Lagos State Education

Governor Fashola acknowledges support from partners

Honours DFID and ESSPIN

Governor Babatunde Fashola has commended the efforts of individuals and organisations that are partnering with the Lagos State government to improve the standard of education in the state.

The Governor thanked the partners in February at the 2014 Corporate Social Responsibility Awards & Breakfast Meeting of the state’s Support Our Schools initiative, at the Lagos City Hall.

He noted some gains of the partnership: “The classrooms are better, the school environment is better . . . (there is) improved performance of students in WAEC (exams) from 10% a few years ago to 41% (this year).”

The Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) was recognised for its support in improving the state’s public basic education system, including in establishing and institutionalising the State School Improvement Team and in the provision of boreholes and toilets.

Former ESSPIN Lagos Team Leader - Gboyega Ilusanya and DFID Regional Coordinator - Adesina Fagbenro-Bryon got individual awards for using their positions to facilitate educational support for the state.

Fashola urged the partners not to rest on their oars. “With your support, a milestone has been achieved but we have to look ahead. I want you all to join me in facing the titanic challenge in the education sector,” he said.

DEEPEN launched

Meanwhile, a new DFID programme on education - Developing Effective Private Education Nigeria (DEEPEN) - has been officially launched. DEEPEN was launched on February 27 at the De Renaissance Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos.

DEEPEN aims to create an enabling environment and improve the conditions of all Lagos private schools, with focus on those serving children from low-income families.

The event was an opportunity

Thank you
Gov Fashola presents the award to ESSPIN, received by the Team Leader, Bode Oyeneye. See more pictures of the Awards on page 4.
DEEPEN programme launched (from page 1)

for DFID to present the new programme to key stakeholders in the Lagos education environment and further engage and exchange ideas with them.

DFID also presented at the launch the results of a recent study on the choice of schools by parents in Lagos, especially low-income parents.

Dignitaries at the launch included Mr Peter Carter, British Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria; Mrs Olayinka Oladunjoye, Lagos State Commissioner for Education; Mrs Gbolahan Daodu, Chairman, Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB); and Mrs Erogbogbo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.

DFID’s Emily Oldmeadow, Senior Education Adviser and Patricia Seex, Private Sector Development Adviser were also at the launch. There were also representatives from private school associations, civil society organisations, and other DFID programmes in Lagos State.

Putting round pegs in round holes in Lagos MDAs

Lagos State has commenced the transition from General Administration to Human Resource Management (HRM) practice in four of its Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to reflect the modern approach to people management.

The four pilot MDAs are the Education District 1, Civil Service Commission, Public Service Office, and Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions.

The shift from administration to professional HRM will help build a public service that is well structured, organised and whose staff have the right attitude, skills and motivation to deliver the vision of the state of becoming Africa’s Model Megacity and global, economic and financial hub that is safe, secure, functional and productive.

It will ensure that the right people are in the right job, doing the right thing, and at the right time.

The State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability (SPARC) has been working with the state to ensure that the transition to HRM is seamless. It organised series of capacity building workshops and assisted the four MDAs to reorganise and restructure their Finance and Administration departments to reflect professional HRM functions.
Ending domestic violence in Lagos

Background
In 2007, the Lagos State government enacted a law on domestic violence - the Lagos State Protection against Domestic Violence Law (LSDVL) - to protect people against domestic violence and acts of abuses in the home.

The law makes specific provisions for the protection of women, men, children, and people living with disabilities against physical and sexual abuse and exploitation, including but not limited to rape, incest, starvation, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, economic abuse and exploitation, denial of basic education, intimidation and harassment.

However, according to the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, an estimated 1.3 million women are physically assaulted by their partners each year. Usually, many of these victims are left without knowing what to do and where to run to.

To break the silence and stem the increasing tide of domestic violence especially against women and girls in Lagos State, the State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI) has been partnering with the state government.

Approach
SAVI through its civil society advocacy platforms of Lagos Civil Society Partnership (LACSOP) and Lagos Gender Advocacy Team (LASGAT) carried out a study to determine the status of the implementation of the LSDVL.

The study revealed that there is low level of citizen’s awareness about the existence and contents of the law; key stakeholders such as the police, lawyers, the judiciary and non-governmental organisations are not fully performing their roles under the law; there is lack of specific budget line for the implementation of the law; and though the media have been reporting cases of domestic violence, they are yet to raise critical awareness about the existence of the law among the public.

