

**POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
NASARAWA STATE: A HISTORICAL POLITICAL  
REVIEW 1996-2019**

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**Abstract**

The issue of leadership and development in any society is very key to corporate existence and progress of the people, more fundamentally in a multi-ethnic and plural society like Africa, Nigeria and Nasarawa State in particular. There is generally lack of sound moral commitment by Nigerian leaders and Nasarawa State in particular has jettisoned the needed socio-economic and political development in the area. This paper is set out to examine the role played by the various successive governments in the state as well as their weaknesses from the time of its creation (1996-2019). The paper adopts the elitist theory as its theoretical framework in order to have clear understanding of the nature and the character of leadership and development in the area under review. Secondary/primary data will be used in this work. The paper would conclude with recommendations in order to fill the gap created by the successive governments in the state so that the needed growth and development can be achieved.

Keywords: Politics, Leadership and Development

**Introduction**

The concept of leadership and development is fundamental and crucial in any given society, because there must be someone to monitor, organized, protect, guide and steer the socio-economic, political and cultural activities in a given state.

Therefore development cannot be possible if there are no sincere leaders to pilot the affairs of the state, particularly in a multi-ethnic and plural society, like Nigeria and Nasarawa State precisely. The fundamental objective principle of a state policy as enshrined in chapter two (2) of the 1999 Constitution as amended has its main objective in the improvement and quality of lives and well-being of the citizenry. This can only be achieved through good governance, transparency and accountability by the political leaders. The policies they formulate, the resources available, structures as well as institutions responsible for implementation, all have implications on whether the citizens will benefit from dividends of democracy or not.

Therefore, Nigeria and the study area may not be able to meet up her target of accelerated growth and development without competent leaders at the helm of affairs.

However, there is generally lack of dedicated, committed, selfless, moral suasion, ability, capacity and above all sound patriotic leadership in Nigeria and Nasarawa is not an exception. This lack of good and patriotic leadership is mainly responsible for lack of growth and development in the country vis-à-vis

Nasarawa State. There is generally abject poverty, hunger and starvation, unemployment, insecurity among other social vices in the land, and disease, squalor, greed and ignorance are the cancer worms than have been destroying the basis for sound economic growth and development.

The causes of this underdevelopment are rooted to poor leadership. The problems of poor leadership have manifested themselves in several ways and have also affected our development process. This paper will examine the conceptualization of some key concepts and the theoretical basis of analysis and thereafter the historical evolution of political leadership in the state and how this has affected the development of the study area.

Here, different stages, epochs or regimes will be x-rayed as well as efforts made by the political leadership during those periods and the level of development as well as noting the constraints to effective leadership and hence development. Finally, the paper will conclude with recommendations made in order to filled the gap created by successive governments in the state so that the needed growth and development can be achieved.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Politics**

There is no universal and acceptable definition of politics. However, there are many definitions of politics by different scholars/authors which geared towards the same directions. According to Marx (1969) "politics" refers to the struggle between the two dominant classes in the society i.e. the proletariats and the bourgeoisies. Davies (2014) define politics as the struggle for power among actors who pursue conflicting desires on public issues and add that the principal aim of the victorious in that struggle is to authoritatively allocate values, including setting the socio-economic and political agenda for the society. Marsh and Stocker (2010) also corroborate this argument when they agreed that politics is about more than what government choses to do or not. It is about the uneven distribution of power in the society, how the over power is conducted and its impact on the creation and distribution of resources, life chances and well-being. In view of Easton (1953) politics is the authoritative allocation of values in a society while Larswell (1958) sees politics as he who gets what, when and how. (In Sabine 1981) defines politics as "the end justifies the means" which implies that one can use any means at his own disposal to capture power, such as coercion, intimidation and even killings etc. Abi (1983) opined that "politics is concerned with the fight for the fair allocation of scarce resources for which power is inherent in it." Thus, politics can be view as a means of acquiring personal wealth and consolidating their political power for individuals as well as that of their immediate followers at the determinant of the masses. The implication of this is that, politics has redefined democracy in Nigeria and at the same time led to a double jeopardy as far as growth and development is concerned.

#### **Leadership**

In the context of democracy, leadership refers to the elected and appointed men and women charged and authorized with the functions and responsibility to formulate as well as implement government programmes and policies that have direct bearings on the lives of the people under a fixed tenure of office. In this regard, are the present governors/chairmen and the appointed cabinet members as well as the law makers (legislators). Members of the judiciary that formed the third organ of government are insulated from partisanship and are therefore apolitical.

Therefore, leadership simply means, a leader is someone who leads, guides and give directive to other to follow. Cleveland (1985) defines leadership as activity revolving around a single individual possessing such attributes as charisma, dedication, patriotic vision and determination to succeed. Sometime leadership does not revolved around individuals but a group, which is a collective responsibility.

Ogebeide (2012) defines leadership as elected and class that bears the responsibility of managing the affairs and resources of a political entity, by setting and influencing policy priorities affecting the territory

through different decision-making structures and institutions created for orderly development of the territory.

Koontzet (1980) viewed leadership as influence, the act of process of influencing people so that they will strive willingly towards the achievements of group goals. We can say that leadership involves the achievement of societal goal through the process of influencing, directing and coordinating group activities to make individual in the society to strive willingly towards the attainment of set goals or solution of mutual problems.

Leadership could also be view as the human element that operates the machines of government on behalf of an organized territory. This includes people who decision making position in government. Leadership comes with it the enormous responsibility of governance to ensure the growth and development of any society. This means that the success and development of any organization or society is largely depends on leadership.

### **Development**

Development is a continuum and multidimensional in orientation. It involves the total transformation of the entire socio-political, economic and cultural system of any given society. Interrogating the issue of development, Seers (1969) opined that “the questions to ask about the country's development are those variables i.e. what has been happening to inequality? What has been happening to poverty? And what has been happening to unemployment? And if one of these variables is lost or if the three mentioned are completely absent, then it is very funny to refer such situations as development even if per-capita income double.” Seers's conception of development is a gleam of what national development is all about. The development of any nation is not the result of physical super-structures but to some extent eradication of inequality, unemployment and poverty among the citizens.

Ayodele (2006) argued that development is the total transformation of entity through growth and change. Rodney (1972) defines development as a many sided process, at the level of individual, it implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. The implication of these definitions is that development goes beyond economic indicators. Development is both a physical process and a state of peace. The social infrastructures such as road networks, health facilities, sound education, electricity, water supply among others are critical aspect of development. Development also includes the reduction of illiteracy, diseases, hunger, starvation, malnutrition, corruption and insecurity among others so that citizens can be able to earn an income capable of sustaining reasonable standards of living.

### **Theoretical Foundation**

The concept of political leadership can be explained by the elite theory. This theory focuses attention on the behaviour and action of a relatively small number of political decision-makers, rather than stressing the formal and institutional apparatus of government. The fundamental objectives of the elite theory are summarized by the assertion that all political systems are divided into two strata; those who rule and those who are ruled. The rulers are tagged as “political elite” and it is the most significant aspect of any political system Mosca (1939).

