



Governors' POPI (Pop-Eye) Edition



The last edition of The Executive Summary (June 2017) elicited an especially different kind of interest, overall. This is for two reasons. First, is the fact that the newsletter has begun to grab the attention of governors with its narrative topicality; and secondly, it captures the anniversary celebrations of most of the states, a political ritual, which usually marks the beginning of the final two-year lap of some of the governors, in vignettes, providing a prelude to what is to be showcased during the 2019 campaign time, which apparently is fast approaching.

What readers might have missed in that edition though, is that the newsletter thematically dwelt only on People Oriented Programs Implementation, which in development-community terminology is popularly known as POPI.

Make no bones about it, that preference was neither by default or coincidence, but a deliberate statement to show that governors are now moving away from the traditional deliverables of the dividends of democracy, in stone and concrete, and becoming more concerned with empowering their peoples and elevating them out of poverty. Additionally, the realization that simply providing stat-

utory services that hardly bring food to the table is no longer tenable to the citizenry has helped the shift in focus.

There is also a caveat: this publication and indeed the NGFS is non-political and non-partisan. To situate the advancements achieved in party manifestos is therefore a defective and mere academic postulation. Governors are working together and adapting workable solutions across party affiliation without hindrance.

In essence, there is a shift in governance perspectives from the traditionally mechanical to prioritizing the human index. As the reader might have noticed, the Open Government Partnership Initiative of the World Bank is already taking firm root in many states. In one of those, close to half a billion dollars have been received, thanks to openness, transparency and a genuine push for public involvement in governance.

But, the question remains, what constitutes POPI?

In a nutshell, it is the emancipation of the citizenry by the machinery of government, in a manner that, all are involved or consulted, as much as their time permits, to be engaged. POPI standpoints are given several notable acronyms, some of them tongue-twisters, albeit, but most of them very meaningful to the

improvement of the existence of man in any community, no matter how small. These include but are not limited to:

- 1) Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO III)
- 2) School Feeding Programs in Poverty Prone Areas (SFP-PPA)
- 3) Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program
- 4) Sustainable Elimination and Prevention of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (SEPWF-CL)
- 5) Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)
- 6) Humanitarian Capacity Building (HCB)
- 7) Floating Education and Healthcare Projects
- 8) Combatting Domestic Violence against Women Through strengthening Social Accountability (CDVAW) among others.

These are concepts that most of our governors are beginning to imbibe and adhere very seriously to. Also, they constitute the pivot of modern governance which the forum's secretariat looks to continue to encourage through its States Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM). Notably, some of the states have gone into partnerships that are becoming commercially rewarding for their governments

and their peoples. Indeed, there are a few other states, sadly, that are yet to get into the groove and the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat (NGFS) is admonishing such states to veer attention in the right direction so as to be on the same page as the others that are bestraddling those frontiers of development.

It does not stop there. These notable governance progressions are expected to cascade into the months preceding the 2019 elections, where the secretariat, in conjunction with a number of development partners, are working together to create a help desk or template which will be spurn from a conference for all media and publicity handlers of the states into forming a Community of Practice. Here, all verifiable performance indicators would be collated and driven further within the context of empirically verifiable publicity issues.

The main grit is the advancement of delivering the dividends of democracy to all, in a more satisfactory and convincing way, where issues of performance and otherwise can be tangibly identified. In achieving that, the NGFS insists, POPI is a reliable template.

...And now this

In the previous editions of The Executive Summary, Deputy Governors have been rather too ob-

scure in narration and in pictures. We have therefore included a full introduction of some of the people who sit in place of their governors at the meetings.

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Governor Okezie Ikpeazu began his tenure as governor of Abia State on a very stormy note. Traumatized by a litany of litigation from his opponents, his take-off witnessed a distraction never before seen in the history of Abia. But he persevered. To most citizens of Abia State, one of Okezie Ikpeazu's most remarkable achievements came in his first hundred days of governance when Abians began to testify that governance had begun to wear a simple look, despite the unnecessary distractions, which to them, "signified better and hopeful days ahead."

Governor Ikpeazu not only succeeded in demystifying the office of the governor by cutting down on unnecessary expenses including his entourage and personal salary "all in an effort to boost the revenue base of the state and to also add value to the life of the masses and develop infrastructure, but he also did the most unthinkable when he allowed labour to handle the administration of several bailouts given to the state. This action did not just endear him to the workers in his state, it also solidified the relationship between the governors and the governed in Abia.

Furthermore, in the advancement of accountability and prudence in the state, Dr. Ikpeazu sired a new initiative called Integrated Payroll Verification System (IPVS), which has successfully captured the biometric data of staff and all civil servants in the state.

According to many Abians, "Ikpeazu has taken governance away from the old fashion where a bloated workforce and an unprecedented number of ghost workers took money they never worked for home. This done, he produced a new economic blue print for the state, known as Abia State Economic Advancement Team (ASEAT), which has the primary responsibility to drive new economic initiatives by setting agenda, drawing a roadmap, and drive a new IGR methodology for his administration. The agency is aimed at driving a new effort towards the infrastructural renewal of Aba City to ensure that it is transformed to a city of basic modern amenities and restore order and sanity in building of shops, kiosks, offices and residential buildings.

On the governor's efforts to raise the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of Abia, reputable consultancy firms were engaged within the last 100 days of Ikpeazu's days in office to harness the IGR of the state unlike in the past where everybody collected taxes and levies. The result of this action was the emergence of the harmonization in banking system to handle the issues of levies and taxes and since this was introduced the system the state's IGR increased from N500m to N1.5 billion since the first three months of Ikpeazu in office.

Ikpeazu has succeeded in restructuring government finances and waged successful war against touts and hoodlums and also stopped the activities of illegal agents and their cronies in Abia. Other achievements include the launching of E for E, Education for Employment scheme to train youth in vocational training, the dredging of the Aba River, which is aimed at attracting tourists to the state, environmental protection purposes and enhancement of drainage flow.

What would ordinarily dampen morale and the spirit of a leader has rather come to be an inspirational obsession for Governor Ikpeazu. His passion for service to Abia People has remained unshaken and unwavering.

Ikpeazu is a fired-up governor who is in full control of his environment, displaying doggedness and showing courage. He is inspiring everyone and this is the hallmark of a leader.

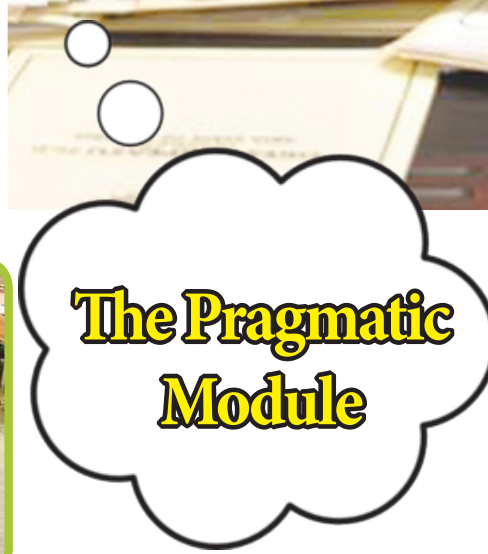
He has worked steadfastly in Road Construction, where he is pioneering the use of cement technology or what experts call rigid pavement technology in road construction. 2. Zero Tolerance to Potholes 3. Establishment of Trade Centers 4. Friends of Abia Schools Adoption Initiative (FASAI)

8. Foreign Partnership Planned collaboration with the state of Georgia in agriculture. Especially in the area of Green House farming and poultry because Georgia State is the poultry headquarters of the world. We will soon unveil our initiative in terms of poultry farming in which the American technology and expertise will be brought to bear in Abia State.

This will have positive effect in the economy and the productive capacity of our agricultural sector Market Development. Establishment of the Abia State Markets Dev. Committee (ASMDC) A Special Purpose Initiative to restore sanity to all markets in the state. There is an ongoing War Against Street Trading in Aba and relocation of Traders to new sites. Salaries and Pensions. We are happy to announce that despite our constraints in the fact that the federal allocation was postponed, the Governor was able to pay workers before Christmas as he promised. Currently, the backlog of salary arrears and pension arrears which the Governor inherited has been cleared. And the government moved into the new year fresh and free from any burden of salary complaints



**Okezie Ikpeazu
ABIA STATE**





Adamawa State

There are times when man unknowingly becomes the rave of the moment. Sen. Umaru Jibrilla Bindow who through popular votes emerged governor in 2015 is today Adamawa State's own. To be fair, much was expected of him, which many people doubted that he had the capacity to accomplish. But in all fairness, much has been done since he came into office two years ago. The changing face of Yola, the state capital and an overall view of the state as a whole bears testimony to the fact that an active governor is in place.

Since Bindow occupied the Dougirei Government House, a lot of commendable efforts have been made to better the lives of Adamawa citizens by improving public utilities such as road networks, health facile and public security in the twilight of Boko Haram insurgency that rocked the North Eastern part of the country in the last few years.

Two years down the line, the infrastructural decay that was the signature of most of the governors of Adamawa State has disappeared. The street lights installed are not only a marvel to see but also serve as a security apparatus that gives the citizenry a sense of belonging to a commonwealth that Adamawa Should be to all.

The worrisome idea of floods during rainy season and subsequent loss if lives and property that usually accompanied it are now a thing of the past. The human mind could easily take things for granted, but the master plan by the master mind has made those things that appear impossible, POSSIBLE! Today, the once water-locked Jambutu, Wauru Jabbe, Demasawo, etc have become places that could be crossed anytime of the day or night without problems.

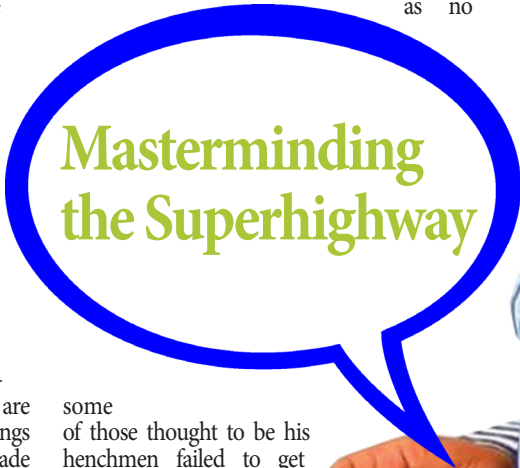
The roads did not only beautify urban centers but have also made life a lot easier to citizens by enabling them to establish businesses that thrive due to improved mobility in their areas. The bumpy rides that make women to prematurely deliver babies on their way to the hospitals have been drastically reduced as access roads to otherwise remote or detached parts of the urban areas have been repaired. It is worthy of note that the wear and tear of public and private transportation have also been reduced drastically thereby saving cost of the maintenance of these vehicles.

These are but a few of the benefits accrued from a government that believes that the super structure when put in place will facilitate the development of other structures that would make life meaningful to all and sundry.

The government under Sen. Umaru Jibrilla Bindow has done a lot in healing the scars of the Boko Haram insurgency. Hundreds of thousands of internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have found succor and have been able to restart their lives from where they were cut-off by the violence that rocked their communities. For quite some time these thousands have been kept in camps where medical facilities have to be made available and the children's educational needs catered for. This is no mean feat given the challenges faced by government in terms of lean resources and inadequate manpower to cope with these events that threatened the stability of not only the North East but the country at large.

Today, the beauty of Yola can be attributed to Governor Bindow. Yet beauty or physical development without security of lives and property would be nothing. Since Bindow assumed office, Adamawa States has enjoyed a high feeling of security both at the level of insur-

gents that have threatened the state and political stability as far as internal politics is concerned. Political parties in the state despite their minor internal squabbles have left the citizenry in peace. Governor Bindow has also proved himself to be a true democrat. During the recent primaries of the party on who should occupy Local government offices, his neutrality was visible as he refused to be used to influence any choices. It therefore came as no surprise that



some of those thought to be his henchmen failed to get nomination. All these were done in the spirit of fair play where the majority decides who should occupy what office.

Given this scenario and welter of other salient things that have happened within the state, Governor Jibrilla Bindow has performed commendably not only going by the standard of Adamawa State but also at other levels.



Sen. Umaru Jibrilla Bindow
ADAMAWA STATE





Akwa Ibom State Udom Emmanuel



The Akwa Ibom state governor, Udom Emmanuel says he has delivered unprecedented accomplishments across all sectors of the state in his stay in office. Udom said he has set sail with emphatic imprints on the geo-political and socio-economic development of the state propelled by his five-point agenda, comprising of job creation, poverty alleviation, wealth creation, economic and political inclusion, infrastructural consolidation and expansion.

He equally said his government started-off by putting in place think-tanks for the galvanization of technical and professional inputs that will interpret and bring into concrete realities, the lofty goals of his administration.

One year ago while he was listing his achievements, the governor said there are major roads construction and dualization projects on-going in the state, including the fly-over at Ikot Oku Ikono junction, upgrade of infrastructure, urban remodeling and renewal projects, commercial Agricultural schemes. These have all been concluded.

He also said he has put in place free and compulsory education policy, free health care service for pregnant women, children between 0 -5 years and the aged as well as the numerous welfare packages for the people, including the less privileged people living with disabilities and victims of natural disasters. On road constructions, the governor said work has on the emergency Intervention on Gully Erosion ravaging Calabar – Itu Road at Enen Atai, Itu Local Government Area by Direct Labour Work. Emergency Intervention on Gully Erosion ravaging the School



of Nursing, Anua by Direct Labour, construction of 3.5km Ikot Udom Road with 15m Span Bridge in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area, construction of 5km Ikot Usop – Ikot Edegehe – Ikot Ekpuk road with 30m Span Bridge in Mkpok-Okat road in Onna Local Government Area. Emergency Works in the completion of Outfalls and Urban Roads in Oron. Construction of underground outfall drains from Mainland Lane/Avenue through Bassey Lane, Effiat Street/ Lane to Anwana Esin/Mary Hanney Road with extension to the lowest erosion plain behind Asbestonit Complex. Underground outfall drain, from Convent Street through post Office Road to Anwana Esin by Oron Road, discharging into the existing outfall down Iyamba Creek. Construction of Uyo outfall drain from Nsikak Eduok/Oron Road to Tropicana Complex, Uyo. Dualization of Uyo-Etinan Road, construction of Etinan-Ndon Eyo Road with 2No. Bridges and Spur and construction of new Terminal Building at the Ibom International Airport. Construction of the second runway/taxiway as well as the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility. Commencement of design work of the ground/first floor at the Ibom Tropicana entertainment complex, Uyo. Commencement of the furnishing of Ibom Tropicana complex.

In the agriculture sector, the governor said he has plunged into massive Agriculture with the following land marks: "Inauguration of a Technical Committee on Agriculture and Food Security. Resuscitation and sustainability of Cocoa Production in the State through the establishment of Cocoa Development Committee. "Establishment of 22 hectares of improved Cocoa Plantations in 6 Local Government Areas namely: Ini, Essien Udim, Mkpok Enin, Ikono, Abak and Ukanafun. Establishment

of 35 hectares of improved Oil Palm Plantations in 15 Local Government Areas namely: Ikono, Itu, Ibiono Ibom, Okobo, Ini, Abak, Ikot Ekpen, Uyo, Obot Akara, Uruan, Eket, Essien Udim and Ibewsikpo Asutan. Loan recovery from Commercial Farmers to the tune of N4,062,000.00. Revenue generation of N875,550.00 by the Veterinary Department of the Ministry. Flag-off of 2015 maternal, Newborn and Child Health Week in the State. "Payment of Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) to Medical and Dental practitioners in the state with effect from June 2015. Continuing Professional development for Doctors as a mandatory requirement by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.



This development is a prerequisite for the annual renewal of licensee to practice, conducting of basic Life Support Training for Doctors, Nurses, Drivers and Porters. He said he has also coordinated

a 21-day free eye-care outreach for people in the state, in collaboration with MTN foundation. 15,350 people were screened for various eye diseases. 1150 eye surgeries were performed and 2000 eye glasses were distributed. "We kick-started a mobile ambulance service in partnership with Nestle Nigeria Ltd, drugs hawking and control programme, registration of paramedical staff nurses and private clinics, training of 48 House Officers from General Hospitals Ikot Ekpen, Eket and Oron."

In the investment, commerce and industry area, governor Udom said his government has revitalized the Peacock paints industry in Etinan, revitalized Plasto crown, establishment of an automobile assembly plant in Itu and establishment of Blue Marine -Light Emitting Devices (LED) factory at Ikot Ebom Itam, Itu. He added that he has achieved a ground-breaking ceremony of shoprite at the Ibom Tropicana; Uyo, provision of revolving credit scheme by the state government to small scale industrialists and an on-going construction of Ibaka Deep Sea Port.



Governor Willie Obiano from Anambra State is another great achiever that Anambra is lucky to have as its governor. He has successfully attracted investment inflow in the state, fostered small and medium-term enterprises, reformed the Onitsha market which is one of the biggest in Nigeria and intensified security. He also constructed good roads to ease transportation for businesses.

As the popular saying goes “the taste of the pudding is in the eating”, and what this presupposes is that we have to take a hard look at the milestones already attained under the Willie Obiano administration which so many credible voices like the former Central Bank Governor, Professor Chukwuma Soludo have already acknowledged.

The third anniversary of the Governor Obiano administration provided an opportunity for a group of senior journalists, to physically witness the development strides of this workaholic governor in the state. One noticeable sign that things are looking up is that Anambra state under Obiano has become one huge construction arena with over 1,000 structures going on simultaneously. This is an indication of

how solvent the state has become over the last three years. Realising the need to reposition the state from a consumer economy to a producer and provider of goods and services, Governor Obiano, a banker and administrator chose the path of industrial and agricultural development. The result is the influx of numerous investors, agricultural companies, real estate developers among many others.

Presently, Anambra is famous for being the hotbed of agricultural revolution in Nigeria, and this feat was accomplished through a methodical approach of the state government. For example, the state Ministry of Agriculture has put in place a data collection mechanism aimed at registering farmers, the types of crops they cultivate, and their demographics. To enable the farmers function seamlessly and more productively, the state government has also organised them into cooperative societies and with this arrangement, they are able to access funds, share useful information and have the opportunity of networking with their counterparts at home and in the outside world.

To demonstrate that the Obiano administration is focused, they have also discovered through a demographic grouping that about 56.6% of Anambra state farmers are females, while the remaining 43.3% are males. Similarly, by conducting a scientific survey, it was discovered that farmers in the state are mostly elderly people, and several measures are being put in place to redress this imbalance to forestall the emergence of a vacuum in the future.

Apart from the positive impacts Governor Obiano's administration is making in the agricultural sector, progress is being recorded in road infrastructure. Currently, strategic roads are being constructed in the three senatorial zones of Anambra state with a view to making the state accessible from different directions. This measure will greatly reduce the traffic congestion that is common during festive periods. It takes only a concern for the people to address

this anomaly.

As a visionary leader, Governor Obiano is investing in roads that can open up the state economically and industrially. For example, the 62 kilometre Onitsha-Atani-Ogwoikpele road which started under the Obi administration is being completed by the Obiano administration to link Anambra with Rivers state. This road is expected to serve as a corridor for the exchange of goods and services between the two states. Again, the administration is making deliberate efforts to create an enabling environment for the oil-rich region of the northern senatorial zone to boom. Some of the measures include the construction of strategic roads and bridges.

It must be noted that the Anambra North senatorial zone also serves as the agricultural belt of the state, hence the justification for the attention the zone is getting.

In a bid to attract investments to the state, Governor Willie Obiano has set up the Anambra State Investment, Promotion and Protection Agency ANSIPPA. This is a one-stop-shop as all requirements for serious investments are happening in one board room. The red-tapism associated with establishing industries or other huge investments in Anambra State have been excalupated. The agency also drives the state's public private partnerships and has so far attracted over five billion dollars' worth of investments to the state.

So far ANSIPPA has successfully entered into agreements with forty investors and signed memorandum of understanding with thirty-four companies. It is worthy of note that Governor Obiano has encapsulated his vision for the state in what is usually referred to as enablers. The enablers include agriculture, oil and gas, trade and commerce, industries and logistics.

In order to stimulate the economy of the state, the Obiano administration has set up the Anambra Small Business Agency. It has the mandate to support small businesses in the State. For instance, a 1,000-stall leather market, is being constructed at Nkwelle Ezunaka to enable the traders become more coordinated and get more value for their trade and skills.





