Lagos and UK talk development

The Deputy British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Peter Carter, on 23rd of September 2013 hosted Governor Babatunde Fashola and some members of the State Executive Council to a six-monthly breakfast meeting to discuss areas of mutual interest between the Lagos State and UK governments.

Issues covered during the meeting included skills and employment, infrastructure development, sharing good governance and growth lessons in the South West region, and ease of doing business and obtaining business visas in Nigeria.

The Lagos State commissioners at the meeting included Sola Oworu (Commerce & Industry), Ben Akabueze (Economic Planning & Budget), Oladunjoye Olayinka (Education), Ade Ipaye (Justice) and Ayo Gbeleyi (Finance).

Change of Guard in DFID Nigeria

Dr. Richard Montgomery, erstwhile Head of Office, DFID has left Nigeria for Pakistan as the new Head of DFID in the South Asian country. He has been replaced by Dr Christian Rogg in an acting capacity until the new Head of Office, Ben Mellor, resumes in February 2014.

The South West DFID office had a wonderful working relationship with Richard and from its perspective, the key achievements

(Continue on page 2)
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) established in Lagos

The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Lagos state is a one stop service centre for victims of sexual abuse providing them with immediate emergency medical treatment, forensic medical examination by specially trained doctors and nurses, and crisis support by specially trained counselors.

On Monday the 1st of July 2013, the SARC also known as Mirabel Centre opened its doors to the public.

The Centre, the first of its kind in Nigeria, is run by a Civil Society Organization, Partnership for Justice with the support from St Mary’s Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom and in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Health.

In the first month of opening, the Centre saw 23 victims of sexual abuse. Over 90% of its clients were girls aged between 4 and 17 years and more than half of them were referred by the Police.

Need help?

If you or anyone you know has been a victim of sexual abuse please visit

Mirabel Centre
Department of Family Medicine, LASUTH, Ikeja

Or call 08056268573 to speak with a counselor

The Centre is open from 9am till 5pm Mon to Fri
There are duty nurses and midwives on call Saturday and Sunday.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Partnership for Justice and the Chief Medical Director of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) to establish the SARC within the hospital with the approval of the Lagos State Commissioner of Health.

Dr Christian Rogg has visited the DFID Lagos office and is very much interested in Lagos programme results and reform outcomes.

during Richard’s tenure include approval and relocation of new office from Sadiku Street to Reals Plaza; approval of DFID support to Ehingbeti Summit; short term intervention for Ekiti State; and advancement of MOU with Lagos State Government.

Dr Christian Rogg is holding the fort after Richard’s departure as the acting Head of Office. Until now, Rogg was the Deputy Head of DFID Nigeria. He has rich experience and skills in diverse areas of development.

Rogg... acting Head of Office
He was previously the Acting Head of DFID in Vietnam; Head of Growth and Governance Team; Economic Adviser / Acting Team Leader, leading on investment and competition issues; prepared ministerial briefings; managed several large projects with UNCTAD, OECD, World Bank and international NGOs; and lots more.

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... Change of Guard in DFID Nigeria

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Participants at the forum

A new education programme - Developing Effective Private Education in Nigeria (DEEPEN) - has been introduced by the Department for International Development (DFID) to improve the quality of education in private schools in Lagos State.

The five-year UK government-funded DEEPEN will support low-cost schools in particular. It will complement existing education programmes in the state, including especially the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) through which DFID is improving public sector education in Lagos and Nigeria.

Findings from surveys conducted by ESSPIN show that there are over one million children of primary and pre-primary school age currently enrolled in about 18,000 private schools in Lagos State but with no donors’ support to the sector despite its majority stake in educating two-thirds of Lagos’ children.

Like ESSPIN is doing in the public education sector, the new programme will seek to improve the learning outcomes of children in private schools in Lagos State, using a market-development approach.

Participants at the workshop addressed the importance of creating awareness on the implementation of the law in Lagos State and also ensure its passage in other South-West states.

Following the passage of the Lagos Special People’s Law in 2011 by Governor Babatunde Fashola, there is now the zeal to see to the improvement of the law in Lagos State and also ensure its passage in other South-West states.

