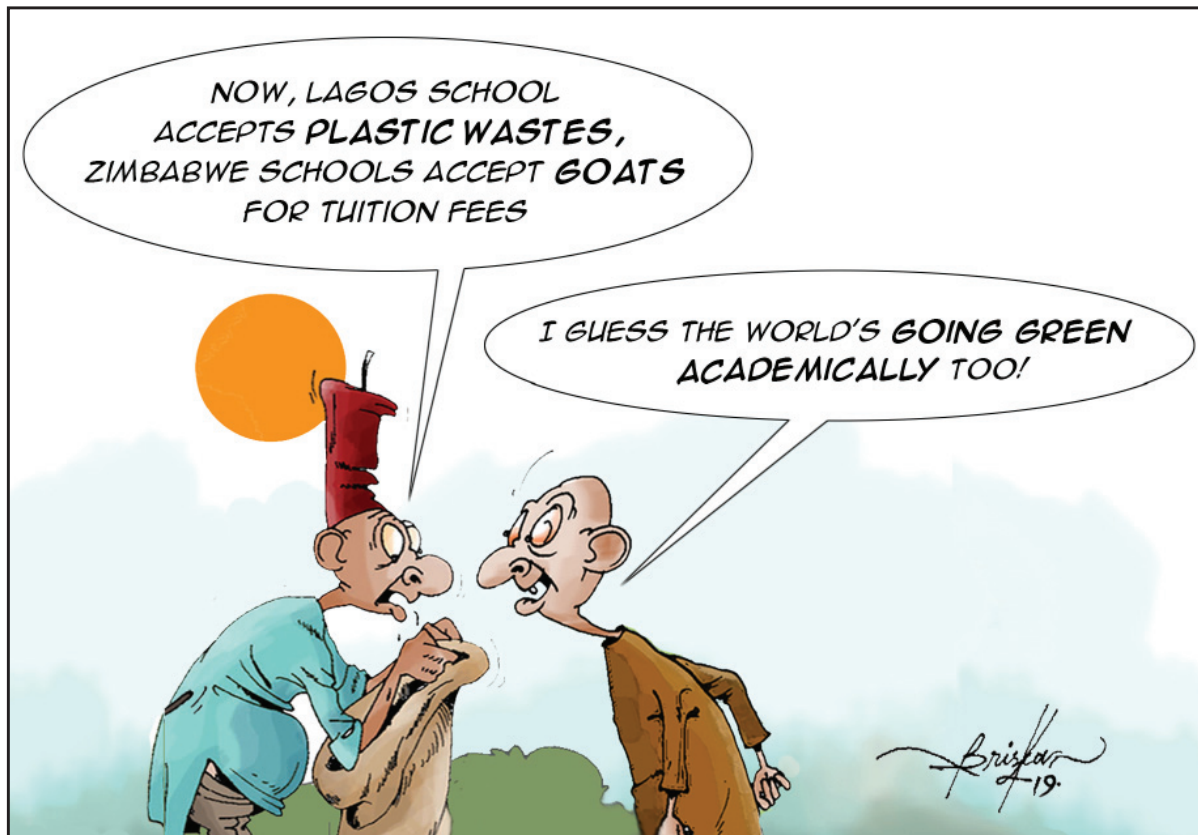


Letter to the Editor

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CARTOON by AKILA JIBRIN



Insecurity: Is APC failing on its major campaign promise?

Inasmuch as one does not want comment about the security situation in Nigeria, some forces and circumstances within and outside his horizons will keep urging him to write. One of the cardinal principles of every government is protecting the lives and properties of the people living in that country, be they are citizens or foreigners living in the country for one reason or another; but is that the case in Nigeria today? We will know the answer. Between late 2014 and early 2015, the All Progressive Congress (APC) capitalized on the then insecurity issue in the country and made it the crux of its campaign promises. At every rally APC and its candidate would announce that the problem and the persistent attacks by various militant groups over and above the menace of the Boko Haram insurgents in the country was as a result of the negligence of the government of the day to take decisive action to deal with perpetrators. There were even insinuation going round which was mostly cooked up by the opposition party (APC) then that the government was intentionally allowing the militants to take over the country in order to siphon public resources for

2015 campaigns. The rest is now history.

The insecurity in the country and the rampant kidnappings in some parts of the country have forced many people to abandon Abuja-Kaduna express way, because in almost every blessed day kidnappers would storm the road, block it for some hours without any interruption and cart away with as many number of people as they want. The incessant kidnapping in our roads is what made even the army generals to start taking the safest route (train) when travelling to Abuja.

