

## **TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION: A BLUEPRINT OF A STRATEGIC POLICES, PROGRAMMES AND AGENDA**



*SPECIALLY PACKAGED BY*  
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**SUBMITTED TO**  
**THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN ZURMI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ZAMFARA  
STATE.**

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## PREAMBLE

*Greetings of peace to you Sir,*

The Honorable Chairman, I wrote this piece to you as your humble and loyal servant who wish for nothing except to see you succeed in fulfilling the task of trust that the Almighty has bestowed upon you. I considered this write up necessary knowing fully well that you that I knew, will stop at nothing in seeking for knowledge, advice and guidance on how best you can successfully navigate Zurmi Local Government and entire Zamfara State to the Promised Land.

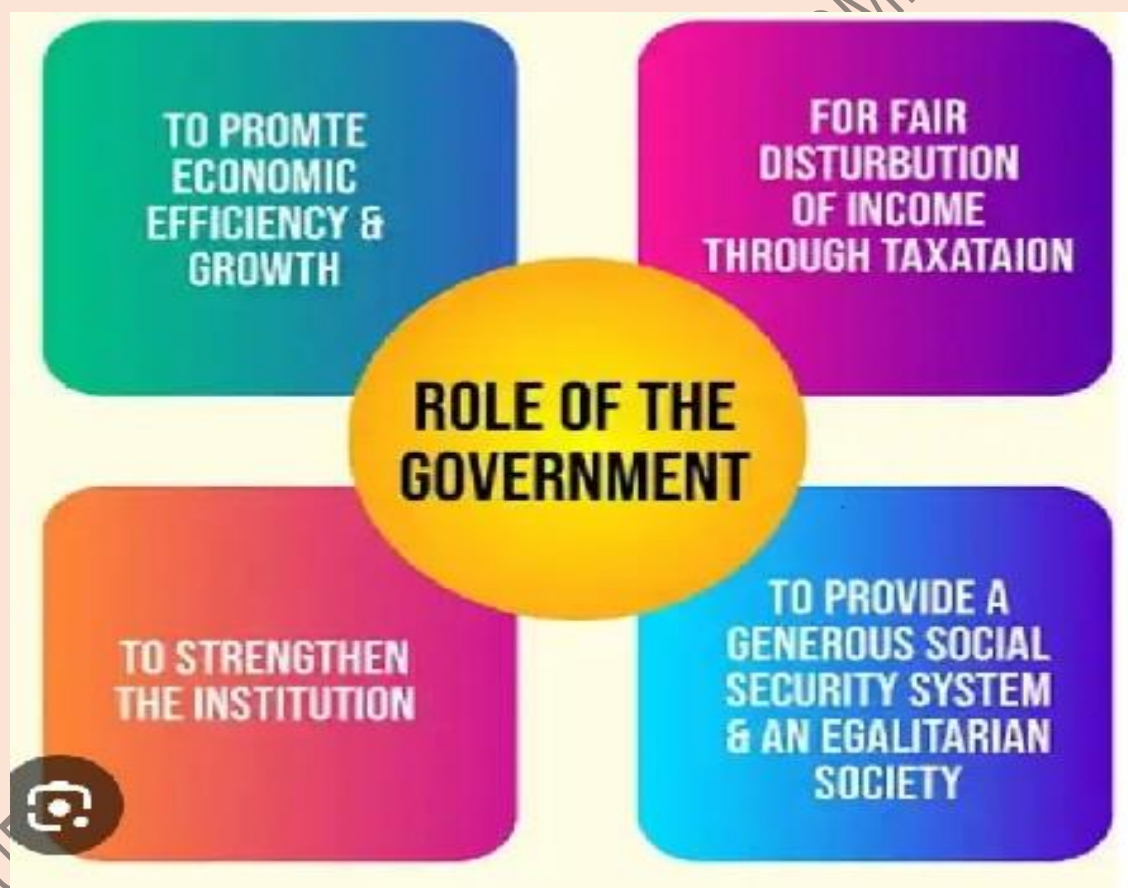


Figure 1.0: A Pictogram Showing the Responsibilities of Every Responsible Government

Let me use this medium to say a warm Congratulations to you for your appointment as Chairman ALGON Zamfara State Chapter. May Allah SWT continue to bestow on you the wisdom and guidance needed to succeed in your endeavors. You may wish to be reminded that, this your appointment has further compound your responsibilities. Because, your style of leadership and achievement will reveal and have influence on your colleagues and the impact will be felt by all the fourteen (14) local governments in the state. Hence, the need for this write-up.