This was evident at a recent forum for stakeholders in the South-West states to share knowledge on Inclusive and Disability friendly laws and policies. The programme was organised by SAVI through its Civil Society (CS) partner on disability issues - Disability Policy Advocacy Initiative (DPAI) - in collaboration with Lagos State Ministry of Youths, Sport & Social Development and Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA).

Firstly, the participants addressed the importance of creating awareness on the passage of the Disability Bill in the South-West geopolitical zone.

Lagos State has set the pace in correcting the wrong impression on people with disabilities from a welfare model to a social model of disability.

Physically challenged people are neither asking for charity, nor demanding special treatment, they are only seeking fair opportunity. Hence, there should be Government’s Disability Strategy and Action Plan that will strengthen the voice of the disabled in government circle.

South-West states adopt Lagos’s law on people with disabilities
“Lagos State Development Plan will bring about sustainability”

Adesegun Ogunlewe
Former Lagos State Head of Service

SPARC: What have been the high and low points of your working relationship with SPARC?

Ogunlewe: Before SPARC came onboard, Governor Fashola had initiated a process for public service reform. SPARC started with a self-assessment workshop in 2009 which I led as the Permanent Secretary for Establishment. From our responses [at the workshop], areas of priority for governance reform in the state were identified.

SPARC deployed funds, technical assistance and have supported us in terms of training and capacity building. On the other side, the state government has been supportive in terms of providing counterpart funding in driving the reform process.

A major high point for me is that all stakeholders as far as this reform agenda is concerned have been carried along and this has led to their buy-into the change process. In fact, most of the change processes are actually handled by our staff, so that it is a home grown development.

Low point is that we are not moving at a rate that we should, because sometimes, funds are released late, our involvement with other donor programmes sometimes conflicts with our work with SPARC and this sometimes leads to a slow pace of work.

SPARC: How would you describe the impact SPARC has had on LASG through its governance reform programme?

Ogunlewe: Asides from Public Service Management (PSM), SPARC also supports the state in the areas of Public Financial Management (PFM), Policy & Strategy and Monitoring & Evaluation. Under PSM reforms, a major impact for us has been the development of Service Charters for 14 pilot agencies. This was launched on July 3rd 2012 by the Governor to open spaces for the public to challenge us on how we intend to serve them better. Since we started this process, there has been tremendous improvement on the way we render services to the people particularly in the health sector. Under the support to PFM, we have been able to develop a Public Procurement Law, an Audit Reform Law and a Public Finance Law - all these to ensure that we efficiently use resources, do things transparently and reduce corruption.

SPARC: As you leave the Civil Service, what advice would you give LASG to sustain all the work currently being done in the state?

Ogunlewe: With support from SPARC and other donor programmes, we have had tremendous improvement in education, health, housing, State House of Assembly and lots more. To sustain the gains of all these programmes, we are already developing our State Development Plan, and all these support are being incorporated into the development plan. So, with the Lagos State Development Plan in place, it will bring about the sustainability of all the reforms currently being done in Lagos State.
Photo speaks

**Girl child education**
Some Lagos school girls with dignitaries including Lagos SUBEB Chairman during the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child organised by ESSPIN in Lagos with the theme *Girls’ Education for Nigeria’s Development: Lagos Girls Speak*

**Support for the disabled**
A physically challenged person being helped down the stairs during a 3-day knowledge sharing & follow up workshop of Special People’s Law organized by SAVI

**Enhancing public procurement**
Participants at a 3-day intensive training programme organized on Procurement Law by SPARC for Lagos State procurement officers

**No to rape**
The Mirabel Centre was opened recently with support from J4A to address cases of sexual assault in Lagos

**Thank you**
Mrs Sola Oworu, Commissioner for Commerce & Industry, presented a local attire to Mr Sean Duggan, GEMS3 consultant who co-facilitated a workshop for the Investment Promotion Unit

**Lagos-UK partnership**
Governor Fashola and five of his commissioners with the British High and Deputy High Commissioners and DFID officials after a breakfast meeting to discuss areas of mutual interest between Lagos and UK

**Farewell to Ogunlewe**
Representatives of DFID and its programmes in Lagos recently bid farewell to immediate past Lagos State Head of Service, Adesegun Ogunlewe, at a send-forth party
“No more traditional birth attendants for me” – says 32-year old expectant woman

Lekki PHC is one of the health facilities renovated by PATHS2 in Lagos. The health centre now has a 20KVA power generating plant and inverters to supply electricity and provide services on 24 hours basis. Following the renovation, the facility became more attractive to community members, especially pregnant women.

