

KWEEKLY

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Governor seeks innovation as Kwarा civil service gets computers

Kwara Governor seeks better care for fallen heroes' families, veterans



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Editor's Note

Every time people talk about the state of the civil service, it is often about what the service cannot do or is not doing. We cannot keep berating the body without looking at the root cause of their inefficiencies or helping it realise its potentials.

However, Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has great plans for all the sectors in the state, including the civil service. On Friday, he flagged off the distribution of laptops, desktop computers, printers and more to the state civil service. This is only the beginning of more to come.

Last week, the governor also met with President Muhammadu Buhari to seek his support for the development of Kwara State. Please check the inside pages in this issue to find out more about the governor's activities for the week in review.

Governor seeks innovation as Kwara civil service gets computers

It's a great dawn in Kwara, says HOS



Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Friday flagged off the distribution of computers and other office tools to various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the state to equip the civil service with modern tools and make the workers more efficient.

AbdulRazaq said the administration purchased the computers (desktop

and laptop), monitors, printers, UPS, and photocopiers following his discoveries that most of the offices either did not have them or the ones they had were not working.

"We are here to unveil these innovative tools to make work easier for you. Going through Ministries, I saw that this equipment was lacking. I saw archaic equipment in offices,

mostly not working, with civil servants going to business centres to type and print letters. This will be a thing of the past,” the governor said at a brief event to distribute the equipment in Ilorin on Friday, January 17, 2020.



“I am not saying that these equipment will solve all your problems today but just like a journey of a thousand miles, which starts with a step, I believe this is a first step and we will continue to build on this.”

He said the civil service is a good system with good people which only requires adequate tools to deliver on its mandate, adding that: “I hope this will help you in your productivity.”

The governor later witnessed the distribution of the tools which included 100 HP branded desktop computers; 100 HP Monitors (18.5’); 100 HP printers; 100 UPS; 50 Sharp photocopiers (AR602); and 20 HP laptop computers.

Kwara State Head of Service Susan Modupe Oluwole commended the Governor for rewriting the story of the civil service, saying: “I don’t know for long we have been working without tools. If we get paid and there are no tools to work with, it makes no difference. So this is a new era and we are excited that we are now getting tools to work with.”

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing Dr Garba Manjo hailed AbdulRazaq for stabilising the civil service, saying the Governor’s decision to not hurriedly scatter workers around after he was sworn in testifies to his maturity and respect for institutions.

“Your Excellency we thank you for the good work you have been doing for the service for the past seven months. We thank you for the completion of the state secretariat. We thank you for the prompt payment of salaries. We thank you for the timely release of operational grants to MDAs,” Manjo said.

“We thank you for the stability you have brought into the service. In the past, we were used to changing all officers across all levels with the change in government but you chose to stabilise the service and this surprised everybody. We also thank you for ending the era of no cash backing.

“We thank you for the distribution of these computer sets which will enhance our operational efficiency. You have restored the state to the era of ‘administocracy’ which we witnessed last in the 1970s and 1980s.”

The brief event was attended by top government functionaries and senior civil servants, especially representatives of the various MDAs who received the tools on behalf of their offices.

AbdulRazaq meets Buhari, seeks support for Kwara development

President commends Governor for his giant strides



Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq last Monday briefed President Muhammadu Buhari about some developmental challenges he inherited in the north central state and the steps he has taken to gradually reposition it.

“The governor held a one-on-one meeting with the President on Monday at the Villa in Abuja to keep him abreast of the situation he met on the ground especially as regards

infrastructural deficits in the area of water, roads, education, health, and agriculture,” according to a statement by AbdulRazaq’s Chief Press Secretary Rafiu Ajakaye.

“His Excellency also told the president how he has been tackling these challenges such as gradually restoring potable water in the state capital and other parts of the state, the payment of various counterpart funds in the health sector, how he has

returned UNICEF back to the state after many years, the blacklisting of Kwara State by UBEC and the payment of the N450m debt to restore the relationship, among many other steps he has taken.”

The statement said AbdulRazaq also told Buhari about how he quickly ended the strike across the Colleges of Education when he assumed office and how he had since paid over N700m to settle their salary arrears. He also narrated to the President how his administration has restored constant and timely payment of salary of workers, subventions and running costs across various ministries.

He also explained to the President that Kwara is already keying into various developmental projects of the Federal Government, including passing the state’s Social Investment Programme law that provides for school feeding, soft loans for marketers, and conditional cash transfer for the elderly to cut poverty rate.

“The governor meanwhile appealed to the president on the condition of Federal Roads in the state. He also told President Buhari that the state will construct the Kosubosu-Bode Saadu Road to open up Kwara State. He also urged the president to give special attention to the roads. He also told the president that Kwara wants a Federal College of Education. He equally requested the fast tracking of the National Livestock Transformation Programme because Kwara wants to be an integral part of it, especially the dairy component of the programme,” the statement said.

President Buhari, for his part, commended AbdulRazaq for the visit, his giant strides, and his ongoing efforts in repositioning the state.

Buhari promised to look into his requests for the development of Kwara and Nigeria as a whole, the statement added.