In the current dispensation where each state is beginning to address its peculiar encumbrances according to the vision of its leaderships, Bauchi is addressing lack of development in neglected areas. This is not expected to make those who had monopolized power in the state happy. But someone has to take the brunt for this and Governor Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar has decided to pick up the gauntlet. He is opening up the northern parts of the state to development in an unprecedented way.

Governor of Bauchi State Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar has also succeeded in diversifying the economy of Bauchi State where agriculture, food security, education and primary healthcare in the state are receiving prompt attention.

He disbursed 10,000 metric tons of fertilizer to farmers at a subsidized rate, distributed 60 metric tons of assorted improved seeds, apart from the initiation of GESS project, partnering with the food and agriculture organization to improve food security.

Since the inception of the present administration, the Governor Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar has given his best in ensuring that inhabitants and most especially, citizens of the state, have good reason to smile. Legend has it that the love of President Muhammadu Buhari by the Bauchi people is not unconnected with the state's leftist ideology and abhorrence for self-gratification. In response to this populist yearning therefore, Governor Abdullahi Abubakar has left no stone unturned in bringing to bear, his mission to change things positively as he inaugurated a high-powered committee to investigate all major contracts awarded in the Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board, Ministry for Local Government Affairs, Specialist Hospital Bauchi and all other ministries, departments and agencies between May, 2007 and May, 2015.

He immediately settled the backlog of salaries owed by the previous administration, led by Isa Yuguda.

As a dedicated governor, he attaches great importance to the agricultural sector which is in recognition of its role as the highest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the state as well as a means of job and wealth creation for the teeming population because of the employment opportunities it provides to the people. It is in realization of this that one of the first assignments of the administration after assuming office was the launching of the 2015 farming season in Misau, followed by the disbursement of fertilizer to farmers.

Other achievements of the administration in the agricultural sector, include partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in the improvement of food security of about 2, 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the state.

The Political Observers Organisation, a non-governmental organisation has recognised Bauchi State Governor Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar as best performing state chief executive in the country.

The NGO formed in 2011 by some political organisations was aimed at encouraging good governance, focusing on activities of government at both the state and federal levels.

An organization which goes by the name of Political Observers Association had named Governor Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar as the best performing governor in the country. In his citation the organisation which said it carried out a survey in all the 36 states of the federation, said the Bauchi governor won the award due to his laudable programmes and achievements.

Highlighting the reasons for the award, the association said that the governor has been prudent in the management of the meager resources of the state, producing results that bring promise of prosperity to the citizens of Bauchi State.

The group added that one of the remarkable achievements of the governor was the payment of four months outstanding salaries before the federal government bailout funds even arrived.

"The ICPC had monitored the expenditure on the funds and has scored Bauchi as one of the best performers. There was also the treatment of 10, 000 eye patients and provision of glasses with 500 surgeries performed.

During his recent visit to the Czech Republic to prospect for investments, Abubakar identified eight models of small and medium capacity tractors that can be affordable to farmers that seek to reduce time and labour farmers spend on land preparation, planting, weed control and harvesting. Efforts are being concluded to procure the tractors for farmers before the commencement of the 2017 planting season.

Again, in order to mechanize farming in the state, plans are being made to procure some combined harvesters to be sold to farmers with heavy subsidy. Similarly, to encourage necessary change in livestock farming, the present administration in the state, is making efforts to encourage ranching, breeding, beef and dairy productions as well poultry and fish production.

To that effect, the administration is collaborating with China Research Institute on the development of our pastures and fodder for livestock, especially on a grass species specially developed that yield 500 metric tonnes of fodder per hectare in one growing season.

Governor Abubakar has also made waves in the 5-point health Agenda that strengthen pri-



**Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar
BAUCHI STATE**



mary healthcare service and with the school direct feeding program he has encouraged children to return to school. Government has also done well in settling WAEC and NABTEB fees.





Governor Henry Seriake Dickson promised to rule Bayelsa State with honesty, love and care. This year's is different for several reasons. First, it is coming after the afterglow of the governor's well-deserved

victory both at the polls and at the Supreme Court. Secondly, this anniversary marks the end of his fifth year in office as the Governor of Bayelsa State, just as it marks the anniversary of his first year in office for his second tenure.

The Valentine Governor, as he is fondly called by his political associates, had promised to regularly render account of monies accruing to the State from the Federation account. He followed it up with an executive Bill, which was passed into law by the Bayelsa State House of Assembly. The law stipulates that the Governor of Bayelsa State must always render account of all monies accruing to the State, including the Federation account, to the people of the State.

Governor Dickson believes that only a turmoil-free political landscape could guarantee the speedy growth and development of Bayelsa State. He therefore liberalized the political space by allowing opposition politicians the freedom to thrive. Even when members of the opposition party criticized him, he simply laughed it off. That was how he virtually eliminated political violence, which was the rule in the state before he came to power.

The height of that political tolerance was seen in the build up to the 2015 general elections when he made available to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state and President Muhammadu Buhari, the state owned Samson Siasia Stadium for their campaign at great cost to his political career!

Thereafter, Governor Dickson embarked on what are now fondly referred to as the legacy projects, in education, health, roads construction, the hospitality industry, religion and industrialization.

Education was his first port of call. Having witnessed at close quarters how difficult it was for Bayelsans to access education, he introduced free and compulsory education at the primary and secondary school levels. According to his Media department, the governor also spent about N40billion on education to build over 30 first ever model boarding secondary schools in the 24 state constituencies, as well as 400 primary schools with headmaster/staff quarters in many parts of the state. In addition, government gave primary school pupils and secondary school

students free textbooks, uniforms, sandals, bags, and writing materials. Government also picked the bills for students registering for WAEC, NECO, and JAMB examinations.

Governor Dickson also made dramatic changes in the health sector, introducing health institutions that were thought impossible for the State. His desire, as he often said, is to enable every Bayelsan have direct access to quality health facilities. It was in line with that resolution that he built a referral hospital in the headquarters of each local government area. He also built a Diagnostic Center in Yenagoa, which has been acclaimed as world-class and one of the best in the country. Apart from a modern clinic that is attached to Government House Yenagoa, Governor Dickson also built a drug mart, conceived to flush out fake drugs from the market!

The construction and rehabilitation of roads and bridges also received the attention of the governor. It will be recalled that prior to his emergence as Governor, Bayelsa was derisively described as a one-road State. With his resolution to change the face of roads and bridges in the State, it did not take long before Governor Dickson turned Bayelsa State into a construction site with the construction of roads in

various parts of the State.

In the tourism sector, Governor Dickson realized quite early that it required the expertise of trained hands to make any serious impact globally. To attain that goal, he established the School of Tourism and Catering, the School of Music and the School of Languages to train people who could either man the tourism industry in the State, start their own businesses or seek relevant employment in other parts of the world. It was to also tap into the tourism industry that Governor Dickson established a Museum in Yenagoa. An Entertainment and Tourist centre is presently under construction at the Oxbow Lake area of Yenagoa, just as an 18-hole international Golf Course/Estate and a world-class Polo Ground and Club are at various stages of construction. The Governor also ordered the rehabilita-

tion of tourist and recreational sites across the state, including the Whiteman's Grave at Akassa in Brass Local Government Area.

The Countryman Governor also built four state secretariat annexes, a permanent Secretariat for members of the Bayelsa Traditional Council and a special court for Alternative Dispute Resolution, which has drastically reduced the volume of litigations in regular courts.

To shore up the agricultural base and the industrial sector, Governor Dickson established a commercial Cassava Starch Processing Factory in Ebidebri, in Sagbama, which would create 30,000 jobs when fully operational. The government also built 500 fish ponds, which will engage about 700 youths. An airport on the Wilberforce Island, Amassoma meant to open up the state and make it a player in the Gulf of Guinea is under construction. Governor Dickson often described Bayelsa as "the world's best kept secret." And he is its custodian.



Seriake Dickson
BAYELSA STATE



The Valentine Governor





It is on record that Benue State is the first State in Nigeria to access funds meant for implementation of SDGs. This was achieved by the payment of counterpart funds by the state government through the office of the Special Adviser, Development Corporation, SDGs and NEPAD. The funds, which were meant for the construction of at least one Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in every single local government area of the state, supply of equipment, water in the PHCs and the development of skills acquisition centres have been judiciously utilized.

Governor Ortom has been able to extensively intervene in this area, through the construction of fully equipped modern Primary Health Care Centres with referral vehicles and drugs. For too long, primary healthcare service has been neglected and the construction of 23 new ones equipped with modern facilities gave some Benue people from remote areas a sense of belonging. This has been a serious boost to the image of the state governor and his administration. Now resources are applied in the right places, according to residents of Makurdi. For the first time Benue people who were once very antagonistic to their neighbors are returning home to obtain services provided by a government that they chose.

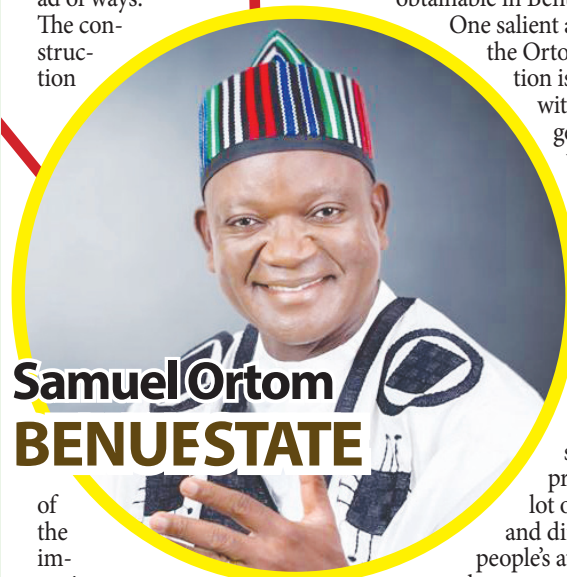
In trying to improve the health of the people, the Governor has also completed and handed over the HIV/Malaria and Tuberculosis Research Centre to the Benue State University Teaching Hospital, Makurdi. The administration has also made significant efforts in improving water supply and sanitation as seen in its intervention with the provision of hand and solar powered boreholes, rain water harvesters and provision of VIP toilets to communities in the state.



Once neglected communities can now access medicare right in their neighborhoods without having to travel distances for medical attention. Broadly speaking, Ortom's SDGs cover issues such as ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change and protecting oceans and forests.

(SDGs) which have impacted the lives of the people in a myriad of ways. The construction

thereby also reducing unemployment and crime. It also serves the purpose of value addition for the huge agricultural produce obtainable in Benue State.



Samuel Ortom
BENUE STATE

One salient achievement by the Ortom administration is its partnership with Google Nigeria through its vendor, Mind the Gap on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis to train 2,691 youths in Digital Marketing skills. The internet system today

exploits in this regard is a sure step to the attainment of basic education and improvement of the literacy level in the state. In the last two years, Ortom has executed over 500 water projects, as well as giving a facelift to schools across the state. He exercised his constitutional powers on the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Prerogative of Mercy to grant amnesty to 43 convicts. Indeed, there has been change in Benue State since Governor Samuel Ortom came on board and in no time, his people-oriented projects would change the lives of Benue indigenes for good.

of the imposing Benue State Centre for Enterprise Development and Innovation (BENCEDI), Makurdi and Skills Acquisition Centres

provides a whole lot of opportunities and directing young people's attention to such opportunities would no doubt enable them grab same and break from their economic quagmire and to some extent become employers of labour while



Benue is gradually reclaiming its lost glory since Governor Samuel Ortom took over the reins of the state. Ortom has remained amazingly insatiable in his quest for good policies and their execution, to chart a new course for the development Benue State and the overall interest of the state's agrarian population.

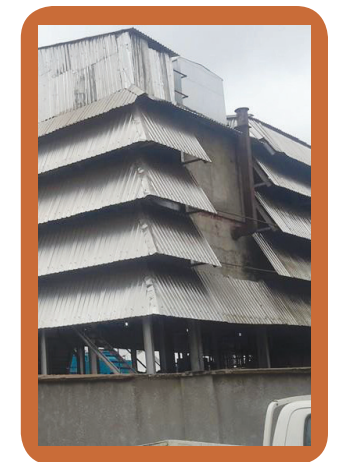
Picking up from the total collapse of the economy, and exuding rare sincerity of purpose to tackle the enormous socio-economic challenges facing the people of Benue, Ortom's viable policies have, just within the last two years, transformed the deteriorating face of governance by bringing uncommon growth to a state that prides itself as the "Food Basket of the Nation."

Ortom has performed envitably in attaining the state's Sustainable Development Goals

in Apa Agilla and Gbajimba in Ado and Guma Local Government Areas, respectively, are fundamental, when put to proper use for the much-needed skills by the rising army of unemployed minds, some of whom have what it takes to get a white collar job.

Indeed, SDGs have constructed and installed a machinery for the Orange Cleaning and Packaging Plant in Ushongo and Yandev towns, the Soybeans Cleaning and Packaging Plant in Wannune Tarka, the Bennisseed Cleaning and Packaging Plant in Oju, and Garri Processing Plants In Ogwule Kaduna and Ogoli Onyangede in Agatu and Ohimini Local Government Areas respectively, with the attendant effects of boosting the local economy and to gainfully engage our people

through the construction of classroom blocks, construction and supply of steel framed desks and benches and supply of exercise books to all schools in 6 participating Local Government Areas of the state (LGAs), including Agatu, Ohimini, Oju, Ushongo, Gboko and Tarka. It is unfortunate that even in the 21st Century, pupils sit on bare floors to receive instructions from teachers while teachers could barely manage to have seats robbing them of a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning. Ortom's





As governor of Borno State most affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, no one has the hardest task of bringing the dividends of democracy to his people like Kashim Shettima. His unenviable task of ensuring residents enjoy good governance has somehow brought out the best in him as he has been ingenious in giving his people the best in the wake of the many security challenges that had hitherto bedeviled the state.

In the wake of the military and civilian Joint Task Force's continued victory in the war against the insurgents, Shettima has consolidated in bringing succour and the dividends of democracy to his people.

One of the major success stories of the Borno State government has been improving security in the state capital, Maiduguri.

The state government has continued to give support to the security agencies while solely funding the activities of the youth vigilante group called Civilian-JTF, who work round the clock to wade off Boko Haram attackers. The government's efforts in this regard have helped restore normalcy in most parts of the state capital. Night life has since returned to Maiduguri after several years of curfew.

The government has been able to create jobs via several initiatives that are targeted towards addressing the insurgency-induced socio-economic problems. Hundreds of youth have engaged in the making of interlocking bricks that are used in landscaping most parts of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

Hundreds of young men and women are also engaged as street cleaners under the Borno State Environmental Protection Agency (BOSEPA).

Management of camps for Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, was initially a challenge for the government in 2016. But it later turned out a success with the introduction of household feeding system for IDPs. Governor Shettima has also led an aggressive campaign for support within and outside the country, which made agencies like the Dangote Foundation donate N2 billion in support of IDPs welfare and the reconstruction efforts.

The government has also begun the relocation of IDPs back to some of the liberated communities. Similarly, hundreds of children orphaned by Boko Haram insurgents have been awarded scholarships with their tuition paid upfront for years.

Two schools, Maiduguri Capital School and Bara'Imul Iman Integrated School, were paid to provide education, text and note books, school uniforms and bags for the orphans from their starting of school in September, 2016 to the year 2022, when those admitted into primary schools are expected to graduate and the years 2025, when younger orphans admitted into pre-nursery schools are expected to graduate.

Governor Shettima has made it a priority to ensure that workers in the state have their salaries in the last five months of his tenure. He has also ensured that workers in the state have their salaries in the last five months of his tenure.



Another success story of the Borno State government is the completion of the popular Lagos Street bridge, which was started during his first tenure in 2011. The completed road has eased traffic gridlock along the route leading to the University of Maiduguri and the teaching hospital.

One of the biggest achievements of Borno State government is in the reconstruction of towns and villages destroyed by Boko Haram. The government had in 2016 created the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement that was saddled with the task of rebuilding all public buildings and homes of the displaced persons.

Work has been completed in four villages within Kaga Local Government Area, while those in Bama, Gwoza and Askira Uba and Gamboru-Ngala are ongoing.

The Borno State government has reconstructed over 500 houses destroyed by the Boko Haram insurgents. The degrading of the activities of Boko Haram insurgents is hastening the reconstruction of residential houses and public structures destroyed by insurgents in the communities in the local government areas.



He has also been a passion-phans of the Still in the area tima has made in the list of as he has been in this regard. been receiving years despite cy and current country.

for the Borno completion of road and in Shettima's



Kashim Shettima
BORNO STATE

Not the most enviable job in the world



Giving Governance a human face

No one has given hope to the future generation of his citizens since assuming office like the governor of Cross River State, Professor Ben Ayade. In Cross-River state, Gov. Ayade is working towards reducing unemployment in the State, and increasing the IGR also with the proposed creation of a sea port, the garment and ice-cream manufacturing company and has showed empathy for the poor by signing a tax exemption bill for the low-income earners in the State.

Prof. Ben Ayade whose administrative philosophy is firmly anchored in the belief that the citizenry could only be liberated from the shackles of poverty if the State was completely decoupled from its dependence on allocations, runs a government that is domiciled on tangible social emancipation achievements.

To buttress the fact that his government prioritizes humanity, his good works have not relegated the consistent payment of workers' salaries in the past two years. He has also completed a garment factory which currently employs 3000 youths. A 21 megawatts power plant is already near completion. This is to supply electricity within Calabar to make the lives of the people easier, more productive and better focused.

A detailed design for the signature 275km super highway, and Bakassi deep-sea port is also completed and preliminary works have since commenced as the state strives to decouple from monthly federation allocation

Another major stride of the State is that of the free trade

zone; this has been the reason for the massive job creation as it has created over 11,000 jobs directly and indirectly. It is steeped in technology transfer, skill acquisition from foreign direct investment (FDI), granting of scholarships to members of the host communities among others, over the years.

Known for his aggression when it comes to industrialization, Gov. Ayade has insisted in maintaining a balance between infrastructure, human capital development and empowerment.

There is further emphasis on Environmental impact assessment (EIA), Green police, for the love of a clean environment where the govt employed over 1500 youths to protect and keep the environment green.

Calapharm: Which created at least 2000 jobs. Rice City: In conjunction with Thai Africa group, a multi-million-dollar rice city project was created. The Calabar monorail is the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa.

In education, the government has successfully constructed nine laboratories in six schools, renovated all sub schools, and provided teaching equipment. Also, to ensure an orderly society for good governance, a few months after assumption of office, the administration signed the following bills into law:

- a) Anti-kidnapping b) social housing c) water landing and fee charges d) infrastructure safety and regulations e) water front law f) tax exemption for low incomers among others.

By doing all these for the sake of humanity, Ayade justifies the belief that man is more important than infrastructure.



Ben Ayade
CROSS-RIVERS STATE





**Ifeanyi Okowa
DELTA STATE**

Governor Arthur ifeanyi Okowa also celebrated two years in office with fanfare and promise. If there is any state where the change mantra has taken root for the betterment of man, it is in Delta State. Surprisingly Delta is a non-APC state. However, it is the type of change that the state witnessed that is the rubric. This man, Senator Arthur Ifeanyi okowa understands the value of unity. He will definitely be remembered for changing the narrative of mistrust, animosity and bitterness that once divided Delta State to a more unified political and socio-political cultural interest group that were once at taggers drawn.

Senator Okowa is a game-changer. Not just in the dissolution of bitter ethnic rivalries but also in the processes of probity and accountability. The SMART agenda which he introduced to help uplift the state by transforming lives despite the pervasive recession and huge debt profile that he met took root immediately and has been transforming the state in leaps and bounds.

Pray, what is The SMART AGENDA?

S – Strategic Wealth creation project provision of jobs for all Deltas.

M – Meaningful peace building platform aimed at political and social stability

A – Agricultural reforms and accelerated industrialization.

R—Relevant health education policies.

T—Transformed Environment through urban renewal.

With these in mind, Gov. Okowa made sure he blocked all leakages which in turn made corruption unattractive and ensure prudent management of resources and accountability to attract investors. This no doubt won him the hearts of the masses.

For example, in health, the sector has been transformed with a universal health insurance scheme which is affordable to all Deltans. All teaching hospitals medical personnel have been well trained and the facilities are upgraded in the primary health care, just as communities now have more access and functional healthcare centers.

The Civil service has been stabilized as an earlier conducted biometric exercise weeded ghost workers out. Discipline and punctuality are now upheld and salaries are of course paid as at when due. This encourages good synergy between the government and the labour union in the state.

