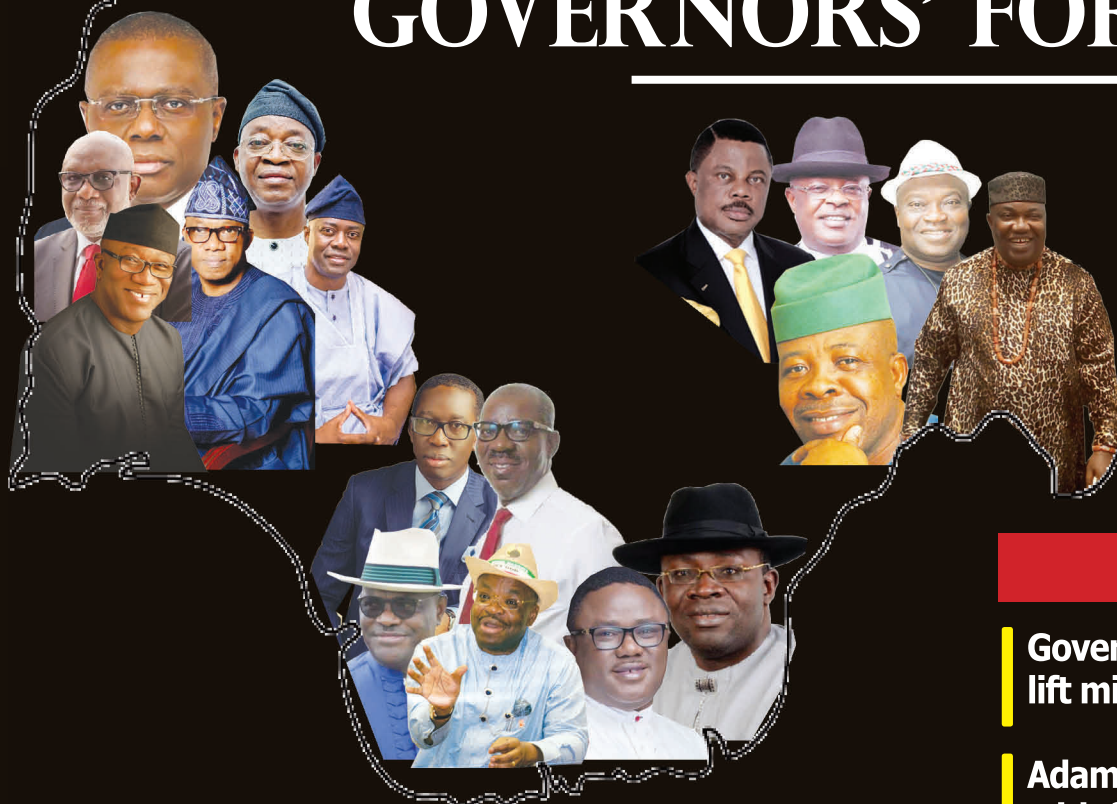




INSECURITY WRINGS GOVERNORS' FORA



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Governors determined to lift millions out of poverty

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Adamawa Schools: Out with fees, in with food

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Amnesty for Bandits

**– DAILY TRUST
EDITORIAL**



T

he Northern Governors Forum (NGF) held its meeting in Katsina last Thursday in continuation of its efforts to break the stronghold of banditry. Attended by eleven state governors out of nineteen, the meeting resolved to grant amnesty to bandits, if they would disarm and repent from unleashing mayhem on the people.

Armed banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling and killings have unsettled the

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Amnesty for Bandits

North-West. Though it was more pronounced in Zamfara State where thousands of persons have lost their lives and many communities dislodged, the criminals took their trade to other parts of North-West, like Sokoto, Katsina and Kebbi in the last few years. As at August last year, Zamfara State government claimed that bandits had killed over 3,000 persons. The figure may be higher now as more killings have taken place in the last one year.

Also, the United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in its June 2019 report, revealed that the displacement of persons from rural communities in the North-West has reached an alarming proportion. The report said 16,257 persons had been displaced in Katsina State; 12,527 in Sokoto State; while 38,113 persons had been sacked from their homes in Zamfara. In this state, 13 out of its 14 local governments were practically under siege, the IOM report claimed. As a result of banditry some 20,000 Nigerians from North-West have reportedly fled to Niger Republic. The report said, “most have made their way to border localities of Madarounfa, Guidan Roumdji, Guidan Sory as well as to Gabi and N’Gnelwa townships in the Maradi region.”

Unfortunately, the condition under which these displaced persons live in camps is said to be horrible. The report says further, “Food is a major challenge for all displaced. Camps don’t have enough food for the IDPs and there are no provisions made by the government so far for IDPs living with host communities. Non-food items, shelter and clothes for children and the elderly are among the other immediate needs. Psychosocial support is also needed for the displaced persons, most especially for those living in camp.”

The NGF may have bent over backward in granting amnesty to bandits, perhaps, as a result of the dire situation those exposed to banditry are facing. Katsina State Governor Aminu Masari who read the communique to journalists said herdsmen and vigilante groups had been forbidden from bearing arms in public places, especially, inside markets. They are to surrender their arms as part of the conditions for the amnesty.

He said, “Herdsmen and their family members



**Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau state,
Chairman Northern Governors' Forum**

should be allowed to attend markets and worship places, as well as attend daily activities provided that they don’t carry arms into the public places. Herdsmen should conduct themselves and leave

peacefully with one another. Those who stole animals should return them through government or the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association. Repentant bandits, including the Yansakai, should surrender arms and ammunition in their possession to the authorities and to release people that are in their captivity.”

We commend the governors for their large heartedness in their efforts to tackle bandits. It is encouraging that the Inspector General of Police, Adamu Mohammed, attended the meeting and promised to review compliance with the deal in one month. But it would not be the first time that a peace deal would be struck between government and bandits in the North-West. We suggest, therefore, that in addition to amnesty, the governors must work out a water-tight security measure to arrest, prosecute and punish those who breach the deal and continue to terrorize rural dwellers. For instance, though the agreement in Zamfara State has yielded some positive results, it has not stopped attacks. Every other day, there are reports of attacks in parts of the state. It is, therefore, necessary for the police and governors to come up with a Plan B in tackling the perennial crime instead of relying on this shaky deal with criminals.

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SOUTH EAST: GOVS ACHIEVEMENTS & POLICY THRUST IN AGRIC

The South East is one of the six geopolitical zone in Nigeria. The zone consists of the following states: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo State. South East's engaged in both crop and livestock production. The dominant crops in the zone are yam, cassava, and maize while their main permanent crops are palm produce, cocoa, cashew, banana/plantain, citrus and rubber. Livestock is mainly a small ruminant. South East states government specific policy thrust/achievement on agricultural sector are discussed below:

By **OLUBUMI AKANBI**

ANAMBRA STATE

Anambra State government takes agriculture as its number one pillar as it has a very high potentials for empowerment and employment generation, food security and poverty. Through the agricultural policy thrust the State Government has made remarkable achievements in the sector. In order to achieve the desired result, two-pronged approaches were used by the state which include: Public Private Partnerships (PPP) with large scale investors and offtakers and Provision of support to small scale farmers.

The state engages in Large Scale Commercial Farming through the Public Private Partnership and has made a remarkable achievement in the sector. The achievements can be summarized as follows:

i. The State Government is partnering with Cosched Farms (investing N50 billion), NOVTEC Farms Ltd (investment worth \$50,000,000 (Fifty Million Dollars)) for Commercial rice projects. The Expected output from the Cosched farm is 60,000MT with milling capacity of



150,000MT.

ii. The PPP with Lynden Integrated Farms is for the development of a modern integrated poultry and production of high-quality eggs and poultry meat in the state (investment worth of N4.46 billion (USD 61m)). The investment is expected to create about 1500 jobs / employment.

iii. \$200,000 PPP investment with Delfarms; a Songhai Model Farms of Benin Republic to establish an integrated organic farm in each of the three senatorial zones of the state. The investment is expected to create about 1000 jobs (Direct jobs 300 indirect jobs 700).

iv. The ANSG/Joseph Agro Ltd is making a \$150,000,000 (N33 billion) PPP investment for the rehabilitation of Omor Rice Mill and Irrigated Rice production at Omor and Ufuma. The farm has expected output of 100,000MT and mill size of 120,000 MT and the investment is expected to create 1500 jobs (500 direct and 1000 indirect jobs)

v. Eckcel Farms Ltd partnership investment worth of \$100,000,000 (N22 Billion) for commercial cassava production and production/processing of tomatoes at Omasi. The expected output is 80,000MT. The investment is expected to create about 1500 jobs (Direct jobs 500 Indirect jobs 1000).

vi. Tricity Integrated Farms investment worth of \$11.4 million Dollar partnership arrangement is for the establishment of a modern semi-automated abattoir in Awka. The investment will fetch over 1100 direct and indirect employment.

vii.

Grains and Silos Ltd (\$23.5 million Dollar) partnership arrangement is for the setting up of grains silos and malting plant with state and the investment is expected to create 1500 jobs/employment in the state.

2. Land Acquisition: The state government inaugurated the Land Acquisition Committee to help cut the bottlenecks of acquiring large expanse of land for agriculture. The committee has succeeded in sourcing land for investors and small holder farmers. Land utilization also increased in 2018 and stood at 49,000 hectares because of an upsurge in the number of people coming into the agricultural sector

3. Provision of Access to Capital: The state government plans to access the N3.5 billion, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) facility for Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (CACS) and Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS).

4. Mechanization/Tractorization:

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



In order to boost mechanization, the state government procured 10 new tractors with full complement of implements. The State Government is also into partnership with Eforce Agro Development for the procurement and management of 100 tractors at Awkuzu Tractor Base. The tractors have been supplied and operations have commenced. In 2018, the state invested N1.5billion in land development, N2 billion in providing infrastructure and N600million in procuring agricultural inputs and machineries.

5. Improving the Quality of Rice: The State Government has established one modern Rice Mill at Omor with a destoner in order to improve the quality of rice produced in the state to meet international standards. More mills will be established in the rice producing communities in the state. Rice production rose from 244,235 metric tons in 2016 to 345,000 metric tons in 2017.

6. Sustainable off taking of Farm Produce: The State Ministry of Agriculture in furtherance of the state government's initiative successfully landed its produce (Ugu and Onugbu) into Europe. This is a test run of 2.5MT to certify the conditioning centre and delivery of Anambra produce. The state has gone further to initiate training, Certification and networking interested off taker. Arrangements and understanding have been made with the logistic company ABX World Cargo & IFAOCM for their development of a conditioning centre for the preparation of the vegetables for export. This is also developed in partnership with Bosh produce, Eagle solution and Global Gap to export fruits and vegetable to European countries. The vegetable farmers are being trained on the right method of vegetable planting and use of organic fertilizer and pesticides. Certifications will be issued to successful farmers by Eagle Solutions Services Ltd of United Kingdom (UK). The state is also making further arrangements with other off takers ie. Grand Cereal Ltd, UK trade and investment team, Global Gap etc. for the off take of agricultural produce from the state.

7. Agric Fairs/Shows: The present administration has sustained agricultural shows to showcase agricultural produce from the state. The ministry has also in collaboration with International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) organized Cassava Show and Training of farmers on confectioneries production with cassava. Cassava production shot up from 1,792,596 in 2016 to 1,881,000 metric tons in

GOVS ACHIEVEMENTS & POLICY THRUST IN AGRIC



2017, while maize production increased from 39,902 to 43,521 metric tons in the last planting.

8. Youth Empowerment in Agriculture: In pursuance of the State Government Youth Employment in Agriculture, the State has established Agricultural Training Centre at College of Agric Mgbakwu. The first batch of 250 youths has been trained in various productions of livestock. These youths would be empowered to develop agriculture skills. The Agric Training Centre will be established in 3 senatorial zones of the state.

