40 dual desks to 131 schools (both primary and Junior Secondary schools) in the state.

Conscious of the importance of secondary education in the realization of the policy objectives in education, the Plateau State government, as a matter of policy, regards staff and students' welfare as well as infrastructure as very important, and as the only impetus to achieving academic excellence and decent behavior in our schools. Towards this end, the Jang administration released N6,452,253.00 for the sinking of boreholes and electrification of Government College Bokkos; renovated and drilled boreholes in Government Science School, Kuru; provided funds to the centre for French Teaching and Documentation worth N10m; released the sum of N9,531,500.00 as payment of allowances, as well as that of English,

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

Maths and Science subjects (this incentive was last paid in the 80s, and supported the hosting of the President's Interstate Secondary Schools Debate competition during which Plateau State emerged 1<sup>st</sup> in the North Central Zone and will represent the zone in the National Finals in Abuja.

Similarly, the Jang Administration released the sum of N5.3m to Area Directorate Offices in the 17 LGAs as operational fund, thereby bringing to an end the 10% deductions made from school fees collected by principals; paid the sum of N2.797m for feeding and renovation of boarding facilities at Government College, Bokkos, while N4.575m was released for the renovation of Government College, Pankshin. Government also released the sum of N98,000,000.00 for payment of 2007 leave and transport grants to staff; another N25.285m was released for the payment of JSCE Examination fees for 2008 in order to alleviate the hardship encountered by parents in the state in the payment of exam fees of their wards. Furthermore, the sum of N6,550,250.00 was released for the feeding and transportation of students on exchange programme and another N3,017,900.00 released to the school for the Deaf, Bassa, for feeding and other activities in the school.

Recognizing the contribution of Voluntary Agency Schools to the educational development of the state, the present administration released the sum of N105.7m to 39 Voluntary Agency Grant-Aided Schools in the last one year. While 118 teachers have been replaced, 59 others have also been converted to their appropriate cadres. Similarly, Governor Jonah Jang has approved the immediate recruitment of 595 English and Mathematics graduate teachers, to meet the shortfall of such teachers in secondary schools. To boost the teaching of Mathematics in schools, the ministry procured electronic classroom mechanism, otherwise known as WHIZ-Teacher at the cost of N23m. Similarly, training workshops for mathematics teachers were organized in the three senatorial zones of the state in conjunction with the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja.

In a bold move which saw to an over 300% increase, the state government approved the sum of N250m for the supplementation of feeding in boarding schools in the state.

Determined to reposition tertiary institutions to play their roles effectively in the socio-economic development of the state, the present administration in the state in the period under review released over N15.4m for the renovation of the 3-story building in Plateau Polytechnic, Jos Campus; and constructed and commissioned an Administrative Block in the

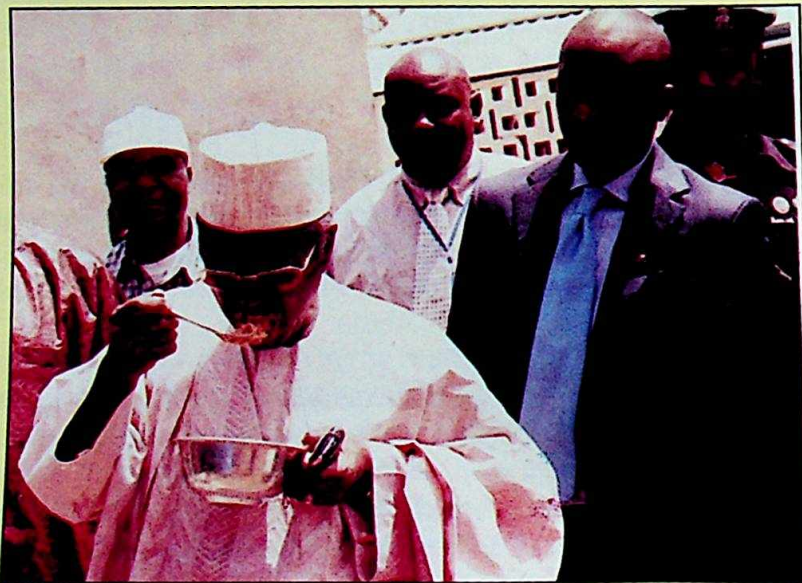


## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

same institution. Government also facilitated the commencement of Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Technical Education in the State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi while the reactivation of NCE (TECH) Programmes and verification of 5 Diploma Programmes by NBTE in the same institution were achieved. The ETF, on its part, assisted the State Polytechnic with a Marcopolo Bus, 5 sets of computers and provision of Visat facilities in the school Library at the Main Campus. Similarly, the Nigerian Communication Commission supplied 20 computer sets to the institution. For the College of Agriculture, Garkwa, the sum of N10m was spent for the renovation of its classrooms and procurement of furniture; while approval for Teaching Practice/SIWES/Field Trip Allowance for 2006/07 was given to the College of Education, Gindiri. The CAST, Kurgwi got N12m for the renovation of its hostels, classrooms and other repairs, including the sinking of boreholes; and the accreditation of Accounting and Business Management courses at the same institution.

On students welfare generally, the Jang Administration paid 2007 students scholarship allowances to 3,554 students amounting to N24,159,000.00; paid scholarship allowances to 46 Law Students at Abuja Campus of the Nigeria Law School to the tune of N8.19m; paid backlog of allowances to 3,985 students amounting to N54.2m.

In conclusion, it must be stated that it is the desire of government that the education sector will continue to enjoy the desired attention so that together with other stakeholders, it can fulfill its cardinal objectives. This is being done through the 10-Point Agenda and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. No wonder, the sum of over N2.4billion has been budgeted in 2008 for the execution of various projects in the education sector.



**The Governor tasting meal prepared for boarding students.**

### FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

**G**ood governance and effective service delivery are products of the judicious and equitable utilization of resources at the disposal of government.

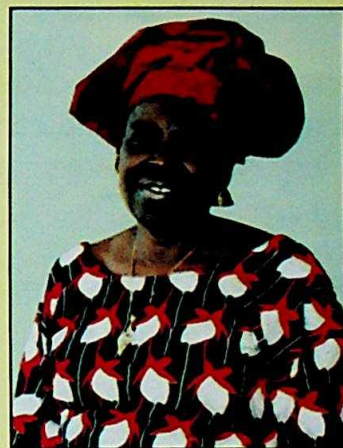
The Redemption Agenda of the Jang administration in recognition of this fact has fashioned a Ten-Point Agenda among which the careful utilization of resources that accrue to the state for the upliftment of the socio-political and economic wellbeing of the citizenry is hinged.

The Ministry of Finance which is the custodian organization saddled with the task of formulating and implementing all the financial and economic policies of the government is responsible for collecting statistical data and information. It equally liaises with relevant government agencies to ensure the implementation of the policy objectives of government.

The Ministry also co-ordinates the activities of the state Tenders Board, the Ministerial Tenders Board, the Budget Implementation and Monitoring Committee, the Board of Survey, Control and Co-ordination of the payment of rented houses for civil servants and supervises the operations of the Plateau Board of Internal Revenue Services, an organ responsible for the collections of internal revenue accruing to the state.

Other functions of the Ministry include the management of the Consolidated Revenue and Stabilization Funds, control and co-ordination of receipts, custody and disbursement of the state government funds and the production and maintenance of final account.

In the same vein, the Ministry also conducts internal audit investigations and control of the state government's finances; the preparation of annual and supplementary budgets of the



**Mrs. Clara Tyokura Gang**  
*Commissioner of Finance*

## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

state, including monitoring and evaluation services; control of expenditure in all areas of budget and government finances to ensure that they are in accordance and in compliance with the approved budgetary allocations.

Other responsibilities of the Ministry include the issuance of expenditure warrants on both recurrent, capital and consolidated funds, and preparing periodic budget performance reports on the implementation of the budgets.

### **Structure**

In order to ensure the effective discharge of its responsibilities, functions and services, the Ministry is structured into two (2) Divisions, namely: Finance and Treasury Divisions.

Under the Finance Division, there is the Budget Department, the Planning, Research and Statistics, the Finance and Supplies and the Personnel Departments.

The Treasury Division has the Departments of Treasury, Main Accounts and Inspectorate Departments.

### **Functions/Roles of The Budget Department**

It is charged with three significant roles namely: the Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the annual and supplementary budgets, the issuance of expenditure warrant for recurrent, capital and consolidated revenues and preparing periodic budget performance reports.

### **Planning, Research And Statistics Department**

This Department is responsible for the formulation of economic policies, preparation of the Ministry's budget, maintaining and updating records on domestic and external loans; and updating contractual liabilities and co-ordinating the purchase of shares for civil servants, among other responsibilities. It also serves as the secretariat of the Tenders Board of the Ministry and that of the State.



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### **Finance And Supplies Department**

The Department, as the name implies, oversees the Finance and Supplies needs of the Ministry which include stores operations and management.

### **Personnel Department**

This Department is responsible for administrative and personnel matters of the Ministry. These include promotions, discipline, recruitment, advancement, welfare of staff, control of vehicles and equipment as well as office maintenance and accommodation.

### **Treasury Division**

The Division is subdivided into three departments, namely; Treasury, Inspectorate and Main Accounts Departments.

The Treasury Department is responsible for the receipts and custody of all government funds and disburses same upon approval by the government. The Inspectorate Department is the quality control unit of the Treasury and Accounts office. It supervises the financial operations of all Ministries and other offices to ensure that proper accounting records are kept in addition to ensuring that such conform with the Internal Control Standards set by financial regulations.

On its part, the Main Accounts Department has as its statutory function, the control of records of Consolidated Revenue Fund, processing payments of external and internal loans including contractual liabilities.

### **Achievements**

From the inception of the present administration on May 29, 2007, to the month of January, the state has received the sum of N19,436,757,560.20 made up of statutory revenue allocations, VAT and excess crude oil proceeds. Similarly, the sum of N1,401,990,368.79 has been realised as internally generated revenue. This brings the total sum realised to



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838,747,928.99.

at inception, the present administration settled arrears of salaries and allowances of servants to the tune of N599,533,952.65, paid backlog of Leave Transport Grant (LTG) inherited from the previous administration to the tune of N222,638,644.29 and N4,600,000.00 as arrears of Leave Transport Grants owed primary school teachers for years 2005 and 2006.

Within the same period, a backlog of Co-operative, Thrift and Loans Society deductions and Union Dues that were not paid amounting to N75million was also offset.

As a mark of its commitment to ensure that all obligations of the government in terms of counterpart funds do not impede the execution of projects by donor agencies, the sum of N550,000,000.00 has so far been paid, thus drawing more projects to the state from such agencies for the benefit of the citizenry.

As a result of the meticulous and purposeful drive of the present administration and the plugging of all loopholes associated with pilferage and wastage of resources, there has been an improvement in the internally generated revenue of the state from N1,483,651,051.96 in the year 2006 to N1,876,365,651.46 in the year 2007. The highest monthly collections made was the sum of N158 million and N258 million in the years 2006 and 2007 respectively.

As a caring government which has the interest of the citizenry at heart, the administration committed N30million with effect from June 2007 for the settlement of outstanding gratuity of public servants. So far, the sum of over N180 million has been released for this purpose.

There are plans by government to increase the amount in order to further reduce the outstanding gratuity to alleviate the hardship being faced by beneficiaries who, since independence, have been almost forgotten.





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In the area of pensions, government has maintained regular payment. Already, the sum of N687,873,107.54 covering the period May 2007 to February 2008 has been made.

Also, following the introduction of diligence, due process and the prudent management of the state's financial resources, government was able to save funds amounting to N6 billion which would be channeled to the execution of various projects that would impact positively on the lives of the electorate/citizenry who remain the focal point of the Redemption Agenda.

Another major hallmark of the administration is the setting up of the Budget Monitoring and Implementation Committee which is seen as a milestone of the administration in the search for purposeful leadership that would leave behind enduring legacies that are products of budgetary discipline which upholds strict compliance to budgetary provisions.

Government has equally eliminated the use of 10Ts in the 2008 Budget by ensuring that there is proper costing of all items that would be acquired thereby reducing leakages to the barest minimum.

As a responsible government that is committed to ensuring that its effect is felt in all strata of the society, the Administration has ensured regular releases of grants to grant-aided institutions such as schools and hospitals.

Between June 2007 to February 2008, the sum of N105,750,000.00 was released to Voluntary Agency Schools while the Plateau State Basic Education Board and the Jos University Teaching Hospital received N135,000,000.00 and N127,385,000.00 respectively within the same period. This amount also include seven years arrears.

Major contracts also attracted the release of N1,680,025,413.56 for the rehabilitation of roads; Governor and Deputy Governors' offices, roundabouts, official vehicles, and for the completion of Plateau State Liaison Office in Abuja, among others.

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**Plateau State Deputy Governor, Mrs Tallen, Finance Commissioner, Mrs. Clara Gang-Tyokura and the Accountant General of the Federation, Alh. Ibrahim Dankwambo, conferring at a function.**

With the exit of London and Paris Club debts, the state's foreign loan indebtedness profile drastically reduced from \$500 million to \$36,124,982.00. The Ministry is leading the State Government's efforts in the bifurcation of the Paris Club debt with Nasarawa State. It is expected that on successful completion of the drive, the state would cash in some refunds which were used to service the loans on behalf of both states before the Supreme Court ruling of 2002.

Currently, a Debt Management Unit (DMU) and the State Council on Public Procurement and Fiscal Responsibility Agency are at various stages of completion, while payments in respect of Tender and Contract Registration fees are made directly to the bank as a means of ensuring that government revenue gets into its coffers.

## HEALTH

**H**ealth, they say, is wealth. This goes to underscore the strategic importance of the Ministry of Health in the survival and sustenance of any society. The ministry is responsible for the policy formulation as regards health delivery services in the state. It works in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health and Donor Agencies in carrying out its activities. Some of these Agencies include WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, EU-PRIME and The Carter Centre and Yakubu Gowon Centre.

For the effective running of its activities, the Ministry has 6 Departments which are; Planning, Research and Statistics; Admin and Finance, Primary Health Care, Medical Services, Pharmaceutical and Nursing services. On the other hand the parastatals in the Ministry include Hospitals Management Board, Plateau State Specialist Hospital and the College Health Technology, Zawan. Others are the College of Health Technology, Pankshin, Schools of Nursing/Midwifery Jos and Schools of Nursing/Midwifery, Vom.



**Dr. Mrs. Angela Miri**  
*Commissioner of Health*

When the administration of Da Jonah Jang came on board in May last year it met a lot of problems affecting government health establishments across the state. They include inadequate funding, shortage of manpower, dilapidated structures, obsolete equipment, low staff morale etc. Consequently, intervention measures were immediately mapped out by the Ministry which were promptly approved by the Governor, via the 2008 Budget. Some of the projects billed for early commencement include bulk purchase of drugs, medical equipment, completion of General Hospitals at Riyom, Kanke and Mabudi, as well as the renovation of Cottage Hospital, Bokkos. Others are: Health facility training on National Health Management Information System (NHMIS) forms, reactivation of the broken down generator at the Ministry's headquarters and procurement/purchase of ambulances and 4 project vehicles. The construction and equipping of Dialysis Centre at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital, renovation of hospitals/health facilities,





### **Newly renovated female hostel of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Vom**

commissioning of Primary Health Centre Mungkohot and the Commissioning of LSS Centre at the State Specialist Hospital would soon receive attention.

It is pertinent to note that completion of work at the schools of Nursing/Midwifery, Jos and Vom has enabled the accreditation exercise to be conducted by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria. This has been made possible by Government which approved and released the necessary funds which facilitated the accreditation exercise.

Similarly, the relationship with Donor Agencies has been further cemented as government is living up to expectation through its payment of counterpart funds. Recently, Memoranda Of Understanding (MOU) between government and some Donor Agencies were signed. They include the Netherlands Leprosy Relief, Family Health International and Roll Back Malaria Programme. As a matter of fact, the state recently received an international award from the Carter Centre, USA, for excelling in the treatment of lymphatic filariasis and schistosomiasis.

It is also on record that during the past one year of the Jang Administration, the Ministry of

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



**The new look Admin block of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Vom.**

Health was able to excel in the following areas; Formation of Community Development Committee/Family Planning Service Delivery Points for Reproductive Health, Mapping out of strategies for integrated disease surveillance and response through the training of IDSR Staff and provision of data tools etc, and active participation in National Immunization Days. The Ministry has also been actively involved in Malaria Control, Onchocerciasis Control, Integrated management of childhood diseases, TB/Leprosy Control and Occupational Health. The Ministry, with the support of the Federal Ministry of Health and National Action and Control Against Aids (NACA) assessed and selected sites for the implementation of the Global Fund (round five) for HIV/AIDS control activities.

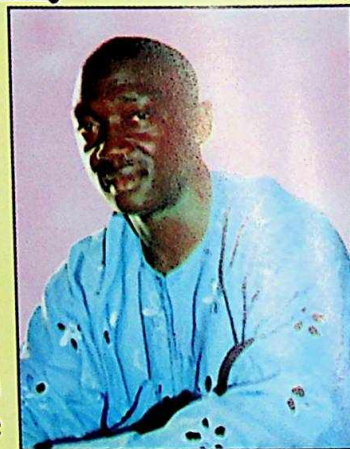
In order to boost staff morale, the present administration approved the implementation of the CONTISS salary structure for staff of the Plateau Specialist Hospital. It is noteworthy that the Residency Program of Family Medicine of the Hospital has been adjudged the best in the country. For the College of Health Technology, Zawan, it has been able to commission a block

## HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

The vision of the ministry is to make Plateau State serve as a base-camp for entrepreneurs, engineers, businesses, managers and other professionals who have business to do in Nigeria and even the rest of Africa. It also intend to transform Jos into a tropical garden city, spruce clean and neat as well as to build and ensure first world standards in public and personal housing, infrastructure and other services.