In a nutshell, this write-up tries to X-ray list of Agenda/Programmes which if implemented will not only consolidates on the dividends of democracy which Zamfarians are already enjoying under the leadership of ***His Excellency Dauda Lawal***, but will *Insha Allah* make your Administration to succeed 99%.

According to Aderemi, (2011), 'Successful Administration has been the desire of all, but *alas!* only few attained it'. For you to have a successful administration, the under-listed are some of the proposed Agenda/Programmes that your administration should try to embark upon. I therefore, urged you to carefully read through them for deeper and better understanding. Do have a nice reading time ahead Sir!

- ❖ **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUFFICIENCY/SECURITY**
- ❖ **CIVIL SERVICE OVERHAUL**
- ❖ **INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT**
- ❖ **RESCURSTITATED ECONOMY**
- ❖ **IMPROVED SECURITY**
- ❖ **WELFARE**
- ❖ **PUBLIC AWARENESS/PROPAGANDA**
- ❖ **MONITORING AND SUPERVISION**

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY & SUFFICIENCY

The main objective of this is to ensure massive farming and other agricultural practices that will guarantee food sufficiency and security. To achieve this, the following needed to be adopted:

- i. Your administration should engage in full-time agricultural practice. This would be done by clearing all fertile and cultivable forests across your LG, and cultivate them for farming activities in a mechanized form. Doing this will not only guarantee food security, but also, it will serve as one of the security measures. This is because, the forests which serve as the hideout to the bandits will no longer accommodate them the moment they are turned into farmlands. Hence, the bandits will have no other options than to either surrender or leave the vicinity.

Similarly, the farm produce cultivated will be stored and later be sold to the masses at a subsidized rate/price.

- ii. Provision of farm tools and inputs to the masses on credit. You will believe me that so many administrations have tried one thing or the other that is similar to this, but to no avail - they all failed. ***The reason for their failure is because they went ahead to give money and sometimes farm inputs FREE not to the general public but only to their party loyalists majority of whom are not even farmers.*** But contrary to that approach, ***we will be distributing only farm tools and inputs to mainly the real farmers. The cost of the inputs will be monetarily quantified and must be repaid not with money but with their harvests which we shall be buying at an above market price.*** The harvests after collected shall be stored and later be freely distributed or sold at a highly subsidized price. Although, the process might seems difficult, but with the write people at the right place who shall monitor the implementation process, surely the result is obtainable.

Similarly, you will agree with me sir that, this practice becomes paramount now looking at the continuous rise in the prices of food and the level of famine in the country which all emanated from food scarcity. Worst still, the experts have even projected that the scarcity will double or even triple in the recent years to come.

### **CIVIL SERVICE COMPLETE OVERHAUL**

It is a known fact that the Zamfara state Civil Service had rotten completely and the situation is even more worrisome at the local government level. The challenges facing our civil service include; non-observance of civil service rules and procedures, 'Ghost workers', redundancy, inefficiency, non-observance of professional work ethics, to mention but a few.

To this end sir, you will need to use your wealth of experience (being a seasoned and veteran retired civil servant) in reshaping and sanitizing the system. This will go a long way in ensuring due process, avoid wastages and block leakages in the system. This will assist your administration in achieving its objectives.

### **REVENUE GENERATION**

Revenue generation and management is one of the cardinal objectives of any responsible government. This is because no administration can run smoothly without finance. Hence, the need to pay special attention to it. To achieve this, the following become necessary:

- i. **Blocking all Revenue Leakages:** Revenue leakages has been the major phenomenon in Zamfara Revenue System since its inception in 1996. This evil act can be traced to the unorganized revenue and civil service system, sharp and corrupt practices by officers etc. It will interest you to know that blocking of revenue leakages alone can guarantee and contribute about 55% to the total

revenue generation. This is what ***His Excellency Dauda Lawal*** did that boosted his revenue generation. Achieving this is by simply streamlining and squeezing the government coffers and by appointing well-experienced, trusted and honest persons to manage the accounts regardless of their background and political affiliations.