9. Input Support to Small Scale Farmers: The State Government through the ministry of Agriculture is providing improved seeds, planting materials and fertilizers to farmers in the state free of charge. So far, cassava cuttings, maize and rice seeds have been distributed to farmers to improve the productivity of small-scale farmers. Also, the state government is participating in World Bank Sponsored Fadama Project, IFAD Assisted, RUFIN, IFAD Assisted Value Chain Development Project and Islamic Dev. Bank Sponsored National programme for food Security (NPFS). These

In order to boost mechanization, the state government procured 10 new tractors with full complement of implements. The State Government is also into partnership with Eforce Agro Development for the procurement and management of 100 tractors at Awkuzu Tractor Base. The tractors have been supplied and operations have commenced

projects also provide input support to small scale farmers.

10. Revalidation of Co-operatives: The Ministry of Agriculture is re-validating the agricultural co-operatives. This is to ensure that only genuine ones benefit from inputs support of government. This will also scale up operations and analysis of yields and output. So far, 1,025 co-operatives have been validated, bringing the number of registered farmers in the state to 12,000. The state planned to grow the cooperative societies from 2,401 to 2,836 in 2018. The State recorded increase in the number of cooperatives from 2,285 in 2016 to 2401 in the 2017 planting season.

11. Agro Control Centre: The Ministry of Agriculture has established Agro Control Centre with full internet facilities and equipment. The application/Platform (FIMS) Farmer Information Management System was developed going by international commodity exchange requirement which includes the traceability and mapping the farms into the platform. The platform will hold farmers Database of farmers and help for easy reporting and analysis of activities of the farmers activity. This is to enable the ministry receive information and farmers complaints for rapid response from

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



experts in the ministry. Farmers can now channel their complaints via SMS to 08103524975.

12. Soil, Plant and Water Lab. (1st of its kind in the country): Soil, plant and water laboratory has been established in the ministry's headquarters. The laboratory is for testing of soil plant and water. This is very important in agriculture for analyzing the soil, plant and water.

ABIA STATE

The state government actively engages and support agriculture activities especially in mechanized farming of Cassava, Rice, and Palm Oil in line with the Federal Government's programs and the state's natural advantage. In addition to the creation of a Commodity Marketing System, the state supports small farmers through organized cooperatives, agricultural extension services and partnerships with foreign donor agencies and development finance institutions. The state actively procures FG funds which are targeted at agriculture and encourages large-scale farmers to invest. Below are some of the state's achievement in the sector:

1. Distribution and planting of two million tenera oil palm seedlings.
2. Abia Rice Initiative: Abia State has four different rice fields in Abia North, namely: Ozuitem-Igbere Rice Cluster, Igu River/Dam Rice Field, Amaekpu Item Rice Cluster and Ofeme Ohuhu Rice Mill.
3. Distribution of bags of fertilizer per Local Government and supply of agro-chemicals at 50% discount to all farmers.
4. Training and equipping youths per Local Government in agro-chemical deployment.

EBONYI STATE

The vision of the state in the sector is to achieve an accelerated pace of agricultural development and make agriculture a major revenue earner for it as well as farmers' purchasing power by increasing their real incomes and improving their quality of life and living standard of rural dwellers. Also, their aim is to increase food production to ensure attainment of a level of food security that will generate availability and affordability of food commodities to the populace.

The state has made efforts in the following areas:

1. Creation of comprehensive database of all co-operative societies and commercial farmers in the state to help in the planning of agricultural programmes.
2. Convoled the stakeholders colloquium on moving Agriculture forward in Ebonyi State.

...Achievements & policy thrust in agric



3. Facilitated the release of funds for the conveyance and installation of parboiling plants in the 3 (three) government rice mills. Not less than 50,000 hectares of land have been identified and set aside by the state government across the 13 local government areas of the State for rice farming and production.

4. Demonstration of farm implements/machines and the training of Ebonyi farmers/youths on the usage of farm implements/machines.

5. Approval of the assessment of N2b (twenty billion naira) Agricultural Credit Scheme in rice production and the disbursement of N20,550,200.00 (Twenty million five hundred and fifty thousand two hundred naira) to 20 (twenty) rice farmers' co-operative societies in the state, etc.

6. One-man-one-hectare agricultural programme: emphasis was placed on rice production as civil and public servants would join other strata of the society in cultivating at least one hectare of rice farm yearly.

7. The state government in collaboration with World Bank and the Central Bank of Nigeria on inauguration of irrigation facilities, social amenities, rice husk power plants, rice mills

e.t.c.

ENUGU STATE

The Enugu State government is policy thrust is to invest in agricultural value chains in which it has comparative advantages. The state is promoting livestock, vegetable and agro-processing as these are very important aspects of the value chain. The state government is also involved in cassava production and processing

IMO STATE

The state government is policy thrust promotes massive investment in agriculture with a view to reducing unemployment and tackling poverty. This will be achieved through the following:

1. Collaboration with the private sector, multilateral agencies and development finance organizations in the agricultural value chain, in addition to leveraging on the various agricultural development programmes available in the financial sector as supported by the Federal Government.
2. Encouraged every community in the state to set up functional cooperative societies which the State will support with agricultural loans, improved seedlings, and other support services.
3. An Agricultural City, in form of a layout, will also be established for our agro-allied industries and agricultural initiatives geared towards achieving self-sufficiency in food production and food security

The state dominant crops includes oil palm, raffia palm, rice, groundnut, melon, cotton, cocoa, rubber, maize, yam, cassava and cocoyam.



The NGF Health Team



L–R: Chineku Ore, the NGF Librarian Naomi and NGF Health Advisor, Dr Abdulwahab Ahmad

Health is one of the core mandates of the Nigeria Governors' Forum. This makes it obligatory for the Forum to maintain a very strong in-house team of medical practitioners to drive its programs. The health team of the NGFS also works closely with external consultants and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation BMGF. This team aligns itself with the vision and mission of the NGF. It collaborates with MDAs, development partners and other stakeholders in the health sector, to encourage the commitment of the state governors and other top state health officials to warmly embrace the nation's health policies, using evidence-based data for engagement and advocacy.

Through advocacy, peer learning and provision of technical assistance, the team ensures local commitment and ownership of health and development projects by the Governors and top health officials in the 36 states of the country.

The team serves as an interface between stakeholders in health and the state government to promote policy implementation at the subnational level. And for good reason too it achieved the following successes:

- Polio Eradication: Secured commitment and leadership oversight of governors to the polio eradication campaign that has set the stage for declaration of Nigeria as Polio-free.
- Primary Healthcare System Strengthening: In three years, we accelerated the Primary Health Care Under One Roof policy implementation through advocacy, resource development and capacity building. Now, all states of the Federation have a Primary Healthcare Board.
- State Health Insurance Scheme: Secured commitment of governors to establish State Health Insurance Schemes in all states of Nigeria. In three years, we have catalysed the spread of State Health Insurance Schemes from 11 to 22 states presently.

Case Studies

- Meeting with CEOs of State Health Insurance Agencies (SHIA)

In July 2019, the recently formed Forum of CEOs of SSHIA paid a courtesy visit to the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat (NGFS) to familiarize themselves with the staff of the NGFS.

It turned out to be an unexpected confirmation of the role the Secretariat had played in the affairs of states. We received two warm success stories about direct outputs from the monthly NGF presentations by the Health team. We extended our gratitude for the feedback and reaffirmed our commitment to relay evidence-based data to guide Governors' agenda.

"A day after the last NGF meeting, my Governor summoned me and said;

'Ah Doctor, I have just seen red... red... red... on the status of health insurance in my state, what are you doing??'

I replied, Sir, it's because we haven't received the take-off funds to commence operations... the Governor nodded and two weeks later, we received take-off grant to start"

Dr Niyi Oginni (CEO, Osun State Health Insurance Scheme)
Chairman, Forum of CEOs of SSHIAs

"My Governor also in the last week, following the NGF meeting released take-off grant of ten million naira for us to commence activities"

Mr Sam Egwu (CEO, Benue State Health Insurance Agency)

The unique stories give insight into the gaps that typically occur in bureaucracies because of the distance from policymakers to implementers.

This is one of the spaces where the NGF Health Team functions by helping to bring government closer to the people. While success stories do not absolve the tasks ahead, they serve to confirm the strategic position and role the NGF Health team plays to draw attention of governors to act where they are needed most.

Priority Agenda

- Universal Health Coverage
 - o Primary Health Care strengthening
 - o Health financing and financial protection
 - o Sustainable drug supply chain scheme
- Routine Immunization – Polio Eradication Initiative
- Nutrition

Our Goal

To contribute to a healthy Nigeria anchored by all the States.

Our Strategic Objectives

- Improved partnership between state governments and federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies to accelerate the annual progress towards improvement of health outcomes for Nigerians irrespective of location, gender, age, or socio-economic status.

- Increased resource mobilization to health by all state governments each year towards achieving the Abuja Declaration target of 15% of total budget to health sector.

- States to establish a pro-poor financial protection system, including provider incentives to implement fee exemptions for the poor and vulnerable groups and appropriate risk pooling mechanisms.

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STATES POLICY THRUST ON AGRICULTURE: SOUTH SOUTH ZONE

The South-South geopolitical zone consists of the following states: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers States. Though it is a relatively small stretch of land, it provides the economic mainstay of the nation's livelihood. In addition to oil and gas, the region equally contributes other key resources, with potential huge investment opportunities in tourism and agriculture. The dominant crops in the states are rice, cassava, cocoyam, yam, oil palm, plantain, fishery, coconut, cotton etc. South-South states governments specific policy thrust and achievements on agriculture are discussed below:

Virgin coconut oil is now a hot cake in the international market and would bring in much needed foreign exchange to Akwa Ibom and improve the economy of the state

AKWA IBOM STATE

Akwa Ibom state government policy thrust is to drive an agricultural revolution that will radically shoot up the state's financial system and revolutionize Nigeria's economy. Akwa Ibom state is a hub for various agricultural products such as palm oil, cassava, yam, cocoyam, plantain, maize, rice, rubber, and many varieties of fish and other seafoods. Today, the state boasts of the production of tomatoes, cucumber, and other cash crops for export.

Below are the on-going agricultural projects in the state:

1. Mechanized agriculture: the state government established a Tractor Hiring Enterprise Centre. This is aimed at making such farm equipment available and affordable to farmers.
2. Empowerment of farmers for improved production,
3. Accelerated livestock schemes: the new cattle ranch built in partnership with a Mexican company and agreement has been concluded to bring in 2,000 herds of cattle to the ranch. Other allied projects coming with the ranch include meat processing, yogurt processing, and milk processing factories. This fully integrated cattle farm will produce milk, cheese, meat, hide and skin for various economic uses."





Akwa Prime Poultry and Hatchery – the state develop a value chain for poultry which led to the development of a huge hatchery that has a capacity to produce 230,000 day old chicks per week.

4. Coconut refinery and plantation project: Procurement and establishment of 11,000 Hectare Coconut Plantation and Refinery Project in the state. This project is in partnership with VKS construction Nigeria Ltd. With 2 million stands of coconut planted, the plantation is the largest in the world and will feed raw materials to the coconut refinery. At full capacity, the refinery would process 300,000 coconuts per day. Virgin coconut oil is now a hot cake in the international market and would bring in much needed foreign exchange to Akwa Ibom to improve the economy of the state. The coconut oil refinery alone is expected to provide direct employment for more than 500 youths, and they would also undergo training in various aspects of the project

5. Cassava value-chain project and mega garri processing factories

6. The cocoa resuscitation programme: the state government trained 450 youths in new methods of planting cocoa and other extension services to cocoa farmers in the state. There has been the establishment of Special Cocoa Maintenance Scheme (SCMS) for the training of farmers and youths on pruning/shade management, under brushing, and tree care by fumigation, to ensure the improvement of yields from 300 kilograms/hectare to 2000kg/ha over three years period. Furthermore,



THERE HAS BEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COCOA MAINTENANCE SCHEME (SCMS) FOR THE TRAINING OF FARMERS AND YOUTHS ON PRUNING/SHADE MANAGEMENT, UNDER BRUSHING, AND TREE CARE BY FUMIGATION, TO ENSURE THE IMPROVEMENT OF YIELDS FROM

300 KILOGRAMS/HECTARE TO 2000KG/HA

OVER THREE YEARS PERIOD.

there has been the importation of 1000 bags of special cocoa fertilizer from Ghana for optimal yield. These 1000 bags were delivered to cocoa farmers in September 2016. Zoning and mapping of the cocoa producing communities in the State, and sensitization of cocoa farmers in the 24 cocoa producing local government areas in the State.