### Sanitation

Consequently the ministry embarked on vigorous sanitation exercise and cleaning of streets and reintroduced monthly state sanitation as well as new measures to ensure cleanliness always.



**Barr. Nankin Bagudu**  
*Comm. of Housing & Environment*

As a first step towards actualizing this vision, the government declared a state of emergency on sanitation and mandated PEPSA to make sanitation a prominent agenda of the administration. Furthermore through the declaration of State of Emergency the sanitary condition in Jos and environs has improved. This was achieved through the employment of about 1500 sweepers and 20 supervisors and gutter distillers which has also helped to alleviate poverty in the state.

### Integrated Waste and Resources Management

In order to manage the waste generated in the state from the monthly sanitation exercise, government paid the sum of N26 million as compensation for 100 Ha piece of land for integrated waste management facility at Miango.

In addition to efforts at making the environment clean, it embarked on cleaning, clearing of grasses, beautification of central median from Mararaban Jama'a to Hill Crest with *Fiaus cameneunica* at the cast of N2,577,200.00.

Furthermore in order to complement the effort of waste operators, the ministry procured

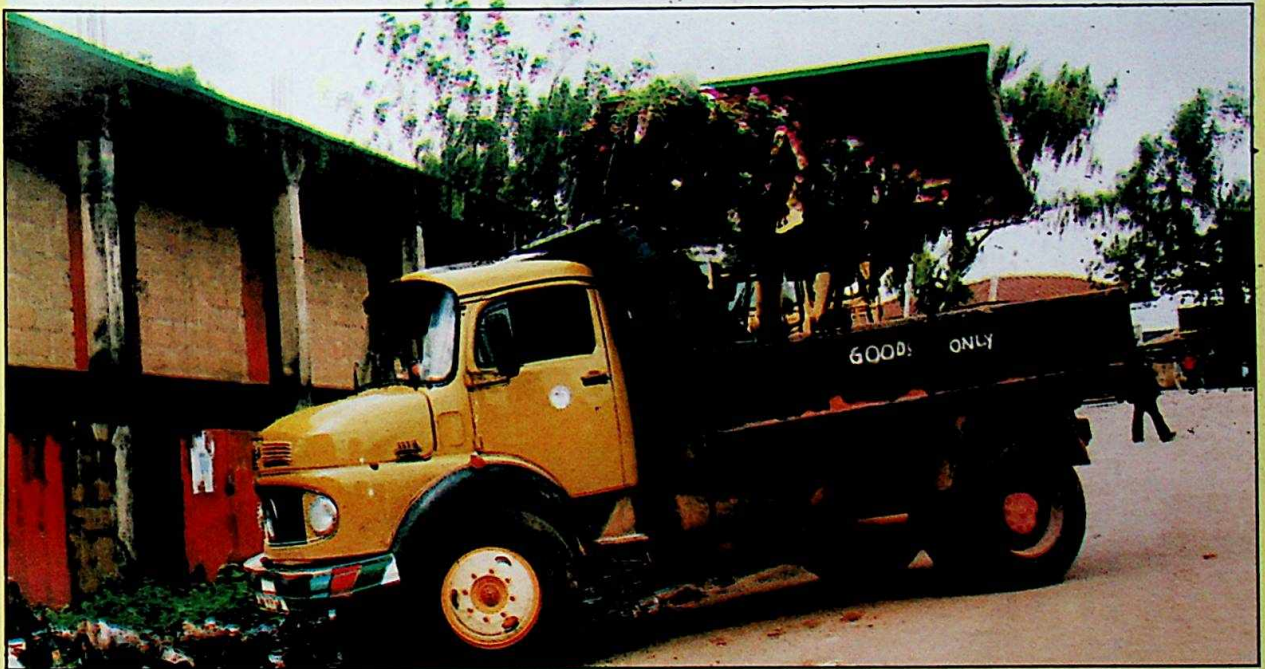
## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

12 solid waste trucks and Toyota Hilux pickup at the cost of N43,548,000.00. In addition, One W250 pail loader (N8.5 Million) was procured, side walk bins (N6million) were installed, medium sized waste bins (N582,3000.00) were placed at certain public areas and waste polythene bags (N1,381,750.00) to keep the containers clean always.

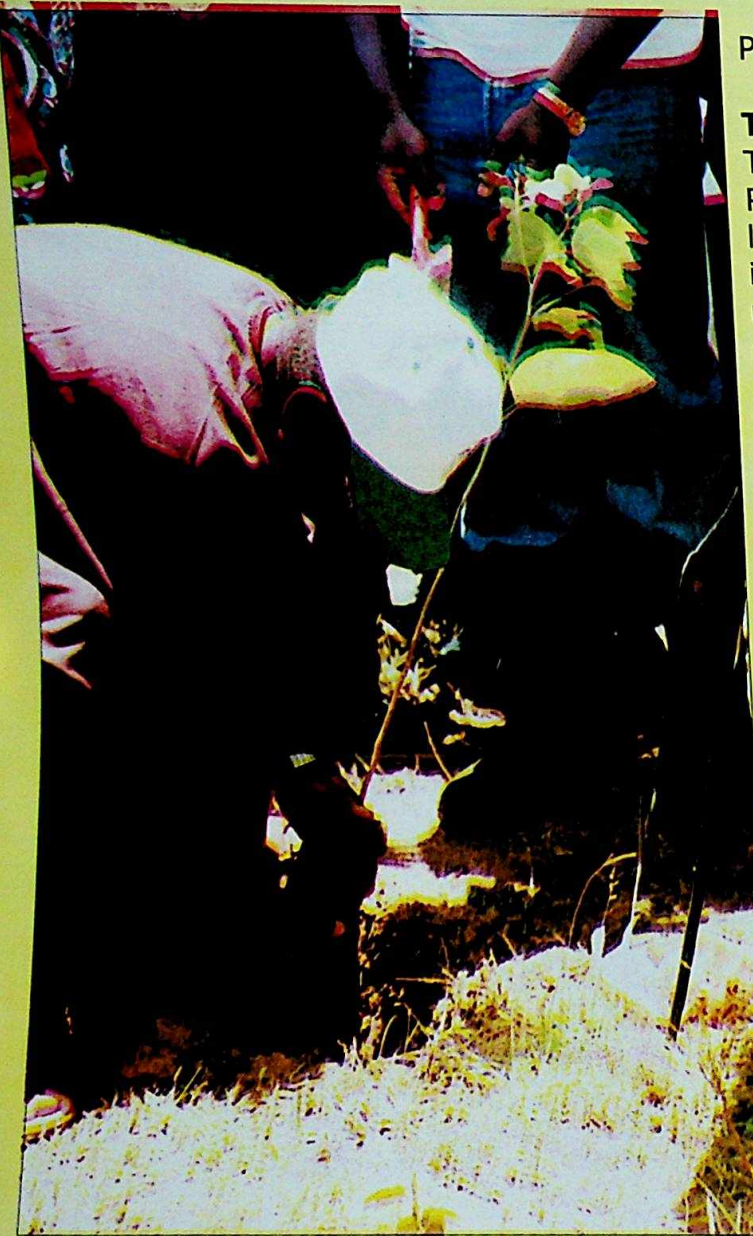
All these efforts within one year have helped to keep down mosquitoes and flies, and clean up smelly drains and canals thereby giving Jos a distinct spruceness of public spaces.

### Housing

Under housing, the Ministry undertook renovation works in many institutions and government buildings, some of these include, Governors office Rayfield, renovation and furnishing of the House of Assembly Complex, Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in Vom and Jos, Governor and Deputy Governor's, lodge in Abuja, Mana, Ali, Onoja and Tapgun guest houses in Jos. Furthermore, it also renovated some classrooms at the Jos Campus of



**Refuse collection intensified in the war to keep the environment clean.**



**Governor Jang launching the Tree Planting campaign.**

Plateau State Polytechnic.

### **Tree Planting**

The ministry also embarked on Tree Planting campaign which was launched by Governor Jang at Fobur in September 2007 and intends to raise over 3 million assorted seedlings for this year's planting season.

### **Challenge**

The challenge of making Plateau State clean, green and proud is a major concern of the government. This will be achieved by planting trees and flowers in and around Jos which will give people pride in their surroundings. This is in addition to the plan to clean up the Dilimi River and make every stream, culvert and rivulet to be free from waste/pollution.

Also, government intends to phase out or relocate the rearing of pigs, poultry, animals in the middle of houses and human habitation because their waste pollute streams and cause considerable inconvenience to the public and spread diseases.



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

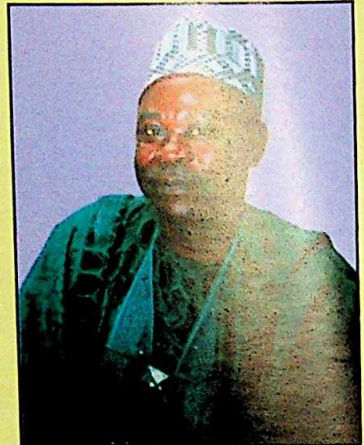


**The renovated Governor's Lodge, Abuja.**



# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Under the present dispensation, the Ministry of Information and Communications is being repositioned to deliver the Redemption Programme to the people of the state and beyond. By fully revitalizing the Ministry, the Jang Administration seeks to place the Ministry in a better position to sustain the campaign for behavioural change for an effective public service and at the same time develop positive image and interest in the state at the national and international levels. Suffice it to say that the Ministry is made up of five Department, namely: Information, Administration, Finance and Supply, as well as Planning, Research and Statistics.



**Nuhu I. Gagara**

*Comm. for Information & Communication*

### **The Department Of Information**

The Department of Information is the technical arm that handles government publicity and public relations through the activities of its various professional sections which include the Press, Film, Photographic and Technical sections.

In line with its mandate and in keeping with the Redemption Mission of the Jonah Jang Administration, the Ministry and its parastatals have made relentless efforts at revamping the information sector which had over the years suffered much neglect.

As part of its bold initiative to launch the State beyond its local frontiers, the Ministry fought gallantly and won the hosting right for the 38<sup>th</sup> National Council on Information. It could be recalled that we hosted the Council Meeting late last year, and by general assessment, it has been adjudged to be best to be hosted by any State. For the first time, a highly demanded publication, "**Plateau State: People, Land and Government**", was produced to provide general information on the state. This was circulated during the National Council on Information Meeting. The State Exco Almanac and the portrait of the Governor were also produced for enlightenment purposes.



## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

Due to the present Administration's commitment to ensure that its agencies and staff are productive, the Ministry's grounded Public Address vehicle was repaired and put to use while some offices were renovated and furnished to provide a conducive working environment. A digital Video Camera has been purchased for the film section, while plans are underway, based on the 2008 budget provisions, to purchase a fully equipped Public Enlightenment Van and two station wagon vehicles to ease the transportation difficulties of Information officers. Of great significance is that over 70 new television viewing centres will also be established soon to boost grassroots information dissemination. In this vein too, the Governor has taken a keen interest in the revival of film shows in communities to foster understanding and support for Government policies.

### **Administration/Finance Department**

This Department coordinates, supervises as well as maintains financial and accounting records of the Ministry. In order to realize this, it carries out, among other functions: general welfare of staff, discipline and promotion; Issuance of Auctioneer's licences, and processing application for Nigerian Citizenship and Naturalization.

In order to enhance the performance of staff, the Department overhauled the only 3 grounded vehicles including the Press Centre of the Ministry. It also purchased 2 computers, one photocopying machine and furnished some offices in the Ministry.

In terms of revenue generation, the Ministry generated Four Hundred and Eight Thousand, One Hundred Naira (408,100.00) through new/renewal of auctioneer's licences and pools betting. In the period under review, the Department has processed and interviewed two (2) foreigners who have applied for Nigerian citizenship.

### **Department Of Planning, Research And Statistics**

The Department, in addition to its routine operations, made the following modest contributions during the year under review:

Drafted Executive Memos on the following:-

- A. Establishment of Television viewing centres across the State.
- Production of 2008 State Calenders and Dairies
- Purchase of fairly used vehicles



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

Hosting of the 38<sup>th</sup> National Council on Information and Communications and, Reversion of Government Printing Press to its former status.

b. 2007 Supplementary Budget and 2008 Budget.

The Department liaised with Bureau of Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to facilitate the preparation of the 2007 supplementary Budget and the 2008 Budget of the Ministry of Information and Communications.

### Parastatals Of The Ministry

The Parastatals under the Ministry include the Library Board, Plateau Printing Press, Plateau Publishing Corporation and the Plateau Radio and Television Corporation.

### Library Board

The Board was established by Edict No. 4 of 1977 with the aim of informing, educating and



Plateau Information Commissioner, Nuhu Gagara (3rd right); Mrs. Remi Oyo, MD NAN (4th from right); Perm-Sec (Information), Mr. Ezekiel Dalyop (2nd left) and others during a visit to NAN Hqtrs, Abuja.

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

entertaining the public.

Its activities include acquisition of fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers and magazines, government publications, gazettes and gazetteers, maps, etc. Also, based on legal rights given to the Board, it collects legal deposits by ensuring that three copies of every book published within the state are deposited in the Library.

In order to reposition the Board for effective service in the twenty-first century, Government plans to install internet facilities and computers for browsing. This will be further complemented by opening a branch in every local government area of the state.

The present administration was able to secure the Education Trust Fund (ETF) intervention towards supporting the Library. Consequently, ETF replaced all the reading chairs and tables in the reading rooms. Furthermore, the Fund provided eight (8) computers and four thousand five hundred (4500) new books for the Library.

### **Plateau Printing Press**

The Plateau Printing Press is the printing arm of the Ministry and was established to handle the printing of all government publications in the state. Before the coming of the Jang Administration, the Press had been dormant with broken down and obsolete machines.

However, with the intervention of the present administration, repairs are being undertaken on the only two (2) manageable machines (Sord and Kord) for staff to undertake the production of simple jobs. Through this, the Press was able to generate N54,800 as revenue between January and February, 2008 and it has helped to offset the cost of some liabilities incurred.

There is no doubt that printing is a lucrative business. Therefore, the organization has embarked on intensive marketing drive to attract and or retain customers. Furthermore, the production and sales of National flags to the public is being intensified.

In order to demonstrate the priority the present administration attaches to the Press, it has approved the sum of N79 million in this year's Budget for a comprehensive turn around in

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**PPC Ag. GM, Gwamsuk Akila (in suit) explaining operations of the corporation when the Information Commissioner and his entourage visited the media outfit.**

the organization. With this kind of support, the Plateau Printing Press is poised for restructuring in order to offer qualitative and excellent service to both government and the public. This will help ensure productivity and profitability, as desired by the present administration in the state.

### **Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC)**

Since the assumption of the Jang led administration in Plateau State, concrete and positive steps have been taken towards resuscitating the Plateau Publishing Corporation to its past glory. Presently, approval has been given in this year's budget for the replacement of its old printing machines, vehicles and working materials for the Bileomatic exercise book plant.

Furthermore, as a result of support from the present administration, **The Nigeria Standard** which hitherto published once weekly, has now increased its publication to twice weekly. This is in order to educate and keep the public abreast of government activities.

### **Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTVC)**

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The PRTVC is one of the most vital organs of information dissemination to the people of Plateau State. This administration therefore has carefully given attention to the corporation to ensure the discharge of its responsibilities.

In line with the Jang administration's agenda on sanitation, the Corporation produced jingles on Radio and Television to further enlighten the citizens on cleanliness.

In order to address the epileptic nature of electricity supply by PHCN to the Corporation, and in order to ensure the station is on air throughout the long hours of broadcast, government purchased and installed standby generators at the Administrative Headquarters which houses the AM and FM studio.

Also, in the past, the network news was never clear on the station and in order to remedy the situation, the corporation installed a news satellite receiver which is currently in use. In addition, an aviation light was installed at the Miango AM station mast to protect aeroplanes by night as demanded by law. A digital audio work station has also been reactivated to enhance news and commercial services.

Furthermore, in order to provide adequate equipment for smooth transmission, the Corporation installed an off air monitor in the radio newsroom in order to monitor events around the world within the period. Also, a teleprompter was installed to give quality to news delivery on television. In addition, the Corporation purchased twelve (12) new Cameras and six (6) red heads and refurbished four (4) old Cameras for the studio and newsroom, computers and photocopiers and re-activated its internet equipment.

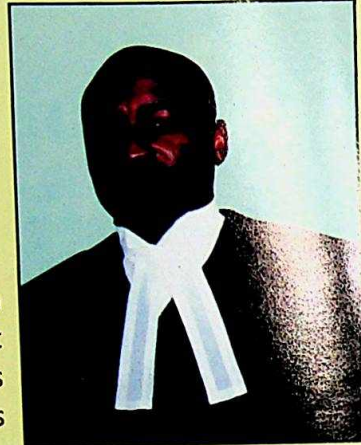
In addition, many staff have been sent on academic and professional courses all over the country including the conduct of various workshops. Currently, renovation is on going in the Rayfield complex as well as the headquarters canteen, in addition to the new toilets being constructed to cater for staff welfare.

