



INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY
ALHAJI KASHIM SHETTIMA
THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
BORNO STATE

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING IN CEREMONY
HELD AT RAMAT SQUARE MAIDUGURI

ON SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2011

Protocol

With gratitude to the Almighty Allah, I am greatly humbled today having been sworn-in as the 6th Executive Governor of Borno State. Today also marks twelve years of uninterrupted democratic governance in our dear country, the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The twin occasion therefore calls for sober reflection and to generate an electrifying commitment towards our resolve as a nation and as people to consolidate the gains of democracy. I am therefore obliged to congratulate all our people for attaining this enviable feat in spite of numerous teething problems we experienced in our democratic experiment.

Your Excellency, my lords, your Royal Highnesses, with profound gratitude to the Almighty for His infinite mercies and blessing, I am personally dedicating my victory at the polls to all the people of Borno State and wish to pay tribute to all those who participated in the franchise which gave us this mandate once again on the platform of our grate party the ALL NIGERIA PEOPLE PARTY (ANPP) which has been in government for the last twelve years. Therefore the policy thrust of my administration is to contribute and complement the achievement of the ANPP Government in the state as can be dictated by time and circumstance.

In this regard, the policy direction of our administration is predicated on the conscientious and determined implementation of the following programmes:

- i) Restoration of peace and tranquility in the state,
- ii) Equitable distribution of basic amenities to all our communities,
- iii) Repositioning and restructuring of the state Civil Service for increased efficiency and effectiveness.
- iv) Employment generation and entrepreneurship development,
- v) Provision of potable water supply: functional education: qualitative health care delivery, food and agriculture, youth and women empowerment, rural development and urban regeneration.

Your Excellencies, governance is a continuous process and no government can execute everything at the same time due to certain exigencies and due to prioritization and encumbrances of time constraints. In this vein, the protracted security challenges which bedeviled our state despite the effort of Government will be addressed as a matter of urgency towards ensuring a lasting solution for peace and progress to prevail in the state. We will therefore neither waiver nor renege in this resolve and Insha Allah along with other stakeholders, we shall overcome the challenges. I therefore reiterate my call on all aggrieved sections of our society to eschew the violent expressions of their grievances and come forward and dialogue with us. We are indeed very willing and ever ready to conference with such groups with a view to amicably resolving whatever their grievances with the rest of us.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, on the issue of equitable distribution of basic social amenities across the state, we are determined to drill 100 bore-holes and rehabilitate 200 existing ones in the very first quarter of our tenure. Similarly, we shall commission and put into full capacity utilization, all our New General Hospitals at Briyel (Bayo LGA), Rann (Kala-Balge LGA) Gudumbali (Guzamala LGA), Chibok (Chibok LGA), Askira (Askira/Uba LGA) as well as all the Comprehensive Health Centres. We shall ensure comprehensive renovation and expansion of the Biu General Hospital and the Marte General Hospital which was gutted by fire incident. In the same vein a new General Hospital will be constructed in Malamfatori, the Hqrts of Abadam Local Government which is the only Local Government Hqrts yet to have a General Hospital in the State. Similarly, the Infections Disease Hospital (IDH) along Gamboru Ngala road will be transformed into a General Hospital after comprehensive renovation and expansion.

We shall provide chemical fertilizers, tractors services and other Agric inputs to all our farmers as and when due. We are also totally committed to open our rural areas by providing all season rural roads, markets, efficient mass transit system, electrification, opportunities for micro-credit facilities and use enabling environment for cottage industries.

We are also in full cognizance of the fact that for any Government to achieve any realistic development objectives, it must have an efficient and effective civil service. Conscious of this fact, we are committed to restructure and reposition the service by reversing its current inverted pyramidal structure by lifting the long standing embargo on employment into the service. We shall also ensure that all that are due to our staff are always settled as when due. To improve the lives of our retired Civil servants we shall increase from N100 Million to N250 Million the monthly amount set aside for the payment of gratuity and also ensure that pensions are paid at the time of payment of monthly salary. In the same vein, we shall ensure that training and retraining and retraining of our staff are vigorously implemented. Similarly, the state Secretariat where majority of our Civil Servants work will be thoroughly renovated for conducive working environment; by implementing these programmes, we hope to have a civil service which is very loyal and with greatly improved efficiency and effectiveness.

