

Prof. UMARA ZULUM; A PRAGMATIC AND PROACTIVE GOVERNOR

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further worsen the cost and standard of living because majorly, the prices of food recorded an increase, which is attributed to supply deficit. Even non-food items are not exempted but the Governor has been a strong pillar for the people especially through his palliative's programs. But, with the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government (FG) owing to its exclusion in the 2023 appropriation bill, the cost of items further recorded upward trajectory which has made cost of living difficult especially for the people of the state. Though, the FG has proposed a palliative of N500billion which is to be distributed among 12million persons and others for the SMEs, Farmers, Manufacturers which was captured in the president recent address to the nation. Although, our proactive governor never waited and has taken the bull by the horn, he has moved ahead to launch and distribute the state palliatives with a target of 300,000 households with about 6 persons per H/H to reach about 1,800,000 people in need. Among these palliatives includes the following:

- *80 vehicles were released to ease the transportation cost which made up of 50 luxurious buses and 30 pick-up vans for free transportation of farmers and their produce.*
- *Distribution of Food and Non-Food items such as Bags of rice, spaghetti, maize grains, wrappers for women and N5,000 each to 23,000*

Our Governor, Khadimul ummah, His Excellency, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, has change the narrative once again by taken the led, he has displayed his unique leadership and governance style, unleashed his people-oriented programs among others. In fact, the good people of Borno state, we are lucky to have him as their leader. May Allah (SWT) continue to guide and protect him as his stir the affairs of the state to greater heights (Ameen). Borno state has been one of the state's worst hit by the insurgence which has lasted for over a decade that resulted to the collapse of all state sectors and structures which loss of lives and properties cannot be excepted. Amidst this condition of recovery from insurgence, COVID-19 and Naira Re-design policy emerges in 2019 and 2023 respectively which



households (i.e., 13,000 households in Baga town, 3,500 at cross Kauwa and 6,500 in Doro Baga) in Baga town of Kukawa LGA.

- **Distribution of Food and Non-Food items to over 300,000 IDPs at Muna camp the state capital.**
- **Shares 400 resettlement houses at Molai which captures communities like Maibukarti, Jibrinti, Mainari shuwa, Mainari Kanuri, and Tilori and each household got rice, maize, mats, wrappers and cash.**

If it is not Governor Zulum, who else can single handedly dole out this rich bouquet of palliatives. Thank you, your excellency, and if this goes around the state especially to the 1,800,000 persons in need as identified, it will go a long way in exporting them from poverty, improve their standard of living, reduce crimes which will invariably have a positive spillover effect on the economy of the state. Your Excellency, thank you once again and keep sparkling, Allah is your strength.

Fuel Subsidy: Zulum fulfils promise on new phase of palliatives

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has flagged off a fresh phase of palliatives which is targeting about 300,000 households with about six persons per household to reach one million and eight hundred thousand (1.8m) persons in need. Zulum launched the distribution recently at Muna IDPs camp in Jere Local Government Area. The governor explained that Borno started the initial distribution of palliative about one month ago while scaling up the exercise to key into presidential food emergency declaration. According to him, "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has recently declared an emergency on food security across the country. In compliance with the declaration and to complement federal government's efforts to alleviate the suffering caused by fuel subsidy removal, we have since rolled out a palliative distribution initiative targeting 300,000 households" He also noted that the initial distribution of palliative was conducted in Gwoza and three communities in Kukawa LGA which include Baga, Cross Kauwa and Doron Baga.

The governor added that the initiative is aimed at reducing the hardship occasioned by the fuel subsidy removal for the average of 300,000 most vulnerable families. Under the initiative, each eligible beneficiary receives N5,000 cash, a bag of rice, a bag of beans and one wrapper (for women). Zulum emphasized that his administration will prioritize the welfare of the people and ensure that all measures are put in place to alleviate the hardship faced by citizens. The governor urged citizens to give maximum support to the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, stating that the hardship resulting from the fuel subsidy removal is temporary. "I want to urge the people of Borno State to support the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. I want you to understand that subsidy is not sustainable, we understand that people will feel the impact adversely at the initial stage, but in the long run, it will be beneficial to all of us", Zulum said.



.. Shares 400 resettlement houses in Molai

Governor Zulum same day distributed 400 houses to vulnerable IDPs from five communities displaced by Boko Haram insurgents. The communities are Maibukarti, Jibrinti, Mainari Shuwa, Mainari Kanuri and Tilori. The 400 houses are sited at a resettlement estate constructed by Borno State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement. During a brief ceremony, Governor Zulum also shared resettlement packages to the 400 households allotted the houses. Each household got rice, maize grain, mats, wrapper and cash support. Borno State has been at the centre of insurgency for more than a decade, but with recent victories by the Nigerian Military, Borno State Government was able to return more than one million displaced persons to the newly built resettlement houses and reconstructed communities.



Zulum visits Ngala, opens the central mosque; inspects 7 projects, approves houses for teachers

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on a later day visited Ngala and Gamboru communities both in Ngala Local Government Area in the central part of the State. The Governor, during the visit, opened Gamboru's central mosque where he prayed, the juma'at service. He also inspected seven capital projects and approved houses for teachers.

The seven projects Zulum inspected were the Gamboru International Cattle Market, a Police station and barracks, Customs barracks, an Immigration office and barracks, Ngala Central Primary School, a Mega-size Higher Islamic College and a Vocational Training Centre. The Governor noted that the projects aimed at enhancing trans-border trade between Nigeria and the neighbouring countries of Chad and the Cameroon Republics. "I am here to assess facilities that are being constructed by the Borno State Government, most especially those that will put in place the civil authorities and enhance trans-border trade," Zulum said.

At the Gamboru International Cattle Market, besides the ongoing construction work, Zulum approved additional shopping malls, animal stands and an abattoir.

The Governor also directed the construction of additional departments and the recruitment of tutors at the Vocational Training Center, in Gamboru town. "Liaise with the main Vocational Training Institute in Maiduguri and deploy additional tools to this place, make a thorough assessment of the centre for training to resume as soon as possible. I am happy to note that we have space here, we can establish a welding bay, and a carpentry bay, and we can have about four additional structures", Zulum said as he directed officials.



Houses for Ngala teachers

Also, during his trip to Ngala local government area, Governor Zulum approved the construction of a housing estate to be dedicated to teachers working in the LGA.

The Governor announced the approval while interacting with teachers and officials of the Local Education Authority at Ngala Central Primary School. The Governor went on a trip in the company of the special adviser on

special projects- Engr Ibrahim Idriss, World Bank's Multi Crises Recovery Project (MCRP) Coordinator in Borno State, Babazanna AbdulKarim and Dr Ali Umar Bashir, technical specialist at the MCRP. Others include, the General Manager, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), Engr Mohammed Musa Aliyu, and the Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Dr Mohammed Barkindo.

