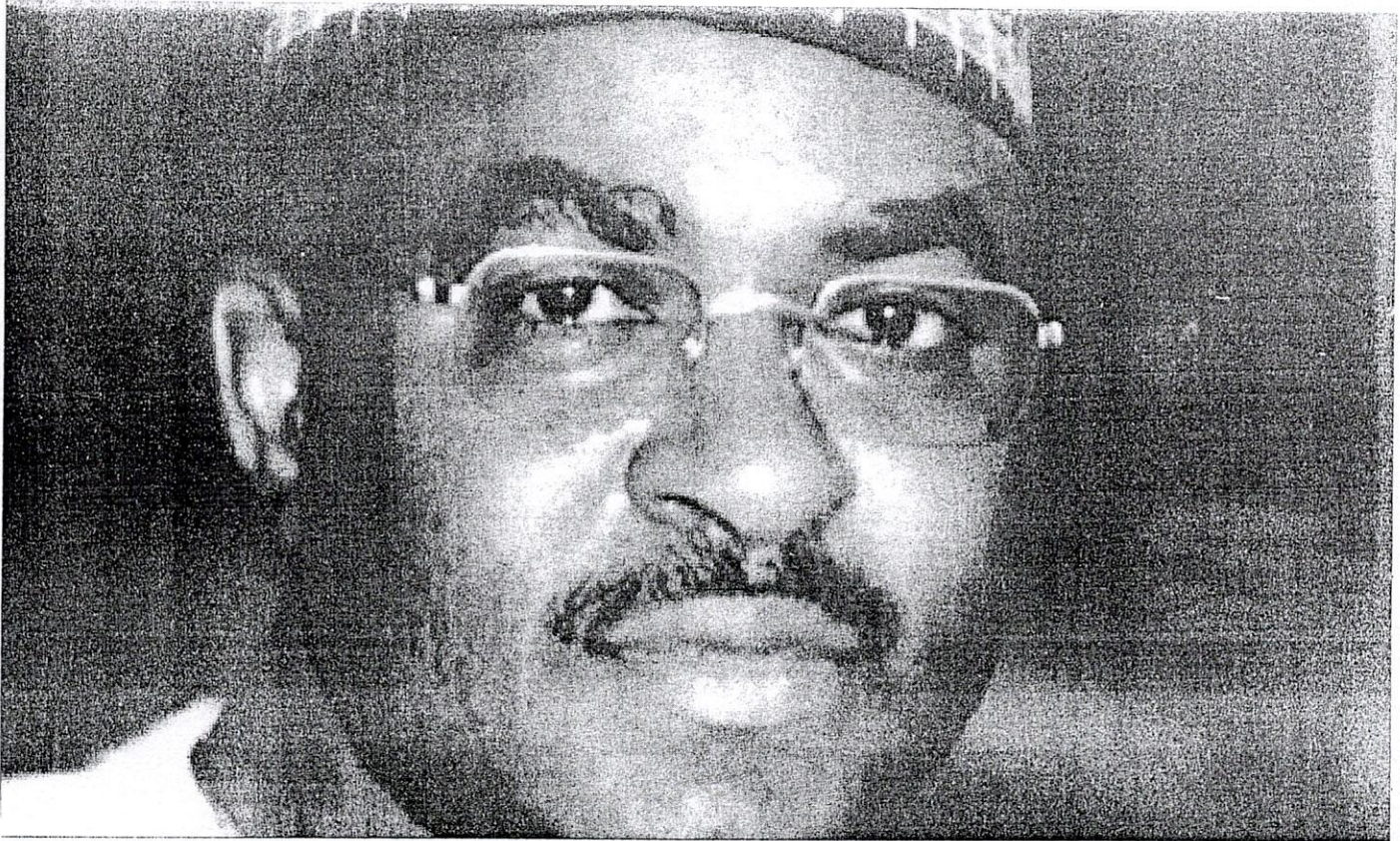


## ISSUES

# Repositioning The Educational Sector In Bauchi State



• Gov Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State

BY MAIGARI MOHAMMED KHANNA

When Governor Isa Yuguda took over the mantle of leadership in Bauchi State, he made it categorical that education will form the centrepiece of his administration's drive in its transformation agenda. In fact, one of the first assignments the new administration embarked upon was to make a comprehensive assessment of all the educational institutions across the state. The pathetic revelation of the report presented by the committee which portrayed a terrible state of the sector prompted the new governor to immediately award contracts for the restoration of standard in eighteen secondary schools and one tertiary institution in the state. Since then, the government has initiated different policies and approaches to ensure the development of education sector in the state.

In order to effect the changes required in the sector, its first budget for 2008 fiscal year, the administration proposed an increase in budgetary allocation for the sector from erstwhile N2.6 billion in 2007, to a whopping sum of N10.6 billion (including supplementary budget of N3, 810,000). The result that all the eighteen secondary schools and indeed, the A.D. Rufa'i College of Legal and Islamic Studies are wearing a new look and a new lease of existence. In its efforts to ensure that students are provided with the necessary facilities and enabling ground for effective learning, the government ordered the purchase of 17,000 double decker beds, mattresses and blankets to augment the existing one, while over 15,000 broken ones were contracted out for repairs, all of which have all been distributed to the schools. Similarly, Hinterland Furniture Factory was re-chased by the government to ensure that continuous supply of furniture to all secondary schools is guaranteed. The government doubled the amount for feeding students as well as for the day-to-day administration of the various schools across the state. Similarly, considering the dearth of relevant textbooks as well as the poverty levels in the society which cannot allow parents to properly cater for their children's learning needs, the state government purchased millions of text books at the cost of N2

billion. These are being distributed to all the existing government secondary schools in the state. Laboratory chemicals worth N59 million has also been procured for science students.

Moreover, the government has fully paid the NECO and WAEC fees for 21, 000 graduating students from the government-owned secondary schools in the state. And to ensure non-interruption of studies, all the secondary schools in the state have been provided with standby generators for supply of power as well as a borehole, fully equipped with overhead tank to ensure continuous power and potable water supply.

In its own wisdom, the state government introduced the concept of married women secondary schools which has gained the approval of the community. One of such schools is being established in each of the six emirates of Bauchi, Katagum, Misau, Jama'are, Ningi and Dass. The government is also in the process of rebounding eight earlier de-boarded secondary schools in Roso, Burra, Dambam, Itas, Udubo, Giade and Katagum. Moreover, due to the dearth of teachers, the Yuguda administration immediately employed 1,000 new graduates and 200 retired teachers to the teachers' pool in the secondary schools.

