

The FCT Call Centre was established by the FCT Administration in 2005 to provide quick response and comprehensive feedback to numerous concerns including complaints, enquiries as well as suggestions on possible areas of improvement in the services provided. In line with the FCT Administration's commitment to the safety and security of lives and property, the Call Centre is linked to the Police helpline as well as Fire Service for prompt response to distress calls. The Call Centre Newsletter is borne out of the desire of the FCT Administration to encourage participatory communication and good governance as necessary tools of a thriving democracy.

We Are Expanding Data and ICT Ecosystem Skills In Abuja. -ATV

QUESTION: What is the mandate of Abuja Technology Village?

ANSWER: Abuja Technology Village is a free zone company established by the FCT

Administration as a special economic zone, to become African's preferred destination for technology research, science incubation, development, where technology business will be provided to balance lifestyle environment for business operations. ATV mandates are focused on four key aspects of science activities, which are;

● Information and communication Technology/

Barrister Ibrahim Rahim, Senior Legal and Free Zone Officer of Abuja Technology Village (ATV), has revealed that ATV is looking into expanding the data and ICT ecosystem skills in the nation's capital city. Rahim, made this revelation during an interview with ASO RADIO/CALL CENTRE NEWSLETTER one hour programme. He, also said that the ATV Incubation Center which is an entrepreneur programme is dedicated to training youths that are interested in technology innovations, and other sundry issues. Excerpts.

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**FCT CALL CENTRE:
It's All About You**



FCT Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike in close conversation with the Minister of State, Dr Mariya Mahmoud during the Minister's meeting with traditional rulers recently.



ICT

● Biotechnology/Agric,
● Mineral technology and
● Energy technology. All ATV activities are limited around these four focused zones. Also, ATV run a business support services programme for start-up Eco-system in FCT, which focuses more on training youths on entrepreneur skills and more technology related activities. We are licensed by the Nigerian Export Processing Zone Authority to operate as a free zone and we have our regulations in which all our approved activities are stated for our investors and potential developers to streamline towards this direction.

QUESTION: What are the contributions of ATV in terms of job creations, creativity and youth inclusion in the FCT?

ANSWER: In the past couple of years, we have been focusing on attracting both foreign and local investors that are interested in setting up various types of business activities; we have registered several investors who are interested in investing in the FCT. As a Free Zone Management Company, we run our personal business incubation hub where we train youths and provide supports for business start-up ecosystem in the FCT and we have also partnered with many government agencies. Also, we ventured into an initiative programme called YATPS (Youth Agric Tech Premium Programme Scheme) in collaboration with NITDA (National Information Technology Development Agency) and NCAIR (National

Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics), to train selected youths who are interested in smart farming. These youths were carefully selected from different institutions and NYSC orientation camps and only those interested in smart farming were selected. The first part of the programme which is training has been completed and most of them have progressed to the practical aspects and lands are been provided for them to practice what they have been taught. ATV is using this medium to provide and create employment for our youths through these programmes.

QUESTION: The use of (AI) Artificial Intelligence is on the increase and the youths now are venturing towards it; what is ATV doing to include AI in their activities?

ANSWER: With ATV initiative programme called YATPPS (Youth Agric Tech Premium Program Scheme) in collaboration with NITDA (National Information Technology Development Agency) and NCAIR (National Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics), we have come up with an initiative that will deploy more of Artificial Intelligence in modern day farming called Precision or Smart farming which we are currently working on. We also have series of other programmes on ICT, mineral, energy technology and we intend to work on more projects that are technologically driven.

QUESTION: How does ATV generate revenue?

ANSWER: Most of ATV revenue comes from investors who have subscribed into the free zone scheme, and the free zone activities are regulated by Nigeria Export Processing Zone Authority. This Authority has guidelines and tariffs of their services and investors have to pass through these guidelines for proper registration to obtain an operating license at a minimal cost. We also generate some of our stipend from services we render. For every free zone and licensing, we add our own little charges as a free zone management company. We also get grants and sponsors from government entities who have invested more on infrastructure and technological projects.

