ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, HON. KASHIM SHETTIMA, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, BORNO STATE, TO THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, 2017 ON WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 2016

PROTOCOL:

 All praise is due to Almighty Allah. It is with deep sense of responsibility that I have the honour and privilege to present to this distinguished and Honourable House the Borno State 2017 Appropriation bill which enunciates our budget proposals for the next twelve months based on our well-articulated fiscal policy and expenditure profile as well as the concomitant revenue indicators and the underlying economic assumptions. As you may recall, the 2016 Budget which I had the privilege of presenting at this hallowed chamber exactly one year ago was tagged “Budget **of** **Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement**” which was informed by the unprecedented infrastructural challenges we were facing at that critical point in time as a result of the horrendous destruction of institutional and public structures in almost all parts of the State by the Boko Haram insurgents. Since then we have made tremendous achievements and considerable progress in our determined efforts to address these challenges. It is in order to consolidate our modest achievements and most decidedly restore our dear State to its lofty and glorious past, that the 2017 Budget is tagged “**Budget of Consolidation and Restoration:** It was purposely designed to actively pursue the strategic policy initiatives of the State Government in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the thousands of structures destroyed by the insurgents and the ultimate return of al our IDPs to their respective homes, latest by May, 2017. All the necessary machineries have been put in place to achieve this noble objective. Of course, there are other developmental initiatives outside the reconstruction and resettlement efforts which are deliberately designed to be implemented concurrently so that no sector is left behind in the scheme of things.

 As you are no doubt aware, the State Government has already completed reconstruction works in quite a number of Local Government Areas like Askira Uba, Konduga, Kaga and Mafa. Full civil authority has also been re-established in such places. It is gratifying to note that the IDPs from these Local Governments have already returned and settled down to normal life or are in the process of doing so.

 In addition, massive reconstruction work is currently being undertaken in Bama, Gwoza, Dikwa and Ngala Local Government Areas and the phased return of the IDPs from these areas is underway. Their return is being done in phases because the level of destruction of residential homes, Government offices and commercial property in those areas was so enormous and widespread that it would be extremely difficult if not virtually impossible to return all the IDPs to their original places at the same time, until the current reconstruction work is completed. It is worth re-emphasizing that the overall level of devastations caused by the Boko Haram phenomenon in virtually all parts of the State was beyond imagination, as a result of which we were unavoidably subjected to a pathetic and desperate situation which, in all honesty, required urgent and desperate measures to rectify. This was in fact one of the reasons which at one time, prompted me to relocate to Bama town to personally coordinate and supervise the reconstruction and rehabilitation work going on there and ensure that all aspects of the exercise were done expeditiously and in accordance with our pre-set standards.

 Our commitment to the reconstruction efforts is total as exemplified in some of the rehabilitated areas. For instance, the villages of Tomsu Kawu and Mainta Kururi, both in Kaga Local Government area, which were completely razed to the ground by the insurgents, have been totally rebuilt because of our profound commitment to ensuring that the psychological and physical trauma suffered by our people as a result of the insurgency are reduced to the barest minimum. The only challenge is that according to security reports there are still elements of palpable threats posed by remnants of renegade Boko Haram members in some remote villages of Monguno, Abadam, Guzamala and Mobbar Local Government Areas. The Military are relentlessly pursuing them and are already on top of the situation. As soon as we get the security green light, all the IDPs from these areas would be returned to their ancestral homes.

 Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, it is pertinent to reiterate that the overall responsibility for the rebuilding of our dear State rests not just on the Executive but on all arms and tiers of Government as well as well-meaning individuals, corporate organizations and Non-Governmental Organisations. It is indeed a collective responsibility which invariably needs concerted efforts to see through to a successful conclusion. It is on this premise that and in compliance with the provisions of section 121 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended that I present to this Honourable House the Borno State Government 2017 Budget proposal.