The Yuguda administration also places high premium on tertiary education. The concern for the quality such as education in the three tertiary institutions of College of Education Azare, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic and A.D. Rufa'i College for Legal and Islamic Studies made the administration quickly devise means of improving them. The A.D. Rufa'i College of Legal Studies for instance, evacuated and contracted for its complete renovation was awarded at more than N2 billion. Similarly, a lecture hall at the College of Education, Azare, was rehabilitated offered while dilapidated hostels were renovated for female students.

Of significance is the approval by the government for the new salary structure for all staff of the tertiary institution to place them on CONTISS salary structure. This is complemented with a 20 percent increase in rent and meal subsidy to the staff of the three tertiary institutions. The administration also employed thirty additional staff for the College of Education Azare and 29 staff for A.D. Rufa'i College for Legal Studies. Moreover, 15 assistant lecturers were employed for the Tatari Ali Polytechnic to boost its academic staff

Moreover, the government has fully paid the NECO and WAEC fees for 21, 000 graduating students from the government-owned secondary schools in the state. And to ensure non-interruption of studies, all the secondary schools in the state have been provided with standby generators for supply of power as well as a borehole, fully equipped with overhead tank to ensure continuous power and potable water supply

requirements. A total of twelve new buses and cars were also distributed to three institutions.

In furtherance of its determination to ensure that education was placed on a sound footing, the government initiated overseas training for indigenes of the state which will help in the near future, boost the socio-economic well being of the state. One of such programmes was the sponsorship of twenty young female indigenes to study medicine in Egypt. Another set of twenty young men and women were sponsored to study piloting and aeronautic engineering in the United States. Moreover, similar numbers of persons are now being trained in industrial welding at Sapele.

The government is committed to the establishment of a state owned university. So far, a committee has been constituted to study earlier reports submitted and recommended the hastening of the implementation process for the state university, while the Nigerian University Commission, NUC, has given approval for the commencement of the award of degree at the College of Education, Azare.

Considering the difficulties students face in terms of secondary schools examinations and subsequent university placements, the government after duly paying all the NECO/WAEC fees for all the graduating students in government-owned secondary schools, also designed a programme where all qualified candidates will be offered admission in Nigerian Universities. This programme is being implemented under the state agency for women and youth rehabilitation and development (BAYWARD).

There is no gainsaying the fact that the face of education occupies a special position in the heart of the state governor. Indication of this was the recent decision he took to go back to the classroom. Today, he combines his office routine with that of the classroom which deservedly qualifies him as a genuine promoter of educational standards and quality. His good intention and actions of his administration will expectedly combine to actualise the dream of Bauchi State as being at the forefront of the educational sector in Nigeria.

Khanna is Director, Press Affairs & Public Relations to Governor Yuguda.







**T**ODAY, I'm in Nigeria, a country that produces two million barrels of oil a day, and has the seventh largest oil reserve in the world.

"But, according to the United Nations (UN), the poverty rate in Nigeria has gone up from 46 per cent to 76 per cent over the last 13 years."

Mrs Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, made the remark at a Town Hall Meeting jointly organised by the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) and US Mission in Nigeria, during her recent visit to the country.

Besides, Prof. Charles Soludo, the immediate past Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), was once quoted as saying that more than 60 per cent of people living in the northern part of the country

# Combating poverty in Bauchi

By Sanli Adamu

live below the UN-prescribed poverty line.

Experts say that there is also a direct correlation between the level of education of a people and their living standard.

This, perhaps, underscores the concern expressed by the World Bank on the poverty and literacy situation in Nigeria, es-

pecially in the North. The CBN says in one of its reports that "Northern Nigeria remains, and represents the only place in the world with the highest number of children not going to school."

President Umaru Yar'Adua expressed similar concern at the last Northern Nigerian Economic Summit held in October, 2008 in Abuja.

Yar'Adua described the poverty and literacy situation in some parts of the North as not only "worrysome, but shameful."

He said: "In some of these states, there is equally high unemployment rate, near total collapse of infrastructure, virtual absence of new investments, while practically all the states depend essentially on revenue accruing from the federation account."

Particularly worrisome is the statistics released by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) that listed Bauchi, Jigawa and Yobe among states with the worst poverty indices in Nigeria. This underscores the decision by Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State to elevate the state's poverty alleviation agency to a full-pledged ministry. To complement the decision, the administration also established an agency for Youth and Women Rehabilitation and Development, as part of efforts to facilitate the provision of skills acquisition and educational intervention programmes to all unemployed youths and women in the state.

A census of unemployed youths and women was also conducted to ascertain the number of jobless youths requiring government's intervention across the 20 local government areas of the state.

Available records show that no fewer than 480,000 unemployed youths, in dire need of such intervention, were registered during the census exercise. The anti-poverty measures introduced by the administration, according to observers, appear to be yielding results.

The administration says it has provided gainful employment opportunities to more than 30,000 hitherto jobless youths and women within the last two years. To en-

hance the purchasing power of its citizens and stimulate macro-economic growth, the administration says it has disbursed over N500m interest-free loans to artisans and local traders to boost their businesses, which invariably will reduce poverty in the state.

To complement the effort, the state government says it has also increased budgetary allocation to the poverty alleviation sector in the last two years.

Alhaji Garba Dahiru, the Commissioner for Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, acknowledges the feat achieved by the administration in the areas of poverty alleviation and youth empowerment.

Dahiru says the administration has so far spent more than N17b on the execution of various poverty alleviation programmes, youth and women rehabilitation and development schemes in the last 24 months.

Youth and women empowerment, as well as poverty alleviation are top on the 5-point agenda of the Yuguda administration.

"This explains why the administration is spending between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of its annual budget on poverty alleviation, youth and women empowerment."

In 2008, the state budgetted N98b out of which more than N9.8b was spent on the poverty alleviation programme, youth and women empowerment. This year, we have budgetted N78.6b out of which more than N7.8b is being spent on poverty alleviation, youth and women empowerment programmes.

"When you add up these figures, you will realise that the administration has committed more than N17.6b to poverty alleviation, youth and women empowerment programmes in the last two years".