JOB CREATION: Over 1,000 youth have been trained and provided with relevant equipment to embark on meaningful enterprises. Road Construction, reconstruction dualization of roads know no bounds since his assumption of office as villages and hamlets have access roads making life easier in terms of promoting economic activities.

In education, Schools have been upgraded in terms of infrastructure in both Primary and Secondary Schools across the State.





Dave Umahi
EBONYI STATE

For Gov Umahi, name is everything, he believes writing his name in gold means he was here on earth and with this on his mind, he took it upon himself to build the state from scratch. His development strides no doubt, fits the likes of John F. Kennedy and Mao Yestung. Known for his heart of gold, he ponders

and bridges that link various communities have been constructed in both urban and rural areas in line with his campaign promises.

IGR: the priority of the needs of the people of the State was always on his mind and so he took it upon himself to see to it he made relentless efforts to ensure the improvement of lives of the people by taking some fundamental and far reaching decisions to improve the IGR of the State, by;

- Checking incidence of corruption and sharp practices in view to bringing perpetrators acts to books
- Effective collaboration FRSC to eliminate incidence of fake drivers license etc.
- Deploy resources in order to ascertain taxable people in the State so as to guide against tax evasion
- Collaborating with LGS to ensure effective collection of eminent rate where applicable

• Repossession of government properties (housing estate) from defaulting allottees
Agriculture:

For the State to be hunger-free and food secured, the govt of Ebonyi made a strong commitment towards the Agric sector. This made them carry their shoulders high among equals when it comes to guaranteed commercial agricultural farm produce for export.

An Agricultural policy was introduced to ensure a smooth operation of the program- A one man one hectre was introduced,

Good enlightenment exercise was carried out thereby making farmers improve in their farming activities. Furthermore, it increased the number of farmers.

The government purchased three bull dodders and new tractors which were all distributed.

Employment: As a trail blazer in the area of youth employment, he made some teaming sets of youths have political appointments as technical assistant, different business investments and this has brought security and jobs One conspicuous trademark of the government of Ebonyi State is to make the state the number one economy. The second is to make sure that no one stays idle in the state. And so the government made a provision of for a program that targets over 3,000 women and youth to which one quarter have been given about N250,000 each to startup businesses and are also being monitored.

Another program is ongoing to make sure the state stays hawkers free. Furthermore, the grounded Nkalagu cement has been liberated from all legal implications, and now the production of cement in large quantity as well as asalt production in the deposit sites at oberu, okposi and idembia. This has brought about the stimulation of the state economy and job opportunities to both young and old female and male citizens of the State.

However, in his benevolence, he lifted his feet up a bit for private investors by an extension of land tax holiday form a specific period of grace.

The government has executed well over hundreds of projects across the 13-local government of the States despite the lean resources.



daily for the suffering for his people.

Achievements:

Infrastructure: he is known for massive projects such as roads, some of which have been terrible for 40 years but since his assumption to office, massive construction of roads





I feel your pains and what you are going through and I can see your suffering. But faith in God, I am re-affirming my promise that I will not collect a dime until civil servants are fully paid their salary arrears." These are soothing words for any sincere worker. They can mitigate every doubt about the governor's willingness to offset his wage bill until something to the contrary begins to happen.

Although Governor Akeredolu didn't utter those words himself, the status of the man that said them on the governor's behalf, a chaplain and the platform upon which the words were uttered, a church makes them compellingly undeniable. Governor Akeredolu is introducing a new paradigm in Nigerian politics. The former NBA President is importing the high-wire attitude which makes politics in foreign climes attractive to the elite by acknowledging the achievements of his predecessor, who apparently is from a rival party. He was particularly proud of Governor Mimiko for the medical village that he was able to establish in Ondo.

These two actions are indicative of his desire to take Ondo State to the next level. He blames no one. Akeredolu is as populist as they can get. Within a short time, his reinstated all the lecturers that were unjustly sacked by Mimiko administration at Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko and their full benefits settled. The administration has come up to date in the payment of

workers' salaries and is gradually offsetting salary arrears owed by the previous government.

The State is moving at a neck-breaking speed to quickly redeem its reputation as an industrial state and back to the path of greatness again by resuscitating moribund industries.

Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu SAN is ambitious too. Within a twinkle of an eye he has seen the commercial potential of his state if linked to Lagos. So among all the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) that he signed the most fascinating one is the intention to link Ondo and Lagos through According to him, the

administration has signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to with a foreign partner on Olokola project and with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to build a 27-kilom-

"The Pain Killer"

eter bridge across the sea that will link Ilaje with Lekki in Lagos State.

This massive project, he said when completed will not only be of tremendous commercial benefit to people in the state, but of great benefit to transportation of goods and services to the nation's business and financial hub. A similar bridge has been built between the towns of Malmo in Sweden and Copenhagen in Denmark over sixteen kilometers (The Oresund) and the commercial benefit of that bridge, even between such developed nations have been a source of joy to both.

With such surgical solutions to most of the problems that pain his people, by the expiration of his tenure Ondo State people would have been of happy that one of the legacies of the doctor that departed office was to leave for the people a "pain killer".

Oluwarotimi Akeredolu
ONDO STATE



Godwin Obaseki
EDO STATE

Gov. Godwin Obaseki of Edo State is a child of necessity. One recalls that Obaseki was sworn in as governor on Nov. 12, 2016 after the eventful tenure of Comrade Adams Oshiomhole under which he was a key player as a Chief Economic Adviser came to an abrupt but logical end. His succession of Oshiomhole became necessary, Edo people thought, because of the need to continue the Oshiomhole magic as declared by the government of the time. However, if what we are beginning to see in the Obaseki administration is anything to go by, this child of necessity has come with a mind of his own. The first sign is that he has moved all energies into improving power supply in Edo State believing that without power nothing develops. Secondly, and indeed more appetizing for the Edo people, is that Obaseki intends to create a thousand millionaires from the agriculture sector.

Indeed, most government observers had expected Governor Obaseki to hit the ground running, but alas.

The anxiety with which the state awaited his choice of cabinet showed that he wanted a team that was, if it consisted of Oshiomhole's men, obviously reborn. Another independent move was his decision to run his administration from the bottom up, which has vestiges of an open government contrary to what obtained when the Adams Oshiomhole administration

subsisted. This he did by appointing semi-administrators from all the wards in Edo State as his eyes and ears.

It was therefore no surprise that when Obaseki completed 100 days in office on Feb. 19, 2017, he boasted that his administration achieved a lot. Obaseki said that his administration has been able to come up with reforms and policies geared towards the actualization of the 200,000 jobs promised during his electioneering campaign.

Obaseki said that his goal in all these innovations in government, is to make Edo state an economic hub. "We set out to build on the existing foundation laid by the Oshiomhole led -administration. "We identify clearly where the jobs will be coming from; agriculture, Industry, and we are set to revamp the various sectors in the state", he said.

He added that during the period under review, 200 Agric-prenuers have been identified to utilize 5000 hectares of land for the cultivation of maize and other arable crops. to produce 25,000 metric tonne of maize this cropping season and a tonne of the maize will sell for N150,000.

Governor Obaseki said that Edo State had begun at the time to screen young entrepreneurs towards getting them ready to key into the CBN ANCHOR borrower's scheme. And expressed the hope that in two cropping seasons Edo State should be able to produce 100 millionaires from the agricultural alone.

sector Already Governor declared that his finalized its first agreement to boost power the state. "We are going first five megawatts and gradually increase to 50 megawatts within the next 18 months. The completion of the AZURA Power plant will generate 450mw and add to the existing 450mw plant. The governor expressed high optimism that Edo State will have at least 1000 mw in 2019 to drive industries in the state.

Innovative governance



Ayo Fayose
EKITI STATE

Stomach Infrastructure

Ekiti recently clocked 20 years as a state and has no doubt been living up to the task of evidential well-being under the government of Ayodele Fayose, the exponent of stomach infrastructure. Fayose's second coming has indeed left absolutely no stone untouched and returned in all areas of developmental feats.

As a silent revolutionary, when he declared his intention to capture the mantle of leadership for the second time, no one took him seriously. With a Capital "NO" to godfatherism, Ayodele Fayose has proved beyond reasonable doubt that an ordinary man can have a bite of power. Known to be a down to earth man, his eating from the same bowl, drinking Agbo in the same drinking spot and buying from the same market won him the hearts of millions of people at home in Ekiti State and around Nigeria. This made his admirers to nickname him "OSOKO"

Having been in office before Governor Fayose the opportunity to identify with the good works and immediately chart the way forward. Known for his controversial and obviously rambunctious character, his priority like any sane leader is to leave Ekiti State better than he met it. Little wonder, the state always scores first position when it comes to development issues.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Constructed the First fly over in Ekiti
- Built the first governor's office
- Dualised Roads in the state capital as well as local government headquarters
- Building of the trade fair complex

EDUCATION

It is on record that despite the claims of many of his predecessors to high-fallutin credentials, Governor fayose leads the way in bringing back the lost glory of Education to Ekiti State, where the state once lead the way but for certain inexplicable reasons began to flounder. As he says Education remains the best legacy and thriving industry of his state.

It was during his tenure that the state recorded a breaking record of 96.48% performance in the 2016 NECO which made it the 1st in Nigeria. In 2015 also the education sector and the

stakeholders had an education summit to move the state forward on educational grounds.

His realization of his greatest asset which is his followership and the love of his people, has greatly endeared him to their hearts. His phone number is the only phone number on every Ekiti state's citizen phone contact. This means that there is no barrier between the leader and the led because he personally answers his peoples call where ever he may be.

He made sure many ordinary people were appointed in his cabinet. His government is no doubt the government of the people by the people themselves. Former military Governor of the old Western State, Major General Adeyinka Adebayo (rtd) took a cursory look at the performance of Governor fayose after only a hundred ndays in office and commended the Ekiti State Governor, Mr Peter Ayodele Fayose over the giant strides taken by him within the short time he assumed office. General Adebayo said, "you have performed, you have done one or two things that are visible in the state within this short time that you have become the governor.

It takes people like me who have been in the saddle before to identify good works, "I charge you not to be discriminatory against anybody. Human beings are difficult to please, don't fight anybody, seek for the advice, you take the one that is useful, don't throw away the rest, put them at the back of your mind and try to accommodate everybody."

Despite his friendly nature to his people, he maintains discipline among them as no one dares to be lackadaisical so as to maintain the fountain of knowledge status.

In spite of challenges of funds and heavy debt portfolio the government inherited, Ekiti state government nevertheless made huge investments on Roads, public buildings and infrastructures. The first ever 1.2 km Ado Ekiti fly over bridge which cost well over N5.7 billion, the New Kings market which is estimated at N3 billion, Aweleed Market Road with street lights and median N488 million, Oke Ila Housing Estate Road constructed at N396 million, Onala Retim Road N495 million and De-Head

Bawa Iyin Road constructed at N782 million.

To ensure widespread rural integration across the states, the



dualisation of roads in some local governments such as Irepodun/Ifelodun, Iker, Emure, Ise, Omuo and Efon-Alaaye are all reconstructed and rehabilitated.

All these have eased the people's sufferings of movement from one community to the other and this has brought about encouragement of business and other activities now boom with ease in

the state.

"Osoko" really is a firm, but kind leader





**Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi
ENUGU STATE**

Gov Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, is a grassroots mobilizer. As governor of Enugu State, he marked his two years in office by commissioning the 35 projects that were flagged-off late last year across the most neglected and remote local govt areas, in line with the vision to open up the rural areas so as to create more centers of socio-economic growth. These include; a) The Construction of 20 major roads, 2 rural electrification projects and 4 boreholes.

For him, the concentration in the urban areas alone only compound the problems of governance. Ugwuanyi insists that the development of rural areas should be the main focus. With this in his mind, one of his major campaign promises was to give the rural dwellers a sense of belonging. He met with the State Stakeholders and plans were unanimously endorsed with a legislative backing and the budget to that effect. Two years in the saddle, there is indeed no doubt that despite the economic recession, he has been able to record remarkable feats for good governance and to alleviate poverty for his people whom he recognizes as the true heroes of democracy.

His visit to Amurri in Nkanu West LGA, to personally inspect the neglected road and hear from the people what actually they want government to do for them to feel like they belong made them cheer and nickname him the grassroots governor.

Achievements

Ugwuanyi has 35 infrastructural projects going on simultaneously in the State. While some of them are completed, others are nearing completion. Recently, the govt initiated a community based program, "one community, one project" which was carefully designed to attract N10 million worth of projects in every community in the State all in line with his grassroots agenda.

On roads, the unattractive nike lake road & abakpa nike road in Enugu which was before now for access through Enugu-uwuogu, nike-opi road to the northern part of the country, was constructed to decongest traffic.

In his vision to create more satellite towns in order to decongest Enugu, Governor Ugwuanyi approved the installation of solar-powered street-lights at mgbowo, Aki na Ukwa junction, Agwu LGA. Apart from his remarkable impact in rural development, which is the focal point of his government, the governor, has also made a mark in other spheres of development.

These include; education, Agriculture, health, workers welfare, peace initiatives, security, mass housing, investment promotion/ economic recovery, employment generation, enhanced social services and good governance, prudent management of resources e.t.c. all of which are consistent with the government's 4-point agenda.

The urban city is also experiencing a tremendous upgrade of infrastructure, e.g. in the Enugu metropolis, through the rehabilitation of numerous urban roads, and maintenance of street lights and traffic lights through the initiated "near operation zero potholes"

In the fields of education and job creation, he recruited over 2,000 primary school teachers and is currently executing a N3 billion project for the renovation of 348 public primary and secondary schools with the federal government providing half of the total sum. 150,600 computers and desks, 600 ups, 60 power generators and 60 printers were all procured.

Infrastructure and other logistics are being provided in state owned tertiary institutions for the accreditation of new courses and the efforts to upgrade the institute of management technology (IMT) to a degree-awarding institution.

The state government's support for the Enugu Rangers Football Club is a milestone in sports development in the state. This made the club to win the 2015/2016 NPFL trophy 32 long years after their fall from grace.





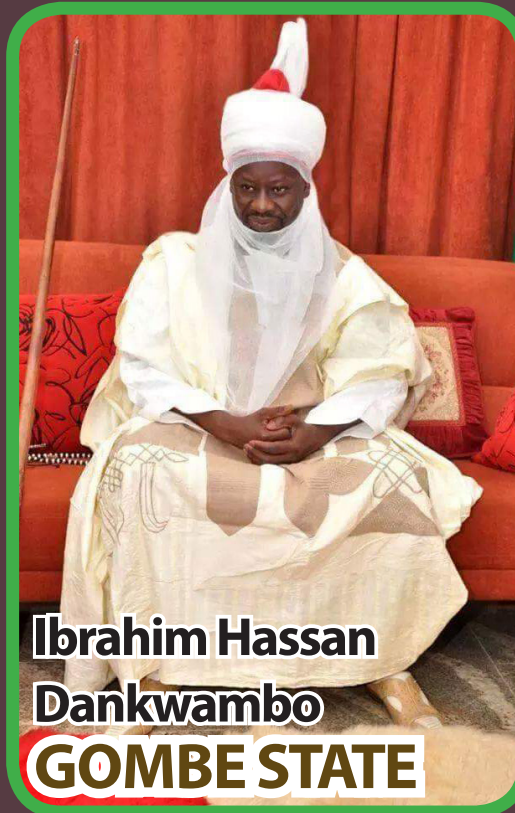
One of the states that defied the “Change Mantra” in the Northeastern part of the country is Gombe State. When the Change Train visited Gombe it met on ground a formidable action plan that suited its people. There was nothing to change. On his assumption of office Gov. Dankwambo met with a 12-committee of experts and eminent stakeholders whose recommendations was synthesized into a single action plan as guide to the project and programs to be executed.

The people oriented projects no doubt endeared him to his people. They have seen what they know, touched and are aware of their existence. With a firm belief in good governance, he turned deaf ears even when people shouted that his government was the government of the committee but soon the people came to realize that no one had monopoly of knowledge and that his governance style was of consultation and inclusiveness and not of violence and intimidation.

Owing to the fact that Security has over the years been a major obstacle to any meaningful development and livelihood, the govt did whatever it could to achieve tremendous steps to make sure that the safety of its people was guaranteed. Governor Dankwanbo embarked on a non-accidental plan to change the lives of women, he approved 5 women perm secs, 3 Female commissioners, built Children's hospitals as well as massive women empowerment programs that has turned the lives of many families around. It is sympathy for women and children that knows no bounds.

Education has been brought close to the people by not relying on files alone. Governor Dankwanbo visits Schools on a regular basis to see things for himself and to ensure the delivery of qualitative education that would move the state to greater heights. All of these achieved a relative high measure of success due to his careful implementation of the recommendation on education which has restored normalcy in all Schools.

Over 300km Roads have been built by this government. What the govt is doing is nothing short of uncommon transformation. A summary of Dankwambo's milestone achievements in road construction and infrastructure include: Gombe township roads, Kumi township roads, Billiri township roads, Within the city metropolis alone, 87 roads including dual carriageways have been constructed by the



**Ibrahim Hassan
Dankwambo
GOMBE STATE**

Umar Dankwambo administration in Gombe nstate. Others are over 300 kms cumulative length of asphalted roads in the State, over 400kms cumulative length of surfaced dressed roads, 53kms cumulative length of walkways with additional 280kms nearing completion, just as 51kms of roads have been provided with street lights to light up the city.

Several bridges scattered across different towns and villages including six span Kurri bridge to connect communities that were previously cut off have been built.

During the 2017 workers day, the Gov. announced to the public that this government has agreed to pay the 56,000- minimum wage as soon as the FG approves it. This further endeared him to the hearts of his people.

The series of Road constructions, combined with his application of fiscal budgetary allocation is said to be regarded as black boxes which consist of the demands of the society into policies and programmers.

No wonder, his commitment to attain the state 2020 Development plan, which was identified as necessary for repositioning the state is all in the pursuit of sustainable development goals and human development.

In the last six years, the state govt of Gombe road has constructed about 158 township roads in all the 11 local governments are as including six high ways, landscaping of fine locations in Gombe. It has also equipped the fire service, upgraded some skill acquisition centers to secondary schools built NNPC Mega stations in strategic locations improved tourism by building hotels in the major towns and is providing a befitting edifice for the ministry of works and infrastructure as a reward for its tremendous efforts at developing the state.

In his determination to bequeath a worthwhile legacy, he is no doubt doing his best to leave behind the notion that he Umar Dankwambo is a people oriented governor.





One of the most contentious statements in Imo State is the assertion that Governor Rochas Okorocha's achievements in Imo in the past six years have exceeded all that those who governed the state before him put together had achieved. The purveyors of this claim believe it while the opponents of the governor vehemently reject it.

However, there are more than one thousand verifiable projects to the credit of the people's governor Owele Okorocha. And Imo people celebrate him except the few vocal elite that are eager to replace him.

In education, Okorocha deserves commendation. Imo State under Okorocha has been enjoying free and qualitative education from primary to secondary to tertiary levels. It has been a success story all along. Imo government has been supplying the students and pupils with free sandals, desks, lockers, chairs, uniforms, stockings, etc. Governor Okorocha employed about 11,000 teachers both regular and those under his Youth Must Work programme to ensure that there are enough teachers for the schools. School enrolment in Imo has skyrocketed from 276,000 in 2011 to more than 850,000 in 2017. Imo state dusted other states in the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board examinations applications for six years are now (from 2012 – 2017).

Okorocha also built 305 upstairs primary school buildings with one in each of the 305 wards in the state. He remodeled and rebuilt all the premier schools which had become dilapidated over the years because they were neglected by previous administrations. They include, Government College Owerri, Government Technical College Owerri, Emmanuel College Owerri, Ikenegbu Girls College Owerri, among others. The governor also built a computerized ultra-modern library. He increased monthly subventions of Imo State University, Imo State University Teaching Hospital (IMSUTH) and Imo Polytechnic Umuagwo by 200 per cent. He also introduced the new dress code for teachers in the state and the payment of teachers' salaries upto April, 2017. He also built magnificent new structures at IMSU, IMSUTH and Imo Polytechnic Umuagwo.

On healthcare, Okorocha has built 27 ultramodern 200-bed hospitals of international standard one in each of the 27 LGAs, with some of them equipped and four of the hospitals handed over to the navy, airforce, army and the police. He built a world class diagnostic and medical centre Medical called Oshiedike with modern facilities, renovated some of the old general hospitals in the state and introduced functional and effective Health at Your Door programme.