QUESTION: How does ATV attract investors?

ANSWER: As a free zone management company, we provide infrastructures and enabling environment for businesses to thrive and attract investment into the FCT. We have an investor on ground who is interested in deploying Fiber Connectivity and Data Center. Registration has been done, their site has been setup and they are trying to penetrate the Abuja market. They provide more of cyber connectivity, fiber connectivity and data centers in Nigeria generally. We are encouraging investors in this part to invest and with the incentive that comes with the setting up of a free zone territory, it has been a major attraction to some of these investors and they are very keen on investing in the ICT infrastructures generally.



INTERVIEW

We have been able to register a couple of investors who are setting up businesses to process agro and seedling processing, facility for manufacturing of safety equipment, assembling of motorcycle bikes and setting up of data centre and fiber connectivity to homes in the FCT. ATV is looking into expanding the data and ICT ecosystem skills. Although we don't have the capacity to invest but we have been able to attract experts to invest in this zone.

QUESTION: What are the contributions of the ATV to the FCT Administration and the six Area Councils of the FCT?

ANSWER: ATV has been able to attract youths across the six area councils to participate in various programmes we have done. ATV runs a business incubation center called Inspired Hub, which is an entrepreneur programme dedicated to training youths that are interested in technology innovations and since its inception, we have been able to provide business service support to over 300 small businesses and thousands of individuals. Also, the onsite construction and infrastructure work have created direct and indirect employment for the youth.

QUESTION: Does ATV collaborate with other government owned institutions aside the FCT and six Area Council?

ANSWER: Yes, ATV does. Presently, we are on a dialogue with the Ministry of Science and

Technology as they have signified interest to set up a Science Museum at Abuja Technology Village and plot has been mapped out for development. ATV is in collaboration with Nigeria Institute of Leather and Science Technology Zaria and they are also interested in setting up their Abuja Center in ATV. We are also in collaboration with NITDA, NCAIR and there are various government institutions we are in collaboration with that have shown interest in partnering with ATV and setting up various activities; some of these activities are profit making while others are little contributions to Science and Tech in Nigeria as a whole. We have found government agencies in the same part as ATV to collaborate with, to enable us achieve our mandates.

QUESTION: How can the FCT residents who are interested in your programmes contact ATV?

ANSWER: We have a website, abujatechnologyvillage.com and it is presently undergoing update and technical review which we hope will be back in a couple of days. Also, you can reach our business marketing team at coi@atv.com.ng send an email to them and they would respond to you.

QUESTION: What are your expectations from this Administration in terms of Technology?

ANSWER: ATV is very positive about this new Administration, as this

Administration is more of youth inclusiveness and there is no way you talk about youths without talking about technology around the globe including Nigeria. ATV is very positive that this current Administration will invest heavily in technology driven economy.

“With ATV initiative programme called YATPPS (Youth Agric Tech Premium Program Scheme) in collaboration with NITDA (National Information Technology Development Agency) and NCAIR (National Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics), we have come up with an initiative that will deploy more of Artificial Intelligence in modern day farming called Precision or Smart farming which we are currently working on. We also have series of other programmes on ICT, mineral, energy technology and we intend to work on more projects that are technologically driven.”

PHOTO Gallery



L-R: Director Public Building, FCDA, Arc. Adebowale Ademo, FCT Minister of State Dr Mariya Mahmoud, FCT Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike and the Perm. Sec., FCTA, Mr Olusade Adesola during the Minister's tour of projects in Abuja.



FCT Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike (right) with a cross Section of heads of Construction companies during his meeting with major contractors in Abuja recently.



FCT Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike (2nd left) flanked by the Minister of State, Dr Mariya Mahmoud (1st left) and the FCTA Perm. Sec. Mr Olusade Adesola (3rd left) outside the Abuja Metro Station during the Minister's tour of the light rail facilities recently.



FCT Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike, commissioning the vehicles presented by the FCT Administration to traditional rulers in the FCT.