**REVIEW OF 2016 FISCAL YEAR**

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it is gladdening to note that the implementation of the 2016 budget was successful as most of the targeted fiscal projects have either been completed or are rapidly on-going. This could to a large extent be attributed to the stringent measures and fiscal policies which this Administration had maintained in line with our policy guidelines. It is indeed due to our total commitment to plug all points of wastages and misappropriation of public funds through effective monitoring and supervision of funds appropriated for the execution and completion of all projects that we were able to achieve this. We shall therefore continue to strive to adhere to our cost effective fiscal policies as it will be in the best interest of the generality of our people.

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, during the year under review, a total sum of **N155,007,345,180.00** was appropriated for both capital and recurrent expenditure. Out of this amount, the sum of **N103,111,444,049.00** was for capital expenditure while **N51,895,901,130.00** was set aside for recurrent expenditure.

 In this regard, there were a number of landmark capital projects which we had commenced prior to the intensification of the insurgency but had to be abandoned because of the then profoundly disturbing security situation. However, in the coming year, we intend to prioritise the completion of these projects. They include the Marghi Highway, the Damboa – Chibok road, the Balbaya road in Bayo Local Government and the construction of the road from Ngala to Rann in Kala Balge Lcoal Government. Others include the completion of the Cotton Ginneries in Bama and Biu towns. In addition to these projects the State Government also in the 2017 fiscal year, intends to set up a 10 MW power plant to service the Industrial Park as well as 5MW solar power plant with its associated components for the Water Treatment Plant.

 Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, our declared intention and unwavering commitment to the reform of the Borno State Civil Service in order to restore its loyalty, integrity and efficiency and make it a model of excellence for the formulation and implementation of Government policies and programmes, will undoubtedly continue in the coming year. Already the High Powered Committee which I earlier inaugurated to conduct a biometric exercise in the State Civil Service, has virtually completed its assignment. And as soon as the Report is formally presented we shall be in a vintage position to determine the actual number of staff on the payroll of the State Government.

 One of the attendant outcomes of the Biometric exercise is that it would finally put an end to the ghost – workers syndrome which has been bedevilling the civil service for long and consequently save millions of Naira to the Government which we intend to use to employ some of our unemployed graduates and also create various opportunities for self-employment for our teeming unemployed youths.

 Mr. Speaker, in view of the latest reaction from staff of the tertiary institutions pertaining their grievances on the ongoing biometric exercise, it is pertinent to clarify some of the issues so as to enable all our citizens fully understand what is actually going on.

 As at June, 2016 the total workforce of Borno State was 27,368 and this include Political Office holders, students and ulamas. Presently as a result of the ongoing biometric verification exercise 21,632 are already cleared and paid. This number represents 80% of the total workforce. Again 2,295 are absentees who have not submitted even their forms and 3,441 have outstanding issues to clear and they represent only 12%. The Committee has already drawn up time table to visit all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to check and clear all the outstanding cases and that all those who have genuine cases or claims would be unfailingly paid.

 Let me therefore reiterate that it is not fair to allow the few minority hold the majority to ransom and therefore appeal to all those aggrieved to give peace a chance and allow the existing industrial harmony in the State to reign. Meanwhile Government would not shy away from carrying out its statutory responsibilities and that at the end of the exercise any person who is found to have engaged himself or herself in any act of illegalities or irregularities or illegal employment, replacement, receiving double salaries and any other breach or violation would be reprimanded, penalized or brought to justice in accordance with our extent laws or public service rules and regulations.

 Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, similarly during the year under review we had inaugurated the Boards of some very vital Government organisations and or Parastatals i.e. the Local Government Service Commission, Judicial Service Commission, State Independent Electoral Commission, Pilgrims Welfare Board and the Islamic Preaching Board. The aim is to not merely to fulfill our statutory obligations but to strengthen the institutions with a view to achieving Government’s objectives and mandates.

Mr. Speaker, we have instituted several agricultural policies and activities in the State in order to improve farming and also to encourage dry season farming. In fulfillment of the above, about 1,000,000 seedlings of cashew, 500 seedlings of Date Palm and 7500 seedlings of improve variety of citrus as well as 21,000 mango seedlings were raised.

This is in addition to the cultivation of 35 hectre of ginger crop at Kidang, Biu Zone as a pilot farm and the establishment of 200 hectre plantation each at Tamsu Kawu, Mainta Kururi, Mainok and Auno with the procured seedlings while 10 boreholes were drilled in those villages to provide water for the plantation farms.

Furthermore, assorted seeds of arable crops were procured and distributed to farmers at no cost while NPK fertilizer were sold at highly subsidized rates to farmers in the Southern part of the State. Similarly, three net houses were constructed at Tamsu Kawu, Mainok, Mainta Kuri and one million capacity reservoir was drilled to harness rain water for irrigating the plantation and sprinkler systems were provided. In the same vein, farming machineries such as bull dozers, excavators, pay loaders, crane, forklift as well as self propelled corn stalk threshing machineries were procured to improve mechanized farming in the State.

 In the area of fisheries development, 42 units of 7000 litres and 2 units of 3000 litres capacity of fibre-glass ponds and lifab glass fish pond were all purchased while a piece of land was acquired for construction of an international fish market in Maiduguri. In the same vein the livestock and poultry components had received a boost with the purchase of Exotic breeds of cattle and goats, while cattle marketers and butchers were empowered through Micro Finance loans of One Hundred Million Naira (**N100,000,000.00**). Similarly, Multi million Naira worth of assorted modern poultry production equipment and materials were also procured from India, China and Animal Care of Nigeria for distribution to farmers to boost agriculture across the State.

**TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM**

 During the year under review, Government has focused its attention to revenue generation and employment opportunities for our youths. Government had therefore commenced the reactivation of dormant Government owned industries in the State by procuring machines and equipment for their full operation. In this regard, Government awarded contracts for the procurement of machines and equipment worth over Two Billion Naira for the new BOPLAS Company Ltd. Government had also purchased the former Santana Furniture Factory Ltd so as to engage our youths in furniture making. Furthermore, the construction of an industrial layout for setting up of the NEW BOPLAS Factory and Bottle water Plant have also reached an advanced stage and will soon be completed.

**SOCIAL SECTOR**

**EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Education sector is one area where this Administration has continued to invest heavily in order to provide educational opportunities for our youths. During the year under review, Government had completely relocated all IDPs occupying school premises and have re-opened the schools for academic activities. Government also obtained approval for the establishment of State University from the National University Commission (NUC). Similarly, payment has been made for the construction of the Senate building and five other faculty buildings of the Borno State University and they have reached advance stage of completion. Payment for internal students scholarship allowances for 2012/2013 academic year is also on-going, while the partnership programme between NIMASA and Borno State Government in sponsoring 21 Borno State indigenes to undergo one year sea Acclimatization course at UK has been made. Furthermore, third year tuition fees and hostel accommodation for 20 girls at the National University of Khartoum as well as tuition fees and maintenance allowances for 30 girls at the El-Razi University, Sudan were all paid by the State Government. In addition to this, the State Government had entered into agreement with Ah-fad University for Women – Omdurman Sudan to sponsor 100 female students on 50/50 ratio for MBBS course.

**WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

 In the area of Women and Child development, Government consolidated its efforts to support and uplift the plight of women, children and the less privileged members in the society; especially the Internally Displaced Persons in the State and those living with relations by providing them with social welfare and women empowerment programmes. Government also undertook the renovation of dilapidated structures at the Bulumkutu Rehabilitation and Women Development Centres.

 In addition, Government also collaborated with Federal government on safe school initiative on Psychosocial Support Programme for women and children. Similarly, Government also collaborated with the **UNFPA** in the area of women empowerment in IDP camps and host communities through the provision of tents, food and non-food items all aimed at alleviating the hardship of the Internally Displaced Persons and those with poor economic status.

**HOME AFFAIRS, INFORMATION AND CULTURE**

 In a bid to keep our people abreast of our developmental efforts, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Information and Culture continued with its statutory role of information dissemination and public enlightenment of Government policies, actions and programmes. In this regard, the State Broadcast outfit, BRTV has undergone massive turn around in form of total renovation of existing structures and provision of equipment. The State expended over a billion naira in its quest to achieve maximum coverage through the Radio to reach out to all nooks and crannies of the State. In the same vein, four (4) radio studios with the state of the Art equipment were also provided along with (2) number 20KW hybrid transmitters with the capacity to transmit on both analogue and digital platform. Similarly, work has been in progress to meet up with digitization dateline and installation of state of the art equipment with a view to making it conform with modern broadcasting.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

 In the Health sector, Government has completed the construction of the 250 bed-capacity maternal and child specialist Hospital. Government also completed the renovation and expansion of the three (3) Health Training Institutions and equipped 18 secondary health facilities across the State. This is in addition to the establishment of IDP Camp clinics with free medical care to all IDPs and the signing of a Tri-partite Agreement with Bill and Melinda Gate/Dangote Foundation to improve Routine Immunization coverage in the State. Similarly the State had entered into active collaboration with the UMTH for the engagement of specialists to improve health care services and also made prompt payment of counterpart funds for partnership with International Development partners working in the health sector.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR**

**HOUSING AND ENERGY**

 Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, in the Housing sector, we have continued to invest in the provision of houses being one of the major priorities of Government during the year under review. Government had therefore continued with the construction of Legacy Garden Phase II, completed the construction of Abbaganaram Shopping complex, GSM village as well as the women and Children Hospital, Ruwan Zafi. On electrification, Government completed the House of Assembly sub-station rehabilitation and the electrification of Maduganari bayan primary, Bulabulin Alajiri, Dala Allamderi and Goni Gambo streets all within the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council and Jere Local Government Area.

**WATER RESOURCES**

 The provision of portable water supply to our people is another area of our priority. During the year under review, the production of about 28,000 cubic metres per day of potable drinking water for MMC and Jere through the Maiduguri Water Treatment Plant was achieved. Similarly, drilling of boreholes at Umarari and Dubai, and rehabilitation of boreholes at Ngala, Magumeri, Gubio, Jetete, Benisheikh as well as Bama were all undertaken during the 2016 fiscal year.

**RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT.**

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it is common knowledge that the insurgency had brought colossal damages to our infrastructure in the State. Consequently, we therefore invested huge sums of money towards the completion of all on-going projects and rehabilitation of public structures and in the process provided employment to thousands of our youths. This was done through extensive collaboration with International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) and Non-Governmental Organsations operating in the State. In so doing, Government had specifically undertaken the reconstruction of 41 public infrastructure at Dikwa, Mainok and Mainta Kururi, Model Villages. Similarly, reconstructed are classrooms, police outposts, clinics, offices, police barracks and Court offices at Jakana and Benisheikh, which have all been put into use. We have also provided temporary shelter in collaboration with Humanitarian Organisations in Bama, Mafa, Damboa, Gwoza and Konduga among others. Furthermore, reconstruction efforts are on-going in Bama, Gwoza, Askira Uba, Chibok, Mafa, Damboa, Hawul and MMC through the Dangote 1000 IDP Housing Scheme in the State. Commercial activities have began to pick-up even in communities hitherto over-run by the insurgents like Konduga, Mafa and Dikwa as some IDPs have started to return to their homes. Government was also able to generate substantial revenue through the sale of forms and payment of ground rent and also acquired land and design layout at four different locations within the State Capital. The construction of four blocks of lodging accommodation was undertaken at the new trailer park at the cost of Ninety Five Million Naira while the construction of firewood market at Bakassi area through direct labour was also completed during the 2016 fiscal year.

**WORKS AND TRANSPORT**

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, during the year under review, Government had undertaken the interlocking of walkways and provision of drainages along the major roads within the Metropolis and also constructed bases for mounting Mairini Asphalt Plant and metal sheet panels for concrete works. Government had also provided streetlights within the Metropolis and environs and procured heavy duty lifting cranes and earth moving equipment. In the same vein, the construction of Presidential Lodge within Government House and that of the State Liaison Office at Abuja are on-going.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EMIRATE AFFAIRS.**

 During the period under review, the Palaces of the Shehu of Borno, Shehu of Dikwa and the Emir of Askira as well as the Emirs’ Guest House along Bama road, Maiduguri were renovated. Government also constructed family wings of the Palaces of their Highnesses Shehu of Bama, Emirs of Biu, Shani, Uba and Gwoza which are at various stages of completion.

**HIGH LIGHTS OF 2017 BUDGET**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, distinguished invited guests, our budget of **CONSOLIDATION AND RESTORATION** is aimed at continuing with the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement programme initiated in the last years budget. As we consolidate our achievements on ground we intend to vigorously continue with the reconstruction programmes and also commence same in earnest in all the Local Governments hitherto not covered.

Mr. Speaker, against the above background, it is crystal clear that we are poised to fulfill the yearnings and aspirations of our people.

Mr. speaker, Honourable Members, it is in our commitment to deliver the dividends of democracy, and eternal optimism that Borno as I often say shall bounce back to its glory hence we are proposing a budget of **N183,840,489,081.00** for the 2017 fiscal year We can therefore observe that the 2017 budget is higher by 15.37% than that of last year. This is because the assumptions and expectations of the economic performance this year as rationally thought out are more favourable.

On our part we are going to effectively key into all economic measures, regulations and policies put in place at the centre and also increase our internal revenue generation profile, blocking all leakages effectively to reduce the cost of Governance. Our budet is therefore realistic, implementable and our goals are realizable.

**SECTORAL ALLOCATION**

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to present to you the details of our policy thrust, expenditure and projections for the 2017 fiscal year. The 2017 budget which is tagged “Budget of **CONSOLIDATION AND RESTORATION** is aimed at reaching out to all the Local Government Areas for the purpose of smooth restoration of civil structures, essential services and facilities and the complete return of the IDPs and resuscitation and reviving of all economic, social and even political activities. Consequently, we have budgeted the total sum of **N183,840,489,081.00** for both recurrent and capital expenditures. This shall be financed from an envisaged internally generated revenue of **N29,232,272,782.00** and allocation from the Federation Account of **N117,663,719,507.00**. The capital expenditure is put at **N124,182,945,524.00** while the recurrent expenditure is put at **N59,657,543,558.00**. The 2017 budget size is more than that of 2016 including virement and special warrant by **N24,485,143,901.00** i.e. 15.37% while that of Federal Government is 19.95% higher than 2016 budget due to increase in revenue from Federation Account as a result of relative improvement from crude oil price in the international market and expected improvement from locally generated revenue as a result of relative peace achieved in the State.

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to present the sectoral allocation of the 2017 proposed budget as follows:-

**EDUCATION**

 This is the sector which captures our attention the most. The reasons are obvious and not farfetched. It is the area that has suffered the worst onslaught of the insurgency. Our experiences have shown that its inadequacy could be risky and its neglect could also be a recipe for insecurity even in the future.

It is for this reason that the education sector alone excluding the primary level is allocated the sum of **N24,510,742,541.00**. The amount allocated is to enable us continue with the reconstruction, rehabilitation of the educational infrastructure and facilities at the secondary and tertiary levels. Furthermore, the huge budgetary provision is also to enable the full take-off of our newly recognized State University in 2017 and ensure that more facilities and structures are put in place to obtain accreditation of all courses in faculties billed to take-off during the year.

**UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD**

 As most Primary Schools in the Local Government Areas hitherto occupied by Boko Haram were completely destroyed, the Universal Basic Education Board is allocated the sum of **N9,012,648,003** to undertake reconstruction of all primary schools, renovate existing schools, supply most needed educational materials and of course feed the primary school pupils across the State and provide more furniture to enhance teaching and learning at the primary school level.

**AGRICULTURE**

 The Agricultural Sector is allocated the sum of **N7,072,913,513.00** to provide the enabling environment for food production, maintenance of plantation sites and introduction of new crop varieties to our farmers. Government will provide adequate farm machineries and other inputs to boost agricultural activities, while all Counterparts funds for NPFS, IFAD and Fadama III programmes shall be paid to access more fund.

**ENVIRONMENT**

 To create healthy and sustainable environment, Government has allocated the sum of **N4,432,067,637.00** to facilitate protection of the environment through afforestation, wind and water erosion control measures. In the year 2017 Government will provide free seedlings to encourage the public to imbibe the use of alternative source of fuel through the distribution of Gas and Kerosene cookers. Government is also committed to ensure that Maiduguri becomes one of the cleanest State capital in the country.

**ANIMAL AND FISHERIES**

 The sum of **N1,608,165,495.00** is budgeted to enhance state wide vaccination and treatment of all species of animals against various diseases and carry out renovations of zonal livestock offices located in the three senatorial districts. The Gombole Cattle Ranch shall be resuscitated and more fishing villages shall be established to promote fish production and job opportunities to our youths.

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

 In view of the hardship our people are experiencing due to the insurgency and current economic meltdown in the country, Government will mobilize the Ministry to provide assorted poverty alleviation materials, financial grants, small scale entrepreneurship as well as financial assistance to especially communities in the rural areas affected by Boko Haram insurgency. For this purpose the sum of **N5,400,067,173.00** has been allocated to the Ministry.

**TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

In the area of Trade and Investment, Government intends to set-up new projects which include Tomato and Vegetable processing factory, onion dehydration lines, groundnut and other oil seed processing mills and also set up industrial cluster parks. Others include pharmaceutical industries as well as sesame seed processing plants. Similarly, Neital Shoe and Tannery and the Wire and Neil Factory are being considered for reactivation in the early part of 2017, while the family recreation and amusement park will also be reactivated.

 Accordingly, the sum of **N6,290,156,052.00** is earmarked for accomplishment of these tasks.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

 To provide effective and affordable health care services through reconstruction/rehabilitation of all destroyed Hospitals and health centres in all the Local Government Areas, the health and human services sector is allocated the sum of **N19,652,340,079.00**. Government shall purchase enough health and medical equipment for the Hospitals and make prompt payment of counterpart funds to meet Government obligations with international development partners in the health sector.

 In respect of the Hospitals Management Services, Government intends to explore grassroots approach to solving most Health problems in the State and to improve Secondary Health Care across the State. In this regard, three General hospitals and Five Primary Health Clinics will be clustered to each of these facilities to provide basic emergency obstetric care services and integrated management of childhood illnesses.

 In order to keep up with the global trend in modern healthcare delivery, five general hospitals, including the State Specialist hospital will be equipped with modern diagnostic equipment that will include CT Scan and MRI. Plans are at an advanced stage to make the State Specialist Hospital ready for postgraduate training in the discipline of obstetrics and gynecology and surgery.

**RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT**

 The 3R Ministry is the focal Ministry for post insurgency reconstruction efforts of this Administration. In view of this, the sum of **N13,020,133.985.00** is allocated to it to continue with the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation of towns and villages and all critical infrastructures in the liberated Local Government Areas for gradual return and resettlement of all IDPs in the State. Furthermore the Ministry is going to embark on the next phase of the reconstructions of towns and villages across the State.

**WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

 The Women Affairs and Social Development Ministry is allocated the sum of **N985,588,382.00** to provide women with job opportunities through reconstruction of dormant cottage industries in Bama, Biu, Gwoza and Monguno. Government will also promote girl child education through construction of one girl child centre in each of the three senatorial districts. All the children’s Homes destroyed would be rehabilitated and essential working tools and equipment would be procured for distribution in all the Local Government areas.

**BORNO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

 The Borno State House of Assembly has been allocated the sum of **N2,749,802,375.00** to perform its constitutional mandate of law making for the year 2017.

**BORNO STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

 The Commission was re-constituted on 19th May, 2016 to gear up for Local Government elections in 2017. In view of this development, the sum of **N1,896,860,643.00** has been allocated to the Commission to organize a free and fair Local Government elections in the State during the year.

**RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

 The sum of **N2,963,299,877.00** has been budgeted to enable the Ministry consolidate its responsibility of providing essential religious services for peace and harmony to reign in the State vis-à-vis cordial inter and intra faiths relationship.

**JUSTICE**

 For the quick dispensation of justice, as justice delayed is justice denied, the sum of **N1,423,127.292.00** has been budgeted to the Ministry to undertake the construction of Court halls in the Local Government Areas. This is addition to the rehabilitation and equipping of the existing Magistrate and High Courts in the State and to stock our Law Libraries with relevant books and journals. Furthermore, government intends to carryout the review of the Borno State laws which was last done in 1994.

**HOUSING AND ENERY**

 The sum of **N8,235,796,212.00** for both recurrent and capital expenditures has been allocated to the Housing and energy sector. This is for the completion of on-going housing estates and construction of new ones as well as commissioners and legislative quarters. This is in addition to the construction of power generating plants, shopping complexes and renovation of the Ministry’s headquarters main store during the 2017 fiscal year.

 **HOME AFFAIRS, INFORMATION AND CULTURE**

 This Ministry has been allocated the sum of **N3,138,159,982.00** for both its recurrent and capital expenditures during the 2017 fiscal year.

**LAND AND SURVEY**

 The Ministry of Land and Survey has been allocated the sum of **N2,062,099,029.00** for both its recurrent and capital expenditure during the 2017 fiscal year.

**SPORT AFFAIRS**

This Ministry has been allocated the sum of **N1,272,086,998.00** for its recurrent and capital expenditure under the 2017 fiscal year.

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

 THE Ministry of Inter-Governmental Affairs has been allocated the sum of **N492,131,872.00** for its recurrent and capital expenditures in the 2017 fiscal year.

**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE**

 It is the seat of central administration and implementation of Government policies and programmes. It also has under it the Liaison Offices in Abuja, Kaduna and Lagos as well as key agencies like SEMA which is the primary body responsible for all the humanitarian interventions in the State.

Consequently the sum of **N8,182,440,494.00** has been allocated for both its recurrent and capital expenditures in the 2017 budget. This is also to enable complete the Borno House in Abuja which has reached 80% completion. The project which is the biggest multi-billion Naira single project ever embarked upon by any administration in the State, when commissioned, will earn revenue for the State and also generate employment for our teaming unemployed youths. Similarly, the Governor’s Office oversees the maintenance of the State Secretariat. In addition it also has under it the Office of the Head of Service and four other Departments each headed by a Permanent Secretary. They are General Administration and Special Services, Political and Cabinet Affairs, Monitoring and Evaluation and Department of Parastatals.

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

 Government House is the seat of Government where the Governor presides all activities of Government. The activities are all encompassing and include administration, Protocol and Special Services. To carry out these activities the total sum of **N4,975,889,755.00** has been allocated for both its recurrent and capital expenditures.

**CONCLUSION**

On a final note, Government is very mindful of the brutal fact that there is hunger and anger in the land arising from economic hardship, which in our case, is made worse by our peculiar situation. In our bold response, the Borno State Government will from January, 2017, begin a quarterly distribution of free bags of food items to deserving citizens across the entire State as part of critical welfare programme. The distributions which will God willing, take place in the months of January, 2017, will be designed in a manner that will maximally reach those in need.

 As we look forward to the successful implementation of the budget, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to the Speaker and the Honourable members of the House for their support and cooperation in our resolve to significantly improve the quality of life of our people and propel public confidence in the administration. I beseech you to continue to support our policies and programmes as partners in progress and in the overall interest of our State.

 I must also extend my profound gratitude to Mr. President for his personal initiative and commitment in ensuring that the Boko Haram insurgency is brought to a complete halt. His strategic policy decisions in respect of the insurgency which he espoused at the commencement of his administration have been sufficiently implemented with appreciable degree of success. The major impact of these policies has resonated all over the North East region but more importantly here in Borno State where normalcy has returned to our lives.

 Our Military and other Security Agencies as well as the Civilian JTF who have been sacrificing their lives and limbs to keep us safe and secure deserve special appreciation. I would therefore on behalf of the Government and people of Borno State like to express our gratitude for their victory against the insurgents and their continuous relentless pursuit of the remnants who are still callously bent on carrying out their obnoxious and dastardly activities. The military is currently engaged in fishing out the insurgents in their last hideout in the Sambisa Forest and has given the assurance that by the end of the year all pockets of Boko Haram resistance would have been completely wiped out. Our support and continuous prayers are with them.

 Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, on this note I crave your indulgence for accelerated consideration and speedy passage of the 2017 appropriation bill in the overall interest of our people. While wishing all our people seasons greetings and a prosperous 2017, I have the honour and pleasure to lay before this Honourable House the 2017 budget of consolidation and restoration.

 ***Thank you and God bless.***