Okorocha also built the Imo Foundation that has assisted a lot of people with complicated health issues in getting treatment outside the country. He ensured accreditation of courses at IMSUTH which led to the graduation of students of the institution for the first time. He built theatre suites, radiology wing housing MRI, CTSCAN and fluoroscope, specialist clinic, at IMSUTH.

If there is one area the governor has done exceedingly well, it is in the area of infrastructure. Okorocha has to his credit more than 600 kilometres of urban roads and more than 1000 kilometres of rural roads. He has remodeled and rebuilt the Government House. Among others, he built the Imo International Convention Centre (IICC), two flyovers and three tunnels, Treasury House and Imo Trade & Investment Centre and Odenigbo guest house with nine apartments. He also built a four-floor ISOPADEC Complex headquarters, Ikemba Ojukwu Centre, Computer and Lounge for Civil Servants.

The governor also turned major roads in Owerri into eight-lanes in his urban renewal programme, built the Imo Micro Finance Bank, cultural centers in the three zones of the state and renovated the State Secretariat and comprised the offices.

The governor built a new high court complex called Justice Oputa Complex and reconstructed

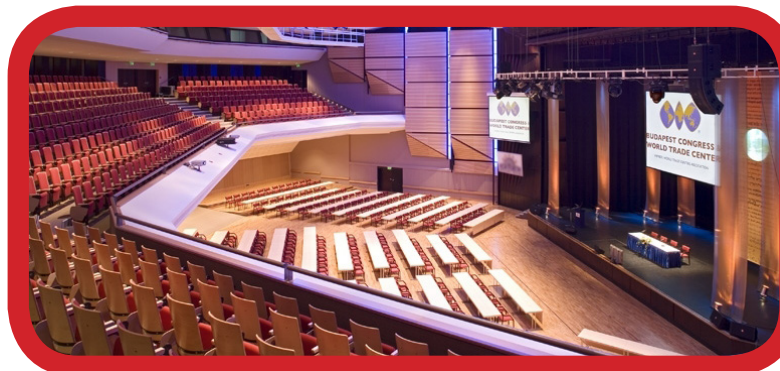
and remodeled Old Concord Hotel to a five-star hotel. He built a new NYSC headquarters, twelve roundabouts within Owerri and environs and several pedestrian bridges. He also rebuilt all the council headquarters. All these are in addition to chapels and ICT centres he built in the headquarters of all local government areas. He also built more than 270 bungalows for indigent women and widows through his wife's pet project-SNARP.

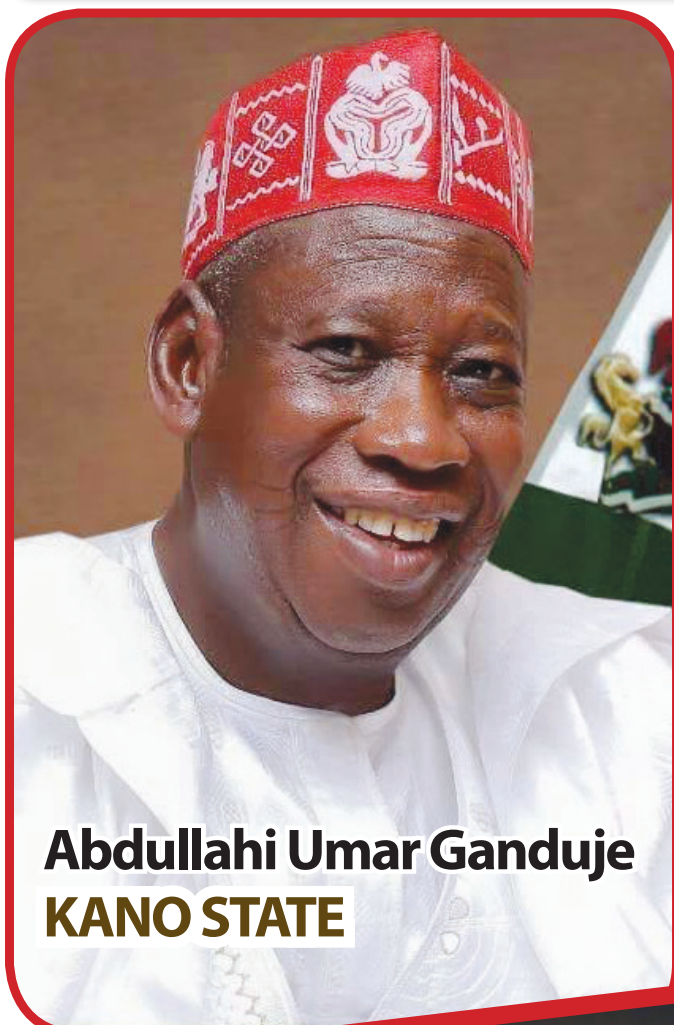
In the areas of agriculture, Okorocha introduced 'Ikuona nkwu' in all the communities and the outcome has been remarkable. He reconstructed the fish farm in Oguta and the result has also been wonderful and introduced rice farming in the state. The governor remodeled Avutu Poultry and Adapalm and made them productive. He also introduced poultry farming in the 27 LGAs in the state. He remodeled Imo zoo and introduced Back to Land for Agriculture programme. The attendant result is that with free education, the poverty level in the state has drastically gone down from 57 per cent in 2011 to 14 per cent in 2017, according to United Nations report.

On ease of doing business, the governor repurchased the Res-in Paint Industry in Mbase sold by those before him and handed it over to a Chinese Company SKYRUN now producing electrical gadgets at Nguru Mbase. The Paper Packaging Industry at Owerre ebiri equally sold by those before him was also repurchased by Okorocha and is today working. There is an industrial park now in Owerri and an artisan village. Due to the high level of security and infrastructural revolution in the state, investors have 'invaded' the state and there is, at the moment, population explosion and business/investment evolution in the state.



Rochas Okorocha
IMO STATE





Abdullahi Umar Ganduje
KANO STATE

Kano states 50th anniversary celebration was unique in many respects. The guests were top notch. The emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II played host to the North's paramount ruler and Sultan of Sokoto, Saad Abubakar III. With such royal representation, one would expect a durbar of traditional reincarnation but what the public got was the spirit of economic rejuvenation.

It was a Golden Jubilee of celebrations, brainstorming, home-coming of Kano professionals, captains of industry, technocrats and indeed, negotiations with local and foreign investors who have seen the gold and needed to start digging.

The high point for Kano was its summit. At the end of the two-day second Kano Economic and Investment Summit, about 10 reputable companies set the ball rolling as they signed a memorandum of understanding with the state in a contract worth several millions of Dollars to turn Kano and its economy around.

In his speech during the opening of the Summit the state Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje noted that Kano has improved its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to N40.3 billion in 2016. He further stated that, "my administration has introduced a new tax regime to reduce the state's overdependence on oil which had been inadequate for government's pressing needs."

Ganduje is opening Kano to all. "The climate of foreign investment in Kano is strong enough to ginger confidence and the safety of investment is guaranteed" he insisted, pointing out that the summit tagged "Transforming the economy of Kano: turning challenges into opportunities" was indeed in line with his administration's efforts at diversifying the economy of the state.

However, to scale through the economic recession, he noted, there is need to invest in agriculture, promote small and medium scale businesses as well as use the abundant raw materials to produce goods for local consumption and exportation. These views were echoed by the two prominent monarchs, Emir of Kano, Malam Muhammad Sanusi II and the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Saad Abubakar III during the Summit.

The Sultan commended Governor Ganduje for his people-oriented projects, adding that, "we have come to lend our support to Governor Ganduje in his effort to reposition Kano. We are here to strengthen him and we want to assure him of our support."

Emir Sanusi underscored the need to invest in agriculture, noting that focus in agriculture will add value to the economy of Kano and Nigeria as a whole. According to him,

"economics is not rocket science. Countries that have developed went through a certain act and that act is value addition. "Kano holds the potential. We have got the leather industry. Kano gold skin is the Moroccan leather which is the best leather in the world. We can produce all the shoes we need in this country, we can produce all the bags we need in this country. Now, you can imagine the number of children who go to school, just producing leather shoes for school children in Nigeria. It is a massive industry."

Kano has a population of, at least, 12 million young entrepreneurial, vibrant and committed people, with rich history and culture. It is the place to be. Kano also has the ability to manage its crisis and the strengths of Kano is its vibrancy.

"We have nothing against foreigners, we like the Chinese, Indians, Americans, the French and the Arabs to come and set up factories here. We will like people from all over the country to come and set up factories here, to employ people here, to produce goods here and to sell goods here," Emir Sanusi stated.

The state Commissioner for Information, Youths and Culture, Malam Muhammad Garba described the Kano 50th anniversary as the beginning of a new era. "This is coming at a very good time because it is coinciding with the celebration of Governor Ganduje's two years after he assumed office."

"The Ganduje administration has committed a lot of resources to infrastructure development. We consider this auspicious period to show our invited guests what we have so far accomplished. We have unveiled the gigantic monument symbolizing the integrity and dignity of Kano at 50."

The Umar Ganduje administration in Kano came with so much promise. Having served as deputy governor, a lot was expected, especially in terms of continuity.

The Kano government disbursed over N4 billion as assistance to local seed producers. It also trained 72 farmers and extension agents on safe and effective use of pesticides, environmental issues, and seed certification. The Ganduje administration recruited 729 extension workers and trained them in partnership with national and international development agencies.

It also approved the distribution of motorcycles to the newly employed extension staff on a 40 per cent loan discount.

The government (re)constructed over 20 metropolitan and rural roads in areas like Yusuf, Bompai, Kwaranga, Dakata Bella, Kings Garden Tudunmurtala, Burumburum Siyasa, and Kibbiya Rano. Although not yet completed, work is ongoing at the Murtla Mohammed flyover that is expected to help ease traffic in the area. The administration sent 100 youths for training at Peugeot Automobile. It also empowered about 10,000 women by training them in various skills including tailoring before buying equipment for them to start their own business. The government also distributed sanitation vehicles to about 200 women for door to door sanitation exercises.



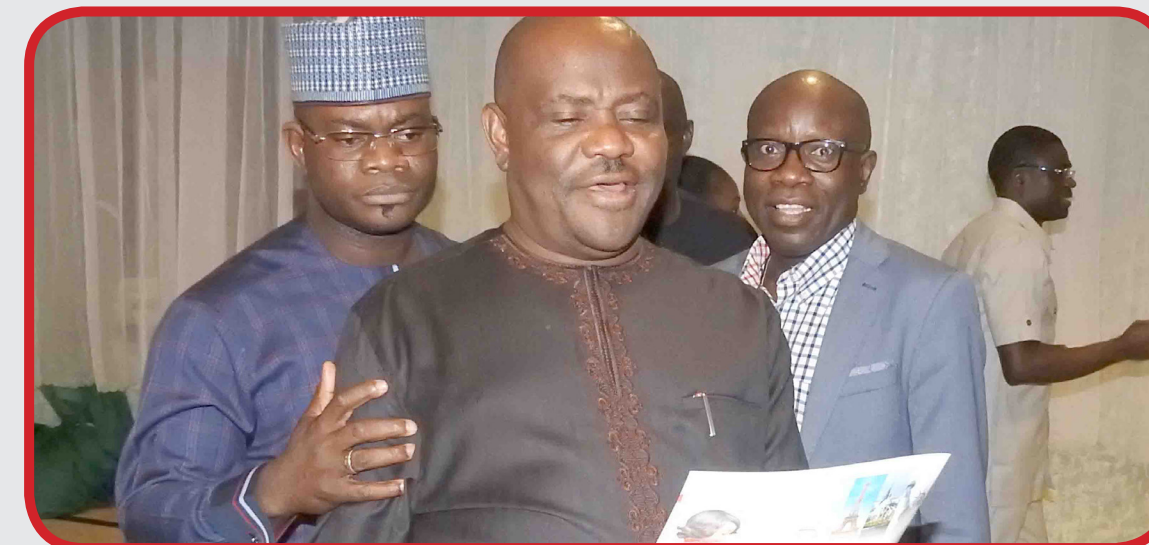
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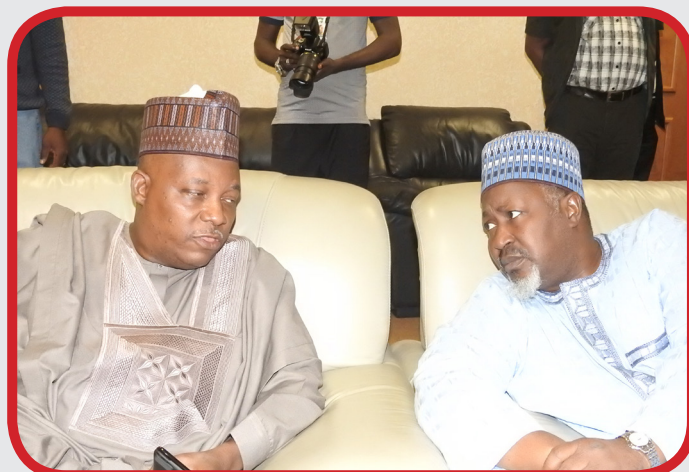
Chairman of the PDP Governors' Forum and Governor of Ekiti State Ayo Fayose (left) walking into the venue of NGF meeting with Governor Emmanuel Udom of Akwa Ibom State.



L-R: Governor Dave Umahi of Ebonyi State; the Chairman of the Governors' Forum and Zamfara State Governor, Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar and Kano State Governor walking into the venue of the meeting.



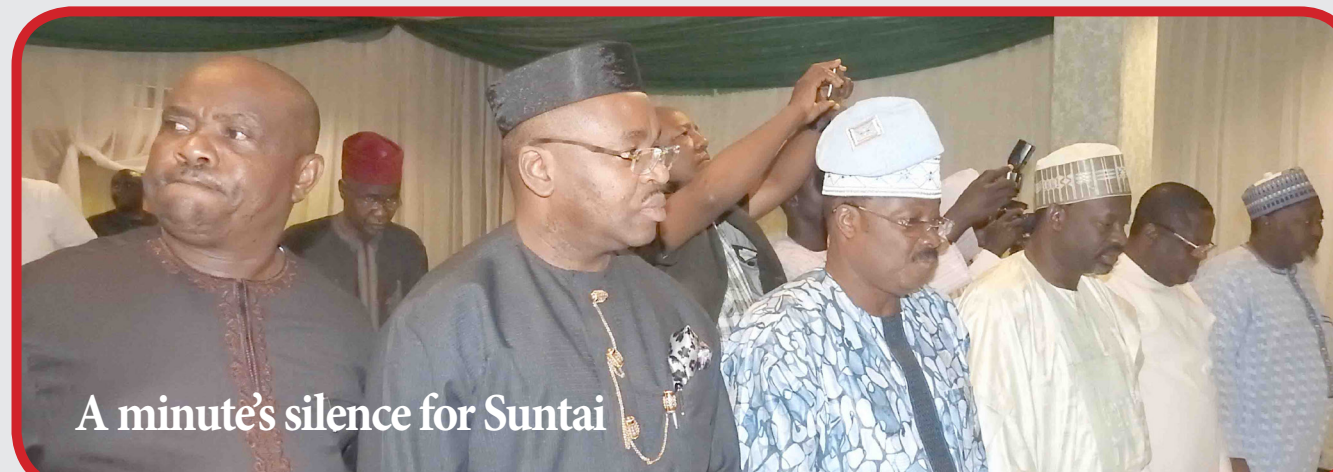
L-R: Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello; Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike reading the Governors' Forum Executive Summary. With them is the DG of the Governors' Forum, Mr. A.B. Okauro...



Borno State Governor, Kashim Shettima (left) discussing with his Jigawa State counterpart, Alhaji Mohammed Badaru Abubakar.



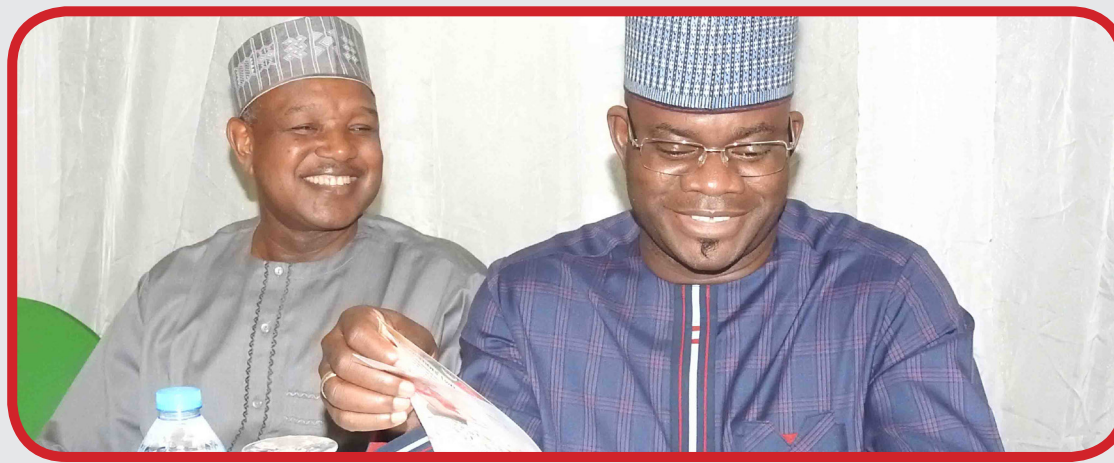
L-R: Saminu Turaki, for governor of Jigawa State; Gombe State Governor, Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo and Ekiti State Governor, Ayo Fayose in a chat.



L-R: Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike; his counterparts from Akwa Ibom, Oyo, Gombe, Ebonyi and Jigawa States, Emmanuel Udom, Abiola Ajimobi, Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo, Dave Umahi and Alhaji Mohammed Badaru Abubakar.



Osun State Governor, Mr. Rauf Aregbesola (left) in a handshake with his Borno State counterpart, Alhaji Kashim Shettima.



Kebbi State Governor, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu (left) look with excitement as his Kogi State counterpart read through the NGF's Executive Summary.



L-R: Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello; Ebonyi State Governor, Dave Umahi and Kaduna State Governor before the commencement of their meeting.



Osun State Governor, Mr. Rauf Aregbesola (left) in a handshake with his Akwa Ibom State counterpart, Emmanuel Udom



L-R: Kano State Governor, Umar Ganduje with his Jigawa and Kebbi states counterparts, Alhaji Mohammed Badaru Abubakar and Abubakar Atiku Bagudu respectively.



Game Changer

Nasir el - Rufai KADUNA STATE

Agent of Open Government
Some of the issues that the Kaduna State Government under Malam Nasiru el Rufai prioritized include investment, basic education, healthcare delivery and agriculture. For Governor el Rufai, job creation and basic infrastructure are to governance what oxygen is to a living thing. But above all else, Malam Nasiru devotes ample time to open government.

However, it is not for nothing that political waters are described as murky. In Kaduna, the waters are murkier than elsewhere because the main protagonists have been at each other's jugular. But the cap is where it fits. The rest can only belly-ache. Governor Nasiru el-Rufai has waded those murky waters, putting the naysayers in their proper place, and is moving Kaduna state decisively forward.

In education, the state government decreed free basic education for the first nine years of people's schooling lives. Payment of fees and levies in public schools have been abolished. There is an ongoing school rehabilitation of classrooms, provision of water and toilet facilities to 4,254 public primary schools while contracts have been awarded to provide furniture to address the situation where 50% of pupils had neither chairs nor desks.

The government has also recruited teachers in core subject areas. Over 1.5million pupils are being fed while uniforms in secondary schools are free just as the quality of food in secondary schools have been improved.

In order to improve the health sector of the State, contracts have been awarded to modernize and equip 255 Primary Health Centres, with one in each ward.

But the governor's strong point is in township infrastructure. Roads are being

rehabilitated in urban centres of the state side-by-side with the installation of solar powered street lights on major roads throughout the state. Engineering designs and feasibility studies are ongoing for a Kaduna Ring Road project to link Eastern and Western sectors of Kaduna town just as preferred bidders have been selected for two five-star hotels. 18 companies have submitted bids to build a rail-based mass transit system for Kaduna metropolis.

Housing/water supply: Construction of 20,000 affordable homes has commenced while water resources got an additional N11.4 billion for projects such as Zaria Water and dams across the state.