L-R: The Chief of Jiwa, Alh Idris Musa, Minister of Aviation, and Aerospace Development Barrister Festus Keyamo and the FCT Minister, Chief Nyesom Wike at the Stakeholders meeting on compensation matters for the 2nd Abuja Airport Runway Project.



RESIDENTS View

Residents Task New FCT Ministers On Security, Transportation Sectors

QUESTION: What are your expectations from the newly appointed FCT Ministers in terms of security and transportation in the nation's capital?



KENNETH CHIJOKE: I don't know, let him provide buses for us to make life easier, let them know how to control bike riders and cow rearers who are abusing Abuja roads. In my opinion, the subsidy removal will not affect our economy because we have oil, Nigeria is blessed so let them improve, people are suffering, security is in the hands of God. However, we have to put taskforce in place to monitor and handle cases of vandalism of manhole and electric cables. For us to succeed in this regard the work should not be left only to police and other security agencies. It has to be collaborative efforts of all and sundry.



ALEX NJOKU: Quite a while now, we have been getting reports concerning the issues of people entering wrong vehicles ("One Chance"). Though some persons are car owners, but some circumstance can warrant one to board commercial vehicle especially at this regime of subsidy removal that has hiked the pump price of petrol. The transportation rate has really gone high, so a mass transit will not be a bad idea to help residents. The idea of providing a mass transit will also help tackle the issue of insecurity in the FCT

MR IGWE AKAJIEZE: You cannot remove subsidy without having plans for the masses,



saving money by removing subsidy is not the best in a nation whereby government has no contribution for the masses. Removing subsidy in the right way is good but now that the country is facing anarchy in terms of transportation, feeding, moving from one place to another, there is no road network, no food, nothing is working and you are removing subsidy. Before removing subsidy, you must have a plan B, making things available and cheap in preparation for the subsidy removal. As we can see now, everything has gone up and beyond repair. Government should build new roads, subsidize transportation for the



masses and provide buses for the people, as going around and going to work is now a problem. For the issue of insecurity, FCT Administration should make sure buses are provided to limit the chances of people entering a “One Chance” bus or vehicle.



MR ANYANWU CYPRIAN:

My own view of what is going on is that, things are hard presently. One of my friends was robbed recently at his home and all his valuables were taken away. The present FCT Minister should place more security personnel everywhere like CCTV cameras, and in the area of transportation, they should help us reduce the price of fuel. I don't think the issue of the mass buses is a good idea because it is usually not well organized in Nigeria, but if it can be well managed and organized this time around, it will be a good idea.



MISS EBERECHUKWU ILORA:

I think the only thing the Minister can do is to talk to the President about the issue of the fuel subsidy, that they should put back the subsidy to help lower the price of fuel, because the idea of bringing about mass buses to Abuja might not work since there are villages in Abuja where the buses will not reach because it will only be available in town. Therefore, the best thing to do is to reduce the fuel price. The idea of bringing in the buses will not do anything, these people are hungry and they do these things because they don't have job and they don't have money, it is best to provide jobs for them to get them a source of income, providing employment, once they have something doing, they won't have time for their “One Chance”. On the issue of vandalism of government, some of them are pure wickedness but if you check deep down, poverty is the main cause of their actions.

CHIMEZE: I know that the new Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike, is going to work because he was a good governor in Rivers state, and he really worked in Rivers state and we are hoping to see his good work here in Abuja. To tackle security challenges in the territory, he should increase the numbers of security personnel in the nation's capital in view of the growing population. On transportation, we need railways because if railways are working, I don't see any reason why people should be buying cars or using cars from Maraba to town every day. It is on a high cost. like me I have a car and almost every day I buy fuel of about Fifteen Thousand Naira every day. I do not even switch on my car air conditioner

just to economize. so, if the railways are working, I don't see any reason to buy fuel when I can use a train to where I am going to with One Hundred Naira.