Distinguished guests, we have firm conviction on the efficacy of creating opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship development in drastically reducing unemployment and underemployment with their concomitant adverse social restiveness, youth despondency debilitating poverty and increase in all forms of social vices. In this regard, pursuant to our determination to improve on the quality of lives our people, provision of potable water supply will take

the centre stage as we will ensure that every sizeable community is availed with a source of water supply in form of cement and tube wells, bore-holes and municipal dams for human and animal consumption. In addition the Maiduguri surface water supply scheme and the treatment will immediately undergo comprehensive turn-around maintenance. We shall also construct a new Kulluluri water works, all to improve the water supply situation in the ever expanding State capital, Maiduguri. In the same vein we shall vigorously pursue the completion of the Biu Dam project in partnership with the Federal Government. Similarly, it is our conviction that qualitative health care delivery services are brought to the doorsteps of our people with emphasis on maternal and child health care, eradication of child killer diseases as well as preventive health care services.

In the same vein, functional education, in line with modern best practices, will be accorded high premium to enable our people attain optimum level of productivity in this modern world of science and technology. Accordingly, school teachers will receive maximum attention of Government while all necessary instructional materials, equipment and school furniture would be provided and the students provided with desired motivation for learning.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our developmental approach is holistic; therefore, food security, women and youth empowerment, integrated rural development and urban regeneration will be accorded the maximum desired attention as we march towards greatness in fulfillment of the mandate of our people whom we hold in trust.

At this juncture, I will like to pay special tribute to our indefatigable, visionary and political sagacious leader His Excellency Senator (Dr) Ali Modu Sheriff for his immense contribution to the development of our great party and for his demonstrated managerial and administrative acumen in governing our dear state in the last eight years. We are indeed grateful as his successor for the massive infrastructural facilities put in place across the state. We shall Insha Allah put them into judicious and effective use and if need be build upon them for the overall interest of our people. It is in this regard that I am pleased to inform you that our policies and programmes are christened as continuity and complementarity.

Fellow citizens of Borno State, I assure you of selfless service, I assure you of credible and purposeful leadership, I assure you of honesty, transparency and accountability in the discharge of my responsibilities, I assure you that I will uphold the oath of office I have taken, I assure you of moving Borno to greater heights. I have the conviction and commitment to change your lives for the better. In this mission, it is our determination to keep everyone on board and carry everybody along. We will run an open administration, accept superior

arguments and wise counsel, we will embark on board based consultations at the stage of policy formulation and implementation.

However, this does not mean that we can succumb to petty trivialities, shameless sycophancy, cheap blackmail and self righteous arrogance.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I wish to call on our International Development Partners and Donor Agencies to rekindle their interest and increase their well known enthusiasm for the development of Borno State as we are willing and ever ready to create the enabling environment and actively participate in the numerous programmes aimed at improving the quality of lives of our people.

In the same vein, we are determined to partner with the Chad Basin and rural Development Authority to reactive the 35 mega watts power plant at New Marte to boost power supply is the most critical factor in the development of industries which is sine-qua-non for industries production and employment generation.

We shall also accord our maximum cooperation to the legislature and the judiciary within the parameters of separation of powers as enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Similarly, we are ready to work as partners with both the Federal and Local Governments for the overall benefit of our people, I wish to in the same vein appeal to the general public especially the opposition for cooperation, understanding and support in our collective effort to move the state forward.

You Excellencies, my lords Your Royal Highness, distinguished invited guest, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank all of you profoundly for your show of support and solidarity which has made this occasion very colorful. I assure all of you that as colourful as this occasion is, I will work towards ensuring that my tenure as the 6th Executive of Borno State will remain colourful by the grace of Amighty Allah.

LONG LIVE BORNO STATE

LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thank you and God bless