

**BRIEF ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS:-**

**1.0 PREAMBLE:**

The Yobe State Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Damaturu was created to facilitate and sustain the desired contacts between the State Government and the Local Government Councils in the State.

Thus, creating a symbiotic relationship which is defined in terms of guidance, assistance, support and encouragement, instead of direct control which was the practice during the Military era.

Further to the above, the Ministry was divided into a number of Departments just like its other counterparts throughout the Federation and headed by the Honourable Commissioner and assisted by the Permanent Secretary with eight (8) Directors heading the various Departments.

**2.0 COMPOSITION OF DEPARTMENTS:**

The Ministry is an administrative unit of Government and performed only supervisory roles on the activities of the Local Government Councils. Thus, it is composed of the following Departments:-

- a) Department of Local Government Administration
- b) Department of Local Government Finances
- c) Department of Primary Health Care
- d) Department of Chieftaincy Affairs
- e) Department of Planning Research and Statistics
- f) Department of Personnel Management
- g) Department of Finance and Supplies
- h) Department of Local Government Budget.

### **3.0 FUNCTIONS:**

The Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs performs amongst others, the following responsibilities:-

- i. Issuance of guidelines for the preparations of development plans and annual budget of Local Government Areas to ensure conformity with the State Development objectives;
- ii. Serving as the secretariat for the joint Account Committees of the Local Governments in the State;
- iii. Serving as the Secretariat for the meeting of the Local Government Chairmen with the State higher Authorities;
- iv) Monitoring and ensuring the implementations of guidelines from higher levels of Government;
- v. Coordinating matters relating to Local Government reforms;
- vii. Advising the State Government on matters relating to the creation of new Development Areas from Local Government Areas as and when necessary;
- viii. Advising on issues relating to boundary disputes amongst Local Governments;
- ix. Coordinating Local Government common Administrative services;
- x. Dealing with complaints and petitions emanating from Local Government Areas;
- xi. Ensuring the remittance of the State **(10%)**Ten percent Internally Generate revenue to the Local Government Areas as and when due and the **(2.5%)** two point five percent State Government contribution of basic salaries of Local Government personnel to Local Government Pension funds;

- xii. Ensuring that the quarterly returns of the actual income and expenditure of Local Governments in the State are promptly rendered to the relevant Offices;
- xiii. Advising Government on the appointment and discipline of Villages and District Heads;
- xiv. Processing and advising Government on Chieftaincy Affairs;
- xv. Coordinating and advising on the Health Care delivery system at the Local Government level as well as the production of Health Data and statistics for the purposes of planning at the Local Government level;
- xvi. Rendering services and maintenance of Emirate Councils in conformity with the Yobe State joint Local Government Account and allocations of revenue (amendment) Law 2009.

#### **4.0 ZONAL OFFICES:-**

To effectively coordinate and monitor the activities of the Local Governments, the Ministry established four Zonal inspectorate Offices at Potiskum, Geidam, Gashua and Damaturu.

Each of the Zonal Inspectorate Offices is headed by a Zonal Inspector and assisted by supporting Staff.

#### **5.0 RELATIONSHIP OF THE MINISTRY WITH OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT:**

Being the prime coordinating Ministry as regards Local Government matters, it relates with other units of Government particularly the following:

##### **a) Local Government Service Commission:-**

*The Local Government Service Commission is vested with the powers of appointment, promotion, discipline as well as the*

general manpower planning, development and training of Staff of the unified Local Government Service. The Service Commission utilizes the 1% training funds to train and retrain the unified Staff of the Local Governments and pay fees for those undergoing training in Institutions of higher learning across the Country.

The Local Government Service Commission therefore, usually liaised with the Ministry in carrying out most of its functions.

**b) LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT DEPARTMENT:-**

The Local Government Audit Department which heads the Audit alarm committee informs the State Government through the Ministry which is the Governor's representative on the Audit alarm Committee.

It also undertakes periodic checks of the operations of the Local Government joint Account and the Local Government pension Board. In liaising with the Ministry the Audit Department recommends the preparations of the Local Government Audit reports by firms of chartered Accountants and Auditors as and when due.

**c) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION BOARD:-**

Established by edict Number 7 of 1994, the Yobe State Pension Board has the primary roles of collection of contributions to the funds and accounting for the payments of benefits to deserving retired/death Staff of the unified Local Government Service. Currently, a Committee has been set to verify and settle the claims of all affected and deserving beneficiaries and or their relatives.

**d) PRIMARY EDUCATION BOARD:**

*Since the Local Government Councils Nationwide, contributes towards the running of the State Universal Basic Education Boards, through direct deductions from the statutory allocation as well as the payment of Staff emoluments, there has been constant liaising between the Ministry and the Board in that respect.*

**6.0 COMMON JOINT SERVICES:-**

The Local Governments in the State, usually at their monthly meetings with State Officials responsible for Local Government Administration discuss on issues of common interest to the Local Governments and the State in general. Resolutions were most often passed to embark upon joint projects which if left to the individual Local Governments may not be feasible.

In realization of the above objectives, the Local Governments through the Ministry proposed the amendment to the Local Government joint Account Law thus, providing for joint projects to be funded directly from the Local Governments joint Account.

Prominent amongst such projects jointly executed by the Local Government Areas are as per the attached:-