

FROM THE PUBLISHER

SHOWCASE YOUR PROJECTS

The Issue of the 13% Oil derivation refunds has been on the front burner even from the date the fund was established. The challenge is that the leaders or rather Governors that collect these refunds on behalf of their people do whatever they like to do with it even at the detriment of their people. Most times they divert these refunds and use it for other purposes other than what it is supposed to be meant for and they believe that they owe nobody any explanation. These refunds are ideally supposed to be used to address the deplorable conditions of the people and providing infrastructure to ease the living conditions and degradation that has affected the lives of the of people.

So far, the Federal Government has released over N1.98tn as at 2021 and yet the debt profile of the Oil producing states that have benefitted from these refunds has risen to N3.3tn. The question that readily comes to mind is what have the Oil producing states been able to do with these huge refunds they have been collecting on behalf of their people over the years yet still acquiring a huge debt profile? Have these refunds been able to address some of the yearnings and aspirations of the impoverished people of the Oil producing states? Your guess is as good as mine. The Host communities are still shouting on top of their voices and asking questions like what are you doing with the 13% derivation refunds, we can't see anything on ground. The Governors and leaders are saying through their spokesmen, we are judiciously expending the monies. The people are replying them by saying, 'Show us the projects and what you are doing with the money you collected on our behalf. We demand accountability'.

This is why our January 2023 Cover is on the subject 13% Oil Derivation Refunds. The people want accountability and the Governors have no choice than to Showcase the Project and let the people know in details what they have done with the billions of Naira that have been collected on their behalf. It is the right of the people to ask for accountability and it is the responsibility of the leadership to provide answers to their demands. This is the only way the people can be convinced that their resources are not been squandered and used by their leaders for self-aggrandizement. It is an open secret and on record that most of these Governors have acquired state of the art buildings and assets both in Nigeria and across choice cities of the world while their people are languishing in poverty and underdevelopment. One would ask how did they make such monies as to own properties across the world. Time and time alone will tell. The only way they can exonerate themselves is to explain to their people what they have done with their money and that is where we stand. We promise to offer our platform to help them showcase their projects, if they are willing and sincere about being responsible about the demands of their people. They are at liberty to reach out to us. Service to the people is all about responsibility and willingness to account to the people. This is the hall mark of true leadership.

The 2023 election is by the corner. The Independent Electoral Commission should ensure that everyone that registered should be given opportunity to collect his/her PVC. A situation where people go to their State INEC offices and are told their PVC is not ready or has not been produced is not tenable. All PVCs should be ready by now as citizens are not ready to be disenfranchised on account of INEC unpreparedness. The recent alarm raised by Civil Society Groups that there are moves to compromise the electoral process in twelve states by some politicians in connivance with officials of INEC through dubious technicalities that will deny registered citizens from getting their PVC before the elections should not be ignored.

INEC must do her best to ensure that the electoral process is not compromised as only a free and fair election will guarantee the emergence of the people's choice.

Your regulars are there for your reading pleasure. Keep a date with us as we promise you better and juicier edition in this new year. I wish you a happy, blessed and prosperous 2023. God bless you.



08035986627

DEVELOPMENT Monitor

ISSN 0794-1625

An international Development Magazine
published quarterly by Media Ideals for Development
P. O. Box 13629, Wuse Abuja Nigeria

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Development Monitor is Published quarterly by
Media Ideals for Development (MIDEV)

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