7. The vegetable greenhouses project

8. The tomato processing plant among others, were some of the agricultural projects that stand Akwa Ibom out in the race for food sufficiency, economic growth and social transformation.

Other achievements in the Agric sector include:

1. The Re-introduction of second planting season for enhanced food production and sufficiency

2. Refurbishment and upgrading of three 10mt/day cassava processing factories in the three Senatorial Districts of the state.

3. Extension of technical advisory services to about 350 fish farms in the State, as well as the cultivation of 300 hectares of cassava under the FADAMA III+ Financing Programme.

4. Cooperative Agriculture, Value Addition, Out-Grower Schemes

5. Akwa Ibom State Government has also registered 48,000 rice farmers in 2018 under the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Anchor Borrowers scheme. So far, over 100 hectares of rice farmland have been cultivated.

6. The state established three model villages for production, processing and packaging of Vitamin A products as well as partnering Word Bamboo Organisation for bamboo development in the state.

BAYELSA STATE

The agricultural base of Bayelsa State is extremely rich. Food and tree crops like cassava, plantain, sugar cane, coconut, oil palm, raffia palm, African mango, rubber and seasonal food crops like maize and fruits, as well as timber, are in abundance for local consumption and are also available sources of raw materials for allied industries.

The Bayelsa State Government developed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs) to develop specific target areas of the agricultural sector. These include the Bayelsa Oil Palm Company, Niger Delta Seafood, Bayelsa Farms Ltd. and Creek Food Supplies.

The State Government committed to stimulating investment in the Agricultural sector through the following key policies:

1. Agriculture Investment PPP Model with a clear legal framework for streamlining Private-Public Partnership agreements.

2. Critical Infrastructure Development: A deep seaport along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in view towards create access to international markets to facilitate export of agro-allied produce located at Agge Town.

Other achievement are as follows:

1. Aqua-culture village: the project located at Yenegwe suburb of Yenagoa is to generate about N3.5 billion annually and is expected to provide employment to about 4,000 youths. The farm estate will be replicated in all the Local government area.

2. Establishment of a ranch at Elebele Palm Estate, in line with international best practices.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



...Achievement and policy thrust in Agric

3. Human resource development in the agricultural sector, which has resulted into various training for over 600 young graduates.

4. Fish Farming: fish farm runs the full business circle; with hi-tech hatcheries, 500 ponds, fish-feeds mill and fish processor and dryers, Bayelsa holds the promise of not only feeding the state but also generate income through fish export.

5. Cassava Project: the project deliver 30 million tonnes of starch annually. Bayelsa state's contribution to saving hundreds of millions of dollars expended annually to import starch for industrial purposes.

6. Integrated Poultry at Ebedebiri

There are opportunities for private sector participation through direct investment or partnerships with the State Government for the growth and development of the agricultural sector. These include:

1. Production and processing of a variety of agricultural products.
2. Commercial farming of key produce, including plantain, coco yam, banana, sweet potato, sugar cane.
3. Water hyacinth processing.
4. Oil palm cultivation and processing
5. Rice farming
6. Development of allied industries.
7. Development of structural cottage and large-scale agricultural industries
8. Development of agricultural produce for export markets.
9. Development of storage facilities and packaging plants for Import and export.

CROSS RIVER STATE

Cross river state government achievement agricultural sector includes building an ultramodern rice mill in Ogoja, a 30000 per anum cocoa processing plant in Ikom. established a cotton farm in Woda, Yala, Banana Plantation in Odukpani. Work has also commenced on the Calabar ultra-modern poultry farm and yellow maize farm in Obubra among others."

DELTA STATE

The State Government has put in place adequate plans to ensure Food Security through the empowerment of existing farmers and encouraging new entrants into Agriculture through the following programmes and projects:

1. Oil Palm Development Programme:

This scheme is developed to assist Oil Palm farmers to increase their plantations. The programme is ongoing. In year 2016, Two Hundred and Twenty Thousand (220,000) improved oil palm seedlings were raised for distribution to farmers and to cultivate Five Hundred (500) Ha of oil palm plantation. Two Hundred and Fifty (250) Oil Palm farmers were empowered, One Hundred (100) regular jobs and Three Hundred (300) seasonal jobs were created. In addition, an Office and Input Store were constructed at the Ejeme Uno Oil Palm nursery site to support

the programme. Also, five (5) mini oil mills were fabricated and distributed to farmers. The year 2016 Oil Palm project was executed at the cost of One Hundred Fifteen Million Naira (N115,000,000.00).

In the year 2017, the sum of One Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million Naira (N198,000,000.00) was approved for the expansion of the Oil Palm project in reaction to increase in public demand by farmers. Two new nurseries were established at Oleh in Isoko South LGA and Arhagba Okpe, in Okpe LGA in order to bring inputs nearer to the farmers. In 2018, One Hundred Thousand (100,000) oil palm seedlings are being raised at each of the Oleh and Arhagba Okpe nurseries respectively. While, 350,000 seedlings are being raised at the nursery in



Ejeme-Unor. 400 existing and new farmers would be assisted to increase cultivation by 800 hectares of oil palm plantation in 2018. Also, a block of offices and input stores were constructed at the Oleh and Arhagba-Okpe new nursery sites. This project is expected to create 400 direct jobs and 100 indirect jobs.

2. Rice Programme:

In the 2016 rice programme, the sum of Fifty-One Million Naira (N51,000,000.00) was approved and released to promote all season rice farming in the State. 60 beneficiaries were selected, trained and supported in kind

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...Achievement and policy thrust in Agric

**A TOTAL
OF 242HA
OF RICE
FARMS WERE
CULTIVATED
TO PRODUCE**

1,500

**METRIC
TONNES OF
RICE.**

and cash. Three (3) Rice Processing Mills were purchased for rice farmers at Obior in Aniocha North, Ikweghwu- Agbarho in Ughelli North and Onicha Ukwani in Ndokwa West Local Government Areas respectively. The programme created 60 direct jobs and 180 indirect jobs.

In Year 2017, the sum of Fifty Million Naira (N50,000,000.00) was approved for Rice development project to further encourage its production. 198 rice farmers benefited. A total of 242Ha of rice farms were cultivated to produce 1,500 metric tonnes of rice.

3. 2017 TME 419 Cassava Cuttings Multiplication and Distribution:

Under the Cassava Cuttings Multiplication and Distribution Programme, sensitization, training, selection of farmers on the new improved TME 419 cassava cuttings was carried out in 2017. A total of 119 participants were trained Statewide. So far, only 53 beneficiaries from Delta North Senatorial District have been empowered with 3,017 cassava cuttings.

4. Fisheries:

In the state government determination to maintain the tempo of Aquaculture Development in the State, two (2) fish farm clusters were established at Ewulu in Aniocha South and Mbirin in Ika North East Local Government Areas respectively. A total of 80 ponds were constructed at the clusters. Currently, 50 participants are engaged by the programme. In the first cycle of

5. The CBN Anchor Borrowers Scheme (CBN – ABS)

This scheme is a financial model for small holder farmers in Oil Palm, Rice, Cassava and Fish. It is designed to increase production and supply raw materials to food processors, through this scheme, qualified commodity out growers are assisted to identify an anchor firm (Off taker / processor) and supported with loans at 9% interest rate by the CBN to increase their farm holdings. High quality inputs and technical assistance are also provided for them. Over Sixty Thousand (60,000) farmers have been registered across the selected enterprises of Cassava, Oil Palm, Rice and Fisheries. However, about Four Thousand (4,000) farmers have been fully accredited and approved by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to participate in the first phase of the programme. For the avoidance of doubt, farmers are expected to own verifiable farm sites, to open an account with the Bank of Agriculture (BOA) and to provide their Bank Verification Numbers (BVN). Certified input suppliers and reliable off-takers have been screened and selected for the execution of the programme. CBN has set aside Two Billion Naira to implement this programme in the State in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Bank of Agriculture.

6. Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS)

The Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS) is a special project for the empowerment of youth within the ages of 18-35 years in cluster farms not less than 100 Hectares, under the Anchors Borrowers Programme. The maximum loan facility of this programme is One Billion, Five Hundred Million Naira. In this scheme, Delta State is participating in tomatoes and fishery clusters. A total of 760 youths have been profiled for the tomatoes cluster which will utilize the Green House Technology. Over 500 youths have also been profiled for the fisheries clusters in aquaculture.

7. Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk-Sharing System for Nigeria Lending (NIRSAL)

The State participated in the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk-Sharing system for Nigeria Lending (NIRSAL) which is a central Bank of Nigeria Project with a Public-Private initiative design to appropriately define, price and share agriculture business related credit risk. It attracts private sector finance to Agriculture. The State is Keying into NIRSAL supported projects in Oil Palm plantation development. Negotiations with interested Commercial Banks is still on-going.

8. Land Data Bank:

The State Ministry of Agriculture through advocacy to the Local Government Councils, Community Leaders and Traditional Rulers has acquired three thousand, eight hundred and fifty hectares (3,850ha) of farmland to facilitate the ease of doing agricultural business in Delta State. The State Land Acquisition Committee is handling the documentations of the donated land.

9. Extension Services:

The extension arm of the state ministry of agriculture has attracted a lot of support and re-organisation from the government to reposition and strengthen its capacity for effective service delivery. Extension Agents and Block Supervisors were



production, 60 metric tonnes of fish were harvested. The ponds are being prepared for stocking with fingerlings to commence the second cycle. The project has generated 50 direct jobs and 70 indirect jobs.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



...Achievement and policy thrust in Agric



trained and equipped with working materials such as motorcycles.

10. Veterinary Public Health Services:

The State Government through the Veterinary Services Department of the Ministry has effectively prevented and controlled animal diseases in the State. In 2017 and early 2018, there were confirmed incidents of outbreak of the deadly Avian Influenza Virus popularly known as Bird Flu at Okpanam, Ogwashi-Uku, Okwe, Agbor and Boji Boji-Owa in the State. The spread of the Bird Flu was quickly arrested and stamped out.

Over Four Thousand (4000) doses of Rabies Vaccine were purchased to vaccinate at least Four Thousand dogs across the Twenty-Five (25) Local Government Areas of the State in the 2017 Rabies Vaccination Campaign Programme at the cost of Four Million Naira (N4,000,000.00).

EDO STATE

The Policy thrust of the agricultural sector is to create more jobs and guarantee food security in the state through:

1. Food and agricultural clusters (FAC) initiative: this is a place where farmers can sell their produce and for processing. FAC will employ 200 people and is targeted at 3000 farmers in the area.

2. To ensure that farmers in the State cultivate a minimum of 250,000 hectares of farmland.

3. Making access to land, fertilizer and other inputs easy for farmers.

4. Rehabilitation of Edo fertilizer plant in Auchi

5. Renovation of the College of Agriculture in the state to train farmers. Provide top-of-the-range training and extension services to farmers.

6. Creating the enabling environment for large scale farming, easy access to land and improved seedlings.

7. Youth empowerment

RIVERS STATE

The State Agricultural sector policies aim at achieving food security, developing the rural economy as well as to ensure conducive environmental security/protection for improved agricultural productivity. To achieve this the state uses the following program/projects:

1. Songhai Rivers Initiative Farm: The Initiative combines livestock, aquaculture and agro-tourism. The Centre serves as a place of excellence for training, production, research, demonstration as well as development of sustainable agricultural practices. SRIF was set up in partnership with Songhai International Centre Porto Novo. There are different units through which the initiative executes its functions. These include:

- I. Production
- II. Cow and goat ranch

III. Concrete fishponds

IV. Earthen pond

V. Fish hatchery

VI. Artificial lake

VII. Green house and maggotery.

Other units are broilers production, cassava processing unit, feed mill, rice mill, machines production, stabilized bricks production, free range poultry, plantain farm, pineapple, vegetable garden, cassava and moringa cultivation units. More units designed for future production at the centre include coconut, animal feeds, mango for chips and juice, orange for juice and input for animal processing and snail production.