Moving forward
SAVI recently supported the state to organise a Public Policy Dialogue for key stakeholders in Lagos to further discuss ways to fully implement the domestic violence law and end the menace. The report of the dialogue is being considered by the Attorney General and Chief Judge of Lagos State. Already, a committee has been formed in this regard.

The state leadership is also committed to protect its citizens again domestic violence. According to the Deputy Governor, Mrs Orelupe Adefulire, “Lagos State will continue with proactive strategies to end the menace”.

Need help?
If you or anyone you know has been a victim of domestic violence

Call 1-800-799-SAFE (toll free)

Or visit
Office of The Public Defender or Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
Photo speaks

Thank you for your support
Hon Commissioner Olayinka Oladunjoye (c) and Hon Alawiye King of LASHA (in cap) with Bode Oyeneye (ESSPIN), Gboyega Ilusanya (DEEPEN) and Sina Fagbenro (DFID) at the Support Our School’s CSR Awards

Ending domestic violence
Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Ayotunde Phillips (c) with SAVI Gender Team after the presentation of research findings on the Domestic Violence Law of Lagos State

DEEPEN, welcome to Lagos
Honourable Commissioner Olayinka Oladunjoye with the DEEPEN Team at the official launch of the new DFID programme

Tax Champion
Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Mr Kehinde Bamigbetan decorated as a Tax Champion by GEMS3 Team Leader

Reforming Lagos
Participants at the 2-Day LASG/SPARC retreat organised for Commissioners and Heads of MDAs involved in reforms supported by SPARC

It was nice working with you
The SPARC Team and representatives of DFID and DFID programmes in Lagos recently bid farewell to SPARC’s former State Team Leader, Ben Arikpo (in cap) at a send-forth get-together
DFID Quarterly Programme Meeting

DFID held its South West Quarterly Programmes Meeting on Tuesday, 28th of January 2014. The January meeting was attended by Lagos State Government officials namely Head of Service Mrs. Oluseyi Williams, Director General Office of Transformation Mr Toba Otusanya and Deputy Director Office of Transformation Princess Adenike Adedoyin-Ajayi.

DFID representatives in attendance were Head of Office Ben Mellor, Team Leader Oliver Blake, DFID Nigeria Commercial Adviser Tony Gardener and the Governance Team.

The forum is designed for DFID Programmes to come together and provide a result-based reportage of all the programme stating key challenges over the past quarter and key messages for our partners to take forward at a high level. The meetings are usually attended by representatives of Lagos State Government as well as Senior DFID Nigeria staff.

Participants at the January 2014 meeting

Courtesy Visit to NCCN

Ben Mellor, Head of Office DFID while on an official visit to Lagos in January paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chairman of the National Competitiveness Council of Nigeria (NCCN), Mr. Tony Elumelu. Ben visited Mr Elumelu along with DFID Private Sector Adviser Patricia Seex and RC DFID Sina Fagbenro-Byron. Key Issues discussed are: identifying key advocacy points in which government would be able to help the private sector tackle employment; advocacy and business climate collaboration particularly on NCCN; agriculture value chain work; and possible collaboration on low income schools. From DFID’s perspectives, these issues are cross cutting aspects of our growth, governance and human development agenda.

Sina, Patricia, Elumelu and Mellor

Training on good practices

A 3-day training programme on good handling practices for fresh perishable produce focusing on tomato and pepper was organised in December 2013 by GEMS4 in partnership with the Lagos State Agriculture Development Programme (ADP). Twenty traders and five ADP staff were trained.

The training focused on reducing damages or losses of fresh produce that occur from poor handling from the farm to the markets. GEMS4 will soon pilot with partners a plastic crate rental service provision (PCRSP) within the markets from northern Nigeria to Lagos, to not only reduce damages but create jobs in the packing houses.
Improving health data reporting and utilisation in Lagos State

The primary objectives of the National Health Management Information System (NHMIS) is to provide reliable, relevant, up-to-date, timely and complete information on healthcare services for evidence-based planning and resource allocation by health managers.

Health facilities at different levels of care are expected to submit data on monthly basis within the Local Government Area (LGA) where they operate, using the standardized NHMIS forms. At this level data is collated and entered by LGA Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officers via the District Health Information System (DHIS) software.

However, there have been challenges associated with quality data reporting, which the Partnership for Transforming Health System (PATHS2) and other development partners have been supporting the state to address.

