

The Year 2018 Appropriation Bill Presentation to the Jigawa State House of Assembly by His Excellency, Muhammad Badaru Abubakar, MON, mni – The Executive Governor of Jigawa State Tuesday, 28st November, 2017

**The Honourable Speaker,
Other Principal Officers and Honorable Members,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamu Alaikum, Warahamatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuhu

It is my pleasure to address this Honourable House today on the occasion of the presentation of the 2018 Appropriation Bills containing the Proposed Estimates of the State Government and the 27 Local Government Councils. I would like to begin by acknowledging the solidarity and continued cooperation of the legislative arms in supporting our efforts for economic sustainability and improving the lot of the common man despite the harsh fiscal environment which is gradually easing for the better.

2. An example of this, was the unanimous passage about two months ago of a Supplementary Appropriation which enabled us to fast-track the implementation of several projects some of which would soon be commissioned. For these, I express my sincere appreciation and look forward to greater cohesion in our common objective of being responsive to the yearnings and aspirations of our people. I remain confident that the existing team spirit between the legislative and executive arms would continue to flourish in the interest of our dear State.

3. Before we delve into the summary of the 2018 budget, I would like to do a brief recap on the implementation of the 2017 budget and how that consolidated some of the major initiatives and interventions we undertook since we assumed the mantle of leadership in the State. It is important to see how our focus and prioritization of a people centric expenditure profile has begun to pay off and how this links up with the proposed 2018 estimates Implementation of the 2017 Budget.

4. In 2016 we implemented a “**Budget of Change and Sustainable Development**” which evolved into the 2017 “**Budget of Economic Diversification and Self-Sufficiency**”. Both of these budgets apart from identifying and working on peculiar economic issues in Jigawa State, also aligned with the efforts of the Federal Government in trying to steer the country out of recession. This trend will continue in 2018 to achieve synergy and realism in our short to medium term plans and objectives, as we realize that we cannot operate in a vacuum and have not yet attained the kind of fiscal self-sufficiency to isolate ourselves from the effects of national policies and initiatives.

5. I believe Honorable Members are well-informed of the progress we have made across various sectors through the routine oversight functions of the various house committees, so I will restrict my 2017 budget synopsis to sectoral performance and outcomes which has been a resounding success for which you all share in the glory and should be extremely proud of.

6. The sum of N129.87 billion was originally appropriated for the 2017 Fiscal Year which was followed-up with a Supplementary Appropriation of N12.1 billion. The latter was in respect of receipt of N7.1 billion from the Paris Club Refunds 2 and the drawdown of

N5.0 billion Commercial Agriculture Credit Facility approved by the House. While performance varied amongst the various revenue components, taking into account actual revenue receipt at the end of November, it is projected that the total revenue during the entire year would be almost N113.8 billion which is about 88% of the total income under the 2017 Appropriation. Even though this is slightly below the approved estimates, considering the prevailing circumstances, this is not a bad performance at all. This performance was largely facilitated by the full draw-down of budget support facility, capitalized transfers to the capital development fund from 2016 stabilization and treasury balances, improvements in internal revenue generation as well as the impressive draw-downs for some of the external loans and grants approved in the budget.

7. Total actual expenditure projected to the end of the year would be about **N103.9 billion** representing about **80%** of the total approved estimates. This performance is satisfactory by any standard especially when compared against overall expenditure performance of about **61%** during the same period last year. Performance across the two major expenditure components - recurrent and capital expenditure - is provided as follows:

(i) Recurrent Expenditure – About N61.5 billion was earmarked for recurrent expenditure during the 2017 Fiscal Year. Total actual expenditure projected to the end of the year amounted to about N55.89 billion equivalent to over 94% of the approved estimates. Out of this amount, almost N37.34 billion was on the payment of personnel cost, which when compared against the approved estimates, is as much as 96%. Our commitment to pay staff salaries and allowances as and when due has never faltered including the optional 5% Leave Grant bonus. To date, Jigawa State Government does not have any outstanding payment arrears on both state and local government staff salaries, pensions and gratuities. It is noteworthy that by the end of the year, there would be a net increase of about 2,500 staff on the State payroll largely consisting of teachers and various categories of health personnel. This is in our effort to ensure that manpower shortages in critical areas are gradually attended to. As regards overhead cost, actual expenditure projected to year end, would be slightly above N19.8 billion representing almost 84% of the approved estimates. Major cost centers included operations and maintenance of water supply in urban centers and small towns, urban street lights; payment of internal and external scholarships, institutional feeding in schools, hospitals and social-welfare institutions; school and health facilities maintenance; and a host of other public service delivery requirements.