2. Rivers State Agricultural Development Programme: the functions of the programme include formulating and implementing programmes relating to Agriculture as well as providing extension services to farmers in both rural and urban areas of the state. The project under the programme includes:

- I. National Programme on Food Security (NPFS)
- II. Root and Tuber Expansion Programme(RTEP)
- III. Pre-Emptive management of Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD)
- IV. Community - Based Natural Resources Management Programme (CBNRMP)
- V. National Fadama Development Programme (FADAMA III).



ADAMAWA SCHOOLS: OUT WITH FEES IN WITH FOOD



HIS EXCELLENCY
RT. HON. AHMADU UMARU FINTIRI
GOVERNOR ADAMAWA STATE

Adamawa State Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has announced free education for secondary school students in the state to improve performance and access, drawing encomiums from less privileged parents and pressure groups. Fintiri made the announcement while receiving members of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) led by its gubernatorial candidate for the 2019 general elections, Sen. Abdul-Azeez Nyako, who paid him a solidarity visit in his office at Government House Yola.

The governor said the policy, which would come into effect in September, was meant to give children from poor families unfettered access to educational opportunities, noting that the administration was also committed to improving quality of public schools to enable them compete with their private counterparts.

“As from September, parents would no longer pay school fees. Our plan is to make sure that government schools can compete with private schools in quality of education in the state.

“We are also going to recover all school lands encroached on by some people,” Fintiri maintained. Student receive 3 square meals free of charge daily unlike before. In addition, Governor Fintiri said his administration has revived feeding of boarding school students in nine pilot schools and would soon cover all the 65 boarding schools in the state. Parents pay between N1,000 and N1,500 per term for day students as fees, directly to the schools; the money was said to be utilized by managements for day-to-day administration, while boarding students pay around of N4,500 as fees which included Education Development Levy (EDL), sports levy, feeding and PTA. A substantial amount of the money is kept with the principal for procurement of learning materials, furniture maintenance, logistics and so on, it was gathered. Meanwhile, stakeholders interviewed expressed appreciation for the governor’s decision to abolish school fees as well as re-introduce free feeding of boarding students. They said the policy would increase enrolment and reduce the number of students dropping out of school due to financial constraints. However, some of the parents expressed fear that government may not provide enough subvention to schools, suggesting that the fees be maintained as running cost while government funds major projects. A teacher, who spoke but wants to be anonymous, said some principals were not happy with the free education policy because they wouldn’t want to lose control of school finances, citing example with his school

which realizes about N2 million every term from fees. “The school where I teach collects about N2 million every term from fees while new students are made to bring chalk, hoes, brooms at the beginning of every session. So, the school does not buy all these items and some students sit on the floor because there are no chairs. Then what is the principal doing with the fees?” the teacher alleged. The Acting Executive Secretary, Post Primary Schools Management Board, Maryam Abubakar, said feeding had commenced in nine schools. The board has disbursed funds released by the government, and is closely monitoring the process to ensure accountability. “We went to the schools on inspection and found out that students are being fed successfully. We have confidence that this government will sustain its commitment to education. We have so far started with nine schools and will soon cover all,” she said. Abubakar noted that principals used the school fees for day-to-day expenses including furniture repairs, buying first aid drugs and provision of emergency medical care for students, but that with the declaration of free education, government was prepared to provide funding for schools.

Some students interviewed at General Murtala Ramat College and Government Girls College in Yola expressed delight over the return of school feeding, saying for the first time in several years, they had tea and bread as breakfast and sometimes ate lunch and dinner with beef. The Dean, Faculty of Environmental Science, Nasarawa State University Keffi, Professor Nasiru Medugu Idris, said abolishing school fees is a welcome development especially as insurgency has destabilized the state in recent years. He said while the free education concept is good, government should put it at the back of her mind that the level of out-of-school children is at an alarming rate, and the high infrastructure deficit and decay due to neglect by previous governments. He said, “His Excellency should look at the quality of the teaching staff in our schools today and the enabling environment for our children to study. The state government should also look at the products that are coming out of our primary schools today because the pupils that graduate from this level feed the secondary schools and that’s where the foundation is.” He said since the programme would commence by September, stocktaking of the entire inventory of both primary and secondary schools should be the first priority on the ‘needs and wants’ of each school. Also, the dean noted, government should prioritize the provision of basic learning materials

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



ADAMAWA SCHOOLS: OUT WITH FEES IN WITH FOOD

to schools that were destroyed during the period of insurgency especially in the northern part of the state. He stated that reviving of feeding programme would help students to stay sharp, adding that government should involve host communities in the provision of nutritious food to schools to encourage sense of ownership and boost food security. Professor Idris further said that special schools should be constructed to take care of disabled children. Regarding encroachment of school lands by individuals, government should constitute a special committee that will look into the matter and proffer sustainable solutions, he suggested. "To improve learning, the most qualified teachers should be employed," he said, thus, the need for government to carry out staff verification exercise in both primary and secondary schools to ascertain the quality of education teachers are imparting on the children in preparing them for the future. When contacted, the state chairman of the Parent and Teacher Association (PTA), Lawan Kanuri, said "We are very happy with abolishing of school fees, this is the kind of government we need. Adamawa used to be at the forefront in education but the school system was destroyed. But I want to call on Governor Fintiri to retain the PTA levy because it is used to recruit auxiliary staff and support the schools in many ways.

Submitted by Solomon Kumanger, DG Media & Communication in Adamawa State.



Students of Government Girls College, Yola, get ready for breakfast

The NGF Health Team

- Increased capacity of states actors to innovate, structure and execute health programs that have lasting and sustainable impacts on health statuses of Nigerians.

Our Approaches

- Peer learning and experience sharing- Gather and share best practices across states in health.
- Technical assistance and Capacity building- Provide on-demand tailored assistance on health policy formulation and implementation and improve

knowledge base through trainings

- Knowledge management – Identify, analyse and collate data on key health issues, producing reports for consideration by NGF and its stake holders.
- Policy tracking and domestication - Provide a link between stakeholders in health (MDAs and development agencies) and the state government through collaboration. Monitor and follow up actions on key health policies.
- Advocacy- Promoting sustainable health and development outcomes through sustained advocacy using scorecards.



GOVERNORS DETERMINED TO TAKE MILLIONS OUT OF POVERTY



STATES ARE KEEN ON TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER BUT WE MUST BE SENSITIVE TO THE BURDEN THAT THIS BRINGS AND DEVISE WAYS OF EASING THE BURDEN ON THE FARMER

It is estimated that over a 100 million people – more than half Nigeria's population - live in extreme poverty, according to the World Data Lab's Poverty Clock.

Around June 2018, Nigeria overtook India, a country with seven times its population, at the bottom of the table. Put in another context, if poor Nigerians were a country it would be more populous than Germany. Almost six people in Nigeria fall into this trap every minute.

Extreme poverty statistics have always been controversial. A number of countries and experts disagree with the way it is measured in monetary terms like the World Bank's \$1.90 earnings-per-day benchmark.

But no matter what the arguments might be, at the root of poverty lies the deprivation of people's access to basic necessities such as food, healthcare and sanitation, education and assets. And the evidence - including from India - shows that solving these issues generally lifts populations out of extreme poverty.

But Nigerian governors are not resting on their oars in tackling this menace as all 36 of them met with officials of the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) in Abuja to discuss taking millions people out of poverty in Nigeria, through investments in Agriculture on the continent.

This was disclosed at a meeting between top officials of the AfDB and the governors where they met to discuss the establishment of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones in the country.

The meeting, which was at the instance of the officials of the AfDB, was held at the secretariat of the NGF in Maitama Abuja and chaired by the Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum, Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State, while the delegation of the AfDB was led by Prof Oyebanji Oyeyinka, Snr Special Adviser to the president of the AfDB.

The aim of the meeting was bringing together the farming and the processing community of the country to add value to the produce that God has endowed Nigeria with, which farmers have been producing at great cost.

It is a USD 1bn investment in Nigeria over the next 3 years according to the AfDB officials. The result of this investment is expected to be a quick impact and quick results venture which NIRSAL, NIPC and several other Nigerian invest-

ment outfits are already gearing to partner in.

Specifically, this engagement was aimed at knowing where governors are able to tell where the potentials can be tapped and for the investors to easily position themselves to take advantage of the opportunities available in those areas.

As long as we enforce the rules and do business regularly, we should be able to do business one of the governors at the meeting explained, insisting that to remove mass poverty, unemployment and hunger in Nigeria such projects must be encouraged to take firm root in the country.

The Chairman of the occasion, disclosed that Governors will establish a full value chain arrangement at the subnational level and emphasized that all states of the federation are on the table for this as it is going to give great impetus to states' desire for greater productivity and employment among the country's youths, Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal said.

Kebbi Governor, Senator Atiku Bagudu argued for a situation where payment of loans can be done with produce to lighten the credit risk on the venture. He said further that, "States are keen on taking advantage of what you have to offer but we must be sensitive to the burden that this brings and devise ways of easing the burden on the farmer because, "the more you generate growth the more credit risk drops."

Payment with produce could lighten the burden on the farmer and the country in general, he said, adding that it is sensible to seek partnerships that can last, while making reference to the US-China situation where the partnership between the two countries is gradually becoming sour.

On his part, Governor Akeredolu of Ondo state requested that the project takes cognizance of situations where land for the SAPZ between two states can be contiguous and allow such to be utilized seamlessly. He also talked about the security of the investor and added that "We are ready to ensure that all investors in our states are secure."

Several Governors and Deputy Governors were in attendance. The Chairman of the NGF, Dr Kayode Fayemi was represented by his Secretary to the State Government while Anambra State Governor was represented by his Commissioner for Agric.



DAWN: SOUTH WEST GOVERNORS VOW TO ADDRESS SECURITY CHALLENGES

Submitted by Sam Oluwalana, SA on IT to Ekiti State Gov

Security challenges in the south west became a focal point for Governors of the six states in the geo political zone as they brain storm on how to tackle the menace.

At a three day security summit in Ibadan, Oyo state capital, the Governors proffered various measures including state controlled police, community policing and other measures to put an end to kidnapping and armed robbery in the south west region of Nigeria.

The summit, which had in attendance the six governors, traditional rulers and security experts was organized by Development Agenda For Western Nigeria, (DAWN).

At the summit were governors Seyi Makinde (Oyo), Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (Ondo), Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Lagos), Kayode Fayemi (Ekiti), Gboyega Oyetola (Osun) and Dapo Abiodun (Ogun)

In his opening address, Oyo state Governor Makinde said there was no equivocation that the six governors have resolved to work together for security of lives and property in the region.

Makinde, who is the only member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) among the governors in the region, said available data about the worsening security situation in the region is worrisome, stressing that the time for the summit was now.

He recalled that kidnapping started in other regions but that it has spread to Southwest giving leaders serious concern. He emphasized that it is the duty of governors to keep people and property safe for the socio-economic well-being of the region.

He said no meaningful development can take place in an insecure atmosphere, hence the need to tackle the challenge headlong.

The governor affirmed his support for community policing, stressing that it was the joint position of the governors in the region. "Here in Oyo State, we support state police. We speak with one voice, our united voice in strengthening security"



He said.

Makinde stressed that the need for regional leaders to come together. He commended DAWN for its initiative and that the governors will support it to attain high performance.

In his short welcome speech, DAWN Director General Seye Oyeleye said the importance attached to the summit was epitomized by the presence of the six governors.

Explaining that insecurity is not peculiar to the Southwest of Nigeria, Oyeleye said the goal of leaders in the region is to sustain the status of the region as the safest to live and recreate in the country. "Western Nigeria is the safest in Nigeria and we will keep it as the safest. Southwest is the hub of business and it will remain so" He said.

Also welcoming participants, the Chairman of the DAWN for the region, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, said the summit was very pertinent given the spate of kidnappings and other security challenges. He said members of all classes in the society have

SECURITY

A NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM MONTHLY PUBLICATION



approach to security made Commission and promised per level of perfor-

or General Mr the summit was

Southwest or the region is to ive, invest and safest region in west is open to

of governors in summit became her crimes in the region. He fallen victim, stressing that

WESTERN NIGERIA IS THE SAFEST REGION IN NIGERIA AND WE WILL KEEP IT AS THE SAFEST, ITS OPEN TO BUSINESS AND IT WILL REMAIN SO

no one is safe again.