ENGINEER STEPHEN: In the security aspect, I expect that he should deploy majority of security personnel to this Gudu side because there is no security. I parked my car the other day and they attempted to open it but they didn't succeed and the other day a friend of mine parked his car in front of this Jordan Garden before he came out the car was missing and till today, he has not seen his car. And also, these “Boys” that uses bike to collect people's property and challenging people, they can carry someone to somewhere, and on getting there, they can start harassing you in order to save your life you will just give them what they want. On the issue of transportation, many civil servants have stopped going to work on a daily basis because increment in the price of fuel that led to increment in transportation fare. Also, people in the Nasarawa axis coming to work in FCT will find transportation easier if he provides commercial buses for them. Another thing is road when there is a good road transportation will be easier.

EBUKA NWAEZE (Lawyer):

The country as a whole and Abuja in particular is very challenged security wise, which has been shown to be fueled by hardship and poverty and as people search for all means for survival it result to criminality. So there should be a plan to help artisans and people to make the city conducive for everyone. There should be provision of work to people who are interested in working at least per



day for them to earn a basic living. Then use force to make sure that those who are very deviant in nature stopped in their criminal acts. The police should be more energized to tackle them, they should patrol the places and ensure that they are not successful in their wrong ventures. Those flash points should be maned speedily to ensure that Nigerians move about freely in this FCT.

On the issue of transportation, since the removal of subsidy, residents have been left stranded because they can't access public transport due to price hike in transport and a lot have parked their cars. So efforts should be put in place in providing public transportations, plans can be made for the provision of BRT buses as they have in Lagos which has made transport price over there lesser a bit compared to here. So such plans can be made and integrated here in Abuja so people within and outside FCT can freely move about at the least minimal cost. I know the Minister as a man of capacity, so I expect him first to cushion the effect of poverty in the FCT before he embarks on the demolition of buildings, because the more you demolish the more you put people into abject poverty and the more crime will increase.

SALENKWAN SIMEON (DISPATCH RIDER): In terms of security, I expect that all security bodies should report to duty on time, be stationed at strategic places and should be on time as well.

In terms of transportation, the subsidy has affected the transport price while the salaries of people

remain the same. There should be an increment in the salaries of workers. There should be a regulation to checkmate the salaries of the employees because things are not the same as before. So I want the government to make provision of short buses for the residents in the FCT.

FRIDAY: In terms of insecurity in Abuja, so far as Abuja is concerned this is a collective responsibility to make sure that Abuja is secured and in the terms of all these security operatives, it depends on how they want to tackle it. This is because I believe in terms of security there is nothing we don't have here as a security agency in this country. When you give them work, it is expected you equip them to do the work normally, not when you give work then you take the back seat. So, first of all, before tackling any security issue you have to tackle anything concerning bribery and corruption because that is what is killing this country. In the case of Wike now as the FCT Minister, it is good and fine. In terms of Transportation we are having problem with it due to the removal of fuel subsidy that you have to pay three times of the amount that you are paying to your place of work due to the increment in transportation fare.

ANONYMOUS: I believe that all these scavengers (babambola) they see them early in the morning carrying their bags going here and there collecting people's things, even if you forget something outside they will carry it. We have to look into all those second hand

dealers because all what is sold by them I don't think they are purchased but stolen things. Government know where these second hand dealers are and when they want to tackle it they will tackle it within themselves.

So in terms of Transportation now in Abuja here, things like 'Okada' riders are among the transportation system we are talking about, 'Keke Napep' operators are among the transportation also, so these unregistered means of transportation we are having create a lot of problems for the residents. We have to be security conscious of Okada riders because we don't know their ambition. Some of them carry arms, and harmful objects. I have seen many of them at the road after agreeing on a particular price, when they get to your destination they change the price and add more money to the already agreed price. Once you argue with him, the next thing is for other Okada riders to gather around and humiliate you with dangerous weapons. All these things government has to look into it. I didn't say they should stop the use of 'Okada' or Keke Napep, but at least there should be regulations and they have to bring people to be monitoring their exercise as they perform their activities. In order to reduce transport fare, all these operators have unions and government needs to work with the various unions with a view to organising them. So as it is now in terms of subsidy removal, everybody knows that goods and services are on the increase, I believe that government should discuss with the unions and dialogue with their leadership how to handle things and I believe things will become normal.