The Corporation also purchased four (4) vehicles and overhauled the old ones to convey staff to various assignments. Also, it has embarked on the provision of laptops to staff on loan, furnishing of offices and provision of boreholes at Rayfield and the headquarters complex.

## Justice

The Plateau State Ministry of Justice metamorphosed from the Legal Department under the government of the defunct Northern Nigeria. By Northern Nigeria Legal Notice No 10. of the "Interpretation Law, Cap 52 "Change of Titles Order", which came into force on the 5th of April, 1966, the department became an enlarged Ministry.

The structure was maintained upon the creation of States on 27th May 1967. The Ministry therefore became one of the ministries that were inherited by the defunct Benue Plateau State. This status was maintained up to the 14th February, 1976 when Benue State was carved out of Benue-Plateau State. It is this ministerial status that is maintained till date.



**Barr. Edward Pwajok**  
*Attorney General & Comm. for Justice*

From the enactment of Legal Notice No. 10 of 1966, the head of the Legal Department was the Attorney-General with the Permanent Secretary as the head of administration. The order changed the title of the office of the Attorney-general and that of the Permanent Secretary to Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice and Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary respectively.

### Department Of Administration And Finance

This Department is the fulcrum of the Ministry saddled with the responsibility of general administration especially planning, controlling, organizing and coordinating the activities of the other departments namely:- Legal, Accounts and Administration. It is responsible for all personnel matters which include recruitment, promotion, discipline and welfare, etc.

The Ministry has a total number of 75 personnel excluding pool staff that are posted from the Central Administration of the Cabinet Office and Office of Accountant General. Out of which are 45 professionals.



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### **Industrial Relations And Labour Matters Of The Ministry**

It maintains a comprehensive staff list which handles the maintenance of office building, equipment and vehicles and is also responsible for the training of staff. It also handles the security of the Ministry and is charged with capacity building through training and retraining of staff.

Despite the financial constraints, some senior staff were sponsored for seminars and workshops, both at home and abroad. It also handles the internal security of the Ministry in order to protect life and property of staff both within the office complex and staff quarters. In pursuance of that, additional security guards were recruited.

### **Department Of Public Prosecution**

The Department's primary duty is the prosecution of all criminal cases in the state before courts of law and tribunals with criminal jurisdiction.

It renders legal advice to Police formations and organizations on all issues involving crimes generally and prosecutes all offences covered by the Penal Code Law, Cap 89, Laws of Northern Nigeria, 1963 and any Northern penal law applicable to Plateau State including any State penal legislation. The Department also prosecutes offences under the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions), Cap. 389, Law of the Federation, 1990 and any Federal penal legislation which confers jurisdiction on the State.

### **Department Of Civil Litigation**

The Department handles civil cases involving the state Government, its agencies and the Police. It also handles cases on behalf of the Federal Government departments when required to do so. In addition to these, the Department renders legal advice to government, its Parastatals and Boards, Local Government Councils and the police in civil matters. Most of these cases arise from contractual liabilities, land administration, chieftaincy matters, wrongful termination of employment, etc.

### **Department Of Legal Drafting**

The Department is made up of professionally qualified legal draftsmen who are trained in reputable institutions in legal drafting within and outside Nigeria. It primarily performs the following functions; (i) Drafting of laws, orders, regulations and (ii) drafts and or vets contractual

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documents in which the state Government or any of its parastatals or departments is a party; and gives legal advice to any arm of government in respect of matters arising from (i) and (ii) above.

### **Department Of Citizen Rights/Law Reform**

The Department is made up of four (4) Sections namely; Citizens Rights, Law Reform, Library and Planning Research and Statistics. There is also a Mediation Centre and a Citizen-Advisory Centre. It enlightens citizens on their rights and obligation to the society; renders legal advice to citizens whenever their rights are infringed upon and carries out law reform exercise in respect of our obsolete laws.

The Department is also responsible for running the Library section where law reports, journals, magazines, law textbooks, gazettes, government white papers, and various legislations are kept for use by staff of the Ministry and members of the public as reference materials. It maintains the statistics of pending cases, disposed cases, promulgated laws, and vetting/drafting fees.

The Department, in conjunction with the Administration and Finance and Supplies Departments, prepares the yearly estimates of the Ministry and Secretariat of the Ministerial Tender.

### **Department Of Finance And Supplies**

This Department is made up of the Accounts and Stores sections. It handles salary matters for all staff in the Ministry and raises payment vouchers for all payments in the Ministry.

The Accounts section is responsible for the keeping of all the accounting records and receives revenue charged on contract documents that are drafted and vetted by the Department of Legal Drafting and remits such revenue directly to the Government coffers while the Stores section handles all purchases made by the Ministry and maintains all stores record books for the issuance of such items purchased by and or received from it.

### **Activities Of The Area Offices**

The Ministry has three area offices situated at Pankshin, Langtang and Shendam. These area offices are charged with the responsibilities of executing the functions and duties of the Ministry within their area of jurisdiction. Accordingly, they prosecute all criminal and civil cases before all courts of law.

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There is a proposal to set up two Area offices in Barkin Ladi and Mangu to further enhance accessibility to justice. All the functions of the Area offices are executed under the close supervision and directives from the Headquarters.

### **Estates Of Deceased Person**

The Ministry maintains an account for the administration of the estates of deceased persons. The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary is the Administrator-General of the estate.

### **Justice Sector Reform**

The State inherited the revised laws of Northern Nigeria, 1963 which revised laws applicable to the defunct Northern Nigeria from 1948. These sets of law which are largely the laws applicable in the larger part of the history of the State has been under Military rule from 1967-1979; 1983-1999. During this period, not much was recorded in the form of transformation in the justice sector. The periods were largely governed by edicts which were interventionist in nature and which were in consonance with the philosophy of the various Military administrations. The very few years of civilian administration, 1979-1983, and 1992-1993 did not record any significant reform due to political instability.

In order to enhance prosecutorial service, a Justice Committee headed by the Attorney and which comprises the Nigeria Police, Nigeria Prisons, Nigeria Bar Association, the Judiciary and the DPP was set up. The committee was set up after an in-depth study towards evolving proper and more efficient case management strategies and to also share areas of mutual difficulties with a view to proffering solutions to them. This committee has carried out a robust and pro-active measure in bridging the communication gap between all departments involved in the administration of criminal Justice.

A statutorily established Criminal Justice Committee headed by the Chief Judge with its secretariat in the Ministry has carried out periodic visit to prison formations. The success of the visits has led to the release of a great number of inmates. This has greatly decongested the prisons.

In the drive towards further decongestion of the prisons, the Ministry in collaboration with the British Council and UNICEF has been carrying out legal aid delivery schemes. These schemes have addressed the plight of indigent citizens, children and women who have been convicted for various



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offences. In this regard, some fines and compensation imposed by the various courts have been paid on behalf of such convicts and their release from detention secured.

The collaborations with the two bodies mentioned above have also led to the provision of pro-bono legal civil and criminal matters which have been made available to indigent citizens. The private legal practitioners in the State have been greatly used.

The collaboration with the British Council also led to the setting up of the Plateau State Citizen Mediation Centre. The centre aims at providing free legal services and advice to persons who voluntarily submit themselves to the mediation of their disputes. The courts have made certain referrals to the centre. The centre mediates in areas of landlord/tenant relations, debt recovery, marital matters, etc.

A training programme in conflict resolution has been organized by an NGO, the Initiative for African Peace for Counsels in the Ministry. A bill is being proposed to give the centre legislative backing.

The Citizen Advisory Centre was primarily set to carry out enlightenment campaigns on the rights of the citizens and their corresponding civic obligations to the society. Necessary equipment have been put in place for the smooth take-off of the centre. Similarly, the Child justice administration has taken a centre stage with the passage of the Plateau State Child Rights Law, 2005. Apart from series of workshops organized in collaboration with UNICEF for the training of those involved in handling children, aggressive awareness campaigns have been carried out in which traditional rulers, religious leaders, school pupils, students, and government officials at the State and local levels, including women groups, and labour were adequately informed.

In the area of contracts and agreements in which government is involved, many of such have been drafted and vetted to meet government's socio-economic programmes for the enhancement of the welfare of the citizens.

The Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy has lived up to the aspirations and yearnings of convicts who have applied for state pardon. There has also been an astronomical increase in the number of bills presented to the legislature for passage into law. Some of the bills were fresh ones, while some were bills that sought to amend existing laws. These measures are geared towards



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creating a legal framework that will be in tandem with present democratic dispensation. The Ministry has accordingly provided the necessary legislative service.

Similarly, there has been an increase in the spate of civil cases against the government and of those instituted by government. These cases have tested the efficacy of laws passed by the legislature. Equally too, the Ministry has lived up to the expectation of instituting and defending such cases.

In order to enhance the research capabilities of Counsels, the Ministry has made subscription for the purchase of various law reports which are now stocked in the Library. Supplies to all management staff and the Area offices have also been made.

In the area of Information Technology (IT), laptops and desktop computers have been purchased for all management staff. The computer common room now boasts of a sizeable number of computers. In addition, a satellite system of communication has been installed thus providing internet facilities for the Ministry's staff.

During the sectarian crisis that engulfed the State between 2001-2004, the Ministry collaborated with UNICEF Legal Resource Consortium Access to Justice and Konrad Adeneur Foundation in organizing workshops on security for traditional rulers, government officials, etc greatly assisted in dousing tension in the State.

### **Future Activities In The Justice Sector Reform**

In line with the 10-Point Agenda of the administration, promotion of staff welfare is considered very paramount towards greater efficiency and productivity. In this regard, new residential and office accommodation will be constructed in the Area Offices. Where such structures are in existence and are dilapidated, necessary renovation work will be carried out. Realising the importance of mobility to effective performance, vehicles will be purchased to boost mobility.

In view of the fact that most of the applicable laws in the State are Laws of Northern Nigeria, 1963, and with some of the existing edicts and laws not being in conformity with present realities, a Plateau State Law Reform Commission will be set up to carry out a wholistic reform exercise of the State laws.



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Plateau State was one of the few States in the North that reported judgments of its superior courts record. The exercise is now moribund. The law exercise will be resuscitated. Similarly, greater pursuit will be made in the existing collaboration with UNICEF towards the establishment of the one-stop Child Justice Centre.

The Negotiation, Conciliation and Mediation Group (NCMG) has spearheaded the initiative towards the establishment of a Plateau Multi-Door Court House. The Ministry's collaboration with State Judiciary in this regard will be intensified to ensure that the court house is established.

### Achievements

Following the commitment, dedication and professional competence of the Ministry's staff, unprecedented special commendation has been made to the management and staff of the Ministry from the Plateau State Executive Council and a similar commendation to the Ministry from the Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Command.

The Ministry is involved in the continuous prompt purchase of Federal Law Reports and enjoys prompt payment of Counsels' dressing allowance for the year 2008 from the state government. There has also been fast tracking of legal advice to the police leading to speedy handling of all case diaries forwarded by the Nigeria Police for legal advice.

The Ministry has within the period under review purchased and installed a 22KVA Perkin sound proof generator to ensure constant supply of electricity for effective performance.

In the quest towards ensuring compliance with the computer age, 10 desktop and 8 Laptops were purchased and the installation of a Computer Legal software "COMULAW" for office use to also comply with the modern day information technology. The Citizen Mediation Centre also purchased a Laptop, digital camera, a 29-inch TV set, film projector and board, flip chart, stabilizer and UPS for effective enlightenment and manpower development.

Within the same period, about 150 criminal cases were prosecuted for various criminal offences by the Director of Public Prosecution, while a total of 71 civil cases were handled by the Department of Civil Litigation out of which 7 were disposed. Similarly, a total of 37 cases were handled and disposed off by the Department of Citizen Rights/Law Reform most of





**Plateau State Chief Judge, Justice Lazarus Dakyen and the Commissioner of Justice, Barr. Edward Pwajok, in a discussion.**  
which are through mediation.

### **Problems And Challenges**

There is a need to continue to up-date the Ministry's library with current Journals, Magazines, Newspapers and installation of internet service; an upward review of the monthly overhead allocation to the Ministry is required because of the increasing burden of work within this democratic period. There is also a lack of prompt appearance of schedule officers from Government departments and agencies in court to represent their departments and this hamper the smooth running of cases handled by the Ministry.

Most government departments and agencies receive service of court processes and do not remit same to the Ministry until on the very day the case comes up or sometimes even after the case might have come up resulting to unwanted legal consequences.

## LANDS, SURVEY AND TOWN PLANNING

The Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning is basically a professional (Technical) and revenue generating Ministry.

As a Technical Ministry, it is responsible for processing and issuing of statutory titles to individuals and organizations over parcels of land for various uses; acquisition of Land and designing of layouts for public, residential and industrial purposes; demarcation of local and State boundaries and; general land administration.

As a revenue generation Ministry it is concerned with generating revenue for Government through rents paid for the activities stated above.



**Nanle Dashen**  
*Commissioner for Lands & Survey*

The new policy thrust of the Ministry emphasises retraining programmes for staff especially in the GIS Technology, ICT and reorientation towards effective service delivery.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Within the period under review, the Ministry has done the following:

Completion of Gwafan layout; completion of Mun-Gyel layout; Preparation of site plan for the proposed Deputy Governors Office at Tudun Wada lodge; Demarcation of the proposed new Government House land at Mazaram; 91 applications of isolated surveys mainly in the local Government Area Councils were carried out; The flagging off of Plateau-Taraba and Plateau-Nasarawa boundaries took place at Safiyo village on 18th February, 2008. That of Plateau, Nasarawa took off on March 28th 2008, while 101 incoming applications have so far been charted by the Drawing Section for Title Deed Tracing (TDT).

### The Geographic Information System (GIS), Recertification and Computerisation Project:

This is an initiative of the Governor aimed at revolutionizing the process of land administration in the State. Through the GIS, all land transactions will be done through a





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computerized system. It is hoped that it will also lead to recertification of all titles and enhance the processing of new titles in addition to facilitating a more effective process of revenue generation.

Tenders or the establishment of the Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) is before the State Tenders Board. Provisions have been made in the 2008 Budget for the reequipping of the Ministry in line with the GIS Technology.

**Under the Town Planning Department, land** has been earmarked and acquired for the preparation of the following layouts:

- i. Heipang Residential Layout
- ii. Mabudi Residential Layout
- iii. Bokkos Residential Layout

Development control approval of building plans for now is restricted to the Local Government Areas.

It should be noted that the processing and issuance of statutory titles such as C of O and R of O within the Jos-Bukuru Metropolis has been put on hold pending the putting in place of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and Recertification.

Similarly, compensation has been paid in respect of the following under the Lands Department:

- i. Processing and release of Exchange of Letters to Federal Ministry of Transportation to facilitate the takeoff of the Inland Container Port at Heipang. Non-release of this document had delayed this project for three years.
- ii. Compensation for ECWA Staff Secondary School, Miango. The sum of N2,232,170.00 was paid on behalf of ECWA Church by the Ministry.
- iii. Waste Management Facilities, Miango. A total compensation of N26,145,10500 was paid.
- iv. School for the Deaf Bassa. The sum of N5,333,500.00 was paid as compensation.
- v. The Ministry has gone very far in the processing of compensation for the new Government House - Dakushe, Rayfield.



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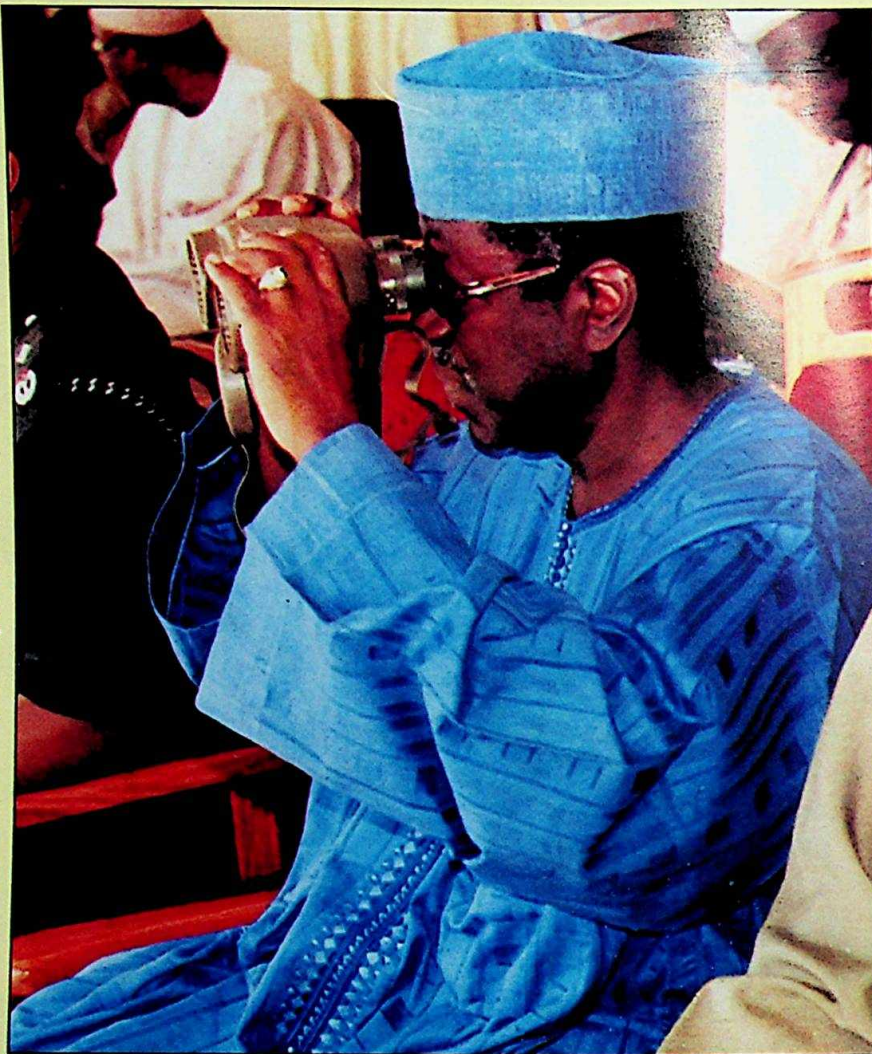
Sooner than later, the assessment of compensation will commence in respect of the Film City at Ta'sbe and that of SOS Children's Village at Kwata, Vom Road.