“The anxiety of our people is palpable. There is great fear in the mind of the traditional rulers. This great fear is against the development of Yoruba land.” He said.

He expressed the belief that more efforts will be made in addition to the summit as a one-off solution can not solve the problem.

Emphasizing the need for regional approach in confronting the challenge, Akeredolu said no state can achieve greatness in isolation. “Yoruba people stand to benefit from our resolve to remain central to the development of Nigeria. There should

be no problem in delivering best services to our people while working together. Political differences should not stand in the way of working for the progress of our people and region.” Akeredolu said.

The governor explained that the Yoruba are very hospitable and accommodating which he said accounted for why so many non-Yorubas have migrated into the region. But he said that the region will not allow anyone to ruffle the peace and security known with the region.

He said: “There is the urgent need that compels a review of our hospitality. Our people are under a siege, and this threatens the ethnic fraternity that exists here. This is caused by the criminals among us. We must dig deep into the cause of this problem.”

He posited that the security agencies seem overwhelmed by the security challenge, pointing out that even schools are no longer safe for children. The governor said the governors have submitted a document detailing their own ideas on how to solve the problem.

According to him, the overall objective of the efforts to tackle insecurity should be to ensure public safety, engender peace and protect public assets and democratic institutions. For this to be achieved, they came up with the four specific targets of reducing crimes and criminality, readiness to work to achieve the set goal, response in times of need and recovery of lost assets.

He also stressed the need for coordination of all stakeholders for directed efforts and sharing of intelligence and information.

Osun State Governor Gboyega Oyetola said the gathering was a realization of the need to work together to confront the menace. He said to them as governors, the summit was a call to duty.

He said: “Our gathering is in realization of the fact that we are stronger when we work together and when we muster concerted strength to face our common foes.

“For us as governors, today’s event, the Stakeholders’ Security Summit of the South West Region, is a call to duty.

“We are resolved to accomplish our most sacred duty to our people in line with Section 14 Sub Section 2 (b) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which says the security and the welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.

“I strongly believe that this security summit will offer us an opportunity to better secure our region.

“The Southwest region, noted for its peaceful and mutual co-existence, never witnessed peculiar crimes or violence on the present scale.

“The ongoing mindless killings, kidnappings, rape, banditry and insurgency across the country are strange to the South West. They are an anathema to the Omoluabi ethos of peace, development, security, unity and good neighbourliness which our founding fathers handed over to us, and which have governed all the aspects of our lives as a people.

“These security challenges are a threat to lives, and livelihoods of our people as well as the economy of our region. If not checked, the Yoruba nation will be threat-

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ened like never before. Livelihood will be eroded. Safety and security will be compromised in an unprecedented manner. Our people, feeling vulnerable and disillusioned, might be constrained to resort to self-help. The time to act to avoid these untoward developments is now. But government cannot do it alone. We require our collective wisdom and professional expertise to address the untoward situation.

“It is instructive and commendable that when recently, crimes spread to our region on an unparalleled scale, our governors rose to the occasion by collectively strategizing to deal with the situation, including convening this summit to interrogate the issues and brainstorm with all stakeholders to stave off these alien crimes and violence so as to achieve peace and prosperity for our people.”

Oyetola described the acts as share criminality, pointing out that members of all ethnic groups are involved.

He said Osun State has been hailed for fighting crime last year. He also highlighted the efforts of his administration in tackling crimes at the moment.

“Since its creation in 1991, The State of Osun has addressed security issues with dispatch and the highest level of resoluteness, which culminated in its ranking as the most peaceful State in the nation in 2018.

“Following the ban on mining activities in Zamfara State earlier in the year, as a result of unbridled banditry and the movement of some of the displaced artisanal miners to our state, we adopted a proactive approach by promptly calling a statewide security stakeholders meeting attended by our political leaders, royal fathers, religious leaders, opinion leaders, security chiefs, top government officials, market women, artisans, professional bodies and other distinguished citizens on April 18, 2019.

“We followed it up with a decentralized method, beginning with a stakeholders’ meeting in the mining area in Ife- Ilesa zone about one month later, precisely, on May 21, 2019, to ensure a cordial relationship between our people and mining vendors.

“Our administration’s Committee on Peaceful Co-existence between Fulani/Bororo and Crop Farmers, is leading the efforts to ensure peace between our people and herdsman.

“The committee engaged with governments and communities in all the states that border Osun – Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti and Kwara – to prevent the influx of criminals. A security synergy with our neighbouring States will drastically reduce trans-border criminal activities and keep our Region safe.” He said. The governor also mentioned some other efforts it was making to handle criminality. He also stressed the need for states to collaborate in confronting insecurity.

Also speaking in favour of state police, Oyetola said: “The nation is grossly under-policed and the Police Force is sorely underfunded. Contrary to the United Nations’ ratio requirement of one police man to 400 citizens, the Nigeria Police has less than 400, 000 officers to cover 180 million people. The Force said it needs 155,000 more men to police the nation’s population. The implication of the above is that we need to recognize



this situation as an emergency and treat it as such. The Police should be adequately funded and provided with enough personnel and other logistics support to do their job.

“Perhaps on account of the security challenges that we face today, there might be no better time to revisit the call for state police as local officers are better suited to secure our communities.

“However, the security agents are squarely battling the current security breaches. But given better support, they can do more.”

In his contribution, Fayemi commended DAWN Commission for its effectiveness in the last six years. He said the governors were not happy with the level of insecurity in the region and the country at large. “Everywhere we go, they ask us what we are doing about insecurity in the region. The questions are legitimate because they elected us to offer them security, not to give excuses, hence this summit. All the criminal activities are heavy but they are not insurmountable.”

He also reeled out the efforts of his administration in addressing the problem, declaring that they were yielding results. He

assured that the problem would soon be over.

“All your governors are working together regardless of party affiliation to ensure that life is worth living for all our people.”

Fayemi said that security has been the key issue being discussed at the federal and regional level since he became the Chairman, Nigerian Governors’ Forum last month.

He also spoke in favour of state police, believing it to be a major solution to policing lapses in the country. He, however, commended the Nigerian Police Force for introducing community policing.

When he mounted the podium, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, also stressed the need for cooperation among governors in the region to be able to generate a strong and effective solution. He also pointed out that criminality is not peculiar to any particular ethnic group.

His words: “As a country, we are one. Criminality is not peculiar to any region. In Lagos, we continue to strengthen our judicial system. We also do a lot of advocacy, engaging different stakeholders to ensure that community policing serves as the bedrock for security.”

Abiodun also said security is required to create the enabling environment for businesses to thrive. He also emphasized the need for collaboration among states and other stakeholders. He said security has been the key issue being discussed at all levels since he was sworn in as governor.

He assured: “I assure you that all of us that you gave your mandate are ready to support all efforts being made to ensure security of lives and property in Nigeria. We must set up collaborative schemes with the private sector to embrace technology and make the work easier and more effective for security agencies.”

He, however, stressed the need to address causes of criminality such as drug abuse, illiteracy, poverty and unemployment. He also commended DAWN Commission.



NASARAWA: WHY GOV SULE SHOULD EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

By YAKUBU LAMAI

The mantra of the new administration led by Governor Abdullahi A. Sule in Nasarawa State is “EXCEEDING ALL EXPECTATIONS!” On May 29th 2019 after being sworn in as Governor, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule stated 14 items in his inaugural speech to be undertaken within the first 100 days of his stewardship.

First, the governor began by conducting ministerial briefings with departments and agencies, so as to acquire a first-hand grasp of the factual situation in government ministries from 13th June to 1st July 2019. He then constituted a committee of technocrats to restructure and reform the Nasarawa State Public Service and within two weeks, the work of this committee was done. The Governor’s approach to reforming the state civil service was predicated on attracting a competent workforce, reintroduction of training and concerted efforts to build the middle management level cadre for efficient service delivery, while stimulating fiscal discipline and transparent revenue generation on behalf of government.

In his first contact with the organized labour in Nasarawa State, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule affirmed to them that he considers the payment of monthly salary as a sacrosanct responsibility! Engineer Sule asserted that everywhere he worked, he had never been owed his monthly wage, which is why it is an innate commitment and a natural instinct for him to treat the welfare of civil servants in Nasarawa State as sacred! Furthermore Engineer Sule added; “everywhere I work, people don’t work for me because they fear me, but because they love what they are doing! That is why my first task as Governor is to find competent people, employ them, train them and pay them the adequate compensation they need, such that they will work effectively and find it unnecessary to be corrupt!”

This is the prevailing valueset that exemplifies Governor Sule’s personal conviction that working for any government out of fear erodes the very foundations of morality. To Engi-

neer Sule, morality rests on treating the ordinary citizens you govern, as possessing the conscience and integrity to contribute their own quota to the development of their society on the basis of patriotism, without being coerced or influenced by any undercurrent of ethnic, religious or political sentiment.

This three month old governor whom people refer to as, “The Engineer of Nasarawa State” wakes up and goes to the office at 8.30am. The latest time you will find Governor Abdullahi A. Sule behind his desk at government house Lafia is 9am in the morning. Aside from rising to the hallmark of personal example, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule also believes in “delegating responsibility to his subordinates!” This is because as an experienced corporate manager, who was one time MD/CEO African Petroleum and Group Managing Director of Dangote; he believes that no competent worker likes to be micromanaged by his principal, as it indicates to such a worker that the boss he serves does not trust his abilities. Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule has fast cut a niche for himself as the sort of Governor who invests trust in his aides and allows them the freedom to take risks, be imaginative and accept that they will fail sometimes.

The result is that Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule is gradually unleashing unbridled creativity and bold innovations into governance in Nasarawa State. This is in tandem with the truism that: “A great leader is a teacher and a coach, not a dictator!”

As promised within the first 100 days of his stewardship, Engineer Sule hit the ground running by conducting medical outreach across

the three senatorial zones, providing eye surgery to ordinary citizens at no cost. He then quickly inaugurated the all important State Investment and Advisory Council, while simultaneously committing funds to complete critical projects embarked upon by the previous administration like Lafia Airport and the historic UAC-Shinge-Command Science-Kilema road also in Lafia.

In the days after May 29th 2019, Governor Sule also plunged headlong into the early completion of the Lafia Institute of Technical Education (LITE) so as to propel government’s agenda of skill acquisition and vocational training for youths, and then he flagged-off the upgrade and construction of blocks of classrooms in all primary schools

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**EVERYWHERE I
WORK, PEOPLE
DON'T WORK
FOR ME BECAUSE
THEY FEAR ME,
BUT BECAUSE
THEY LOVE WHAT
THEY ARE DOING!**



...WHY GOV SULE SHOULD EXCEED EXPECTATIONS



across Nasarawa State beginning from Kokona, Wamba and Awe local government areas from 23rd July 2019. He broke protocol to take a group photo with the school children at Kokona because they waited for him in the rain and sang a very touching “welcome song”, which spurred Engineer Sule to instantly promise a transformer to the small community. In exactly one week, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule had delivered on his promise and restored electricity to the people!

Almost three months in the saddle, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule has breathed a new lease of life into the doldrums of youth empowerment in Nasarawa State and ignited a chain reaction of public enthusiasm for sports. He lit a spark of hope in the hearts of youths, when he made it a matter of policy to initiate a vigorous hunt for new sports talents from Nasarawa State. By Sunday 28th July 2019, when he clocked two months as Governor, the renewed passion for sports which he

IN THE ASPECT OF PEACE-BUILDING AND SECURITY, ENGINEER ABDULLAHI A. SULE TOOK THE FIRST STEP TO REACH ACROSS THE AISLE AND TRAVEL TO BENUE STATE IN A DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO MEND BROKEN FENCES AND RENEW ANCESTRAL TIES...

had inspired in the citizenry, reached its crescendo as the Nasarawa State female football team, “Amazons” defeated Rivers “Angels” of Port Harcourt in the final of the AITEO football championship in Kaduna! A day to the finals, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule had issued a passionate charge to the entire citizens to stand with the Amazons and see the finals of the AITEO football competition as a metaphor for the collective struggle of Nasarawa State to rise above petty primordial differences so as to improve the living conditions of all

her people.