According to Dahiru, this excludes other special interventions in the areas of education, skills acquisition and the provision of basic infrastructure in the rural areas designed to enhance the economic status of rural dwellers, especially youths and women.

The commissioner says that the huge investment in poverty alleviation and youth empowerment programmes was designed to liberate the youth and women from the shackles of poverty. He says the strategy is adopted by the administration to discourage the youth from engaging in acts inimical to the progress and development of the state and the country.

•Continued on Page B3

**Northern Nigeria remains, and represents the only place in the world with the highest number of children not going to school... There is equally high unemployment rate, near total collapse of infrastructure, virtual absence of new investments**



Bauchi town

1100041 Sept. 4, 2009

•Continued from Page B2

"The state government, through the ministry, is also mobilising and empowering communities to initiate, plan, part-finance, implement and maintain development projects based on their needs with technical assistance from the government and other agencies. Our collaboration with international donor agencies has started yielding results. We have trained 100 youths on modern bee-keeping. The beneficiaries were drawn from 10 selected local governments and the remaining 10 local governments will soon benefit. The project costs the state government N10m," the commissioner added.

To add value to this huge investment, Dahiru says more than 279 feeder roads have been constructed at the cost of N32m as part of measures to open up the rural areas, facilitate more economic activities and invariably reduce poverty. "The benefiting communities contributed N27.5m, affected local governments N3.8m while the state government made up the balance of about N665,000."

Dahiru says the state government has also purchased and distributed more than 1,000 tricycles to youths and women at highly subsidised rates, as part of its poverty reduction strategies.

According to him, the administration has also recruited and trained more than 5,000 unemployed youths and women as street cleaners and those affected have been placed on monthly salary.

"We have equally trained more than 2,000 youths on modern farming skills under the Japan-assisted Sassakawa agricultural programme. Another batch of 2,000 youths has also been trained as contract sprayers, each of them got a N10,000 take-off grant, while 50 others had been sent for an industrial welding training programme at the Nigerian Navy Training School, Sapele, Delta

## Combating poverty in Bauchi

State.

"The state government has also released N550m as part of its counterpart funding for the take-off of the Federal Government's Village Economic Development Solution Scheme.

"The scheme is being executed through a funding ratio of N550m each by the Federal and Bauchi State governments."

To further boost the efforts, the state government says it has also disbursed N475m interest-free loans to 2,930 graduates of its skills acquisition programme, adding that the beneficiaries were trained in 37 different trades.

"The Yuguda administration also spent over N88m on the procurement of more than 2,000 mobile telephone facilities, which were distributed to unemployed youths and women across the state.

"Each of the beneficiaries got pre-load credit of N8,000, N2,000 recharge cards, a table and an umbrella. It is estimated that each beneficiary will earn a monthly income of N15,000 from the business.

"The sum of N92m was also disbursed to more than 4,585 rural women to set up

small businesses, while 500 women groups and NGOs were engaged to assist in mobilising women as part of the human resource development agenda of the administration.

"Another set of 2,000 youths were trained in irrigation and modern fish farming techniques as part of efforts to encourage youths' participation in agricultural activities to reduce poverty."

To boost the growth of small-scale entrepreneurship, the state government says it has also disbursed N250m to 10 community banks to enable them to transform into full-fledged micro-finance banks.

Malam Idris Hassan, a trader at Wunti Market, Bauchi metropolis, lauds the anti-poverty measures introduced by the administration, saying that they have succeeded in reducing youth restiveness, drug abuse and poverty.

Malam Adamu Muhammed, a taxi driver in Bauchi, shares Hassan's sentiments.

Muhammed noted that the 500 tri-

cycles distributed to youths and women have greatly assisted in boosting their businesses.

While observers laud efforts by the Yuguda administration to reduce poverty, particularly among youths, analysts harp on the need for the beneficiaries of such efforts to reciprocate the huge investment on them by slunning anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and other criminalities.

This, they say, is the surest way for the country to attain the Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction.

Adamu, is of the News Agency of Nigeria

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•Yuguda



## FEATURES

# Managing Crisis: The Yuguda Style

*The executive Governor of Bauchi, Malam Isa Yuguda put his administrative acumen to task through massive recruitment and empowerment of youths as well as rehabilitating the Yelwa crisis victims displaced a year ago by mercenaries and thugs working under the façade of religious bigotry, as reported by AGI ONDA who visited the area recently.*

**B**y the time he assumed office as the executive governor of the state in May 2007, Bauchi was notorious for youth violence, hostility and political thuggery, such that hardly would a week pass, without record of bloodshed, arson and looting by hoodlums across the state. In fact, so intense was the tension that the scenario led to an exodus of visitors who had come to do business in the North-Eastern state.

The governor who had understudied the situation and packaged an enduring agenda for dealing with the eroding value system and socio-economic squalor in the state, prior to his emergence as the chief executive, quickly deployed his energy to arrest the malaise through massive recruitment of the army of youths most of whom had conscripted themselves into the infamous *Sarasuka* or political thugs, and branded them Spider Web. The Spider Web is the state's security out-fit similar in intent and function to the civil defence corps; and are found at strategic government establishments and agencies, complimenting the police and other security agents in the drive of the state government to combat crime and criminality. So far, according to our findings, over 30,000 of the youths are functionally engaged in this and other empowerment activities of the government; with far-reaching dividends accruing to them, and with spontaneous harmony and tranquility being experienced in the state of tourism and hospitality.

Malam Maigari Khana, the Governor's Director of Media and Public Affairs told LEADERSHIP that, apart from providing adequate incentives in the form of prompt salary and allowances, "the guys are well kited in the best form of security attire, with the best form of training by a security consultancy firm hired by the government of

Malam Yuguda to brace them for the challenges of peace and harmony in the state".

These efforts, which are being complimented by huge investments in human capacity and peace building activities of Governor Yuguda began to work miracles as the once volatile state once again resurrected from the mantra of bloodletting to the toga of inspiration under the amiable governor.

Peace, which was a phantasmagoria at the tail end of the Ahmed Muazul administration resurfaced once again; and the visitors who had fled at the wake of the near-interneccine that greeted the change of baton from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) to the ruling All Nigeria People's (ANPP), returned in droves.