(ii) Capital Development - N67.486 billion was appropriated for capital development during the 2017 Fiscal Year. Expenditure records indicate that, by the end of the year, about N47.15 billion would be paid on capital expenditure payments representing about 70% performance as against 45% recorded last year.

a) The Economic Sector – Budgetary allocations meant to deliver our objectives of generating economic growth and economic diversification, economic empowerment, job and wealth creation, are provided under the economic sector. Thus, close to half of the capital investments in 2017 were in this critical sector

equivalent to about N30.8 billion. Actual expenditure projected in this sector would be about N25.2 billion equivalent to about 82% by the end of the year. Consistent with our objectives, major spending in this sector during the year were largely in the Roads & Transport Development, Agriculture and Economic Empowerment. Some specifics are provided as follows:

b) Road Development – Our commitment to complete inherited projects as well as initiate several new ones during the year resulted in actual road expenditure of almost N21 billion. Cumulatively, expenditure on roads since we assumed leadership is about N40 billion. We inherited 42 road project contracts covering a total distance of about 717 kilometres including regional, townships and rural feeder roads with contractual liabilities of over N57.9 billion. So far, 11 out of 15 regional roads, 4 out of 7 feeder roads, 7 out of 20 township roads in Local Government headquarters have been completed; In addition, while four of the six new regional roads we have awarded have also been completed, most of the newly awarded feeder roads are at various stages of completion. Very soon we hope to commission the Gagarawa – Bosuwa Road, Tasheguwa – Guri Road, and Maigatari Township Roads;

c) Agriculture – With an Agriculture Task force which I personally chair, we focused our attention on this all-important sector. Our interventions over the last two years has brought additional competitive advantage to the sector transforming the hitherto subsistence modes of production to a stage where agriculture is now a profitable business enterprise for farmers in the State. I am glad that our interventions have propelled us closer to our objective of economic diversification, enhancement of food security, job creation and poverty reduction among the population. Outcomes of the cluster farming clearly indicate that this all-important sector is the ultimate savior not just for Jigawa State but for the Nation in General. Through improved productivity and with more land continuously brought under cultivation, agricultural production in both rainy and dry seasons was drastically increased especially for the major crops that are given prominence including rice, wheat, sesame, ground nuts in the over one-thousand farm clusters that were established and supported in all 287 political wards. For instance, our intervention in rice cultivation has resulted in yield of an average of 5.42 tons per hectare from about 2.2 - an increase of over 110% within a very short time. I am also happy to state that with our Commercial Agriculture Programme, we have been able to turn the fortunes of the State Agricultural Supply Company to a very successful public enterprise effectively responsive to the needs of all farmers in the supply of farm inputs - quality seeds, pesticides, fertilizer and farm implements such as planters, harvesters, sprayers, water pumps, and threshers among others. Most importantly, our innovative approach to agricultural transformation has galvanized thousands of youths including graduates, into farming as a business.

d) Economic Empowerment – Our package of economic empowerment programmes have been very innovative. From stereotype skill acquisition programmes that ended up creating no jobs to demand-driven programmes that have resulted in thousands of jobs for our teeming youths and women. It is worthy of note that, we have been able to integrate our economic empowerment

interventions across other sector programmes particularly agriculture, women & social development, health and transportation. So far, over the last two years, about 52,000 youths and women have benefitted from the various empowerment programs across various sectors. In particular, these include provision of skills and livelihoods across various aspects of the agricultural value chain including use of small farm implements, agro-processing, rice-out growers, sesame farms internship, seed production, poultry and aquaculture. The Lafiya Jari programme in the health sector has, in collaboration with the State Medicare Organization known as JIMSO, not only empowered our youths, but is facilitating access to quality drug in all the nooks and crannies of the State. Similarly, thousands of women have also continued to benefit from the goat-breeding in addition to the other women empowerment programmes such as embroidery, beads making, and food processing.

8. Social Sector – Over 35% of capital investments in the 2017 Approved Estimates amounting to about N23.8 billion was earmarked for the social services sector. This was largely devoted to education and health sectors which as we all know, were hitherto bedeviled with various challenges ranging from dilapidated infrastructure and infrastructural deficit, to deficiencies in both human and materials resources in the right mix of quantity and quality. In particular, while on the one hand, the education sector was faced with the challenge of huge number of out of school children and poor learning outcomes; on the other hand, the health sector was caught in an administrative policy quagmire that hampered smooth functioning of the system. It is envisaged that expenditure outturns in the sector during the outgoing fiscal year would be about N10.6 billion, which has resulted in significant budgetary outputs leading to improved performance. Let me buttress further on some specific outcomes that we have been able to deliver so far in the sector.