The Kaduna State Entrepreneur Programme, KADSTEP, is training 5000 entrepreneurs in business skills and will assist them to develop business plans that can be funded by the Bank of Industry. Also, the Kaduna Artisan Training Academy, KADAT, has been approved to train artisans with skills in construction industry. 17,000 catering vendors, each of whom employed people in the school feeding programme, has created about 125,000 jobs while at least 4,000 tailors are engaged in the School uniforms project.

Security: The government donated 107 vehicles and bullet proof vests as well as 51 motorcycles to the police and other security agencies to combat crime. Also, joint security task force, made up of the Nigerian Army, Air Force, Police and the Department of State Security, was constituted. The government also set up a committee headed by former Chief of Defence Staff, Lt. Gen. Martins Agwai, to look into the incessant invasion and killing of people by armed gangs in Southern Kaduna and proffer solutions. For instance, the State Government waged a successful war against cattle rustling and criminal gangs in the forest ranges around Birnin-Gwari, in collaboration with neighbouring states and with the support of the military, the police and the SSS, it has been largely successful.





A smart thinking administration

Some of the achievement of the State are:
Education: Only recently, Governor Aminu Bello Masari directed that over six hundred local government staff that have teaching qualifications should be posted to teach in schools. This was intended to boost the State's teacher population. The dearth of teachers had worried the governor whose philosophy of life places education at the very apex.

In addition, for the tertiary institutions of the State, funds have been made available for infrastructural upgrade and other necessities needed for effective accreditation of courses. The administration considers the education sector as pri-

ority because it is strategic to the attainment of the desired goal of overall improvement in the standard of living of the people in the state. The Masari administration has successfully renovated and upgraded different schools across the state, procured school furniture and instructional material. Most importantly, teachers are now regularly being paid and there is a continuous recruitment drive to augment the alarming dearth of teachers across primary and post primary schools in Katsina state.

Water Supply: The Masari administration had spent about N2bn on the rehabilitation of Ajiwa water works to ameliorate the shortage of water supply in Katsina metropolis. Also, Malumfashi water works abandoned for about seven years has been resuscitated. In addition to the rehabilitation of hundreds of broken down bore holes, and other urban and semi-urban water schemes across the state. Katsina's water shortage is becoming history.

Healthcare: The government released about two billion naira as special intervention fund to help reposition health care delivery in the State. Three premier hospitals in Daura, Katsina and Funtua, are undergoing renovation, remodeling and redesigning with a view to making them come to par with modern centres of health care delivery. Furthermore, the State Government has made provision for all necessary equipment needed at the hospitals. To address the challenges of shortage of health personnel, government is already finalising plans to recruit personnel across all cadres and from far and near.

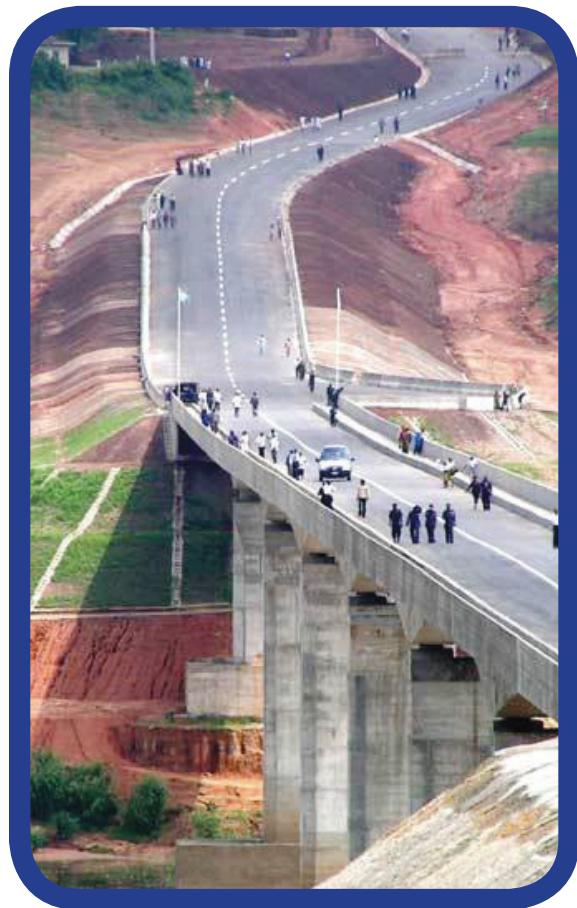
Empowerment: The government embarked on numerous economic empowerment programs where different youths are trained and supported with funding to engage in different skills and trades including farming, which they acquired through the skill acquisition programs of the state.

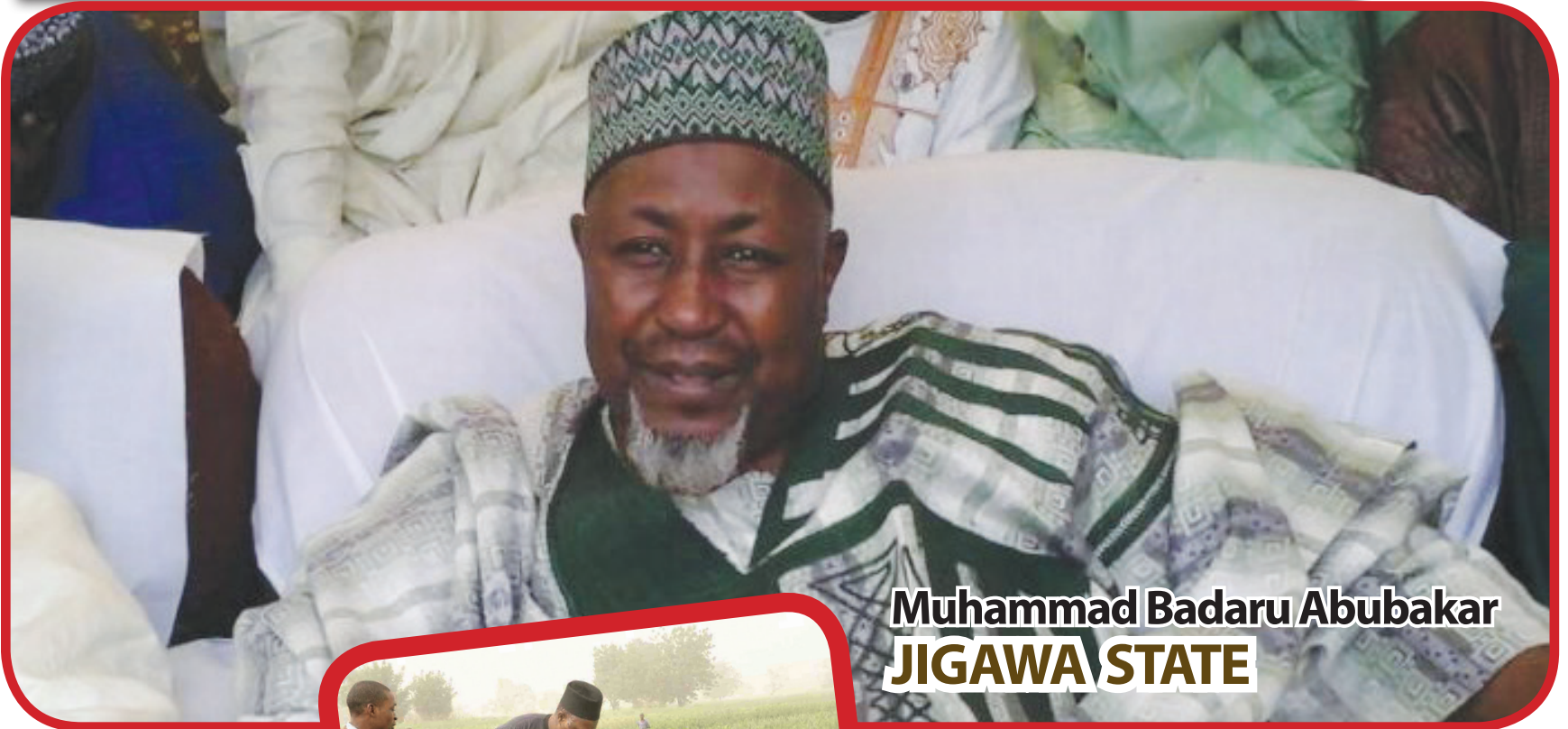
Agriculture: The Governor, Aminu Bello Masari is engaged in what they call a restoration project aimed at restoring the State to its former glory. In order to achieve this agricultural restoration projects, the State government plans to allocate land to young farmers who would actually farm it. Another part of the project is to establish a large organic fertilizer plant associated with a sugar cane



**Aminu Bello Masari
KATSINA STATE**

project that would provide molasses for the production of organic fertilizer. The idea is to start the process of moving away from chemical fertilizers that ultimately destroy the quality of soils. Also, the Masari government plans to expand the production of leguminous crops such as cowpeas and groundnuts associated with advocacy aimed at locally consuming them to improve nutritional standards. Furthermore, there is a project for the development of greenhouse vegetable production aimed at the export market. These initiatives show smart thinking in relation to promoting better nutrition, soils and incomes.





**Muhammad Badaru Abubakar
JIGAWA STATE**



Through a deliberate policy which is focused on human development, the Jigawa State government under the leadership of Governor Badaru is fast working itself to becoming the albatross of poverty in Jigawa State.

A consummate businessman and President of the Jigawa State Chamber of Commerce and Industry the ultimate aim of Badaru in Jigawa State after several leadership mishaps which dominated the past is reducing the poverty index among his people.

To aid his fight against poverty in the state Governor Badaru Abubakar has given education a befitting facelift through the allocation of over 30% of the state budget to the sector, which is way beyond the UNESCO bench mark of 26%. This is in line with his administration's desire to reposition the educational sector for fruitful result.

Knowing that no plans succeed without accurate data, Jigawa State received a \$3.5million grant for Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The World Bank Grant was a basic education sector support and a mechanism to strengthen data collection (2015/2016 Annual School Census) for better planning and decision making through the use of GIS and EMIS with the support of ESSPIN /TDP.

On its part, the State embarked on the rehabilitation of



ernor Badaru ensures the prompt payment of salaries in his state to encourage productivity. The receipt of N1200 sets of plastic furniture from UBEC, the purchase and distribution of 4,000 sets of lower basic furniture all helped. To close the teacher-pupil ratio, the recruitment of additional teachers across the board and that of specialized subjects such as the sciences and English was also considered, while Jigawa State is pushing the federal Ministry of Education to benefit from the 500,000-teacher scheme.

In addition, the procurement of sporting facilities for State Universal Education Board, procurement of school uniforms, bags and sandals for nomadic school pupils and female students of senior secondary schools across the state was also carried out by the State Government. In line with the administration's free girl-child education, the State Government refunded N21,270,939.00 school fees to students across the State.

Governor Badaru is not faring badly in opening up rural communities. This is by way of providing access to markets for farm produce and linking major towns and communities.



schools. A few of the schools are Guri, Kila, Gumel, JSS Au-jara and Gantsa Tsangaya, with N12million. Gov-

Over 200 boreholes were constructed in Kiyawa and Dutse towns alone.

In Agriculture, Bafaru employs a new formula to financial independence in his state. Instead of concentrating on the youths especially men in its economic development projects, the State Government launched the goat breeding micro credit scheme for widows. The objective of the scheme was to empower them and other divorced women who do not have veritable means of livelihood.

The Jigawa State Government also partners with a private company, WACOT Nigeria Limited, on the establishment of sesame processing and cleaning plants in the state. Under the arrangement, about 300 hectares of sesame seeds were distributed free to farmers at the launching of the program in Gumel.

In addition, about 3,382metric tons of assorted fertilizer was provided to farmers at less than half its landing cost. Governor Badaru signed an MOU with International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropic (ICRISAT) on the development of groundnut value chain including seeds, processing, marketing and Aflatoxin management. There is also a plan in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria to mop up N43bn worth of paddy to support private sector investments in agriculture through allocation of land to about 10,000 out-growers, provision of 20,000 hectares for sugar and giving 12,000 hectares to Lee Group Limited for sugarcane production.

To strengthen the people, the state government upgraded several Cottage hospitals to General hospitals, while General hospitals were upgraded to Specialist hospitals. The administration also Established a new School of Nursing in Hadejia. It also commenced the construction of 27 basic health clinics in each local government area and 27 units of midwives' quarters in hard- to-reach (difficult to access) primary and basic healthcare centres. The government also embarked on the construction and renovation of several other hospitals across the state, to solidify its belief that health is wealth.



Abubakar Atiku Bagudu
KEBBI STATE

A Silent Achiever
Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu in his determination to take Kebbi State out of the woods, set up various machineries that will galvanized and transform the state to comply with current trend of civilization and globalization. Some of the State salient achievement were listed below:

Agriculture: Agriculture has received the desired attention, especially rice farming. This was as a result of the efforts of the governor and the Federal Government, through the Central Bank of Nigeria's Anchor Borrowers Programme. Although larger chunk of the money for the programme came from the CBN, the governor has demonstrated good political leadership to drive the process. The State Government created loan packages worth several billions of naira to accommodate farmers who were left out in the CBN loan package, as a result has triggered off agricultural activities especially rice production in most parts of the state, especially Suru, Augie, Kangiwa, Aliero, Argungu, Yauri, among other rice producing communities.

Road Infrastructure: The State Government had completed Yauri Local Government township roads which now wear a new look.

Electricity: The State Government has ensured that electricity supply to the state capital was maintained at least 20 hours daily. In fact, Kebbi is one of the few states in the country that enjoy almost uninterrupted power supply. On assumption of office, the governor embarked on regular visits to the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company and contributed substantial amount of money to the company to provide transformers and cables to aid the distribution of electricity in the state. Street lights in the state capital which were hitherto not functional now works. He has also been pressurising the power companies dealing with electrification projects in Zuru and Yauri Local Government Areas to hasten the completion of the projects which has been at a snail pace for years.

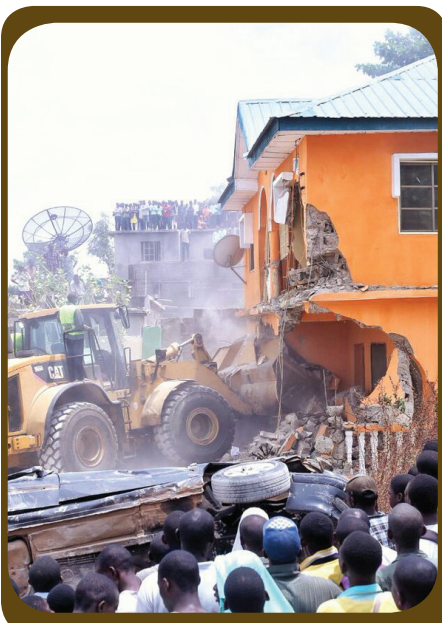
Education: The State Government awarded contracts for the renovation of schools/hostels with the provision of facilities that will make learning conducive for students.

Security: Kebbi State being one of the States in the North-West Zone where the menace of cattle rustling is rampant, the current administration confronted the challenge headlong. The governor solicited and got permission for the deployment of soldiers to the hot spot of rustlers in Bena and other villages in Danko/Wassagu Local Government Area of the state which yielded positive results.





**Yahaya Bello
KOGI STATE**



The governor of Kogi state, Alhaji Yahaya Bello no doubt is holding a divine mandate, given his circumstantial ascension to the governorship of Kogi State. Despite the strong all-round opposition in the state, Bello, who is the youngest governor in Nigeria at the moment, is already delivering the dividends of democracy to his people.

When the present administration in Kogi State under the leadership of Governor Yahaya Bello was inaugurated in a very colorful parade on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the Lokoja Township Stadium, many did not know that the pomp and pageantry that heralded the historical occasion was a sign good things to come.

This is because despite the endless distraction from within and outside the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC), discerning minds are beginning to see that the fortune of the state which had hitherto suffered from endemic socio-economic neglect due to a myriad of factors are beginning to change in line with the development aspirations of the present Bello administration.

Before taking over the reign of power, those conversant with the Kogi socio-political and socio-economic terrain were disenchanted with the state of suffering, desperation, desolation and even environmental impasse faced by Kogites.

But Governor Bello came in with hope and an action plan to alleviate the suffering of the people. Governor Bello did not disappoint as he swiftly invited organized labour in the state for dialogue on assumption of office, a dialogue that yielded immediate results and labour called off their strike and the workers returned to their duty post.

It is also worthy of note that while negotiations were ongoing, Governor Bello hired the services of a private firm in conjunction with some youth support groups to evacuate refuse from Lokoja town before the full resumption by the sanitation workers. This singular act made the governor to received accolades across the state even from his opponents because of the unhealthy sanitary situation of the capital when the workers downed tools.

True to his promise during his inaugural speech, Governor Bello swung into action by setting up workers verification committee to determine the actual staff strength and ensure that ghost workers syndrome which had been the bane of development in the state become a thing of the past.

As it stands today, the verification exercise has been declared a great success following stunning revelations and embarrassing facts relating to unbelievable atrocities committed by of some senior civil servants. Among the anomalies already discovered are ghost workers, ghost-schools and so many other irregularities that were used to defraud the state. And they have been cleared.

Apart from his recorded successes, the dexterity of Governor Bello in appointing young men and women of proven integrity into his

administration is a clear testimony of his commitment to entrenching a paradigm shift in Kogi State. Little wonder, the old forces in the state continue to bark, knowing fully that the governor is already endearing himself to the people and sending them into political oblivion.



Holder of a divine mandate

Bello who is determined to show his commitment to the unity of the state equally displayed fairness, equity and justice in the sharing of appointments of even his aides across the state done otherwise.

In the history of the state, he is the only governor, so far, to appoint his personal aides including the Chief of Staff position from other ethnic groups, an action that is a radical departure from what is obtainable in previous administrations.

The beginning of a new era is always greeted with high expectations and that is why in ensuring the state capital is given a face lift, the governor directed the demolition of the outdated roundabouts to pave way for a decent structure that can compete favorably with others in the country, bearing in mind that the state capital is a transit town and veritable tourist destination.

Governor Bello also recorded a giant stride in erosion control, a menace which has been a major ecological problem facing some parts of the state. As part of his commitment, Governor Bello promptly paid a counterpart fund to enlist the support of the Nigeria Erosion Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) to help tackle the erosion in the affected areas.

To ensure sustainability of labour and government relationship, the governor had on May Day donated two buses to the organized labour in the state in order to facilitate their activities. One of the major achievements of the governors' administration is the securing of 20billion Naira first tranche of the bail out sought by the state which the immediate administration in the state failed to secure due to alleged irregularities discovered by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in their application.

With his commitment to change the landscape of the state, which has suffered so much neglect and degradation, the beginning of the administration of Governor Bello holds so much promise and if his actions so far are anything to go by, then Kogites can say that their state will never be the same again.





Kwara: Reason under Modesty

When people insinuate that some states have not lived up to expectation since their creation in 1968, they sure would not be talking about Kwara state under Dr Abdulfatah Ahmed. With the ascension to office of this ebullient young man in 2011, after the drop of the baton from the dominant Saraki dynasty in the state, Kwara realized its "age of reason" when the running of the state began to resemble the reign of modern Arabia where young intellectually inclined irredentists began the transformation of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and the likes of Qatar.

Of course, there are divergent views about the progress of Kwara since. But most of the views have been that Kwara is now opening up to the rest of the country and even the rest of Africa, with results that can be empirically verified.

Many who argued that the foundation for the growth of Kwara was established by the Senate President Bukola Saraki soon began to see that the last half-decade has witnessed a quicker turn-around of Ilorin especially, and the rest of Kwara State in general.

During a six-year period, Abdulfatah Ahmed ensured prudent management of resources which twice earned the State Government excellent ratings by the Fitch

Rating International (An International Rating Agency) – the very first by any State Government in Nigeria.

The strides of Dr Abdulfatah Ahmed can be traced to the great tutelage he received under his predecessor Dr Bukola Saraki but he was also integral to the development of Kwara under Dr Bukola and so came to governance with a bag full of experience. Following six years as Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Ahmed was in 2009 moved to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. This position would prove crucial to his current flair for empirical and strategic planning.

Yet the foundation for this track-record lies in his modesty.

Abdulfatah was a lecturer in Organic Chemistry and later Acting Head of Department at Federal College of Arts and Science, Sokoto, before embarking on a successful banking career. Since becoming governor in 2011, Abdulfatah Ahmed's vision has been to make Kwara State a major economic hub by leveraging on the competitive advantages in agriculture, entrepreneurship, innovation and location.

To ensure prosperity for Kwarans he set up the Kwara Micro Credit Intervention Scheme which was established to boost small and medium scale enterprises in the State with an initial take-off grant of N250m. The scheme has since grown to a N1.9b project with more than 50,000 ben-

eficiaries.

