

Around Nigeria ... Around Nigeria

Lagos plans retreat to ratify key projects

LAGOS State Government will soon convene a special retreat to consider and ratify all key projects identified by the state government during the last state wide local government tour with a view to embarking on their immediate implementation.

This was disclosed by the state Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN) on Monday while signing the Community Development Association Bill 2008 into law at the Governor's Conference Room at Alausa.

Governor Fashola added that budgetary provision has been made for all the projects in the 2008 appropriation in line with the stand of the state government to make the mandate given by the people to be worth the while.

In his words: "our responsibility is to work for you with our sweat, blood, talent and time. If we do not know what you want, it would be difficult to move forward".

Governor Fashola added that the present administration clearly recognizes that only through a renewed and sustained commitment to enhancing the capacity of an increasing number of community-based organisations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Lagos State, can the much needed social and economic development be attained.

In his words: "we equally believe that growth and development is attainable for our people, if local institutions and other partners in development can be enabled to take up the very increasing challenges of development through proper identification and communication of needs, through self-help projects, from a 'bottom up' perspective.

He described the occasion as another landmark in the annals of the state which would ultimately position the Community Development Association to participate effectively in the development process.

From JAMES SANI SWAM,

Kaduna

AUSTRIAN Ambassador to

Nigeria. Dr. Christian Fellner has canvassed for strong and continued working relationship between Nigerian youths and their counterparts in Austria.

The ambassador spoke at the weekend when he paid a courtesy visit to the Nigerian office of a Non-Governmental Organisation in Kaduna called "Austria-Nigeria Initiative."

He expressed optimism that the initiative embarked upon by the NGO to foster youth understanding through a sound interactive forum provided by Information Technology Education would not impact positively on Nigerian youths alone but the youths of Africa.

Dr. Fellner stated that the "Austria-Nigeria Initiative should be commended for achieving a feat in the area of

Ambassador wants Austrian, Nigerian youths' ties strengthened

Austria-Nigeria Initiative has gone beyond computer and IT education to expanding the scope of friendship where youths from both countries could interact through a project called "Facing Transcontinental" and Code named in Hausa "hoto na ne ma murya."

He said the facing transcontinental project which was presented at the World Summit on information systems in 2005 and also won an award in Austria, enables youths from both countries to interact and talk

about the divergent cultures of the two countries with a view to enabling them appreciate one another's culture.

The project co-ordinator in Nigeria, Engineer David Kevin while commending the youths for embracing the initiative by the NGO, said they have already established training centres in many local government areas of Kaduna and Plateau states, while arrangements have been concluded for the take-off in Benue State and possibly Katsina State this year.

PEF, STAKEHOLDERS MEET

... on how to bridge petroleum products

"We are discussing how best to operate the riverine bridging scheme and make petroleum products available at affordable prices to people in the riverine areas," she said.

Kasali said that PEF evolved the special scheme to serve the needs of the riverine communities where floating stations were being developed.

amendment of the PEF(M)B Act," she said.

Kasali noted that some provisions of the Act needed to be reviewed, citing the penalty of 50,000 Naira stipulated for bridging offences as an example.

"We are looking at these. A lot has been done to correct all the identified lapses.