But barely seven months into the celebration of change, Malam Yuguda's rebuilding process was punctuated by the intriguing sectarian crisis in Yelwa, a sub urban town located in the southern part of the state, thus bringing the governor's administrative shrewdness to task once again. LEADERSHIP learnt that the December 11, 2007 crisis which occurred following a minor disagreement had its origin in the bottled-up tension between the supporters of the ousted PDP and the ruling ANPP, and manifested dimensionally as a religious crisis.

But unlike what Joshua Dariye would do in the events preceding the state of emergency imposed on Plateau in 2004, Malam Yuguda literally cancelled his planned Hajj, trip to Mecca and headed back to Bauchi, to address the inferno in the state. Within seconds, he deployed the security forces to quell the crisis and douse the internal heat that was triggered by the lingering animosity. Immediate calm and peace was restored to the troubled areas of Yelwa and environs.

Beyond this prompt intervention, however, the

machinery for finding the remote and immediate causes of the violence for lasting mitigation of the negative vices was also set up by the governor, after an on-the-spot visit to the scene of the crisis. Consequently, a rehabilitation committee headed by Hon. Yusuf Tanko Dutse, the State Commissioner for Agriculture was inaugurated. Included in the terms of reference of the committee was the assessment of the human and material losses with the view to devising a comprehensive rehabilitation programme for the victims.

These included the destroyed or damaged houses and structures during the violence, which included cars, motor bikes, etc. The committee would also provide consumables such as food stuff and clothing to those whose houses were burnt. According to Hon. Tanko Dutse who spoke to LEADERSHIP after a visit to the rehabilitation sites, "The Yelwa programme is the most articulate, comprehensive and most decisive effort ever put in place by any government in Nigeria". In all, according to LEADERSHIP findings, 385 houses and several vehicles worth millions of naira were razed by the hoodlums who capitalised on the crisis to unleash havoc on the unsuspecting residents.

Interestingly, all of the houses involved have been rebuilt from foundation to roof, awaiting formal hand-over to their original owners, with the victims expressing gratitude to Malam Yuguda for demonstrating large-heartedness and for showing his milk of human kindness. At Tsakani, Kagadama, Anguwan Cashew and Tudu, areas mostly affected by the inferno, all the houses destroyed have been reconstructed with standard materials.

Similarly, all the vehicles damaged or destroyed have either being repaired or replaced by the government



• Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State

as a healing balm for cementing relationship in the area. Aside from that, relief materials have been provided alongside welfare packages to the victims. In the words of Jibrin Hussein, head of Tsakani village whose house (BASC No. 182) has already been rebuilt, although the crisis was most unfortunate, the house rehabilitation exercise which came as a fallout of the violence is a huge relief to the victims, most of whom were living in mud houses before the escalation of hostilities. "We are eternally gratefully to His Excellency for this wonderful job, he is a peace maker and a bridge builder", the Mai Anguwan Tsakani who spoke in Hausa said with tears of joy flowing down his dark eyes.

In affirmation, John Mogana, a 46 year old Mai Anguwan Kagadama described the rehabilitation exercise as unique and laudable. He said at first he almost lost the sense of belonging following the violent clash in his domain but came to his senses when the governor deployed his men to the village and started massive rehabilitation exercise there. He

acknowledged the timely intervention of the governor through relief materials, food and clothing, and expressed the hope that with the kind disposition of the state government, peace will no longer elude the people of the area. "We suffered severe losses in human and material investments but now we are getting these behind us because of His Excellency's concern for our plight", Mogana stated.

Mogana's optimism and expression of gratitude was corroborated by Rev. Charles Yohanna, Overseer of Faith Revival Chapel who told LEADERSHIP that, by the prompt and practical steps Malam Yuguda has taken in building peace in the state, Bauchi is gradually becoming a home to all, irrespective of religious, sectional or ethnic leaning. "I find his approach to peace and harmony very, very unique. Isa Yuguda is really a gift to Bauchi and indeed the Nigerian people", Rev. Yohanna said.

"But the Yelwa crisis is not the only flashpoint receiving the attention of the Bauchi state government. Tanko Dutse whose mandate also covers

the entire state revealed that, areas such as Ningi and Shira which earlier on experienced the doses of violent skirmishes are similarly receiving the goodwill and assistance of the ANPP-led government, through the rehabilitation of destroyed properties, with over 90 per cent of the work completed.

Already, according to him, with the Bauchi State Independent Power Project being articulated, plans are under way to collaborate with Aliko Dangote who is already willing to site one of his numerous Spaghetti factories in Bauchi with a view to further arresting the army of the unemployed youths in the state. Again, the Bauchi Meat Factory, which was left comatose for years under ex-governor Ahmed M'uazu, has been revived and rejuvenated by governor Yuguda for greater productivity, he said. LEADERSHIP learnt that the company has resumed the supply of meat and meat by-products to neighboring states with a deal with South Africa running into millions of naira for constant production and supply of meat to that country. ■



# NEWS

## UBEC gives N2.6bn to 19 states for good performance

By Ruby Rabiu

The government has released N2.6 billion to 19 states as reward for good performance in the administration of basic education programme in their states.

But it threatened to punish states that collect levies in primary schools describing the act as illegal and a violation of the Universal Basic Education Act and State Laws.

A government document

obtained by *Daily Trust* showed that the government through UBEC gave Katsina, the best performing state, N700 million, while Oyo and Adamawa got N400 million and N300 million respectively for coming second and third.

The FCT, Gombe, Kano, Anambra, Ondo, and Rivers states got N100 million each for being the best

UBE performing states in their various geo-political zones.

Niger, Bauchi, Kebbi, Abia and Ekiti states got N70m each for emerging second, and Kogi, Taraba, Zamfara, Ebonyi, and Ogun States got N50m each, after coming third in performance.

## performance

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary of UBEC, Dr. Ahmed Modibbo, at a meeting with chairmen of State UBECs in Abuja, has said that all illegal levies in primary and junior secondary

schools were a violation of the UBE Act and State laws.

He said either the Chairmen took steps to check the illegal operations of school heads they would

be held responsible for the illegal acts.

Meanwhile, government in collaboration with seven West African countries, and development partners yesterday announced that about estimated 25 million children under the age of five years will be targeted for the Oral Polio.



# Bauchi constructs N150m silos

THE Bauchi State Government has earmarked N150 million for the construction of three ultra modern grain silos, as part of efforts to boost agricultural activities in the state.

The Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Tanko Dutse, disclosed this on Thursday in Bauchi.