Bill (1973) opined that, the political elite are those groups of people that possesses most of political power and which makes most significant political decisions in a society. It is accepted that minority of individuals who are most active in political affairs in any given society. Elite theory therefore, helps to provide a common ground for comparative analysis of the behaviour of political class in a political system.

In the same vein Mosca (1939), all political systems have two structures; the political class and the non-political class. He sees a relationship connection between the elite and the state, is that, “the state is an

instrument of oligarchies or organized minorities... in reality the state is just the concrete organization of a larger number of the elements that rule in a given state Pareto in Bill (1973) supports this view when he say that; "every people is governed by an elite, by a chosen element in the population. It is always an oligarchy that governs."

Another theoretical perspective of leadership can be found in Marx Weber theory of bureaucracy. To Marx (1946), bureaucracy came about due largely to quest for an organization to deal with the needs and the problems of the society. According to him, civilization involved from the primitive and mystical to the rational and complex, and this has necessitated the evolution of a bureaucratic organization. This perspective is based on the principle that people obey those who exercise power over them because they feel that such people have the right to do so in order to bring about dividends to the society. Webber therefore, describes three ideal types of authority or reasons why people throughout history have obeyed their rulers. These include:

- i) Charismatic authority. This is based on the personal qualities of the leaders. Most of these leaders are usually self-appointed and people believed in them because of their extra-ordinary qualities in exercising their authority.
- ii) Legal authority. This is the foundation of modern societies in which the bureaucracy has grown and nurtured. This is authority based on the legitimacy of rules and rights of those chose to such position to exercise their power. They usually issued command and are obeyed because they derived their power through legal instrument of power. The legal rational authority has therefore, been the basis of Webber's conception of bureaucracy.
- iii) The traditional authority. This form of authority is the traditional type. This rests on the established sanctity of tradition. This means that tradition provides status and power to those who exercise authority.

The above theoretical postulation about leadership, authority, power and society is intended to throw more light on the role of political leadership in shaping the direction and speed of the development process in a given state i.e. Nasarawa State.

#### Historical Evolution of Political Leadership and Development of Nasarawa State

The paper will examine this subject matter in five phases as follows:

- i. The period from 1996-1998: Late Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim. The First Military Governor of Nasarawa State;
- ii. The period from 1998-1999: Colonel Shuaibu Muhammad Mande; the 2nd Military Governor of Nasarawa State;
- iii. The period from 1999-2007: Alh. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu; the First civilian Governor of Nasarawa State;
- iv. The period from 2007-2011: Late Alh. Aliyu Akwe Doma 2nd civilian Governor of Nasarawa State;
- v. The period from 2011-2019: Alh. Umaru Tanko Al-Makura 3rd civilian governor of Nasarawa State

#### **The Period from 1996-1998**

Nasarawa State is one of the six states created in October 1, 1996 by Late Gen. Sani Abacha's administration. It has a land mass area of 13000 squares kilometers which was excised from the defunct Plateau State. The state is structured into thirteen (13) local government areas namely: Akwanga, Awe, Doma, Karu, Keffi, Kokona, Lafia, Nasarawa, Nasarawa Eggon, Obi, Toto and Wamba respectively with its headquarters in Lafia. The creation of the state was indeed a significant development for its diverse citizens. This is because, it brought government very closer to the people as well as different ethnic groups who share common aspirations and have peacefully co-existed from the time immemorial.

The first Military Administrator (Governor) that presided over the state between the creation in 1996 was Late Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim of Nigerian Air Force, who served as the Governor from the inception of the state in 1996 to 1998. As a new state, was faced with a lot of financial predicaments, how to start, where to start and what to do considering the mega resources through federation account. The revenue outlet is very poor. Despite this challenges, administration under the watch of Late Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim was able to laid the foundation of Government House in Lafia up to 80% completion, the state secretariat at Akunza, conversion of General Hospital in Lafia to the status of Nasarawa State Specialist Hospital alongside modern facilities in order to ameliorate the problem of health challenges in this state. He also built Estate for civil servants at Makurdi Road so as to alleviate the problems of housing among workers. This is because there was no enough accommodations for the civil servants who were deployed to the state. The state also witnessed prompt payment of staff salaries as well as prompt released of staff promotions implementation in the state. In the area of information and communication, the government constructed Radio and Television stations called Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS) at Tudun Kauri along Makurdi Road, Lafia so that programmes and policies of government can go down to the grassroots. The regime also laid down foundation for Nasarawa State House of Assembly Complex at Shendam Road, which was further completed by his predecessor. The government also achieved tremendously in the area of prompt payment of scholarship to Nasarawa State indigenes studying at tertiary institution across the nation.

Also to mention was Judiciary Headquarters Complex at Shendam Road Lafia. Others include the appointment of local government areas caretakers' committee chairmen and their councilors representing each ward to steer the activities of the local government. However, the government failed to improve on electricity, water supply, agricultural development, youth empowerment, health, education, tourism and culture among others. The government denied Nasarawa State indigenous contractors of contracts awarded in the state. The above analyses are the achievements and failures of the period of 1996-1998 administration of the Late Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim of blessed memory.

#### **The Period from 1998-1999**

The redeployment of Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim back to Nigerian Air Force saw the emergence of Colonel Muhammad Bala Mande of the Nigerian Army who took over and ruled the state from 1998-1999 was a period of heavy political development and preparation to return back to civilian government through democracy. There was no remarkable development in this era considering the nature and character of situation the government found herself even though there was no enough time and space for the government to make any positive impacts.

Despite these challenges, the government was able to sustained prompt released of promotions and payment of workers' salaries in the State, Security of lives and property re-establishment of students exchange programmes (unity school) free and peaceful conduct of elections/handing over to the first elected governor of Nasarawa State, His Excellency, Alh. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu.

#### **The period of 1999-2007**

The Fourth Republic in the history of democracy in Nigeria ushered in the administration of Alh. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu as the first civilian governor of Nasarawa State; can be best describe as another golden opportunity for the people of Nasarawa State. As a result of hard work and commitments of this administration, Governor Abdullahi Adamu has first completed the Ultra-modern Government House Complex started by the Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim. This is today one among the best Government Houses in Nigeria. Largely furnished and landscaped to the comfort delight of guests and most suitable for governance. The government also constructed new secretariat complex in the heart of Lafia city against the former one that was built six kilometers away from the city capital by first military administrator. This is to accommodate most of the government ministries and departments that were hitherto scattered in Lafia metropolitan city. These are Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Natural

Resources, Health, Land and Survey, Works, Housing and Environment. Others include; Commerce and Industries, Finance and Economic Planning etc.