The Ministry has so far registered not less than 24 requests for projects in the State by the Federal Government, NGOs and international bodies.

### Conclusion

The Ministry appreciates the keen interest of the Governor towards repositioning the Ministry for effective service delivery. I quite appreciate the staff of the Ministry who have shown commitment to go with the present momentum of the organization in giving prompt attention to our clients' needs.

The Ministry will continue to partner with all stakeholders to ensure that land administration in the state is second to none.



**Governor Jang surveys the terrain to advance the Redemption Agenda.**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

The Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs oversees the operations of all Local Government and Chieftaincy Institutions in the State including District/Villages administration. It is also charged with the responsibility of inspecting, monitoring providing technical assistance, guiding and advising Local Government Councils on administrative and financial matters.



**Benahel Andong**  
*Comm. of Local Govt. & Chieftaincy Affairs*

Furthermore, the Ministry co-ordinates the activities of Local Government Councils in order to realise their statutory functions and objectives. Other functions include advising the State Government on Policy issues, chieftaincy matters, public complaints and petitions relating to land, boundary and chieftaincy disputes.

### **Petitions And Complaints**

Upon assumption of office, the Jang administration stated its desire to refocus Local Government administration in the State in order to achieve overall performance. Consequently, the Ministry in furtherance of this objective, in line with the Redemption Programme, set up administrative committees to look into series of petitions and complaints bordering on ownership of land, political and chieftaincy matters. Also, some of the issues were referred to appropriate government agencies to handle. In addition, government intends to meet with all stakeholders to resolve outstanding chieftaincy issues in the State.

### **Statutory Revenue Allocation/Salary Arrears**

Another major achievement of the Ministry within the period is the stabilization of Local Government Council allocation as well as payment of the backlog of salaries of workers. Also, a V-Sat project linking the Ministry with the 17 Local Government Areas is almost



**The Governor being presented a gift by the Gbong Gwom Jos, HRM Da Victor Dung Pam, Chairman, Plateau State Traditional Council, when he visited the Palace.**

completed and is expected to boost communication.

## **Rural Development**

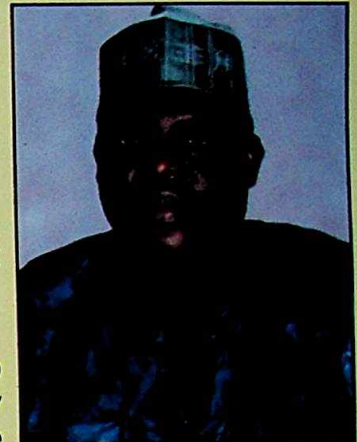
In a deliberate attempt to provide water to the rural populace in the State, the Ministry procured one (1) modern drilling rig for each of the 17 Local Government Areas. Also, it will soon embark on manpower training of personnel to handle the operation and maintenance of the rigs. The Ministry also got approval from Governor Jonah Jang for the urban mapping of the 17 Local Government Areas in conjunction with the Ministry for Urban Development.

## MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

Plateau State can also be said to be the home of solid minerals, judging from its history as the source of tin and columbite which served to lubricate the wheels of the Nigerian economy during of the colonial administration.

However, before now the state had no ministry which responsibility was solely on mineral development until August 2007 when the current ministry came into being.

The objective of creating the ministry which mandate is to coordinate and midwife the return of the state to its former glory of mineral exploration and development is a thing of importance and significance to not only Plateau State but Nigeria.



**Alh. Ibrahim Musa Sale**  
*Comm. for Special Duties - Mineral Dev.*

Though minerals and mining control are in the exclusive legislative list, land control is the responsibility of the Governor as is enshrined in the Land Use Act. As a step towards enabling the state to legally go into mineral development, the Plateau Minerals Development Company (PMDC) was incorporated in order to work towards the company's economic viability and to facilitate the employment and training of qualified citizens who would make the objectives realizable. The same company is the investment arm of the ministry.

### Structure Of The Ministry

In order to facilitate the smooth running of activities of the ministry, its operations have been grouped into Technical Department and two service Departments, thus.

- i. Mineral Exploration, ii. Mineral Investment, iii. Minesfield surveillance
- iv. Administration, v. Finance and Supplies

### Objectives

The objective of the Ministry is to profitably harness the mineral endowments of the state for the economic and industrial benefit of the citizens using relevant technologies in line with the world's best practices.

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is envisioned that the ministry would also utilize the state's mineral potentials for the development of the Ten Point Agenda of the Jang Administration.

### Activities

The Ministry has two major activities that it undertakes. These are:

Routine Ministerial activities such as training in gemstone cutting and polishing, supervision of minesfields and collaboration with relevant organizations such as the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Raw Materials Research and Development Council in addition to other activities such as mineral exploration, participation in Trade Fairs, Workshops and Seminars among others.

Other responsibilities of the ministry include taking of inventory of mineral and mining disturbances such as abandoned mining ponds, mine dumps and mine tailings. So far 1,114 active mining ponds have been discovered in the state and efforts are being made to either reclaim them or use them for other economic purposes such as fish ponds or as sources of water for domestic and industrial uses.

Investment activities through the Plateau Minerals Development Company (PMDC). PMDC is the investment arm of the Ministry and is being re-organized to embark on several mineral projects with the aim of opening them up to the investing public on establishment.

**KAOLIN:** Kaolin and allied products such as Hydrated Lime for Water treatment, School Chalk, Plaster of Paris (POP) factory, and Crystal Kaolin already exists in Were (Dorowa Babuje) which will be restructured, recapitalized and revamped to accommodate the allied products on the basis of feasibility studies.

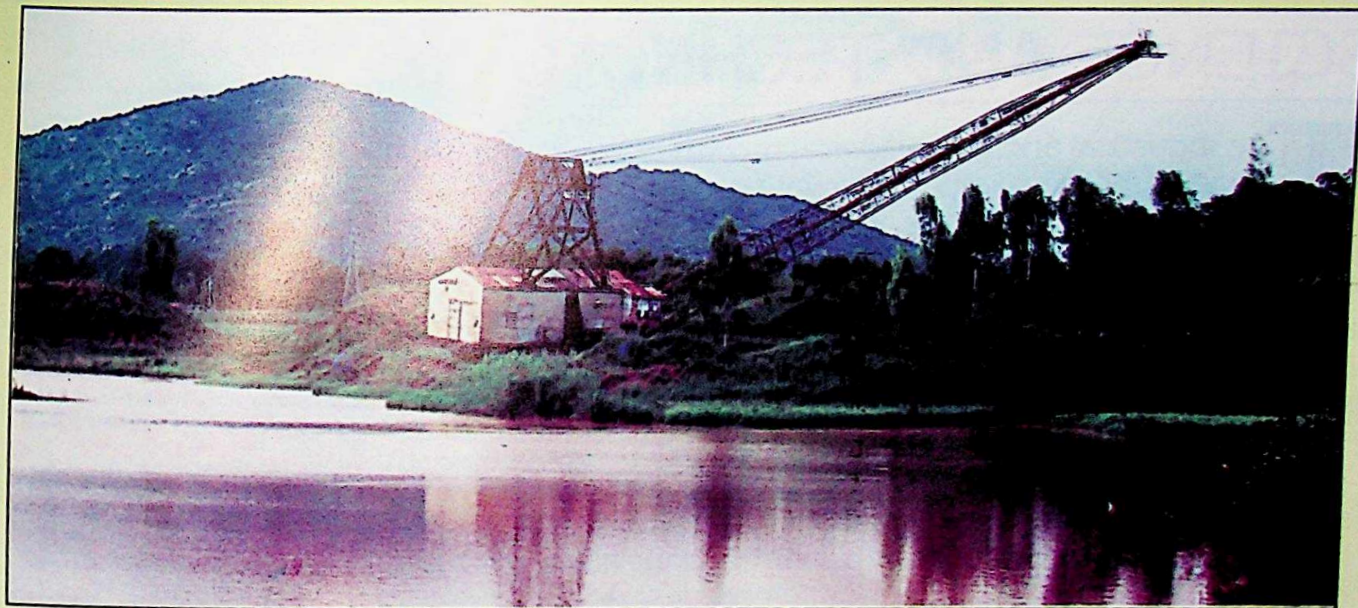
**MINERAL WATER:** Large volumes of spring water have been struck in Kuru Babba, Vwang district and would be tapped and packaged as a commercial venture. Discussion has already been held towards the realization of this project.

**MINERAL PROCESSING:** Tin, Columbite and other metallic minerals being Mined in the State will be custom-dressed, to add value, and traded in as a business venture. The currently much sought-after lead/Zinc falls within this category.

**LAPIDARY (Gemstone Cutting and Polishing).** Young Enterprising citizens of the State will be trained in this fine art and formed into co-operatives. This will give them a source of livelihood as well as prepare the state for the God-endowed position as the hub of gemstone trade in Nigeria.

A staff will be sent abroad to the prestigious Gemological Institute of America (GIA)

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**One of the mining rigs and ponds that dot Plateau State.**

on training. On his return, PMDC, then properly capitalised and running, will incorporate its Lapidary with all the ancillary laboratory equipment.

### **Promotion Of Projects**

Deliberate steps will be taken to publicize those projects with a view to attracting the private sector to take up shares in their establishment.

### **Achievements**

Within the past year, the Ministry has been able to achieve the following:

- i. Produce a blue print for mineral development in the State
- ii. Engage a Consultant, Da T. Pwajok and other sub-consultants to work on the mineral endowments of the State. These consultants have been commissioned to carry out feasibility studies of the various mineral projects
- iii. Participate in mineral-related -trade fairs and conferences
- iv. Survey of Minerals
- v. Procurement of Field vehicles and equipment
- vi. Survey of Mine Ponds.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The industrial and technological growth of any nation is the product of the scientific innovations and discoveries made by its scientists. It is in the desire to fashion a solid foundation for the growth of Plateau State to an industrially able polity that government established the Ministry of Science and Technology with its mandate and functions to include the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the state policy on science and technology.

The Ministry's mandate is also to promote and coordinate the scientific and technological research and development activities in basic science and in fields of industries, agriculture, electronic communication building, energy and medical science.



**Mrs. Rifkatu Durfa**  
*Comm. for Special Duties - Science & Tech.*

### Structure

The Ministry has parastatals, namely the Relevant Technology Board and a Science Equipment Production Centre which is under the Engineering Department all of which are located at Laranto, Jos.

### Relevant Technology Board

Established in 1974, the Board has six training centres located in Jos, Kwall (Bassa LGC), Ankshin, Wase, Langtang and Doemak in Qua'an Pan Local Government Area.

The Headquarters of the Board is located at Laranto Jos and is charged with the training of young school leavers to be self-reliant craftsmen and women.

### Government Science Equipment Centre Jos

As the name suggests, this Centre which was established in 1986 is charged with the responsibility of designing and manufacturing low cost science equipment using locally available raw materials.



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The centre has six units, viz: Wood Work, Metal Work, Electrical Section, Graphic Arts, Microscope Slide and Glass and Plastic Blowing.

### Achievements

Following the encouragement received from the Redemption Government of Governor Jonah David Jang, the Ministry participated in the National Science Technology Week last year in Abuja where a gold medal was won in the secondary schools category of the competition. Government released the sum of two million, six hundred thousand which facilitated preparations and participation in the event.

The present administration, true to the spirit of the Emergency declared on the education sector, has shown commitment towards revamping the Relevant Technology Board. This has been demonstrated through renovation, replacement and rehabilitation of obsolete equipment at the Board with new ones.

Also in September last year, the state emerged as one of the winners of the National Inventors and Innovator Summit which took place in Bauchi. This feat earned the Ministry a ticket where it participated and won a silver medal at the Fourth International Exhibition For Young Inventors (IEYI 2007) which took place from 25<sup>th</sup> November December 2007 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Government released the sum of two hundred and eighty thousand for the Bauchi summit, and three million, six hundred thousand (N3.6 million) for Indonesia respectively.

In February this year, the Government of David Jonah Jang sponsored five (5) delegates from the state to an international event which took place in Bangkok, Thailand. This team won a bronze medal during the event.

To further show its unwavering commitment to the development of science and technology, the state government approved two hundred and ninety thousand (N290,000.00) for the reproduction of the burnt policy document which was affected by a fire outbreak at the Ministry.

The Jang Administration also settled liabilities totaling nine million, two hundred thousand (N9.2M) naira incurred by the last administration, being cost of 40 laptop computers



## 2004: A Year of the REDEMPTION AGENDA

distributed to the Executive Council members and other top government functionaries in readiness for E-governance.

Presently, plans are on to purchase additional 64 laptop computers for members of the State Exco and Permanent Secretaries. There is also cheering news of the allocation of a centre in Plateau State by the National Board for Technology Incubation. Government in its unanimity has provided the former NALDA office in Bukuru for the take off of the programme. The building is currently being renovated. Government has released the sum of forty-eight million, five hundred thousand (N48.5m) for the purpose.

Also, as a show of commitment to ensure that the state website is updated, the government recently offset a liability of six hundred and ninety five thousand eight hundred (N695,800.00) naira for the update of the state website to the web designer who is based in the United States of America. Similarly, the sum of two million, two hundred thousand (N2.2m) naira was paid for the renewal of the Internet band width.

In an effort to update the knowledge of staff to meet contemporary needs, staff were sponsored to workshops and seminars both locally and internationally. Also, in an effort to project traditional medicine and develop it to acceptable standards, a sensitization workshop was facilitated by the government through an approval of six hundred and thirty five thousand Naira (N635,000.00).

### **Future Plans**

As a forward looking Ministry committed towards ensuring the success of government's policy objective, the Ministry plans to recruit professional staff in addition to practicalizing its operations through the servicing and installation of plastic molding machine at the Science Equipment Production Centre.

Similarly, work has reached an advanced stage towards providing an internet service and voice over internet protocol for rural telephony in the 17 local government areas of the state, while wireless network connectivity is being planned for all ministries, Government House, Boards and Parastatals, the State Library and the State House of Assembly.

## **TOURISM AND CULTURE**

Since the inception of the Jos Administration, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and its parastatal - the Tourism Corporation, Jos has witnessed tremendous achievements in their day-to-day activities. This is because of the importance accorded the tourism sector considering its potentials to the economic development of the state.

The Ministry which was created in August 1999 out of the former two Ministries of Information and Culture, and Commerce, Industries and Tourism has been charged with the responsibility of the identification, development, preservation, documentation and promotion of the State's tourism resources, arts and cultural heritage.

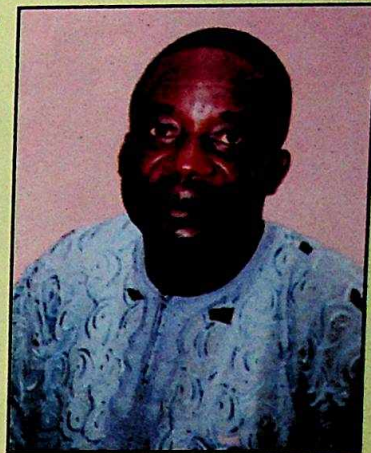
The Ministry took off with four main departments, headed by the Permanent Secretary. These are: Administration, Finance and Supplies, Tourism, Arts and Culture.

During the period under review, there was significant improvement in the revenue generation of the Ministry from the sources available to it. These are the Plateau Hotel, Cultural Troupe and Band, Solomon Lar Amusement Park, New Jos Hotel and Rayfield Resort from which a total revenue of N2,078,515.00 was realized.

The Ministry also got approvals and releases from the Office of the Accountant General totaling N26,797,750.00 which was used for various activities such as payment for Joseph Gomwalk sculpture, National Festival of Arts and Culture, World Tourism Day and Abuja Carnival, among others.

