The Fact is - This President is Performing

Since the inception of his administration, President Goodluck Jonathan has engaged in the massive development of different sectors of Nigeria’s economy, all for the sake of the material and human prosperity of our people. With his cardinal principle based on practical governance, the President has continued to prove that in assessing his performance score card that facts are sacred. Today, we continue a review of his achievements in the three key areas: Industry and Manufacturing, Agricultural and grassroots development on the platform of the MDGs.

**INDUSTRIAL SECTOR**

Under his Administration, the industrial sector is steadily being revived.

There is dramatic increase in manufacturing growth in the country and conscious attempts to enhance manpower development through the revival of vocational centres designed to provide a trained workforce for the industrial sector such as the Industrial Training Fund, National Power Training Institute of Nigeria and others.

That an industrial revolution has been re-utnited in Nigeria is an undeniable fact which is amply evident in the revival of automobile assembling plants in Nigeria. As a result these automobile companies have begun to set up their factories in various locations around the country.

- **NISSAN** announced that it will assemble vehicles at VON Nigeria Ltd. The first vehicle rolled-out on 28 April 2014.
- Peugeot has flagged-off Peugeot 301 production line since July 2014 at PAN.
- **Dana Motors** signed agreements to assemble Kia and Renault vehicles.
- **VW** are conducting a feasibility study on assembling vehicles in Nigeria.
- Innoson has manufactured the first made-in-Nigeria cars and SUVs. Following the expansion of its Vehicle Manufacturing to include car assembly.
- **DANA** group of Nigeria have signed agreements to assemble Kia and Renault vehicles in Nigeria.
- **Toyota** Motor Corporation (TMC) of Japan plans to start with the SKD assembly in the next phase.
- **Kewalram Chanrai Group** has initiated discussions with GM and Mitsubishi to assemble light commercial vehicles.
- **SCOAs** Nigeria Plc has commenced the redesign of its expansive assembly facilities in Iloko, Lagos to assemble SKD kits of MAN Diesel trucks and HAMM agricultural tractors.
- **Leventis Motors** has signed an agreement with FOTON Daimler to produce buses and trucks in Nigeria. The plants plan to assemble 23,000 in the last six months of vehicles this year.

Other Nigerian companies that signed assembly agreements include: Coscharis Motors Ltd, Gloke Motors Ltd, Laceri-Shitu Motors Ltd, Transit Support Services Ltd, Tilda Ltd and Peace Mass Transit Ltd.

**AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

In the agricultural sector, there is a major revolution unfolding under Goodluck Jonathan’s Transformation Agenda. From cassava to cocoa; from rice to oil palm, the Jonathan Administration has laid a foundation for sustainable and increased local output of agricultural products aimed at ensuring that the nation derives the maximum benefits and achieves self-sufficiency in food production.

- There is now more private investment in agriculture, including bank lending, than ever before.
- The new regime of fertilizer subsidy is well-targeted. Middle-men and ghost-farmers have been eliminated. Fertilizer distribution and allocation has been digitalized. Fraud and nepotism that characterized the process in the past have been eliminated.
The number of private sector seed companies has grown from 10 to 70 within one year.

Over N7 billion of investments from Nigerian businesses have been secured to develop new fertilizer manufacturing plants, which will make Nigeria the largest producer and exporter of fertilizers in Africa.

1.3 Million Metric Tons of fertilizer and 55,000 Metric Tons (MT) of improved seeds have been delivered to farmers.

Nigeria stands as the first in Africa to deliver inputs to farmers at the current scale through the E-Wallet system. So far, more than 2.5 Million Women farmers have been reached through the E-Wallet scheme by 2014, with 28.7% from 2012.

The government has established a Nigerian Seed Venture Capital Fund with the goal of raising the use of hybrid seeds from 8,000 metric tons to 1,000,000 metric tons, per year.

The Federal Government has established marketing corporations to facilitate marketing of agricultural commodities.

Nigeria has reduced its food imports by over 40% moving the country closer to self-sufficiency in agriculture. The increase in food production has helped to stabilize food prices.

Today, Nigeria is now the largest producer of cassava in the world, with an output of over 45 million metric tonnes according to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

To reduce the country’s import bill on rice, the government has stepped up what it calls “Double-up Paddy Production Programme,” under which rice will be grown in 10 northern states during the dry season. So far, the programme has added up to N77 billion into the economy.

In 2012, President Jonathan launched first ever dry season farming of rice in Nigeria with 14 billion Naira farm support. The dry season rice farming has supported up to 268,000 farmers as 264,000 hectares of land was cultivated in the 10 northern states during the season. This has resulted in the production of 296 Million MT of paddy, equivalent to 1.92 million MT of milled rice between 2013 and 2014.

Six million farmers have so far been provided with improved varieties, with 2 million hectares of additional rice cultivated.

The Jonathan government is financing N13 billion acquisitions of 10 integrated rice mills with a capacity of 350,000 MT to reduce the rice milling gap.

Nigeria in pursuing a target to rehabilitate 20,000 hectares of cocoa farms in the country within four years, under the government’s Cocoa Transformation Agenda. Nigeria is the fourth-biggest cocoa producer in the world after Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Indonesia. Nigeria’s cocoa output is currently put at about 250,000 metric tons per annum, with a plan to double this to 500,000 metric tons by 2015.

Local investors have also keyed into the Agricultural Transformation Agenda. Dangote Foods of the Dangote Group is the largest high energy food plant in Africa using sorghum, maize and soybeans for fortified foods and cereals, and Nigerian Breweries Limited is buying Sotomah from 250,000 farmers for use in their products.

The government is reengineering the production of cotton particularly in the Northeast and Northwest zones of Nigeria through the provision of improved cotton seedlings, which have been given free charge to farmers.

Over $8 billion in private investments have been attracted to agribusiness, crop production, processing and other forms of value addition.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2000, Nigerian joined other 188 countries to sign the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at the United Nations in New York. There were eight development targets to be met worldwide by 2015. These targets include the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger; universal primary education; reduced maternal and child mortality; gender equality; increased access to healthcare, water, and sanitation; protection of the environment; and global partnerships.

So far, the Jonathan Administration through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs, Dr. Precious Kalamba Omedal, has achieved greatly with hundreds of communities across the country, tens of thousands of projects financed exclusively by the Nigerian government and spanning various areas. Nigeria’s efforts in this regard have been described as the largest scale-up of MDG investment in the world, targeting nearly 25 million of our poorest citizens particularly those at the grassroots.

1. Nigeria has embarked on what has been described as the largest scale-up of MDG investment in the world, targeting nearly 25 million of our poorest citizens particularly those at the grassroots.

2. Projects are financed based on counterpart funding with the FG contributing 50% to hospitals were constructed and rehabilitated, 114,273 classrooms blocks built and renovated, 1,457,378 School Exercise Books and Instructional materials were supplied and 7600 Households received conditional cash transfers for empowerment.

7. In 2014, 44 Agric Based Co-operative Societies in 14 LGAs benefited from the MDGs Micro Credit Grants. Many more Co-operatives in many more LGAs have benefited from the scheme.

8. The Village Health Worker Scheme, a veritable initiative of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs (OSSAP), MDGs aim at stimulating demand / access for healthcare by individuals and households through advocacy, mobilization and linking of households to health facilities was launched in 2014. The scheme has had a positive impact on the target audience resulting in increased attendance at health facilities. The first phase of the scheme generated employment opportunities for 1,480 Nigerian Volunteers who are presently on the payroll of the FG via the OSSAP.