Abdullahi A. Sule might be an Engineer by training, but he is without doubt poised to revive sports, arts, culture and tourism in Nasarawa State; as he has already granted funding for the organization of the first ever Nasarawa Cultural Festival NUCFEST 2019 and while hosting the national body of the Actors Guild of Nigeria in Lafia; he unveiled his ambitious plan to build a film village beside Farin Ruwa Waterfalls in Wamba, (reminiscent of Victoria Falls in South Africa) that will catapult the creative energy of Nasarawa youths to foray into filmmaking, adventure sport, tourism and the hospitality industry.

It has been said that ‘any politician can become a governor, but not every Governor exhibits true leadership qualities’. In the aspect of peace-building and security, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule took the first step to reach across the aisle and travel to Benue State in a diplomatic effort to mend broken fences and renew ancestral ties with the nearest neighbors of Nasarawa State and by his singular commitment to reconcile, rebuild and repair relations with Benue, Taraba, Plateau, Niger and Kogi States; Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule has picked up the gauntlet and positioned himself as a drum major for peace and a torch bearer for security in the north central region of Nigeria.

The Governor has been consistently proactive not only in peace-building and fence mending, but also in reaching out to places where he can get quick gains for Nasarawa State. When he assumed office as Governor, the first place Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule visited was the Ministry of Solid Minerals where he discovered that over 416 licenses had been issued to mining companies to exploit solid minerals in Nasarawa State, but there was no effective financial return on these licenses!

Governor Abdullahi A. Sule is aware that the number of policemen in Nasarawa State is less than 5000, while the state itself is rated No 20 in revenue generation. Meanwhile adequate security attracts investments and bolsters business, which is why the Governor is seriously working with the Nasarawa State Traditional Council of Chiefs to reintroduce the age old concept of Sarkin Daji (Chiefs of

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



the Forest) whose task will be to infiltrate the deepest reaches of the forests and report infiltration by strangers, insurgents or nefarious characters.

All of these the governor is doing in a meticulous, well planned and orderly fashion, in order to pave the way for success in his administration's five key areas of focus namely; generation of employment, wealth creation, accelerated industrialization, infrastructural development and human capital as well as urban renewal and sustainable development.

To achieve these, Governor Sule recognizes that Nasarawa State is blessed with 2.7 million hectares of land; out of which 1 million hectares is arable and suitable to any form of Agriculture. That is why he has positioned Agribusiness as the key driver to his administration's unique approach to industrialization, creation of jobs and empowerment of youths in the state. Already Engineer Sule has resolved lingering land compensation issues which were stalling progress at the Dangote Sugar Refinery in Tunga Awe and on 23rd July 2019, he commissioned a fully automated, agro-processing and aggregating export commodity company in Keffi, Newpal Nigeria limited, and has entered into a partnership with NIRSAL (Nigeria Incentive Based Risk and Sharing System for Agricultural Lending) to hold a two day technical session from 20th August 2019 in Lafia, where suitable agribusiness models can be thoroughly discussed to see how opportunities can be put to use by youths in Nasarawa State with NIRSAL providing the finance, agricultural equipment and technology.

"TO EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS" means to go beyond and above the call of duty, and to set an elevated bar for performance. His Excellency, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule has embarked on a mission to industrialize Nasarawa State on the basis of building enduring systems and business models that will tackle the root causes of poverty in the State. His aim is to catapult Nasarawa State to become "one of the top three most competitive states in Nigeria by 2023.

Governor Abdullahi A. Sule conceived a bold, untested and futuristic document called NEDS: Nasarawa Economic Development Strategy and then he sought 15 through-bred global economic players and conscripted them into a think tank called Nasarawa State Economic and Investment Advisory Council tasked with the singular mission to bring to bear their wealth of experience and ginger the implementation of Nasarawa Economic Development Strategy (NEDS) and unlock all constraints which may have hindered the inflow of investments into Nasarawa State in the past.

He has exhibited unfettered political will to grant local governments their complete financial economy, closed ranks with stakeholders across party lines, dipped his fingers into the hot fires of Almajiri phenomenon by insisting that government must be at the forefront to end the systematic abuse of almajiri children and ensure their rights to childhood. Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule has exhibited uncommon political will by fully implementing the TSA: Treasury Single Account and embracing the RUGA project initiated by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

While immediate past Governor of Nasarawa State from 2011 to 2019, Umaru Tanko Al-makura brought stewardship that was pragmatic and evidenced based going by his mantra of "Seeing Is Believing", His Excellency, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule has elevated governance in Nasarawa State to become more people centered, futuristic and economically driven on the basis of global best practices and the building of institutions. This is in line with the vision of the World Health Organization which defined a healthy society in 1986 during the Ottawa conference as: "A healthy society is one which possesses the nine key elements of Peace, Shelter, Education, Food, Income, Sustainable Resources, Social Justice, Equity and A Stable Ecosystem!"

To understand "THE NEXT LEVEL" where Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule is taking Nasarawa State to; Professor Koyinsola Ajayi SAN, chairman of the State Investment and Economic Advisory Council has said of the Governor that; "this is a man whose sincerity of purpose and fidelity to the national cause is without blemish!" EINSTEIN said that "Imagination is more important than knowledge" because while knowledge can help you identify things and also make you understand things; it is imagination that will make you SEE THE WORLD and SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule is blessed with both knowledge and imagination. This is a Governor who rises above the banality of politics and is poised to disrupt the status quo in a way that is not merely incremental but transformative for the greater good of Nasarawa State and the entire country. That is why the new Governor of Nasarawa State will undoubtedly "EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS!"

Yakubu Lamai, is Director General: Strategic Communication & Press Affairs to His Excellency, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule of Nasarawa State

GOVERNOR ABDULLAHI A. SULE HAS EMBARKED ON A MISSION TO INDUSTRIALIZE NASARAWA STATE ON THE BASIS OF BUILDING ENDURING SYSTEMS AND BUSINESS MODELS THAT WILL TACKLE THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY IN THE STATE. HIS AIM IS TO CATAPULT NASARAWA STATE TO BECOME "ONE OF THE TOP THREE MOST COMPETITIVE STATES IN NIGERIA BY 2023



Economy

Under Ikpeazu: WHY ABIA PROSPERS

Surely, for any state or nation to prosper, the foremost factor to be considered is peace. The most prosperous nations in the world today are nations that are sitting comfortably above others on the peace index.

No investor, local or foreign, would want to invest in an atmosphere of political instability or social uncertainty. It surely makes no sense at all. Promoting and maintaining peace in any location has a lot to do with the peaceful mien, persevering and considerate disposition, and the political will of the leader of such a locality to always put the people's above his personal interests and deal decisively with criminal elements according to the law.

In spite of all the acerbic attacks thrown his way by political opponents, Governor Okezie Ikpeazu has deliberately chosen, instead, to focus on his work knowing fully that only results can silence insults.

And results he has been churning out in droves. For example, despite its well acknowledged lean resources, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu has lifted Abia to greater heights that the State now enjoys very high ratings in critical areas of the economy and human development index. For the last quarter of 2018 alone, with an inflow of a whopping \$1.2bn (representing 23%), Abia State was officially rated as the State with the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) only after Abuja (\$2.5bn representing 42%) and Lagos (\$1.6bn representing 30%).

All the other states of the federation ranked between zero and 0.2%.

In the Ease of Doing Business ranking before he assumed office, Abia was once 31st, but under Governor Ikpeazu, the World Bank ranked

Abia among the five states with the most impressive strides in implementing investment-friendly policies. The other states were Kaduna, Lagos, Enugu and Anambra.

The Ikpeazu administration has incentivized the environment for potential investors who wish to establish business in the state, and these offers are already attracting discerning investors from around the global.

The following are some of the business incentives already put in place by the Ikpeazu government:

100% waiver on all levies and dues (excluding user fees and PAYE) for new investment in education not less than Five Hundred Million Naira (N500,000,000.00) in verified value with a workforce of not less than 100 persons. Waiver applies for 5 years from date of approval.

100% waiver on all levies and dues (excluding user fees and PAYE) for new investment in manufacturing not less than Five Hundred Million Naira (N500,000,000.00) in verified value with a workforce of not less than 50 persons. Waiver applies for 5 years from date of approval.

100% waiver on all levies and dues (excluding user fees and PAYE) for new investment in healthcare not less than Five Hundred Million Naira (N500,000,000.00) in verified value with a workforce of not less than 20. Waiver applies for 5 years from date of approval.

50% waiver on all levies and dues (excluding

user fees and PAYE) for new investment in hospitality not less than Three Hundred Million Naira (N300,000,000.00) in verified value with a workforce of not less than 20. Waiver applies for 5 years from date of approval.

100% waiver on all levies and dues (excluding user fees and PAYE) for new investment in agro-allied based industry not less than Fifty Million Naira (N50,000,000.00) in verified value with a workforce of not less than 50. Waiver applies for 5 years from date of approval.

The above is in addition to the peace and security enjoyed in the state which has also led the state being rated at different times as the safest in Nigeria. Of course, peace and security alone do not necessarily guarantee





the influx of investors to a state, the governor's avowed commitment to infrastructural development and sacrificial dedication to the growth, development and protection of Micro, Small, Medium, and even Large Enterprises has never been in doubt.

In all these areas, Dr Ikpeazu has shown sufficient commitment and it is paying off already.

Last year, he sent 30 young entrepreneurs in the area of shoe and other leatherworks business on an all-expenses paid trip to China to hone their skills in the use of modern machines for shoemaking. Today, the beneficiaries have been receiving invitations to international exhibitions and also receiving awards for their ingenuity, the latest being Nora Onwuasoanya who

won the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of the Year (MSME) Award as the Outstanding Female SMSE Personality of the Year 2019, while Abia won The Most Supportive MSME State of the Year 2019 at the event organized by the federal government.

In addition to the rave reviews being garnered by these entrepreneurs, they are to cascade their knowledge of automation processes obtained in China to others in the Abia shoe and leather works industry, hence, the Governor has gone a step further to procure complete sets of the machines used in China for the purposes of manufacturing and training. On a larger scale, some of the world's biggest players in business including the Ruyi Group, NIBRA Group, Geometric Power, and even the Federal Government etc have all been investing in the State.

With the new business-friendly, efficient, cooperative those who do not invest in the State soon might be coming late because the new capital of Abia State under Dr Okezie Ikpeazu is gradually and steadily turning to Prosperity!

With the giant strides already recorded in commerce, industry and agriculture, leading to real and potential massive creation of employment and empowerment of our youths in the State, the government deserves the support of all and sundry in Abia's irreversible journey to "Canaan Land".

By Jude Ndukwe — Jude Ndukwe is the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker of Abia State.



FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 2018 ALONE, WITH AN INFLOW OF A WHOPPING \$1.2BN (REPRESENTING 23%), ABIA STATE WAS OFFICIALLY RATED AS THE STATE WITH THE HIGHEST FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) ONLY AFTER ABUJA (\$2.5BN REPRESENTING 42%) AND LAGOS (\$1.6BN REPRESENTING 30%).



THE EKITI KNOWLEDGE CITY PROJECT: NIGERIA'S STANFORD/ SILICON VALLEY

by AARE AFE BABALOLA

I had the advantage of reading the write-up by Nseobong Okon-Ekong from the interface Dr John Kayode Fayemi, the Executive Governor of Ekiti State, had with some Journalists on his Second Missionary Journey, a privilege not granted many. I am particularly thrilled by Governor Fayemi's dream and vision of wanting to build a Knowledge City, among other laudable developmental efforts, in his attempt "to ...shoot the state into the limelight with its emerging economy and attract investors as well as tourists".

Afe Babalola I am highly impressed with the news that the governor wants "to turn that whole area where you have Afe Babalola University into a Knowledge City; that is a medical hub, an IT hub, an Agric-tech hub, innovation hub. Investment can then come to Ekiti and we turn the place to a hub for commercial activities".

This, when implemented, will no doubt turn Ekiti State into a true Knowledge City, the hotbed of computer science innovators, deep-pocket Venture Capital Firms and Angel Investors and the place where one can meet the right people with the right resources who can help turn an entrepreneurial dream into reality.