### **Sports and Youths Development**

In the area of sports and youth development, the government for her love for recreation and leisure has established two standing football teams for the state i.e. Professional Male Football outfit called Nasarawa United (FC) and a Female Soccer Team called Solid Babes Football Club, now renamed Amazons FC all competing favorably in the premier league in Nigeria during his days. Both the teams then were qualified for promotions to their respective cadres after competition in the lower divisions within the shortest period, all owing to the prompt response and support from the government. In another development, state youth president were encouraged and was organized in year 2000, 2003, and 2004 respectively. The festival were aimed at hunting and encouraging the development and talent through essay writing competition, drama and debates, cultural dances, arts and craft and agricultural exhibition and beauty contest. This further created harmonious coexistence among them because the festivals drew participants from amongst youths in all the nooks and crannies of the state. The government also supported the youths through Youth Empowerment Loan Scheme initiated in 2004 to eradicate poverty, generate employment and create opportunities for wealth among the youths in the state. About two hundred and fifty (250) youths cut across the 13 local government areas in the state have been benefited. These beneficiaries were trained in poultry production, vegetable gardening, and fishery production for self-sustenance among others.

The government also encouraged and sponsored the youths in the state for Annual Youth Submit in Abuja where Nasarawa State Youth Council presented a position paper at 2001 submit thereby contributing to the formulation of the youth policy in Nigeria; Sensitization Workshop was also organized in November 2001, on Conflict Management and Resolution among the youths as well as menace of HIV/AIDS and preventive measures against the disease. The workshop became very necessary considering the incessant crises among the Igbira and Bassa in the Western Zone, and Tiv-Alago, Hausa, Eggon and Fulani in the Southern Zone of the state. Other includes; the construction of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) permanent orientation camp in Keffi and donated to the scheme, upgrading of the former Lafia Mini-Stadium to Lafia Township Stadium with a standard pitch and courts for other sporting activities in 2000; establishment of State Council on Sport, etc.

### **Educational Development**

Governor Alh. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu has taken education as a special priority to eliminate ignorance and illiteracy aimed at equipping the youths as leaders of tomorrow. The government has done wonderful projects in this sector and these includes: construction of Science Equipment Production Center in Lafia, Computer Science School, supply of textbooks, exercise books and dossiers to all schools and students in the state, supply of equipment to facilitate accreditation of the Government Technical College Assakio, renovation of 665 classroom across the state, construction of 243 classrooms, establishment of boarding secondary school in every local government that didn't have one before, supply of 2,607 set of furniture's for both pupils and teachers', procurement and distribution of instructional materials to schools and the recruitment of more teaching staff, over 11,962 were employed within the first three years of democracy in the state. Others include: recruitment of over 1,350 Sciences, English and Mathematics teachers from all over the nation to promote standards in schools, the state was first to pass a bill establishing Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme and also first to launch it before the Federal Government in Nigeria. Now there are 175 secondary and technical schools and over 891 primary schools in the state during this period. Other primary/secondary schools renovated in the state are: Laminga Primary School, Keffi Primary School, Lafia Primary Schools, GSS Lafia, GSS Wamba, GSS Nasarawa Eggon, among others. Improving educational standard means providing an enabling environment, the administration under the watched of Alh. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu has equally renewed scholarship allowances payable to undergraduate students of tertiary institutions across the federation between Six Thousand-Nine Thousand Naira (N6000-9000) only per session, while those in

law schools were given One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000.00) only including their programme in the school. Other achievement in the area of education was the establishment of the school feeding programme where 441,000 pupils in the state have benefited. This was put in place to improve the nutritional status of school children in public primary schools, increase enrolment of school children, raise the attendance levels at public schools, reduce school dropout, reduces morbidity and mortality rates among school children and enhances academic performance of children for sustainable educational development of the state. The programme was officially launched by the Federal Government at Laminga in Nasarawa Local Government Area on the 2nd September 2005 by President Olusegun Obasanjo. Teachers' salaries and allowances are paid regularly; they are also encouraged to go for further studies through In-Service. It is also on record that the state also established School of Nursing and Midwifery in Lafia and a total of 89 students have graduated as staff nurses and have been given automatic employment posted to various hospitals in the state. The government also established Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia, Nasarawa State University Keffi, and School of Health Technology (SHT), Keffi. All these institutions established have since started producing the much needed manpower needs of the state. Not just that, it's also create room for massive employment among masses thereby reduce unemployment crisis in the state. The government also upgraded some facilities at College of Education Akwanga as well as College of Agriculture Lafia to meet up the current realities. Fund approved are released for the takeoff of newly established tertiary institutions in the state. In addition, the state government has issued automatic employment to the first set graduants (indigenous) students of Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

#### **Commerce and Industries**

in this area, the government introduced Small and Medium Scale Industries (SMEs). Small and Medium Scale Industries constitute the backbone and indeed the first step toward development of any economy, particularly to economic growth, poverty alleviation, industrial development as well as avenue for the creation of self-sufficiency in many goods and services thereby promoting urban-rural development to this effect, the government provide soft loans to serious minded people to establish or expand projects that will have direct bearing on the lives of its rural populace.

Other industrial projects established as catalyst for industrialization in the state are: Nasarawa Fertilizer Blending Plant at Lafia, Nasara Sacks and Packaging Plant at Akwanga, Nasara Beef Factory at Karu, Sesame Seed Cleaning Plant at Doma, Soap Factory Plant at Akwanga, and Lapidam Plant (Gemstone cutting and polishing) at Nasarawa. Other development in this area include: Karu International Market, a regional and international market to service the fast growing sophisticated clientele in Abuja and network of market in Nigeria. The government also established Investment and Property Development called Nasarawa Investment and Property Development Company (NIPDC). It was established to facilitate the industrial takeoff and economic position of the state, as well as strengthening investment/banking property development and estate management. In other words, the investment house was established to generate resources for the state etc.

#### **Health Development**

Health has to do with physical, psychological and mental fitness without which the people cannot be of much help to themselves, let alone respond adequately to the process of development. Health is wealth and health is power. The government achieved in the following areas.

\* The Specialist Hospital which was an empty structure inherited by this administration is now a referral center with sound equipment and modern medical gadgets such as x-ray machines, diagnosis among other facilities. Establishment of a General Hospital in each local government headquarters in the state, establishment of school of nursing as well as school of health technology in Keffi, increase of primary healthcare centers all over the state, supply and maintenance of clinic services, introduction of mobile clinic services during any gathering state functions, promotion of National Immunization campaigns to stamp out polio and other diseases such as malaria, diabetes, hypertension among others, recruitment of skilled manpower, especially consultants, nurses and other professionals from Nigeria and

oversee to upgrade the services and expertise at the specialist hospital in Lafia, increase public awareness on communicable disease, construction of an office complex for the Hospitals Management Board (HMB) Shendam Road Lafia, upgraded all cottage hospital in the state to the status of general hospitals.

