

# Commissioned Projects at Buratai, Miringa and Biu Town Local Government Area Of Borno State

By Hon. Yusuf Adamu



It was opportune to be part of the entourage of His Excellency, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum to Biu Local Government Area of Borno state for the commissioning on projects at Buratai, Miringa, Biu Town and also holding interactive session with key stake holders. We departed from Maiduguri to Biu by 9:00am through Damaturu, and our first point of call was at Buratai.

## At Buratai:

· His Excellency, commissioned a 30- Classroom New Mega Secondary school with administrative block, toilets and security room which is of International standard. Its laudable because I was surprise to see such structure which was a manifestation of the administration commitment to the educational sector.

H.E, approved the immediate employment of 20-qualified teachers. Screening was carried out by the Commissioner of Education, Alhaji Babagana Wakilbe alongside his team and the qualified teachers were selected and deployed to the Mega-school.

· This stride has never occurred in the History of Education in Borno State as this will go a long way to impact knowledge to the locals, reduce youth restiveness in the area.· Newly constructed 50 bed capacity primary health centre was also commissioned by HE in order to boast access to health facilities by the locals. At Miringa:

After leaving Buratai, H.E's entourage stopped over at





Miringa which he had an interactive session with youths and other stakeholders. He gave them the assurance of commissioning the hospital built by Chevron in 3-days' time. Before proceeding to Biu town, the equipment for the hospital arrived and a progress visit was done by H.E. He further orders the construction of staff quarters, fencing of the centre, redeployment of medical teams, grant approval for employment and cash gift of N1M to the temporary staff. Further approval was also granted for the construction of 200- housing estates at Miringa so as to bridge the housing deficit especially to accommodate the returnees. Miringa-Gunda road was also inspected by His Excellency and as a result he interacted with the community leaders and youths where he asked professional questions especially on the continuity of the road but in response, they affirm that on the interim it cannot be completed. Consequently, approval for palliatives was granted by H.E and further assured the people that the road will be completed and the people were highly excited with the development.

### At Biu Town:

HE arrived Biu town same day from Miringa and was received by a marmot crowd and he was highly excited with the way he was received.

· HE spent 3day interacting with the people of Biu on various developmental projects and issues while placing emphasis on youth restiveness especially children.

Consequently, he approved a N2 billion worth of Multi-Sectional skills acquisition centre in Biu town which was flagged off immediately and gave a matching order for its speedy completion so as to take off these youths from the streets. As a result resourceful stakeholders were happy and assured HE that such an edifice project will be judiciously utilized.

· H.E commissioned 60- classrooms Higher Islamic schools of international standard which can compete with its peers globally and further stressed that qualified teachers will be recruited. Textbooks were distributed to students free of charge and 200- bicycle was also given to pupils in order to ease their movement to school. N40M was granted from the state to community based managers of the schools for the payment of salaries over a given period. Office for the Zonal Monitoring and Evaluation department and special office under the Governor's office was built and commissioned in order to serve the interest of Southern Borno. 300-Housing units was also built and commissioned by His excellency. All these achievement was done within 3-days of his visits.

### At Emirs Palace:

· At the emir's palace, H.E expressed his appreciation to the people of Biu the way and manner he was received by a marmot crowd and he pledged to support the people in fulfilling his promises.

· As part of the fallout of the interactive session with stakeholders and the need to salvage the situation, H.E



immediately approved a palliative or empowerment fund of N100M which is to be distributed to 1000 beneficiaries involving youths and women so as to empower their micro and small business. The distribution was flagged off immediately at the Kadafur Cinema.

The emir in turn expressed his gratitude to H.E for keeping his promises to the people of Biu especially in the area of capacity building and other developmental projects. Socio-economic Angle Being part of the entourage, a keen observation was noted especially on the restive youths majorly within the ages of 9- 18 years as there were on drugs and other illegal activities which is not good for the progress and development of the community. Zooming further, reveals that the population of Biu LGA by age especially those considered as youth is as follows; those under the age of 15 years and within the ages 15- 64 years constitute 40.9% and 55.9% of the entire 3 population of Biu LGA. This constitutes a large chunk and it further implies that the community is sitting on a time-bomb waiting to explode. Consequently, we as stakeholders must proactively salvage this situation especially by utilizing the Multi-Sectional Skills Acquisition Centre so that these youths can be train in various skills and empowered to start-up their business as this will go a long way to take off the youth from the street.

More so, there is need to have a trust fund account to support the educational and agricultural sector of the town as this has happened in China, and we can replicate same here as its workable. In the educational sector, more community schools can be set-up as in the case of 70's and the existing ones rehabilitated so that it will accommodate and take off these youths from the streets. In addition agricultural input can also be purchase and distributed to farmers as this will boast output/food supplies, create employment, boast their level of income/revenue, reduce poverty to mention but a few There is need for all stakeholders to come together irrespective of party affiliations and see ourselves as ambassador to invite investors, revive local industries or set-up new ones taking into cognizance the access to raw materials and other factors as this will go a long way in reducing youth restiveness. There is further need for stakeholder's especially religious leaders, traditional rulers and community leaders to embark on sensitization on the need for youth to stay away from drugs and other illegal activities. More so, these drug dealers needs to be identified, engaged and empower so that they change their line of business as this will go a long way to curtail drugs activities within the Biu environs because if we as stakeholders do nothing today, posterity will judge us.

Thank you

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