



**PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS  
OF RT. HON. GABRIEL SUSWAM'S  
ADMINISTRATION IN BENUE STATE  
AS HIGHLIGHTED BY  
M.D.AS'.**

**COMPILED BY:**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE STATE  
GOVERNMENT  
FOR PRESENTATION TO NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM  
OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM  
DURING THEIR VISIT TO BENUE STATE ON THE  
16TH JULY 2009.**

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## **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Introduction**

At the inception of this administration led by His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Torwua Suswam in May 2007, Government restructured the then Ministry of Agriculture and that of Livestock and Forest Resources into the present Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The primary target is to meet the challenges of formulating quality policies for the agricultural sector as well as effecting policy instruments through appropriate implementation of programmes and projects to impact positively on the citizenry of Benue State in particular and Nigeria at large. The mission was to build a vehicle that will deliver the needed services efficiently to farmers, agro – industrialists and the commercial sector for accelerated economic development of the State.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, His Excellency constituted the State Executive Council and I was appointed as the Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Today, I am elated to brief you on the activities of the Ministry within the two years of this administration.

Gentlemen of the press, Ladies and gentlemen, before I brief you on what we are doing and what we have done at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources so far, it is ideal that the structural arrangement of the Ministry be highlighted. This will enable you have a better understanding of the workings of the Ministry.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Ministry is made up of six Directorates, two Parastatals, one Tertiary and Livestock Investigation and Breeding Centre).

(a) The Directorates:-

(1) Directorate of Administration and supplies

- (ii) Directorate of Finance and Accounts
- (iii) Directorate of Agricultural Services
- (iv) Directorate of Engineering Services
- (v) Directorate of Livestock Services
- (vi) Directorate of Fisheries

**(b) Parastatals**

- (i) Benue State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (BNARDA)
- (ii) Benue State Tractor Hiring Agency (BENTHA)

**(c) Tertiary Institution**

Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture, Yandev.

**(d) Farm Training Centres**

- (i) Agricultural Training Centre, Mbatie
- (ii) Agricultural Vocational Training Centre, Otobi.

**(e) Farm Centres**

- (i) Livestock Investigation and Breeding Centre, Raav
- (ii) Quarantine Service Centres at Katsina – Ala, and Makurdi.

**(f) Programme**

Benue State Accelerated Food Production Programme.

**ADMINISTRATIVE HIERARCHY OF THE MINISTRY**

The division of the Ministry into departments and other functional units is to enhance efficient service delivery through multi – disciplinary and sectoral approach with cohesion at the centre. Functions permeate between the directorates and each of the directorates act as complement to the other. The Directorates and Units are headed by erudite and experienced hands in their respective subject matters. They are;-

- (i) Permanent Secretary, **Prince Andy Uwouku**
- (ii) Director of Administration and Supplies, **Mr. Emmanuel O. Ikpe**
- (iii) Director of Finance and Accounts, **Mr. F.O. Enenche**
- (iv) Director of Agriculture Services, **Mr. M.A. Igbudu**
- (v) Director of Engineering Services, **Mr. Asenda Akwati**
- (vi) Director of Fisheries, **Mr. S.O. Ebe**
- (vii) Director of Livestock, **Dr. A.I. Kershima**
- (viii) Benue State Tractor Hiring Agency (BENTHA), **Engr, Thomas Ger**
- (ix) Benue State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (BNARDA), **Dr. C.U. Egbo**
- (x) Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture, Yandev. **Dr. O.E. Gbonko**
- (xi) Agricultural Training Centre, Mbatie. **Mr. Fred Adajime**
- (xii) Agricultural Vocational Training Centre, Otobi. **Mr. Emmanuel Otokpa**
- (xiii) Benue State Accelerated Food Production Programme, **Mr. F.I. Akosu**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE LAST TWO (2) YEARS**

The achievements made so far in the agricultural sector were driven by the purposeful leadership of His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Torwua Suswam, the Executive Governor of Benue State, the tireless efforts and commitment of the entire members of the Benue State Executive Council, Members of the House of Assembly and the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Ladies and gentlemen, the programmes and projects executed that have transformed the agricultural sector positively area as follows:

#### **Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution**

In 2008, the State Government procured and distributed One Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy Six (1,276) trucks, an equivalent of thirty eight thousand, five hundred and eighty (38,250) metric tones of assorted brands of fertilizer

the farmers will now get this essential input at the farm gate without any hindrances.

## **FARM MECHANIZATION**

### **(i) Tractor Acquisition**

Tractorization of farm operations is the panacea to Commercial Agriculture in the world today and Nigeria cannot be an exception. It is actually more tedious and unpleasant using manual labour in land preparation and working the soil for crop production.

At the inception of office as the Honourable Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, nearly all the tractors of the Benue State Tractor Hiring Agency were broken – down. An immediate action was taken and forty four (44) tractors were rehabilitated at a total cost of Twenty Three Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Naira (N23, 770,520.00) only to meet the desire of our farmers. Even up to this moment, these tractors are still functional and serving our farmers in all the Local Government Areas of the State.

\* Also, we pursued relentlessly and collected twenty two (22) new tractors allocated to the State by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources for which payment was deducted at source from the State revenue from the federation account. These tractors were collected and added to the fleet of BENTHA tractors to strengthen them further for service delivery to Benue State farmers.

Today, it is another opportunity to inform Benue farmers that the Federal Government has allocated Hundred (100) units of John Deere tractors of 75 horse power capacity to the State. These tractors are given under the Community Cooperative Tractor Hiring Scheme of the National Food Security Programme. Each of these tractors cost Seven Million, Three Hundred and Ninety Eight Thousand Naira (N7,398,000.00) with Federal Government paying N1,849,500.00 and State Government paying N1,109,700.00 representing 25% and

15% subsidy by Federal and State. The farmers' cooperative is to pay a total of Four Million, Four Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Naira (N4, 438,800.00) only over a period of three years. Each farmers' cooperative group is to make a down payment of Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Naira (N887, 760.00) only to access a tractor unit and make payment of the remaining balance within a three year amortization period. This arrangement is under a Public Private Partnership (PPP). Further, proper arrangements are being put together to ensure that our farmers benefit from this programme. It is therefore advisable here that our farmers form functional registered cooperative groups to benefit from the programme and other similar programmes of the Federal Government.

(ii) **Farm Equipment**

The Ministry procured tree crop nursery tools at a total cost of One Million Naira (N1, 000,000.00) and distributed them to the twenty three (23) Divisional Agricultural Offices in the State to enhance tree crop seedlings production.

Also, government procured 5,000 units of Knapsack Sprayers at a total cost of Forty Seven Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N47, 500,000.00) to ameliorate the difficulties encountered by farmers in the State. These equipments were recently commissioned for sale by His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Gabriel T. Suswam at 50% subsidy i.e. Four Thousand, and Nine Hundred Naira (N4, 900.00) only per Knap Sack Sprayer. It was with the applauds shown by farmers at the commissioning of the sales of these equipments that the Ministry thought of complementing it with the procurement and sales of agro chemicals this planting season.

**Renovation and Rehabilitation of Warehouses**

Within the period under review, the Ministry rehabilitated fertilizer warehouses at Gboko, Otukpo and Zaki – Biam at a total cost of Five Million Naira (N5, 000,000.00). A grain store in Makurdi was also renovated. This is to facilitate proper storage of fertilizers as well as farm produce.

### **Expansion of Fertilizer Depots**

To facilitate efficient fertilizer distribution, the Ministry increased the number of fertilizer depots to include Ugba in Logo, Zaki-Biam in Ukum, Adikpo in Kwande, Lessel in Ushongo, Buruku in Buruku and Ugbokpo in Apa LGAs of the State. The Ministry also made every local government Headquarters a fertilizer distribution centre to ensure that the critical farm input get to the grass – root farmers for early application on their crops.

### **Technological Transfer From Iowa State University**

In a bid to improve the technology of Benue State farmers, Government invited a team of Agriculturists from the Iowa State University of United States of America to assist the State in the establishment of demonstration farms in four (4) locations in the State. The farms are to undertake Pig production and Crop production. A good number of officers from the State have been trained and others are currently undergoing training at Iowa State University to manage these demonstration farms when established. Under this programme, efficient extension services will be rendered to Benue State farmers for increased productivity.

In 2008 cropping season, two demonstration farms at Howe (250 ha) and Tse – Ukegbe (250 ha) developed land sites took – off at a total cost of Seventeen Million, Four Hundred and Eighty Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (N17,488,500.00). Farm plots were allocated to farmers alongside the demonstration plots to ensure that farmers effectively adopt improved farming practices.

### **PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRAINS**

The Federal Government through Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources allocated 600 metric tons of Sorghum and 600 metric tons of Maize to the State in 2008 to cushion the effect of food crises. The State Government paid



the sum of Forty Eight Million and Seven Hundred Thousand Naira (N48, 700,000.00) for the grains. The grains were collected and sold to the public at subsidized rates.

### **Procurement of Farm Machineries and Equipments for the Demonstration Farms**

Government has procured two (2) units of John Deere Tractors, planters, fertilizer applicators, harvesters, threshers and their spare parts for the demonstration farms. These machines and equipments are currently been assembled at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Headquarters. A total of over Fifty Nine Million Naira (N59, 000,000.00) has been expended on this project. It is envisaged that these machines will be used for effective execution of the demonstration farm projects.

### **Renovation and Rehabilitation of Facilities in the Livestock Subsector.**

The Ministry undertook a comprehensive renovation and rehabilitation of dilapidated structures and equipments in the livestock subsector to enhance increased productivity. These include the following:

- Rehabilitation and Restocking of Livestock Investigation and Breeding Centre, Raav at a total cost of Twenty Five Million, Five Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty One Naira, Seventy Kobo (N25,572,741.70). This Centre was re - capacitated to ensure the improvement of local breed with exotic breeds for enhanced performance in terms of meat quality, milk and numbers of offspring.
- Rehabilitated North Bank, Wurukum, Wadata and Modern Market abattoirs at a total cost of Fifteen Million Naira (N15, 000,000.00).
- A new Ultra - Modern abattoir is also being constructed at Anyiin in Logo Local Government Area.
- Constructed and equipped Quarantine centres against pathogenic animal diseases at Makurdi and Katsina -

Ala at a total cost of Three Million Naira (N3,000,000.00) only.

- Renovated and equipped Veterinary clinics at Gboko, Katsina – Ala and Otukpo for effective livestock disease control and treatment service delivery to livestock farmers. A total of Fifteen Million (N15,000,000.00) was expended on this project.
- Hosted the 94<sup>th</sup> Veterinary Council of Nigeria which was adjudged the best.

**Epoch – making Achievements made in the Fisheries subsector includes the following:-**

- Reactivated Makurdi Fish Hatchery and constructed three gigantic fish ponds at a total cost of Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Naira (N13,810,840.00). This project is to meet the demand of Benue fish farmers as well as fish intake by the public.
- Constructed perimeter fencing of Makurdi Fish Hatchery complex at a total cost of Sixteen Million Naira (N16,000,000.00).
- Revitalized Akata Fishing and Cultural Festival in the State. The Akata fishing and cultural festival has been celebrated in two consecutive years 2008 and 2009 within the tenure of this administration, drawing attention to the cultural heritage and tourism potentials of the State.

Ladies and gentlemen, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Ministry was able to;

- Attract twenty nine (29) motorcycles and two boats which have been distributed to livestock officers to carry out surveillance on Avian influenza in the twenty three (23) local government areas of the State.
- Ensure the effective take – off of the Fadama 111 programme in the State. The State Government met the payment of her counterpart fund of Sixty Million Naira (N60,000,000.00) for the programme. Efforts

are also being made to meet the 2009 counterpart fund requirement

- Procured and distributed furniture and equipments for the twenty three (23) local governments Fadama 111 offices for efficient service delivery.

### **RENOVATION OF OFFICE BLOCKS**

Within the period under review, the Honourable Commissioner's and the Permanent Secretary's office blocks were renovated and furnished at a total cost of Five Million Naira (N5,000,000.00) and Three Million Naira N3,000,000.00) respectively.

### **STAFF WELFARE**

Staff who passed the promotion examination and met the conditions for promotion were recommended for promotion. Within the period under review, a total of six hundred and thirty (630) staff of the Ministry have been promoted.

Also, outstanding staff claims of two million five hundred thousand Naira (N2,500,000.00) pending in the Ministry were paid.

On training, many staff have gone on workshops and short courses, while others are on study leave with pay.

### **INTERNAL REVENUE GENERATION**

The revenue sources of the Ministry include collection of taxes, fees, levies and other forms of revenue on crop produce, livestock and fisheries products. These revenue sources are being handled by consultants. In all, over sixty one million Naira (N61,000,000.00) has been generated within the period under review as internal revenue.

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## **MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES AND TOURISM.**

### **Preamble**

As captured in the administration's development blue print, the focus of the administration in the commercial, industrial and Tourism sub-sectors is to create conducive environment for development investment and encourage active participation of the private sector through mutually beneficial Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). Efforts were therefore geared and directed at attracting both local and foreign capital expertise in the completion of on-going and new industrial projects. The use of Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) as a new frontier in project implementation is given prominence. Varying degrees of achievement have been recorded in various projects.

The Ministry is structured as follows:

- Department of Administration and Finance.
- Department of Commerce.
- Department of Industries,
- Department of Tourism

### **DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

This department was created to assist the State Government to achieve its aims and objectives in the policy implementation as reflected in the two divisions of the departments, namely Administration and Finance.

The Administrative division is the life wire of the Ministry as it coordinates the activities of other Departments, bringing them to function as one body, while Finance Division is charged with the

responsibility of coordinating all the financial activities of all the Departments of the Ministry. It is also regarded as the heart of the organization. At present there are one hundred and sixty two (162) staff in the Ministry, made up of one hundred and five (105) senior staff and fifty seven (57) junior staff.

During the period under review twenty-six (26) staff were promoted in the various cadres and ₦3.2 million naira expended on staff welfare.

### **COMMERCE DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Commerce under my Ministry is sub-divided into the following sections:

- Trade and Investment Promotion,
- Registration of Business Premises (RBP),
- Market Research and Statistics(MRS),
- Pools Promotion and Games of Chance.

On the whole, the Department has cabinet responsibility of promoting the acceleration of all aspects of commercial activities in the State. For the purpose of this Press Briefing, I will need to mention briefly the responsibilities and achievements in the various sections already listed above.

#### **Trade and Investment Promotion**

This section is the engine room of the Department of Commerce. The section ensures adequate promotion of commerce in order to encourage a viable and flourishing commercial life within the state. In doing this, investment is not only being targeted but also

being achieved. Within the period under review, the Department coordinated the state's participation at the following events:

- Lagos International Trade Fair 2007 where the state won the coveted "Best Exhibitor Award".
- Tinapa Trade Expo 2008 at Tinapa Resort Calabar.
- Lagos Enterprises Exhibition at Lagos where several Entrepreneurs drawn from the membership of the Benue Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (BECCIMA) exhibited.
- The 2008 Benue National Trade Fair in Makurdi, which was organized by the Benue Chamber.

These and others have already started yielding investments to our dear state through the Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangements with some investors. Such investments include Mbatia Cement Factory and Makurdi International Hotel Complex. Taraku Mills Ltd is leased to a competent manager under the new Public-Private-Partnership.

As you are already aware, we are in the process of engaging a competent Firm/Entrepreneur to manage the Makurdi Modern Market on a lease arrangement after the expiration of the lease agreement between the State Government and Kuma & Partners. A Management Committee is to oversee the running of the market while applications are being received and processed from prospective bidders for the management of the International Market.

In the area of export promotion, my Ministry in conjunction with Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) Jos Zonal Office, organized a sensitization workshop in Makurdi on "Export of

Services". The workshop was well attended and participants alluded to the enormous benefits of the workshop especially as it relates to Export Trade. We have commenced the process of revamping the State Export Promotion Committee.

The Organised Private Sector is being encouraged and strengthened through my Ministry's pragmatic and proactive approach to the seasoning of the programmes, operations and activities of the Benue Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (BECCIMA) and the National Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI). Various supports and assistance have been given to these associations at one time or the other within the period under review.

#### **Registration of Business Premises (RBP)**

I am pleased to announce that my Ministry through this activity has been contributing immensely to Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the State. Within the period under review, a total sum of ₦18.5m (Eighteen Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) only has been realized. Efforts are being made to ensure an improved performance in this direction especially through the provision of logistics support like vehicles.

#### **Market Research and Statistics (MRS)**

The section collects and collates all information and statistical data on market operations in the state especially with regard to revenue that is generated from such markets. This is a veritable tool for economic development. The section equally monitors the performance of our Revenue Area Officers in the 23 Local Government Areas.



## **Pools and Games of Chance**

The activities of Pools and Games of Chance have continued to dwindle. This could be explained to the apparent disinterest members of the public are showing to this activity. However, ₦250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) only was realized as revenue from this source.

## **Government Warehouses**

Government has a few warehouses scattered in the state capital including the premises of the former UTC properties where the construction firm, **Hajaig Construction (Nig) Ltd** is using (renting) presently as its operational headquarters. Revenue accrued from this source within this period amounts to ₦6m (Six Million Naira) only.

## **Makurdi Ultra-Modern International Market Project**

My Ministry also has cabinet responsibility over the new Ultra-Modern International Market at Tamen layout here in Makurdi. This project was conceived by the Rt. Hon. Gabriel Torwua Suswam's Administration in an attempt to accommodate Traders who have not being accommodated in the already existing Modern Market Complex and other markets within Makurdi metropolis. This is attributed to the accelerated growth of the commercial life within the metropolis.

The contract for the construction of the new 1000 stalls capacity market was awarded to M/s Metropole Development Ltd Abuja, at the cost of ₦1.768 billion (One Billion, Seven Hundred and Sixty-eight Million Naira) only, in May 2008. The project is expected to be completed in eighteen months. 45% of the work has been achieved and more funds are needed for the early completion of the

Market. When completed, it is expected that the project would provide a niche in the creation of a conducive commercial atmosphere within the State capital.