The government has on four occasions invited pro-health groups which specializes in “eye” related conditions from abroad to give free treatment to those with eye problems; established State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA). This is state agency responsible for the coordination/intervention programmes of HIV/AIDS in the state. SACA also help in combating stigmatization, promote and protect the fundamental rights of people living with HIV/AIDS as well as advocate the prevention of mother to child transmission.

Others includes: construction of Modern Central Medical Store Shendam Road Lafia, the hospital management board staff strength was raised to 885 health workers as against 448 as at 1999 when he took over the government. Finally, frequent accreditation and re-accreditation of both specialist and general hospitals in the state among many achievements recorded in the area of health industry.

### **Rural and Urban Development**

The government electrified the following areas;Maraba-Gongon, Kwara, Rafi (Wamba LGA) Duduguru, Agyaragu (Obi LGA), Laminga, KeffiShanu, (Nasarawa LGA); Agwada, Kana, Unguwar Mayo, Sabon-Gida and Igwo (Kokona LGA). In the area of roads construction, the administration was able to constructed roads such as Agwada, Obi-Keana road, Ara, GRA quarters Lafia, AgyaraguTofa, road Lafia. In the area of urban development, the government established Greater Karu Urban Development, provisions of skid dust bins at different locations for refuge storage to ease collection and disposal in the state. In the area of water supply, all the major urban water schemes in the state has been refurbished and are fully operational, provision of solar powered boreholes in all the 153 electoral wards in the state. Also to mention was construction of AbdullahiAdamu Housing Estate Jos Road Lafia, Karu VIP Lodge, Awe Presidential Lodge, construction of bridges in Yelwa, Igbabo, Rukubi, Okpata, Loko, AngwanGwari, Onda, Ajaga, and Odenyi-Magaji roads. The government also approved contract to Messrs, Yoojin Engineering Co. Ltd., a South Korean firm to construct the State Independent Hydro-Power Plant Station at Kwara in Wamba LGA, a total outfit of 20 megawatts at the cost of N5.4 billion but finally abandoned. This if completed will have boost economic activities in the state, in the area of transport, the government purchased about 45 buses to the state owned transport services called “on the move” plying most of the routes within and outside the state at a subsidiary rate.

### **Information Development**

In the area of information, the government established Nasarawa State Information Technology Empowerment Center, Nasarawa State Newspaper Publishing Company, Audio-Visual Van for Public Enlightenment Campaign, Nasarawa State Printing Press Lafia. Other development in the area of information technology include: construction of new modern state library board for students, researchers among others in Lafia and Keffi. This will further enhance information delivery and help to create the enabling environment for the overall economic development of the state.

### **Agricultural Development**

Agriculture is the mainstay and bedrock of any economic growth and development.At this end, the government under this review has established a fertilizer blending plant to the farmers in the state. This is done to boost farm produce in the state, procurement and distribution of assorted fertilizers to farmers at a subsidiary rate in the state since 1999-2005 before the fertilizer plant was built, implementation of federal government funded National Special Programme for Food Security, in Doma, Arikya and Karmo.The government also established a commodity trading company to access produce from farmers to cushion them against the vagaries associated with commerce as well as the establishment of food processing cottage industries in partnership with private investors. A committee known as farmers and herdsmen prevention and settlement committee was put in place for the settlement/prevention of



disputes among the farmers and herdsmen in the state to reduce crisis that would further stop farming activities/loss of lives and property, the government also established beef processing company at Masaka in Karu Local Government Area in order to take advantage of the untapped market for the beef products.

Other achievements in this area includes: the construction of modern abattoir at Lafia and Keffi respectively, the government has ensured the enforcement of an act forestry law and fisheries regulations of the state, through close surveillance by the field staff and the apprehension and prosecution of defaulters as well as regular fire tracing forest estates in the state to forestall destruction by fire especially during dry season, renovation and stocking of fish pounds in Awuma, Lafia, Kantsakuwa and Rutu, yearly mass vaccination exercise of livestock in the state against the common animal disease, provision of farm implements such as 29 new tractors while old one were rehabilitated and were given out to farmers to boost agriculture in the state, agriculture and minerals expositions have also been organized, agriculture extension workers has been reactivated to assist the farmers and encourage them to gradually adopt modern farming techniques for increased holding and yielding. There was also the implementation of the Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP) through multiplication and distribution of improved roots and tubers in the state, sinking of 220 wash boreholes and distribution of 17 irrigation pumps to farmers and 29 assorted agro-processing machines distributed to farmers in the state. The government also embarked on raising of oil palm seedlings and sales it at subsidiary rate to farmers at Shabu, agro-chemical and improved seeds of maize, melon, millet, guinea corn and cassava stem are annually procured for farmers at subsidized rates in the state. Also to mention was the yearly three planting enlightenment campaign. These among many developments in the area of agriculture.

#### **Culture and Tourism Development**

In this area, the government sponsored arts unit of the culture and participated through exhibition of arts and craft products of the people of state at Kaduna International Trade Fair in 2005, establishment of state council on tourism. This is a mark of commitment to the growth and development of tourism in the state. Successfully hosting of the 3rd meeting of the presidential council on tourism in Lafia, where the government sponsored of all key players in Culture and Tourism Ministry to attend and participated. Only seven states including Nasarawa State out of 36 states of the federation that attended in April, 2004 in Abuja. The government also sponsored an indigene Miss ChindaKpanja to contest in Miss World Tourism pageant in Venezuela in 2003 where she returned home successful pageant having placed 7th position in world contest thereby brought proud and happiness to Nasarawa State and by extension Nigeria as a whole. The state also sponsored the exhibition and promotion of arts and crafts organized by Scalini Nigeria Ltd. at the ShehuYar'adua Center, Abuja in 2003 to showcase the culture and tourism potentials of the state.

The state also participated actively in 2003 National Festival of Arts and Culture in Imo State to showcase and promote state's tourism and culture and won several prizes to the state. Hosting of the National World Tourism Day Celebration at Farin-Ruwa Water Falls, 2003 in Wamba Local Government Area where the Hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism attended. The state also established State Council for Arts and Culture, participated in International Tourism Day at UK 2001, establishment of Shabu Recreational Park and Garden for leisure seekers within and outside the state during holidays and weekends, expansion and upgrading of Lafia-Keffi Hotels with tremendous facilities, the state also established Nasarawa State Hotels and Tourism Board to monitor their activities. The state discovered and developed the following tourism centres: Akiri warm spring (salt spring), Hunki Ox-Bow Lake in Awe Local Government Area, Lafia clothing and dyeing industry, Peperuwa Lake, Bukyono Game reserved, Doma Dam, Umaisha River Bank resort, Keana Salt Spring among others were centres for tourism and attractions. The state also established Nasarawa State cultural troupe, drawn from various ethnic groups in the state, performing/entertaining people at the state function. The government in attempt to developed culture and tourism in the state, constructed City Hall/Cultural Centre in Lafia

and International Arts Theatre at Mararaba, in Karu Local Government as a vertical means of presenting the state's rich cultural heritage to the much wide audience etc.

