

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOGI STATE:

BEING A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
DIRECTORATE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENGR. PAUL ATTAH, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNORS FORUM VISIT TO
KOGI STATE ON MONDAY, 3RD OF AUGUST 2009.

Courtesies:

Kogi State Directorate of Rural Development came into being through Edict No. 4 of 1996 (as amended). By the provisions of the Edict, the Directorate was empowered to provide social services for the rural populace of Kogi State. The main objectives of the Directorate is to provide essential social infrastructures such as water, feeder roads, electricity, etc, in collaboration with local Government as well as rural communities.

When Governor Ibrahim Idris assumed the mantle of leadership of Kogi State in May 2003, he identified Rural Transformation of Kogi State as a priority agenda of his Administration. In line with this vision, he decisively empowered the Directorate to transform the rural communities of Kogi State. From that period until date, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris' Rural Transformation Programmes speak volume in the areas of Rural Electrification, Rural Access Roads and Rural Water Supply.

A. ***RURAL ELECTRIFICATION;-***

Electricity Supply, undoubtedly, remains one of the most important infrastructures necessary for the development of rural communities. It is a core infrastructure on which other infrastructures are built.

The rural Electrification initiative of Governor Ibrahim Idris' Administration is unsurpassed in the history of Kogi State, as 33 electrification projects have so far been completed to make power supply a reality in the rural areas. In addition, 154 transformers were procured and distributed to over 70 communities across the State to boost their electricity supply.

B *RURAL ACCESS ROADS:-*

Kogi State has over 80% of its total road network in rural areas. In realizing the great potentialities and natural resources reposed in the rural areas of the State, Governor Ibrahim Idris, for the very first time in the history of Kogi State, procured heavy duty equipment such as Bulldozer, Payloader, Roller, Grader, Lowloader and Tippers for rural road construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Through this programme, 26 road projects have been completed.

C. *RURAL WATER SUPPLY:-*

At the inception of his Administration in 2003, Governor Ibrahim Idris left no one in doubt as per his determination to ensure total transformation of Kogi rural communities when his Administration approved 10 motorized boreholes for each of the 21 Local Government Areas of the State. For this programme, Kogi State Directorate of Rural Development was saddled with the responsibility of executing borehole projects for the Eastern Senatorial District of the State while other government agencies were given the responsibility for the Central and Western Senatorial Districts.

So far, the Directorate has executed 54 new motorized borehole projects, rehabilitated 8 broken-down ones and completed 2 surface water schemes.

CHALLENGES:

1. The major challenge the State Government faces in the rural development is finance. The resources available to Government are lean and have to be shared among all sectors of the economy.
2. In the area of rural water supply, especially in the Eastern flank of the State, the challenge is physical. Boreholes are difficult and expensive to drill because the aquifers are deep. However, the State is looking into the development of dams for surface water schemes as an alternative.

CONCLUSION:-

The Administration of Governor Ibrahim Idris has vowed to continue to work hard and faithfully too, to justify the confidence of the electorate and ensure that every Kogites, no matter where they live, or political affiliation, enjoy the dividends of democracy.

Thank you for listening and God bless you all.