- **Education** – Honorable Members would recall that an Education Change Agenda was developed early in the life of this administration through consultative process involving key stakeholders. The overarching objective is to address the poor learning outcomes at all levels of the educational strata most especially with respect to Basic Education. Some targeted interventions were identified to gradually address all the challenges. I am glad to state that gradually, the impact of our interventions have begun to manifest in the system through general improvements in outcomes in both basic and senior education levels. We have continued to build and rehabilitate hundreds of classrooms, establish new junior and senior secondary schools, as well as undertake mass procurement of school furniture, laboratory and ICT Equipment & Materials. We have also established new schools including the development of the permanent sites of four senior day secondary schools at Kazaure, Gumel, Dutse and Birnin Kudu; seven new day Junior Secondary Schools at Maigatari, Mallam Madori, 4 Kiri, Bulangu, Yankwashi, Taura, Birnin Kudu, Dutse, Gawuna and Amaryawa. Under the free girls education programme, thirty thousand sets of school uniform were distributed while almost 9,000 sets of school furniture were procured and distributed to fourteen senior secondary schools. To date, Government has spent the sum of N7.5 billion on the construction and renovation of about 4,200 school structures including classrooms, VIP toilet blocks, and administrative blocks at

both the basic and secondary school levels. Also about 65,000 sets of school furniture were provided. Virtually all the educational indices have positively appreciated from qualified pupil-teacher ratio to classroom-pupil ratio. Performance in National Examinations has improved greatly as we recorded 16.84% success in the 2016 WAEC results as against 4.59% in 2015 and 4.88% in 2014. The same success was recorded in the NECO exams with a 50.20% performance in 2016 as against 38.93% in 2015 and 38.14% in 2014.

• **Health and Social Welfare** –Major accomplishments in the Health Sector include completed renovation works at Birniwa, Ringim, Gumel, Babura, Kafin Hausa and Dutse General Hospitals; completed the conversion of catering rest house to New School of Nursing Hadejia which has just passed accreditation; completed renovation works at Fagam, Taura and Maigatari PHCs; commencement of Hadejia Specialist Hospital; completion of 57 New Basic Health Clinics and 27 Midwifery Staff Quarters across the State. In order to continuously improve the health indices in the State particularly as they affect maternal and child health, we have recently reviewed upward payment for Free Maternal and Child Health Programme for pregnant women and children under the age of 5, from N15 million per month to N75 million. We intend to redesign this programme to improve its efficiency in line with the principles of social protection. As regards human resources for health, several short and long-term measures were taken to address the situation. These include establishment of additional health training institutions, sponsorship of state indigenes for medical courses abroad, and outright recruitment of medical personnel consisting of 540 Primary Health Care workers and 35 senior doctors. Earlier, 155 Nurses and Midwives who were under the Midwives Service Schemes were upgraded and absorbed by the State Government. In addition to all these, there has been tremendous increase in other interventions aimed at reducing the health and disease burden among population in which thousands of patients have benefitted from. Specifically, these include free cataract Operation for 1,300 patients, Lid Surgery Services for about 4,400 patients, treatment of Onchocerciasis (river blindness) for over 570,000 in endemic communities. Through improved disease surveillance, over 2,000 tuberculosis cases were detected of which over 85% were treated and cured. With continuing support for routine immunization, coverage has significantly increased with no reported case of the dreaded polio virus in Jigawa State for more than 3 years now. Even though some of our Health Indices, such as maternal, infant and child mortality rates and nutrition standards among children, are still unacceptably high, we are confident, the medium term impact of all interventions in the health sector would reverse the situation for the better.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the progress we have made had cut across all sectors. For instance, under the environmental sector, Government has continued to deal with the problems of desert encroachment, development of shelter belts and control of erosion in flood-prone areas. This involved the production of over 2.5 million tree seedlings annually, establishment of 10 kilometres of shelterbelt in communities within Malam Madori, Babura and Garki Local Government Areas; control of aquatic weeds invasion along the downstream of river Hadejia in Burum-gana Guri Local Government

covering a distance of about 15 kilometres; and support to 15 self-help groups for the manual clearance of over 100 kilometres along the channels of river Hadejia covering 13 Local Government Areas