#### **Administrative Development**

Administratively, there existed very cordial relationship between the three arms of government i.e. executive, legislative and the judiciary. In line with this administration desire to bring government closer to the people, created about 16 Additional Local Government Areas. However, following the constitutional controversies that enmeshed the creation of the local government areas, it was re-designed to the status of Development Areas namely; Agidi, Agwada, Akwanga North, Akun, AzaraEkye, FarinRuwa, Gadabuke, Giza, Jenkwe, Lafia-East, and Lafia North. Others includes, Loko, Karshi, Panda and Udegye.

Other development includes: creation of 27 additional chiefdoms and district heads as well as village heads. These chiefdoms are: Kube, KoronKuje, Akun, Nasarawa Eggon, Obi Buh, Agwatashi, Dada, Agidi, among others.

#### **Employment and Welfare of Staff**

Promotion of workers in the state was highly observed and maintained with full implementation of promotions and annual increments year in year out. The government also sponsored both Christians and Muslims faithful's to perform pilgrimage through Christian and Muslims Pilgrims Welfare Board all through his 8years in government. In the area of security, the government is pro-active in bringing any conflict that might teared the existing peace the state have been enjoying right from its inception. Good example of this is the quick intervention of the Nasarawa State government in the crisis that broke out between the Tiv and Hausa-Fulani arising from the assassination of the chief of Azara. The crisis also escalated between the Tiv and Alago, Eggon among other ethnic groups in the state and also Bass-Egbira crisis over land.

#### **The Period from 2007-2011: Late Alh. AliyuAkweDoma**

Governor AliyuAkweDoma of blessed memory has embarked on 13 point Agenda in order to develop Nasarawa State and this includes: Security, Health, Education, Agriculture, Urban and Rural Development, Water and Electricity supply, Commerce and Industries, Housing, Tourism and Culture, Civil Service Re-organization, Sports development, Intergovernmental Cooperation and Solid Mineral Development.

#### **Security Development**

The government in her efforts to protect the lives, property as well as well-being of the people has continued to collaborate and also cooperate with security agencies in the state. The state also engaged in joint operations with the boundary states in the fight against crime and criminality thereby make citizens to go about their normal businesses. The government also donated 13 Hilux van to police to enable them in the fight against insecurity and crimes in the state. In view of the foregoing, the state under this administration witnessed hitch free crisis/conflict created more positive development in the area of socioeconomic and political activities.

#### **Educational Development**

The state government set up a high powered committee of distinguished professionals to guide the government in repositioning and refocusing the sector. Regular and prompt payment of teachers' salaries and allowances in both primary, secondary and tertiary institutions in the state, procurement of 3000 collapsible desks and chairs and placement of order for additional 100,000 units for use in our primary and secondary schools in the state, payment of outstanding counterpart funds to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), in order to access the fund approved to the state by the board, construction and rehabilitation of additional classrooms in primary and junior secondary schools; government also take full payment of JSCE and SSCE examinations fees for Nasarawa State Indigenes

effective from 2008/2009 academic session, procurement of textbooks and teaching materials for primary and secondary schools. Others development in this area includes: settled all arrears and continue payment of scholarship to Nasarawa State indigenes studying in tertiary institutions across the world. In addition incentive packages have been put in place for best performing students. This is to encourage them in pursuit of higher education.

Released of fund for accreditation programmes promotions in all the tertiary institutions in the state as well as increased funding in our tertiary institutions for infrastructural development; regular payment of salaries and allowances to tertiary institutions in the state. Government also recruited over 200 teachers and promotes 1400 others in secondary schools during this regime and more than 1000 in tertiary institutions, sponsored 15 students of Nasarawa State origin to pursuit specialized training in the National Aviation University at Ukraine, procurement of 2000 double bunk spring beds for boarding students in Nasarawa State secondary schools, the government also donated building complex among others infrastructure for the establishment of the National Open University of Nigeria Lafia study center etc.

### **Agricultural Development**

Agriculture policy according to this government under review is therefore directed towards the attainment of food sufficiency and security as well as job creation and wealth generation. This is more critical in the face of the current global food crisis. Therefore, the contribution of this administration in this sphere includes: purchase of 50 additional tractors, thereby bringing the total of government fleet to 130 tractors distributed to farmers in order to boost agriculture in the state, procurement of 630,000 bags of assorted fertilizers to farmers at a subsidized cost of One Thousand, Eight Hundred (N1,800.00) Naira only per bag, construction of agro-processing and marketing center at Keffi for the export of yams, sweet potatoes and other associated crops to Great Britain among other European markets, the government in an attempt to boost agricultural development in the state and Nigeria at large donated sixty million (N60,000,000.00) Naira only to Nigeria Agricultural Foundation towards the construction of a permanent Nigeria International Agricultural Trade Fair Complex at Tudun-Wada in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Others development includes: promotion of large scale production of Bennie-seed for international markets and encouragement of local industries, mass inoculation was put in place to protect poultry and livestock against deadly diseases, micro-credit facilities were guaranteed or approved for co-operatives and thrift societies through the Fadama III agricultural scheme in the state.

The government under review also introduced agricultural programme scheme called "BADAKOSHI" which literary means enough food for the people of the state. The scheme encouraged increase in productivity and production by small, medium and large scale farmers in the state. The ultimate goal of Badakoshi programme is to improved food security and self-sufficiency, create opportunities for gainful employment, generation of income, capital formation and to alleviate poverty in the state.

The scheme was launched at Garaku on the 7th July 2009, with Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources in attendance. In the light of this, a total of 763 farmers and cooperatives groups in the state benefited from the loan package at 9% interest rate for a tenure of 3years. In addition, 52 farmers were given tractors loan at 48% subsidy with tenure of three years.

### **Urban and Rural Development**

The government started urban renewal scheme with the construction of township roads and installation of street lights in Lafia, a new Nasarawa State Urban Development Board was established to accelerate the implementation of the programme. The government has carried a revolution in rural roads development in the state namely: Gitata-Panda-Karu road (64km), Doma-Akwatta road (50km), Toto-Umaisha Road (50km), Doma-Agyaragu, Kadarko-Giza-Keana Road 55km (not completed), Agwatashi-Agaza Road (5km), Obi-Assakio Road (18km), KokonaJunction-Agwada-UdegeBeki Road (52km) (not

completed), Nasarawa Eggon-Mada Station Road (30km), Gudi Junction-Unguwar Zaria-Nunkun Road (25km), and Adudu-IbiAzara-Wuse-Akiri-Plateau State boarder Road 55km (not completed).