### **2.1 Overview of Revenue Generation**

- |    |                                   |                  |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| a. | Registration of Business Premises | ₦ 18.5m.         |
| b. | Agro Millers Ltd                  | ₦16m.            |
| c. | Benue Hotels Ltd                  | ₦ 16m.           |
| d. | Makurdi Modern Market             | ₦ 7m.            |
| e. | Government Warehouses             | ₦ 6m.            |
| f. | Pools and Games of Chance         | ₦ 0.250m.        |
| g. | Taraku Mills Ltd                  | ₦ 60m. (Delayed) |

### **2.2 INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT**

#### **2.2.1 Progress Recorded**

#### **2.2.2 Taraku Mills**

The giant integrated agro-processing mills established by the Aper Aku administration after series of efforts from successive administrations in the state finally grounded to a halt in 2004. The mills were inherited in a closed-down state with huge debts exceeding one billion naira.

Utilizing the PPP strategy, the government entered into negotiations with various interest groups and finally signed a 5 year lease agreement with M/s Yelwata Trading Company (Nigeria) Ltd leasing out Taraku Mills facilities at an annual fee of ₦60million payable all en-block upfront ie ₦300million covering the five years.

The lease is yet to effectively take off due to non payment of the lease fee which has delayed the handover of the plant to date. However, while pursuing a detailed handover programme the Mills

have successfully processed both soyabeans and maize into various Taraku Mills traditional products now in the market.

Contingent plans are in place to consider other worthy proposals for effective take over and operation of the plant in the event that the Yelwata group fails to meet deadline given them for the payment of the lease fee.

### **Mbatiav Cement**

This project was inherited at the feasibility study stage. Government has since found a developer/financier/operator in M/s Fanison International Ltd under the Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangements, M/s Fanison will invest a total of US \$299.08million, construct the factory within 3 years and operate for a period of 7 years to recoup investment and hand over to Government thereafter.

The project was flagged-off by His Excellency, Gabriel Suswam, at Akpagher on October 28, 2008.

Survey, site clearing/preparation and machinery fabrication are in progress. The implementation programme is on course.

### **Agro Millers**

The over 30 year<sup>7</sup>old 30,000 tons/annum rice processing mill at Makurdi was leased out by the immediate past administration in 2004 to M/s Olam (Nig.) Ltd. The lease expired in 2007 and has since been renewed.

This administration met the company in a state of comatose and needing substantial investment in modern machinery and upgrading in order to be competitive. Government therefore approved the lessee's proposal to invest about ₦130million in the

replacement of the old and inefficient plant with new machinery. The modernization and capacity optimization program has been completed and the resultant 35,000 tons/annum capacity plant returned to production.

Accordingly the lease was extended for a period of 10 more years at an annual fee of ₦8million. The Outgrower Programme for rice production introduced by M/s Olam is effectively operational and richly beneficial economically to participating farmers in 13 Local Government Areas of the State with average yields shooting up as much as 5 tons/ha from a hitherto meager 1.5 tons/ha average.

### **Igumale Cement**

The US \$80million 600,000 metric tones per annum cement factory embarked upon in 2001 by the immediate past administration under a Chinese Cooperation was inherited with a back log of government mandatory initial commitment of \$5million having paid only \$3million out of the expected \$8million before the shipment of machinery.

This administration has since reduced this indebtedness to \$1.882million, having paid \$3.18million already. The administration has also expended the sum of over ₦48million in clearing machinery/equipment as well as the upkeep of the Chinese on site.

Presently a consignment of machinery in 14 containers have arrived the country and are awaiting clearance at the ports. Construction work going on at factory site is expected to be stepped up when delivery of the equipment presently at the port is effected as some needed equipment/tools for construction are in the consignment.

The project is expected to be commissioned next year going by the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed with the Chinese Partners and the new negotiated financing plan.

Shipment of machinery worth \$3million is in the country following machinery inspection and project renegotiation in China by an official government delegation headed by the Deputy Governor early in 2008. Meanwhile technical teams of Chinese arrived the country and are busy on site.

Government is committed to completing and commissioning this project soon.

### **Cassava Flour**

The cassava processing plant at Makurdi was partially privatized to accommodate the investment proposal of M/s DADTCO of the Netherlands, the company that manufactured, supplied and installed the plant. Under the privatization carried out by the immediate past administration, DADTCO was to acquire 75% stake in the company and manage the company by making a refund of ₦208,799,208m to government.

DADTCO ran the plant for 16 months but failed to make the deposit for the 75% equity allotted them. They also failed to account for proceeds from the operations.

Attempts at resolving issues with DADTCO with the Dutch Embassy involvement are being concluded with an alternative to sourcing genuine private partnership with another investor should the DADTCO impasse persist.

This administration on takeover consequently ordered DADTCO to stop operations and the company duly closed down on 28<sup>th</sup>

August, 2008. Talks based on thorough appraisal of the situations are on with the Dutch with the aim to reopen the factory on new/more favourable terms for Government.

### **Benfruits Nigeria Ltd**

The Makurdi fruits processing factory already installed and awaiting test-run and commissioning will soon be ready. This follows the release of requisite funds by Government and the declared willingness of the Italian firm (M/s ELPO) that supplied and installed the plant. The company's vandalized 500KVA generator has been repaired in readiness for this purpose.

The delay in completing the factory is as a result of government insistence on the machinery supplier (in preference to any other knowledgeable technician) to test the plant for obvious reasons – to prove the effectiveness or otherwise of machines supplied by them. The supplier had earlier placed stringent conditions to be met by government before returning to site claiming they had overspent their scheduled time on the project. Already the sum of ₦26million has been released by Government to bring back the Italians to test-run and commission the plant.

### **Benue Plastic Factory**

The Makurdi Plastic Factory was also inherited closed down.

In the effort to restore production to the factory, discussions were held with some interested groups for technical management, joint ventureship, outright purchase and long lease.

Final decision and conclusion of negotiations will follow and hopefully the factory will bounce back to production soon.

### **Benue Burnt Bricks**

The Otukpo Bricks Factory was similarly taken over moribund/closed-down. Government plan is to privatize the company. An MOU was recently signed with a Chinese Firm for complete overhaul and expansion. The program will be implemented and factory recommissioned this year. The Chinese firm will be responsible for the financing requirements.

### **Fruit Juice Factory, Gboko**

The immediate past Government concluded arrangement to take over Yuteco Foods, it has now been formally taken over, and ₦50million due to its promoter under the signed agreement duly paid. Efforts are being made to find suitable investors with whom to negotiate partnership of mutual benefit.

### **Tomato/Mango Processing Plant**

The Wannune (Tarka LGA) Fruits Processing Project was inherited with most of machinery delivered at site. Construction work however was stalled after achieving about 60%. The administration, desirous to complete the project remobilized the contractor to site and has since May 2007 paid a total of ₦34.6million. Recently government has approved and released another ₦56million to enable the contractor to return to site and complete work.

In similar efforts to commence machinery installation towards completing and commissioning the project, the sum of ₦29.5million was expended to clear and deliver to site the containers with the remaining equipment inherited uncleared at the ports.

The Italian installation team is being expected on site for installation. Government is committed to delivering the project this year.

### **Coal Powered Generation**

This administration is committed to active exploitation of the rich mineral deposits of the state. One of the major constraints to industrial development is the sorry state of the power sector. Given confirmed good deposits and high quality coal in the state, government is working out the possibility of an Independent Power Project that would exploit the coal deposits to generate electricity for industrial use in particular. An MOU has been signed with a Chinese Partner for the development of 48MW Coal-powered project utilizing her Owukpa Coal deposits at the cost of US \$160million on a Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

### **BNSG/Bank of Industry MSME Fund**

The Federal and State Governments in joint desire to encourage Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship development nationwide are encouraged to package special low cost/easy to access funds for development.

The administration in partnership with the Bank of Industry (BOI) has packaged a ₦1.0billion equal participation special fund to provide loans to deserving applicants in the MSME programmes/projects. Government is in the process of releasing its counterpart contribution of ₦500million. All other logistics for take-off are in place.



## **Industrial Park Project**

Federal Government is also willing to partner willing states that would provide land and basic infrastructure to develop into industrial parks. This administration is poised to take advantage of this offer and already the Naka Road Industrial Layout is being transformed into facilities that will qualify the state to benefit huge Federal investment in the program.

Towards this a police post (to be upgraded into a full Division) has been established. Selected banks have been approached to open branches at the layout. Electricity – PHCN power sub-station has already been established while the temporary water supply scheme at the layout is being expanded to accommodate the rising rate of occupancy.

## **NASSI**

The Benue Chapter of the National Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI) is being supported by government to reorganize and reposition itself to benefit from the BNSG/BOI Fund as well as similar facilities from banks for active participation of the organized private sector in the development programs of government.

## **TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

### **Makurdi International Hotel**

Desirous of completing a project that was started since 1984, the State Government has signed a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Agreement with Golden Shammar Ventures Ltd Lagos on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008 for the completion of Makurdi International Hotel Project, at a total cost of ₦3.2billion. This agreement has elapsed,

consequently discussions are ongoing with willing investors for the actualization of the project.

### **Ikwe Holiday Resort/Wild Life Park**

The project was conceived in 1976, partially developed but facilities vandalized. The present administration is desirous of renovating and upgrading the facilities at Ikwe Holiday Resort Igbor. Towards this end, a revised bill of quantities is being produced by the Ministry of Works.

### **Benue State Tourism Board**

In keeping with the policy thrust of this administration, to move Nigeria from the mono-cultural oil economy to a diversified economy through the development and promotion of Tourism Industry in Nigeria, as an alternative source of foreign exchange earner. This administration is living no stone unturned in the development of Tourism potentials that abound in the state. To effectively develop these potentials and enhance domestic and international tourism, the State Government has completed arrangement for the take-off of Tourism Board. Already ₦6million has been released for the production of programme designs, and ₦75million has been provided in this year's budget to effect take-off.

### **Makurdi Zoological Garden**

Desirous of increasing relaxation centres in the state, the renovation and restocking of Makurdi Zoological Garden with exotic animals has commenced. ₦10million is being committed in the project and negotiations are on going with the suppliers.

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## **Makurdi River Beach Complex**

The Makurdi River Beach Complex was conceived in 1976 and original site acquired. This site has however been taken over by Makurdi Golf Course through an Executive Approval. Desirous of actualizing the project, Ministry of Lands and Survey has commenced beaconing of the new site at Angbaaye – Gboko road for the production of Certificate of Occupancy. ₦7million has been approved in 2009 budget. State Government is willing to go into partnership with willing investors for the actualization of the project.

## **Benue Hotel Makurdi**

Benue State Government entered into a 5 year Lease Agreement with Nanet Hotels Ltd on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005. This partnership was considered as a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement in which Nanet Hotel Ltd undertook to renovate and upgrade the Hotel with no cost to Government. I am happy to inform you that, the Hotel is now wearing a new look in addition to the revenue accrued to Government. So far ₦16million has been remitted to the State Government as against nil revenue returns when the Hotel was under the management of Benue state Government.

## **CONCLUSION**

I wish to say that inspite of all the giant strides recorded, we have problems and constraints. Our major constraint is finance. There are so many competing needs/areas requiring attention.

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

### PREAMBLE

You are already aware that Education is the largest formal sector whose ramification cut across virtually all segments of the population of Benue State. Thus, there is a close correction between development in this sector and the overall quality of life of the people of the State.

It is against this background that the Governor, **Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam** has set as a goal in his policy document **Our Benue Our Future**, "To create equal opportunities for the acquisition of knowledge, marketable skills and positive attitudes through functional and qualitative education at all levels".

Based on the above the hallmark of the Ministry of education's functions and activities are geared towards accomplishing this goal.

The administration's philosophy also agrees with the national policy on education that there is no greater force for socio-economic and political advancement than a good educational system realistically organized and judiciously supplied with skilled and professionally qualified teachers. The Ministry therefore aims at

providing adequate qualitative education on cooperative basis between teachers parents, communities, voluntary agencies and corporate bodies.

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:**

The Ministry has six functional departments, one State University and four Tertiary Institutions over which I have cabinet responsibility. Of the six Departments, two are basically Service Departments which cater for the welfare and financial requirements of the Ministry, namely Administration & Supplies and Finance & Accounts. There are also professional departments saddled with the key functions of the Ministry. These are, Higher and Special Education, Inspectorate Services, Educational Resources, Science and Technology as well as Planning, Research and Statistics.

The key activities of the Ministry revolve around these Departments and include:

- i. The Inspection of Schools to ensure that standards and quality are maintained in our Schools.
- ii. Supervision of Construction renovation/rehabilitation of School buildings/projects.
- iii. Approval of applications for opening of Primary and Secondary Schools.
- iv. Collection and collation of Statistical data from schools for analysis and policy formulation.
- v. Planning and determination of areas of educational manpower development and training needs of the Ministry.

- vi. Overseeing and coordinating the activities of Government and other Tertiary Institutions in the State.
- vii. Formulating policies on all issues relating to Education in Benue State.
- viii. Conducting training workshops and Seminars for teachers to enhance human capital development in the system.
- ix. Promoting and popularizing Science and Technology education.
- x. Coordinating all Curricular Innovation activities.
- xi. Evaluating and recommending textbooks for use in Schools and Colleges in the State.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY:**

During the two years of the Suswam administration some modest achievements have been recorded in the education sector as can be seen below:-

##### **Projects being executed.**

- i. College of Health Science, Benue State University, Makurdi.
- ii. Command Secondary School, Makurdi. (a) Contract for the construction of a dining hall at the permanent site of the school has been awarded to the tune of n21,318,630.75 and the contractor has already been mobilized to site. (b) The sum of N105,165,407.61 has been approved for direct labour for the construction of perimeter fence, provision of water (bore-holes),



electricity and access roads. The Nigeria School of Military Engineering (NASME) that is handling the projects has been mobilized to site and work is currently on-going. (c) Contract was awarded for the construction of a 4 – bedroom bungalow at the cost of ₦10,907,804.75 and the project is at completion stage. This is to serve as the commandant's residence.

- iii. Supply of Lecture Chairs at Government Model Secondary School, Makurdi.
- iv. Renovation of school structures at College of Advance and Professional Studies, Makurdi.
- v. Renovation of Special Science Secondary School, North Bank Makurdi. (a) Contract has been awarded for the construction of perimeter fence in the school, at the cost of ₦68,472,276.00 and work is already at advance stage. Construction of a dining hall at the cost of ₦22,472.00 is on-going at Divine Love Catholic Girls' Secondary School, Katsina-Ala
- vi. Development of four sites in the three Senatorial districts for ETF sponsored School net projects. Computers have already been supplied to the four sites.
- vii. Government had approved the sum of ₦180,744,647.40 for the renovation of infrastructures in Government Post-Primary Schools in the State during the period under review. Consequently 36 Post-Primary Schools with a total of 60 classrooms blocks were selected

for renovation. Some of these projects have been completed and handed over while work is still on-going in others. The renovation of infrastructures cuts across the 3 Senatorial Zones of the State.

- viii. A water tanker worth ₦9,500,000.00. was purchased and given to College of Education, Katsina-Ala.
- ix. ₦50,750,000.00 worth of Auditorium Seats were given to the Benue State College of Health Sciences.

**Externally funded project:**

The Education Trust Fund is the sole sponsor of the Ministry's externally funded projects.

Just completed 2006 ETF project during this present administration are:-

- i. Construction of 2No. classroom blocks at Padopads Harmony Secondary School, Makurdi and Government Secondary School, Otukpo respectively.
- ii. Supply of library books to Government Secondary School, Amaafu, Mbaduku Community Secondary School, Tsar, Government Comprehensive Secondary School, Udei, Government Comprehensive Secondary School, Naka, Community Secondary School, Okpiko, Ohimini LGA and Government Day Secondary School, Otukpo.

- iii. Supply of Science Equipment to Ugondo Community Secondary School Ugba, Government girls Model Secondary School, Aliade, Bristow Secondary School, Gboko, Government Secondary School, Ughokpo.

The 2007 ETF projects are on-going in various schools in the three senatorial districts in the State.

### **Science & Technology Education**

1. Contract was awarded for the supply of Science Laboratory equipment and Chemicals to 17 designated Post-Primary Schools in the State at the cost of ₦249,231,300.00 the Ministry has already taken delivery of these.
2. Technical equipment worth ₦14 Million were procured and distributed to Technical Colleges.
3. Government has within the period sponsored students, teachers and officials for locally, nationally and internationally organised Science and Mathematics Competitions such as:
  - a. Quanta 2007 International Science Competition Project exhibition in Lucknow, India November, 2007
  - b. Nigeria – UNESCO Science Competition held in Abuja 2008.
  - c. International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) held in South Korea, 2008.

- d. Science Teachers Association of Nigeria Competition held in Sokoto 2007 and Bayelsa 2008.
- e. NTA Arts Science and Technology Expo Abuja for 2008 and 2009.

In terms of manpower training/development, the Ministry conducted a retraining workshop for teachers in the various subjects offered at Senior Secondary School level and workshops on "Generating school Data through effective Record keeping, and 'The menace of Examination Malpractice' for Principals, Vice-Principals and Deans of Studies.

### **Higher and Special Education**

Under this segment we had these achievements.

1. Government take-over of the Special School for the handicap at Aliade in 2008.
2. Accreditation of programmes has been carried out at the various tertiary institutions in the state by:
  - i. The National Universities Commission (NUC) for Benue State University in November, 2007.
  - ii. The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo in March, 2008.

- iii. The National Commission for Colleges for Education (NCCE) for the two Colleges of Education at Katsina-Ala and Oju in March and April 2008.

### **SCHOOL INSPECTION AND SPORTS**

1. Within the two years under review about 420 Primary and Post-Primary Schools were inspected by the Ministry.
2. Anglican Secondary School, Makurdi represented Benue State in NNPC/Shell Cup Soccer Competition and took the third (3) position at the finals in Lagos on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.
3. The State participated in the National Sports Festival held in Lagos from 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 and won one Gold medal, one silver and one bronze.
4. Queen of the Rosary Secondary School, Gboko participated in an invitational International Schools Basketball Competition in Dubai and came top among the schools in 2007.
5. Three athletes were sponsored by Government to participate in an invitational international athletics competition in Paris, France in 2007.

### **PARASTATALS UNDER THE MINISTRY**

Gentlemen of the press, it is imperative that I include in this briefing the achievements recorded by the five (5) parastatals of this Ministry. These Parastatals include:

- The Benue State Examination Board.