10. With our interventions in the water sector, we are steadily moving towards universal access to safe drinking water in the State. So far, Government has rehabilitated over 110 motorised schemes, 250 solar-powered and over 4,500 rural handpumps. Additionally, we have undertaken the conversion of 40 existing motorised schemes to solar-powered, construction of 88 new solar powered water supply schemes, over 1,400 Hand Pump Boreholes as well as substantially improved water supply in 4 major towns of Gumel, Babura, Kazaure and Ringim, and the construction of 300 blocks of VIP latrines across the State. Likewise in the area of Land Administration, the Systematic Land Titling and Registration Programme easing access to land as an economic asset has been scaled up and is now taking place in more urban areas including Birnin Kudu, Ringim and Hadejia. While time would not permit me to touch on all sectors, I believe Honourable Members are well acquainted with our success story so far. I also believe that every one of the thirty Honourable Members would be able to count numerous projects that were 5 executed in their respective constituencies during the 2017 Fiscal Year and the year before particularly in the areas of water supply and sanitation, rural electrification, provision and improvement of religious structures, regional and feeder roads, street lights, schools and hospital facilities, and hundreds of beneficiaries of various economic empowerment programmes. Let me at this stage enjoin us all, to continue to be part of our societal re-orientation programme. With hundreds of public services and social amenities provided in almost all communities across the State, it would be pertinent to mobilize and sensitize our people on the necessity of safeguarding government projects in their domain to ensure their security, functionality and sustainability.

2018 – 2020 Medium Term Fiscal Framework

11. As part of the annual budget and planning process, a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (**MTEF**) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) were prepared to provide the context of the proposed 2018 Appropriation Bill. It is pertinent to note that most of the key variables that determine the fiscal projections are exogenously determined either at the national or global levels. Notwithstanding, these have been taken into account in our revenue and expenditure projections in order to arrive at an informed and realistic fiscal framework. These include an Oil Price Benchmark of about US\$45 per barrel; crude Oil Production level of 2.2 million barrel per day; growth and inflation rates of about 3.5% and 12.5% respectively and an average exchange rate of N305 to the dollar. We have also taken into account the continued impact of our domestic policies and programmes in boosting local revenues and existing partnerships from which we envisaged to attract some development grants.

12. It would be pertinent to note that, major outputs of the MTEF are the medium term sector strategies (MTSS) developed by seven major sectors that constitute more than 80% of the budget. These include Education, Health, Agriculture, Water & Sanitation, Critical Infrastructure, Commerce & Investments, and Environment. This in turn, is what largely informed the 2018 proposed budget of the relevant sectors. In terms of the overall development objectives and priorities, both the 2018 – 2020 medium term plans and the 2018 budget were prepared in line with the State's strategic development

objectives is contained in the recently published State Comprehensive Development Framework. As a continuation of the 2017 Budget of Economic Diversification and Self-Sufficiency, the objectives of the 2018 budget include the following:

- a. Promoting rapid growth of the real sectors of the state's particularly agriculture as leading sector in our socioeconomic transformation agenda;
- b. Development of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises leveraging on the emerging agricultural value chain;
- c. Ensuring access, efficiency and quality in the provision of Human Development Services particularly, education, health and other social welfare services that contribute to the development of human productive capacities and enable them to live a life of dignity;
- d. Youths and women empowerment through targeted economic empowerment and other social protection programmes taking into account the principles of gender and social inclusion;
- e. Sustaining on-going governance reforms particularly in the area of Public Expenditure and Financial Management and Public Service Management.

13. While conscious of our local objectives, priorities and peculiarities, the strategic objective of the 2018 proposed budget is also perfectly aligned with the Federal Government's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan. Through both our budget programmes and government policies, Jigawa State would continue to support and promote the President's change agenda that seeks to create a new Nigeria – which is Nigeria as a country that is self-sufficient in food production with a diversified zero-oil economy that optimally take advantage of its comparative and competitive advantage across all sectors. We will also sustain our stance on fiscal prudence and cost containment being key principles of every responsible, accountable and responsive Government.