#### **Health Development**

Health is wealth. To reposition the health sector, the government inaugurated a high powered healthcare assessment committee made up of eminent practitioners towards a general overhaul of the health sector in the state with the aim to fight problem confronting the state and way forward. The government also in collaboration with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office embarked on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 58 primary healthcare centers among the 13 local governments areas in the state, through efforts made by the government, DalhatuAraf Specialist Hospital (DASH) has been accredited for post-graduate training of medical doctors, the School of Health Technology Keffi as well as School of Nursing and Midwifery in Lafia has been renovated and furnished to meet accreditation standards in 2008 while the government was able to move School of Nursing and Midwifery Lafia from its temporary side in Makurdi Road to its permanent side along Shendam Road Lafia after construction of offices, laboratories, classrooms and students' hostels. Others includes: sustenance of free HIV/AIDS patients treatments, antenatal care for pregnant women as well as malaria treatment for children under the ages of five years. Others include: recruitment of more medical personnel for general hospitals in the state among others medical establishments, prompt supply of medical drugs and medical gadgets in the state.

#### **Water and Electricity Development**

Water and electricity are key factors in socio-economic development in any given society. To uphold this, the government has reduced the lingering problems of water supply in the state through rehabilitation and upgrading of water schemes in Lafia, Doma, Keana, Nasarawa Eggon, Akwanga, and Nasarawa. The government also constructed assorted boreholes in almost 153 wards across the state. Government also awarded contract of One Hundred Million (N100,000,000.00) Naira only for the supply of transformers and distributed in order to boost electricity in the state.

#### **Commerce and Industries Development**

Reconstruction of Lafia and Keffi markets, while negotiations have reached advance stage for the repossession of Karu International market. All leased government-owned companies agreement are being reviewed with a view to generate maximum benefit from the investments, the government signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Siman Hotels Ltd. for the construction of a 5-star hotel in Lafia but has not seen the light of the day, the Nasarawa State Investment and Property Development Company (NIDC) hotel projects has been completed and commissioned named Conference Hotel in Lafia 2008. Other includes: Nasara Water Bottling Plant, a project of (NIDC) has been completed and commissioned with the product named Nas Spring Water.

Construction of present Lafia Modern Market off Lubuna Junction along Lafia-East Road Lafia, construction of micro-finance bank with branches in all the local government areas of the state in partnership with former Oceanic Bank now Ecobank Plc. to promote commercial activities and wealth creation. It is also gratifying to report that, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the state government and Harbin Cement Nig. Ltd. for the construction of a Nasarawa State cement factory but has not been built.

#### **Housing Development**

The government in collaboration with the Federal Mortgage Bank constructed 500 Housing units in Doma Road Lafia for civil servants in the state, completed State Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health, Land and Survey and Town Planning in Bukan-Sidi Lafia, the Nasarawa Investment and Property Development Company (NIDC) Limited, site and services scheme in Karu has been completed and commissioned. Nasarawa State in partnership with the federal government has finalized arrangement for the construction of 1000 housing units in Karu area for both Nasarawa State

and federal civil servants so as to cushion the effect of housing problem in the area but nothing was done to actualize the dream.

#### **Solid Mineral Development**

The government in their efforts to tap the natural resources, has reviewed and restructured Nasarawa State Mineral Development Company (MDC) to meet up the challenges of the sector. While continued to win awards of excellence at national and international exhibition of mineral deposit in the state. The government also encourages the promotion of small-scale mining industries as well as checking the excess and menace of illegal miners.

#### **Culture and Tourism Development**

Plans and designs for construction of Eco-Tourism Resort (ETR) at FarinRuwa have been completed but nothing has been done in this regard. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between government and Grand Parks Ltd. and Imani Resorts Ltd. to established tourism facilities in Greater Karu but nothing has been done. The cultural troupe of the state with the support of the state government won 1st position during the 2007 NIFEST in Abuja. The troupe also represented Nigeria at the International Tourism Fair held in Berlin, the capital city of Germany in 2007.

#### **Civil Service Re-organization**

The Government House Shendam Road Lafia has been renovated and refurbished. The government also renovated and upgraded the office of the Deputy Governor as well as its residential accommodation, renovation of all state secretariat and ministries. Provision of effective office accommodation for civil servant in the state i.e. Planning Commission and Water Board Headquarters as well as office complex for special advisers, among others. Prompt payment of civil servants salaries as well as overhead cost to all ministries and departments, civil servants are being trained and exposed to modern management techniques and the state civil service has been re-organized and restructured for effective and efficient service delivery.

#### **Sports Development**

With the support of government, Nasarawa State Wrestler won 5 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medals at 2007 National Wrestling Competition. Agwada under 16 football clubs has qualified to represent Nigeria at 2008 world youth under 16 football competition held at Oslo, in Norway and a Nasarawa State indigene called King Osanga a member of the Nigerian Golden Eaglets participated and won the 2007 FIFA under 17 world cup championship held in South Korea. These among many other achievements of this administration.

#### **The Period from 2011-2019: Alh. Umaru Tanko Al-Makura**

Governor Al-Makura took over the mantle of leadership in the state on the 29th May, 2011 having defeated Aliyu Akwe Doma in his second term bid for the governorship of Nasarawa State. The following are some of the achievements recorded during his 8 years of service to the people of Nasarawa State.

#### **Security Development**

Establishment of Joint Task Force of Benue/Nasarawa States with a stronger boarder liaison arrangement in order to checkmate the activities of armed robbers, kidnappers and herdsmen/farmers conflicts. Construction of office complex worth Four Hundred Million (N400,000,000.00) Naira only for Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), provision of land for army barracks along Doma Road in Doma Local Government Area and cash donation of 300 million for takeoff, construction of police station at Agyaragu/Gidinye in Jenkwe Development Area, sustaining the home group community based conflict resolution mechanism and setting up committee in every local government in the state, fencing of mobile barracks in Lafia, establishment and equipping of state divisional police station at Akwanga, provision of school facilities for the Command Science Secondary Schools in Lafia, Rinze and

Agwada. Other achievements include: appointment of a retired army general as Special Adviser on Security Matters, upgrade and improved electricity supply and road network at the Army Barracks in Keffi, provision of office for Nigerian Army Recruitment at the State Secretariat, creation of online database for Nasarawa State Vigilant Group of Nigeria, creation for a rapid response base for the Nigerian Air Force in Lafia, donation of Hilux vehicles for all security agencies in the state to combat crimes and criminality in the state, the government also constituted a high powered commission of inquiry to probe the circumstances that led to the clash between Eggon (Ombatse) and Alago people of Assakio in Lafia Local Government Area and Migili (Koro) people of Jenkwe in Obi Local Government Area in the state. The government also established the Justice Joseph Gbadeyai led high powered judicial commission of inquiry to look into the killings of security operatives in Alakyo by the Eggon (Ombatse) militias group.

### **Health Development**

The following were recorded in the area of health development in the state.