Kwara Governor seeks better care for fallen heroes' families, veterans



Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has called for better care and attention to the welfare of families left behind by fallen heroes.

The governor told reporters on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, that caring for the families of the veterans is the way to show gratitude for their selfless service to the country.

"For the living and families of the fallen heroes, we have to continue to pray for them, support them, engage them and thank them for their service to Nigeria," he said shortly

after laying the wreath and performing other ceremonies at the 2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day in Ilorin, the state capital.

AbdulRazaq commended the departed heroes for their selfless service in protecting the territorial integrity of the country and strengthening the unity, peace and security of the nation.

He also pledged more support to the security agencies to strengthen the safety of lives and properties in the state.

"Our security agencies are doing exceedingly well in performing their mandate and we have to support them to perform their mandate of ensuring security in the state and Nigeria at large," AbdulRazaq added.

AbdulRazaq also promised more support for the Nigeria Legion's outreaches and other programmes in the state.



Exam malpractices won't be tolerated under me — Kwara Gov

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has threatened heavy sanctions against any school heads or officials caught aiding and abetting examination malpractices in the state.

The governor made this announcement in a statement released Thursday, January 16, 2020 by his Chief Press Secretary Rafiu Ajakaye.

AbdulRazaq said the high rate of malpractices in the 2019 WASSCE led to the blacklist of 165 schools in the state and financial penalties from the examination body.

The examinations were held between 8th April and 31st May, 2019.

The development — the worst in the history of the state — affected 122 public secondary schools and 43 private schools, each fined N250,000.

"This administration is sad to note that WAEC has derecognised 165 schools in Kwara because of widespread cases of cheating in the 2019 senior secondary certificate examination in which some top education officials and parents were implicated.

This is very unfortunate and this administration will not hesitate to sanction any school heads or officials that ever engage in such conduct in the future," the governor said in the statement.

"The administration also urges parents to desist from encouraging cheating in the examination. We call on Kwarans to expose this cancer. As a result of such incidents of aiding and abetting of examination malpractices, this administration will now have to pay N30.5m of scarce public resources to get the necessary approval for the affected public schools to host WAEC examinations in the future. This is avoidable. Examination malpractice constitutes some of the worst hindrance to a bright future because it negates the time-tested principles of hard work, diligence, and thirst for knowledge and excellence."

The statement said the unhealthy trend and other shortcomings in the sector explain why the government is organising an education summit in the first quarter of 2020 to discuss all the issues affecting the sector and come up with practicable roadmap and reform options.

Kwara Governor attends burial rites for Dr Oniyangi

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Friday joined senior citizens and hundreds of Muslim faithful for the burial rites (Janaazah) of elder statesman and former Secretary to the State Government Dr AbdulKadir Oniyangi.

Dr Oniyangi died on Thursday. A devout Muslim, he was buried at his GRA Ilorin home shortly after the Jum'at prayer.

Governor AbdulRazaq had earlier privately visited the home of the statesman on Friday to commiserate with the family.

He returned for the Islamic burial rites (Janaazah) after the Friday prayer,

joined by cabinet members and dozens of senior citizens from across the Ilorin Emirate and beyond who gathered to honour Dr Oniyangi.

Dignitaries at the burial included Senator Sadiq Umar (Kwara North); Chief Judge of Kwara State Justice Sulyman Durosinlorun Kawu; and former Grand Khadi of Sharia Court of Appeal Kwara State Justice AbdulKadir Orire.

Describing his death as the end of an era, AbdulRazaq had earlier described Dr Oniyangi as a trailblazer in the medical profession and a distinguished public administrator with impeccable character.

Extras



L-R (front row): Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Joana Inazua Kolo; Special Adviser and Counsellor, Arch. Kale Belgore; President, Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN), Prof. Okpeh O. Okpeh; Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Council Member, HSN, Dr Ogunode Sunday; Commissioner for Education, Hajia Fatimah Bisola Ahmed; Executive Secretary Committee of Vice-Chancellor of Nigeria; Prof Samuel Aghalino; and Vice-President North Central, HSN, Dr. Akachi Odoemena; during a courtesy visit by HSN to Government House, Ilorin, the state capital, on Friday.

Extras



L-R: Senior Adviser and Counsellor to Kwara State Governor, Architect Kale Belgore; Regional Director, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Mrs Akomolafe Kehinde; Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; the Nigerian lady repatriated from Lebanon, Gloria Taiwo Ogundele; Commander, NAPTIP, Osogbo Zonal Command, Saadu Mustapha; and Head of Operations, NAPTIP, Oshogbo Zonal Command, Yusuf Olatunji Issa; during a courtesy visit by NAPTIP and Miss Ogundele at Government House, Ilorin, the state capital, on Thursday.

Extras



L-R: Senior Adviser and Counsellor to Kwara State Governor, Architect Kale Belgore; Compliance Officer, Staco Insurance Plc, Ahmed Tiamiyu; Chairman, Staco Insurance Plc, Muhammad Sidi Aliyu; Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; MD/CEO, Staco Insurance Plc, Bayo Fakorede; and Manager, Ilorin Branch Staco Insurance Plc, Dare Oluwafemi; during a courtesy visit to the governor at the Government House, Ilorin, the state capital, at the weekend.