The 2018 Appropriation Bill

14. Honourable Members, in line with the focus and contents of our medium term expenditure framework and policy thrust of the 2018 budget, I would now present to you the highlights of the 2018 Proposed Budget. As I mentioned before, the 2018 budget would, by and large, be a continuation of its predecessor and is thus dubbed “**The Budget of Sustained Economic Growth and Social Transformation**”. Based on the consolidated position of the revenue and expenditure estimates, the 2018 6 Appropriation Bill is proposing the sum of **N134.17 billion** as the total budget size for the 2018 Fiscal Year – which is about 3.3% above the 2017 budget. The breakdown of the major incomes with which to finance the budget are provided as follows:

- (i) Internally Generated Revenue **N10,513,000,000**
- (ii) Statutory Allocation and Value Added Tax **N51,637,000,000**
- (iii) Local Government Contributions for Primary Education Personnel and Primary Healthcare Staff **N17,850,000,000**
- (iv) Other Extraneous Federal Transfers including Excess Crude Oil Receipts **N4,500,000,000**
- (v) Opening Balance for 2018 Fiscal Year (including funds in project accounts such as the Universal Basic Education Project Account) **N10,000,000,000**
- (vi) Internal and External Loans **N6,232,000,000**

(vi) Development Grants, Capital Contributions, Reimbursements and Other Miscellaneous Capital Receipts. **N33,438,000,000**

15. Taking into account the sums of N1.6 billion earmarked for Stabilization and Contingency Funds, the total retained revenue allocated to the various expenditure components of the Budget is N132.57 billion. It is worthy of note that incomes reflected against Local Government Contributions for Primary Education Personnel and Primary Healthcare Staff is simply a matter of budget and accounting principles as this are normally reimbursements to the State based on deductions at source.

16. As earlier mentioned, out of the total projected income, the sum of N1.6 Billion is proposed to be set aside for Stabilization and Contingency Funds. This leaves a retained revenue of N132.57 billion shared among the major expenditure components as follows:

- **Recurrent Expenditures** consisting of Personnel Costs, Overheads, Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges and Other recurrent expenses relating to service delivery, are earmarked the sum of N65.535 billion equivalent to about 48.8% of the total income. Whereas 66% of the proposed recurrent expenditure goes to personnel emoluments, the balance of 34% would go to the other non-personnel recurrent expenses. It is worthy of note that while total recurrent expenditure has grown by almost 10% relative to the approved estimates in 2017, the overhead cost elements have actually declined by about 2%. In other words, increase in recurrent expenditure was mainly accounted by personnel cost due to the recruitments in 2017 and new ones expected to be done in 2018;
- **Capital Expenditure** is earmarked N67.035 billion accounting for about 50% of the total expected income. This is about 0.7% below the 2017 initial approved estimates.

17. As Honourable Members are aware, preparation of the proposed budget has gone through a number of stages beginning with the development of the medium term expenditure framework setting the context for both the medium term sector plans and the 2018 budget. This was followed by the bilateral discussions including the high-level discussions I personally chaired before presenting the proposed budget to the State Economic Planning Board and the State Executive Council. At each of these stages, the objective was to ensure that the proposed budget is realistic and consistent with our policy objectives and priorities. This, I believe has been generally achieved. Even as Honourable members scrutinize the budget to ensure its consistency with the yearnings and aspirations of the people, it would also be pertinent to ensure that it remains in tune with overall resource projections.

18. Distinguished Speaker and Honourable Members, our quest for sustained economic growth with positive social transformation would largely be driven through some key investment programmes under the capital budget. It would therefore be appropriate to highlight further on some of the capital expenditure components expected to facilitate the delivery of these objectives:

- (i) **Agriculture and Livestock Development** – In line with our avowed commitment to diversify the State's economy and achieve food self-sufficiency over N9.3 billion is proposed to be expended on various agricultural projects and programmes during the 2018 fiscal year. Key components include Agricultural Development, Research and Extension Services; Agricultural Mechanization &

Crop Protection; Livestock & Fisheries; and Development of Irrigation Infrastructure. The proposed allocation includes expected grants under Fadama III Additional Financing, IFAD and African Development Bank's Agricultural Transformation Agenda. All these partnership programmes are largely geared towards the rehabilitation and development of irrigation infrastructure in Fadama lands, supporting dry and rainy season clusters, seed multiplication for rice, sorghum and other crops and agricultural empowerment support for school graduates. In addition, over N2 billion is earmarked for continued farmer support under our Commercial Agriculture Schemes largely meant for participants of our cluster farming initiatives. We are very confident that, with our philosophy of "farming is a business", all our agricultural initiatives will stand the test of time;

(ii) Roads and Transport Development – About N17.2 billion naira is allocated to Roads & Transport development which is more than one-quarter of the total capital expenditure. This amount is meant for the completion of some of the ongoing projects both the inherited ones and new ones embarked upon by this administration. The amount also includes both regional roads, township roads and feeder roads;