From the looks of things the country is facing one of the greatest challenge of insecurity in its history. In not fewer than 10 days between Katsina, Zamfara and Kaduna bandits have killed more than 20 people in different attack escapades. On Tuesday, 30th of April 2019 not fewer than seventeen people were killed in two villages in Safana local government of Katsina state in the same day 300 cows and 3 people were slaughtered in Plateau state. These are just few among the deteriorating indicators of insecurity in the country.

In what appears like magic and to announce their might and

how strong they have become, on Friday, 26th of April 2019 gunmen stormed the home town of Mr. President and abducted his ADC's father In-law. His case is just one of few cases of victims of the country's negligence. One painful thing about this kidnapping issue is how they are demanding outrageous amount of money which most of the time the victims' relatives do not have to secure the release of their relatives and in some instances they go extra miles and kill their hostages after their families struggled to raise the ransom demanded.

The questions Nigerians are always asking are, "who will be blamed for the rising spate of insecurity in the country"? Is it only federal government that is at fault or the states also have their own share on this? To answer these, recently the acting chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFFC), Ibrahim Magu, said that some of the state governors are collaborators in what is happening in their states in order to inflate security vote. With statement like this from government head of Anti-Corruption Agency we will understand that the insurgency is not ending soon in the country.
Ali Sabo, Dutse, Jigawa State

Re: Katsina wind farm: N4.4bn down the drain, yet zero electricity

The publication appears to be a blinding cynosure possibly intended to ridicule the efforts of the present administration and our company who has been saddled to handle the completion and commissioning of the project. Until we run away from being a brooding country, this country shall continue to entertain inciting publication rather than investigative journalism.

It may interest the public to know that the major setback for the completion and commissioning of the project in predicated by insecurity situation of the country that led to the kidnapping of the

French commissioning Engineer-Francis Kollomp in 2012.

Engineer Francis Kollomp was in captivity for over a year and the project suffered untold hardship more so that the project was at its completion stage when the handling company-Vergnet of France declared Force Majeure.

If anything, the government of the day has frantically taken bold steps to see to the final completion and commissioning of the project.

The effort has been gallantly driven by the Minister of Power, Works and Housing Babatunde Fashola (SAN). To this end, after several meetings with all stakeholders on the project, the ministry came to the conclusion to relieve the foreign contractors M/S Vergnet of France the responsibility of continuing with the project.

The contract was finally terminated and re-awarded to Crown Resources Development Company Limited (CREDCO) having shown convincing competence. The contract was signed in December 2018 after going through strenuous bureaucracy of government as the ministry needed to get the 'Certificate of No Objection' from the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) before going to the Federal Executive Council for final approval, this process took several months to reach finality.

After the approval of the Federal Executive Council, CREDCO began the process of onshore and offshore procurement in February 2019 bearing in mind that most of them are not off the shelves, meaning they have to be purpose manufactured with specific codes.

While these processes began, the site engineers of CREDCO have been extremely preoccupied with rewiring, calibrating and fixing damaged parts using the onshore materials already procured.

Presently, seven new turbines are up which is an addition to the earlier 15 turbines CREDCO commissioned, bringing a total of 22 turbines ready for commissioning. More are coming progressively as ordered offshore materials are received.

From the forgoing, it is not too far to conclude that the reportage on the project as contained in your paper of April 28, 2019 failed to trace the evolution of the project right from the period the contract was re-awarded to CREDCO. It may not be out of place to state that the tenets of investigative journalism which should have enlightened the public properly have not been respected.

Finally, during political period such as ours, any effort of the present administration towards providing developmental infrastructure to any community should be encouraged by the press instead of engaging on inciting or discrediting reportage, anything short of that is an apogee of mischief to the government and the contractors handling such projects.

Barney Adeku Ojiah, Managing Director/CEO of Crown Resources Development Company Limited (CREDCO)

Text us on 08131800030 & 08112661608



Welcoming Ramadan

Ramadan is another time for personal evaluation of your relationship with Allah and fellow humanity. Muslims should take advantage of this great month to do away with fornication, adultery, drinking habit, lying, fraudulent activities and other vices that are forbidden by Allah for the benefit of the society.

Rotimi Bello, rotimibello_69@yahoo.com

Attention, IGP Adamu

Dear IGP, Mohammed Adamu criminality only succumbs to the punitive force of the law, but it is emboldened by appeasement or an offer of easy truce. Where a crime is committed, the law must take its course, and it is the duty of the police to ensure that law-breakers are brought to justice. Have you considered how the families who lost fathers,

mothers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters in Zamfara would feel when they hear you are "dialoguing" with their killers to let them go without retribution? Begging or dialoguing with bandits or terrorists is not a security strategy. It is like using Jacuzzi steam for cancer instead of radiation therapy or chemotherapy.

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