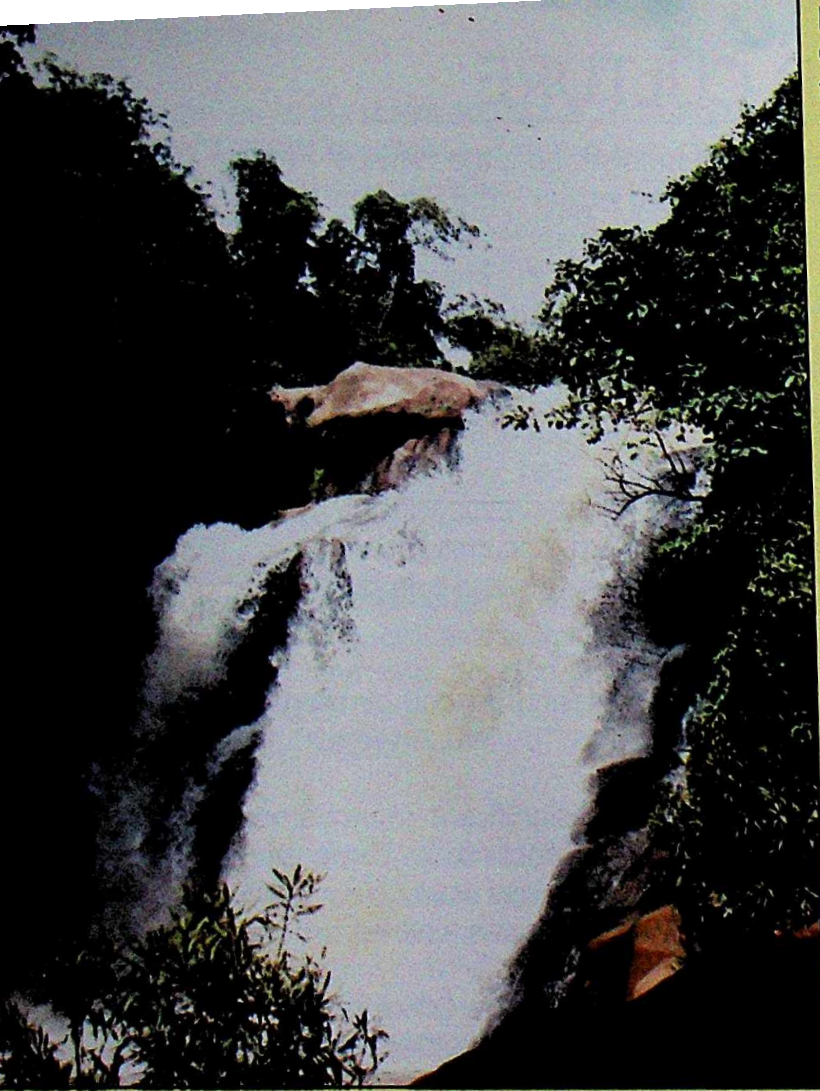
### **Tourism Department**

The department initiates the formulation of government policies and legislation matters as it affects tourism in Plateau State, co-ordinates the activities of government agencies and



**Izang Ajik Daniel**

*Comm. for Special Duties - Tourism & Culture*



**Shops Falls, one of nature's gifts to Plateau.**

to a mega tourism destination. The department hosted the 2007 National Celebration of World Tourism Day in the state; signed a memorandum of understanding with Arena Strategic Development Company Limited for the development of tourism in the State; and received briefs and memos on Plateau Film City as it affects tourism development in the

private sector establishment engaged in tourism activities in the State and ensures the proper maintenance and management of government Tourism parastatals.

### **Achievements**

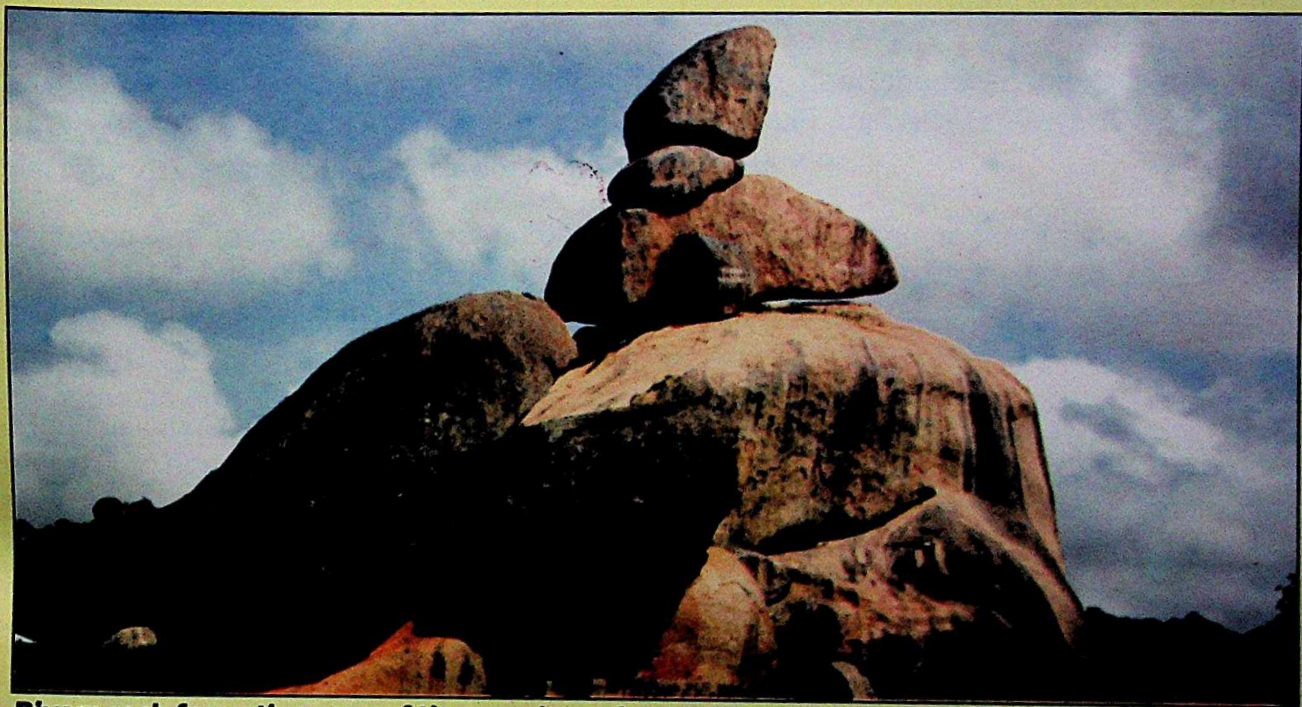
Government signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) for the development of a Plateau Industrial Park to be sited within the location of the Jos Airport and the Inland Container Port in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

Similarly, government signed a MOU with Nantha Leisures S.A for a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) contract in respect of Roc International Hotel, Pandam Tourist Village and Jos Wild life Park with a view to developing the state

State.

In demonstration of government's commitment to the Film City project, a stakeholders meeting on the Film City project is being planned in order to chart a way forward for the project which is capable of bringing foreign investment of over N100 billion to the state.

Government also inaugurated a Tourism Development Master Plan Steering Committee to implement the recommendations of the National Tourism Master Plan (TMP) as it affects Tourism Development in the state, and had extensive discussion with Dream Entertainment (Nig) Ltd, a company comprising of Israelis for a Build, Operate and Transfer arrangement of Roc International Hotel, Solomon Lar Amusement Park, Mado Tourist Village and Jos Wildlife Park. Final agreement is expected to be entered into when both parties reach concrete arrangements.



**Riyom rock formation, one of the wonders of nature on the Plateau.**

### **Department Of Arts And Culture**

The department is charged with the collection, documentation, preservation and presentation of the various cultural materials of the different cultures of the various ethnic groups of the State and the nation at large.

### **Achievements**

The department attended the Niger State Expo in August 2007, organized its Expo which the department participated fully in October 2007.

For the first time in the history of Plateau State, the department was adequately funded for participation in the annual National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST 2007) Makurdi. It also participated fully in the 2007 Abuja Carnival because of the adequate funding provided by the present Administration and the World Tourism celebration 2007 as well as Kaduna International Expo 2008.

Back home, the department participated at the following community festivals: Pus Kaat in Mangu, Bit Goemai in Shendam, Illum O'Taroh in Langtang North and Nzem Berom 2008 in Jos North.

Similarly, government recently released N1,000,000.00 for the provision of new costumes for Artistes of the state Cultural troupes and another N500,000.00 and N100,000.00 respectively for command performance and for research works on culture of the people of Plateau State.

Government also released funds for restoration of the statue of Late J. D. Gomwalk, to be mounted at a strategic location in the state, and made contacts for the creation of Arts and Crafts centres/shops in Kanke, Mangu and Jos North LGAs. Similarly, a proposal has been made for the establishment of a cultural village behind the West of Mines Magistrate Court which will include an open air theatre, restaurant, bar, galleries, etc.

### **Plateau State Tourism Corporation**

Within the period under review, the Corporation concentrated its activities on areas of its operation as provided in the Edict establishing the organization amongst which are:



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Encouraging the provision and improvement of tourist amenities; encouraging people living in and outside Nigeria to spend their holidays in the State; identification of major tourist sites; development of tourist attractions; promotion and marketing of these site; creation of tourism awareness to the general public and; provision of advisory and information services to potential investors.

The Corporation has the following departments: Wildlife; Marketing and Promotion; Administration and; Accounts.

### Achievements

The present administration has matched words with action with the prompt release of funds for the feeding and medication of animals at the Jos Wildlife Park thereby recording huge successes in the area of captive breeding, due to constant and improved feeding and medication.

In an effort to restock the Jos Wildlife Park, the Corporation procured the following animals: ten pairs of Wild Geese; a pair of camel; two females and one male of fronted Gazelle; a pair of topi; 20 water ducks; 1 black kite and 4 dwarf cattle.

In the area of marketing promotion, the Corporation attended Stakeholders Forum on Tourism, organized by NITHOTOUR in August, 2007 in Abuja; participated in the Niger State Domestic Trade Fair - **11th - 25th** August 2007 at Minna; hosted and conducted Guided Tour for students of Federal Polytechnic, Bida Niger State; hosted the Danish Youths on African Development in Africa on the 3rd August, 2007 at the Jos Wildlife Park; hosted and conducted Students from Lagos State Polytechnic on a tour of tourist sites, 16th -18th August 2007.

Others include hosting and conducting guided tour for students from the Catering and Hotel Management Department of the Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi 31st July, 2007 and; conducted Israeli investors to Wase Rock Game Reserve/Tourist Village among other numerous engagements.

Also within the same period, the Corporation generated revenue of N3,785,607.00, while the sum of N24 million was received for the feeding of animals and the sum of N3. Million as overhead costs.



## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

As the population of city dwellers grows in leaps and bounds at both the state capital and semi-urban settlements such as the Local Government Headquarters, various outstanding issues and problems continue to stare those saddled with the task of administration and governance in the face.

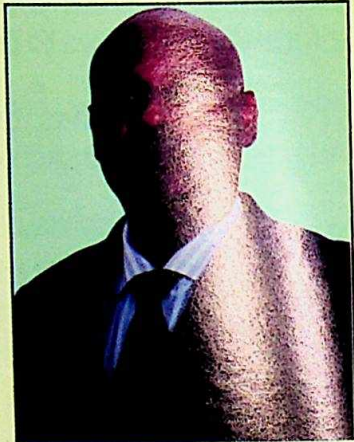
Amongst problems that continue to beg for urgent answers are the growth and development of slums and shanty settlements and illegal structures which result in congestion in both the city centres and the surrounding environment.

The establishment of the Ministry of Special Duties, Urban Development, was informed by the Jang Administration's drive and commitment towards ensuring that the lost glory, particularly of Jos, the State Capital, and other major towns and urban settlements, is restored.

Most importantly, the attention of the Government is targeted towards not only upgrading and updating the township and city centres but to also make for their proper management in line with norms and practices that exist in developed and civilized societies of the world.

More so, the Jang Administration inherited a state capital that was bedeviled by management and development control problems associated with the total neglect to adhere to the Jos Master Plan guidelines which resulted in the sprawling of physical structures without regard to planning and observance of building regulations.

As a result of such lapses, the Jos-Bukuru Master Plan mooted in 1974 by the late J. D. Umwark suffered complete distortion and was never implemented by successive governments. Besides, successive administrations had multiplicity of government agencies performing similar functions which led to conflicts akin to the confusion that bedeviled the building of the Tower of Babel.



**Alex Yola Kwapnoe**  
*Comm. For Special Duties - Urban Dev.*



## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

Such conflicts militated and mitigated the attainment of the desired goals of organized urban development initiatives, effective urban control as well as management control mechanisms.

The current initiative of the Jang Administration is, therefore, aimed at reordering, streamlining and refocusing of the ideals of building modern city centres that are not only well organized but structured to present modern facilities with provision for the regular management of the environment.

### **Structure**

The Ministry is structured in such a way as to ensure the attainment of objectives without any encumbrances. The departments are Administration and Finance, Urban Development, Town Planning, Engineering. It also has the following units, namely, Internal Audit, Information and Public Relations and signage and Advertising Agency.

### **Achievements**

Being focused, pragmatic and objective-driven, the Ministry has employed its holistic approach in the attainment of set goals of ensuring quality service delivery within the shortest possible time.

Within its short period of existence, the Ministry has initiated the formulation of a state urban development policy, consequent upon which government has constituted a high powered committee to formulate the draft legislation for the State Urban and Regional Planning Law for submission to the state Attorney General and the Plateau State House of Assembly.

It has also facilitated the award of a consultancy contract for a New Greater Jos Master Plan, covering an area of 1346.8 square kilometers. Under this aspect, Government early this month organized a sensitization workshop for stakeholders on the implementation of the Greater Jos Master Plan.

It is also in furtherance of this plan that the Ministry has been sponsoring the programme "Plateau: Green, Clean and Proud" which has become a popular feature on both the television and radio arms of the Plateau Radio Television Corporation.



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

In the same vein, contract for the acquisition of satellite images and baseline maps for 26 towns in Plateau State has been completed. This makes Plateau State the second in Nigeria after Abuja, the Federal Capital, to acquire such an information data base which simplifies planning and development projects.

The Ministry has also in its desire to improve on existing structures within Jos Township and environs re-designed and renovated 14 roundabouts in Jos and Bukuru Metropolis.

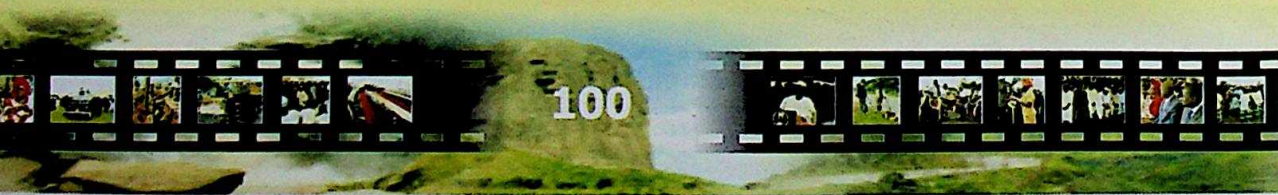
In line with the Redemption philosophy of the government and the Ten-Point Agenda and in the drive to beautify and decongest Jos, the state Capital, the Jang Administration is working towards providing a more central and befitting Motor Park for all intra-city transport services within Jos and Bukuru metropolis. The Central Motor Park would be located at the Jos Main Market.

Already, the fencing of the Central Motor Park site and the toilet facilities has been provided. Also, for the Farin-Gada Market, Bill of Engineering Measurements of Evaluation for internal road networks and compensation values have been assessed and forwarded to government for approval to ease decongestion along some township roads.

The decongestion exercise which has been scheduled for the first quarter of this year will be due to the withdrawal of stall traders and illegal structures that will move to the Rukuba Road Satellite Market and other markets, while transport services will be re-organised with the movement of the township transport service to the Jos Main Market Motor Park.

### **Plan Of Action:**

In its determined effort to strengthen the capacity of its urban centres to meet the economic, population and social development challenges and aspirations of the Jang Administration, the Ministry has presented memos on the need to open up new Bye Passes and Ring Roads to ease traffic and to decongest the Metropolis and City Centre. The proposals include the construction of a Northern Bye-Pass which includes Mista-Ali-Yelwa Village-Naraguta Village Bauchi Road. This Bye-Pass will route vehicles heading directly towards Bauchi from the Kaduna and Zaria Road axis, thereby reducing traffic congestion at Farin-Gada.



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The second Bye-Pass, christened Western Bye-Pass, will link Mista-Ali-Rukuba-Wildlife Park Roads, and will provide access for commuters plying Jos-South and beyond. The provision of this Bye-Pass will ease traffic congestion along Gada Biyu and Rukuba roads.

There is also the proposal for the opening of the South Eastern Bye-Pass to comprise of the Bisichi-Du-Kurang/Dilimi-Lamingo Golf Club Roads. If this is achieved, it would serve as an alternative road from Jos to Bauchi.

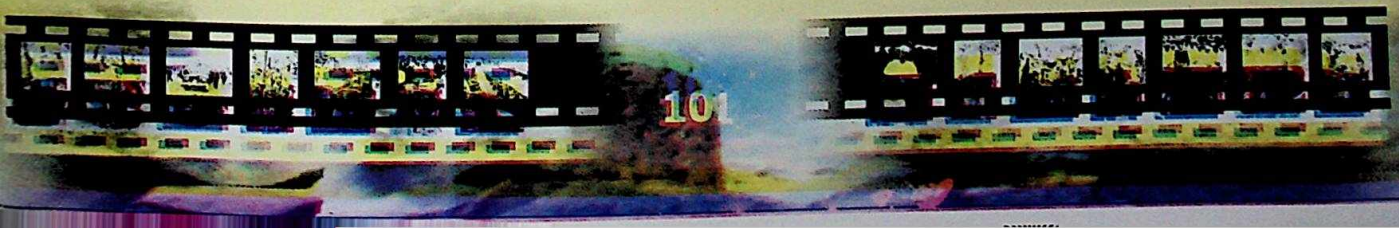
Kabong-Tudun-Wada Road is also part of the Plan of the present administration to completely decongest the Gada-Biyu road. The proposal for this new road is already awaiting Governor Jang's approval.