- The Agency for Adult and Non Formal Education (ANFEA).
- The Teaching Service Board.
- The Scholarship Board.
- Benue State Universal Basic Education Board.

I shall take them one after the other.

### **Benue State Examination Board**

Benue State Examination Board was established by the Benue State Edict No. 5 of 1994 and inaugurated on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1996. The Board is responsible for the general control of the conduct of Examinations for admissions into Secondary Schools. It therefore takes charge of the appointment of examiners and invigilators. It also determines examination fees, co-ordinates Continuous Assessment in Schools and among others, carry out research into how other Exams bodies conduct their activities.

### **Achievements**

The score card of the Board under the present administration which has been possible due to the positive disposition of the state leadership is as follows:

- a) The successful conduct of the 2007/2008 Junior School Certificate Examination (JSCE) 2007/2008 MOCK – SSCE, the 2007/2008 External JSCE. 2008 Common Entrance Examination, admission of

Benue State Students into Schools of Exchange Programme and also the successful conduct of the 2008/2009 Federal Craft Examinations.

- b) The Board has also constructed a large working shed for working and bagging Examination materials.
- c) There is adequate provision of furniture for staff use in offices.

### **Agency for Adult and Non-Formal Education (ANFEA)**

This Agency was established in the State on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1990 and became operational in April, 1991 after Edict No. 2 of 1991 was enacted to give it legal backing.

The Agency is responsible for the provision of all forms of Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education to the Youth and Adult citizens of the State. The aim is to eradicate illiteracy as well as create sustained awareness for meaningful development of the State. It has four Directorates that perform specific duties.

#### **- Achievements**

During the period under review, the Agency has recorded several major achievements which are in line with its objectives. These include:

- i. Continued increment in the number of people who have become literate under the programme. In the 2007/2008 session alone, over 33,710 candidates registered for the Basic and Post Literacy Certificate Examinations.

- ii. There has also been a sustained increase in the number of continuing Education Centres, which are absorbing willing adults and other school dropouts.
- iii. The Agency has also received approval from NECO to conduct SSCE Exams for its three (3) Continuing Education Centres.
- iv. There has also been an increased public awareness on the need for adults to acquire literacy skills in order to enhance their condition of living.
- v. It has also got its staff training centre upgraded to a diploma awarding institution.
- vi. There is also the production of literacy by Radio Premier in Tiv.
- vii. Implementation of the Reflect Circle activities in ten (10) communities in Logo, Ukum, Kwande, Konshisha, Gboko, Makurdi, Gwer-West, Oju, Okpokwu and Otukpo. The project is aimed at literacy empowerment of the rural communities. Funding was by the National Commission for Mass Education Abuja to the tune of ₦100,000.00
- viii. Plans are underway to implement the teaching of Adults on the radio in other languages to cover Igede and Idoma languages.

### **The Teaching Service Board (TSB)**

The Teaching Service Board was established by the Education Edict No. 25 of 1981 with the mandate to harmonize the condition of service of



Teachers from various proprietors of schools in Benue State under a unified service.

- **Achievements**

The Teaching Service Board (TSB) under the present administration has recorded tremendous achievements within the ambit of its mandate.

These are as follows:

- i. The establishment of a guidance and counseling unit in the directorate of Secondary Education.
- ii. Recruitment and posting of 171 no. teachers to replace those who left the service through death, retirement or resignation.
- iii. Received approval from the state Governor for the creation of the position of Principal Special Grade on GL. 16 and the promotion of 45 teachers to the same.
- iv. Acquired two (2nos) vehicles courtesy of the State Governor.
- v. Within these two years, the Board has been supplied with computers and funds have been released for the setting up of an information and Communication Technology (ICT) facility in the Board to enhance electronic data base.
- vi. Also government has facilitated the registration of over 5000 thousand teachers with the Teachers Registration Council (TRC).

## **Benue State Scholarship Board.**

Benue State Scholarship Board was established by Edict No. 4 of 1994 and came into effect on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, the same year. It has as its primary function, the sourcing and disbursement of scholarship allowances to students of Benue State origin among other things.

### **Achievements.**

In line with its mandate this board has disbursed scholarship to students of the State Origin for the 2007/2008 session to the tune of two hundred and twenty-two million, three hundred and sixty-six thousand, five hundred naira only (N222,366,500).

## **Benue State Universal Basic Education Board**

The UBE which was flagged off at the federal level in 1999 was signed into law in the State on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The Board has the responsibility of managing primary education in the State in all its ramifications under the guidance of the Ministry.

### **Achievements**

During the period under review the SUBEB recorded the following achievements.

- i. Improvement of physical infrastructure e.g. Classroom blocks, stores etc.

- ii. Provided infrastructure in schools to the tune of seven hundred and forty-seven million, nine hundred and seventy-three thousand, one hundred and seventy-six point seventeen (₦747,973,166.17) naira only.
- iii. Supply of furniture at the total cost of ₦ 07,392,000.00
- iv. Drilling of Boreholes at ₦19,200,000.00.
- v. The Board has also organized training workshops for teachers as well as released others on study leave with pay.
- vi. The two months <sup>arrears owed</sup> areas owned teachers were cleared by the present administration to the tune of ₦475,723,361.52 only.
- vii. Also the Board has promoted a total of 17,790 staff during the period.
- viii. The Board has established UBE Centres across the State.

### **CHALLENGES COMMON TO THE EDUCATION SUB-SECTOR**

Gentlemen, before I round up this briefing, I wish to highlight the problems facing the effective running of the ministry of education and her parastatals. These problems can be summed up in inadequate funds. However, the major problems of the ministry and its parastatals include:

- i. Shortage of office accommodation.
- ii. Lack of official vehicles for inspection and supervision for the ministry's staff and its parastatals.
- iii. Shortage of qualified teachers at the school levels.
- iv. Dilapidation of most of the school structures and infrastructure.

As has been stated earlier, with adequate funds these problems can be handled.

**Conclusion.**

Once again, I wish to thank you sincerely for this opportunity to brief you on the activities of my ministry within the life span of this administration which is two years old.

Thank you and God bless.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

### **Structure and Functions of the Ministry.**

The Ministry of Finance has three functional departments:-

- Administration and Supplies
- Central budget
- Finance and Accounts

The Ministry also has cabinet responsibility over two semi-autonomous agencies:-

- Office of the Accountant-General
- Board of Internal Revenue

The Ministry of Finance also has cabinet responsibility over one parastatal, the community and Social Development Agency (C.S.D.A.). The C.S.D.A is a World Bank supported project which is a successor project to the local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP). The C.S.D.A is about to take off in the State and is expected to cover all 23 Local Government Areas of the State.

One Government Company, the Benue Investment and property Development Company (B.I.P.C) also comes under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance B.I.P.C. is responsible for investment and property development (housing) within the State Government machinery

### **Function of the Ministry**

Being a service Ministry, the functions of the Ministry of Finance touch on the activities of all other governmental establishments and some other relevant non-governmental institutions within and outside the State. The statutory functions and responsibilities of the entire Ministry include the following:-

- (i) Formation of major financial policies for State Government.
- (ii) Advising government on financial matters including investments, reports, grants, loans and the disposing of government stores and Unserviceable Vehicles;
- (iii) Review of Contracts and tenders policies from time to time;
- (iv) Issuance and renewal of works registration certificate;

- (v) Entering into financial relationships with other governments and banks;
- (vi) Accounting for government revenue and expenditure;
- (vii) Preparation of annual and supplementary budgets for the State government as well as monitoring and controlling the operation of the budgets.
- (viii) The Ministry has responsibility for overseas travels.
- (ix) Procurement and distribution of Stores.
- (x) Procurement and distribution of Vehicles

### **Revenue Intakes and Capital Expenditure**

The State Government has been able to realize a total sum of N82,423,894,245.76 from all its revenue sources within the period covered by this brief. The revenue sources include statutory revenue (FAAC and VAT); Internally Generated revenue (IGR) Capital Receipts including donor support etc. Within this period the expenditure profile of the State Government as well as the assignment of funds on development projects and governance issues is as tabulated hereunder.

## EXPENDITURE PROFILE OF BNSG GOVERNMENT

29<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2009 TO 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2009

S/NO	DETAIL	AMOUNT N
1	Personal emoluments	22,885,538,684.90
2	Overheads to MDAs	12,793,460,607.80
3	Projects Executed - Roads	9,620,725,496.31
4	Projects Executed -- Housing	3,030,055,345.55
5	Projects Executed -- Water	4,633,493,093.32
6	Projects Executed -- Education	1,111,605,592.19
7	Projects Executed -- Health	1,031,119,031.89
8	Projects Executed -- Others	8,924,756,971.67
9	Grants to Parastatal/BSU	1,874,761,199.27
10	Purchase of Vehicles	2,964,218,935.21
11	Pension and Gratuity	2,393,678,282.53
12	Trips	994,615,080.00
13	Sundry recurrent expenditure items	6,753,253,243.49
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79,011,281,564.13</b>

### The Global Economic Crisis and the Challenges of Project Financing

Gentlemen of the press, you have no doubt, already received extensive briefing from other Honourable Commissioners on the projects embarked upon by this Administration for the benefit of the people of the State. I have also given you the outlay in terms of financial commitment and expenditure on sectoral basis on these projects. This briefing would however, not be



Complete if I do not highlight the impact of the on-going global economic crisis on the state's economy.

As you are already aware the price of oil, the nation's major revenue earner plummeted from an all time high of \$ 148 per barrel in the last quarter of 2008 to \$33 in the first quarter of 2009 in the international market and is now hovering between \$55-\$60 presently. The State Government, dependent as she is on Federal sources of revenue has experienced a drop of over 40% in its revenue. Government neither has the intention of slowing down its pace of development nor to put a halt on any of its on-going projects. We therefore, call on Benue people to show understanding and give solidarity to Government as we explore avenues and measures of raising funds to finance development such as the raising of a bond, etc.

### **Repositioning the Ministry of Finance for better service delivery**

We have within this period of two years taken steps to enhance the capacity of the Ministry for improved service delivery. We are gradually embracing the use of Information and Communication Technology. Computers have now replaced typewriters in the Ministry. A large percentage of the workforce are computer literate. Internet access has been provided. The budget process is being reformed while the budget format has been changed. E-governance is being introduced in stages. As of now the process for employing e-payment is on, starting with the staff payroll of the State workforce. Plans are on for the renovation of all sub-treasury buildings as well as those of the Board of Internal Revenue throughout the State. and

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### THE MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry has the mandate to implement national and state government health policies as well as provide technical input to assist the state in the formulation of its health policies for execution with the primary aim of maintaining the health security of its citizenry.

### PROGRESS/ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 29 MAY TO DECEMBER 2009.

As soon as we came on board, we embarked on a state wide tour of all the general hospitals in the state so as to have first hand information on what was needed to take the health sector in the state to another level of development. Following this tour it was noticed that all general hospitals were in different states of disrepair.

In a bid to improve the health situation in the state, in a sustainable manner, a comprehensive renovation plan was developed for the rehabilitation of all the general hospitals in the state. Subsequently contracts have been awarded for

the rehabilitation of the old generation general hospitals in the state and General Hospital Gbajimba. Equipments and drugs were also procured for the hospitals in the state to the tune of 1.5 billion naira. These have been delivered to the benefiting general hospitals. The governor recently flagged up their use at general hospital Gboko. Ultra modern Scanning machines have been purchased and distributed to five general hospitals.

The state government considers the welfare of patients as important and to ease their transfer, it has purchased five state of the art hospital ambulances for this purpose.

With the procurement of these drugs, the capacity building of the relevant stakeholders on Drug Revolving Fund Schemes at these hospitals will soon commence as approval has been given to the sum of N10million by the Executive Governor for this purpose. Contract for the rehabilitation of the State Central Medical Stores has been awarded. The contractor is on site and we hope that not long from now the store will be ready for use.

The over Sixteen million naira (N16, 000, 000) Ministry of Health's contribution to the Essential Pharma Limited, a Public-Private Partnership in drug distribution in the state was not only confirmed by the Governor, the whole plot of land on which the company stands has been given to her. The Ministry of Land and Survey is currently processing the Certificate of Occupancy in this regard.

Improvements were not limited to the general hospitals alone as the other tiers of government were also our focus of improvement. With timely releases of counterpart funds to the World Bank assisted HSDP-II, eight PHC centres were completed and equipped by the present administration. Drugs were also purchased for them to the tune of 17.4 million naira. These health centres are located in Naka, Buruku, Lessel, Ayaka, Anyiin, Owukpa, Alaglanu and Idekpa.

Some of them will eventually be upgraded to General hospitals as soon as the state takes them over.

The tempo to complete the construction of the Benue State Teaching Hospital has been heightened with the appointment of a new main contractor. It is expected that construction works on the hospital will be completed before the end of this year. Contract has also been awarded for the construction of radiology department at the teaching hospital.

To address the problem of inadequacy or shortage of trained medical staff, government has already approved the employment of 21 medical doctors, 14 pharmacists, 14 radiographers and 10 laboratory scientists. Arrangements have been concluded to recruit clinical students of Benue state origin in teaching hospitals in Nigeria on in-service and to be placed on grade level 7.

The desire of government to extend service delivery was not only limited to constructions only. The state government within the last one year supported various medical missions in the state where over 8000 patients were given free medical services. Such missions include:

1. The rotary international medical mission in Makurdi, Katsina ala, Otukpo and Gboko in June 2008. They attended to 3120 patients and conducted 206 major operations during the six day mission.
2. The heart doctors from Greece mission to Logo, Gwer west and Otukpo LGAs in November 2008 and
3. Heart doctors mission to Guma, Gwer, Konshisha and Obi LGAs in April 2009.

The welfare of the Staff of the ministry has not escaped the attention of the ministry. To ensure maximum productivity and a good enabling environment,

the ministry has repaired and installed a 25KVA generator to supplement public power supply.

### HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

Distinguished members of the press, government health training institutions are also receiving serious attention of the state government. Already, the board of the Benue state university teaching hospital has been inaugurated. It is hoped that the board will efficiently and effectively manage the teaching hospital and position it for better service to the people of the state and beyond.

The schools of nursing and midwifery have been renovated and connected with pipe borne water for the first time in history of their existence. Teaching aids and two 30 seater buses were also procured for the schools of nursing and midwifery respectively. The schools were also supplied with computers, classroom furniture and other office equipments to enable it to be accredited by the nursing and midwifery council.

A life saving skill (LSS) training center located in the school of midwifery has been supplied with training equipment for its immediate takeoff. These equipments were delivered to the centre about two weeks ago. The centre is an important one and is aimed at reducing maternal and under-5 children mortality and to therefore accelerate our attainment of MDG 4 and 5.

The school of health technology Agasha has also received its share from this gesture. Through the efforts of the state government, the non accreditation ban placed on the school has been lifted. The students are now being indexed for their final examinations. Two blocks of student hostel, for male and female students are being constructed and are at the roofing level.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, in the area of public health, government has done much, because of the strategic location of Benue state on the map of HIV/AIDS prevalence states of the federation, the state government has decided to wage serious war against the further spread of the disease. To achieve the vision of a HIV/AIDS free Benue state, the law establishing Benue state agency for the control of HIV/AIDS (BenSACA) was promulgated and signed. A board was inaugurated in December 2008 with His Excellency, the governor of Benue state Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam as chairman.

Efforts have also been intensified towards enlightening our people on how to avoid further spread of the scourge and also to ensure that people have access to drugs.

Routine immunization has been intensified against preventable child killer diseases and maternal mortality; appreciable results have been achieved in this direction. Six rounds of national immunization campaigns were carried out with high level of success. State Immunization coverage of 123% was achieved during the campaigns and routine immunization coverage of 79% has been achieved as against 50% in 2006.

Solar fridges and ice liners have been distributed to all 23 local government areas of the state for storage of vaccines so as to enhance routine immunization activities. Government has also distributed 3 giant generators to 3 zonal NPI offices in Gboko, Otukpo and Makurdi for storage of vaccines.

In the area of malaria control, 490 health workers have been trained on case management of malaria. 80,000 insecticide treated nets (ITNs) and long insecticide treated nets (LITNs) have been distributed for stand alone campaigns in Gboko, Oju, Apa and Ogbadibo local government areas of the state. 10,080 nets have been distributed to Ushongo, Obi and Agatu local

government areas by UNICEF in collaboration with the state government, while 87,000 ITN retreatment kits were distributed to all the 23 local government areas by the state government. 60 ITN outlet centres have been established in the state. 433,286 dosages of ACT (adults and children) and 93,800 dosages of sulphadoxime intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant mothers have been distributed to the 23 local governments in the state to combat the scourge of malaria

The intervention of government in the area of malaria control has seen to the effect that the capacity to manage malaria has now improved at our health facilities. More people are now accessing malaria drugs free of charge at government health facilities and more communities have now come to accept use of nets in their households. In addition, 300 mothers were also trained on home management of malaria in Agatu local government area of the state.

In the area of epidemic and disease control, four major outbreaks of gastroenteritis epidemics in Agatu, Guma, Logo, and Tarka have been contained with minimal cases of fatality. Drugs and infusions bought by the ministry were distributed to these local governments' areas and these were very helpful in controlling the epidemic in the affected areas. Continued surveillance activities are carried out to contain notifiable diseases and epidemics. The affected communities have already received relief materials.

In the area of nutrition, vitamin A supplementation has been carried with the attainment of national target. 861,148 children within the age range of 6month to 59months were administered Vitamin A with the attainment of 106% of the national target. Training of about 155 health workers including 33 medical doctors on the management of severe malnutrition and young and infant feeding and integrated care package was carried out.

150 health workers have been trained on data collection of U-5 nutritional status, development of messages on vitamin A and integrated care package, while 200 community members have been counseled on key household packages.

The government has also developed partnership with tertiary institutions in the state on programmes to enhance the nutritional activities in the state, an intervention initiative to reduce malnutrition is on-going. The intervention of the government in the area of nutrition has shown that the state has achieved the national coverage target for vitamin A intake and malnutrition level reduced.