(iii) Economic Empowerment – In line with our believe in the efficacy of targeted women and youths empowerment in providing sustainable means of livelihoods, we would continue with our demand-driven empowerment programmes especially those that are linked to other sectoral programmes such as agriculture, and micro & small and medium scale enterprises development. The provision earmarked for this is N480 million. In this regard, I am pleased to inform the Honourable Members that soon, we hope to sign a memorandum of understanding with the DFID Funded MAFITA Programme which is a new multifaceted Programme of Social and Economic Empowerment. While the Programme would continue to support our existing interventions, it is also expected to come up with new initiatives around Community Skill Development Centres; Apprenticeship, Technical & Vocational Education Support; and Local Economic Development & Support for Micro and Small Enterprises. Even though all the provisions for our ongoing economic empowerment programmes could be seen as complimenting this new partnership programmes, the sum of N30 million is specially earmarked in anticipation of meeting some of our specific obligations and responsibilities under the MoU to be signed with the MAFITA Programmes;

(iv) Education – In continuation with the Education Change Agenda interventions as it affects basic and senior secondary education as well as continued funding for our tertiary schools, about N17.7 billion is earmarked for capital investments in the education sector as a whole representing about 26.4% of the total capital budget. Largely, this allocation is meant for the funding of:

- ongoing school "decongestion" programme under which new schools would be established at both the basic and senior secondary education levels which would also facilitate smooth transition from one level to another;
- Establishment of Centres of Excellence and four new Mega Schools;
- Mass procurement of school furniture, instructional and laboratory materials, core text books, school uniform, etc;

- Infrastructural development in our tertiary schools including funding through the tertiary education trust fund. The provision also includes additional facilities and development of infrastructure to ensure new courses are fully accredited

(i) Health Sector –In order to sustain the momentum of progressing towards continuous improvement in our health indices, the sum of N6.7 billion is earmarked for capital investments under health sector equivalent to almost 10% of the total capital budget. Major investment areas include:-

(a) Continuation of the Free Maternal and Child Healthcare Programme for Pregnant Women and Children under the age of five. - N900 million;

(b) Upgrading of Primary Health Centres involving the provision of thirty equipped Basic Health Clinics and furnished Midwives Quarters. - N762 million; **(c)** Support for Supplementary Immunization Activities and other Primary Healthcare Programme activities. - N560 million;

(d) Specialist Hospitals Birnin Kudu, Hadejia and Kazaure. - N600 million;

(e) Improvement of General Hospitals including Phase II of general renovations with additional structures, hospital equipments, solar-power installations in 12 General hospitals; and upgrading of Garki, Gantsa and Guri Hospitals. - N1.1 billion

(f) Health Sector Interventions in Food and Nutrition Programme Activities including counter funding for the procurement of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), IYCF Campaign and procurement of essential vitamins for children for the prevention of micronutrients deficiency disorders. - N215 million;

(g) Health Training Institutions comprising of College of Nursing & Midwifery, Birnin Kudu, School Nursing Hadejia, Commencement of New School of Midwifery, Babura and School of Health Technology Jahun - N600 million

(h) HIV-AIDS, Malaria & Other Diseases Control Programmes - N160 million.

Mr. Speaker, it is worthy of note that, considering the entire budget, the total proposed investments in these two human development sectors comprising of both recurrent and capital expenditures, amounts to about N65.74 billion which is almost 50% of the total budget. This underscores the priority attached to the sectors by this Administration.

(vi) Women, Social Welfare & Social Protection Programmes – This is earmarked about N2.24 billion. The bulk of this amounting to N2.1 billion is for design and implementation of a new ward-level Social Protection Cash Transfer and Empowerment Initiative including social welfare palliative support to the core poor and other vulnerable groups. The balance of about N140 million is for other women empowerment and social welfare activities;

(vii) Water Supply and Sanitation – Even though our interventions in the last two and half years has seen access to safe drinking water rise considerably, Government will not relent until we attain our goal of universal access. This is critical to improving our health indices for without access to water and hygiene, disease prevalence and morbidity among the population would continue to be high. Furthermore, in order to continuously reduce the high burden of operation

and maintenance of water facilities, it is our intention to gradually convert most of the motorized water schemes in the state to solar-powered. Right now, we have started piloting a new design of mini-solar schemes which would also gradually replace the labor-intensive hand-pumps which are prone to frequent breakdown. As regards sanitation and hygiene, we also hope to achieve substantial improvements over the medium term. We would continue to work with the Local Governments to help our communities attain the Open-Free Defecation Free status through the UNICEF Supported Community-Led Total Hygiene Programme. In a bid to institute healthy competitions between communities, we would set price-tags for any Local Government that attains Open Defecation Free status in 2018. Let me use this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to some of our Development Partners that have continued to support the State in this regard. In particular, UNICEF, DFID and the European Union have through the SHAWN and WSSSRP Programmes supported a number of Local Governments to achieve universal access to safe drinking water, while also assiduously promoting sanitation and hygiene in the LGAs. The proposed capital allocation of almost N5.63 billion to the Water Sector is distributed as follows:

- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation - N2.76 billion
- Small Towns Water Supply - - N1.33 billion
- Urban & Regional Water Schemes - N1.54 billion

(viii) Land Administration, Housing & Urban Development – These are provided with the sum of N2.16 billion which would be for the continuation of the Systematic Land Titling & Registration in Dutse, Birnin Kudu, Ringim, Hadejia and Kazaure as well as commencement in new locations to include agricultural lands so as to further enhance the economic value of farm holdings under the cluster farming arrangements; Payment of Land &Property Compensations; and Provision of street lights in our Urban Centres.

18. Other provisions in the proposed budget include:

- i.** Commerce & Investment Promotion - N515.5 million;
- ii.** Environmental Protection and Development - N489.3 million;
- iii.** Housing Development - N105.15 million; **iv.** Rural Electrification Projects - N4445.0 million **v.** Information, Youths and Sport - N444.0 million;
- vi.** Justice Administration - N226.0 million; **vii.** Community Development Support - N512 million; **viii.** General Administration & Institutional Development - N2.93 billion.

19. Mr. Speaker, that was the highlight of the 2018 Proposed Budget of the State Government. As I said, we have tried to ensure that we produce a budget that is both realistic and consistent with our policy objectives and priorities as informed by the yearnings and aspirations of our people. It is our passionate prayer that, Allah, in His infinite mercy, would continue to bless our country and guide us to deliver on our mandate. I now give the highlights of the Local Government budgets.

The Local Government Budgets

20. Mr. Speaker, other Honourable Members, the consolidated income and expenditure positions of all the 27 Local Government Councils indicate that about N56.49 billion would accrue into their Consolidated Revenue Fund to finance the various expenditure components. This represents almost 14% increase over the 2017 position. The distribution of this amount among the various expenditure components is given as follows:

- Personnel Cost - N 23.69 billion
- Overhead Cost - N 12.02 billion
- Capital Expenditure - N 18.69 billion
- Contingency Provision - N 1.89 billion

21. As usual, the proposed overhead cost estimate includes Local Government contribution to LEA personnel cost and 60% of PHC Personnel, captured in the State Budget. It also include other statutory deductions such as 5% deduction for Emirate Councils, 1% Training Fund, 0.5% for Ministry of Local Government and Directorate of Local Government Audit. In the same vein, the Capital Expenditure Estimates in respect of each LGA also include a number of projects common to each LGA in line with coordinative efforts of the State Governments to address certain policy issues. These include among others, provision of school furniture for primary school, Support to Federal Government Special Intervention Programmes; Women Empowerment Programme (Goat Rearing) and Construction of NYSC Corpers' Lodge in each Local Government Headquarter.

22. Mr. Speaker and other Honorable Members, those were the highlights of 2018 Proposed Budgets of the State Government and that of the 27 Local Government Councils for which I submit the 2018 Appropriation Bills for your consideration. Once again, I would mention my firm believe on the realism of the proposed budget, its consistency with our objectives and priorities and its responsiveness to the yearnings and aspirations of the citizens. I would therefore kindly, seek the indulgence of all the Honourable Members to consider the budget with a high sense of duty and responsibility noting that it remains the main vehicle of delivering on our promise for **sustained economic growth and social transformation** during the year. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to submit to you the Jigawa State Government and Local Governments Appropriation Bills for the year 2018 accompanied by the following documents:

- i. Details of the proposed budget of the State Government covering both revenue and expenditure components for all Government entities;
- ii. Budget Implementation Report.
- iii. Copy of the MTSS Documents in respect of key sectors including health, education, agriculture, commerce and investment, water supply and sanitation, environment and infrastructure;
- iv. Copy of the Economic and Fiscal Update which contains the 2018 – 2020 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and other fiscal information;
- v. Details of the proposed budget of the 27 Local Government Councils.