In recognition of the need for engineering education and to position the state for technological leadership, Governor Ahmed constructed an N800m Engineering complex for the Kwara State University (KWASU) and expanded its enrolment by subsidizing tuition at the university. Furthermore, in his drive to promote entrepreneurship in the state through vocational training, Alhaji Ahmed established the International Vocational Technical and Entrepreneurship Centre, (IVTEC), at Ajase Ipo in Irepodun Local Government Council Area of the state.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alfred University New York for technical and management collaboration at IVTEC he built the credibility of the institution and its accreditation.

In health, over 120,000 rural dwellers have been enrolled into the state's award-winning Community Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS). The scheme has been adjudged as one of the most successful by the United Nations, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In order to sustain infrastructural development in the state, Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed recently officially launched the Kwara State Infrastructure Development Fund (IFK). The fund is a sustainable platform designed to finance infrastructure without reliance on federal allocations. In

addition to a N5billion seed fund, the sum of N500million is drawn every month from the State's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) into the IFK.

To reduce the housing deficit in the state, Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed in March, 2016, flagged off the construction of 1,000 housing units at Budo-Osho area, Tanke Ilorin. The construction is aimed at providing quality and affordable shelter for low and middle-income earners.

For these laudable policies and programs, Governor Ahmed has won recognition from several quarters. The question however is that if so much had been achieved, why the so-called low-key celebration when the state turned fifty. The answer is in the governor's modesty. Indeed, it says it all in the official government logo and theme of the 50th anniversary "Celebrating Harmony, Shaping the Future".

As of 2006, the population of Kwara was 2.37 million, half of what it was in the 1980s. In its 50 years of existence, Kwara State has been governed by 19 Military administrators and Governors. This is an average of two-year tenure per governor which would have suited the axiom too many cooks spoil the broth. But today, Kwara ranks 28th on the ranking of states by GDP even though at creation, Kwara was the fastest growing state with bold Development Plans which only began to be carried out again, because Dr. Abdulfatah Ahmed became involved.



**Abdulfatah Ahmed
KWARA STATE**



Akinwumi Ambode **LAGOS STATE**

**Taxman
'Plenipotentiary'**

In the current political dispensation, Lagos State stands alone. It has become a reference point for social life, business, initiating and executing pacesetting innovative and strategic policies and programs, that are meant to uplift the living standards of the people.

The State is also commonly recognized as the country's commercial capital. Some of the salient achievements mentioned by the Governor of Lagos State, Akinwumi Ambode at the celebration of Lagos State at 50 years are listed below capture the true essence of innovative and people oriented governance, reports NGFs in-house agronomist Olubunmi Akanbi.

Employment Trust Fund for Youths: It was established in the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund Law 2016 to provide financial support to residents of Lagos State, for job-opportunities, wealth-creation and to tackle unemployment. It serves as instrument to inspire the creation and innovation energies of all Lagos residents and reduce unemployment across the State. The fund has the mandate to directly invest N25Billion in helping Lagos residents grow and scale their Micro Small and Medium Enterprises or acquire skills to get better jobs.

Civil Service Reforms: The civil service is the engine room of any government, Lagos State government chose to repositioning the state civil service in order to make it more efficient and cost effective, with a vision of delivering better service to the citizenry. The government appointed 20 new Permanent Secretaries following their track record of excellent performances. This is to create opportunity for upward movement of career civil servants and also reward diligence, dedication and hard work.

Security: The Lagos State government have reviewed the security infrastructure in the State and have put plans in motion to address the lapses. The State have established an integrated Security and Emergency control platform, aimed at strengthening the security apparatus in the state. Equipment and vehicles of various needs were donated to all security agencies to boost their efforts in combating crime in the state. Also, through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, the State tackles domestic violence and other gender related crimes. Furthermore, 190 officials of the State Emergency Command and Control Centre were recently trained on how to receive reports of Sexual and Gender Based Violence incidents in the State, especially with the approval to use the 112 toll free line to report cases of rape, defilement, domestic violence, child abuse, neglect maltreatment and other sexual assaults.

Health: The present Lagos State administration has provided 36 Mobile Intensive Care Unit ambulances, at a cost of N145.240m, deployed in all Ambulance Points in the State. Also, additional 26 Transport Ambulances at the cost of N257.4m were deployed across all General Hospitals in the State. Ambulance Points were creat-

ed across the States for easy access to people in the State. The ambulance service can be reached by calling the Toll-Free Line 112. In addition, Lagos state government has installed 22 Power Generating sets ranging from 350 – 500 KVA as additional back-up sets across all General Hospitals at the cost of N270m to ensure 24-hour power supply, 26 Mobile X-Ray machines costing N519.656m are also being installed at all General Hospitals across the State. Most importantly, the present administration has granted approval for the recruitment of more paramedic staff and special medical coordinators to ensure 24 hours' service in the State's health facilities.

Education: The Governing Councils of the State Tertiary Institutions were inaugurated with prominent selfless Lagosians offering their hands of fellowship to rescue these institutions. The recruitment of 1,300 Primary School teachers is ongoing to fill the gap in key subject areas that have been identified. Desks, chairs and other needs have been approved for procurement to schools in the State. In addition, the State government is also committed to adequate welfare for its teaching staff; for instance, at the Annual Education Merit Award ceremony in 2014 wherein no fewer than 57 awardees ranging from students, teachers, principals, schools and staff were honoured and presented with gift items, the highlight been the presentation of a brand new car each to the Best teachers in both the Secondary and Primary School categories and many more.

Road Infrastructure: This administration is determined to ensure that all roads in Lagos State are in good condition and motorable. Since the inception of the present administration, 181 roads rehabilitation and maintenance across the State have been undertaken, touching every Local Government including Federal Roads as the administration believes that these roads are being used by Lagosians first. A few of these roads are: Agege Motor Road, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba, Murtala Mohammed Way, Isolo, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Dopemu Road, Agege, Akowonjo Road, Akowonjo. Obalende Bridge, Obalende, Isaac John Road, GRA, Apapa Road, Ebute Meta, Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Toyota-Charity Axis, Olufemi Street, Shomolu, Billy Street, Epe, Aswani Road, Isolo, Yekini Street, Shogunle, Oshodi, Isawo Road, Ikorodu.





**Tanko Al-Makura
NASARAWA STATE**

The state government has a robust plan to engender an economically viable state. Its governor, Umaru Tanko AlMakura, popularly known as Ta'al also has the background and the pedigree to make Nasarawa State great. But what has been the stumbling block? During the previous dispensation, when Nasarawa State was among the few states with apolitical inclination that did not align with the views from the top, it had reason to feel like fish pout of water. Not today. In education, the State Government's friendly administration embellished the education Sector with the Construction of 144 blocks of three classrooms and toilets. The Construction of (ten) 256 bed capacity hostels for Federal University Lafia, one for Nasarawa State University, Keffi, three for College of Agriculture Lafia, two for Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia and two for College of Education, Akwanga, showed glimpses of promise that the state was taking the advancement of its peoples seriously. The State Government also facilitated the construction, renovation and supply of furniture to 101 classroom blocks and Procurement of 70,000 seats for schools. Years down the line, schools in Nasarawa State are looking resplendent in blue walls and new fittings including furniture and adequate instructional material. Governor Al-Makura has always maintained a pragmatic approach to issues and has governed Nasarawa State in a style that is well-structured to win. But the people

have atimes refused to cooperate with the government regardless of how magnanimous the governor remains. But when it comes to security the governor wastes no time in letting the state know who is in charge. And the state has had its fair share of tribal disputes buit they have been nipped in the bud, thabnks to Al Makura's political sagacity and magnanimity. He did this excellently by proactively tackling the security challenges in the state, first through empowering the police to do its work and then he began to incentivize police work in his state through the construction of Police station at Agyragu / Gwadanye, fencing of Mobile Police Barracks, supported security agents with vehicles, establishment and equipping of Divisional office at Akwanga, Construction of helipad for North Central surveillance, Provision of Land for Army barracks along Doma Road, Hosting and attending security meetings between Benue and Nasarawa States. The State Government has given priority attention in the area of health

safety through the Construction of three ultra-modern hospitals of not less than 360 bed capacity across the three geopolitical zones. The Governor made possible the construction, renovation, equipping and furnishing of 101 Number of Primary Health Care facilities with ultra-modern toilet facilities and solar powered boreholes improving the health seeking behaviour of the people. In addition, other achievement in the area of health includes; the Construction of Male hostel at the School of Nursing, renovation of General Hospital in Awe, Toto, Mararaba, Guraku and Keana, completion of the School of Nursing, Central Medical stores hence, uninterrupted supply of quality affordable drugs in public hospitals and the Procurement of assorted equipment to Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital like complete set of Eye surgery equipment, 5 dialysis units, Laparoscopy, etc. Furthermore, the State Government also distributed two million treated nets across the state in addition to the refurbished 3 mobile clinics as well as the reintroduction of drug revolving scheme in the state. Road Infrastructure: Construction of



200km asphalt drained town-ship roads and of 600km rural roads, construction of the Fire Service Headquarters and two others in the zones and the construction of additional perimeter fence at Government House. Youth Empowerment: The State Government gave premium to distribution of 400 tricycles to support Youth Empowerment and reduce youth restiveness. He also provided (40) 18 Seater buses for safe intra and inter-city service and engaged 3,000 youths as community watchers, traffic assistants and sanitation inspectors through Nasarawa Youth Empowerment Scheme (NAYES). Other Infrastructure: Completion of four modern market facilities. In the area of safe Water, the State Government has succeeded in the construction of Daddere small town water scheme and facilitated the restoration of water supply to Nasarawa. Also, rehabilitated Mada, Nassarawa Eggon, Lafia, Doma and Toto Water Works. Other achievements include upgrading of Nasarawa water supply scheme with payment, laying of parallel water supply line at Anguwan Lambu and at Sabon Gida. And the Procurement of assorted water treatment chemicals.



By Jibril Baba Ndace



**Abubakar Sani Bello
NIGER STATE**

Niger State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello came into office on May 29, 2015 as an experienced Entrepreneur, Manager and Businessman with a demonstrative willingness to elevate good governance, even at the expense of politics. His strong reputation for efficiency, openness and attention to details, as reflected in his success, has earned him a growing popularity.

Little wonder, in just two years he has reached out, through various developmental projects, to hitherto forgotten people and communities. Also, in carrying projects, his concern has been people-first, not the politics of the moment.

The reform agenda of Governor Sani Bello's administration is predicated on a well-articulated blueprint that targeted education, health, agriculture, peace and security, infrastructural development as well as women and youth empowerment as its topmost priority.

Although the Governor did not promise Nigerlites much during his campaign, his inaugural speech on that beautiful Friday gave every hope of restoring glory to the state. At the initial stage, his efforts were truncated by obvious lack of resources and an endemic corruption that has eaten deep into a highly compromised system. But he, soon, introduced measures such as the Treasury Single Account (TSA), Staff verification exercise, downsize the number of Ministries and Permanent Secretaries as well as prudent management of resources in order to reduce cost of governance, block wastages and minimize corruption inherent in the system. And since then, he has neither relented nor disappointed.

Other critical drivers of the reform are the strict adherence to fiscal reality, considerable improvement in the collection and utilization of the states' Internally Generated Revenues as well as continuity in the execution of projects and programmes with direct relevance to the citizens of the state. This vision reflects a singular enterprising mission for progress and an uncommon passion for development.

By all account, a steady progress has been achieved in the public service reform as the management changes has substantially improved bureaucratic performance. The administration has created sufficient stability in peace and security, made change very visible which has now translated into public trust. This change in tenor has turned the state, unarguably,

into one of the models of effective governance, as it remains relatively most peaceful state in the country.

Governance progress is also noticeable in the holistic approach to the overhaul of the education sector through the Whole-School-Approach-Development Projects. The government of Abubakar Sani Bello has carried out a complete rehabilitation of more than 42 schools, reintroduced the Teachers Colleges and improved teachers' well-being to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. Indeed, the governor's level of commitment in this sector represents

bring investors into the state and generate unquantified employment opportunities for our teeming youths. Together with an articulated youth empowerment scheme, this government intends to provide many jobs to this vulnerable group of people as a proactive measure stall the consequences of not doing so.

Significantly, in the past two years, Governor Abubakar Sani has not only been creating enabling environment for both domestic and international investors, also using his local and global network to woo investors to the state.

This government has its eyes on the future. Its futuristic approach to service delivery ensures that projects and programmes executed are those that would not only outlive the administration but stand the test of time. Comparative research has strongly indicated that no administration has had accelerated development in just two years like the Abubakar Sani Bello-led administration.

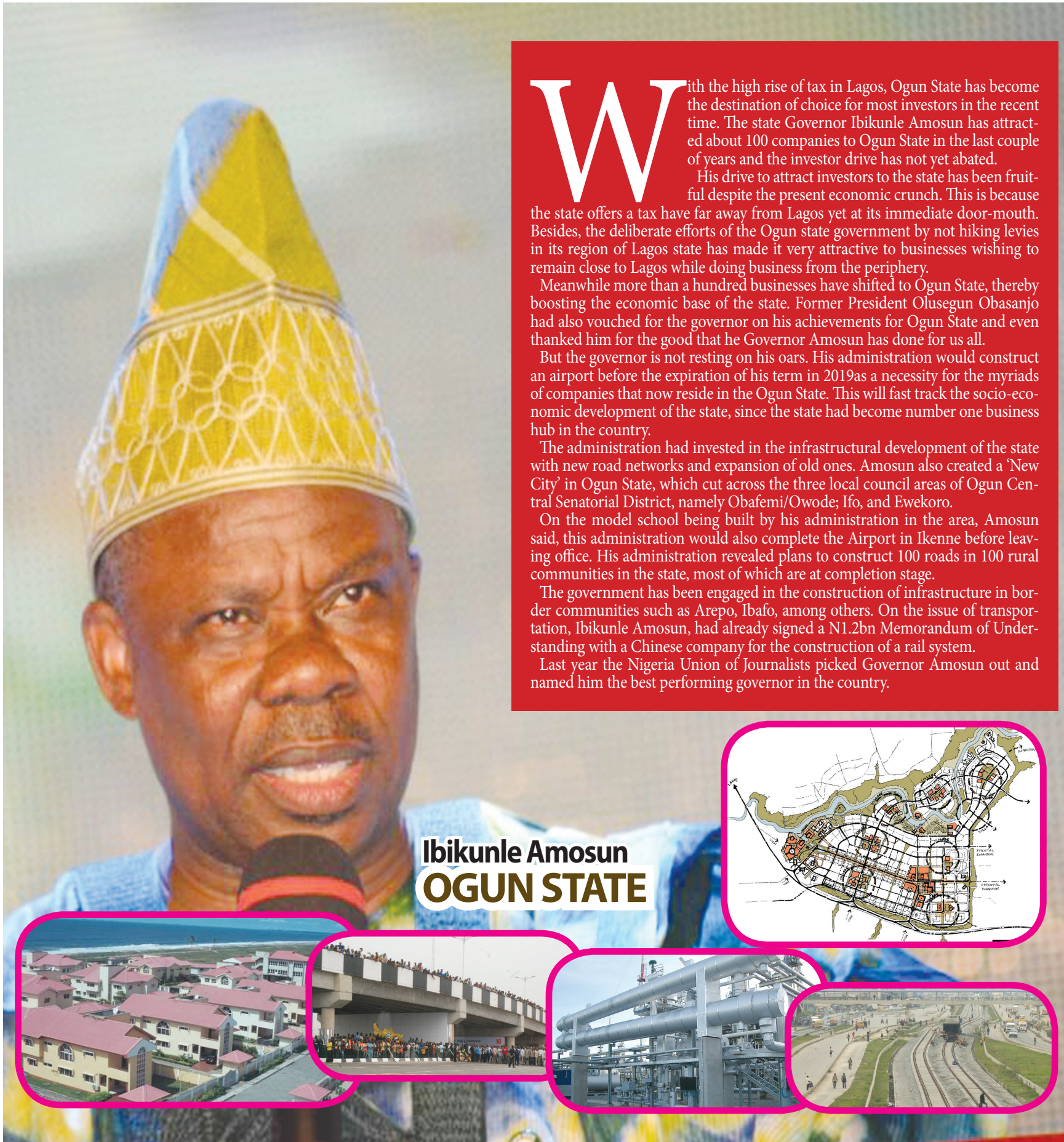
Governor Abubakar Sani Bello has demystified leadership by making his government a listening one. He interact freely with villagers, market men and women. The poor now realize that they can talk to the government directly and feel the impact almost immediately....And this is in line with the change agenda.

Two years down the line, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello's achievements has shown that with political will, it is possible to provide good governance beyond politics with limited resources.



a stark departure from the previous government. In the period under review, we have seen the governor's insatiable quest for, and an expansive ambition, to turn the state into a diversified economy as the government works towards investing heavily in agriculture and solid minerals. This approach would





With the high rise of tax in Lagos, Ogun State has become the destination of choice for most investors in the recent time. The state Governor Ibikunle Amosun has attracted about 100 companies to Ogun State in the last couple of years and the investor drive has not yet abated.

His drive to attract investors to the state has been fruitful despite the present economic crunch. This is because the state offers a tax have far away from Lagos yet at its immediate door-mouth. Besides, the deliberate efforts of the Ogun state government by not hiking levies in its region of Lagos state has made it very attractive to businesses wishing to remain close to Lagos while doing business from the periphery.

Meanwhile more than a hundred businesses have shifted to Ogun State, thereby boosting the economic base of the state. Former President Olusegun Obasanjo had also vouched for the governor on his achievements for Ogun State and even thanked him for the good that he Governor Amosun has done for us all.

But the governor is not resting on his oars. His administration would construct an airport before the expiration of his term in 2019 as a necessity for the myriads of companies that now reside in the Ogun State. This will fast track the socio-economic development of the state, since the state had become number one business hub in the country.

The administration had invested in the infrastructural development of the state with new road networks and expansion of old ones. Amosun also created a 'New City' in Ogun State, which cut across the three local council areas of Ogun Central Senatorial District, namely Obafemi/Owode; Ifo, and Ewekoro.

On the model school being built by his administration in the area, Amosun said, this administration would also complete the Airport in Ikenne before leaving office. His administration revealed plans to construct 100 roads in 100 rural communities in the state, most of which are at completion stage.

The government has been engaged in the construction of infrastructure in border communities such as Arepo, Ibafo, among others. On the issue of transportation, Ibikunle Amosun, had already signed a N1.2bn Memorandum of Understanding with a Chinese company for the construction of a rail system.

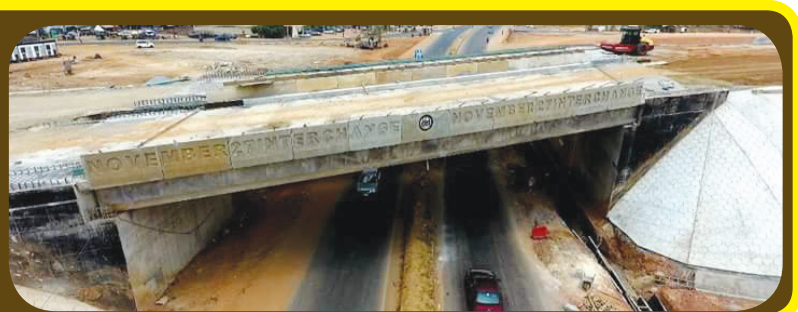
Last year the Nigeria Union of Journalists picked Governor Amosun out and named him the best performing governor in the country.