As part of the policy initiatives and pronouncements of the Administration, provision has been made in the first quarter of this year's Budget to develop 5 kilometers roads in six local government headquarters of the state, namely; Jos-South, Barkin Ladi, Mangu, Pankshin, Langtang North, and Shendam. The Second Phase would cover the remaining local government headquarters.

Other road projects to be undertaken by the Ministry through the Jos Metropolitan Development Board within the same official provision covering about 63 kilometers within Jos and Bukuru metropolis are roads that had not been attended to by past administrations.

Also, in an effort to stem the tide of incessant road accidents and traffic congestion, the Ministry intends to commence the installation of ultra modern traffic lights using both electricity and solar energy at strategic junctions in Anglo 'D', Bukuru, Miango Road and Old Airport junction, among others. This is in addition to the creation of traffic barriers at some strategic areas within the metropolis, increase in the capacity of some existing roads within the metropolis by widening them. These roads include Yakubu Gowon Way, Murtala Way, Rwang Pam Street, Miango Road (Miango Junction), Wildlife Park.

In order to open up vistas that would facilitate construction of more roads, Government intends to establish quarry and asphalt plants in the state. Consequently, the Ministry's team of engineers has completed feasibility studies on three possible sites at Laminga, Rukuba road and Kuru.

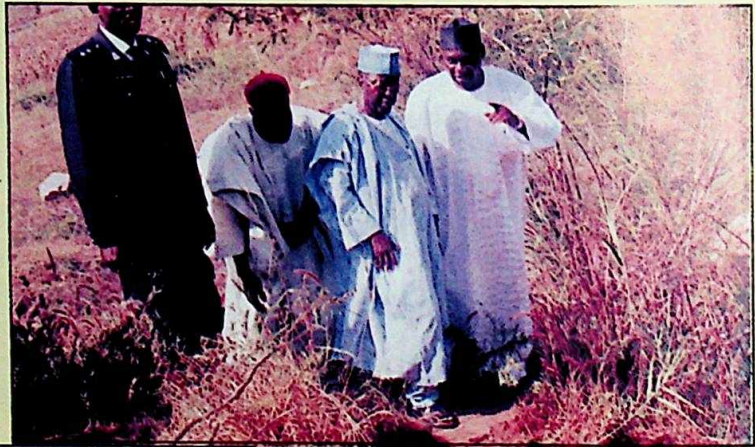


# A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



One of the rehabilitated roundabouts in Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

Governor Jang inspecting a project site in Mangu LGA, accompanied by aides.



Upgrading of roads is a cornerstone of the Jang administration's policy thrust.



## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

After careful assessment and comparative analysis, the Kuru site was found to be the most ideal considering the accessibility and availability of regular electricity supply in the area. As soon as this is achieved it will reduce the cost of road construction and would give government the needed leverage to construct more roads state wide.

Another new idea being mooted by the Ministry is the introduction of city cabs and metropolitan buses within Jos. The ministry has undertaken negotiation with some companies for the supply of about 200 vehicles towards this project.

It is the intention of the Ministry to flood the city of Jos and Bukuru with the special taxis as a means of sanitizing the transportation system which would in turn boost tourism development. There are also plans by the ministry to construct city gates at the entrances to the state capital as part of the initiative to beautify the state which would also add value to the state's tourism credentials.

Also, in an effort to uplift the status of the Central Business Area in Terminus, the area would be redeveloped into a monumental city square in addition to the erection of three sided rust proof alloy bus shelters numbering up to sixty in the first phase within Jos.

### **Jos Metropolitan Development Board**

This is one of the parastatals of the Ministry which was established in 1974. It has the following departments, Planning, Environmental Health, Estate and Building, Engineering, Administration and Finance.

The Board has recorded various achievements within the first year of the Jang Administration. These include routine Development Control and Plan-Processing, it undertook 28 demolitions of illegal structures, opened up 10 blocked accesses redesigned and renovated 14 roundabouts and demolished temporary structures in Parks and gardens.

From the foregoing enumerated achievements, it is clear that though new, the Ministry is well positioned and prepared to carry through the policy objectives of the Jang Administration of implementing laudable programmes that would meet the yearnings and aspirations of the electorate.

## **WATER RESOURCES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development has the major responsibility of promoting development and improvement of rural infrastructure for sustainable growth of the rural populace in the State.

This responsibility is carried out through increased public investment in rural infrastructure to bridge the development gap between urban and rural areas, and ensuring the provision of and maintenance of adequate infrastructural facilities and services in the rural and urban areas.

### **Water Supply**

In terms of water supply, the vision of the Ministry is to provide sustainable access to safe and sufficient water resources to meet the cultural, social and economic development needs of the people, for all uses in ways that contribute to enhancing public health, food security, eradicating poverty while maintaining the integrity of fresh water ecosystems in the State.

Consequently, in line with the mission of the present administration on rural development, the Ministry undertook the studies of Mangu Regional water supply project pipeline distribution network. It is also in the process of formulating and developing water supply and sanitation policy in collaboration with Water Aid Nigeria.

### **Urban Water Supply**

Under urban water supply, the Ministry in line with the Ten (10) Point Agenda of the administration, the Government had to inject had sum of fifty two million, three hundred and eighty thousand, two hundred and forty-four Naira thirty five kobo (N52,380,244.35) for the turn-around of the operations of the State Water Board. This it achieved through the rehabilitation of the Yakubu Gowon Dam water treatment plant equipment to improve



**Mallam Idi Ibrahim**  
*Comm. for Water Resources & Rural Dev.*



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water supply to Jos/Bukuru metropolis. It also undertook the interconnection of water supply to Zawan/Du, water supply extension to behind ECWA Seminary, Jos (JETS), relocation of about 1km of 100mm pipeline along Tunkus-Shendam road, as well as maintenance of facilities and equipment at Laminga, Yelwa Bukuru, Pankshin, Langtang and Shendam Water treatment Plants.

### **Rural Water Supply And Sanitation Agency (PRUWASSA)**

This parastatal which is responsible for providing safe drinking water, improved sanitation and good hygiene education practice was able to carry out drilling of boreholes at Qua'an-Pan (38), Pankshin (11), Kanam (1) Shendam (1) and at Shendam Barracks (5), Langtang North (5) in collaboration with the community and the Japanese Embassy.



**Water is life.**

der sanitation, the department embarked on construction of "VIP" latrines at Jos South, endam, Kanam, Barkin Ladi, Pilgani and Lyangjit in collaboration with the community and UNICEF.

### **Rural Electrification**

o, in line with the administration's agenda on rural electrification, the Ministry embarked on the electrification of Foron Junction including the construction and erection of 200KVA 10.415KV substation at the cost of N10,265,296.70k, and electrification of Government College, Bokkos and the construction and erection of a 200KVA 330/415KVA substation at the cost of N5,252,253.00.

also upgraded Rabin-Du substation from 100KVA to 500 KVA at the cost of N1,387,370.00. Similarly, the Ministry upgraded Du/Zawan Primary substation from 1MVA to 2.5MVA at the cost of N14 million, and improvement of electrification system facilities at Bai Adiko village, Rayfield at the cost of N1, 631,800.00.

Furthermore, contract for the construction of 33KV lines from Langtang to Wase and rehabilitation of Wase Township distribution network was awarded at the cost of over N50 million. Also, the Ministry is working with NESCO to install 2KVA distribution transformers donated by a Federal Legislator to two communities - Kuba and Maikatako/Fofai in Bokkos Local Government Area.

### **Challenges**

order to position the Ministry for more effective service delivery to the rural areas of the state in the future, the Ministry intends to achieve optimum utilization of all existing dams and to construct new small and medium dams in partnership with the Local Governments and the private sector. Also, it will commence implementing the standard Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Water Investment Mobilisation and Application Guideline (WIMAG).



## **WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**T**he Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development came into being in 1997 as a result of the merger of the then Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sports and Women Commission.

This development reaffirms government's earlier decision in defining clearly the distinctive business of the social development sector as well as the sector's role in the scheme of national economic, social and human development. It therefore accorded the Ministry the following mandate:-

- (i) Improving the quality of life of the people of the state as groups and individuals
- (ii) Promoting and encouraging the growth of initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of the society and disadvantaged groups notably the handicapped, children, the elderly, women, the vulnerable groups and the rural populace.
- (iii) Developing and mobilizing human and material resources as well as strengthening the capacity of the challenges of change.
- (iv) Controlling and minimizing of social ills such as juvenile delinquency, child abandonment, child abuse and women battery, etc,
- (v) Promoting the social and economic well being of members of the society as well as programmes which are likely to project human rights, advance social justice and human dignity, and to enhance the status of people in the affairs of the State.



**Mrs. Sarah S. Yusuf**  
*Comm. for Women Affairs & Social Dev.*

### **The Organizational Structure**

The Ministry presently has five (5) departments with Administrative Department headed by a Secretary. The Women Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department, Community Development Department and Child Welfare Department are all headed by Directors.

## Community Development Department

Community Development activities had been dormant in the State since 1999 to May 2007, but with the advent of the present administration, Government graciously purchased a Hillux Bus, a Peugeot 505 station wagon and seventeen (17) motor-cycles to mobilize rural communities in the State to embark on self-help projects. These machines will soon be distributed to all the 17 Local Government Area Offices of the State.

In addition, the Ministry organized a capacity building workshop for Community Development staff on the implementation of the Fadama Project Programme in the State

In order to boost community development activities in the State, the Ministry recently inaugurated for the first time in the State, a committee on Community Development Council. The committee advises both Government and various communities and community Development Associations involved in Community Development Programmes/Projects in the State.

The Ministry in June this year will be hosting all Directors of Community Development of the thirty six (36) States of the Federation and FCT. The sum of N4,835,000:00 has been released for this purpose.

The Ministry in partnership with the World Bank has concluded arrangements to establish the Plateau State Community and Social Development Agency. The main function of the Agency is to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population at the grassroot level by promoting prompt delivery of services geared towards poverty reduction in the State. Government has secured office accommodation for the agency at Rayfield at the cost of N2.4m. The sum of N100m counterpart funding has also been released to the World Bank by the Government.

## Social Welfare Department

When the present administration came to power in May last year, it discovered that orphan homes (Children Home, Rehabilitation Centre, Young People's Home, Zawan School for the Blind)-lacked necessary supporting staff. Consequently, the Ministry during the period under review recruited seventeen (17) junior staff for these institutions in order to ensure effective service delivery.

You may recall that the Good Samaritan Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre was founded by one Rev. Sogunru (now deceased) for the treatment of mentally ill persons.

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

Because of what happened there, Government took over the running of the centre from Ifeanyi while the inmates were taken to Vom Christian Hospital for treatment at a cost of over three million Naira. The sum of N1,837,000.00 has been approved for the repatriation of these inmates to their respective states of origin to be re-united with their families.

- c) You may also recall that the Armed Forces Remembrance Week and Emblem Appeal Fund was launched by the Governor in January, 2008. In the past, pledges made to legionnaires were never redeemed. As a departure from the past, the sum of Two Million Naira (N2,000,000.00) pledged to Nigeria Legion in the State has been redeemed by the Jang Administration.
- d) The Redemption Agenda of this Administration is principally to cater for the welfare of its citizens. It is in realization of this that the Ministry posted a staff to Plateau State Specialist Hospital to take care of distressed patients who cannot afford to pay their hospital bills or be re-united to families after they are discharged.



**Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Sarah Yusuf presenting certificate to a graduand of the Widewood Vocational Centre, Mangu.**



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

### iii Child Welfare Department

- a) Care of the children in the State is one of the cardinal functions of this Ministry. The Ministry in collaboration with the First Lady of the State, Ngo Talatu Jang hosted over 750 orphans and vulnerable children to a New Year Party. The essence of this was to show Government's concern and care for them.
- b) Recently, the Ministry in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Abuja under took a National Situation Assessment and Analysis on Orphans and Vulnerable Children in all the local government areas of the State. The exercise has been conducted successfully and Government will assist these less privileged children through scholarship awards up to secondary school level when the report is finally submitted to the Ministry.
- c) As part of the Redemption Agenda of the administration, the Ministry successfully facilitated the second sitting of the Children's Parliament in the State. Children from all the 17 Local Government Areas of the State were given the opportunity to deliberate and discuss on problems affecting their welfare.
- d) The main problem of the Ministry on assumption of office was the feeding/maintenance of some institutions in the State. However, this administration since inception has released the sum of N2,931,190.00 for feeding and N1,125,000.00 for purchase of training materials for these institutions viz; Zawan School for the Blind, Children's Home, Rehabilitation School Zaria Road, Jos and the Young People's Home Laranto Jos.

### iv Women Affairs Department

- a) During the period under review, twenty eight (28) students of the Widowhood Vocational Centre in Mangu graduated and were empowered with working equipment/materials by the State Government to start their own businesses.
- b) As part of activities marking the 2008 New Year, the Ministry organized a visit in collaboration with the Office of the Wife of The Governo, and presented gift items to new born babies at:-
  - i. Vom Christian Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre,
  - ii. VVF ward of ECWA Evangel Hospital Jos and
  - iii. Messiah Foundation, Tudun Wada, Jos
- c) To promote the admiration of traditional and artistical activities of the womenfolk in

## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

the State, the Ministry participated in tradition fairs organized in Kaduna, Minna, Lagos and that of the State.

d) The crises that engulfed the State in the recent past made it difficult for national programmes to be hosted by the State. With return of peace, the Ministry has been given the hosting right of the 11<sup>th</sup> Regular National Council meeting on Women Affairs and Social Development Abuja this November.

### **v Administration Department**

In her efforts to update staff knowledge and skills, the Ministry through the gracious approvals by the Governor, was able to send her staff to attend both national and international conferences within the period under review.

### **Capital Projects**

Although this is yet to be implemented we are very optimistic about the commencement of capital projects at the disposal of the Ministry as reflected in this year's Budget. In this regard, the sum of N87,640,000.00 has been approved in this year's budget for the Ministry to embark on the following projects:

- i) Renovation, fencing, completion of Young Peoples Home, Laranto, Jos; School for the Blind Zawan; Children's Home and Rehabilitation Centre Zaria Road, Jos (N55,540,423.00).
- ii) Grant-in-Aid to community development associations in the State and furnishing of offices (12,000,000.00).
- iii) Purchase of vehicles and additional motor cycles for mobilization of community development associations that embark on self-help projects (N16,099,577.00).
- iv) Provision of community development offices in Angware, Mikang, Riyom, Langtang South, Kanke and Jos South Local Government Areas (4,000,000.00).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that this Ministry provides social services to the people of Plateau State and as such, its activities cannot be quantified in monetary terms. In a society where revenue generation is given more prominence, especially in resource allocation, the social development sector is bound to suffer. However, this Ministry must be grateful to the present administration in the state for the giant strides it has taken in the allocation of resources to the Ministry since inception.

## **WORKS AND TRANSPORT**

**A**s the name suggests, the Ministry of Works and Transport is the rubicon upon which the physical development aspirations of the state hinge.

In its desire to improve the infrastructural standards of the state in order to help boost economic activities, and in order to consolidate on the gains and dividends of democracy already achieved by the present administration, the Ministry has in furtherance of its statutory obligations pursued the design of buildings and the evaluation of building projects in addition to the erection of buildings and the supervision of construction and design works of highways.



**Solomon Zang**  
*Commissioner of Works & Transport*

It is also involved in the construction of state roads, bridges and the maintenance of construction plans, generators and vehicles. Other responsibilities of the Ministry include the maintenance of electrical installations, equipment and appliances in government buildings. Apart from all these, the Ministry also serves as the technical adviser and supervisor of other ministries, government agencies and parastatals.

### **Administration**

In order to facilitate the realisation of its administrative obligations, the Ministry has been divided into seven departments, viz;-

- (i) Administration (ii) Building (iii) Civil Engineering
- (iv) Electrical Engineering (v) Mechanical Engineering
- (vi) Finance and Supplies (vii) Planning, Research and Statistics.

Despite the fact that each department has been assigned specific responsibilities and functions, all the component units continue to enjoy the co-operation of each other in ensuring the effective utilization of available manpower for the unhindered implementation of government programmes.

### **Civil Engineering Department**



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

On assumption of office, the Jang Administration felt the need to arrest and remedy the deteriorating conditions of roads within Jos and Bukuru metropolis. To achieve this, repair of broken down plants and machinery had to be undertaken as a major step towards realizing the laid down objective.

Consequently, the following roads-repairs have been undertaken:

1. Secretariat Junction-Federal Secretariat Road, measuring 1.0km at N6,435,170,967.00 .
2. Apollo Crescent Road Network, Ibrahim Taiwo-Hill Station Junction-Polo Roundabout, 7.0km at N7,169,136.98
3. Old Airport Junction-Rayfield-Abattoir-Dogon Karfe Road, 8.50km at N6,147,010.48.
4. Murtala Mohammed Way, Dual Carriage Way, 2.10km at the cost of N4,856,297.99.
5. Market Link, Ahmadu Bello Way, Ibrahim Dasuki, Stadium Road Network, 2.50km at N4,856,297.99 .
6. Miango Road-Wildlife Park, 5.00km at N8,070,020.00 .
7. Zaria Road-Laranto-Bussa Buji Road, 2.50km at N11,297,74.65.
8. Chorbe-Katakoi-Katako-junction, Farin Gada Road, 2.40km at N8,966,427.08.