He said the silos would be constructed under joint partnership between the State Agricultural Development Programme (BSADP), National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"The state government in collaboration NFRA and MDGs are constructing three community warehouses in various parts of the state.

"Each of the silo will cost about N50 million," Dutse said, adding that the measure was to

enhance agro-processing and preservation technology in the state.

The commissioner said the Federal Government through BSADP, distributed mini metal and bricks silos, each with one and two tonnes capacity to the farmers at a subsidised rate.

He said that the state government had also spent over N36 million for the training of agricultural extension workers on modern farming, agricultural preservation and agro-processing techniques.

He said the training was provided in collaboration with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and a US-based institution, Purdue University.

"The training programme is aimed at improving the capacity of the extension workers to impart relevant knowledge and skills in

the farmers.

"Government is adopting new technology for boosting agricultural productivity in the state," Tanko said.

He said that government would also set up a monitoring and evaluation unit to ensure effective implementation of the agricultural extension services in the 20 local government areas across the state.

The government had paid N140 million as its counterpart funding to the Japanese Sasakawa-assisted Agricultural Development Project in the state.

More than 10, 000 farmers and 2, 000 contract sprayers had so far been trained on modern farming techniques, fertiliser and chemical application under the programme, while 150 extension workers were recruited. (NAN).

DAILY TRUST SEPT 8 2009



## Yuguda Releases N1.6bn for Hand Pumps

Bauchi state governor, Isa Yuguda, has released N1.6 billion for construction of 100 hand pumps and boreholes in rural communities, as part of the administration's commitment to provision of potable water.

Disclosing this to newsmen in an interview in Bauchi, Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Alhaji Idris Halilu, said the project, to be executed in all the 20 local government areas of the state, were being handled by a Chinese firm.

Halilu said N337.7million, representing 40 per cent counterpart funding by the local government had been released to the firm, with a charge that it executes the project to specification.

He said his ministry had purchased educational materials worth more than N986 million for the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) as part of efforts to promote effective learning and improve the standard of education in the state.

He said the Ministry also pur-

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### BAUCHI

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*From Segun Awofadeji*

*in Bauchi*

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chased seven Hilux Van at N34.9 million for distribution to all the six inspectorate offices, to facilitate effective monitoring of the local government council areas, adding that another three vehicles

had been purchased at N15 million and released to the Auditor-General of Local Government, to facilitate auditing of the councils' account.

Halilu said more Hilux Vans would be purchased for primary healthcare co-ordinating units across the state, adding that "the administration places high premium on health and well being of its people."



## Bauchi Govt to Establish N60bn Heart Care Centre

Bauchi State Government plans to establish a N60 billion heart care centre, as part of measures to control cardiac disease in the area. Gov. Isa Yuguda made the announcement on Sunday in Bauchi while addressing the state's 3,600 intending pilgrims to this Hajj. According to a NANA report, he said government had signed an MOU with a Saudi-based NGO, Islamic Relief Organization (IRO), for the execution of the project, expected to cost about 40 million dollars. "We have already signed an agreement with the NGO to facilitate the successful take-off of the project. "The centre will enhance the treatment of patients who have cardiac disease. The measure is part of the administration's drive to improve health care delivery in the state," he added. Yuguda said government, in collaboration with another Saudi-based NGO, Al-Basar Foundation, had also established an ultra modern eye centre in Bauchi.

THURSDAY NOV. 2, 2004



## Bauchi Crisis Sectarian, Not Religious -- Imam

By SANI MUH'D SANI, BAUCHI

The recent sectarian crisis in Bauchi State should not be tagged as a religious crisis, as the sects were only fighting for ideologies and positions within their sects.

This was the view expressed by the Chief Imam of Bauchi State, Sheikh Muhammad Bala Ahmed, during a press briefing at the Emir of Bauchi's palace yesterday.

The imam stressed that the Boko Haram sect fought against the government and security agents not civilians, adding that the war going on in Afghanistan, Lebanon and others are not tagged religious wars, insisting that the sects were not fighting against other religions.

"We are not supporting them or their act; their approach is wrong. The influx of people from neighbouring states because of the growing economy of the state and the peaceful atmosphere within the communities is at risk due to the activities of miscreants in the state. A lot of people know the root causes of the crisis, their sponsors and those igniting them," the cleric said.

He stated that it was disheartening to blame government for the crisis, adding that the state government had given youths the opportunity to be self employed by training them in different skill acquisition programmes and giving them take-off grants.

The imam disclosed that some of the youths had misused the opportunity given to them, and had chosen to be wayward. He advised parents to bring up their children and wards properly.

headership Jan 5, 2010 pages





• Gov. Isa Yuguda

## Kafin Zaki'll Benefit Bauchi And Yobe States – Gov Yuguda

Why the controversy? How feasible is the Kafin Zaki Dam project?

The Kafin Zaki Dam is an agricultural project which is part of federal government's desire to harness our water resources. This project has been on since the sixties. It was conceived after an ariel study done by some American groups. That location has been found to be ideal for a dam which is going to be the biggest in Africa. It has a river which meanders over a length of over 1,300 kilometres with origin in Plateau State, and empties into the Nguru wetlands and eventually into the Lake Chad. Between the watershed and the dam is just about 70 kilometres. The stakeholders include Plateau, Yobe, Jigawa and Bauchi which is the major stakeholder because 90 per cent of the river meanders in the state.

After the location of the proposed dam, there are many other rivers. So the argument that when the dam is constructed there will be insufficient water downstream doesn't stand. As I said, between the watershed and the dam is about 70 kilometres. Also the bulk of the water that empties into the Nguru wetlands is after the Kafin Zaki Dam, not

before it. More prominent among those rivers are the Bagauda and Tiger rivers both coming from Kano State.

These two rivers constitute six per cent of the waters of the Kafin Zaki River. You will also be shocked to know that only one per cent of the water that empties into the Nguru wetlands comes from the Kafin Zaki source. This is to let you know that the whole thing is a political issue. The whole problem is generated by politicians and those professionals who are not only unethical but feed fat on misinforming the public. For the politicians, they are making a mountain out of the issue because they may not have anything to deliver to their people. So they have to make a lot of noise about the water project. I am sure if they get to know that only one per cent of the water that empties into the Nguru wetlands comes from the Kafin Zaki source, they won't challenge somebody who wants to construct that dam for the benefit of the affected people and Nigerians in general.