**Ibikunle Amosun
OGUN STATE**





**Rauf Aregbesola
OSUN STATE**



Sometime in 2013 when a certain resident of Osun state was asked to assess the performance of the governor of the state of Osun, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, the man simply blurted out he wanted to tell only thirty five of the governor's good deeds as the political head of the state. That offer sounded incredulous, but as things progressed, he got the opportunity to tell his happy story. That was preparatory to the Wednesday 27th of November, 2013, anniversary of the governor's ascension to office. Here are a few of the thirty five concrete achievements that the man mentioned. 40,000 youths were employed under the Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme (O'YES); 5,000 Youths trained and empowered in information communication technology under the Osun Youth Empowerment Technology (O'YESTECH); Over N2.4 billion injected into the economy as allowances for the OYES Volunteers; 123 kilometres of waterways (streams, arteries and canals) dredged to keep the state flood-free for three years; 750,000 school students provided with free school uniform coupled with empowerment of 3,000 tailors; 150,000 students provided with computer tablets (Opon Imo), an electronic learning tool preloaded with 17 subjects, 54 textbooks, and past questions of JAMB, WAEC AND NECO of the past 10 years. Coupled with the above are the introduction of bi-monthly environmental sanitation exercise under the O'CLEAN initiative to keep the state clean; beautification of the 185 Km Oyo Boundary (Asejire) to Osun-Ondo Boundary (Owena); Trucks provided for a Public-Private Partnership waste management model in the state; Primary School Funding Grants increased from N7.4 million to N424 million a year; Progress and peace have come to be permanent feature of the State of Osun under this current dispensation and to me, that is commendable; Omoluabi Garment Factory employed

up 3000 in the State of Osun; Free rail service to all indigenes of the State of Osun living in Lagos State; Payment of salaries to old people in the State of Osun referred to as Agba Osun. Enumerating some of the achievements of the present administration in the state, Osun APC Chairman said it is only an ingrate that would claim of not benefiting from the myriads of Aregbesola's interventions in all aspects of the economy. He submitted that there is no family that has never benefited from one or two projects being executed by the present administration across the nooks and crannies of the state. Some of the "direct impact" programmes of the state according to Famodun include, the free meals given to pupils of all the public schools every school day; construction of the state-of-the-art classrooms, free distribution school uniform to pupils and students of public schools and the distribution of tablets of knowledge popularly called "Opon Imo" to students among other interventions in education, health, security, agriculture as well as human and capital development. "Governor Aregbesola has never disappointed us. He has never failed the good people of the state that gave him the mandate as well as the sympathisers of his party. "If we are to rate him, we will say without fear of contradiction that no governor has done what he did within the few years of his government, in the state of Osun. Governor Aregbesola may not have invited foreign direct investment into the State of Osun but he planted the seeds of truth. He is an advocate of openness and whenever he admonished administrations to tell the truth about their financial status so as to avoid pretending that we run a rich country, means it. Conscience, like the late Sardauna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello used to say, is an open wound, only truth can heal it.

Honesty is his best policy



The Oyo state capital, Ibadan, is still running flush with rust and gold. But this is happening in a modern fashion, thanks to the visionary leadership of Governor Ajumobi. Ibadan remains one of the most populous cities in Africa and agreeably one of the things that the state needs very urgently is a breather.

The governor in his visionary way therefore detected this early enough and began to open up the city of Ibadan, without necessarily distorting the ancient relics that reminds one of the town's rustic nature that is distinctly African.

The Governor began with the construction of 215 roads, seven earth dams, a fly over at Mokola and dredged 43 rivers, canals and streams and more than 120 drains. Once that is done, the governor moved swiftly into the social welfare and socio-economic empowerment sectors where he employed 20,000 youths into the Youth Empowerment Scheme of Oyo State – Yes-O.

The “Keke Ajumose” Scheme was vigorously pursued next, with the procurement of tricycles which were given on loan to rickshaw riders. Knowing their volatility, the governor then moves to secure the state in collaboration with security agencies and the establishment of Operation Burst, a government arrangement towards safety.

This completes the requirement for Foreign Direct Investment into the state. Because of the development, some of the state's foreign partners are constructing the largest soya milk industry in Africa, while

another is building the largest bakery in West Africa.

It is a product of deliberate planning that a major food processing company is blooming side-by-side with a major dairy producer and the biggest outsource agency for the telecoms industry in Nigeria all at once. Ibadan as many know it is the home of firsts.

So it is not a mirage that it is the first in the country to wholly diversify its economy from other sources of revenue to largely agriculture. The state began by employing agricultural extension officers whose job is to go from farm to farm to educate and assist farmers on the new technology of farming for maximum returns. It then furthered

its
ex-

plots
by

erecting the largest poultry that will produce the highest number of day-old chicks in Nigeria.

This was followed by the procurement of 320 tractors for farmers in the State, the training of 3,500 Yes-O Cadets as Agriculture Extension Cadets and the government then signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with investors from the United States of America, Canada, Australia and South Africa, for the establishment of large scale commercial farms in Oyo State.

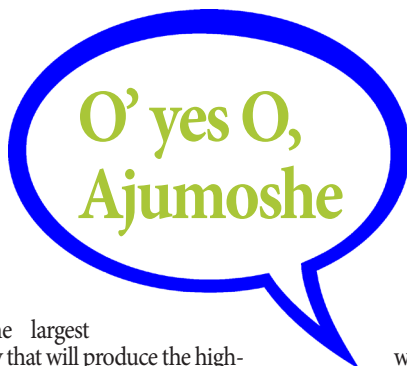
Of course, foreign direct investment always demands the compliments of critical infrastructure. The first being an educated population that can handle the global requirements for development. Indeed, Ibadan has always been Nigeria's citadel of learning so government summarily resorted to revamping education. It immediately commenced the rehabilitation of 235 blocks of classrooms in Primary and Secondary Schools, followed by the supply of science and home economics equipment and furniture to our schools. The payment of N396 million WAEC fees and distribution of about 3.3 million exercise books to pupils in primary schools was made. Not done, the state commenced the process of establishing the Technical University of Oyo State and the training of teachers. Over 12,000 students were awarded scholarships and bursary irrespective of their origins.

The entire schools in the state were equipped with computers and other ICT facilities including schools for the physically challenged. Accordingly government embarked on the prompt payment of salaries as well as the promotion of over 1,500 teachers despite a 100 per cent review of their car and housing loans.

Oyo state under Governor Ajumobi entered into a partnership with the University of Ibadan in providing adequate monitoring of our schools, upgrade of satellite



Abiola Ajimobi
OYO STATE



campuses of the Polytechnic, Ibadan in Saki and Eruwa into full-fledged Polytechnics and the establishment of the Technical University, Ibadan

Oyo state didn't relent in healthcare. It began with the provision of drugs worth over N200 million to hospitals and the rehabilitation of four General Hospitals while providing them with ambulances which are located at strategic centers. The state also embarked on the employment of more medical personnel to improve healthcare delivery. As a responsible government, Oyo state carried out the treatment of over half a million patients through Free Health Mission, a medium which

takes health care services to the door steps of the people.

The 'Abiyamo' Project principally aimed at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality in the State was encouraged. In partnership with Global SICKLE Cell Alliance (Glo SCA), a US-based organization and PriHEMAC (indigenous NGO) on screening of Sickle Cell Diseases among new-born babies) sixty-two (62) new Primary Health Centres are already planned in sixty (60) political wards without PHCs. The government also showed concern about the environment where it made considerable progress towards a clean and conducive environment.





The plateau, popularly referred to as jos city or J-town, which used to be the peoples' hideaway and favorite holiday spot due to it serene environment and very good climate weather turned out to be the most deserted and most feared of all cities in the country. This started happening during and after the 2001-2015 communal/religious crisis which rocked the towns, villages, people and businesses all down to its knees. Luckily the city of jos and other local government areas can now boast of relative peace as the name "HOME OF PEACE" is to a large extend gradually bouncing back to its usual lively town. This is because of one man, the current governor of plateau state governor Simeon Lalong who has refused to sleep with his two eyes closed for the sake of humanity until he made it possible for his citizenry to sleep with their two eyes closed. All the was achieved because of his excellent idea such as "town hall" meetings were held with all the stakeholders in the state as potent tool in the sustenance of issues based policies and sensitization, security consultative meetings between warring Berom and Fulani communities, the Peace and Reconciliation Committee and the substantial implementation of the report of peace committees which has led to the sustainable peace and mutual coexistence that Plateau State is enjoying today.

HIS ACHIEVEMENTS
Recently, the state government approved N3 billion to reacquire Barc farms, a subsidiary of the state-owned Jos International Breweries, earlier sold to a private farmer 24 years ago.

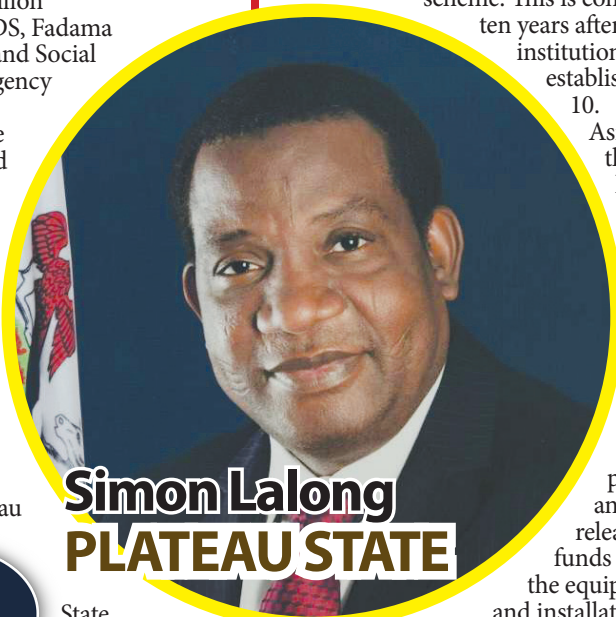
1. **Internal security:** The state government successfully mediated in the crisis between Fulani herdsmen and Berom farmers, particularly in Barkin Ladi and Riyom Councils. It minimised persistent killings in the state, which had become a daily occurrence.
2. **Workers' welfare:**The government cleared the backlog of inherited salaries of civil servants and eight months of pension to pensioners. It has sustained the payment of workers monthly since then.
3. **Economy:** The government successfully hosted a trade fair after 10 years suspension by successes administration due to civil unrest.
4. **Ghost workers:**The Direct Data

- capture exercise, Bank Verification Number (BVN) and physical verification of staff were introduced the tackle the problem.
5. **Looted funds:**The government recovered looted funds of about N2.7 billion from the State UBEC.
6. Added to that he harmonized pensions of retired civil servants and paid seven months out of the thirteen months inherited and Settling of outstanding Counterpart Funds of over N200 million for HIV and AIDS, Fadama II, Community and Social Development Agency micro projects.
7. In the sphere of education, and to address some anomalies in the tertiary institutions, the government re-structure and immediate reinstatement of the unjustly suspended Vice Chancellor of Plateau State University, (PLASU), Bokkos.
8. The immediate reconstitution of the Governing Council of PLASU and the mentation of the
9. He also facilitated and ensured release of over N500 million as funds for infrastructure development and successful accreditation of academic programs at PLASU. This will now enable the backlog of two sets of students to graduate and commence their
10. Besides the above achievements,

Peace & Tranquility

Simon Lalong
PLATEAU STATE

imple- National Univer- sities Commission (NUC) Special Visitation report and advocacy visits to the National Universities Commission (NUC) and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) for interventions in the State Tertiary Institutions. These have yielded positive dividends.



scheme. This is coming ten years after the institution was established.

10. Aside that, he ap-

Lalong has equally recorded positively in the area of agriculture, industrialization among others. He did all these despite the lean resources and state allocation of his state. "When you have limited resources, it is not possible for development to be even, you have to ration it and gradually all the other local governments will get the projects. But presently, under Governor Lalong, the projects are even, it is not lopsided at all," Atikum who is a former governor to the state had this to say on governor Simeon Lalong.

proved and released funds for the equipping and installation of E-Library at the

Completed and Commissioned Ultra-modern E-Library at the College of Health Technology, Zawan , Infrastructure development of construction and Restructuring/Renovation received a boost with the sum of about N120 million at the State Polytechnic Barkin Ladi.

11. Besides the above achievements,



"My goal is to make Rivers State a land of peace and prosperity with boundless opportunities and possibilities – a place where no one is left behind..." - Governor Nyesom Ezenwo Wike

Two years after his historic takeover of the reins of power in Rivers State, Governor Nyesom Wike has been on a project spree. These developmental projects have endeared him to the Rivers' people, having affected all strata of the people with his novel programmes, no wonder he has been dubbed "Mr. Project" by all his contemporaries. The indefatigable and visionary leader has made a remarkable difference in governance. Itemizing Wike's milestone achievements is difficult as he keeps churning one project or the other as he aims to make his people happy and comfortable. Suffice it to say that under his administration, Port Harcourt, has regained its "Garden City" status with a network of roads linking all the streets in a manner that befits a state capital. And these are legacy projects. The difference is very clear with Wike because the average man can feel his projects. To complement that desire, the State Waste Management Agency (RIWAMA), which was hitherto moribund, was readily revived. Since then, there have been no dull moments as the erstwhile health and sanitation officers of the Agency are on the streets to ensure that all dirt and wastes are properly disposed and the resultant effects are there for all eyes to see. To complement the efforts of RIWAMA, another Agency, Roads Maintenance and Rehabilitation was equally resurrected and restructured, to ensure that potholes on all streets of Port Harcourt are a thing of the past. This has paid off in no small measure that driving round the city of Port Harcourt and many other cities in the state no longer poses any danger and has correspondingly reduced the road accidents. In education, the Wike administration has left no one in doubt that education remains a priority as far as developmental projects are concerned. Governor Wike embarked on massive reconstruction of dilapidated former boarding schools and colleges across the state, with a view to providing a conducive studying environment to students. At tertiary level, the then Rivers State University of Science



**Nyesom Wike
RIVERS STATE**

and Technology has been enlarged and renamed Rivers State University through the instrumentality of the State Legisla-

MR PROJECTS, rebuilding the garden city

tioning all companies operating in the state to give preference to Rivers' indigenes in their employments. Also worthy of special mention is Governor Wike's concerted efforts in ensuring there is peace and security of lives and property in every part of the state. In this regard, the State government has ensured and supported sufficiently, the efforts of all arms of security agencies in the State—the Police, Navy, Army and others, by donating patrol vehicles and other logistics for effective surveillance across the State. Still bent on distinguishing himself from those before him, Governor Nyesom



ture, with a new befitting world class faculty of law while the state-owned Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE) has been given a facelift and almost all its academic programmes accredited by the Nigerian Universities Commission and other relevant commissions.

Other sectors that have massively benefited from Governor Nyesom Wike include health and judiciary. Presently, the state-owned Braithwaite Memorial Hospital (BMH) that was comatose is now a citadel and referral centre in the country with the state-of-the-art facilities to ensure qualitative healthcare service delivery. The primary and secondary healthcare sectors are not also left out as all the non-functional health centres across the state have been restructured, reactivated and are currently functioning with resident doctors in each.

The Wike administration has played critical roles in repositioning the judiciary after her years of turbulence. Recall that before Governor Wike mounted the leadership saddle of the state, the courts were under lock and key. Not limiting his vision for an independent and impartial judiciary and to ensure that judicial officers and judges carry out their functions with minimum stress and maximum comfort, Governor Wike has extended his developmental strides to both the State High Court, the Federal High Court in Port Harcourt and even the Court of Appeal, with modern edifices housing both judges

Wike is the first among his peers to build an Ecumenical Centre for Christians in Port Harcourt, the State Capital, and to resurrect the rapidly dwindling social life and hospitality business in the State. Wike also just completed and commissioned a multi-million naira Pleasure Park in Port Harcourt in the light of the several opportunities available for investors in the state, whose patronage is a sine-qua-non for development. The amiable Governor Wike has fulfilled his campaign promises, exceeding all expectations in a manner that has astounded all. Through wilful determination in the construction of various projects across



in the state, Governor Wike has carved a niche for himself as 'A man of the people.'





Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
SOKOTO STATE

The quintessential legislator

Anyone who has watched the performance of Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal as the Speaker of the House of Representatives where he put pressure on the then President Goodluck Jonathan on the moralities and fundamentals of democracy even though they belonged in the same party, would expect Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State to hit the ground running. And, that he did without equivocation.

Tambuwal started like the olden days military administrators who paid late night visits to hospitals, lamented patients' conditions and sought immediate solutions to them. He did the same to schools and other public institutions in order to find remedies to their malaise. For one who is used to oversight functions, paying unannounced visits to institutions became a natural trajectory.

In doing that, Tambuwal found himself being talked about as a modern-day "Mungo Park" after he discovered Gudu Local Government Area as the only Local Government in Nigeria that did not have a complete secondary school and provided it with one. Until then, Gudu had the worst education statistics in the entire world. Apart from suffering the ignominy of not having a senior secondary school to cater for its estimated 120,000 residents, a 2013 survey showed that out of the 1,890 students in Junior Secondary Schools in the council, only one of them was female.

"But all that has changed. The Sokoto State Executive Council gave approval for the establishment of a model boarding secondary school in Balle, the headquarters of the local government area, and N1 billion was summarily earmarked for the new school among others scheduled for rehabilitation.

Last year when the administration of Aminu Waziri Tambuwal clocked one year, the governors Special Adviser on Media, Mr Imam Imam declared as follows: to make the future secure, the present has to be ruffled. Far reaching and innovative deci-



velopment the admin- CFR (Mutawal- topmost priority emergency on the sector, according it all the desired political will, commitment, determination and budgetary allocation. This is with a view to bringing about the desired change that will reposition the sector to rapidly address the emerging challenges of infrastructure, enrolment, retention and transition of children, girl child education, learning achievements, teachers' quality and motivation, apart from community and private sector participation.

In the last two (2) years the following achievements were recorded in the various component activities of the Ministry. Teachers remuneration and welfare under review and improvement were implemented; Teachers service board transformed to Secondary Education Board for effectiveness; Volunteer teachers scheme engaged unemployed teachers and retirees; Adopted teacher recruitment and deployment policy for better disposition; Screened 1988 N-Power Participants to schools and administered Computer Based Test (CBT) training SEDTF 4500 SS3 students



enhance efficiency in registration. Without doubt, the people of Sokoto State would hardly forget the cool breeze of education that came with the administration of Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

sions were taken to ensure the mistakes of the past were not repeated, while at the same time, making the necessary impact on the people. Key sectors of the state have felt the impact.

In terms of social intervention, Sokoto is head-and-shoulder above its peers, Imam Imam declared. He did not forget to define his principal's populist inclinations towards providing and implementing People oriented policies, the fulcrum of which we are doing a cover on POPI this edition.

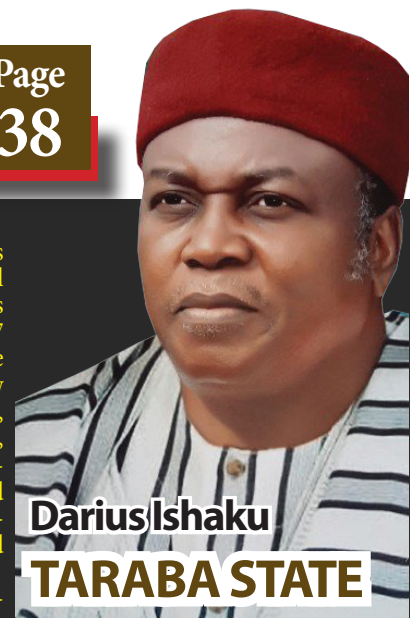
Even when the Federal Government was yet to decide on payment of allowances to the most vulnerable members of the society, Sokoto implemented the policy by giving the sum of N6,500 to extremely poor citizens monthly. In addition to this, less privileged members of the society do not have to pay for drugs in hospitals because the government sets aside N10 million monthly for provision of free prescribed medication to the sick who cannot afford to purchase their medication. The funds are kept in selected hospitals and pharmaceutical stores in different parts of the state, for easy access.

Adequate and functional education is the bedrock and foundation for sustainable socio-economic development of any state or nation. In recognition of this fact, the administration of Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Sokoto since inception in 2015 accorded to education and went further to declare a state of emergency on the sector, according it all the desired political will, commitment, determination and budgetary allocation. This is with a view to bringing about the desired change that will reposition the sector to rapidly address the emerging challenges of infrastructure, enrolment, retention and transition of children, girl child education, learning achievements, teachers' quality and motivation, apart from community and private sector participation.

In furtherance of the state of emergency imposed on the education sector, teachers enjoyed national and international workshops, seminars and study tours of Finland, US etc; Routine training and re-training of teachers and head teachers with partners; Pivotal Teacher Training Colleges enhanced supply and capacity of teachers while the NCE distance learning and PGDE opportunities for non-professional teachers signed female teacher mobility project and rural posting allowance were given. To incentivize learning, government settles registration fees for all SSCE Exams, the last time paying for examinations that were worth N1.3bn in 2yrs and gave incentive package for teachers and schools with outstanding performance.