**Newly constructed Shen road.**



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

9. Rantya Lowcost Road Networks, 2.00km, at N7,573,492.08
10. Bukuru Township Road-Yelwa Club Junction, 3.5km at N9,098,484.02
11. Diye, Behind Youth Centre (Old Bukuru Road), 1.6km at N3,616,053.21.
12. Hwolshe-Jeka Kadima Road Network, 3.0km at the cost of N3,827,820.16.

**TOTAL = 41.10km**

**TOTAL COST = N91,911,947.62**

So far, the sum of N146,669,883.53 has been expended on Phase I renovation works on roads within Jos and Bukuru metropolis, Mararaba Jama'a-Jos-Bauchi Ring Roads and the repairs of existing of plants in JMDB, Ministry of Works and the Plateau State Direct Labour Agency. In like manner, there has also been intervention and patching of roads within Jos and Bukuru Metropolis including repairs of some broken down plants under Phase II covering these areas:

1. Enugu Street, Old Bukuru Park, Masalachi Juma'a-Kwararafa Abdul Salami-Jenta Apata Roads, 5.0km long at N4,441,622.38.
2. Gbandang Road Bukuru and adjoining streets, 05.0km at N9,120,812.08.
3. Gero Road, Sarki Waram Street, Masallaci Street, Bukuru, 2.40km at the cost of N7,112,030.31.
4. Rwang Pam Street-Langtang Street, Shendam Street, Kasim Ibrahim Street, Tafawa Balewa and Hausa Road Network, 6.00km at N12,897,131.
5. ATMN road-Oyemadu Street, Bukuru Bye-Pass, 2.0km at the cost of N7,338,338.13.
6. New Market Street, Kwararafa-Bauchi Road, 1.50km at N4,016,695.43
7. Ndu Street-Dilimi-Gangare, Murtala Way road Network, 3.50km at N4,533,753.27.
8. Dadin Kowa-Low Cost Road, 1.80km at N4,198,742.21
9. Domkat Bali-Tudun Wada Ring Road, Hill Station, Plateau Hotel road Network, measuring 8.40km at N4,460,988.27
10. Club road-Lands & Survey, Constitution Hill road Network, 2.0km at N2,815,404.32.
11. Bauchi Road-Dogon Dutse, Ring Road, Dutse Uku, Nassarawa Road Network, 3.11km long at N5,854,536.31.
12. Fatima Church Road-Kasuwan Kaji Road Network, 2.60km at N6,034,048.27.
13. Angwan Rogo, Angwan Rimi-Farin Gada Road, measuring 2.40km at N3,983,082.99.

**TOTAL = 42.31km**

**TOTAL COST = N77,812,125.97.**

Similarly, the Gada Biyu-Foron Road is almost completed at the contract sum of N315,000,000. As a demonstration of the state Government's resolve to open up more





## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



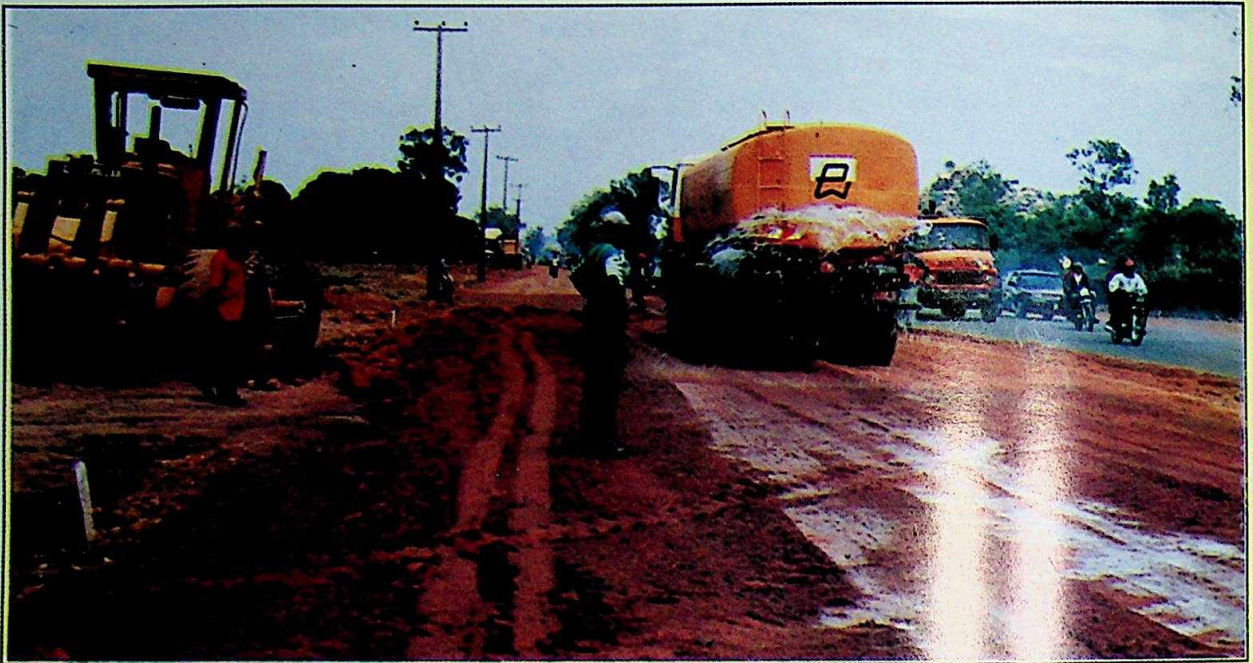
### **Work on the upgrading of roads in Jos.**

roads so as to boost economic activities, work is currently on going on the Fobur-Federe-Angware Road valued at N1,503,875,942.27, the Bukuru-Shen-Zawan-Du Road at N831,086,942.49, and the dualization of Polo Roundabout-Farin-Gada-Terminus-Bauchi Road-Algadama and Alheri Road Networks, which total cost is N1,426,352,594.63.

In the same vein, tender for the design and construction of the following roads opened on Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

- (a) The Design and Dualization of Mararaba Jama'a-Airport Phase I, which is a 12km road project.
- (b) The Design and Dualization of the 7km Bauchi Ring Road-Liberty Dam-Lamingo (JUTH) Permanent Site Road.
- (c) The Design and construction of the 32km Dengi-Wase Road
- (d) The Rehabilitation, Design and Construction of the 6.11km Bukuru Low-Cost, Nyango-Gyel Road Network.
- (e) The Rehabilitation, Design and Construction of 5km Barkin Ladi Local Government Headquarters Road Network.
- (f) The Rehabilitation, Design and Construction of 5km Mangu Local Government Headquarters Road Network.

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



**Work on the dualisation of Polo roundabout-Zaria road in progress.**

- (g) The Rehabilitation, Design and construction of the 5km Shendam Local Government Headquarters Road Network.

### **Building Department**

Achievements have also been recorded in the Building Department of the Ministry, thus laying credence to the commitment of the Jang administration to the Ten-Point Agenda and the redemption philosophy of making life more meaningful for the people.

In this regard, the following projects have been undertaken in various locations as follows:-

1. Renovation of the School of Nursing, Vom at the contract sum of N34,000,000.00
2. Renovation of Deputy Governor's Office and Residence at Tudun Wada Government Lodge, Jos at N88,000,000.00
4. Renovation of Governor's Office Rayfield, Jos, where the sum of N28,000,000.00 has been expended.



**Plateau Liaison Office, Abuja**

Other renovation works include the Plateau State House of Assembly Complex and furnishing of offices which gulped the sum of N156,949,790.00; Renovation and furnishing of No 5 St. Piran's Avenue which is now the official residence of the Honourable Speaker which attracted the sum of N40,613,336.00.

Another capital project that is of tremendous value to the State Government is the Plateau State Liaison Office located at the Central Business District of Abuja for which N1,200,000,000.00 has been appropriated and is one of the projects that would be completed in the administration's one year in office. Similarly, renovation work on 4 Unit Guest Houses in Rayfield was undertaken at the cost of N82,878,000.00.

### **Electrical Engineering Department**

As part of the commitment of the administration towards improving the standard of electrical installations, the Electrical Engineering Department undertook the following projects/renovations:

1. Purchase and installation of 500KVA Transformer for Kazong Community at N2,800,000.00.
2. Purchase and installation of 500KVA Transformer for Rabin Community at N4,400,000.00.
3. Undertook electrical renovation work and installation of CCTV at No 5 St. Piran's Avenue Jos.
4. Undertook electrical renovation work at the Plateau State House of Assembly



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

Complex Jos where the sum of N8,000,000.00 was spent.

5. Similarly, external and internal electrification works and installation of 500KVA Transformer was undertaken at the INEC office Jos for which N13,366,485.00 was spent, while electrical distribution network for the School for the Deaf, Rukubu Road, attracted the sum of N5,739,000.00.

Government also purchased and installed an 80KVA Generator for Yakubu Gowon Airport, Heipang-Jos, at N3,880,000.00 and also purchased and installed a 500KVA Transformer for Ji-yep Community, Jos. The Riyom community and the School of Nursing Vom also enjoyed similar gestures, with the Riyom community enjoying the installation of a 200KVA Transformer while the School of Nursing Vom had its electrical works renovated.

### **Mechanical Engineering Department**

Also, in the commitment to ensure that mechanical works are undertaken with ease and successfully, plants and machinery requiring renovation and reactivation were taken care of, especially to facilitate the unhindered services of the Task Force on Township/Roads Rehabilitation. Under this intervention, the following were done:-

- The reactivation of a Ford Tar Boiler
- The reactivation of a Road Roller, and
- the reactivation of a Low loader, one champion motor grader, a Duitz Roller were undertaken at various sums.

Other activities undertaken in the period under review include; repair and restoration of water supply to hostels at Government Science School, Kuru, water piping works at No. 5 St. Piran's Avenue (the residence of the Honourable Speaker of the State House of Assembly), and the reactivation of water supply at Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye Lodge, Rayfield. Also, in a bid to ensure that work at the Joseph Dechi Gomwalk Secretariat is not hindered due to the epileptic supply of electricity from the national grid, the sum of N3,000,000.00 has been appropriated for use on a continuous basis for the servicing, maintenance and operation of a 500 KVA standby Generator at this centre of public service.

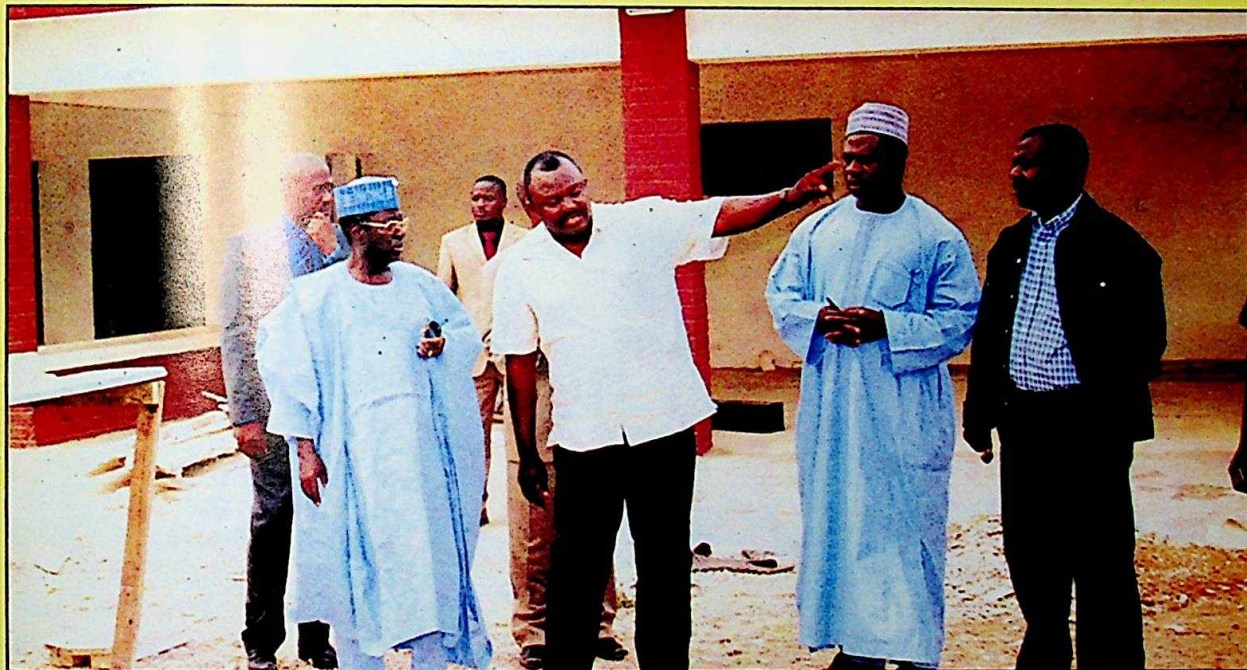
In line with the state government's determination to ensure safety on roads and to safeguard the lives of citizens, the Vehicle Inspection Unit has intensified checks and inspection of vehicles towards ensuring highway safety. This exercise is on a continuous basis. The same Unit has equally intensified its operations to estimate unworthy vehicles on

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

the highways in addition to ensuring that vehicle licences and particulars are renewed. This is one way of boosting the internal revenue of the state.

Equally important is the regular involvement of the Department in road safety lectures, workshops and campaign activities.

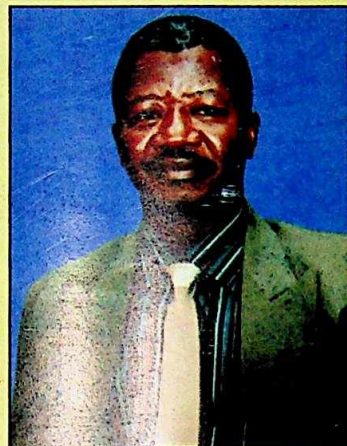
From the foregoing, there is every indication that the Ministry of Works is committed towards contributing its quota to the realisation of the Redemption philosophy of the Jang administration which is epitomised by the Ten-Point Agenda.



**Plateau State Works Commissioner, Solomon Zang, explaining something of interest to Governor Jang at a project site, while others listen with keen interest.**

# YOUTH AND SPORTS

**Y**outh development is one of the major areas of concern to government and is captured in the 10-Point Agenda of the administration. As part of the vision for the future of the state, Governor Jang plans to increase the capacity of youth for productivity and leadership through formal and non-formal education, skills acquisition and increase of economic base through youth empowerment programmes. Consequently, the Ministry is engaged in youth development to stimulate and enhance youth participation in the socio-economic and cultural development of the state through activities that will prepare them to take up challenges as they grow into maturity to become self-reliant. Steps at achieving this objective include the successful celebration of the 2007 International Youth Week. Also, the youth attended an unemployment workshop on processing and management of farm produce in Ogun State last year as well as participated in the National Youth Unemployment Summit held in Makurdi last year.



**Barr. Joel M. Gwatau**  
*Commissioner of Youth & Sports*

In terms of provision of infrastructure for the youth to attain their potentials, the Jang administration shall renovate and equip the existing dilapidated youth centers in the state. This is to enable them acquire skills, receive educational and leadership training as well as guidance and counseling so as to reduce and prevent vices and emotional disorders associated with the youth.

Since assumption of office one year ago, the Jang administration has shown concern on the decline in standards of sports in the state as well as the dilapidated buildings and obsolete equipment that cannot stand the test of time. Consequently, the government has committed itself to restoring the lost glory of sports and is determined to provide infrastructure through renovation and updating facilities at Rwang Pam Stadium. It also intends to renovate and provide facilities at Langtang and Mangu mini-stadia, and will renovate the Plateau United Permanent Club House, and rehabilitate West of Mines Sports Houses to serve as Sports Council Secretariat.

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

Another area that would receive government's attention is grassroots sports development. In order to encourage mass participation of youth to discover hidden talents, the Jang administration plans to provide adequate facilities and resources for sports in schools and local government areas, and will upgrade sports facilities in the 3 senatorial zones in addition to reviving the state sports festival to fish out talents for national and international competitions.

Through the support and commitment of the administration to restore the past glory of the state in sports, the ministry sponsored its officials to the 2007 All African Games, tagged **Algiers 2007** and won 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. In addition to these the state's athletes participated in various championship competitions and won 37 gold medals, 18 silver medals and 36 bronze. Government also released N47 million to Plateau United Football Club for the 2007/2008 season so as to regain its past glory.



From a champion to a champion.

## **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

The Civil Service is the fulcrum upon which policy pronouncements made by government are executed by the respective ministries, parastatals and other organs of government.

However, in order to ensure effective service delivery by its employees, the Civil Service Commission was created as a control, reward and sanction-giving organisation which ensures that the code and ethics of Public Service are followed to the last letter.

Since the coming into office of the Jang Administration, the following have been achieved:

**New Appointments:** The Commission normalized the appointment of Sixty Five (65) people into various Ministries whose services were needed as approved by the Governor.

**Promotion/Advancement:** From May 2007 to date, the Commission approved the promotion/advancement of 567 Senior Officers into various grade levels from different ministries.

**Confirmation of Appointments:** During the year under review, the Commission confirmed the appointments of 53 staff including those forwarded by various Ministries.

**Inter-Service Transfer:** About Forty-Four (44) Officers from various ministries/Departments had their Transfers approved.