Mrs. Olayinka Jolomi aged 32 years, from Oniyanrin, Lekki, was over 36 weeks old with her sixth pregnancy. She had her first three deliveries by Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). She had lost one of her babies to poor management of pregnancy complications by TBAs. For her, using the PHC has turned out to be the best decision.

“The nurse and doctors that attend to us do tell us about the danger signs of pregnancy like headache, swollen legs and others. They also encouraged us to always report these signs to the health centre once we feel them” she said.

Commenting on the effect of the facelift and its effects on client inflow, the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Lekki PHC, Mrs Ibironke Daramola said it has never been so good at Lekki PHC.

“We no longer have worries over light at nights which is when most women go into labour. If the public electricity supply goes off, the inverters are there to keep us running... Now in a month, we normally have over 100 newly registered women for ANC unlike in the past when we would pray for at least ten. We now take delivery of not less than 10 babies per month, unlike in the past when getting even two deliveries was almost impossible”.

Indeed, the health facility upgrade in Lekki PHC has improved service utilization.
Promoting women’s participation in the construction industry

One of the objectives of the GEMS2 programme is to identify opportunities for empowering women to enable their greater participation in, and increased benefits from, the construction and real estate sector.

It is widely recognised that Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) opportunities in the Nigerian construction industry are currently limited, with the Input Supplies intervention area holding the greatest potential for expanding women’s involvement. In the sector, as many women in the industry are found in the supply chain rather than on the construction site.

In order to encourage the participation of women, GEMS2 has taken a proactive approach to identifying WEE interventions.

A focus group discussion in late 2012 led to the formation of the Association of Women in Building Construction (AWBC) at the women’s own initiative, a group created to provide services to members and give women in construction a collective voice to advocate for change.

Members of the Association of Women in Building Construction (AWBC) have written their own constitution, elected executive leadership and recently received their official registration from the Corporate Affairs Commission.

In an effort to address access to finance issues faced by women entrepreneurs in the sector, initial discussions between AWBC and Diamond Bank took place and members of the organisation opened bank accounts with Diamond Bank. AWBC, with support of GEMS2, has also begun negotiating the cooperative purchase and lease of heavy equipment for sand and gravel mining.

Building the capacity of Lagos Investment Promotion Unit

The capacity building program for the Investment Promotion Unit (IPU) under the Lagos State Ministry of Commerce and Industry involved exposing staff to best practices in the Investment Promotion field as well as developing a strategy and blueprint for the IPU. On the latter, a week-long training was provided to IPU staff.

The topics covered were Investment Fundamentals, Investment Promotion Functions and Practice, Competing for Investment, Marketing and Handling Investors. This was followed by a strategy session for political heads to discuss the Draft IPU Strategy. The training was facilitated by Sean Duggan, GEMS3 Investment Promotion consultant and Sola Oworu, Commissioner for Commerce & Industry.

“We realise that we need to set up a IPU unit like yesterday. We see the importance of streamlining investment promotion in Lagos for better coordination, so we can attract the right kind of investors”, says Oworu.
DFID Programmes in Lagos

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For more information on how UK DFID is providing UKaid to support development in Lagos State and Nigeria, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/nigeria

Do you know?

That Nigeria is among the top five countries where DFID is working to provide UKaid

1. Ethiopia – £335.84m
2. Pakistan – £297.31m
3. Bangladesh – £267.67m
4. Nigeria – £255.97m
5. DR Congo – £185.42M

That with Development Tracker (www.devtracker.dfid.gov.uk), you can follow how UK is investing in developing countries like Nigeria

Give us your feedback

We will like to hear from you. Please let us have your comments, views, opinions, suggestions, enquiries, etc.

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