In the area of TBL control, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed to expand the implementation of TBL control in the state. More local government are accessing free T.B DOTS treatment in the state, while awareness campaign has been carried out both at state and local government levels and the state has intensified quarterly monitoring and support supervision. The intervention of government in this area has shown that people have access to free TB treatment.

In the area of safe motherhood, the government has trained 120 health workers on life saving skills. These include doctors, midwives and CHEWs. National AIDS and reproductive health survey was carried out in Makurdi, Katsina-ala, Vandeikya, Oju and Ohimini local government areas of the state. The intervention of government in this area has shown that there is significant reduction in maternal mortality at these targeted local government areas.

In the area of baby friendly hospital initiative (BFHI) the government has designated 25 health facilities as baby friendly in the state. Also, during celebration of the world breastfeeding week, 200 policy and decision makers were sensitized on breastfeeding policy, while 60 community members in 2



UNICEF focal communities were trained on women and children friendly health services. A 25 member steering committee in this direction has also been inaugurated in the state.

Onchocerciasis control has also received the attention of the Benue state government. 1,490,330 treatment of persons has been recorded in the over 2060 endemic communities. 9 onchocerciasis control team members and state and 1478 workers have been trained and retrained to build their capacities at the state and local government levels on case management. 59 CBOs are mobilized for partnership activities to facilitate community directed treatment in the endemic communities. 4459 community directed distributors have also been trained. To show its commitment, government has signed as MOU to assist the programme in the state after a long period of inactivity.

Government has come this far, not without challenges. In an era of economic meltdown which the whole is passing through, government is facing serious financial challenges to take the health sector in the state to an enviable standard. But with the serious commitment of the state Governor Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam to increase the life expectancy of the people of the state, I am sure we will get to the healthcare delivery of his dream. That is why in the face of current misunderstanding between the health workers in the state and the state government, government has already sent out a joint team of labour and government to look at what happening in other states and report to the government with the view to solving the problem once and for all.

## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE

### INTRODUCTION:

The State Ministry of Information and Culture combines the very sensitive and useful responsibility of being the mouth organs of the State Government, the image maker and in addition the propaganda machinery of the State Government. This it handles jointly with the parastatal under it which includes the Radio Benue, the Benue, the Benue Council for Arts and Culture, the Benue State printing and Publishing Corporation, the Government Printing Department and the Benue State Library Board. In the culture aspect, the Ministry in conjunction with the Arts Council launders the rich culture of Benue State combining the Tiv, Idoma, Iggede and the other smaller ethnic groups with a variety of cultural practices which Benue combines to parade a blended diversity into a rainbow like harmony.

Beginning with the Benue Television project which is the newest of the lot still in embryo.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

### **BENUE TELEVISION PROJECT:**

Benue State Government in 2000 decided to establish a State owned Television Station under which various contracts were awarded. The contracts were at various low stages of completion when the present administration assumed office. Upon assumption of office, the Suswam led administration took a critical look at them and swung into action with a view to completing all the construction and installation job and to commence broadcasting within the shortest time.

The Suswam administration met a Thirty Nine Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand , Two Hundred and Eleven Naira. Seventy Five Kobo (N39, 450,211.75) only for job awarded to Kawa Construction Company for the construction of a studio complex but not much was done, so the present regime had to radically change the original plan to fit the demands of modern broadcasting technology. The work has reached advance level.

Contract was also awarded for the construction of the administrative block to the tune of twenty Nine Million, Two Hundred and Twenty thousand, and eight Hundred and Ninety Naira. Fifteen Kobo (N29, 222,890.15) only to Messers

Lubona Nigeria Limited, very little was done before the administration came on board. The interest generated by this administration has caused the execution of the contract to move from the 35% level of completion to 80% where it stands now.

A very important aspect of the Benue Television project was the award of contract for the procurement, supply and installation of the broadcasting equipment at the initial cost of Six Hundred Million Naira (N600, 000,000.00) only. The Government has since taken delivery of the equipment which at present has reached 90% percent completion.

Various other contract jobs were awarded by the present administration for the landscaping and drainage of the premises as well as the supply of furniture which has also been fully supplied.

Because the Suswam Government holds the Benue Television project close to its heart, the Governor has given approval for the appointment of the Engineering staff out of which eight will travel overseas to study the transmitters for two weeks preparatory to the installation and commencement of broadcasting.

## **RADIO BENUE:**

Another organization that the Suswam administration has worked very hard to maintain on air is the Radio Benue. This is because of the ease with which all and sundry can access information in different languages simultaneously from the Radio.

The State Government in order to boost coverage and enhance information dissemination in the state awarded the contract for the supply and installation of 2No. 50 KW TX Am and 1 No. 30 KW TX FM for Radio Benue in 2006 to Messrs Synergies Africana Limited at the cost of N178,068,426.07. The present regime inherited this contract and has facilitated the full completion of the job. Furthermore, in order to step up security within and around Radio Benue premises, the Ministry awarded the contract for the construction of the collapsed fence and razor wires for which work has since commenced.

Also in Radio Benue the Suswam administration made funds available for the procurement and installation of equipment for the FM continuity studio, Procurement of spare parts for the old 30kW ITELCO FM transmitter, Conducted in-house capacity building training for staff and management to enhance service

delivery in addition to sponsoring various categories of staff at Radio Nigeria Training School, Oshodi, Lagos.

More than of 25 new staff were recruited and confirmation of appointments of 33 temporary staff was carried out to motivate them for higher productivity.

### **THE BENUE STATE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CORPORATION:**

Under the Suswam administration, the Benue State Printing and Publishing Corporation which had hitherto suffered neglect is receiving positive attention as the Rt. Hon. Gabriel T. Suswam's administration since assumption of office has provided production materials worth forty Nine Million (N49,000,000.00) to facilitate production of The Voice Newspaper. The administration has installed an internet facility at the corporation to aid news gathering and to enhance newspaper circulation, the Suswam administration has provided one Hilux Van to the corporation.

## **CALENDERS AND DIARIES:**

In addition to coordinating the activities of the various parastatals, the Ministry has successfully carried out activities targeted at the entire Benue populace. One of such activities is the production and distribution of the State Government calendars and diaries, within the last two years. Indeed the calendars and diaries so produced have been distributed within and outside the State and have helped in boosting the image of the present regime.

The Ministry also currently produces a monthly bulletin, the rejuvenated **BENUE IN NEWS** in a tabloid form that is very rich in content and in colour. Through this bulletin, activities at the State Headquarters and the grassroots have enjoyed an unusual publicity using the zonal offices in Otukpo, Gboko and Adikpo as information gathering and distribution point.

## **STAFF WELFARE:**

Under the Suswam administration, staff welfare has enjoyed tremendous boost as an improved and more regular monthly overhead has been allocated to the Ministry. A finance allocation committee meets regularly to disburse the overhead

allocated for services in the Ministry, and payment of staff claims. Workshops, official journeys of staff are paid from the overhead. Accumulated arrears of staff claims, especially arising from medical claims, inherited from my predecessors have been drastically reduced.

### **PROMOTION OF STAFF:**

The Ministry holds its junior and senior management committee meetings regularly to consider and recommend deserving staff for promotions. Staff promotions for 2006 and 2007 have been released by the Civil Service Commission and have been implemented, while those of 2008 have reached advanced stage.

### **BENUE STATE LIBRARY BOARD:**

Benue at present plays host to three universities in addition to numerous tertiary institutions, for this reason, the services of a modern library is very useful. The state library board already has in the 2009 budget allocation for total computerization of library services to entrench the e-library facility as is obtainable in most of the advanced societies of the world.



The achievements of the present administration under His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam in library board cover the following areas: Establishment of ongoing solar powered internet café project in collaboration with the Nigerian Communication Satellite in the board's headquarters. The solar panel already installed, the library board is currently enjoying prompt payment of staff salary and regular promotion of staff.

### **CULTURE DEPARTMENT:**

The Governor Suswam led administration has also given a lot of attention to the promotion of Benue Culture both at the Local and International levels, the Ministry in collaboration with the Benue State Council for Arts and Culture has done the State proud in many outings and hostings and these include:

In September 2007, Benue State treated the entire Nation to her rich Cultural heritage and hospitality when it hosted the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) in Makurdi the State Capital.

In addition Governor Suswam has not spared his finances as he has ensured that Benue participated in almost all International and national assemblages of Cultural bodies all

over the world where the award winning Benue Troupe has continued to do the State proud by showcasing the rich culture of the people through our dances and drama. Examples of these include the wonderful performances in Cuba and South Korea respectively, approval has already been given for the impending trip to Canada for the Troupe.

Other areas of full representation and participation of the Benue troupe at National meets includes: the First edition of The African Arts and Crafts Exhibition in August, 2008 at Abuja, the National Festival of Arts and Culture in October, 2008 at Enugu, the Abuja Carnival in November, 2008, Hosting of Chief Executive of Culture meeting in traditional festival, 2007 and the Zonal Ralafest North Central Zone, Jos, 2008.

Apart from the great financial commitment that Governor Suswam has brought to bear on the hosting and participations of cultural bodies, he has also taken time to look to the improvement of the welfare and the environment of our cultural artist. Among these good gestures of Governor Suswam towards the furtherance of the culture of Benue State are the renovation of the Indoor Theatre, provision of power generating set in 2008, the absorption of 47 guest artists to a permanent and pensionable

Status, the provision of a 36 seater coaster bus and an official car for the director and the increment in both night/traveling allowances and the increment overhead cost from N80,000 to N260,000. all the foregoing National and International performances have promoted Benue Cultural Troupe to a higher level of recognition and admiration at the International Community.

From the foregoing it is obvious that the Suswam administration since inception has worked tirelessly towards fulfilling Benue as not only the food basket of the Nation but also a cultural watershed for the teeming population of this State and the Nation at large.



## **MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

### **Introduction**

The Ministry of Justice (hereafter referred to as "The Ministry") is essentially a professional and service-oriented Ministry established to render legal services to the Government of Benue State and all its agencies. The Ministry is, therefore, very essential and indeed imperative for the smooth running of the machinery of Government in general and the administration of Justice in particular.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The main goals, objectives and functions of the Ministry are as follows:

- (i) To render proficient legal advisory services to the Government of Benue State covering all Ministries, Extra-Ministerial Departments, Parastatals, Governments, the police and the State Judiciary with the view to attaining social and legal Justice, Public Order, Public Security and good Governance in the State;
- (ii) To initiate, take over and continue or maintain criminal prosecution (including appeals) of all State (and some Federal) offences, in Magistrate Courts, Tribunals, High

Courts, Federal High Court, the Court of Appeal Divisions all over the country and the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

- (iii) To prosecute and defend (as the case may be) all civil actions and other proceedings in which the Government of Benue State is a party or has substantial interest in any part of the country and abroad, in all Courts and Tribunals throughout the country including Supreme Court of Nigeria, and such foreign Courts or Tribunals as the case may be;
- (iv) To represent the interest (domestic and foreign) of the Government of Benue State in all legal matters whenever they may arise;
- (v) To complement the Judiciary in its golden role of administering justice in the State without fear or favour, with minimum delay and at affordable cost and towards this end, to establish and maintain Area Chambers and Rent Tribunals in each area in the State where there exists a High Court; and
- (vi) To administer the estates of deceased persons and act as Public Trustee.

All these goals are encapsulated in Governor Suswam's Economic Blue Print, "**OUR BENUE, OUR FUTURE**" thus: "**To ensure the security of life and property of the citizenry, enhance the efficiency of justice administration and access to justice, and support the development of a socially relevant and people oriented legislature**".

### **STRUCTURE**

Ministry of Justice is structured into the following Departments/Directorates, each headed by a Director;

- i. Administration and Finance
- ii. Public Prosecution
- iii. Civil Litigation
- iv. Legal Drafting and Advisory Services.
- v. Citizens' Rights

### **AREA CHAMBERS.**

Area Chambers have been established in the Local Government Headquarters where High Courts have been established with the exception of Vandeikya which for now has been temporarily merged with Katsina Ala Area Chambers. The others are Gboko and Otukpo Area Chambers. Each of the Chambers which incorporates a Rent Tribunal, is headed by a resident Legal officer and they perform the functions of the Ministry at their levels under the directives of the Hon. Attorney-General. There is also a pending proposal for the establishment of Area Chambers at Adikpo, Vandeikya and Okpoga.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.**

The Ministry through an appointed Legal Officer serves as Public Trustee and Administrator-General of estates of deceased persons.

## **MARRIAGE REGISTRY.**

The Ministry also operates a Marriage Registry which conducts marriages under the Act (Cap. 218, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria). The Registry is also headed by a Principal State Counsel in the Ministry.

From the period of May 29<sup>th</sup> 2007- June 2009 a total number of three hundred and thirty eight marriages have been conducted successfully.

There is a proposal on ground to establish Marriage Registries in each Local Government Areas of the State. The principal function of these Registries will be registration of marriages under native law and custom and those conducted under Islamic law.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED UNDER HON. GABRIEL T. SUSWAM'S ADMINISTRATION (2007-2009).**

### **FUNDING**

- (i) Sufficient funds were released for sponsorship of Legal Officers to attend the NBA Annual General Conference in Ilorin and Abuja 2007 and 2008 respectively.

- (ii) Payment of balance of professional fees for legal team prosecuting cases at the Supreme Court (between Attorney-General of Benue State and Attorney-General of the Federation) fully made.
- (iii) Payment of practicing fees and branch membership dues for 2007 and 2008 for all State Counsel.
- (iv) Payment of outstanding robe allowance for Legal Officers from 2005-2007.
- (v) Release of funds for the scheduled meetings of the Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy for the year 2007 and 2008.
- (vi) Release of funds for the renovation/refurbishing of the office of the Hon. Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice.
- (vii) Release of funds for the hosting of the meeting of Attorneys-General in the Federation.
- (viii) Release of funds for settlement of long outstanding judgment debts of over **N100M.**
- (ix) Release of funds for the hosting of NBA NEC meeting in Makurdi in 2008.



- (x) Donation of ~~₦4~~ **Million (Four Million)** Naira to NBA NEC, for Law Journal.
- (xi) Sponsorship of the International BAR Association (IBA) Conferences in Singapore and Argentina (2007 and 2008).
- (xii) Restocking of the Ministry's Law Library with books worth **₦10M (Ten Million Naira)**

#### **STAFF WELFARE**

- Procurement and installation of a brand new 100KVA perkins electric power-generating set for the Ministry.
- Recovery of the Ministry's bus from ANNAMCO.
- Training of State Counsel at the NIALS.
- Steady promotion of staff.

#### **PROJECTS.**

##### **(a) On-going projects.**

- (i) The construction of Katsina-Ala Chambers
- (ii) The construction of Otukpo Area Chambers.

##### **(b) Proposed Projects.**

- (i) Court of Appeal Complex
- (ii) Renovation of the Ministry of Justice Headquarters
- (iii) Proposed Area Chambers at Adikpo, Vandeikya and Okpoga.
- (iv) Construction of an office complex for the Gboko Area Chambers.

## **PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS.**

### (a) **MOTIONS/APPLICATIONS FOR BAIL**

Within this period, about 582 (Five Hundred and Eighty Two) Motions/Bail Applications filed in the Magistrate Courts were received while those filed in the High Courts were 197 (One Hundred and Ninety Seven). Out of those Bail Applications filed in the Magistrate Courts, 542 (Five Hundred and Forty Two) of them have already been disposed of while 40 (Forty) are pending at the various Magistrates Courts.

As for the 197 (One Hundred and Ninety Seven) Applications for Bail filed in the High Courts One Hundred and Sixty (160) have been disposed of while 37 (Thirty Seven) are still pending.

### (b) **LEGAL ADVICE**

About Four Hundred and Forty (440) case diaries have been received from the police for legal advice. Out of this number, Three Hundred and Sixteen (316) have been disposed of while One Hundred and Thirty four (124) case files are now being studied for advice.

(c) **CASE DIARIES FOR FILING OF INFORMATION IN THE HIGH COURTS**

Within the period of under review, Two Hundred and Ninety (290) case diaries have been sent to this Department for filing of information at the High Courts. Out of this number, Two Hundred and Thirty Three (233) have been filed while Fifty Seven (57) are still being processed.

(d) **APPEALS**

The Department of Public Prosecution received Twenty (20) Appeals filed in the High Courts, Eleven (11) Appeals filed in the Court of Appeal, Jos and Two (2) Appeals filed in the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Out of the Appeals filed in the High Courts, Nine (9) of them have been disposed of while Eleven (11) of them are still pending. All Appeals filed in the Court of Appeal Jos and Supreme Court of Nigeria are still pending in those Courts at various stages of hearing.

(e) **THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PREROGATIVE OF MERCY**

Within the aforementioned period, Sixty (60) applications for prerogative of mercy by various detained convicts have been received by the Attorney-General. Out of this number twenty three (23) have been considered. While eleven (11) applications have been released, Ten (10) had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment, one of them was granted State pardon and the other one recommended for release by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Since Seven (7) of such applications are refused, there remains now thirty (30) pending applications for consideration.

### **CIVIL LITIGATIONS**

Within the period under review, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2007 – May 2009, a total of 1,566 petitions were received at the respective Rent Tribunals. 1,120 were disposed of while 546 are at various levels and stages of hearing.

1,385 Cases and Motions were referred to the Ministry both at the Headquarters and Area Chambers; out of these, 120 cases and 705 Motions have been disposed of leaving 560 cases and Motions at various stages of hearing.

At the Court of Appeal, there are 21 pending Appeals at various stages of hearing with 6 Appeals before the Supreme Court.

## **LEGAL DRAFTING/ADVISORY SERVICES.**

(i) Drafting, production and gazetting of:-

### **LAWS**

- (a) The Local Government Law, 2007.
- (b) The Local Government Electoral Law, 2007.
- (c) The Political and Public Office Holders (Remuneration) Law, 2008.
- (d) Benue State Aids Control Agency (BENSACA), 2008.
- (e) Benue Television Law, 2008.
- (f) Citizens' Mediation Centre Law, 2008.
- (g) Supplementary Capital Expenditure (Power Sector) Intervention Fund, Benue State Contribution).
- (h) Benue State University (Amendment) Law, 2008.
- (i) Universal Basic Education Law, 2008.
- (j) Joint State and Local Government Services Account (Manner of Distribution of Funds) Law, 2008.
- (k) Benue State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board Law, 2008.
- (l) Appropriation Law, 2008.
- (m) Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board Law, 2008.
- (n) Child's Rights Law, 2008
- (o) Appropriation Law, 2009.
- (p) Community and Social Development Agency Law, 2009.