- ii. **By Identifying and Increasing other Multiple Sources of Revenue that fall under the Local Government Jurisdiction:** One of this new sources is the revenue from the agricultural program and practices explained above.

## INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The fact that our towns and villages have over the years been suffering from infrastructural decay is unarguable. The infrastructural deficit arose from past governments' irresponsibility, increase in population, poor maintenance culture and the chief among them – vandalism by the bandits. The need for massive investment in every nook and cranny of Zamfara State is therefore paramount. To do this, investment is needed in the following areas:

- i. **Construction of good but strategic roads:** This means that roads that are of economic benefits (whether main or feeder roads) needed to be constructed in each of the wards in the LGA.
- ii. **Building/Renovation of Primary and Nomadic Schools across the LGA**
- iii. **Building/Renovation of Mosques, Islamiyyas (including Tsangaya schools) and Burial Grounds across the wards in the LGA.**
- iv. **Provision of Health Care Facilities such as PHCs and Dispensaries fully equipped and furnished with the needed drugs.** As a person with idea on drug procurement, you can invest relative amount of money in purchasing the needed drugs.



To achieve all these, an interactive platform or a kind of TOWNHALL GATHERING needed to be organized at regular interval (say, every Three 3 Months) where representatives of each town, village and ward will be in attendance so as to mention and discuss a number of key and most important projects they needed in their respective areas.

*Figure 2.0 below is a Pictogram showing some of the Activities, Policies and Programmes of Every Responsible Government*



## RESCURCITATED ECONOMY

This is of course the most crucial and difficult of all the agenda. However, its achievement is relatively easy because, this agenda is interconnected with other agendas/programs. That is to say, once other agendas are well implemented, they will altogether assist in revamping and boost the economy. For instance, once economic important roads were constructed, they will ease the transportation of farm produce

and other commodities from farms to the targeted customers and the market. Similarly, the number of casual and skilled workers who are largely the indigenes of the communities will earn some revenue and boost the economy of the local government.

To ensure economic development of not only Zurmi Local Government but the state as a whole, the following needed to be adopted:

- i. **Employment/Generation through Recruitment:** It is an obvious fact that one of the objectives of the verification exercise conducted on Local Government workers, to which you a member, is to sanitize the payroll and the system. This will give room for salary adjustment and most importantly pave way for recruiting new employees that will fill the existing vacancies. Some of the facilities built such as Schools, PHCs, and Dispensaries will require workers that will manage them for them to be fully functional and effective. It is unarguable fact that workers' wages and salaries have a multiplier effect on the economy of the area, most especially, the case of Zamfara State which is one of the state which its economic activities depend largely on salary.
- ii. **Provision of Loans and Grants to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Local Government:** Loans and grants should be provided to the economically active but poor people in the LGA. People that engage in soft trade like Women frying Soya Beans Cake, Kuli-Kuli, Bean cake, Cooked and Fried Potato, Cooked Rice and Beans etc, should be given grants/loan while those who engage in livestock production i.e. rearing of Sheep and Goats, Chicken and Poultry should be provided with the required animals and their feeds as grants and loans. Similarly, youths who may wish to acquire Tricycle (NAPEP), Motorcycle and even Golf cars for transportation should be subjected to entering into a Hire Purchase arrangement where the



government ONLY PAY A TOKEN (PART) OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT AS GRANT and serve as the GUARANTOR for the beneficiary/buyer to the seller.

One may want to argue that even past administrations have engaged in this kind of arrangement but no avail. That is not completely true, because as little as it may, some beneficiaries made judicious use of the grants received. However, the programmes became unsuccessful due to problems such as; biasness of the implementing officers in selecting the beneficiaries, nepotism and corrupt practices, the government also provided real cash instead of the needed materials etc.