Stanford University owns 700-acre Industrial Park with William Miller and Tim Lenoire as the architect and founding fathers of the present Stanford Industrial Park which has made Silicon Valley famous, thereby making Stanford University the richest university in the world, while Silicon Valley remains the hub of research science and technology and innovation in different shades and shapes. Similarly, the proximity of ABUAD, its 121-unit Industrial Park, the 400-bed ultra-modern multi-system hospital and ABUAD Agricultural Enterprise Farms will be of tremendous advantage to the Knowledge City as Stanford and its 700-acre Industrial Park have positively affected the fortunes and future of Silicon Valley. Also read:

Today, more than 50% of Silicon Valley's product comes from companies founded by Stanford Alumni. Besides, like many research institutions, Stanford is responsible for generating lots of patents. In the same way, ABUAD which is only nine-and-half years old boasts of being the first university in West Africa to commence Mechatronics Engineering in affiliation with FESTO of Germany and the graduates are now commencing FESTO Lab

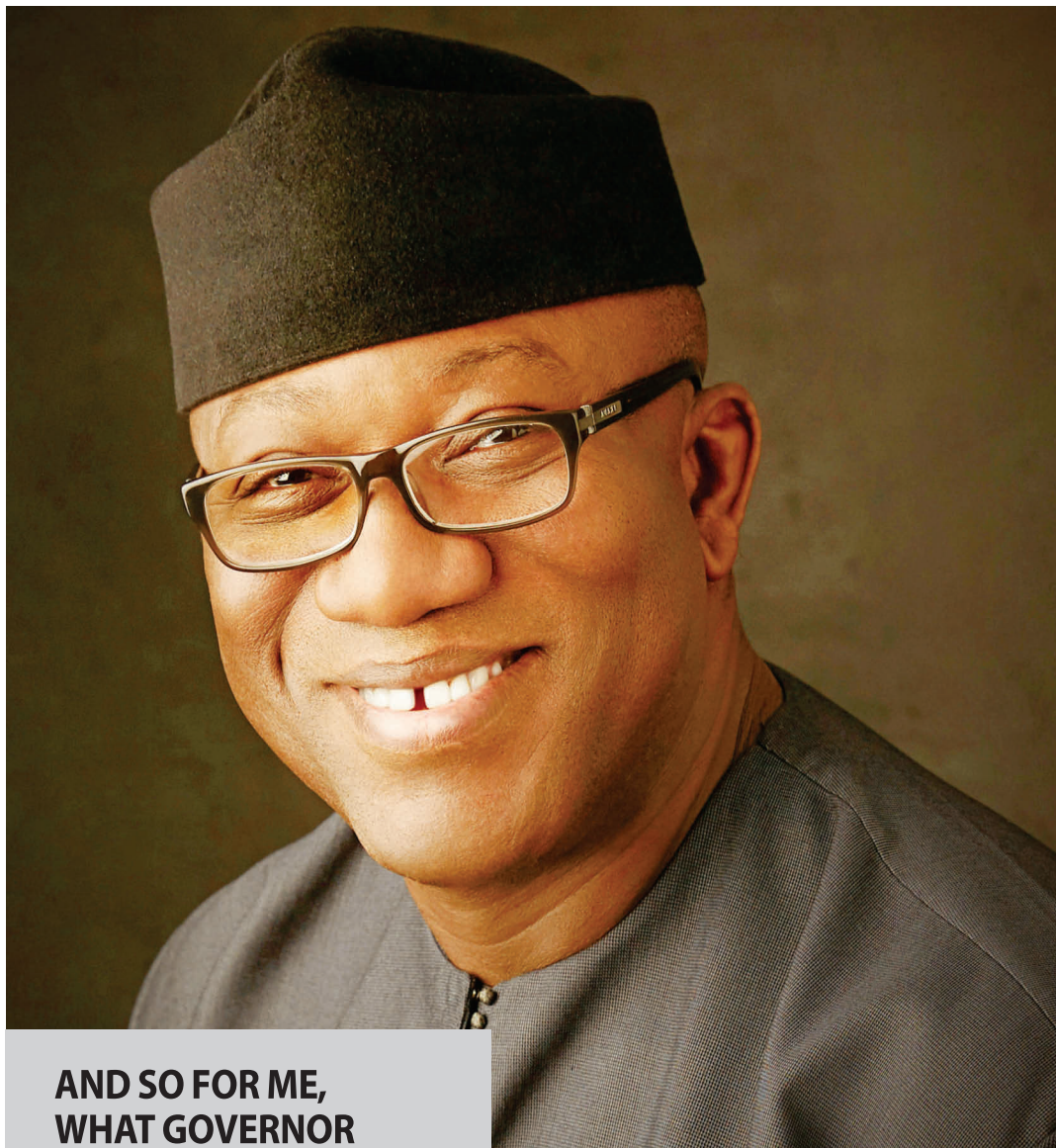
A'Court dethrones Ekiti Oba over faulty selection process For emphasis, Stanford University, a co-educational and non-denominational institution, was established in 1891 by Leyland Stanford, former Governor and US Senator from California with an endowment of USD-5million. The present-day value of which is \$USD132 million.

It is one of the top fundraising institutions in the country and became the first university to raise more than a billion dollars in one year.

Its Alumni have founded many companies, including Google, Yahoo, Microsofts, Instagram, and generate more than USD\$2.7 trillion in annual revenue equalling the 10th largest economy in the world. It is the alma mater of 30 living billionaires, 17 astronauts, lead-

ing producer of members of US Congress and has produced 60 Nobel Laureates, etc. In 2014, endowment and donation alone were \$336,697,860,000, while in 2015 endowment and donation was \$368,147,895,000 which was much more than the total budget of the Federal Government for all higher institutions in Nigeria. Indeed, Stanford shares a relationship with Silicon Valley unlike any other university on planet earth. In the last 50 years, Stanford University, its staff and graduates have launched some 1,200 companies. Today, more than 50% of Silicon Valley's product comes from companies founded by Stanford Alumni. Besides, like many research institutions, Stanford is responsible for generating lots of patents.

In the same way, ABUAD which is only nine-and-half years old boasts of being the first university in West Africa to commence Mechatronics



**AND SO FOR ME,
WHAT GOVERNOR
FAYEMI IS ABOUT TO
DO IS LIKE WANTING
TO ACTUALISE THE
DREAM OF THE
FOUNDING FATHERS
OF EKITI STATE AND MY
SUBMISSION BEFORE
THE MBANEFO PANEL**

Engineering in affiliation with FESTO of Germany and the graduates are now commencing FESTO Lab. With Mechatronics Engineering, the university has the requisite capacity to train industrial personnel, train Mechatronics Lecturers. In addition, it offers certificate courses in Electro-hydraulic and Electro-pneumatic, Hydraulics and Pneumatic and Industrial Automation as well as Assembly and Bottling. The knowledge City will be transformed into our own Silicon Valley Agitation for Ekiti State: When the founding fathers of Ekiti State were agitating for the creation of Ekiti State, I played a very prominent role by deploying my connections, experience and expertise in the struggle for the creation of the state.

I was the person who drafted, presented and de-

fended the Memorandum before the Mbanefo Panel in Akure. At the hearing of the petition, the Chairman, Mbanefo, asked this question: "Do you think, Ekiti State, if created, will be viable?" My answer was an emphatic yes which I predicated on the following: I told the Panel about the abundance of highly qualified human resources in the state.

I emphasized the fact that it is on record that most of the Professors in Nigerian universities are of Ekiti origin with at least a professor from every homestead. I also submitted that there was a wealth of fertile and well-watered tropical land that readily supports agriculture, stressing that a time it was when Ekiti was producing as much as 52% of the Cocoa in the Western Region.

I finally submitted that Ikogosi Warm Spring, the only one of its type in West Africa, could be exploited by both Ekiti State Government and the Federal Government and turned into an international Tourist Centre that will earn billions of Dollars for Ekiti State and Nigeria. And so for me, what Governor Fayemi is about to do is like wanting to actualise the dream of the founding fathers of Ekiti State and my submission before the Mbanefo Panel.

In order to accomplish the Knowledge City project, there is an urgent need for relevant infrastructure like motorable roads, rail line and airport without which there can be no appreciable development. Even if all these ideal projects being powered by the Fayemi Administration cannot be completed in four years, appreciable progress would have been made. It will be left to those coming after him to complete them.

I agree entirely with Governor Fayemi when he said: "I feel that government is a continuum. All of us, regardless of a political party that we belong to, owe a duty to, as much as possible, complete unfinished projects because if you don't do that it is ultimately going to be to the detriment of your state. It is the state resources anyway.

It is not the governor's personal resources expended on such projects." I believe that in respect of the airport, an airstrip could be completed before the expiration of his tenure. It must be borne in mind that the Federal allocation coming to Ekiti State is higher than that of Gombe State which was allocated an airport the same time Ekiti State was allocated. Today, Gombe Airport is up and running. With determination, ours can join the comity of states with airports. Also, it should not be

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NIGERIA'S STANFORD/ SILICON VALLEY



Afe Babalola, CON, OFR, SAN

difficult for the Fayemi Administration to resurface most of the roads in Ekiti, all of which are not more than 30 miles from Ado-Ekiti, the State Capital. Tribute: I pay special tribute to Governor Fayemi for the reference he made to our multiple Award-winning universities, ABUAD, the medical exploits being made by our 400-bed Multi-system Hospital and our burgeoning 121-unit Industrial Park which is similar to that of Stanford University. What has delayed the take-off of the Industrial Park is a suit filed by the company to which the government allocated land in 2009 before the university came into existence. Not only did the company fail to pay the statutory land charges, but it also did not develop the land within two years as required by law. In the circumstance, the state is empowered to re-enter the land and cancel the previous allocation. Thereafter, the government allocated the said land to ABUAD to form part of its Industrial Park. The company filed an action in the High Court to challenge the allocation by the government but the case was dismissed by the

High Court. The company later appealed to the Court of Appeal which also dismissed the company's Appeal. As soon as the Supreme Court delivers its judgment in the case before it, the Industrial Park over which we have spent billions of Naira will flag off. Implementation of the Knowledge City Project, a possibility It is a well-known fact that electricity is one of the most important elements for the take-off of industries. Consequently, ABUAD has sponsored two Independent Power Projects, IPPs, which are working day and night to provide reliable and uninterrupted power supply to ABUAD, ABUAD Industrial Park, the Multi-system Hospital and the ABUAD Agricultural Enterprise Farm as well as the Ekiti Airport which will serve the Knowledge City. The Knowledge City is surely an achievable one. When we wanted to start our university in 2009, not many people believed it was possible. But then, what I have more than most people is determination, industry and faith. With all these virtues, we pressed on to establish the university which commenced academic works on Monday, January 4, 2010 and today, the NUC, the regulatory

authority for university education in Nigeria, has acknowledged the university as "a model, benchmark and reference point" as well as "the pride of university system in Nigeria". It has also been described by the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, AVCNU, as "the most successful private university in Nigeria" and endorsed by UNESCO as "a world-class institution of higher education". Human resources It is a well-known fact that giving is not in the Nigerian culture. In spite of this, during the agitation for the creation of Ekiti State, the Committee raised funds in Ado-Ekiti, Ibadan, Lagos, Abuja and Port-Harcourt. We may have to do the same thing again to support the take-off of the Knowledge City Project. I believe that we have people who can donate generously towards the promising project. African Development Bank, AfDB I am very happy that Governor Fayemi has contacted the African Development Bank, AfDB on the Knowledge City Project. It will be recalled that the AfDB, after its well-known rigorous screening before disbursement of funds, found ABUAD worthy of its facility on account of its being a prudent manager of funds as epitomised by the Founder. AfDB has never assisted any university before. However, it was convinced about the facilities, performance and commitment and decided for the first time to assist ABUAD and make it a pilot for other universities in Africa and beyond. The Knowledge City will

AfDB, Chinese Investors Parley Governors



Governor Akedolu of Ondo State greets Rt Hon Tambuwal of Sokoto State as Gov Bagudu of Kebbi looks on with a smile.