Right now if you go there, the dam is dried up. It is only when the rains resume in June that the river starts flowing. But when the dam is constructed, the entire

stretch of the river will have irrigation canals. You also have close to about 150,000 hectares of arable land and the beneficiaries are going to include farmers in Yobe State.

Right now wild grasses have grown in the Nguru wetlands; siltation has eaten up all the fertile lands that are supposed to be put to use after the dam has been constructed. Once the dam is constructed, the wild grasses have to go; the siltation has to go.

The Lake Alo in Maiduguri has denied Lake Chad four per cent of the water that empties into it. Therefore if Borno State can construct that dam to provide water for irrigation for its indigenes, how can you ask Bauchi people whose river is giving only one per cent water to the Nguru wetlands not to do their dam which is going to create over 1 million jobs and produce over a million tons of rice, wheat and sugar cane annually? The dam is also going to produce 60 megawatts of electricity through the by-products of the sugar cane that will be produced.

If you go to Savana Sugar today, you will see the wonders that Dangote has done. He is producing six megawatts from the cane he is producing. The entire villages there have been electrified.

In fact we are talking of between 5 billion to 10 billion naira economic incomes coming out of Kafin Zaki Dam which we want to deny ourselves.

Besides, all the affected states are going to benefit from the project. A lot of farming activities are going to spring up. We plan to set up a public-private partnership between the federal government, the state government and the Dangote Group. We cannot shy away from harnessing our agricultural potential to grow the Nigerian economy by setting up a small scale industry and then large scale industry like it happened in other developed economies. That will reduce the contribution of agriculture to the GDP so that at a certain time, we will have a large part of your GDP being contributed by industry. But for now it is agriculture.

Haven't you sat down with the opponents of the dam to clear some of these issues?

We haven't sat down to address the issue. By the time I and the governor of Yobe State sit down to address the problem, all the misunderstanding and the misgivings will be cleared. I say this because there are many people benefitting from making noise about the project. They are telling them fiction rather than facts. But we have the facts and the realities on hand. Already, environmental impact assessment studies have been conducted by the federal and state governments and the consultants are registered with the Federal Ministry of Environment. We have a lot of satellite images, in fact we do the studies from space to look at how a dam construction can affect an environment. Therefore the entire hullabaloo about the dam construction will die down by the time we sit down.

Why is it taking too long to engage other governors on the issue?

There is supposed to be a public discourse about the project in Bauchi, Yobe and probably Jigawa and Yobe states so that everybody can come and say what they want. The facts, of the study will be made available and during the public hearing, if you have your facts you can challenge the study. We are at that level now and I believe once that is done, it will be over. I believe that the key thing is discussing the issue with my colleagues.

I thought that my colleagues were very much posted on the economics of the project, so I didn't have to bother myself sitting with them. But from what I'm reading in the papers, it looks like they have been misinformed. However, I think they should take me as a better and more credible source of information so that they

can take an informed decision on behalf of their people than any other source.

Besides, I am part of the North East; I am part of Nigeria and I love Nigeria. I wouldn't want any project that will short-change our neighbours or that will bring hardship to them. If it is not a project that will benefit all communities that are stakeholders, we will cancel it.

Have the feasibility studies of the dam been concluded?

It has been concluded and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture has also appointed another consultant whom I think has already completed his report and submitted his report to the Ministry of Environment. What remains now is for us to have the stakeholders' open forum where the benefitting states will say what they want to say. So once that is done, we will move ahead. I think we should be more serious. In some countries of the Middle East today, the soils have already been burnt out and can no longer grow anything. So they have to go to the far East to partner with the people of those countries to grow food. This is also happening in some parts of Europe. But there is no soil in Nigeria that cannot grow food. But you see the human beings that God has planted in Nigeria are anti-development. We are enemies of our future generations.

Any message to opponents of the dam?

I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to my brother, the governor of Yobe State, to calm down. In due course, I am going to sit with him to discuss the issue and I want to assure him that what is bad for his people is bad for me because his people are mine. Again what is bad for my people and his people is also bad for Nigeria. In any case the people of Yobe and Bauchi states are going to be the greatest beneficiaries of the Kafin Zaki Dam and Nigeria as a nation will be better for it. There will be job guarantees for about a million families in Bauchi and Yobe states. They will feed three times a day and have enough income to send their children to school and future generations will be born in riches because they will grow up to meet factories, medium and large scale industries that are exporting. So the future generation will meet an industrial age, not an agrarian age anymore. ■

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4  
ENVIRONMENT

# Yankari Games Reserve for upgrading

Yankari Games Reserve in Bauchi State is to be upgraded to an international tourist resort this year. Governor Steven Haruna, the officer in charge of the reserve, made this announcement to journalists on Friday in Bauchi.

He said that the reserve had received hundreds of visitors in the last few days.

Haruna said that the visitors, including foreigners, came to enjoy the New Year holiday at the reserve with their friends, spouses and children.

"Hundreds of visitors came to Yankari Games Reserve to celebrate the New Year.

"These visitors came from within and outside the country

and the number of foreigners was encouraging. Therefore, there is the need to upgrade the status of the reserve," he said.

Haruna said that Kabo Air Company brought the tourists to the reserve, adding that an executive of the company, Alhaji Abdulkadir Dan-Kabo, expressed satisfaction

with the reserve's facilities and noted that the tourists enjoyed their stay.

He said that the Bauchi State Government would upgrade the reserve's facilities to international standards. He said that the patronage of foreign tourists would boost the state's economy, while facilitating the listing of the reserve as a

good tourist destination in Africa and in the world in general.

Efforts to revamp the reserve's facilities and structures started during the administration of former Governor Ahmed Muazu.

The current administration of Governor Isa Yuguda has completed some of the rehabilitation projects. (NAN)



## Bauchi to spend N970m to tackle poverty

BAUCHI State Government is to spend N970 million on various poverty reduction programmes in 2010, an official has said.

Alhaji Sanusi Muhammad, Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to Governor Isa Yuguda, stated this yesterday in an interview with newsmen in Bauchi.

Muhammad said the money was part of the budgetary provisions earmarked for the State's Agency for Youth and Women Rehabilitation and Development (BAYWARD) as contained

in the 2010 state's budget.

He said the agency, which was established by the administration to provide skills and vocational training opportunities to unemployed youths and women in the state, would be repositioned and adequately funded to enable it to discharge its mandate.