**Secondment:** A total of Twenty (20) Officers were seconded to various ministries/Departments in the state.

**Conversion:** Sixty-four (64) Officers were converted from various Cadres after obtaining additional qualifications.

**Retirement/Withdrawals:** From May 2007 to date, the Commission processed and approved the retirement and withdrawal of service of 247 officers from the service.





## LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF PENSION BOARD

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Since the democratically elected Government of Da Jonah Jang was inaugurated on 29th May, 2007, Plateau State has been witnessing radical and positive changes in its political and socio-economic life. Given what it found on ground, the dynamic administration had to take measures to remedy the situation. For instance, committees were put in place to screen and ascertain the strength of the Plateau State Government work force and salary/wage bills. This is with a view to eradicating the ghost-worker syndrome and establishing the correct number of workers and their wage bill. Although reports of these committees are yet to be made public, the objective of the screening exercise was realized since Government has been able to save millions of naira from the exercise.

Shortly after this, the visionary, purposeful and focused administration of Da Jonah Jang came out with a 10-Point Agenda. It is in pursuance of this Agenda that Governor Jang placed high premium on settlement of Pension and Gratuity arrears to cushion the effect of the hardship experienced by our teeming retirees. Life was not only becoming unbearable but almost impossible for the retirees as their family members could hardly afford three square meals. Their children were thrown out of school while some of them hardly survive even minor illnesses due to the non-payment of pension and gratuity.

Consequently, the Governor adopted a radical approach to the settlement of pension and gratuity arrears which had defied solutions over the years.

Again, concerted effort was made by the Governor in the settlement of monthly Pension as at when due. So far, the sum of Two Hundred and Fourteen Million, Five Hundred and Five thousand, Two Hundred and sixty-Eight Naira, Eleven Kobo (N 214,505,268.11) has been expended as monthly pension, while One Hundred and forty-Six Million, One Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-Two Naira Eleven Kobo was spent on pension and gratuity arrears (N146,142,522.11) by the Administration.

Hence a total sum of Three Hundred and Sixty million, six Hundred and Forty-seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Naira, twenty-two Kobo (N360,647,790s.22) was expended on the retirees to ameliorate their hardship.



## TEACHERS SERVICE COMMISSION

As the saying goes, no nation rises above the quality of its education. In the same vein, a teacher is said to affect eternity and he can never tell where his influence stops. The Teachers Service Commission is a statutory body established by Plateau State Law No. 3 of 1980. The law which came into effect 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980 empowers the Commission to recruit and appoint teachers into Government and Voluntary Agency (VA) schools in the state, promote deserving ones, and discipline those found wanting in the discharge of their duties on recommendation from the Ministry of Education or Office of the Head of Service for those on Managerial cadre.

The Commission could also be said to be the quality control organ on whose shoulders the task of ensuring standards and professional practice lies.

Since the advent of the Jang Administration in May 2007, approval was granted for the recruitment of Five Hundred and Ninety-Five University graduates in Mathematics and English Language to teach in Government Senior Secondary Schools in the state. For now only 165 qualified candidates have been recruited because applicants in these disciplines are not easy to come by. The exercise is still on to meet the required number.

Similarly, the Commission has replaced 118 teachers who either resigned or withdrew their services to ensure continuity of teaching and learning in public schools in the state.

In a bid to reward and stimulate desire amongst teachers to obtain additional qualifications, 8 teachers with additional qualifications have been promoted and reconverted to boost their morale. The Commission also approved the retirements of fifty-three (53) teachers, thirteen (13) withdrawals, seventeen inter-service transfers and de-seconded one person.

On the whole, the determination of the Jang administration in further revitalizing the sector is what informed the State of Emergency Declaration in the sector. From what has been seen so far, the falling standards which has characterized the education sector in the recent past would be a thing of the past when the fruits of the well trained teachers begin to blossom.



## OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

**T**oday, all over the world, attention and focus is being directed at women empowerment and youth development. The simple reason is that when these groups are taken care of, the foundational problems of national development would have been addressed.

Here in Plateau State, we have had years of misplaced priorities as little attention had been given to these target and vulnerable groups. This is no doubt as a result of our wrong perception or attitude where all look to government as the major employer, and sole provider of white collar jobs, ignoring our other vast potentials for gainful employment, especially in agriculture. The First Lady of Plateau State, Ngo Talatu Jang, is however set to reverse the trend through her pet project, Women in Agriculture and Youth Empowerment (WAYEF).



**Ngo Talatu Jang,  
Plateau State First Lady**

Although women shoulder a larger burden of domestic and family chores, Mrs. Talatu Jang believes that investing and engaging women in agriculture would significantly reduce the excruciating poverty burden faced by them. Similarly, empowering the youth will reduce their restiveness, thus, discouraging them from criminal and other negative vices which have today assumed alarming proportions.

Mrs. Talatu Jang who says she came face to face with the plight of women in rural areas during her husband's electioneering campaign, told the wife of the President, Mrs. Turai Yar'adua, that her pet project, WAYEF, would be her own modest contribution towards bringing relief to the Nigerian women, women on the Plateau and our youth generation.

Ngo Talatu's project seeks to impart entrepreneurial skills, harness the gifts, talents of targeted groups (women and youth) to make them useful to themselves and the society. In furtherance of these objectives, Mrs. Jang has held interactive sessions with various stakeholders, women associations, women professional groups, wives of top government

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



Plateau First Lady, Ngo Talatu Jang, accompanied by aides, inspecting her set project.



Nigeria's First Lady, Hajiya Turai Yar'adua (2nd left), wife of the V-P, Mrs. Goodluck Jonathan with Plateau Deputy Governor, Mrs. Tallen (1st left) and Ngo Talatu Jang at a public function.

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



**The Governor's wife flagging off the National Immunization Plus campaign.**

functionaries including those of permanent secretaries, members of the House of Assembly, Advisory Committee Members and some donor agencies to map out effective implementation strategies. Also, in continuation of her efforts to bring succour to the less privileged, Ngo Talatu has also undertaken familiarization visits of Rehabilitation Centers, Orphanages, Young People's Homes, offering relief.

At the Widowhood Center, Mangu, she presented tailoring and knitting machines as well as other items to ensure that trainees start doing something for a living, as women are the very soul of every home. The woman, she notes, is the mother and manager of the home, and in some cases breadwinner of the house, thus constituting both tangible and intangible asset of the house.

As Ngo Talatu Jang's pet project unfolds and progresses, both women and youths are being called upon to take full advantage of this rare opportunity to unleash their potentials, contributing their quota to the overall development of Plateau State by fully participating in

## **A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA**

programmes meant to raise their socio-economic fortunes from the present state of despondency and dependence to that of self-reliance and confident self actualization.

Meanwhile, a multi-million multi-purpose Center is being constructed at Du, which when completed, hopefully with support funding from government, private and public spirited individuals and donor agencies, will be a catalyst for women and youth empowerment.

### **Hope For VVF Patients**

Since the coming into power of her husband, the Plateau State First Lady, Ngo Talatu Jang, has been concerned about the plight of women suffering from Vesico-Vaginal Fistula (VVF). Being a trained health provider herself, Mrs Jang has been shocked at the increasing number of women whose productive lives have been cut short and who have become social outcasts through no fault of theirs, except that they, like most other women, wanted to have healthy lovely children.

Ngo Talatu Jang, touched by the efforts so far made by charitable and public spirited individuals, groups and organizations, believes that the burden of care and treatment and rehabilitation of these unfortunate women should not be left to Evangel Hospital alone. The First Lady therefore hopes to use the WAYEF to engage women who have been cured of VVF in agriculture, since many of these women came from the rural areas.

Furthermore, to reduce the problem of VVF in Plateau State, WAYEF has almost completed a standard rehabilitation center at Doi, Jos-South LGA. The first phase of the project consists of a I50 hospital bed hostel and vocation center for training and skills acquisition. The second phase would have a multi-purpose center for events, catering and housing for staff. The Center promises to be the take off point for the prevention of VVF, which the First Lady believes, is the panacea to the scourge. It is hoped that well meaning citizens and organizations will partner with WAYEF to restore hope and dignity to all VVF patients.

### **Responding To Individuals**

While women and youths are her group focus, Mrs. Jang has not shut her ears against the cries of needy individuals. This is why she quickly came to the aid of the parents of a set of triplets who had been already blessed with five other children. A two-bed room flat is under construction for the distressed couple, with a promise to look into the request of father of the triplets for permanent employment.



## **LEGISLATURE: A BASTION OF HOPE**

**T**he efficacy of the philosophy of democracy depends a great deal on the extent to which the three arms of government perform their respective roles towards the realization of the overall objectives of government.

In a representative democracy such as the one being practiced in Nigeria, there are three arms of government:- the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary which work in symbiotic relationship that leads to the objective.

In this relationship, all the arms have distinctive and defined roles according to the country's Constitution. The Legislature performs the very distinct role of formulating laws as well as performing some oversight functions in the mutually beneficial relationship which also makes for the much-talked about checks and balances. The principle of checks and balances is an age-long one which has been instituted to curb the excesses of one or more of the arms of government, and also designates specific roles and functions for each of the aforementioned arms.

The Legislature is therefore a very important partner in the tripartite relationship in any democratic dispensation, and is constitutionally recognized as the body of elected representatives of the people whose major role is that of making laws that govern relationships in the society, checks executive excesses and safeguards the fundamental human rights of citizens.

There is no gainsaying the importance of a legislature in the democratic system. Some writers have described it as the "Laboratory of Democracy", a place where views and ideas relating to the welfare of the citizens are subjected to vigorous debates and scrutiny. It is a very strategic democratic institution that acts as the link between the people and their leaders, the defender of the people's right against tyranny and dictatorship as well as



**Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Go'ar**  
*Speaker, Plateau State*

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



cross-section of members of the PLHA in session.

ther the cause of socio-economic development.

e Plateau State House of Assembly which is the legislative arm of the government has, ce 1999 undergone a series of metamorphoses which have seen it growing from strength strength. It has striven very hard to properly position itself to carry out its constitutional responsibility. In the course of the last one year, the Assembly has learned a lot. It has also undergone so many struggles, all of which have served to strengthen and mature it to its current status. As a matter of fact, its vibrancy is enhanced by the level of competition which ought in the current crop of law makers who feel challenged by the circumstances that ought them to power to perform up to expectations.

e Plateau State House of Assembly has indeed remained a testing ground for the much-prized democratic principles of checks and balances.

e current House of Assembly has, since its inception, demonstrated that it is really the nation of hope, for the common man.



## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

To demonstrate its commitment to the new dawn which the Plateau man and woman yearn for, the House of Assembly set for itself five target plans. These are:

1. Promoting and upholding the supremacy of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by ensuring that due process is adhered to in the governance of Plateau State at all levels of government by means of a true representation of all Plateau citizens in the House of Assembly.
2. Promote socio-economic development of the state through improving human capacity development in all sectors of the society as well as entrench an effective and pragmatic constituency feedback mechanism by promoting gender equality in the state.
3. Promote educational standards in the state at all levels of education as well as improve the tourism potentials of the of the state by exploring all the sectors towards this end.
4. Ensuring the entrenchment of fundamental human rights of all Plateau State indigenes by promoting social justice, equity and fair play amongst all citizens of the state.
5. Ensuring that all oversight functions are effectively carried out in the House of Assembly by promoting the work ethics of the House; placing emphasis on integrity and accountability so as to create an effective environment for credible opposition in the House.

In practical demonstration of its responsibilities, the Legislature during its sitting on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2007, received a motion for the adoption of First Session for the legislative calendar of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plateau State House of Assembly in the Fourth Republic commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The motion was sponsored by Hon. Joseph L. Lar.

On the same day, Hon. Joseph L. Bukar also made a call on the House to resolve to relocate the House Chambers to Committee Room 1 in the Administrative Block of the House of Assembly Complex.

Similarly, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2007, Hon. Dalyop C. Mancha, made a call on the Plateau State Government to direct the appropriate government agencies to ensure that taxes, buses and private hire vehicles are registered and appropriately painted in view of the rising

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA

crime wave in the state.

On August 7, 2007, Hon. Yakubu Choji made a call on the Plateau State Government to direct the Ministry of Health and other relevant authorities to ensure that government hospitals, clinics, industries and private health institutions conform with the acceptable standard method of clinical/industrial waste disposal in view of the danger posed to the public and the environment.

In furtherance of the objective of ensuring that the Legislature fully identifies with the Federal Government's war on corruption, Hon. Joseph L. Bukar on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2007 made a call on the Plateau State Government to set up anti-corruption units in all government ministries, agencies and parastatals.

Two calls made by Hon. Ibrahim Hassan and Hon. Dalyop C. Mancha on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2007 on the floor of the House on the state government to graciously extend the restriction time on operation of commercial motorcycles from 8.00pm and 10.00p.m and a call on the private and corporate organizations in Plateau State to contribute to the social development of the state and their host community respectively were all killed.

After the completion of renovation work on the chambers of the House, Hon. Joseph L. Bukar made a call on the House to resolve to resume sitting in the Main Chambers of the Plateau State House of Assembly. This call was adopted.

In line with the declaration of the State of Emergency on the education sector, a call was made on the state government to establish a Primary School Teachers Pension Board. The sponsor of the call was Hon. Nanpon T. Bongden. The concern of Hon. Emmanuel D. Jugul was on the need to ensure compliance with the Federal Character Law on Employment by federal establishments in the state.

In the area of bills, the following were presented and read on the floor of the House. They include, a bill for a law to amend the Local Government Law 2007. The bill was to provide for the constitution of Advisory Committees where the Plateau State Independent Electoral Commission was unable to conduct election into the Executive and Legislative Councils.

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This bill sought to repeal the Local Government (First Amendment ) Law 2007 and for other matters connected thereto.

The second bill was for a law to Amend the Plateau State House of Assembly Services Commission Law 2003 to provide for part time membership of the Commission, while the third bill was for a law to provide for the establishment of the Plateau State Debt Management Office; to provide that the World Bank Financial Management unit be transferred to the office for purposes ancillary thereto.

Other bills include: a bill for a law to establish a contributory pension scheme for employees in the public service of Plateau State and other matters incidental thereto; the year 2007 Supplementary Bill all of which went through their third readings, except for that which sought to amend the Plateau State House of Assembly Commission Law 2003 which had been passed into law.

To properly remunerate political, judiciary and public office holders in Plateau State, Hon. Joseph L. Bukar sponsored a bill for this and the Pension Rights of the governor and deputy governor and other matters connected therewith pursuant to section 4 (7)(A) and (C) 124 (5) of the 1999 Constitution.

As a deliberate step towards ensuring that the drive of government to outlaw the sale of the illicit gin "gokolo" and other intoxicating liquors, a bill for a law to repeal the Northern Nigeria Law regulating the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors Cap 64 No. 186 as it affects Plateau State, was tabled on the floor of the House.

Other bills include that for the establishment of the Plateau State Emergency Relief Management Agency and that which will provide for the Plateau State Land Reclamation and Ecological Development Board were also tabled.

The last in the series of bills presented on the floor was to provide for a law against domestic violence.



## JUDICIARY

**T**he Judiciary is one of the three arms of Government whose role is to serve as arbiter and the dispenser of justice to both the high and the low.

In a democracy, the role of the Judiciary becomes more paramount as the contents of the constitution are practicalised albeit to the last letter through interpretation of the laws in the course of adjudication.

It is no wonder, therefore that the Judiciary is often seen as the last hope of every civilized society.

As a responsible and responsive arm of government, the past one year has witnessed the dynamic exhibition of judicial functions in the state as practical steps have been taken towards the quick disposal of cases in both the superior courts of records and the lower courts.

This has no doubt rekindled the hope of the people that the age long role of this arm of government is again alive and active, giving hope to the people particularly those in search of justice.

### **Achievements**

As a way of fast tracking the disposition of cases, the State Chief Judge last year enacted the Practice Direction, which became effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2007.

Following the regular release of overhead by the Jang administration, the judiciary has been experiencing a considerable smooth running of its activities particularly the acquisition of basic requirements that facilitate its operations. Judicial staff has also participated in national institute workshops and seminars.



**Justice Lazarus Dakyen**  
*Chief Judge, Plateau State*

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Also this year, the Judiciary in collaboration with the League for Human Rights organized workshops for lower court judges and other cadres of its staff.

### Plans

The desire of the judiciary is to ensure the commencement of the construction of a new High Court Complex and to also renovate existing ones. The judiciary also has dedicated its first quarter budget allocation when approved to its capital projects. It is also desirous of replacing staff that have left the service either through retirements or death. When this is achieved, and new qualified hands are engaged, the Judiciary will be placed to perform its statutory functions very creditably.

Also in keeping faith with the globalization of information technology, there are plans to install internet facilities to fast track the operations of courts.



**Plateau State Chief Judge, Justice Lazarus Dakyen (centre) flanked by Justices Adamu Kanam, Grand Khadi (left) and G. A. Sha, President, Customary Court of Appeal.**

## A New Dawn: One Year of The REDEMPTION AGENDA



Nigeria's Vice-President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan being introduced to Ngo Talatu Jang by Plateau Deputy Governor, Mrs. Tallen, at an official function. Left is PLHA Speaker, Go'ar.

Governor Jang in a warm handshake with Chief Solomon Lar at a meeting.



Plateau Deputy Governor, Mrs. Pauline Tallen, flanked by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Amb. Babagana Kingibe (right) and Reps. Speaker, Dimeji Bankole, at NIPPS, Kuru, graduation ceremony.