FCT MINISTER MOBILISES CONTRACTORS BACK TO SITE

....AS ROAD RESURFACING PROJECTS BEGIN IN GARKI, WUSE DISTRICTS

...Millennium Tower to be given priority as a Legacy Project

...Environmental Sanitation Days to begin

The Federal Capital Territory Administration will mobilize contractors back to site to resume work on the various ongoing and abandoned projects in the FCT, even as road resurfacing projects are set to commence in the Garki and Wuse Districts of the nation's capital.

Minister of the FCT, Barrister Nyesom Ezenwo Wike who made this disclosure in Abuja, when he met heads of over 15 construction companies working on various projects in the FCT, assured that the necessary funding will be made available for them to return to site and complete the projects.

Addressing the contractors at the start of the meeting, the FCT Minister who declared that Abuja is now a construction site, disclosed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has given him marching order to ensure that the Abuja Metro line is completed and put to use, adding that ongoing road projects in the FCT would also be completed to improve the road network in the nation's capital.

Barrister Wike therefore assured that the FCT Administration will not owe any contractor as each project will be tied to specific funds, warning that contractors must deliver the projects within agreed time frames without failure.

In his words "Now the time has come for action. First of all, on the metro line, those of you who heard what Mr. President said yesterday (at the NBA Annual General Convention), he did give a marching order that he wants to ride on the metro line and so it's a key project that we must achieve.

"We are going to restructure how we fund you so that you go back to site and do work. I don't want to hear that this happened and this didn't happen. Ordinarily, I would have gone back to look at performance or no performance, but I feel there is no need to go back. Let's move forward and see what we can achieve."

"I have agreed with the Hon. Minister of State and I have told the management that we must restructure the way projects are

funded. We must not fund projects depending only on the national budget. We must also fund projects through our direct internally generated revenue. I will not be a party to give out contract and then there is no money to fund."

Barrister Wike also warned that the FCTA will not tolerate any work that is below standard, stressing, that all the ongoing projects will be directly supervised by his office and the office of the Minister of State to ensure compliance.

He said, "We are determined to make sure every contractor goes back to site, not just going back to site but with direct supervision from my office and office of the Minister of State."

"The major problem we are having in this country is the lack of supervision. We are not going to tolerate anything below standard. If there are people you are working with who have been compromising standard, too bad. It's not with me. I'm not going to accept anything that is below standard.

While addressing the press after the meeting with the contractors, the Minister disclosed that the Millennium Tower and Cultural Center will be given priority attention disclosing that it will be one of the legacy projects of Mr President.

In the words of the Minister "I can tell you that it is not going to be easy going into that project, but I can equally tell you that we have decided that for whatever it takes, it is going to be one of the legacy projects for Mr President to complete in the next few years. Certainly, we are looking at the next two years, if the way we are going structure our payment is agreeable with the contractors".

The Minister also disclosed that the resurfacing of major roads in Garki, Wuse Maitama and Asokoro will begin in earnest as the contractors will be mobilized to site immediately.

On the rehabilitation of the Abuja Metro line, the Minister said that the contractors

will over the coming days be paid so that they can mobilise back to site while also holding discussions on the operational cost of the project.

On city sanitation the Minister revealed that there are plans to dedicate two Saturdays in a month as environmental sanitation days to allow residents to clean up their environment saying that "Abuja must be clean" and called for the cooperation of all residents in this regard.

He said "in fact, I was able to brief Mr President that we are coming up with an idea that at least two Saturdays in a month, we will declare sanitation, say from 7 am to 10am where we will get companies that will give us logistics to clear up the refuse"

Also present at the meeting were the Minister of State, Dr Mariya Mahmoud, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusade Adesola, the Executive Secretary, FCDA, Engr. Shehu Hadi Ahmad, the Director Treasury, Mr Zanna Hamza and senior officials of the FCTA as well as heads of the various construction companies working in the FCT.

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