Establishment of comprehensive healthcare center at Kwandarein Lafia Local Government Area, constructed and commissioned the Nasarawa State Drug Complex in a bid to consolidate the newly reactivated Drugs Revolving Scheme (DRS) and made it a policy of government to provide free treatment for eyes, ears associated problems and also free treatment for the aged, children and pregnant women in the state, reconstruction and renovation, equipping and furnishing of 738 PHC facilities across the state, renovation of General Hospitals in Awe, Toto and Mararaba, Doma, Gurku and Keana, completion of School of Nursing and Midwifery Lafia, completion of the Central Medical Store in Lafia, construction of 3 ultramodern hospitals in Lafia with (160 beds), Akwanga (100beds), and Nasarawa (100beds), procurement of assorted equipment to DalhatuAraf Specialist e.g. set of eye surgery equipment, 5 diagnosis units, Laparoscopy among others. Eradicated polio and guinea worm in Nasarawa State, provision of solar powered boreholes in 738 primary health care (PHC) among other facilities, reaccreditation of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Lafia, reaccreditation of Primary Healthcare Development Agency, construction of Center for Disease Control, Epidemiological Unit, a world class virology laboratory and infectious disease isolation center, employment of II graduate tutors and the reengagement of 10 contract tutors in the School of Nursing, Procurement of Digital X-ray machine for Kwandare Comprehensive Medical Center. Construction/building of medical doctors quarters at DalhatuAraf Specialist Hospital (DASH), Lafia, and procurement of basic surgical equipment for MararabGurku Medical Centre to support bilateral collaboration with National Hospital Abuja etc.

### **Agricultural Development**

The following are the achievements recorded under agriculture:

Rehabilitation of Lafia Abattoir, Establishment of 155 management training plots, conducting of monthly review meetings to adopt modern agricultural technologies in order to meet up with the current digital approach to agricultural development in the state, construction of storage facilities across the state, distribution of 6,734 citrus, 7,254 mangoes, 3000 oil palm and 1000 moringa seedlings to farmers, castration, treatment and vaccination of animals across the state, partnership with OLAM Rice producing company at Rukubi to cultivate 10,000hectares of rice, renovation of 6 veterinary clinics at Doma, Akwanga, Keffi, Obi, Nasarawa and Lafia Local Government Areas, establishment of rice incubation plant, procurement and distribution of inputs and output equipment, 1,102liters and 407 sachets of agro-chemicals, 5.3 metric tons of assorted seeds, 11 sprayers and 1,200 Purdue improved cowpea storage bags. As part of measures to achieve the overall objectives in agricultural development, the government earmarked the sum of 798m to be used for agricultural equipment scheme and construction of earth dams for irrigational system, fishing, livestock and domestic use in all the senatorial districts in the state. The government also provide enabling environment and policies for agricultural investors from 2011-2019 to boost food production in the state, renovated the State Ministry

of Agriculture with modern office equipment, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Dangote Sugar Group for a \$700m sugar project in Tunga, Awe Local Government Area in the state, procurement and distributions of assorted fertilizers to farmers in the state from 2011-2018 as part of agricultural activity to boost harvest in the state.

### **Rural and Urban Development**

The government has the following as her achievements in the area of urban and rural development: Rehabilitation of street lights in Lafia express road starting from College of Agriculture Lafia to MararabaAkunza Round-About, construction of ultramodern Lafia Square, procurement and distribution of transformers to boost electricity supply in the state, authorized and commencement of airport station in Kwandare in Lafia Local Government Area, (ongoing) about 4510 completion establishment of Nasarawa State Geographical Information Systems (NAGIS) which gives a digital aerial/mapping of every settlement in the state. This make the acquisition of land and title documents very easy as well as provisions of industrial sites and tax free holidays for prospective investors. More fundamentally, NAGIS provide room for internally generated revenue (IGR). In the light of this, government ensured that the insurance titles of land began to take only 14days as against the previous administration where it life time of political connections for family and friends to get land titles in the state. Also, government constructed NAGIS office in Lafia and Karu for proper monitoring and evaluation. Construction of a befitting ultramodern fire service station in Lafia to assist in fighting against fire outbreaks in the city, also mounted traffic light in the state capital Lafia to control the rate of accident cases in the city in 2012, road construction in both rural and urban areas received heavy attention by the government under review. These include: Tudun-Gwandara-AngwarNungu-Kwandare Road, Kurikyo-Bukan-Sidi Road, Lafia-East-Government House Road, Tudun-Kauri Road, Bukan-Sidi bye-pass Road, Alkali Street Road, INEC-Kurikyo Road, rehabilitation of Water Board Road, Workers Village-NTA Road, UnguwarMaina Road, Nasarawa State Polytechnic Lafia's Road, College of Agriculture Lafia's Road, former UNDP Quarters Road, Millionnaires Quarters-AngwanNungu Road among others in Lafia metropolis. Others achievements include: Obi-Keana Road, 2 kilometers road in Obi Township, Awe bye-pass road, Shabu township roads, Keffi township roads, Nasarawa township roads, Nasarawa Eggon township roads, MararabaGurku road, Karu township roads, Wamba bye pass road, Toto township roads, Doma township roads, reconstruction of Adudu-Azara road among others.

### **Educational Development**

In the education sector, the government increases the allocation of education in 2012-2014 budgets to 28%. Construction of 44 story building called TA'AL Model School and 144 blocks of classrooms across the 13 local government and 18 development areas primary schools in the state. To further boost education in the state, the government built and furnishes two blocks of hostels accommodation in each tertiary institutions in the state, also constructed five (5) modern e-library in the state i.e. Lafia, Akwanga, Keffi, Karu and Nasarawa Local Government Areas, approved free education and feeding in all boarding schools in the state, took the responsibility of payment of NECO registration fee for the graduating students in secondary schools in the state, government also revived the payment of scholarship grant to all Nasarawa State students studying in tertiary institutions across the country, procurement and distribution of science laboratories equipment among other technical facilities to Science School Lafia, Nasarawa Eggon, and Keffi. Other achievements include: establishmentof 4 Comprehensive Special Schools for disabled persons across the 3 senatorial districts in the state; Keffi, Lafia, and Akwanga. Equipment such as smart boards, braille machines and physiotherapy to make teaching and learning smooth for both the students and the teachers, renovation of the Ministry of Education Complex, Continued sponsoring of the Students' Exchange Programme (Unity School) after which the government under review has stopped admission in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, approved funds for accreditation and reaccreditation for programmes in tertiary institutions in the state, approved and released of counterpart funding in Basic Education covering the period of 2012-2016 to access N8.6billion which further enhance the provision of basic education in the state, government also facilitated Command Special Science Secondary School in Lafia, Rinze in Akwanga LGA and Agwada in

Kokona LGA, signed (MOU) with National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni) to avail students from Nasarawa State the opportunity to acquire technical skills necessary for the production of essential tools and equipment, 2,140 professionals teachers with NCE and Degrees were employed under Youth Empowerment Scheme to teach in secondary schools and to be paid 20,000 and 25,000 for NCE and Degrees under the Ministry of Education in that order, and donated the proposed newly constructed General Hospital at BAD Road Lafia to Federal University, Lafia to kick start their Teaching Hospital for their medical students.