Conclusion

23. In conclusion, some of us would recall what I said in concluding my budget presentation around this time last year, that "... even as the nation was experiencing a recession (then), it is our firm believe that there are grounds for optimism...". This was

borne out of our conviction in the sincerity of purpose with which Mr President is leading this country. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan being implemented under the leadership of the President has provided a clear road map of policy actions which has within a year pull the national economy out of recession and we can confidently say, we are now on the path of steady growth and prosperity. Last year around this time, the national economy was regressing at a rate of about 2%. By the third quarter of this year, the trend has been reversed, with the economy on a positive growth trajectory. Latest statistics indicate a GDP positive growth rate of about 1.4% with agriculture being a major contributor. We praised God Almighty for all his favors - after several years of inappropriate economic policies and whopping financial leakages which rendered the economy defenseless during the recession, it is heartwarming that the country has emerged stronger from the recession as a nation both economically and socially. Let me therefore enjoin on all of us to renew our faith and, more than ever before, support the ongoing positive transformational change we are going through. While the pains endured were temporal, the gains that were achieved would be most enduring. On our own part, to complement the National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, last year we approved the revised version of the State Comprehensive Development Framework which provides the context for both our medium term plans and the annual budgets. And I should say, so far, so good. Our recent publication titled “Two Years of Visionary Leadership” which is a compendium of our achievements in the last two years, clearly indicates that we have put Jigawa State on a path that would sustainably secure 11 the socioeconomic wellbeing of our people. While government is doing its own part, as representative of our people, we should also sensitize and mobilize the citizens to also do their own part – by actively participating in the development process or even by positively contributing to the discourse on moving our dear State and Country forward. While Government’s Programmes are all-inclusive, leaving no one behind, we must re-orient and galvanize our people, particularly the youths, to be on the frontline of the ongoing social and economic transformation in the State and the Nation at large. We have seen that the net returns of cultivating one hectare of land during any of the cropping seasons is more than the current one-year minimum wage. What if one cultivates two or three hectares, with higher economy of scale? What if he farms in both rainy and dry seasons? As we always say, farming in Jigawa State is now a business, a dignifying business that increases one’s self-esteem. Two years ago, less than 10% of the over 400,000 hectares of our highly fertile floodplains called Fadama were actually under cultivation during the dry season. Today, we have close to one-quarter of these being exploited. So, as we open up more of these “gold-mines”, we should mobilize our teeming youths to take opportunity and be part of the ongoing economic transformation agenda.

24. Honourable Speaker, it is noteworthy that, one of the strategic pillars of the State Comprehensive Development Plan Framework is governance and institutional reforms. Unless we build systems and strong institutions, some of the interventions we are putting in place may end up not being sustainable. Consequently, I would seek the indulgence of the Honourable Members to continue to support and strengthen our initiatives in this respect. Like all other States, Jigawa State has signed onto the Fiscal Sustainability Plan of the Federal Government which aims to improve our public expenditure and financial

management standards in terms of accountability, transparency and prudence. The 2018 Proposed Budget itself was developed based on a new Budget Classification and Chart of Accounts that are compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards popularly known as IPSAS which aims to promote accountability and transparency in Government's financial transactions. We have also started pursuing staff development programmes to infuse more energy and professionalism into the State Civil Service. At the same time, we intend to proactively start succession planning across the civil service to bridge capacity gaps and ensure continuity in the effective execution of Government programmes. Recently, the State Executive Council has approved the State Policy on Food and Nutrition and is poised to approve the recently developed State Social Protection Policy. These two policies are very critical in providing the necessary institutional frameworks for advancing our agenda of ensuring food security, access to nutrition for our children and optimizing synergy and outcomes of various interventions that are social protection oriented. It is noteworthy and heartwarming that a number of our development partners are ready to support the implementation of these policies including UNICEF and DFID which have been in the forefront of development support in Jigawa State. All these are part of the ongoing governance and institutional reforms we are pursuing. Subsequently, we may also bring some of these reforms for legislative considerations as we did with the law on the establishment of a State Bureau for Statistics which was recently passed by the House.

25. The purpose of bringing all these to the attention of the House is to solicit for your continued support for the several reform initiatives we would continue to come up with. As I said, strong institutions are made up of effective public policies and capable public service. These are absolutely necessary in sustaining the outcomes of our interventions and initiatives and I urge Honourable members to continue to be supportive in this respect.

26. Finally, I pray that Allah, the Exceedingly Compassionate and Merciful, the Provider and Giver of Victory, will continue to guide and protect us, multiply our providence and grant us victory in our undertakings directed towards the development of Jigawa State in particular and the Country Nigeria in general. Thank you very much. Long Live Jigawa State; Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Wassalam Alaikum.