However, we are going to organize our own program differently because:

- Right and honest officers will be recruited from the various towns and villages regardless of their party affiliations, ethnicity and even religion to select the eligible beneficiaries.
- Secondly, the government will only provide the needed commodities, equipment and/or assets that too, NOT COMPLETELY FREE. Instead, it will only contribute a certain percentage in the repayment and act as Guarantor in the payment of the remaining balance by the beneficiaries to the seller.

**iii. Investments:** Your administration should look both inward and outward to identify viable areas where it can invest its resources into varieties of revenue/dividends-yielding investments.

**iv. Skills Acquisition:** Youths across the LG should be engaged in learning various marketable trades and skills. Trainings in the areas such as Software Design and Development, POP making, fashion designing, carpentry, masonry, and joinery, business development and management skills etc should be organized. The government should build the skills acquisition

centers, Hire the trainers, give the apprentices stipends and provide start-up packs for the grandaunts.

- v. **Public Private Partnership (PPP):** Not all the projects and programmes needed to be carried out alone by the government. Your administration can simply sign relevant MOUs with private partners, donor organizations and other necessary development partners in the areas that requires collaboration and will bring socio-economic developments to both the LGAs and the State. Engaging development partners will significantly reduce the pressure on the Local Government and as well help in achieving almost all the above-mentioned goals. All we need to do is to identify the right partners for each developmental projects and goals.

## IMPROVED SECURITY

It is an unarguable fact that security is pivotal to the achievement of all the above-mentioned goals. This is owing to the fact that, it is the first and major constitutional responsibility of every government. Similarly, insecurity usually pose a major threat to the socio-economic development of any given area where it is characterized.

The insecurity in Zamfara state has been in existence for over a decade. This means that, the current administration inherited the phenomenon, and as such, a single immediate solution is not obtainable. However, the administration, as a matter of urgency will have to come up with a robust, more effective and sustained measures to minimize and even curb the menace. To do this, the following become necessary:

- i. **A Security Team/Committee needed to be constituted in all villages and towns.** The Team shall comprise The Village Head, The Religious leader plus at least some Three (3) more persons with proven integrity. Some of the duties of the Team among other things include; to oversee the security affairs of the town and villages; select (whether or not from amongst the Team) people

with proven integrity, skills and expertise to serve as Vigilante/Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF). The Vigilante groups in all the villages and towns would be headed by a Leader with other principal officers to be referred to as 'The Central Vigilante Group'. This group shall be selected from the local groups across the local government. The Group shall have dedicated contact numbers through which the report of all the activities of the local vigilante groups shall be communicated from time to time and shall report to, and be answerable only to the Executive Chairman. Similarly, every Councilor is an automatic member of the Security Team at his/her ward level. The Group shall be entitled to allowances (with or without uniform). They shall be provided with local guns, magazines and riffles from time to time as they demanded, and they shall be responsible for guarding within and outside their communities. They shall report, arrest collaborate with other security personnel and even shoot the criminals where it becomes absolutely necessary. Their activities shall be conducted under strict, discreet and professionalism to avoid criminals disguised to steal their intelligent reports and posed to be them. Their activities should also be reviewed after every quarter for adjustments where necessary and persons that displayed gallantry efforts be rewarded and celebrated and those found culpable be disciplined accordingly. The government on its part, should provide the needed tools and weapons, create enabling environment for the exercise to be carried out accordingly.

- ii. Sensitizations and training on Security tips should be organized by the LG from time to time, with the residents being encouraged to always cooperate, assist, support and furnish the security personnel with intelligent reports most especially *'The Need to Say Something, when They See Something'*.
- iii. In addition, different Ulamas from time to time (more often) should be made to be discreetly organizing prayers against insecurity at their respective domains.

With this sustained security efforts, I believed that insecurity will become a thing of the past *Insha Allah*.