## INSTRUMENTS

- (a) The Chiefs Appointment and Deposition (Method of Appointment of Second Class Chiefs) Order, 2008.
- (b) The College of Education Oju Students Disturbances Commission of Inquiry Instrument, 2009.
- (c) The Ankpechi Village Communal Disturbances Commission of Inquiry Instrument, 2009.
- (ii) Receipt of 309 Constitutions of Voluntary Associations; 282 vetted, and 27 pending.
- (iii) Drafting/Vetting of 48 Agreements.
- (iv) Public presentation of the Revised Edition, Laws of Benue State, 2004.
- (v) Constitution of a Law Review Committee for the State.

## MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION.

- (a) Mediation Centre (Establishment) Law gazetted and the Centre now fully operational.
- (b) 280 complaints for mediation received; 200 concluded successfully and eighty pending.
- (c) Increased flurry of activities at the Centre and more effective facilitation by Mediators.
- (d) Training of Mediators
  - (i) Mediation (ICMC) Abuja 2008
  - (ii) A. D. R and Arbitration in Africa, Cairo, Egypt and Nairobi, Kenya
  - (iii) Human Rights Commission Minna, Niger State
- (e) Collaboration with "Access to Justice" (A2J) for the review of the Coroner Law in the State.
- (f) Collaboration with office of the Attorney-General of the Federation on prison decongestion.
- (g) Collaboration with International donor agencies like SJG (DFID) and Mac-Arthur Foundation.
- (h) Upgrading of facilities at the Citizens' Mediation Centre.

## BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

### INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs came into existence following the scrapping of the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and the appointment of a Special Adviser to take charge of Bureau. The Bureau is charged with the cabinet responsibilities of monitoring and supervision of the twenty-three (23) Local Government Councils in the State. It is also charged with the responsibility for chieftaincy matters.

### THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BUREAU

#### PROCUREMENT

Right from the onset, the Management of the Bureau realized the need to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of the Bureau in order to reposition it for effective discharge of its responsibilities. In the that regard, the Bureau procured seven (7) Toyota Hilux vans for its key officers at the Headquarters to enable them monitor and supervise the Local Government Councils on a continuous and sustained basis. Also, out of the realization of the need to partner with other government agencies responsible for local



government administration, the Bureau procure a Toyota Hilux van each for the Auditor-General for Local Governments, the Chairman, Local Government Service Commission as well as the Senior Special Assistant to the governor on local government and Chieftaincy Affairs. And in order to empower the Local Government for effective service delivery, the Bureau procured various <sup>brands</sup> branches of vehicles for the key functionaries in the Local Government Service.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS

The Governor Gabriel T. Suswam Administration at its inception realized the urgent need to carry out reforms in the local government Councils in order to re-position them for greater service delivery. One of the cardinal features of the reforms is the exclusion of Local Government Chairman from attending the monthly Joint Account Allocation Committee. In order to empower the Local Government for effective service delivery, the Bureau procured various brands of vehicles for the key functionaries in the Local Government Service.

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Meetings, this decision was informed by the need to free the Chairmen from the usual hustle and bustle associated with Joint Account Allocation Committee meetings so that they could concentrate on the day to day administration of their various Local Government Councils.

### COMPUTER VILLAGES

In recognition of the role of ICT in modern day transactions, this Administration has established a computer village in each of the three senatorial zones of the State. The computer villages are located at Anyiin, Yandev, Adikpo and Ugbokolo. The construction of the villages has been completed, computers have been acquired, furniture provided and generators have been supplied awaiting installation. When they become functional, the computer village<sup>PS</sup> are expected to provide the much needed computer literacy for people in their catchment areas.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

The Bureau is very conscious of the need to build the capacity of both her staff as well as Local Government staff for better service delivery. In this regard, the Bureau embarked on computer training for all management staff who were thereafter equipped with computers in order to sustain the knowledge <sup>acquired.</sup> ~~equipped.~~

The Bureau is also hooked to the internet. The Bureau in conjunction with relevant consultants organized several workshops/seminars for its Directors as well as key functionaries of Local Government Councils in order to sensitize them to their

roles and responsibilities. And in order to further expose them to new techniques in grassroots administration, the Bureau took all the Local Government Chairmen to South Africa for a workshop. Also, the Bureau facilitated the participation of some Local Government Chairmen in a Non-Oil Exportable Products Trade Fair which was held in New Jersey, U.S.A. The trade fair afforded the chairmen the opportunity to showcase the non-oil exportable products that abound in their areas with a view to attracting foreign investors.

### WELFARE OF TRADITIONAL RULERS

As a practical demonstration of the high regard this Administration has for the traditional institution, it procured Mercedes Benz Jeeps for the Tor Tiv and the Och'Idoma as well as Prado jeeps for Second Class Chiefs in the State. Equally worthy of note is the recent upward review of the salaries and allowances of traditional rulers in the State. All these measures are aimed at enhancing the status and boosting the morale of our traditional rulers who are the custodians of our cultures and traditions. Plans are also under way to renovate the palaces of the two paramount rulers and construct befitting palaces for the Second Class Chiefs in the State.

### PROCUREMENT OF 34 NO. - PICK-UP VANS FOR THE BENUE STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (BSIEC)

The State Government through the Bureau procured 34 No. Isuzu pick-up vans for BSIEC. This gesture contributed as

immensely to the smooth conduct of the December, 2007 Local Government elections in the state.

### **PROVISION OF A CONDUCTIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.**

The Bureau out of the realization of the need to provide a conducive working environment for its staff, has embarked on massive renovation of the offices and landscaping of the premises with a modern car park in order to give it a befitting look. And in order to ensure uninterrupted power supply, the Bureau has procured a 100 KVA dedicated transformer and a 350 KVA generator to provide maximum comfort for the staff to give their best in the service of the state.

### **STAFF WELFARE**

The Management of the Bureau regards staff welfare as a priority. To this end, the sum of N100,000.00 only is set aside monthly for settlement of staff claims while the staff are sent on courses to improve their efficiency. Also, deserving staff are promoted as and when due in order to motivate them to higher productivity.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN/MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The Bureau within the period under review, commissioned a firm of consultants which went round the 23 Local Government Areas of the state and collated the list of priority projects and programmes of the various Local Government Councils. All

the information so collated has been compiled into a strategic plan tagged, "Our Local Governments, Our Future". The Strategic Plan is being married to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to form a development blue print for the Local Governments in the state.

#### **CLEARING OF BACKLOG OF SALARIES OWED LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.**

The Bureau cleared all arrears of salaries owed the staff by the previous Local Government Councils as well as the June and July, 2006 salaries owed primary school teachers in order to reposition them to deliver dividends of democracy to the people at the grassroots. Government in its determination to relieve the Local Government Councils of the burden of overstaffing, commissioned a firm of consultants, M/S ERRANDS (NIG.) LTD. to carry out an audit of Local government staff. The firm submitted a report which indicated that the Local Government Councils were overstaffed. Consequently, Government set up two separate teams each to verify Local Government Staff as well as primary school teachers in the state. The whitepaper on primary school teachers is already being implemented and it is hoped that when the whitepaper on local government staff is released and implemented, the Local Government Councils will save enough funds to enable them embark on capital projects that will impact positively on the lives of the people at the grassroots. Equally, the Bureau negotiated with banks and

Succeeded in eliminating Commission on Turnover (COT) and other sundry charges on Local Government Accounts.

## 2. PAYMENT OF JUDGMENT DEBT

As a practical demonstration of the regard the present Administration has for the rule of law, the Government paid a judgment debt of over N770 million in favour of ex-councilors whose tenure was prematurely terminated by the previous State Government Administration.

## FUTURE PLANS.

The Bureau caused a survey and a design has been prepared for the construction of 5 kms of asphalt roads in each of the 23 Local Government Headquarters of the state, which the Ministry of Works, Housing and transport has already vetted. Contracts for the roads will be awarded when we obtain the financial provisions in the Budget for this.

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing has highlighted the modest achievements of the Bureau in the past two years, the challenges that confronted us as well as our plans for the future. Efforts will be intensified in future to make the local governments development-oriented so that the people at the grassroots can reap the dividends of democracy.

## MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AD COOPERATIVES

**General Objectives:** The Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperatives was created with the primary mandate to initiate, implement, manage and sustain development programmes amongst rural communities, especially in the key areas of infrastructure development, economic empowerment and human capacity building. This is in recognition of the fact that 80% of Benue population, live in the rural areas where basic infrastructure and other amenities of modern living have remained largely undeveloped. The challenge of improving the conditions of living for increased well-being of the rural of the population is therefore critical to the development of the entire state. In addition, the Ministry has the responsibility of Coordinating and monitoring the activities of other organizations and agencies involved in implementation of rural development activities as well as mobilizing additional resources for rural development in the state.

**Ministerial Structure:** The Ministry has four departments support as listed below:

i. **Administration and Finance:**

The department is responsible for personal staff including promotions, discipline, welfare, supplies and management of accounts. The department is headed by the Director Administration and Finance.

ii. **Cooperatives**

This department, headed by the Ag. Director of Cooperative Societies, has the responsibility for mobilizing and organizing the populace especially rural dwellers to form and operate viable self sustaining Cooperative Societies to enhance resources mobilization for economic development through self-help efforts. It also has the Registry of all Cooperative organizations in the State. Since 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007, a total of two thousand six hundred and seventy seven (2,677) Cooperative Societies have been duly registered with a total revenue of eight million and thirty one thousand naira only (N 8,031,000.00).

**iii. Community Development:**

The Department, headed by the Director of Community Development, is responsible for initiating and implementing sustainable rural development programme as well as guiding rural communities on their felt need programmes through collaboration with rural communities and other stakeholders. It promotes the utilization of indigenous knowledge and natural resources to enhance the domestication and ownership of development amongst rural communities. It assists the rural communities in accessing financial and technical assistance. From 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 to date, the department registered thirty-eight community development associations. The breakdown of the associations is as follows:

- |    |                                 |   |    |
|----|---------------------------------|---|----|
| 1. | Konshisha Local Government Area | = | 1  |
| 2. | Ushongo Local Government Area   | = | 32 |
| 3. | Makurdi Local Government Area   | = | 1  |
| 4. | Vandeikya Local Government Area | = | 1  |
| 5. | Okpokwu Local Government Area   | = | 1  |



### **Rural Housing Scheme**

The Ministry also undertook a comprehensive sensitization of local Government areas between 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008 to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008, with the aim of encouraging them to provide land contribute to the National Housing Scheme, so that Rural Housing Scheme would be built on owner-occupier basis. Discussions are still on-going with property developers.

#### **iv. Department of Rural Roads and Electricity**

The department is headed by the Director of Rural Roads and Electricity.

Since the creation of this Ministry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, the department has been involved in a number of activities. Sub sectional achievements which relate to this department are in the areas of:

- a) Feeder roads
- b) Rural Electrification
- c) Public Housing

#### **Feeder Roads:**

Under feeder roads or transport sub sector, the construction of a three span concrete bridge is in progress across Opkokwu Stream at Adim Akpa, in Otukpo Local Government Area. The department has also undertaken a tour of all the 23 Local Government Areas of Benue State and collected data for the design and eventual construction of feeder roads, bridges and culverts. Cost estimates have been completed awaiting implementation. In addition, other locations have been visited in line with requests from various communities for the construction of bridges and culverts.

**Rural Electrification:**

In the area of rural electrification, a number of villages and small towns were surveyed in 2008 within the 23 Local Government Areas of Benue State. Other settlements were also surveyed as a reaction to requests from various communities. A number of electrification projects have been implemented and commissioned as has been read from the attached table showing the list of projects and programmes executed by the Ministry from 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007 to date. Some of these projects have been completed and commissioned, others are 100% completed but not yet commissioned, while other projects are on-going. In addition, 115 villages and small towns have been surveyed through a consultancy contract by CC II Marketing (Nig) Ltd.

**Public Housing:**

Under Public Housing, the Ministry is currently working on the Dr. Atoato Igirgi Secretariat complex. The main administrative block is almost completed as reflected in the table mentioned above.

**MINISTRY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES, MAKURDI LIST OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES EXECUTED FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2007 TO DATE**

S/N	Name of project and Location	Estimated Total Cost N	Date of Commencement	Actual Expenditure	Percentage Completion	Remarks
1	Construction of a three Span reinforced concrete Bridge at Adim Akpa, Otukpo LGA	59,571,806.96	14/04/2008	36,019,844.48	87% completed	
2	Completion of Babcock Project	228,287,878.00	04/07/2008	218,471,363.40	90% completed	
3	Rehabilitation of Lessest-Ihugh Inter-connector and Ihugh township distribution Network	76,063,215.00	04/07/2008	22,818,964.50	100% completed	Commissioned
4	Survey of 115 villages and small towns for rural Electrification in Benue State	30,400,000.00	10/07/2008	9,120,000.00	90% completed	
5	Construction of main Administrative block	86,845,818.00	October, 2008	Nil	70% completed	
6	Electrification of Agan Village Makurdi	17,865,808.00	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2008	5,359,743.50	100% completed	Commissioned
7	Rural Electrification of Tomahar/Angunough village Katsina-Ala	14,336,000.00	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2008	7,168,000.00	100% completed	
8	Tervase Agbadu Rural Electrification Project, Makurdi LGA		July, 2008	5,914,418.00	100% completed	Commissioned
9	Abuku Rural Electrification Project, Buruku LGA		July, 2008	10,587,840.00	100% completed	Commissioned
10	Ogodumu Rural Electrification Project, Adoka, Otukpo LGA		August, 2008	13,044,000.00	100% completed	Commissioned

11	Ushongo Rural Electrification Project, Ushongo LGA		October, 2008	5,200,000.00	100% completed	Commissioned
12	Mchia, Wende Rural Electrification Project, Logo LGA		September, 2008	28,050,974.00	100% completed	Commissioned
13	Akpagher Rural Electricity Project		September, 2008	3,250,000.00	100% completed	
14	Yandev Rural Electrification Project		October, 2008	3,592,400.00	100% completed	Commissioned
15	Replacement of 500KVA Transformer at Open University, Makurdi		January, 2009	600,000.00	100% completed	Commissioned
16	Replacement of a 500KVA Transformer at Christ Apostolic Church, Makurdi		January, 2009	NIL	100% completed	
17	Obusa Rural Electrification project in Oju LGA		1983	NIL	100% completed	Commissioned
18	Ikachi Rural Electrification, Oju		1983	NIL	100% completed	Commissioned
19	Installation of injection Sub-Station, Oju		1983		100% Completed	Commissioned

## PROSPECTS

The Ministry of Rural Development and Co-operatives, having laid the needed framework, is now set to embark on massive implementation of its projects for the good of the people of Benue State.

## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### INTRODUCTION

The Benue State Ministry of Science and Technology was created in June 2008 and provided with an office block in the premises of the office of Secretary to the Benue State Government. Arrangements for full relocation to our permanent office complex though on-going have reached advanced stage.

### VISION/MISSION

The vision of the Ministry is to make Benue State a role model in the use of knowledge, principles, tools and techniques of Science and technology in converting poverty to wealth and raising the socio-economic status of the state to enviable heights.

The Mission therefore is to employ Science and Technology in all socio-economic activities towards improving the quality of life of Benue citizens and transforming Benue State, through strategic and coordinated utilization of available resources into a developed, industrial and modern state of international stature.

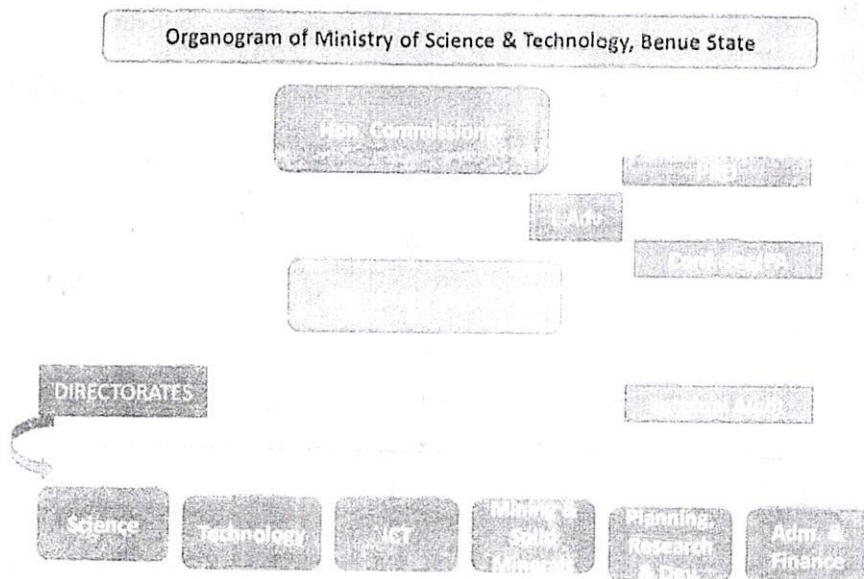
### Key Functions of the Ministry

- To identify priority areas in the State for the application of Science & Technology
- To create a data bank of human and material resources available in the State for the development of Science and Technology
- To encourage the commercialization of research and development results
- To encourage the acquisition and transfer of appropriate technology for development
- To liaise with relevant agencies of the Federal Government, State Ministries & Parastatals in matters relating to the development of Science and Technology
- To establish viable links between the State Government and organized private sector in the development and application of Science & technology
- To organize the conduct of seminars, workshops and other programmes for popularization and promotion of Science & Technology
- To maintain sustainable exploitation of bio-resources for Agriculture, Health Care Delivery and Industrial Utilization
- To ensure sustainable mechanism for adequate funding of Science and Technology activities through national and international funding agencies
- To produce Science and Technology infrastructure
- To develop and provide infrastructural facilities for mining and solid mineral exploration

Currently the Ministry has under its coordinating purview, the Benue State Science and Technical Education Board (STEB) with the main thrust for Capacity Building in Science and Technology. Other agencies are anticipated (2009>), particularly the Benue Information Technology Agency (BITA), which a bill for its establishment is being fine-tuned at the State EXCO.