Mrs Idowu Adetokunbo is the M&E Officer for Ikorodu LGA. Ikorodu is one of focal LGAs where PATHS2 has intervened. Mrs Idowu shares her experience on the progress of NHMIS and PATHS2’s interventions in her LGA.

Before
“In the past, our HMIS was nothing to write home about. There were no reporting forms and private hospitals were not reporting. It was an era of manual reporting and we found that the amount of work was not only tedious but difficult. We had no forum for M&E meetings. The reporting rate by the private hospitals was very poor around 15%, while that of public was about 70%.”

Then came support
“When M&E officers were trained by PATHS2, our eyes became literally opened to the importance of HMIS. We had computer-based assisted reporting and training on DHIS. We started with Excel Sheet and finally transited to DHIS.”

Now
“Now we are able to do our pivot table easily. All we need to do is to just enter data and the DHIS will help us with the analysis. So, it’s a great relief. We now know that HMIS is the centre of our work and without sound HMIS, we cannot provide any data for planning. The reporting rates for public and private health facilities are now 100% and 80% respectively.”

Aside from training, PATHS2 supports monthly M&E meetings in the LGAs to provide feedback to data producers within the LGAs. PATHS2 has also supported six LGAs with IT equipment such as computers, printers and modems to enhance data management process. It also supported the Lagos State Ministry of Health with seed stocks of Version 2013 NHMIS tools.
Improving the business environment in Lagos

**For revenue collection**

Ejigbo LCDA adopts Point of Sale (PoS) automated mechanism for Revenue Collection

The Lagos Tax Harmonisation Strengthening intervention which commenced on Monday, August 19 2013 has now been running effectively to date. The intervention has now successfully demonstrated that it is possible to deliver sustainable improvements to the business environment in Lagos State.

The pilot phase was in Ejigbo LCDA where GEMS3 has successfully facilitated the investment and deployment of 52 Point of Sale (PoS) devices for revenue collection by Ecobank. This investment is founded on a MoU between the bank and the LCDA. Public Private Dialogue (PPD) mechanisms were set up and facilitated by GEMS3. Over 100 revenue officers, back office and other Staff were trained on a range of topics including the use of PoS, Customer Service, Communications and the 2010 LG Harmonized Tax Law. Over 700 persons have been trained and sensitized on the Tax Law in the LCDA. GEMS3 has supported Ejigbo LCDA to set up a PoS Working Committee, which provides a management function to the efficiency of PoS usage.

All of these milestones that have been delivered in Ejigbo LCDA are now contributing to a reduction in multiple and illegal taxation, which in turn is generating significant benefits for enterprises, such as additional income, savings, employment, new assets and registering with CAC.

**For business to business payment**

Mobile money: improving business to business payment services

The Growth & Employment in States (GEMS4) Project in its market analysis of the wholesale and retail market systems identified the key market constraints in the mobile money (MM) subsector to include regulatory bottleneck, inadequate agent network, lower geographic coverage of agency network, agent skills gap, low awareness about mobile money, unreliable mobile network/technology, and norms effecting mobile money usage.

GEMS4 facilitated policy workshops in Lagos, Zaria and Port Harcourt in December 2013 bringing key stakeholders such as members of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Dealers Association of Nigeria (FFVDAN), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Mobile Money Operator and Service Providers to engage on market constraints and understand the limitations of financial inclusion in the wholesale and retail market system. A report has been submitted to CBN and feedback is being awaited.

The intended impact of the intervention range from: improved access to payment services by traders to secured payment solution, decreased cost of doing business, increased business hours and increased income for enterprises within the market system.
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

Notices

**Study:** of the assessment of the media market for private education in Lagos State
**Date:** May 5 to June 8, 2014
**Contact for details:** DEEPEN

**Event:** South West Stakeholders’ Forum on Advocacy for Inclusive and Accessible Electoral Process for Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria
**Date:** 12 May 2014
**Contact for details:** SAVI

**Workshop:** Mentoring and Training Workshop for Staff of Lagos State House of Assembly (LASHA)
**Date:** 3 – 6 June 2014
**Contact for details:** SAVI

**Workshop:** on Tax Complaints for Lagos Local Governments / Local Council Development Areas
**Date:** 16, 23, 30 May 2014
**Contact for details:** GEMS3

**Training:** Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training for non-court connected ADR centres / trade associations in five states, including Lagos State
**Date:** 13 – 15 May 2014
**Contact for details:** J4A

Give us your feedback

We will like to hear from you. For your comments or enquiries, please email tolase.olatinwo@deepen-nigeria.org