According to him, the Agency has provided skills acquisition training to more than 30,000 unemployed youths and women in the state.

(NAN)

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## Inside Politics

# Geidam, others are misinformed about Kafin-Zaki Dam – Gov Yuguda

**IN** spite of its foreseen treasures, the Kafin Zaki Dam project in Bauchi State has been severely opposed by neighbouring states especially Yobe whose leaders complain that it will dry up the Nguru wetlands. In this interview with some journalists in Abuja, Bauchi State governor Malam Isa Yuguda sheds light on many grey areas, saying he is set to correct misrepresentations about the project to pave way for the construction work. Excerpts:

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

**W**HY the controversy, how feasible is the project?

The Kafin-Zaki Dam is an agricultural project which is part of federal government's desire to harness our water resources. This project has been on since the sixties. It was conceived after an Ariel Study done by some American groups. That location has been found to be ideal for a dam which is going to be the biggest in Africa. It has a river which meanders over a length of over 1,300 kilometres with origin in Plateau State, and empties into the Nguru wetlands and eventually into the Lake Chad. Now, between the watershed and the dam is just about 70 kilometres. The stakeholders include Plateau, Yobe, Jigawa and Bauchi which is the major stakeholder because 90 per cent of the river meanders in the state.

After the location of the proposed dam, there are many other rivers. So the argument that when the dam is constructed there will be insufficient water downstream doesn't stand. As I said, between the watershed and the Dam is about 70 kilometres. Also the bulk of the water that empties into the Nguru wetlands is after the Kafin Zaki Dam not before it. More prominent among those rivers are the Baguda and Tiger rivers both coming from Kano State.

These two rivers constitute

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six per cent of the waters of the Kafin Zaki River. You will also be shocked to know that only one per cent of the water that empties into the Nguru wetlands comes from the Kafin Zaki source. This is to let you know that the whole thing is a political issue. The whole problem is generated by politicians and those professionals who are not only unethical but feed fat on misinforming the public. For the politicians, they are making a mountain out of the issue because they may not have anything to deliver to their people. So they have to make a lot of noise about the water project. I am sure if they get to know that only one per cent of the water that empties into the Nguru wetlands comes from the Kafin Zaki source, they won't challenge somebody who wants to construct that dam for the benefit of the affected people and Nigerians in general.

Right now if you go there the dam is dried up. It is only when the rains resume in June that the river starts flowing. But when the dam is constructed, the entire stretch of the river will have irrigation canals. You also have close to about 150,000 hectares of arable land and the beneficiaries are going to include farmers in Yobe State.

Right now wild grasses have grown in the Nguru wetlands; siltation has eaten up all the fertile lands that are supposed to be put to use after the dam has been constructed. Once the dam is constructed, the wild grasses have to go; the siltation has to go.

The Lake Alo in Maiduguri has denied Lake Chad 4% of the water that empties into it. Therefore if Borno State can construct that dam to provide water for irrigation for its indigenes, how can you ask Bauchi people whose river is giving only 1% water to the Nguru wetlands not to do their dam which is going to create over 1 million jobs and produce over a million tons of rice, wheat and sugar cane annually. The dam is also going to produce 60 megawatts of electricity through the by-products of the sugar cane that will be produced.

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GOVERNOR Isa Yuguda

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East today, the soils have already been burnt out and can no longer grow anything. So they have to go to the Far East to partner with the people of those countries to grow food. This is also happening in some parts of Europe. But there is no soil in Nigeria that cannot grow food. But you see the human beings that God has planted in Nigeria are anti development. We are enemies of our future generations.

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# Bauchi students protest non payment of allowances

From Umar Mohammed  
Puma Bauchi

Bauchi state students in various tertiary institutions across the state on Tuesday stormed the state's Agency for Youth and Women Rehabilitation Development BAYWARD demanding for the payment of their N10, 000 monthly allowance.

Speaking to our correspondents in Bauchi on the leader of the students, Caleb Buba, said the state government had through BAYWARD obtained admissions for hundreds of

them into some tertiary institutions of the state and promised to pay them the monthly allowance.

"But we were only paid once, that was in in October, 2009. There were over 50 of us in federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, over 100 in ATBU and 250 at the Tafari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi. Now because these allowances were stopped some of us from poor backgrounds can no longer continue in school".

But reacting to the students grievances, Director General of BAYWARD, Professor Musa Maisamari, said the students misunderstood that the allowances were meant only for them to stand on their feet.

He claimed that government had identified over 1000 youth who had one obstacle or the other in continuing their education and provided them the assistance so that they could go back to school and be on their own.

"Government spent an average of N20, 000-N40, 000 for the registration of those who got admission. The N10, 000 allowance was meant to assist them stand on their feet. It is a privilege and not a salary. They mistook the programme. We can only now pay the next batch."



Gov. Isa Yuguda

Use Road Feb 12-19-2010



# Bauchi State Battles Malaria

*Different people die every day due to one malaria case or the other. RABIU SANI writes on how one state government is making effort in fighting the scourge.*

**M**alam Safiyanu Aminu, a 34-year-old farmer at Kafin Madaki village of Ganjuwa Local Government Area, Bauchi State, recently lost his wife. The late Adama, 22, died during child birth.

Adama's death, however, was not much of a surprise to Aminu. This was because she was bed-ridden for several months.

Medical records at the Kafin Madaki General hospital said Adama died of "acute malarial".

Aminu is among hundreds of families who have lost beloved ones to malaria in Bauchi and several other parts of the country.

Caused by a parasite of the genus plasmodium, four species are said to be responsible for causing malaria in human body.

The species are plasmodium falciparum, plasmodium vivax, plasmodium ovale and plasmodium malariae.

Of the quartet, Plasmodium falciparum is the commonest specie and accounts for 98 per cent of the spread of malaria in Africa.

Medical experts say that the transmission of malaria is done by hungry female anopheles mosquitoes infected with the parasite.

Anopheles mosquito, which is mostly infected, is active at night and transmits the parasite into human body after a single bite.

Malaria itself is classified into two main categories: uncomplicated and severe malaria.

Uncomplicated malaria has no life threatening manifestations and presents symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting and decreased appetite.

The second category of the disease, severe malaria, presents life threatening complications such as coma, confusion, prostration, severe anemia, jaundice, convulsion, inability to pass urine, pulmonary edema and bleeding.

Statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that about 140 countries are exposed to malaria, while more than 2.4 million people are at risk of malaria attack.

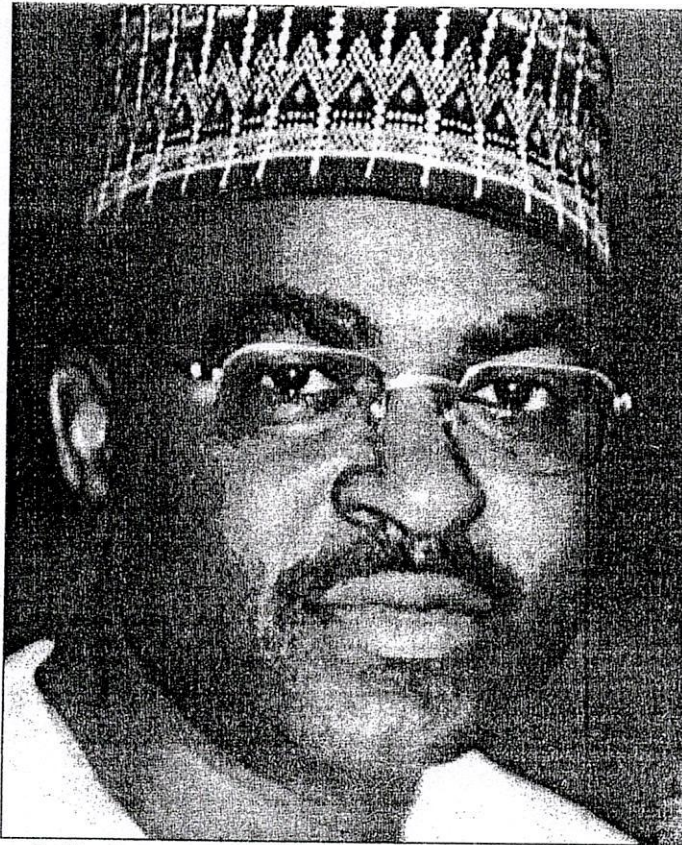
The data shows that between 1.7 and 3 million people die annually from malaria attack, while an estimated 500 million cases of the disease are recorded yearly worldwide.

According to the statistics, no fewer than 25 million African women and seven million Nigerian women become pregnant annually in malaria endemic areas, while one-quarter of pregnant women in Nigeria carry malaria parasite in their blood during pregnancy.

"Every year, between 300 and 500 million new cases of malaria infections are reported, nearly five times as reported cases of Tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, Measles and leprosy combined", the statistics say.

Available records also show that 60 per cent of the people that visit the hospitals every day are affected by malaria, while the disease is responsible for 70 per cent of childhood mortality, 25 per cent infant mortality and 11 per cent of maternal mortality.

With its population of 20 million, Bauchi State is one of the most malaria-prone states in Nigeria. The state government has been making efforts to combat the disease.



• Gov Yaguda

than 649 persons died of malaria between 2007 and 2008.

"This is besides the 253,814 new cases of the disease recorded in various health institutions across the 20 Local Government Areas of the state within the last two years," the report said.

Worried by this frightening statistics, the Bauchi State Government has embarked on a house-to-house campaign to sensitise the people on the disease.

As a first step measure, the government, in collaboration with World Bank and the Federal Government, under the Malaria Booster Control Project (MBCP), has embarked on various measures to combat the disease in the state.

Already, the state has established branches of the Bauchi State Agency for the Control of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria (BACATMA), in all its 20 Local Governments.

The branches are expected to check the spread of the diseases by promptly managing any case in their areas.

The state has also introduced community education and awareness campaign to enlighten the populace on the symptoms of the diseases to enable them join in the fight.

Dr Ribwanu Muhammad, the Executive Secretary of BACATMA, who spoke on its activities, said that it was partnering with UNICEF, WHO and UNDP to implement "a coordinated campaign strategy to fight malaria in the state".

Among the strategies, he said, are the use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs), Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) and Enhanced Management of Malaria.

He said that the state government had so far trained more than 90 doctors and pharmacists to tackle malarial cases, in addition to 500 care givers.

The Executive Secretary said that more

than 1.1 million pieces of Long Lasting Insecticide Mosquitoes Treated Nets (LLITNs) have been earmarked for distribution to households in the rural areas.

Also distributed to the rural areas are 450,000 doses of ACT medicine and other anti-malarial drugs.

Other far-reaching measures, according to him, include the application of out-door and indoor insecticide spray to destroy mosquito's breeding spots to minimise its transmission of the disease.

He said that community health workers had also been trained to enlighten the populace to ensure that food items were not left uncovered while doors should be shut for a period of two hours after the spray of insecticides.

Other steps, he said, include the engagement of experts to analyse the mosquitoes specie in the state.

The experts will also study and identify the mosquito species, its life pattern and behavior in relation to the weather and climatic condition of various communities in the state.

"That exercise will allow for thorough examination and studies of the mosquitoes as well as analyse the type of insecticide to be used for effective control".

Dr Yakubu Shirama, the Medical Director, Alkali General Hospital, Bauchi, corroborated the statement Executive Secretary.

He said that emphasis was now on prevention rather than cure as part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure total eradication of the disease.

Shirama, a surgeon, attributed the incessant malaria manifestation to poor, untidy and unclean environment, which provides soft breeding spots for mosquitoes.

But to rid the state of malaria, the medical doctor suggested communication and behavioural change to make the people develop a positive attitude toward good sanitation and hygiene.

"Effective environmental campaign is necessary to make the people keep clean and healthy environment.

"That way, we can destroy mosquitoes' breeding points and control malaria", Shirama said.

It was to further mobilise the people to fight malaria that a two-day training and sensitisation workshop was recently organised for media practitioners in the state.

The workshop, packaged by the World Bank, was designed to encourage the media practitioners to prioritise community awareness to ensure a change in people's attitude toward keeping a clean environment.

In a Communique after the workshop, the journalists called on the state government to re-introduce monthly environmental sanitation exercise and equip environmental and sanitation agencies.

The journalists also advised the government to ensure good town planning and construction of drains as way of building a healthy environment so as to complement the efforts of the World Bank who recently gave \$7 million dollars to help combat the deadly disease.

They also urged the state government to support and fund the activities of the media practitioners in the state.

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