### Funding

Funding for the Ministry's activities has been entirely on appropriations. In 2009, about N1billion is appropriated for key priority areas. The on-going partnerships solicited by the Ministry are expected to support funding of activities. It is hoped that the existing partnership between the Federal ministry of Science and Technology and other development partners will also augment budgetary allocations.



The Ministry runs a 6 type directorate system thus:

1. Directorate of Science
2. Directorate of Technology
3. Directorate of Information, & Communication Technology (ICT)
4. Directorate of Mining & Solid Minerals
5. Directorate of Planning, Research & Development
6. Directorate of Administration & Finance

Gentlemen of the press, let me confirm to you that only recently the State EXCO added Mining and Solid Minerals to the Ministry's portfolio and we are currently wrapping up on the drawing board towards getting a substantive director. This equally applies for the Directorate of ICT.

### Challenges

- Low level and inadequate exposure of children in the primary and secondary schools to Science and Technology knowledge and application
- Commercial exploitation of most solid minerals in the State is at rudimentary levels.
- Inadequate office space and facilities to fully accommodate staff



### Mid Term targets of Ministry

- Ensure the training and retraining of scientists, science and technical teachers, engineers and technologists at all levels and fully equip existing laboratories by 2010
- Establish one Science Park in Makurdi to develop technological incubators by 2010
- Purchase and supply laboratory kits to Technical Schools in Benue State by 2010
- Construct 3 Science and Technical Schools, one in each Senatorial Zone by 2009
- Establish one ICT training Centre in each of the Senatorial Zones by 2011
- Establish Benue Information Technology Agency by 2010
- Establish 2 independent thermal power plants of 24 mega watts each with the first plant by 2010 and the second plant by 2011
- Hook the State on the nation's 330KV national Grid by the end of 2011

### Sectoral Strategies of Ministry

- Award contract for the construction of 3 Science and Technical Schools
- Liaise with the Benue State Planning Commission, National Planning Commission and Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to support the establishment of ICT centres in the State
- Procure and equip science laboratories
- Conduct JETS quiz for science students and select best performing candidates for national and international competitions
- Mobilise and sensitise stakeholders on solar energy and other sources of alternative power/energy including energy from Solid Waste
- Liaise with Federal Government, Power Holding Company and Core Investors for funding of thermal/hydro plants
- Promote the translation of Science and Technology research results into actual goods and services to improve the quality of life of the citizenry
- Increase public awareness in Science and Technology and the vital role it plays in national development
- Promote technological innovation in Agriculture, Energy and Basic Science and maintain sustainable exploitation of bio-resources for Agriculture, Health Care Delivery and Industrial utilization

- Create Benue Digital Villages (5 in each senatorial zone)
- Computerization of schools
- Liaise with the State Planning Commission and carry out Feasibility Studies on Solid Minerals in the State
- Develop and provide infrastructural facilities for mining and solid mineral exploration, thereafter hand over the administration and management of the projects to Ministry of Commerce /Industry
- Develop Owukpa coal mines to provide raw materials for the power plants

### Achievements (Actualised)

1. Secured site for Science Park at industrial layout to house incubation <sup>centres</sup> for small and medium scale industries (SMEs) like soap making, candle, cream, etc. The FGN/BNSG/Development partners/Organised Private Sector (OPS) are involved in this project
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Benue State Science Week April 2009 was held, with all 23 LGAs given opportunity to participate. There is a rekindled drive amongst schools and students to invest their resources in building capacity and practically applying scientific principles.
3. Benue contingent participated alongside 5 other States at the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in Changwon, Republic of Korea in December 2008. The Nigeria contingent won a bronze medal. **The experience garnered at Changwon was put to practice in the successful hosting of IJSO-Nigeria in Makurdi April, 2009 by BNSG**
4. Capacity building for staff of the Ministry in Makurdi, Enugu and Abuja across issues of Jathropa, Bio-diesel, Public Service Entrepreneurship, Computing, NEPAD, etc has been fully accomplished to date.
5. National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), headed by Mr. President was approved for the State at the promptings of this young Ministry upon the visit of the Hon. Minister of Science and Tech. This Centre incidentally is one of the three in the country. **Benue is the only state in the North to benefit from this gesture**

## 6. Partnerships

- Fully engaged in Public Private Partnership (PPP) as exemplified in the provision of desktops and laptops by Omatek to various schools and students during the recently concluded Benue State Science Week in Makurdi
  - Hosting of the National Committee for Solar Energy Forum of Nigeria preparatory to further collaboration with the University of Agriculture towards hosting the National Solar Energy Forum in Makurdi in Nov 2009. Benue is today recognized as a major player in local and international solar energy discussions.
7. 1st Benue Science and Technology Week in March 2009 to raise and stimulate a new generation of young scientists in furtherance of our belief that science and tech holds the key to catalyze development
8. We have been able to aesthetically furnish some offices of the Ministry with quality furniture and accessories.
9. Quarterly publication of BENSOURCE newsletter to create a unique medium for dissemination of information on science and tech in the State and other developmental issues of the Ministry. Emails and phone calls reaching the Ministry have been full of accolades for this pioneering effort.

## Achievements (on-going)

- Draft bill in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice for the establishment of Benue Information Technology Agency (BITA) to act as an implementation body to ensure the growth and rapid development of ICT in the State
- Advanced stage of finalizing roadmap for mining and solid mineral development in Benue state in line with Federal government policy
- Preparing young scientists to participate in various international tournaments in Azerbaijan, Tianjing, Taipei, Jakarta, USA all in 2009
- Government has approved the conversion of 30 existing schools to special science schools. 10 in each senatorial zone
- National Research Institute for Chemical Technology, NARICT, Zaria to give specialised training for chemistry and physics teachers in modern and

Requisite analytical laboratory skills. Proposal for a NARICT Liaison center in the State is being discussed.

## MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Water Resources is barely ten years old, having being created in July, 1999. The need to bring to the front burner issues of water supply, ecological and environmental challenges, gave rise to the establishment of the Ministry. And I must say, with all sense of modesty, that these sectors have received so much attention than ever before.

The Ministry is structured into departments, namely, Administration, Water Resources, Environment, Engineering Services and Forestry. There are also four parastatals to deliver services to the public. These are the Benue State Water Board (BSWB), Benue State Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (BERWASSA), Benue State Urban Development Board (BSUDB), and the Benue State Environmental Sanitation Authority (BENSESA).

## ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE VARIOUS SUBSECTORS:

### ADMINISTRATION SUB-SECTOR

- a. **Staff promotion:** The promotion brief for over 40 Senior Staff who passed their promotion exams, conducted by the Office of the Head of Service, have been completed. Similarly, promotion processes on staff from our parastatals, who successfully passed the December, 2008 promotion exams and whose brief have been forwarded to the Ministry, are almost ready. I have been assured that the promotion will be released before the end of June, 2009.
- b. **Welfare:** I promised last year when I addressed you that, by June, 2008, all outstanding medical claims of Staff would be paid. I am pleased to inform you that, we have done that. We have achieved this through a policy whereby a small amount is set aside every month for the payment of medical claims. Since sickness keeps on occurring on a continuous basis, the payments of medical claims cannot be done at a go. So far, over 1 Million Naira has been spent on the payment of medical claims from 2007 to date.
- c. **Recruitment:** We have received approval from His Excellency the Governor of Benue State, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam, to recruit about fifty drivers, for refuse collection vehicles government has just acquired. Recruitment processes have already began. In a period of global unemployment and job cuts, we have to beat our chest that we are still employing, even if this number is small. Thanks to the determination of His Excellency to rid our towns and urban centres of filth.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-SECTOR

The main function of this sector is to manage both the human and industrial waste, protect and conserve environment as well as enforce

laws on environment. You will agree with me that so much has been achieved. You are already witnesses to the improved cleanliness of Makurdi, the State Capital. In a very short while, the improvement witnessed in the State capital will be extended to other towns and urban centers. Other specific achievements recorded in the sector are:

#### **Public health**

- i. The sanitation and refuse collection in Makurdi has improved tremendously because the activities of Direct Town Cleaning Unit, created as an intervention force, have been stepped up. Funding of the units has also increased from 3m to 5m Naira monthly.
- ii. The heavy duty vehicles that used to park in front of Lafia Garage on Lafia road in North Bank have been relocated to their permanent garage, on the same road. This has achieved the dual purpose of a cleaner environment in the area as well as smooth traffic flow.
- iii. The Benue State Government has also procured and released to the Ministry, 27 No tractors for evacuation of refuse in the state. In a short while, these vehicles will be put to use and refuse collection and disposal will be greatly enhanced.
- iv. In 2008, Government also awarded a contract to Consus Nig. Ltd at a total cost of **N208,524,999.94 for the supply of 6 No IVECO ML 150 E24H EURO Cargo Rear Loading Trucks**. Over half of the contract sum has been released and Government has already taken delivery of two of these vehicles. When put to use, refuse collection and disposal, will be greatly modernized.

v. Also, and to further modernize refuse collection and disposal, contract for the supply of 4 Mercedes Benz 17Zk skip as well as a tow-vans, valued at N139,375,000.00 was awarded to Corporate Choices Nig. Ltd. of Makurdi. Half of this amount has been paid and the Company has so far supplied three of these vehicles. These too, will be put to use for refuse collection and disposal.

vi. In addition, contract for drainage and desilting of Makurdi town and environs has been awarded to SED Ltd Makurdi, at a total cost of Twelve Million Naira, out of which N3.5m has been paid. The objective is to free the drainages of silt that obstructs the free flow of water, often resulting to flooding. So far, over 45% of the job has been executed by the contractor,

#### **URBAN RENEWAL**

**Way Finding Infrastructure within Makurdi Town.** You may have noticed that, unlike in the past, when visitors had difficulties locating places in Makurdi town, street and directional signs within Makurdi have been installed such that road signs are conspicuously displayed, making it easier for destination location. This contract was awarded to Ladderwill Global Resources limited, Abuja at the total cost of N39,272,500.00. So far, over 12million Naira has been paid and 40% of the job has been executed. It is hoped that the contract will be fully executed this year.

#### **BENUE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION AUTHORITY**

The Benue State Environmental Sanitation Authority (BENSESA) was created with the fusion of the Health Department of Benue State Urban Development Board (BSUDB) and the defunct Benue State



Environmental Protection Agency (BSEPA) in 2005. It however became operational in February, 2006. The primary function of the Authority is the enforcement of Environmental health Laws and the implementation of all policies of the Federal and State governments on Environment and Sanitation. During the period under review, the Authority was able to achieve the following:

- a. Intensified house - to - house inspection by Environmental Health Workers;
- b. The Authority redoubled its efforts in the collection and disposal of refuse. It has also continued to serve such institutions like Banks, Fuel Stations, Government offices, Schools and Hospitals etc.
- c. Co-operation with voluntary bodies in the cleaning exercise in parts of the metropolis;
- d. The Authority has taken delivery of one new refuse van from the state government and more are being expected;
- e. In order to curtail the incessant theft and vandalization of refuse collection vans at the premises of the organization, Management engaged the services of a security company to take care of the overall security network;
- f. In terms of revenue, about N2 Million Naira has been collected from January to April, 2009. The main sources of this revenue are refuse rates, court fines of sanitation defaulters and hire of sanitary vehicles.

#### BENUE STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

The provision of a clean environment and other related matters cannot be handled without a proper development control. To this end, the

Board was set up to streamline the haphazard urban growth in Makurdi town and other urban centers. Other functions of the Board include opening of urban centers throughout the state, formulation of policies on urbanization, collection and storage of information on urban centers as well as provision of technical support on urban issues to the State and Local Government Councils and even individuals.

#### **Activities of the Board.**

- a. The Board removed the temporary structures and shanties along Gboko road from Gyado Villa to Wurukum roundabout up to North Bank Motor Park. Several access roads were opened at North Bank, New G.R.A, TPS 211, Otupko and Gboko Roads (Near MACAFA Apartments) and at off Katsina-Ala Street, Demekpe, Logo I, etc.
- b. The road corridor by the North Bank Motor Park was notorious for its rowdy and filthy nature. The Board organized several meetings with the stakeholders on the need for orderly development and the heavy duty motor park was eventually opened by the Local Government. Today, it has been put to use.
- c. The Board also opened up access roads in other layouts such as Logo/Akpehe, the Hawaii Agronomics etc and even constructed new drainage structures.
- d. Between January and February this year, a total sum of **N4,021,086.00** was generated, by the Board in such areas as approval of building plans, temporary plan permit, street naming and fines imposed on illegal developers.

## WATER SUB-SECTOR

### Water Supply

When I came here last year, I also informed you of the many contracts this administration awarded in order to solve the perennial water problem in the state. Today, I will give you an update on the performance of these contracts so far.

- a. On the **Installation of low and High- lift pumps, servicing of generator sets and rewinding of broken down pumps** to increase water supply to Otukpo and Katsina-Ala towns, the sum of **N47m** was released for these projects and the contract has been fully executed.
- b. Since July 2007, **Increased monthly allocation** for diesel fuel has been enhanced from **N5m** to **N8m** to ensure availability of power in view of the constant public power outages. Also, the budgetary provision for the procurement of Water Treatment Chemicals and Laboratory reagents/ equipment has been increased from **N50m** to **100million**.
- c. Contract for the supply and installation of 1000KVA generator sets at Katsina-Ala and Otukpo Water Works, was awarded to **Chris Black (Nig)**, at the total cost of **N88,466,500.00 (Eighty- Eight Million, Four Hundred and Sixty- Six thousand, Five Hundred naira)** only. The generators have since been installed and put to use.
- d. Also, contract of **N4, 988,600,000.00 (Four Billion, Nine hundred and eighty-Eight Million, Six hundred Thousand naira)** only has

been awarded to **Gilmor Engineering (Nig) Ltd** for the construction of **Greater Makurdi Water Works**. When completed, Makurdi town and its environs will be served with 100,000m<sup>3</sup> of water a day. So far, over **2 Billion Naira** or over 50% of the contract sum has been paid. The status of work is about 46% executed.

- e. **Dams:** - Two earth dams located at Wannue and Adum East in Tarka and Obi Local Government Areas, respectively, are nearing completion, while feasibility studies have been carried out for the construction of more Earth Dams at Akpagher, Otukpa, Zaki Biam, Agatu, Otukpo- Icho, and Adoka.
- f. **Water supply and Sanitation:-** The sum of **N20m** has also been released by the present administration as counterpart funding for Water Supply and Sanitation activities in pilot small towns located at Naka, Lessel and Ugbokolo. Rehabilitation is at about 90% completion. The State Water Supply and Sanitation Policy document has also been submitted to the state EXCO for approval. The policy, when finally approved, will pave way for a more strategic planning, implementation and execution of water supply and sanitation activities / programmes in the state.
- g. From May 2007 to date, contracts have also been awarded to **CGC (Nig) Ltd** at the cost of **N4,131,734,137.22 (Four Billion, One Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty- Seven Naira, twenty-two Kobo)**, for the construction of the new Water Works at Otobi-Otukpo

and Katsina-Ala to a design capacity of 15,000m<sup>3</sup>/day. About 1 Billion Naira has so far been released for the two projects. The level of work done is about 42%.

- h. There are also plans to carry out secondary distribution of pipe line networks for Gboko and its environs with the provision of extension to the communities along the pumping main line in order to reduce the incidence of vandalism of the main supply pipe line. We are approaching the Federal Government for assistance since the project was executed by the Federal Government.
- i. Similarly, contracts to the tune of **N465,691,703.25 (Four Hundred And Sixty-Five Million, Six Hundred And Ninety -One Thousand, Seven Hundred And Three Naira Twenty-Five Kobo)** only have also been awarded to WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTION LIMITED for the construction of water supply schemes at Anyin, Logo LGA and Otukpa, Ogbadibo LGA. The contractor is yet to be mobilized to commence work. Plans are also on the way for the award of contract for seven other small towns located at Gbajimba, Akpagher, Ihugh, Obagaji, Idekpa, Otukpo-Upu and Adoka.

#### **BENUE STATE WATER BOARD**

As you may be aware, the statutory responsibility of the Board is to ensure that water is made available to urban and semi urban centers of the state. It is also responsible for the management and maintenance of existing water works across the state. For the past two years, the organization has taken steps to impact positively on the lives of people by embarking on measures and activities that have potentials for improved water

distribution in the state. During the period under review, the following were achieved:

- a. Extension of water supply to old Assembly Quarters and parts of Nyiman Layout, was completed at the cost of N12,069,459.00;
- b. Similarly, Water supply census was conducted in the state capital to determine the number of consumers and those yet to be connected at the cost of N8,710,000.00;
- c. Also, the Anyiin and Ugba Semi urban water supply Schemes in Logo Local Government Area were executed at the cost of N28,747,000.00;
- d. Other achievements recorded include completing the improvement of reticulation systems and reactivation of two boreholes as well as installation of surface tank at the Commissioners' Quarters at the cost of N9,950,000.00;
- e. In a bid to enhance the operational effectiveness of the Board, the state Government procured and commissioned four New Toyota Hilux pick-up vans this year to enhance its service delivery in Makurdi, Otukpo and Katsina-Ala water works.
- f. In addition to the above, the Board is currently carrying out a maintenance service of pipe lines in Makurdi at a projected cost of N2,450,950.00
- g. Additionally, two new Isuzu water supply tankers have been procured and commissioned by the state Government for use by the Board to respond to distress calls for water supply in times of extreme emergency.

## THE BENUE STATE WATER AND SANITATION AGENCY (BERWASSA)

Benue State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency began as a UNICEF Assisted water and Sanitation project in 1991 after a situation analysis of women and children in Benue state was jointly carried out by Unicef, FGN and Benue state Governments. The state was identified as one in need of intervention in the area of water and sanitation. At its inception, the project had six focal LGs namely, Ukum, Gwer- West, Oju, Katsina-Ala , Ushongo and Ado as its areas of operation. Factors that determined the selection of these LGs were guinea worm endemic and vulnerability to water borne diseases. This mandate was later widened to embrace all the LGAs, particularly those willing to collaborate and pay their counterparts for water and sanitation (WATSAN) activities. The WATSAN projects evolved into a full - fledged Government Agency in 1995 vide edict 4 of 1995. The objectives were: provision of portable water and sanitation development to the rural communities of Benue state aimed at reducing water, sanitation and poor hygiene related diseases as well as the total eradication of guinea worm from endemic villages.