Kebbi, Sokoto and Ondo Governors rubbing minds



Mr David Nabena, Mr AB Okauru and Mr Barkindo all of NGFS discussing a point of interest. Looking from behind them is Makinde Araoye of Ekiti State



Group photograph of Gobs and AfDB officials



AfDB making a presentation with Chinese investors at the NGFS



NGF DG, AB Okauru explaining protocols to AfDB and Chinese representatives before the commencement of their briefing.



GOMBE: JETTISONING PHANTOM TRANSFORMATION

By Tahir Ibrahim Tahir

When you drive into Gombe town today, you would notice that successive governments in Gombe, saw to the infrastructural development of the state.

Today Gombe town is a beauty to behold. The only set back to Gombe's developments was that previous governments had plunged Gombe into a debt burden that it can barely wriggle out of, in terms of the reality of its income to debt ratio. One other drawback was that the previous government concentrated on infrastructural development only, without recourse to the development of its human resources and human capital.

The people were quite impoverished by this uneven capitalistic drive.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya has, within a short period of time, set to turn around the fortunes of the people of Gombe by embarking on programmes and initiatives that affect lives of the people directly, which will in turn boost the economy.

One of the most lingering crises is the inadequacy or lack of portable drinking water. The Governor has released the sum of 110 million naira for the repair of Gombe's reticulation and water works so that all pipelines and other infrastructure that have broken down are repaired immediately.

One of the most lingering crises is the inadequacy or lack of portable drinking water. The Governor has released the sum of 110 million naira for the repair of Gombe's reticulation and water works so that all pipelines and other infrastructure that have broken down are repaired immediately.

The ecological problems of Gombe state are not alien. It has long affected farming and other infrastructural development. Gov. Inuwa Yahaya has already released the sum of 500 million Naira as counterpart funding to World Bank projects on gully erosion control under the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWM- AP). This will reduce the state's vulnerability to soil erosion and climate variability in the medium term and promote long term climate resilience and low carbon development in the state.

Some of the areas battling gully erosion that will benefit from the fund include: Gombe state University,



GOV. YAHAYA HAS ALSO PURCHASED OVER 70,000 BAGS OF FERTILIZER FOR EARLY DISTRIBUTION TO FARMERS IN THE STATE FOR THE 2019 FARMING SEASON

Federal College of Education (technical), East of Gombe International Hotel, Behind Gombe state House of Assembly, Wuro Bajoga-Bogo and East of Kumo General Hospital - Jauro Tukur gully systems which were all approved by the World Bank.

Gov. Inuwa Yahaya has recorded 3 very laudable strides in the Education sector, both at the primary and tertiary education levels. First is the three-billion-naira basic education grant from UBEC. This was lying fallow as a result of non-payment of counterpart funding by the previous administration. The governor has succeeded in recovering this fund which will go a long way in the development of educational infrastructure and equipment for basic education in the state.

Another is the securing of 6 million dollars basic education grant under the Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA), which is a World Bank/Federal Government funded programme. This will mop up the out of school children in the state and herd them back into classes. Gombe is among the 17 states with the highest number of out of school children and Inuwa Yahaya is set to change that with this million dollar grant.

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The third is the securing of over 400 million naira TET-FUND special grant for Gombe state College of Education Billiri. This will go to the development of perimeter fencing, hostel facilities, office facilities and other necessary structures for the smooth running of the school. This has come as a result of Gov. Inuwa Yahaya's engagement of the leadership of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund at Abuja through several visits. Gombe is also benefitting from a 13 million dollars grant from USAID to improve teacher quality. This has also come as a result of his engagements with development partners and donor agencies to strengthen the resource base of the state. There is a 100 million dollar Agric grant in the offing which Yahaya is bringing to Gombe very soon from USAID.

Gov. Yahaya has also purchased over 70,000 bags of fertilizer for early distribution to farmers in the state for the 2019 farming season. The state has already taken delivery of 100 trucks which is over 60,000 bags. Each local government is scheduled to receive at least 10 trucks of the fertilizer.

The previous government had abandoned road projects worth over 54 billion naira. It had paid compensation in some areas and left them for 2 years without the commencement of the projects. Gov. Inuwa Yahaya has re-awarded and flagged off some of the projects, particularly the Mallam-Inna Kurba Titi and Kundulum. It used to be the

major road linking to Maiduguri and the residents of the area were complaining of spending 1000 naira to convey their farm produce to Gombe town. With this road, their tears are dried. For 16 years they have laboured to get the government to provide a feeder road linking Kurba with Gombe metropolis to no avail. Yahaya is finally doing it now to open the rural areas and link them to Gombe town.

There is an International conference centre as you drive into Gombe town which has consumed the states resources, estimated at over 10 billion naira, some say 20, but this writer has not verified such cost. Bottom line is; Gombe people will hardly utilise this gargantuan project. Now they have a governor that is working hard towards providing funds that will improve education and teacher quality, support farmers, improve water supply and open up rural markets to the urban areas.

A RUGA of over 200,000 hectares is being set up for the promotion of cattle rearing and milk production as Gombe is an agrarian society. The government has so far recovered properties and cash running into millions which were embezzled by government officials. Gov. Yahaya is also partnering with DISCOS to improve power supply in the state. This time round, the human capital in Gombe is indeed being harnessed for the better, a great stride, away from the debts of phantom infrastructural development.



NORTHWEST BANDITS: ONCE INTRACTABLE, NOW CONTROLLABLE



It began as an occasional menace; isolated incidents of robberies and kidnapping on major highways connecting major cities in the Northwest.

Then the situation escalated to organized attacks on remote villages in the sub-region, during which scores of lives were lost and property carted away by gun-toting men.

The spark points tended to be Zamfara and Kaduna, states joined by Gundumi and Kuyanbana forests, which served as the bandits' lair, where from they carried out forays into hapless, unprotected communities.

The attackers' booty of choice were livestock and then occasionally foodstuff; the former to be resold at far away markets to raise funds for the procurement of more arms to terrorize more communities.

Soon, the entire Northwest was engulfed, as the increasing number of gun men spilled over to Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa and Kebbi States. Up to a hundred lives were being lost in any given week. In Zamfara State burial parties for the victims of one attack were massacred in a follow-up assault.

In Zamfara and Sokoto States, prominent political appointees, district heads and business men are taken captive or murdered. The situation seemed intractable, as security forces proved incapable of containing the ever more daring bandits.

What was first mooted as an idea eventually became the only option. A new government in Zamfara State came with a new initiative that entailed a recourse to less fire power than the power of words.

Urged on by Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, his counterpart in Sokoto State, Governor Bello Mutawalle reached out to the Fulani communities in Zamfara State. Herders, who are mainly Fulani, are being identified nationwide as the villains in clashes that are more occupational than ethnic.

The menace of farmers-herdsmen clashes is age-old in Northern Nigeria. It is a dispute involving two groups that share the same religious beliefs and an integrated lineage over time. And this perennial fight is now also an integral part of the security situation in the part of the country.

When therefore, the governors of the Northwest sat with herders in their states, it was a virtual round table of brethren. Progress was being realized in all states, as a new understanding was being reached and tempers being calmed.

The submissions at the Katsina meeting by the Inspector General of Police for Northwest Governors and bandits exhibited a willingness for detente and a commitment for a return to normalcy.

Governors of the Northwest identified education as the panacea for lasting peace between herdsmen and communities in Nigeria.

State Governors at meeting, which held at Government House Katsina included host governor Aminu Masari, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Sokoto and Nasiru el Rufa'i of Kaduna State.

Others are Abdullahi Umar Ganduje of Kano, Bello Mutawalle of Zamfara and Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State.

The Jigawa and Kogi State Governors were represented by their Deputy and Secretary to the State Government respectively.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



THE TRADE BY BARTER GRAZING RESERVE INITIATIVE OF GOV DAVE UMAHI

Chairman of the South East Governors Forum and Governor of Ebonyi State, Chief David Umahi has said though there is no plan for any Ruga settlements in any part of South-East and South-South, the zones can engage in a very good business of selling grasses to the herdsmen in exchange for cow meat.

Umahi, who spoke in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Emmanuel Uzor, disclosed that the South-East zone actually proposed a deal with Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN).

The governor said under the deal, MACABAN will take their cattle to the northern parts where grazing reserves were established long time ago and rely completely on the grasses grown in the south for feeding their cattle.

Umahi was the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Farmers and Herdsmen, which recommended the revamping of the already existing grazing reserves in various parts of the north to enable farmers have unhindered access to their farmlands while herdsmen rely solely on proceeds from the farmers.

“Umahi was the Chairman of NEC Sub-Technical Committee on farmers and herdsmen clash and he toured the states of Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa, Adamawa, Zamfara and two other states where he made in one of his recommendations to the federal government for revamping of grazing reserves in the north where all the cattle rearers in the south will take their cattle to but rely on the grass that are grown in the south.

“The way it works is that the herdsmen will bring down their cows to the South-East and sell to us as meat while they will load the grasses



which are grown here in the same trucks with which they transported their cows to feed their cattle in those grazing reserve which should be made comfortable for them,” the statement said.

The statement also quoted Umahi as saying that with this proposed deal, herdsmen are expected to embrace anti-open grazing by returning to the ranches in the north to do their business on the trade by barter basis by selling cows to the south and buying grasses to feed their cows in the north.

...ONCE INTRACTABLE, NOW CONTROLLABLE

Taraba and Plateau State Governors Darius Ishaku and Solomon Lalong also attended the meeting on special invitation.

Also at the gathering were leaders of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association and repentant bandits

Governor Masari of Katsina State, while opening the meeting said it was a continuation of efforts to restore peace and normalcy in the Northwest and Nigeria as a whole, expressing the readiness of governors to embrace all measures aimed at the protection of the lives of the people.

Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, said the meeting was called to coordinate action and efforts in different states towards finding a lasting solution to banditry and other violent crimes in the Northwest and the country at large.

He said the initiative for dialogue with gunmen in Katsina and Zamfara States should be studied and strengthened for adoption in other parts of the country, so that the people can return to their farms and other lawful activities.

Resolutions at the end of the closed door meeting, announced by the IGP and participating governors include the banning of volunteer and vigilante groups in all the states.

The governors gave a guarantee of the freedom for unarmed Fulani to attend markets and conduct their lawful activities in all communities without harassment.

There was however the demand for Fulani gunmen to handover all stolen or rustled livestock to the authorities for onward return to their owners.

The meeting also resolved that all captives in the custody of volunteers and bandits should be released unconditionally, while both groups should surrender their arms to the authorities.

Governors at the meeting expressed commitment to improving the lives of Fulanis and herdsmen through the provision of schools, healthcare and veterinary services.

All the governors however, called on herdsmen to embrace modern ranching, as the only panacea to herdsmen-farmers clashes and recipe for the socioeconomic improvement of their lives.

The recent Sallah celebrations in Zamfara State symbolized the changing atmosphere towards peace. Fulani cultural displays in Gusau were a feature that indicated that matters are back to normal in real terms.

This is after over a month of confidence building all over the Northwest, during which the Fulani attended markets without harassment and scores of kidnap victims were unconditionally released to the various state governments.

States of the Northwest, have indeed produced a working model for peace between herders and farmers in Nigeria. And a consolidation of that may as well be the solution to the banditry that is associated with Fulanis all over the country.



NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM

MOURNS WITH GOVERNOR UMARU FINTIRI OF ADAMAWA STATE

Your Excellency,



May I, on behalf of the Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, Dr Kayode Fayemi and your 34 other colleagues, governors, and the NGF Secretariat, seize this opportunity to express our deepest condolences to you and your family on the loss of your beloved late father, Alhaji Umaru Badami, who gave up the ghost at the Federal Medical Centre Yola.

As you commit the Late Alhaji Umar Badami to mother earth, it is our sincere wish that he will be resting in peace, having left an enduring legacy of life in Adamawa State where you, his son, is serving the people and grieving, while at the same time making great efforts at putting smiles on the faces of your people.

For us at the NGF, and I believe for you too and the people of Adamawa State, there are no goodbyes wherever he is, for Late Alhaji Umaru Badami will forever remain in our hearts.

Please kindly accept our sincere condolences, your Excellency.



Signed: Dr Kayode Fayemi,
Governor of Ekiti State and Chairman, Nigerian Governors' Forum