#### **Housing Development**

Construction of new Urban Development Board at Bukan-Sidi, Lafia, and distribution of 500 housing units completed under Alh. Aliyu Akwe Doma's regime to both the state and Federal Civil Servants in Nasarawa State, renovation and reconstruction of Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport, construction of New Conference Hall in Government House Lafia, constructed and commissioned of new Judiciary Headquarters complex Shendam Road, Lafia, procured and renovated Deputy Governor's office, Shendam Road, Lafia, construction of First Lady's Office, Shendam Road, Lafia, construction of Nasarawa Youths Empowerment Scheme (NAYES) office complex, Lafia, construction of new orphanage house in Lafia; construction of Nasarawa State Liaison Office building at Central Area Abuja, and construction of new Office of the Secretary to the Government of Nasarawa State (SSG) among others.

#### **Commerce and Industries Development**

Renovation and rehabilitation of Karu Modern Market now Muhammadu Buhari International Market Karu, construction of Akwanga and Keffi Modern Markets, construction of Akwanga Garage (motor park), reconstruction of former Lafia Central Market to a befitting modern market along Doma Road. Accordingly, government also constructed Ultramodern International Market at Kwandare in Lafia LGA.

#### **Employment and Welfare of Staff**

The government has failed in the area of employment. The employment conducted in the state are mostly given to their immediate family and friends among others well-wishers through replacement. There was no official circular calling general public through State Civil Service Commission (CSC), a body responsible for recruitment, selection and placement of workers in the state. Even the recent advertisement calling for recruitment/employment in the state, nothing was done even when names were shortlisted after the conduct of interview. The government under the watch of Engr. A.A Sule now took the credits as efforts are seriously put in place for their posting after orientation by this new administration.

In terms of welfare, the government did not usually pay staff salaries as it is when due. Salaries are paid after first or second week of new month. Percentage payment in the 13 LGA and 18 development areas in the state, which make life very difficult for the people working in the local areas from 2014-2018. Percentage payment for pension and gratuities to beneficiaries in the state. Withheld of 5 months salaries for secondary schools teachers' in Ministry of Education. Forceful retirement of about 14 permanent secretaries in the state when he assumed office as a governor in 2011. Implementation of National Minimum Wage approved during Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's administration to the Nasarawa State Civil Servants, and lack of promotions implementation in the state since he assumed office in 2011 till his exit in 2019.

#### **Conclusion**

From the above analysis of political leadership and development in Nasarawa State, we can proudly say that the success of any society, organization, institution or establishment is largely anchored on a sincere, effective and moral sound leadership. Fundamentally, good leadership are always harvested during democratic government, however, there is no clear cut representation by the political leaders to their followers. Similarly, socio-political and ethno-religious differences among others and lack of total



commitment/political will and cooperation between the political elites had eroded their values and achievements. The side effect was the lack of socio-economic, political and cultural development in the area.

However, the paper revealed that the first military governor in 1996, Late Wing Commander Abdullahi Ibrahim of blessed memory has failed to do much in the area of road construction, electricity and water supply as well as culture and tourism development. Similarly, his successor, Colonel Muhammad ShuaibuMande could not make any impact, possibly because he served for only one year and a process towards democratic regime. While despite the overall achievements recorded during Alh. (Dr.) AbdullahiAdamu, he has also failed in the area of roads construction, electricity and urban development, even the acclaimed fertilizer plant and sack processing industries built by Adamu has nothing to show after commissioning with the Adacabarproduction for people to see. As it is now, those company are not producing anything. During the administration of Alh.AliyuAkweDoma, he failed in the area of sports development especially the female team, lack of employment and industrial development. in a related development, the research also shown that Governor UmaruTanko Al-Makura has also failed in the area of employment, prompt payment of workers' salaries in the state, withheld of secondary schools teachers five (5) months salaries, promotion implementation since his 8years as a governor. Other includes: percentage payment for the local government workers in the state, percentage payment of pension and gratuities in the state, closure of Nasarawa State newspaper and Nasarawa State Transports Company (on the move) while their staff are surviving at the mercy of God. The regime also witnessed insecurity challenges in the state all through, so many lives and property were lost as a result of lack of prompt security at crimes scenes for intervention. Failures of completion of Farin-Ruwa Hydro-Electricity Project by all the successive governments from AbdullahiAdamu who kick start, Late Alh.AliyuAkweDoma to Alh.UmaruTanko Al-Makura despite huge resources spent thereby each of these administrations. The study also revealed that the Badakoshi agricultural loan issued out to the beneficiaries in the state has neither been recovered nor the accruing interest.

Therefore, and in view of the above, and the need to correct the weaknesses/ills of the past, the following recommendations are made and offered as a solution to the government on board under the leadership of Engr. A.A. Sule in order to fill the gap created.

### **Recommendations**

Following the detections and findings highlighted in the discourse, the paper recommended as follows, that:

- i. There should be transparency and accountability by the political leaders in discharging their duties and responsibilities so that the needed development can be achieve in the state and Nigeria at large;
- ii. The political leaders in the state should develop the spirit of team work, cooperation and ability to achieve success and dividends of democracy to their people;
- iii. The leaders should be accessible and proactive towards the yearnings and aspirations of the people;
- iv. The political elites should be fair, just and should have the political will in the distribution of political benefits to the people;
- v. The political leaders should also shorn personal sentiments, ethnicity, religious politics, parochialism and personal interest;

- vi. Government should also provide social infrastructures such as electricity water, good road networks, health service and sound education to their citizens;
- vii. The Nasarawa State Government need to revive and put into use the abundant and non-functional fertilizer blending plant in Lafia, sack processing industry in Akwanga and hydroelectric power in FarinRuwa in Wamba LGA in order to boost revenue of the state;
- viii. Government should also revive the transportation company in the state that was closed down by the last administration in order to ease transportation of the populace and the needy.
- ix. Government should set a committee to verify the withheld of five months salaries of the secondary schools teachers of the Ministry of Education with the view to pay arrears to the affected person(s);
- x. The need to pay prompt salaries of workers' in the state as well as quick release of promotions/implementation to the deserving workers in the state;
- xi. Government should also set a committee to verify the percentage payment in the local government areas in the state as well as pension and gratuities despite the release of bailout funds and Paris Club monies to the state purposely to settled problems of outstanding salaries as well as pensions and gratuities in the state;
- xii. Government should also adopt the culture of quick intervention in any conflict/crisis that bedeviling the state in order to save lives and property in the state;
- xiii. The need of government to create employment opportunity for our teaming youths so as to avert them being use as agents of insecurity in the state, because an idle man is a devil's workshop.
- xiv. Lastly, government should set a committee to verify the non-payment loan given to the beneficiaries in the state in respect of the Badakoshi Agricultural Loan Scheme with view to recover those loans with interest as well continuity of such gestures in order to encourage self-employment and alleviate poverty in the state.

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