### **Boreholes**

- a. During the period under review, 200no hand pump boreholes have been rehabilitated including the 42No done by the Tulsi Chanrai Foundation;
- b. The Agency has equally provided 97No boreholes and 15No hand dug wells in guinea worm endemic communities as well as 7No boreholes in communities in Makurdi LGA where there was cholera outbreak.

### **Sanitation, Health and Hygiene Promotion.**

To encourage sanitation in the rural areas, BERWASSA established Environmental Health clubs in 5 schools in target communities and trained stakeholders to promote hygiene activities in and outside the schools. To provide hygiene and better health practices, private managed sanitation centres have been established and are providing services in 30 project communities; 327 community artisans have been trained in different latrine construction in 27 communities in 8 LGAs; 16 No 3- compartment VIP latrines (486 compartments in all) were constructed in 83 schools as well as hand washing and water facilities. It is also worthy of note to mention that Benue State came 4<sup>th</sup> in a National competition organized to mark Global Hand Washing Day.

### **ENGINEERING SECTOR:**

The Engineering department is the remedial arm of the Ministry on ecological matters. It handles the design and construction of drainages with the aim of controlling flood and gully erosion; opening up of streets, and proffering engineering solutions to other ecological problems in the State. From May, 2007 to date, contracts to the value of about **One Billion Naira** have been awarded for the following projects:

- a. Opening up and construction of 90 No roads in Makurdi and other major towns in the state;
- b. Construction of 138km of roadside drainages and channelization of 4km length of some streams;
- c. Construction of 349 culverts of urban roads in the state and the construction of Ohinimi Bridge in Ohinimi LGA;



- d. Construction of 2000m Lobi Stream Reinforcement Concrete Drainage Channel as well as the River Benue Beach Park at the cost of N597,491,087.20. Work is on progress and has reached 42% execution.

### FORESTRY

The Department is relatively a new creation that was excised from the defunct Ministry of Animal and Forestry Resources and fused with the Ministry of Water Resources and Environment in 2007. Since then, two Annual Tree Planting Campaigns have been launched at Kyado Village in Ukum Local Government Area and at Idekpa in Ohinimi Local Government Area in 2007 and 2008 respectively. About 5000 improved seedlings of different tree crops like Oil Palm, Ogbono, Teak and Gmelina were planted and the others distributed to the public freely in these campaigns.

In line with the present Administration's policy of equipping staff for better performance, ten brand new JENCHENG AX 100 MOTORCYCLES were procured and presented to some Divisional Forest Officers during the various Tree Planting campaigns, so as to boost surveillance and monitoring of forestry activities in the state. Also a Hilux Pickup van is being refurbished at a total cost of about N200,000.00 for use by the Forestry Department to enhance operations.

The State also released money for the resuscitation of the Makurdi central Nursery near Apir. Currently, over 20,000 No. polythene bags have been filled with potting mixture and planting has already commenced. We have in the nursery over 3,000 assorted seedlings

Consisting mainly of improved oil palms, teak, Gmalina etc ready for this season's planting and distribution.

Also, the 1963 Forestry Law which has become obsolete has already been sent to Benue State House of Assembly for review to conform with the present realities. When reviewed, the law will provide a more stronger legal framework for the Forestry Department of the Ministry to function more optimally. The Department has generated about 13 million naira during the period in question as revenue for the state government.

## CHALLENGES

The main challenge facing the Ministry is the global decline of resources that has affected the flow of funds to government. We therefore call on the people of Benue State for the understating of the situation.

Another challenge is the ageing staff, particularly in the Forestry Department and water Board. This is of great concern to government and if not checked, service delivery in the afore-mentioned areas will be greatly affected in the near future.

## **MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING & TRANSPORT**

### **Introduction:**

The Benue State Ministry of Works, Housing & Transport is statutorily charged with the responsibility of undertaking, consulting and overseeing all construction works of the state government in the areas of roads and building. The Ministry is composed of six Directorates each headed by a Director and also oversees the activities of two parastatals each headed by a General Manager. The Directorates are Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Public Buildings and Housing, and Administration & Supplies as well as Finance and Accounts. The Parastatals are Benhouse Building Society Limited and Benue Links (Nig) Ltd.

### **Achievements:**

Since the inception of the administration, the issue of providing needed infrastructure has been pursued with determined vigour. A number of road projects across the State have been embarked upon. While some were inherited many more were initiated by this administration.

#### **Road Contracts Awarded Since May 2007**

(i) Anyiin – Ugba – Amaafu – Abaji Road (78km) is being handed by M/s Dantata and Sawoe at the cost of about N5.75 Billion. Progress achieved stands at:

- 39km of Earthworks completed.
- All Culverts works completed on the first 50km.
- 25km of Subbase and Base completed.
- 15km of Surface Dressing works completed.
- 4km of Base Block work side drains completed.
- 70% of Bridge work

Over all percentage completion is 55%.

(ii) Orokam – Owukpa – Okpoga - Utonkon Road (65km) is being handed by M/s P W (Nig) Ltd at the cost of about N2.94 Billion. Progress achieved stands at:

- 62km of Earthworks completed.
- All Culverts works completed.
- 15km of Subbase and Base completed.
- 13km of Surface Dressing works completed.
- 600m of Concrete side drains completed.
- 10% of Bridge work

Over all percentage completion is 60%.

(iii) Zaki Biam – Afia – Gbeji Road (47km) is being handed by M/s Dantata and Sawoe at the cost of about N3.90 Billion. Progress achieved stands at:

- 14km of Earthworks completed.
- 7 Box Culverts and 4 ring culverts completed.

Over all percentage completion is 5%.

(iv) Ge – Ikyobo – Agbeede – Amua - Anshagba Road (37km) is being handed by M/s Tilley Gyado at the cost of about N1.8 Billion. Progress achieved stands at:

- 20km of Earthworks completed.
- 16 ring culverts completed.

Over all percentage completion is 20%.

(v) Vandikya– Kotiyough – Adikpo with spur from Kotiyough-Tsemker (32km) is being handed by M/s A. G Vision at the cost of about N1.8 Billion. Progress achieved stands at:

- 8km of Earthworks completed.
- Three Box culverts completed.

Over all percentage completion is 10%.

(vi) Otukpo – Utonkon – Igumale Road (56km) is being handed by M/s Rock Bridge at the cost of about N3.590 Million. Progress achieved stands at:

- 30km of Earthworks completed.
- 4km of sub-base completed
- 3km of stone base completed

Over all percentage completion is 10%.

(vii) Makurdi Inner Ring Road (6.2km) is being handed by M/s Hajaig at the cost of N2.703 Billion. Progress achieved stands at:

- 3km of Earthworks completed.
- 4 No of Box culverts are 50% completed.

Over all percentage completion is 30%.

(viii) Abu King Shuluwa Road (3.4km) is being handed by M/s Hajaig at the cost of about N452 million. Progress achieved stands at:

- 3.4km of Earthworks completed.
- All culvert works completed.
- Concrete and Block work side drains completed

Over all percentage completion is 50%.

(ix) About 21 roads scattered across the state covering over 1000km are being designed at the cost of N733m

All road design works are 90% completed.

#### **Inherited rural Roads**

(i) Bays Garden – Agbile Road (5.2km) is being handed by M/s Tilley Gyado at the cost of about N225 million. Progress achieved stands at:

Over all percentage completion is 100%.

(ii) Construction of 92km of Rural Roads is being handed by M/s Tilley Gyado at the cost of about N15 Billion are at various stages of completion. The roads area:

- Gboko-Gbemacha (24km)
- Awajir-Oju (Rehabilitation 52km)
- Tiv Gboko-Tsekucha-Achigbe (16km)

Over all percentage completion is 30%.

- (iii) Construction of 248.3km of various Rural Highways is being handed by M/s Hajaig at the cost of about N15 Billion are at various stages of completion. The roads area:

- Branch Atser-Kornya Road (22km) - completed
- Wannune-ijer-Boagundu Road (39km) - completed
- Adikpo-Ajio-Iyon Road (24km) - completed
- Sankera-Ayati-Sai Raod (28
- Daudu-Gbajimba Raod (50km) are at various stages of completion
- Aliade-Mbakine-Ito (39km) - completed

Over all progress achieved is 70%.

- (iv) Construction of Abwa-Lessel Laterite Road (21km) being handed by M/s Goshen (Nig) Limited at the cost of about N41.1 million.

Over all progress achieved is 70%.

- (v) Construction of rural bridges and box culvert at Ukyaver at the is being handed by M/s Wygat at the cost of about N28.4 million.

Over all progress achieved is 60%.

### **Rural Roads Rehabilitation**

- (i) Eke-Olengbecho – Ugbokolo - Orokam Road (54km) is being handed by M/s P W (Nig) Ltd at the cost of about N981 million.

Over all progress achieved is 70%.

- (ii) Adikpo – Ikyogen -Jato Aka Road (65km) is being handed by M/s P W (Nig) Ltd at the cost of about N1.53 billion.

Over all progress achieved is 30%.

### **Township Roads**

- (iii) Street Roads

The total township roads in Makurdi, Gboko, Otukpo and Katsina Ala under contracts cover a distance of 150km at the total cost of N10 billion. These roads are being handled by the following contractors:-

- M/s Rock bridge Construction Limited - 15km
- M/s Hajaig Construction (Nig) Limited - 97km
- M/s Anestony Construction (Nig) Limited - 25.5km
- M/s Taes Robboni (Nig) Limited - 18.5km
- M/s Gemcer J. T. (Nig) Limited - 1.61km
- M/s Earth-Core Cons. (Nig) Limited -

Over all progress achieved is 80%.

(ii) Walkways

Walkways on 12 major streets in Makurdi have been constructed by M/s Hajaig Construction (Nig) Limited at the cost of N2.7 billion.

Over all progress achieved is 80%.

(iv) Federal Roads

- Gboko-Mkar-Ameladu asphaltic road (14km) at the cost of N792m has been completed by this administration
- Otukpo – Ugbokpo - Oweto (48km) at the cost of N2 billion 25km competed up to asphaltic level

**Building Projects**

Apart from supervising various building projects undertaken by other ministries, Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport has successfully completed the following building projects.

- (i) Reconstruction and upgrading of Governor's Office Makurdi at the cost of N679,854,215.55
- (ii) Reconstruction and upgrading of Shelleng Lodge Makurdi at the cost of N132,305,074.40
- (iii) Reconstruction and upgrading of Commissioner's Quarters Makurdi at the cost of N319,731,604.01
- (iv) Reconstruction and upgrading of Finishing of Atom Kpera Lodge Makurdi at the cost of N185,500,502.80
- (v) Renovation of State House of Assembly Complex Makurdi at the cost of N40,863,076.88

- (vi) Reconstruction of Guest House, Renovation, Upgrading and Finishing of Deputy Governor's Residence Makurdi at the cost of N277,056,086.01
- (vii) Furnishing of Governor's Office, Makurdi at the cost of N97,500,000.00
- (viii) Upgrading of and Reconstruction of GP 4 the Executive Governor's temporary Lodge Makurdi at the cost of N85,780,720.00
- (ix) Renovation and Upgrading of Deputy Governor's Office Makurdi at the cost of N34,693,605.00

**Ongoing Building Projects**

- (i) Construction of new Governor's Lodge Makurdi at the cost of N1.45 billion by M/s CCECC
- (ii) Renovation and Upgrading of Governor's Lodge Abuja at the cost of N673.73 million by M/s Zerock Construction (Nig) Limited
- (iii) Fencing of Commissioner's Quarters at the cost of N95.62 million by M/s Rich Havilla (Nig) Limited
- (iv) Sundry Projects executed include the following:-
  - Fencing of present Local Government Service Commission
  - Its renovation/conversion to Court of Appeal
  - Renovation of former BIPC Office complex
  - Building of office block for Bureau of Public Procurement
  - Renovation of Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport Headquarters, Makurdi
  - Construction of Police Post at Jootar
  - Construction of SSS Office block
  - Renovation of INEC Office
  - Renovation of Gboko Prison wall

Government has commissioned M/s Landev Partners to design phase II of the State Secretariat at the cost of N258.3 million



### Electrical Projects

- (i) Installation of Solar Street Lights on some principal streets in Makurdi at the cost of N762.01 by M/s Solex Energy Service Limited
- (ii) Negotiations are ongoing for the establishment of an Independent Power Generation Station

### Mechanical Projects

- (i) Repair of Central Mechanical Workshop at Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport Headquarters Makurdi
- (ii) Repair of Machineries in Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport Wood workshop Headquarters Makurdi
- (iii) Purchase of Working Tools
- (iv) Procurement of six generating sets varying in capacity from 350KVA to 1000KVA and installed at
  - Benue State University - 1 set
  - State Secretariat - 1 set
  - Government House Makurdi - 2 sets
  - Deputy Governor's Lodge - 1 set
  - NYSC Orientation Camp Wannunue - 1 set

### **Conclusion**

This Ministry feels highly privileged to be part of the infrastructural development of Benue State. We are mindful of the enormous responsibilities placed on us and are alive to these responsibilities. We shall continue to do our best so that Benue people can derive maximum benefit for the money government is spending for the provision of these infrastructures.

Thanks you all and may God bless.

## MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Benue State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is an offshoot of the defunct Benue State Commission for Women, which was established in 1990 as a Department for Women Affairs in the office of the Secretary to the State Government.

The Ministry's mandate is centered mainly on:

- a. The development of Women and Children
- b. Provision of Social Welfare Services

### **OBJECTIVES**

The broad objective of the Ministry is to build a gender equitable society where the needs of men and women, boys and girls are adequately and equitably catered for.

### **VISION**

A happy and a healthy society where women, children, aged, the physical/mentally challenged and all persons are adequately and equally treated.

### **MISSION**

To build a well integrated society with equal opportunities for all, where all forms of discriminatory practices and inaccessibilities based on gender and disabilities are eradicated.

The broad policy thrust of the Ministry and its implementation has been deliberately geared towards promoting and enhancing these noble ideas.

The Ministry has four departments made of three professional Departments, one service department and a Rehabilitation Board. These are Women Affairs, Child Development, Social Welfare and Administration and Finance. The Departments are all headed by Directors and Executive Secretary for the Rehabilitation Board. At present, the Ministry has staff strength of one hundred and thirty-two (132).

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has since May 29, 2007 under the dynamic leadership of the Executive Governor of Benue State, Rt. Hon. Gabriel T. Suswam recorded great achievements which cut across the various Departments of the Ministry thus:

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FROM 2007 – 2009.

The Department of Child Development which is saddled with the responsibility of providing enabling environment that will ensure the maximum and holistic development of the potential of Benue Children was able to make the following achievements under the Present Administration from 2007 – 2009

### CHILD SURVIVAL ISSUES

Under this, the following activities were carried out;

1. Workshops were conducted for the 3 senatorial zones on awareness creation on Road Safety regulations for 274 school children, 15 Head teachers in the State.
2. Support in the areas of health services, food stuff and psychosocial support given to 6 voluntary orphanages, communities based orphans and vulnerable children(OVC), special schools for challenged children and people living with HIV/AIDS (Photographs attached)
3. Logistic support to 160 OVC in the State that were given funds by Global Round Five in the areas of school fees and Health services.
4. 18 children fostered out to foster parents
5. Sensitization of child bearing mothers on the importance of immunization.
6. Training of nursing mothers on weaning diets and sharing of proteinous foodstuff and other materials to the participants.
7. Establishment and inauguration of a functional OVC steering committee.

8. Two (2) teenage pregnancies handled, after delivery, supplied with necessary items and repatriated back to their parents in Nasarawa and Taraba States.
9. Upgrading of Mama Abayol Orphanage Home monthly upkeep allocation.

#### **DEVELOPMENT/TRANSFORMATION ISSUES**

1. 160 children from the 23 LGAs and State sponsored by the Government for holiday camp in Obudu, Cross River State.
2. 20 children from different schools were sponsored for 3 weeks computer appreciation training in Abuja.
3. 81 children were sponsored for International Children Summer Holiday  
Camp to South Africa and Dubai.
4. Between 2007 – 2008, Government released ₦5,000,000.00 as counterpart for UNICEF activities.
5. 150 children trained on keeping backyard poultry, fishery, gardening and application of fertilizer.
6. Renovation of day care centre with a new face lift.
7. Maintenance of a functional day care centre with a graduation of 150 children (2007) 165 (2008) and Current enrolment of 180 children at the centre.
8. Support for the celebration of World Children's Broadcasting Day (first of its kind in Benue State)
9. Training of 100 children on bead making and sewing for self reliance
10. Collation and analysis of data of OVC in 20 cluster areas of 18 LGAs in the state.

11. 6 OVC enrolled into state schools with Governments support in fees.

### **PROTECTION ISSUES**

1. The Child Right Act passed into law and ascedent to by the Governor in November 2008.
2. 50 vulnerable children repatriated to other states or reunited with biological parents on cases of child abuse and trafficking.
3. 18 abandoned children fostered out to prospective parents
4. 20 orphans and vulnerable children given shelter in Mama Abayol Orphanage Homes.

### **PARTICIPATION ISSUES**

1. Establishment/functional children's parliament with members deliberating/participating on issues affecting children in the State regularly.
2. Support to celebrate National Children's day with 160 schools participating in 2008.
3. Support for the celebration of the Day of the African child. 250 children participated.
4. Sponsorship of children to participate in workshops on child related issues in Abuja and other States.

## ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

JULY 2007- APRIL 2009

### 1. JUVENILE- REMAND HOME GBOKO

- ◆ Renovation of hostel and cell at Remand Home
- ◆ Establishment of Carpentry and Tailoring workshops for skill acquisition for the inmates
- ◆ Construction of kitchen in the Remand Home

### 2. SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

- ◆ A state official was elected member of the National Committee on School Social Work.
- ◆ Formation of State Committee on School Social Work

### 3. REHABILITATION OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES

- ◆ 5 persons were rehabilitated

### 4. REPATRIATION

- ◆ 10 persons were repatriated to their various communities ie within and outside the State. eg victims of Jos crisis

### 5. CELEBRATION OF DESIGNATED DAYS

- ◆ International Day of the Family
- ◆ International day of the Elderly

### 6. WELFARE SERVICES

- ◆ Provision of free medical treatment to the aged
- ◆ Distribution of clothes, food items and cash donations to indigent persons.

### 7. PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Hints on Women's Health and
- ◆ Hints on Ageing Gracefully

Over 2000 copies were distributed to members of the public within and outside the State.

#### 8. FORMATION/REGISTRATION OF ASSOCIATION

-Total No. of 177 Association/NGOs were registered

-Total sum of ₦946,000.00 was realized as revenue.

#### 9. IBB SQUARE

The sum of One Million Forty Thousand Naira only (₦1,040,000.00) was generated as revenue at the IBB square from July 2007-April 2009.

#### 10. WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ATTENDED/ORGANIZED

- ◆ Workshop on stress management organized by the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in Makurdi.
- ◆ Government sponsored the Desk Officer on School Social Work on a workshop to Lagos.
- ◆ Director Social Welfare was sponsored to a conference of Directors of Social Welfare in the Federation held in Minna Niger State.
- ◆ Two staff attended a workshop in Kano which was sponsored by the State Government.
- ◆ Workshop organized on the value of family and advocacy on the theme in churches and mosque.

#### 11. GENERIC SOCIAL WORK

- ◆ 500 family care work
- ◆ 300 kindred cases handled
- ◆ Counseling Services were rendered;

These services were carried out in 18 Divisional Social Welfare Offices across the State.



## ACTIVITIES ON HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS basic facts were mainstreamed into the one week breast feeding programme that was held in Guma Local Government Area from 1 – 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2008. Two thousand people were reached with information in five Council wards of the Local Government Area

No. tested      483

No. Positive    82

- Some selected Churches and Associations were sensitized on basic facts on HIV/AIDS in the 23 Local Government Areas of the State in August 2008.
- Distribution of IEC materials
- Officers attended several workshops and meetings on HIV/AIDS issues.

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AFFAIRS 2007 – 2009

## Introduction:

Under the period viewed, the department of Women Affairs recorded appreciable implementation of her mandate as itemized below:

### **Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Governance:**

- ✓ Dissemination workshop organized for line Ministries, NGOs & other Stakeholders on the approved National Gender Policy (NGP) copies of the booklet distributed to participants.
- ✓ Workshops to sensitize the public on gender issues with priority themes as Maternal Mortality, Breast and Cervical Cancer, Gender Based Violence and Girl-Child Education; organized by the Office of the First Lady, Ministry of women Affairs in collaboration with United Nation Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Participants from all works of life were in attendance such as the Chairman of LGAs and their Wives, Academia, Traditional and Religious Leaders and other professionals.
- ✓ Participation/inclusion of targets and inputs into the recently reviewed state policy document "Our Benue Our Future (OBOF)".
- ✓ Input into the ongoing Benue State House of Assembly Constitutional Review with the aim of expunging Gender Discriminatory Practices Against Women.
- ✓ Workshop organized by the Ministry, office of the First Lady in collaboration with Leading Edge Academy with the Theme:

“Mainstreaming Gender in the President’s Seven Point Agenda”.

Participants drawn from other States and Benue from the rank of Hon. Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Heads of Parastatals, Ministerial Department in the Civil Service, LGA Chairperson, Wives of Traditional Leaders, Academia and other relevant Stakeholders.

- ✓ As a result of our sensitization/advocacies on critical issues of women, there is an increase in the appointment of women into various positions, Committees and Boards.

#### **Women Political Participation**

- ✓ Political mobilization and sensitization of women in the 23 LGAs in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady recorded success in the election/appointment of a female Chairman, Six Female Vice-Chairmen, many LG Counsellors and party officials.

#### **Advocacy:**

- ✓ Advocacy visits to Traditional and Religious Leaders on critical issues of concern to women such as maternal mortality and Safe Motherhood and other cultural and traditional practices that discriminate against women.
- ✓ Radio discussion in the five languages (English, Tiv, Idoma Igede & Etulo) maternal issues, Gender Based Violence & Child Marriage, other Reproductive Health Issues and Harmful Discriminatory Cultural and Traditional practices against Women.

- ✓ Radio/Information Education and Communication (IEC) Materials on emerging Women Health Issues (Breast and Cervical Cancaer, Hypertension, Obesity, Menopause).
- ✓ Public enlightenment on Radio, T.V talks on female education and facilitated financial support/award by Her Excellency, the First Lady of Benue State, Arc. (Mrs.) Dooshima Suswam to Female Students who have excelled in their Academics and the Miss Benue Project Titled: "Youths wake-up call (YOWUC)."
- ✓ Role modeling activities in collaboration with Clear Vision and other Beauty pageant. The department facilitated the financial support/award to the Finest Girl in Nigeria – Miss Ochanya Ebute, Miss Benue – Asley Doobee Yongo, Miss Tourism – Jane Odoh and Miss Christine Ben Ameh who won a contest to advertise for NOKIA Nigeria. These are aimed at involving female youth in productive activities so as to reduce in them, the prevailing social vices.

#### **Women Economic Empowerment Issues:**

- ✓ Advocacy to the Banking institutions and linking women groups to micro-credit facilities; such as finance houses, FBN Plc, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the Nigerian Agricultural & Rural Development Bank (NACRDB).
- ✓ Assisted women to access fertilizers.
- ✓ On-going collection of data on women economic activities in markets and the environment they use started with the Makurdi modern market.

### **Training (Local/International)**

- ✓ Training of women at the Senatorial level on nutrition and healthy living for families. This training was carried out by the Ministry, Office of the First Lady and Maggi Women Forum Lagos. Demonstration cooking of nutritious Benue menus at affordable cost for pregnant/nursing mothers, elderly women and growing children and the sick.
- ✓ **International trainings:** For the first time in the existence of the Ministry, relevant staff of the Ministry attended International training with Her Excellency: Hon. Female House of Assembly Member, Hon. Commissioner, Director Women Affairs, Permanent Secretary, Director of Admin and Finance in the following areas; Women Empowerment through Skill Acquisition in Thailand, care of Physically Challenged women/children in India, Gender Mainstreaming in Ghana and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW52 & 53) where relevant themes that have direct bearing on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were discussed.

### **Celebration of UN Designated days**

- ✓ Prominence has been given to UN days and celebrations of such days, example the International Women's Day Celebration of last year witnessed His Excellency interacting with women as a group and their role in development for the first time. This led to the publishing of booklet titled "*Governor Suswam Connects with women*" copies have been distributed to the public. Since that

pronouncement, the Governor has been very passionate to issues of women.

- ✓ Other UN designated days that were celebrated include; Safe Motherhood day, World Breast feeding week, International Day of Peace Celebrated in Collaboration with Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) of the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.
- ✓ Other International NGO activities are UNCEF programmes for women – training at the grassroot on gender mainstreaming to LGA chairmen, Traditional Rulers, HODs of LGAs, CBOs, FBOs, and other relevant stakeholders.

#### **Mobilization**

- ✓ For the first time also in the existence of the Ministry, the Ministry with the support of Her Excellency, The First Lady received two vehicles; I No Hilux pickup Van and an 18 Seater Bus for Mobilization activities.

#### **Infrastructural Development**

- ✓ Ongoing renovation and reactivation of the State Women Development Centre (Pauline Makka Centre) and Maimuna Kontagora Hostel. The renovations are aimed at boosting the acquisition of skills for income generation amongst women.

## BENUE STATE REHABILITATION BOARD

### ACHIEVEMENTS 2007 – 2009

#### PURCHASES

1. Ten (10) Computer Sets and three typewriters for Capacity Building.
2. Three Vehicles acquired for transportation.
3. Two hundred (200) plastic chairs and fifty (50) tables distributed to Community Based Rehabilitation Centres in the State.

#### ADVOCACY, SENSITIZATION AND WORKSHOP

1. Carried out throughout CRB Centres in the LGAs
2. Special emphasis on water and sanitation campaign carried out in Logo LGA.
3. Executive Secretary held a Radio Discussion on "Issues Affecting the Disabled with regards to access roads, toilets and the general public."
4. Board in collaboration with UBE held a training workshop for community identification, prevention and management of disabled children.
5. 2-Day workshop for Care-Givers, Social Workers, special Educators, Parents and Siblings of special children.
6. HIV/AIDS Workshop on Budget Tracking for the Disabled organized by SNR/BENSACA.
7. Four delegates attended International World Conference in Autistic/Mental retarded children in Chennai India.
8. Two delegates attended World Blind Union Conference in Geneva.

Hosted National Council meeting of Rehabilitation Officers.

## **COLLABORATION**

**Our advocacy campaign resulted in:-**

1. Nan-Tor Foundation in conjunction with Zion Eye Care Services donated drugs, supplements, eye glasses worth seven hundred thousand naira (N700,000) to Apir Community, Mama Abayol Orphanage Home, Makurdi.
2. Benue State Female Pharmacists Association donated drugs to Apir Rehabilitation school for the handicap.
3. School kitchen and dinning hall renovation by Hon. Commissioner, Federal Character Commission, Chief Mrs. Margaret Gom.
4. National Directorate of Employment visited the Board for advice.

## **EVACUATION OF LUNATICS**

1. Lunatics evacuated to Edawu Centre for mentally ill/destitute.
2. Six Lunatics discharged to their families by the Board with one gainfully employed.
3. Board repatriated lunatics from Jos Rehabilitation Centre to Edawu for treatment.

## **SUPPORTS**

Board supported Edawu with three hundred and forty-five thousand naira (N345,000) for up-keep/beddings, mattresses, buckets, etc and other individual disable.



- Distribution of clothes, food items and cash donation to indigent persons.
- Several child survival issues were carried out.
- Development and transformation issues were also handled.
- Child Rights Act passed into law and assented to by the Governor in November, 2008.
- 20 orphans and vulnerable children are given shelter in Mama Abayol Orphanage Home.
- Established functional children's parliament with members deliberating/participating on issues affecting children in the state regularly.
- Sponsorship of children to participate in workshops on child-related issues in Abuja and other states.

During the period under review, the Ministry attended/organized the following workshops and seminars:

- Workshop on stress management organized by the ministry.
- Government sponsored Desk Officer on School Social Work on a workshop in Lagos.
- Director Social Welfare attended Directors of Social Welfare Conference held in Minna, Niger State.
- Workshop organized on the value of family and advocacy on the theme: In Churches and Mosques.
- Two staff attended workshop in Kano sponsored by the State Government.

Women constitute a large percentage of the population of the State. The vital role they play to move the State forward has never been doubted by the administration of Governor Gabriel Suswam. From the start, women were encouraged to participate in the process of governance, supported by the First Lady, Arc. (Mrs) Dooshima Yemisi Suswam, women have occupied very strategic positions in various levels of governance. Today, women in Benue have made significant inroads into areas that were hitherto exclusively and strictly the domain of men.

Other notable achievements are;

- Launching of Sev-av Foundation. A pet project of the First Lady, Mrs. Yemisi Suswam aimed at enlightening women and children against HIV/AIDS and also encouraging them to acquire skills so as to contribute their quota to the development of the State.
- Mobilization of Benue women to participate in politics by Her Excellency, Arc. Yemisi Suswam.
- Hosting of First ever National Food fair/Cooking Competition and celebration of the Benue Woman in Makurdi.
- Comprehensive renovation of Maimuna Kontagora FSP Hostel, Makurdi.
- Construction of Skills Acquisition Centres across the State.
- Renovation of Juvenile Home, Gboko.
- Rehabilitation of vulnerable families.
- Repatriation of 10 persons to their various communities within and outside the state.
- Celebration of designated days i.e International Day of the Family and International day of the Elderly.
- Provision of free medical treatment to the elderly.

## MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

Since the inception of Governor Gabriel Suswam's administration in May 2007, this Ministry has recorded huge achievements in following areas of functional mandate:

### **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIRECTORATE**

This directorate has a total number of thirty (30) staff out of the total staff strength of seventy seven (77).

- i. within the 2 years of this administration the directorate recorded the promotion of thirty two (32) staff in the Ministry .
- ii. Twelve (12) staff have been sponsored for seminar/workshops in consonance with the Manpower need of the Ministry.
- iii. Furnishing of offices is on-going.
- iv. Paid staff salaries as and when due and staff medical refund amounting to N400,000.00 has been settled.

### **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

This directorate was formerly a department under Ministry of Women Affairs before the advent of this administration in July 2007. The department was merged with department of Sports to form what is now Ministry of youth and Sports by the present administration.

Since then the directorate has recorded the following achievements:

- i. Sponsored of forty-six (46) youth to Shere Hills, Jos, for youth intervention programme on MDGS N340,000.00 utilized.
- ii. Sponsorship of seven (7) youth to Egba youth Centre in Ogun state on Agriculture process and preservation training programme. N214,000.00 expanded.
- iii. Mobilization/registration of youth cooperative groups/voluntary associations totaling 200 at N4000 each N800,000.00.
- iv. Sponsorship for attendance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, National Council on youth Development at Calabar/Abuja respectively N686,000.00 expanded.

- (v) Conducted community outreach on HIV/ADS prevention and stigma reduction at Aliade in Gwer LGA, Benue State =N200,000:00 expended
- (vi) Ongoing construction of NYSC Orientation Camp, Wannune, Tarka Local Government Area. N253,176,358.62 has been expended out of the total contract sum of=N359,263,166.05.
- (vii) Procurement of 500 double bunk beds for the State Directorate of the NYSC =N5,000,000.00

### **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE:**

#### **Benue State Sports Summit:**

During the period under review this directorate organized a summit on how best sports would be organized. Plans are on the way to come up with a sports policy for the state.

#### **Sinking of Boreholes:**

Two boreholes have been sunk at the Aper Aku Stadium for supply of water. N2,884,834.08 has been expended out of the initial sum of N4,744,300.00 earmarked for the project.

#### **Benue State Sports Festival**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Benue State Sports Festival was organized between 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February 2008. N40,000,000.00 was expended on the programme.

Renovation and fortification of main bowl of Aper Aku Stadium Complex covering provision of seats, Ultra-modern Public Address System, and asphaltting of the parking lot. = N366,714,062.00 expended.

Asphaltting of eight (8) playing courts at Aper Aku Stadium N52,622,275.13 was expended.

Linking the sports council with internet for a world class communication. = N5,423,250.00 expended.

Constitution of state sports associations

Repair of blown-off roof of Aper Aku Stadium at the cost of ₦5,529,300.00.

Work on the construction of the Golf Course has reached an advance stage where training is going on. So far ₦293,840,108.27 has been expended and ₦155,184,953.20 is required to complete the project.

Procurement of three (3) buses for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> position teams at the 4<sup>th</sup> Benue State Sports Festival. Tarka, Makurdi and Ogbadibo won the prizes.

Other projects:

- (i) **The Indoor Sports Hall** – work on the project is about 80% completed. The sum of ₦86,659,022.55 has been expended and about ₦40m is required to achieve 100% completion of the project.
- (ii) **Swimming Pool** –The contract has been terminated due to non-performance on the part of the contractor and it is under going the process to be re-awarded subsequently.
- (iii) **Flood Light** – The contract has, similarly, been terminated due to non performance by the contractor. Processing is now on to re-award to a new contractor.

**BENUE STATE SPORTS COUNCIL**

During the two years under review, the administration of Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam Sponsored state teams to various competitions, and as well released funds for other relevant projects for the State Sport Council. Details are as follow:

A take-off grant amounting to ₦26,252,411.12 was released to the Sports Council which has been accordingly expended on the purchase of sports equipments, 3No. vehicles as well as furnishing of offices.

Two additional vehicles (an ambulance/a 32-seater bus were purchased for the Benue State Sports Council by the Ministry of Finance.

Successful hosting of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Benue State Sports Festival.	
6 <sup>th</sup> Esuene U-18 Girls Soccer Competition at Eket in River State: (Benue obtained 1 <sup>st</sup> Position) -	N2,175,000.00
Handball National Championship for male/female at Kaduna (Benue secured 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Position respectively)	N2,406,900.00
National Boxing Championship at Abeokuta (Benue came 5 <sup>th</sup> Position)	N 805,000.00
Half Marathon Athletics Championship in Lagos (Benue secured 2 <sup>nd</sup> position)	N 336,500.00
U-15 Athletics Championship Kaduna State (Benue took 8 <sup>th</sup> position)	N1,201,700.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Edition North Darts at Gusau (Benue Secured 2 <sup>nd</sup> position)	N 301,500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cocacola/AFN Athletics Championships in Lagos: (Benue obtained 4 <sup>th</sup> position)	N 826,500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition IBB National Taekwondo at Minna (Benue Secured 3 <sup>rd</sup> position)	N 819,000.00
U-18 National Boys/Girls Basketball Championship Kano (Benue secured 5 <sup>th</sup> and 1 <sup>st</sup> position respectively)	N2,276,000.00
Hosted 1 <sup>st</sup> Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam National Volleyball Premier League for male/female (Benue obtained 3 <sup>rd</sup> position)	N7,425,000.00
National Division one Volleyball League male/female at Yenagoa (Benue Came 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> position respectively)	N1,664,800.00
Zonal Elimination Sports Festival at Abuja all the Female teams qualified	N28,940,281.35
Almathy Invitational Women Volleyball Championship, Kazakhstan (Benue came 6 <sup>th</sup> out of 16 countries)	N7,403,725.00

National Mobil Track/Field Athletics Championship at Abuja (Benue obtained 4 <sup>th</sup> position)	-	₦ 597,500.00
U-12, U-15 National Handball Championship in Benue (Benue came 6 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> position respectively)		₦4,600,000.00
National Kunfu Referees/Judges course, National Open Championship male/female Kaduna	-	₦1,416,000.00
Suswam Youth Primary School Sports Festival Makurdi	-	₦14,900,000.00
National Sports Festival Kaduna (Benue took 14 <sup>th</sup> position out of 36 states & Federal Capital Territory)	-	₦105,275,500.00