## WELFARE

The welfare of the people is one of the cardinal objectives of creating specifically the third tier/level of the government i.e. the local government. The Local Governments are created by the Nigerian Constitution so as to take/bring governance to the people at the grassroot. Hence, the achievement of this objective is paramount. To achieve this the following becomes necessary:

- i. **Distribution of palliatives:** Your administration may earmark certain amount of money to buy needed items (most especially foodstuffs) to be distributed across all the nooks and cranny of the local government regardless of the political affiliation or otherwise of the beneficiaries.
- ii. **Acquiring essential food items to be resale at a subsidized price:** These two points or actions just mentioned can be carried out by purchasing food items in large quantity most especially during harvest period and distribute and/or sell them out at a highly subsidized amount during scarcity. Similarly, the stored agricultural products as explained under the AGRICULTURE AGENDA above can as well be used for this purpose. Doing this at this critical moment will not only cushion the effect of our people's economic hardship, but will significantly boost the people's support and love for your leadership and the party as a whole.

However, as good as this initiative is, corrupt practices both from the officers carrying out this task and even the buyers or beneficiaries may affect the full achievement of this objective. But to minimize the corruption, honest people must be selected as the committee to carryout the task. Similarly, the food item should be rebagged or repackaged into a customized sack in relatively small quantity (for example 5kgs) per purchase without repetition. Ultimately, an underground monitoring committee should

be appointed to oversee the entire process and report any form of abnormalities observed, and the erring officer or person be punished accordingly.

**iii. Appointments:** Qualified persons whom have worked for you in the struggle plus those whom are highly skilled in certain tasks should be appointed into right positions. This will not only assist you in getting all right job done, but will surely bring about a robust followership to your administration and party.

**iv. Personal Gifts and Donations:** Gifts, donations during events, emergencies, losses, extra-ordinary activities and performances, supports, etc, are key in this regard. Similarly, some projects and contracts can as well be awarded to qualified, honest and deserving persons among your allies and party loyalists. This will boost their support for you and foster stronger relations with you. The party chieftains may be given special consideration under this area.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS/PROPAGANDA**

The need for the public to be aware of all the government activities, policies and programmes is indeed key in facilitating the understanding and support of a given administration by its populace. There is therefore need by not only your administration but the entire 14 LGAs to always educate and inform the public about the good works that each of the local government is doing. A program shall from time to time or regularly be sponsored and delivered either on radio, television or other media channels by ALGON as a whole, or by individual local government administration where activities, policies, programmes and objectives of each local government administration is well spelt out.

In addition, a public awareness sub-committee may be constituted by each local government shall as a form of follow-up to the media channels, communicate and explain the activities, policies, programmes and objectives of the government to

individuals and groups as a way orientating them on the need to understand and support the administration in achieving its socio-economic development plans.

Similarly, jingles, sponsoring of at least one popular (public participatory) program in each of the radio and T.V stations in Zamfara state can be co-sponsored too by the ALGON.

### **MONITORING AND SUPERVISION**

This is perhaps the most important follow-up task that will help your administration in achieving all the above-mentioned objectives. Even in the Islamic leadership system, a leader is considered 'weak' if he has no tactical method of ensuring that all the assigned tasks or projects are duly implemented and completed. The situation was the same even during the era of *Caliphs* who are by-far more trustworthy than our generation. Findings revealed that most governments failed not because they lack good programmes, but because the programmes were either poorly implemented or were not implemented at all by the officers assigned to carry out the tasks.

However, to curb this menace, you will need to personally appoint some GOD-FEARING, HONEST AND PATRIOTIC BUT UN-POPULAR STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS whom their identity must not be known by anybody except you. The duty of the committee is to discreetly monitor and verify every program and report directly only to you.

In addition to this, a dedicated phone number, Whatsapp, e-mails, Facebook and other social media accounts should be made available to the public where anybody can easily send whatever abnormalities he observed in any programme(s) by the officials. These social media must be managed by an honest dedicated officer appointed by you and report only to you.



## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the agenda mentioned above if properly implemented will go a long way in ensuring a successful tenure and *Insha Allah* pave way for you to easily achieve your further political ambitions.

Let me at this juncture reiterate that I am ever ready to be called upon for further explanation of some confusing part and procedures mentioned in this blueprint. Similarly, I will be more than ready to be called to serve or be part of the implementation process if need be.

Finally, it should however be noted that the Agendas highlighted in this blueprint will be subjected to review from time to time so as to allow for adjustments where necessary. May Allah SWT grant you a resounding success in the discharge of the duties.

BLUEPRINT OF AGENDA TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION