

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, HONOURABLE MAI MALA BUNI, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF YOBE STATE ON THE OCCASION OF INAUGURATION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE LAND INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE (FRILIA) HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, DAMATURU.**

Your Excellency, Hon. Idi Barde Gubana (Wazirin Fune)  
the Deputy Governor of Yobe State,

The Honourable Speaker, Yobe State House of Assembly,  
Right Honourable Chiroma Buba Mashio.

Your Lordships, the Honourable Chief Judge and the Hon. Grand Kadi,

Members of the State House of Assembly here present,

State Chairman APC

The Secretary to the State Government,

The Head of Service,

Permanent Secretaries,

Chief Executives of Boards and Parastatals and Heads of Extra Ministerial  
Departments,

Members of Steering, Technical and Framework for Responsible and  
Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) programme.

Distinguished invited guests,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to perform the inauguration of the Steering Committee, Technical Committee and the Grievances Redress Mechanism Committee of the Adoption of a Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) programme. The FRILIA is a programme that aims to guide land administration in a manner that would maximize the role of land in development while effectively mitigating the risks of land-based investments. It entails land reforms that will facilitate agricultural business investments in the State. This unique occasion therefore, provides another great opportunity for our administration to demonstrate its commitment to strengthening reforms and modernizing agricultural practices to pave way for increased productivity, job creation, food security and poverty alleviation in the State.

2. We are all aware that agriculture remains the mainstay of the Yobe State economy providing employment and income to over 70 percent of our population. It is against this background that we have been making tireless efforts to revitalize agriculture through enhancement of large scale farming, proper utilization of our large irrigable land, livestock development, availability of fertilizer and other inputs at subsidized rates and encouraging capital intensive practices. You may recall that a lot of steps were taken earlier towards achieving our goals in the agricultural sector. These, among others, include:-

- i. Convening of an Agricultural Summit to chart a new course,
- ii. Constitution of the Steering Committee on Revitalization of Agriculture which in conjunction with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation developed the State Sector Strategic Plan,

- iii. The first agricultural policy document that aims to achieve food security and contribute to National economic diversification.
  - iv. The Yobe State Government and the Federal Government are jointly establishing Livestock Development Centers (LDCs) to curtail farmers versus herdsmen clashes, enhance milk and meat production as well as commercial pasture production.
  - v. The State in partnership with Chad Basin Development Authority is currently undertaking the revival of 2000-hectare Lava Irrigation Scheme in Bursari Local Government.
  - vi. We have provided our counterpart funding for the take off of the World Bank-supported Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES).
  - vii. Being the State with largest production of high quality Sesame seeds, we are in the process of establishing 4 Sesame Seeds processing factories in Damaturu, Nguru, Machina and Potiskum.
  - viii. To enhance and make our extension services more accessible to farmers, we have rehabilitated the ADP Headquarters in Damaturu and all the five Zonal Offices in Buni-Yadi, Geidam, Gashua, Nguru and Potiskum.
3. Today, we are making a significant and giant stride to transform agriculture in the State by adopting the World Bank-supported FRILIA and inaugurating its three implementing Committees.
4. Firstly, the FRILIA Steering Committee has the following membership:
- i. His Excellency, Hon. Mai Mala Buni CON,  
the Executive Governor - Chairman

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|--|---|-----------------|
| ii. His Excellency, Alhaji Idi Barde Gubana<br>Deputy Governor             | - | Deputy Chairman |
| iii. Secretary to the State Government                                     | - | Member          |
| iv. Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner<br>for Justice                  | - | "               |
| v. Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Environment                                  | - | "               |
| vi. Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Finance &<br>Economic Development,          | - | "               |
| vii. Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Commerce and<br>Industries,                | - | "               |
| viii. Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Budget &<br>Economic Planning,            | - | "               |
| ix. Hon. Commissioner, Min. for Local Government &<br>Chieftaincy Affairs, | - | "               |
| x. Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Women Affairs                                | - | "               |
| xi. Managing Director Yobe Investment<br>Company Ltd,                      | - | "               |
| xii. Director General PPP  | - | "               |
| xiii. Director General YOGIS,  | - | "               |
| xiv. Auwalu Sani (Director, Political Affairs)                             | - | Secretary       |

5. Terms of Reference of the FRILIA Steering Committee are as follows:-

- a. Promote transparency in land acquisition and resettlement for FRILIA
- b. Promote agri-business by upholding the principles of FRILIA

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|--|---|-----------|
| v. Director Investment Promotion (PPP)               | - | “         |
| vi. Director Development Control, Min. of Housing    | - | “         |
| vii. Director, Planning, Min. of Budget & Planning   | - | “         |
| viii. Director from the Min. of Finance              | - | “         |
| ix. Director Legal Drafting, Min. of Justice         | - | “         |
| x. Director Environment, Min. of Environment         | - | “         |
| xi. Director Chieftaincy Affairs, Min for Local Govt | - | “         |
| xii. Director Agric-Service, Min. of Agriculture     | - | “         |
| xiii. Mohammed Chana, Governor’s Office              | - | Secretary |

7. The Technical Committee has the following as its terms of reference:

- a) Carry out comprehensive technical assessment of proposal of land acquisition and ensure it is within FRILIA’s principles and international best practices.
- b) Make recommendations to the steering committee on large scale land acquisitions and technical analysis on feasibility, social and environmental adverse impacts of FRILIA proposal.
- c) Before considering large scale land acquisition, the Committee shall ensure that there are the following:
  - i. Access to information
  - ii. Gender and social inclusion
  - iii. Citizens involvement
- d) Provide and assess environmental sustainability and guidance on land use by ensuring that there is efficient utilization of agricultural resources and make recommendations of potential adverse effect of proposal on biodiversity and other natural resources.
- e) Assess and evaluate the impacts of large scale land acquisition on communities and ensuring its well-being and inclusiveness.

- f) Identify relevant MDAs that require capacity building and are involved in the implementation of FRILIA and such training are provided.
- g) Ensure that there is consistent research and development in order for FRILIA to have the emerging technologies to improve large scale agric-business in alignment with International Best Practices.
- h) Assess resettlement and land administration matters in accordance with international practices in terms of land acquisition.
- i) Design and develop a robust monitoring and evaluation tool that would ensure adaptability and changes during implementation of FRILIA.
- j) Provide technical expertise in terms of conflict resolution to ensure harmonious relationship between communities, investors and stakeholders as well as identifying and making recommendations on existing government policies or regulations to align with principles of FRILIA implementation.
- k) The technical committee shall meet at least once every month to review proposal and consider reports from stakeholders and any other matter as may be directed by the steering committee or the Executive Governor.
- l) The committee shall convene a meeting with a quorum of simple majority.
- m) They shall submit monthly reports to the Steering Committee to design a mechanism for educating stakeholders, investors and communities on the importance of inclusive and intensive agriculture.
- o) The committee shall collaborate with relevant government offices to assess the financial implication of implementing FRILIA and make the necessary budgetary proposal and funding mechanism.

p) The Committee shall come up with a document to regulate investors' activities and protect communities, infrastructure, environment and investors for FRILIA considering its principles and international practices.

q) The Committee shall facilitate development of land bank for agric-business investment in the State.

8. Thirdly, the Grievances Redress Committee has the following members:

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|-------|---|----------|
| i.    | Representative of the Honourable Attorney General and Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Justice-<br>Chairman |          |
| ii.   | Representative of YOGIS   | - Member |
| iii.  | Representative of PPP   | - "      |
| iv.   | Rep. Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning   | - "      |
| v.    | Rep. Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs  | - "      |
| vi.   | Rep. Ministry of Women Affairs  | - "      |
| vii.  | Representative CSOs   | - "      |
| viii. | Rep. of Community Organizations   | - "      |
| ix.   | Rep. of Community Leaders   | - "      |
| x.    | Rep. of Religious Leaders   | - "      |
| xi.   | Mai Sule Bakari, Governor's Office  | -        |

Secretary

9. The Grievances Redress Committee has the following terms of reference:

- a) Accept complaints and document of grievances from communities, investors, stakeholders and individuals on matters related to land acquisition and its uses.
- b) Communities rights shall be protected through grievances redress technique, where disputes could be settled through dialogues, community traditional resolution mechanism. Communities shall have judicial recourse rights after other avenues are exhausted.
- c) Priority shall be given to amicable resolution of disputes and grievances through dialogues.
- d) Grievances shall be investigated thoroughly on how it emanated in order to find a desirable solution.
- e) Communities shall be educated on the importance of Grievances and Redress Committee and the functions of the Committee

10. Let me take this opportunity to appeal to the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Committee, the Nigeria Governors Forum Secretariat and the World Bank to give all the necessary support to Yobe State to ensure the actualization of the FRILIA programme. I also enjoin all members of the three Committees to work diligently to ensure success of the programme for the State socio-economic development.

11. With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to inaugurate the FRILIA Steering, Technical and Grievances Redress Committees. I wish all members of the three Committees remarkable successes in the discharge of their enormous responsibilities.

Thank you and Allah bless.