The Sokoto state government also introduced Biometric enrolment of students to en-





Darius Ishaku
TARABA STATE

Just like the plateau, Taraba State was also known to be a restless place to live in due to challenges of ethnoreligious crisis. But coming with an endearing slogan, "GIVE ME PEACE AND I WILL GIVE YOU DEVELOPMENT", Governor Ishaku Darius, no doubt endeared himself to his people when their confidence in governance gradually returned. Being a true son, he knew where it hurt them the most and his first agenda was to restore peace to his people. Taraba is now enjoying a peaceful coexistence and businesses are booming as this was only a dream before his assumption to office.

Here is a summary of Governor Darius Dickson Ishaku's achievements in Taraba State:

Key among his achievements include the dualization of Kona Road, construction of Greenhouse, completion of projects hitherto started by the immediate past administration, sinking of over 100 boreholes across communities in the State, provision of potable water, improved electricity, revival of about five moribund companies out of the 25 inherited, renovation of three pilot hospitals, roads construction in Jalingo and Takum and the offer of employment to citizens of the state in strategic ministries.

WATER

Within his first week in office, Governor Ishaku released funds to the Taraba State Water Supply Agency with a stern directive that Jalingo, the state capital, had been without water for 10 months and that taps must begin to run. In a matter of days, all equipment was refurbished and taps flowed freely to the excitement of all.

In the area of rural water supply, Governor Ishaku sunk numerous boreholes in Pampetel, Gwahir, Garin Sule, Makurna, Madachi, Bashau, Mishali, Bashin, Jalingo Main Motor Park and Mechanics' Village.

Through partnership with the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) the governor has ongoing projects that have to do with the expansion of water pipelines in the state.

SECURITY

Taraba state had been plagued with a lot of skirmishes with restiveness everywhere, in fact, it was a state of normlessness. But thanks to the government of Governor Darius Ishaku, who all the stakeholders in the Taraba project were brought together and a way forward reached. Ishaku met with traditional and religious leaders so as to encourage peaceful co-existence which has impacted positively, as the brotherliness and sense of common purpose have been reinvigorated.

He resuscitated the standing Local Government Security Committees which had hitherto gone comatose. The meetings brought more sense of security to the grassroots.

HEALTH:

Health is wealth they say, is wealth. Governor Ishaku has also put in place health facilities to make sure Taraba people are given the best healthcare possible.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery in Jalingo which had stopped performing its statutory role of training nurses and midwives for over 10 years, is now back on track. He was able to achieve this by directing that nurses and midwives who had retired from service be recalled on contract basis. This has improved healthcare delivery a great deal.

The Ishaku administration has also intervened in critical areas to improve services at the Specialist Hospital, Jalingo.

Also, a Computerized Tomography, a hi-tech equipment which is critical to all forms of medical investigations was purchased.

Ishaku has also reinstated payment of running costs to all hospitals in the state. that the Specialist Hospital, Jalingo.

He renovated and upgraded three General Hospitals in three senatorial zones. These are in Wukari, Gembu and Bambur. Already, the renovation of the General Hospital in Wukari which was flagged off in February is now more than 50 percent completed. The hospitals in Gembu and Bambur will take their turns after the completion of the Wukari project.

During the 2016/2017 period, large quantities of drugs were procured and funds provided for disease control activities such as Lassa Fever, measles, cholera, whooping cough and cerebrospinal meningitis. Anti-snake venoms were also procured for the free treatment of snake bites in communities in Karim Lamido and Donga LGAs. Government also provided counterpart funding for tuberculosis and leprosy control and all-round polio control.

It also recruited 122 nurses and midwives and re-engaged 50 retired nurses on contract basis. It also conducted all its routine health campaign programmes during the period including the Maternal Newborn and Child Health Week flagged off by Governor Ishaku on Monday, May 22, 2017.

IMPROVED REVENUE

In the area of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), the governor changed the usual approach to an entirely different way, by blocking illegal avenues of fleecing the state and boosting the economic activities on the Mambilla Plateau with the rejuvenation of Mambilla Beverages Production Company.

EDUCATION

In its efforts to give equal opportunity to children and youth in education, the governor left absolutely no stone unturned as all schools were rehabilitated into more conducive environments for both teachers and students. This no doubt must be the reason why the 2016 WASC result of the state was 67.3%. this has not been so, in twenty-five years.

Since the coming of the Ishaku administration, the monthly feeding subvention for exchange schools – Government Comprehensive Secondary School, Jalingo and Marmara Government Girls Secondary School, Wukari of nearly N20 million has been faithfully paid. Transport exchange students with escorts to and from their schools has also been handled faithfully since then at a cost of nearly N26 million. For the registration of WAEC examination for some categories of students in the state, government paid N8.6 million while Six million naira was invested in the purchase of instructional materials.

Government also bought beds and beddings for schools during the period. The government, during the period, built and commissioned an office block for the establishment of WAEC presence in the state. A 406 Peugeot wagon was also purchased for use by the office.

The government is currently executing many rehabilita-

tion projects in educational institutions worth N1.7 billion. These include new classrooms, laboratories, toilets, computers and computer accessories and furniture.

TRANS-PORTATION / ROADS

When it comes to the constructions of roads, the governor is known to be aggressive.

The sum of N3 million was released to PW Nigeria Limited to remobilize back to site on Bali-Serti-Gembu Road. This is one project that has immense value to the state in boosting economic activities within that area. It is the gateway to the famous Gashaka Gumti National Park which is the largest games reserve in the whole of West Africa, with its famous fauna and flora; the road also leads to Mambilla Plateau, home of the high-quality Highland Tea, also the only tea plantation in West Africa, and of course, home to the famous Chappal Wadi Mountain which stands at about 2,419 metres above sea level, the highest point in Nigeria. Ishaku also rehabilitated the 6.5 Kilometer Takum Township roads by TARCMA to complement the new bridges built and commissioned recently by General T.Y. Danjuma (rtd).

Jalingo Airport which was in a state of disrepair at the time Ishaku came in as governor. That project was pursued with vigour and completed in record time. Thereafter, the administration entered into an agreement with the management of Overland Airlines which now operates three direct flights into Jalingo every week. Direct flights into the airport have also resumed. This has greatly enhanced tourism in the state.

POWER

On his assumption to office, His Excellency, Governor Darius Dickson Ishaku lamented the megawatts supply to Jalingo from the national grid. As a former Minister of Power, he engaged officials of the PHCN and the Yola Electricity Distribution Company to increase megawatts sent to the state. The request was immediately granted. Jalingo today enjoys 18 megawatts of electricity.

A gigantic transformer was installed to service the Wukari Business District with 7.5 megawatts of electricity. This is just as about 50 transformers were made available by the Governor for different wards across the state.

His Excellency Governor Ishaku commissioned the Tunga Mini Hydro-electric Dam executed in partnership between the state government, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugee, UNIDO. Ishaku gave his best to the project when he was the Minister of Power. This project is expected to provide gainful employment to the people within and around the Kakara community as small-scale businesses such as phone recharging, grinding machines, business centres, poultry incubators, etc can now be powered. It's indeed a RESCUE right in time for our teeming youths who grapple daily for limited job openings in the country.





By Abdullahi Bego

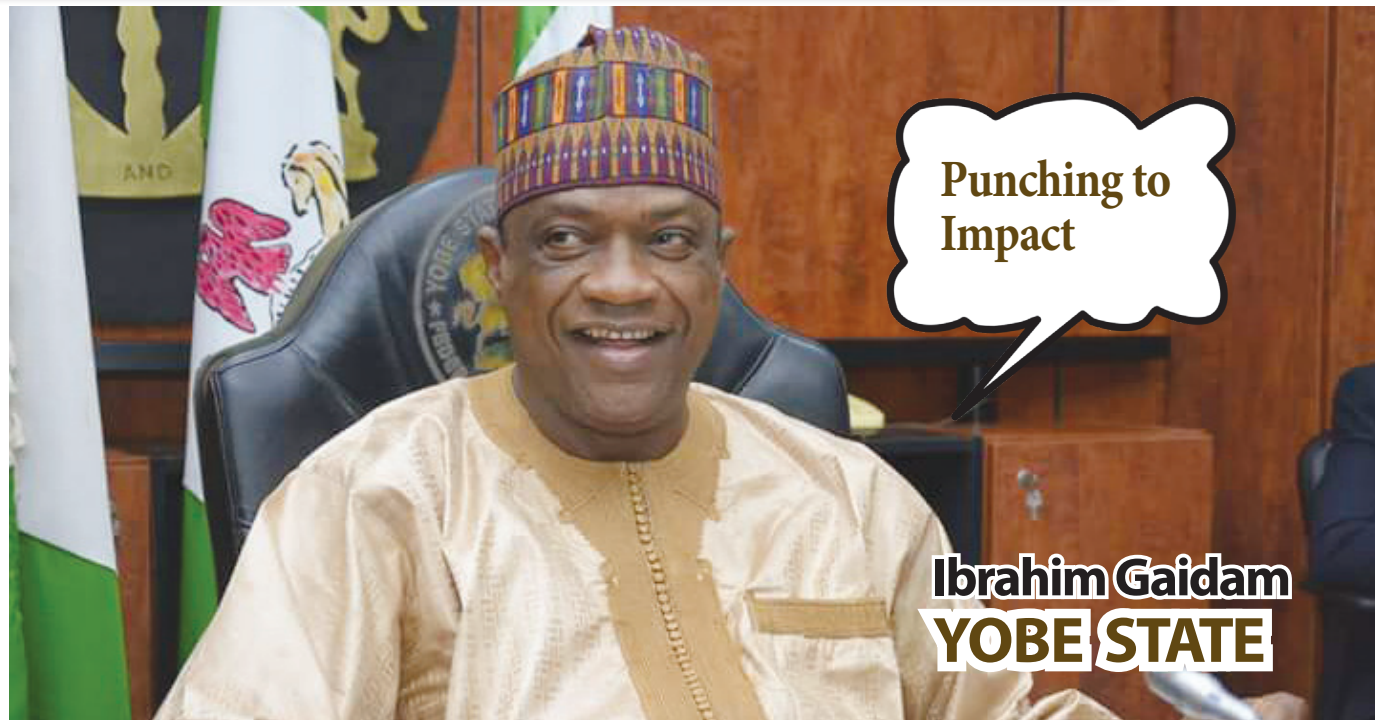
As Yobe State emerges from six years of devastating insurgency, there is a consensus among a broad spectrum of public opinion that its governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam, is moving fast to rebuild the state and place it on the path to socio-economic glory.

It may be a little harder to understand for some who were fed a steady diet of negative stories out of Yobe as Boko Haram killed and maimed its way to the gloom and doom that had befallen the state. But over the last 20 months when peace began to stabilize, Yobe has made more progress than during the decade preceding Boko Haram.

There are at least two factors that underpin this reality. First, there is a sense of urgency to rebuild and make progress after the clock was set back several years by the senseless mayhem. Second, was a demonstrable display of prudence and transparency in resource management that the Governor Gaidam administration has used effectively to push its agenda.

These factors and the determination of Governor Gaidam to leave behind rock-solid and sustainable legacies have translated, in concrete returns for key sectors of Yobe's public life, including in education, healthcare, roads construction, agriculture, the civil service and the security of life and property.

Since its beginning and through Boko Haram's ravaging attacks the Gaidam administration has built 1,094 kilometres of roads. Vast swathes of the state that were hard to



reach have been effectively linked with road networks. Ask the people of Machina, Yusufari, Yunusari, Gaidam, Gashu'a, Karasuwa, Gada-ka, Godowoli or the people of Gujba/Gulani who were the hardest hit by Boko Haram what government has done for them and their response will shock the naysayers. Across Yobe State, people are excited that the roads Governor Gaidam has built have effectively become the signifiers of mobility and metaphors of entry and exit that roads all over the world are known to be.

In towns across the state too, the Gaidam administration has built more township roads and drainages than all previous administrations in the state combined. In the state cap-

ital, Damaturu, there is currently an ongoing urban renewal program that seeks to make the new newer.

For the first time in history, Yobe's people can boast of a modern and still modernising healthcare system. The governor has built Yobe's first University Teaching Hospital with state-of-the-art equipment and a harvest of specialized personnel that are unrivalled in the entire Northeast region.

Gaidam has also set up a Medical College at the Yobe State University (YSU) where a massive complex for the college's key departments of biochemistry, physiology and human anatomy is under construction. The state is now poised to begin home-based training of medical doctors from September this year.

The governor has also rebuilt and expanded the State Specialist Hospital, Damaturu with over 13 new ward and departmental buildings, beddings and equipment. In Gashu'a, Potiskum, and Gaidam towns – three

of Yobe's five largest towns - the General Hospitals there, built in the late 60's and early 70's, are undergoing their first major expansion and upgrade. And the people of Dapchi and Damagum towns are already enjoying the benefits of the Gaidam healthcare policy.

Governor Gaidam is working hard to reposition the education sector. Five secondary schools in Yunusari, Gwio-Kura, Fika, Nangere and Nguru are currently being rehabilitated, expanded and upgraded. Work in Yunusari, Gwio-Kura and Fika schools is almost 100 percent completed. Only two weeks ago, the governor approved the payment of over N1.3 billion in counterpart funding for the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) joint projects for 2015 and 2016.

The Gaidam administration is rebuilding 24 primary schools and over 300 classroom blocks ravaged

by insurgents; it has also provided classroom furniture and fenced many of the schools that were previously unfenced to improve security.

Yobe's higher education is also enjoying some of its best moments. At about one billion naira per annum, the Gaidam administration is paying more student scholarships than all Northeast states combined. The administration continues to build infrastructure and provide services at the YSU that the Yobe State university is described by a veteran University administrator and former Vice Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Professor Abdullahi Mahdi as the 'fastest growing University' in the North.

Across the higher education spectrum, repositioned management and additional resources have combined to make teachers and students work even harder and achieve more. Under Governor Ibrahim Gaidam, Yobe's higher education is on the upswing.

In agriculture, the administration is undertaking major irrigation projects in Mugura, Boloram and the Nguru Lake which when fully harnessed, will improve food production dramatically. Government has also ordered 1590 metric tonnes of fertilizer for farmers, worth around N200 million this season.

Under Gaidam, Yobe is known to regularly pay workers' salaries. It's a record. It has also set aside a standing fund for pensioners apart from spending billions in gratuities to retirees.





Governor Yari Abubakar's detractors have a herculean task, it seems. The more they try the hack, the higher he soars, because if you're looking for a governor with a high sense of commitment, determination and doggedness in every fight, Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar is it. He is a visionary and a loyal ally of President Muhammadu Buhari.

Most importantly, Governor Yari Abubakar has been able to push his development agenda through, putting on ground tangible projects which now dot the Zamfara landscape.

Though he inherited a debt profile of over N53 billion from his predecessors when he took over in 2011, the governor has so far settled a substantial part of the debt to the tune of over N23 billion.

Apart from the debt, the governor has also paid out another whopping N15 billion to contractors handling various projects in the state. One interesting thing is that most of the contractors were those that previous administrations hired on projects that have direct social impact on the people.

This altruistic step has helped in cementing relations between government and the opposition and doused the tension among the political class in Zamfara state.

Governor Yari was able to initiate his own projects in addition to implementing the ones he inherited from his predecessors, all in a bid, to change the landscape of Zamfara State and for the overall interest of the people of the state. These projects have been completed and commissioned and are serving the larger interest of the people.

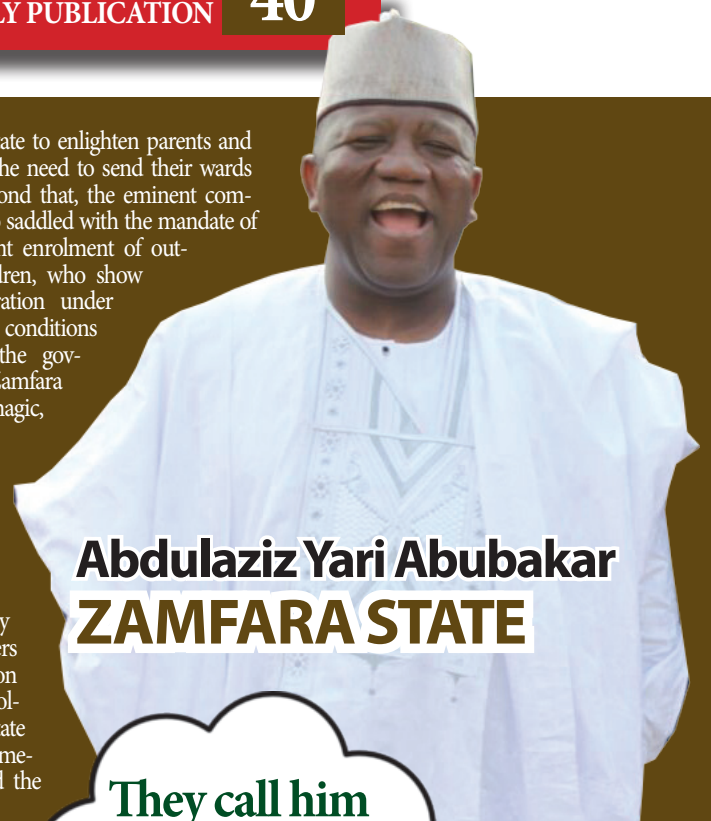
His knowledge of the political economy and the distribution of state resources helped his "ROAD FOR ALL" programme. Some of the roads projects executed by Yari's administration include: the 118-kilometre Miyanchi-Daki Takwas-Gummi Road, the 31.7-kilometre Gusau-Kasuwar Daji Road, the 54-kilometre Kaura Namoda-Zurmi-Gidan Jaja-Jibiya Road, the 75-kilometre Colony-Rini-Gora-Janbako-Faru-Lambar Boko Road and many more.

During the first four years of his administration, Agriculture enjoyed top priority, as he introduced a unique and popular policy of selling a bag of fertilizer to farmers at N1000 per bag, a subsidy never enjoyed by any farming community anywhere on the African continent. For fertilizers to be readily made available and affordable to farmers in the state, the administration of Governor Yari spent the sum of N12.697 billion to procure over 122,000 metric tonnes of assorted fertilizers which were sold to farmers through their respective local governments, wards and polling units. In addition he introduced the popular 'ZACAREP', a system where farmers are given loans to produce both cash and food crops in abundance for the government to buy off the surplus from them and store in its silos for resale to people in times of scarcity. These strategies have ensured food security for the locals and complemented Nigeria's food self-sufficiency drive.

With the challenges confronting education, among them low-enrolment of pupils in urban and rural areas, students' drop-out, poor learning and teaching infrastructure in primary and secondary schools in the state including the menace of unqualified teachers, Governor Yari Abubakar did not hesitate to take drastic measures to arrest the drift in the system.

First on the line of the remedies was the raising of a powerful committee made up of top traditional rulers, educationists, religious and political leaders from all the 14

LGAs of the state to enlighten parents and guardians on the need to send their wards to school. Beyond that, the eminent committee was also saddled with the mandate of ensuring instant enrolment of out-of-school children, who show up for registration under the terms and conditions provided by the government of Zamfara State. Like magic, the new measure adopted by the governor worked. And as a result of the success recorded by the stakeholders committee on school enrolment, the state governor immediately released the



**Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar
ZAMFARA STATE**

**They call him
Chairman
for life**

ing Another commendable was the establishment of a the mandate of ensuring ade-

for students in the state so as to boost their minds for school feeding programme, students are provided with balanced diet menus consisting of rice, yam, beans, eggs, chicken, tea and bread. This innovation has given rise to the improvement of enrolments and academic performance by the students in local and national examinations, making the state to thump its chest in self adulation.

Between 2011 and 2015, Governor Abdulaziz Yari spent over N18 billion in feeding over 154,198

Con-healthcare affordable adopted structures in health-in-services to This has the massive of health the state. strides tration is ist Hospital.

The sec- been given Toyota vans have been procured and distributed to security agencies. The government has also done a lot to bring about peace in the country. All these actions manifest in the political sagacity that endear Governor Yari Abubakar to his people and to the governors who always cheer him as at the Nigeria Governors' Forum as Chairman for Life.

sum of N5 billion as the state's counterpart fund for the Universal Basic Education, a move that instantly lifted the state to the comity of states to access fund- from the UBEC with ease.

gesture by the Yari leadership vibrant feeding agency with adequate and nutritious meals sound learning. Under the

conscious of the need to make services readily available and to the people, the governor measures to improve the and provide key personnel stitutions to be able to render the citizenry with ease.

been made possible through renovation and construction centres and hospitals across Among the monumental made by the Yari adminis- the Yariman Bakura Special-

riority of lives and property has a boost. No fewer than 500





IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH

Niger State hosts all past govs in the state.

