

**REPORT ON THE BORNO STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP
CLINIC HELD AT THE MULTIPURPOSE HALL,
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE**

by

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Abuja Leadership Centre
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Abuja, Nigeria

July 22, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Leadership Clinic was held on Monday, July 22, 2024 at the Multipurpose Hall of Government College, Maiduguri, Borno State. Organised by the indigenes of Borno State, PhD and Masters students from the Abuja Leadership Centre, University of Abuja, the clinic brought together over 400 pupils from 20 secondary schools in Maiduguri. The event was aimed at nurturing leadership potential among young students, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and motivation to contribute positively to their communities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CLINIC

The objectives of the Youth Leadership Clinic include:

- a. Instilling leadership qualities and values in students.
- b. Providing a platform for students to engage with successful leaders, role models and mentors.
- c. Inspiring participants to pursue academic excellence, civic responsibility and personal development.
- d. Promoting unity and collaboration among the youth from various schools.

PARTICIPANTS AND ATTENDANCE

The clinic witnessed an impressive turnout, with over 400 students in attendance, representing twenty secondary schools from in Borno State. The schools were carefully selected to ensure a diverse representation of students from various socio-economic backgrounds, enhancing the inclusiveness of the event.

The participating schools were:

1. Maiduguri Innovative School
2. Yerwa Government Girls Secondary School
3. Starlight International School
4. Government Technical School, Njomtilo
5. Borno State Women League
6. Hadiza Memorial Secondary School
7. Govt Boys Day Secondary School, Zajiri
8. Maiduguri Innovative School
9. Imam Malik Islamic Centre

10. Elkanemi College of Islamic Theology
11. Luster Kiddies College
12. Mustapha Umar Arabic College
13. Govt Day Secondary School Mafoni
14. Govt College Maiduguri
15. Government Day Secondary School, Bulabulin
16. Women Day Secondary School
17. Govt Girls College Maiduguri
18. Government Day Senior Secondary School, Lamisula
19. Shehu Garbai School Maiduguri
20. Kauji Sch. For Qur'anic Memorisation

KEY ACTIVITIES AND SESSIONS

The Youth Leadership Clinic featured a comprehensive programme of activities designed to engage, educate and inspire the participants:

i. National Anthem and Opening Prayers

ii. Welcome Address:

The event began with a welcome address by the Team Lead, Ahmed Bolori, a PhD student from the University of Abuja Leadership Centre, informed the gathering that the Abuja Leadership Centre is focusing on leadership and public governance to mould and guide individuals into great leaders. He outlined the objectives of the clinic and encouraged students to actively participate, informing them that certificates of participation will be issued to participants at the end of the clinic.

iii. Opening Remarks:

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja and the ALC Director, **Prof. Philip Afaha**, said the choice of commencing the Youth Leadership Clinic in Maiduguri, Borno State was as a result of the historical significance of the state to the country, as the history of Nigeria could rightly be said to have started from the state. made the opening remarks.

He informed that the University of Abuja is opened to any interested person and that the mandate of the Abuja Leadership Centre is to train leaders and to achieve that, the students have been instructed to return to their states of origin to impact what they have learned from the Centre unto the youth. He urged the students, as future leaders, to acknowledge the talents imbedded in them. He said leaders behave different, dress different, act different and lead people on to do good things. According to him, the most important strata in leadership is the individual who grows to take up the realms of leadership. And the schools invited were asked to select only leaders to participate at the clinic. In conclusion, he urged the students to ask all the questions they want so as to deepen their knowledge.

iv. Address by Special Guest of Honour

The Special Guest of Honour was the representative of the acting Vice Chancellor, University of Maiduguri, and Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Professor Mohammed Waziri. He said, leadership is not just about having a title or a position of authority; it is about making a positive impact on those around you; and that true leaders inspire others, set examples, and are willing to take responsibility for their actions. Adding that as young persons, the students have the power to lead in their schools, communities and eventually, the nation. Further stating that leadership starts with understanding themselves, their strengths and values; and once they do the right thing, those they lead will do same.

v. Goodwill Messages

There were several goodwill messages from the invited guests. Notably is the representative of Borno State Commissioner of Police, Madaki, who admonished the students to be really good and emulate the goodness they see in others. He urged the students to be disciplined right from their studentship level, and learn from good mentors. According to him, individuals have been killed, arrested or dismissed from service for engaging in nefarious activities.

The Chairman of Gubio Local Government Area (LGA), Hon. Mali Gubio, who stood in for the Commissioner of Work, agreed that the programme is timely. In his words, he said, “leadership begins from your first year on earth, from when your parents can send you to pick up something from one end to the other. There are ways and manners that you will need to exercise to be good leaders, possess the adaptability...every man is on transit and he or she is responsible for his or her actions.”

On his part, Hon. Ali Kotoko, a member of the Borno State House of Assembly, appreciated the organisers for organising the Youth Clinic. He gave a recount of his childhood, his days as student at the Government College Maiduguri, venue of the event, and the travails he encountered to get to where he is today, representing 3million people of the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC). He urged the students not to indulge in stealing, drinking and smoking, but concentrate on acquiring skills that will generate income and enable them support themselves.

vi. The Leadership Sessions

A series of interactive sessions were conducted, focusing on critical leadership skills such as effective communication, problem-solving, ethical decision-making, entrepreneurship development and teamwork. These sessions were facilitated by ALC participants.

i. Motivational Talks:

Keynote speakers, including successful leaders from various sectors such as education, business, and civil society, shared their personal experiences and offered advice on overcoming challenges and achieving success. Some of the topics discussed included:

a. The Need for Entrepreneurship Development: How to Stay Ahead and Prepared – presented by Mrs. Deborah El-Buba Atubi

Here, Mrs. Atubi topic encouraged young people to think entrepreneurially by highlighting the importance of developing entrepreneurial skills. She stated that in a rapidly changing world, having the ability to innovate, adapt, and create opportunities is crucial for staying ahead. The message here, is to prepare for the future by embracing entrepreneurship, which can help them become independent, resilient, and proactive in solving challenges.

b. Youth Startups as the Catalyst for Economic and Political Development in Nigeria – Honourable Abdulrahman Abba Terab

Hon. Terab emphasised the potential of young people to drive economic and political change through startups. His message conveyed the idea that youth-led businesses and initiatives can contribute to Nigeria's development by creating jobs, fostering innovation, and influencing policy. The message is that young people are powerful agents of change, and their contributions are essential to the country's progress.

c. An Early Mentoring: A Necessity for Effective Junior Leadership – presented by Gen. Ibrahim Garba

The General, in his presentation, underscored the importance of mentoring for developing leadership skills at a young age. His paper communicated that having a mentor helps young people learn from experienced individuals, develop their confidence and make informed decisions. The message is that mentorship is critical for nurturing future leaders who can contribute positively to their communities and beyond.

d. The Power of Role Models in Shaping our Future – Presented by Amb. Ahmed Bolori

Ambassador Bolori's presentation highlighted the significant influence role models have in guiding and inspiring young people. It conveyed that by looking up to successful individuals who have overcome challenges, school children can learn valuable life lessons and aspire to achieve greatness. The message is that positive role models can shape their attitudes, behaviour, and aspirations, ultimately helping them create a better future for themselves and their society.

ii. Interactive Q&A Sessions:

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions, and in turn, they were asked some current affairs questions. They were also given the opportunity to share their thoughts, fostering a dialogue between the speakers and participants. The interactive sessions were facilitated by Aishatu Ibrahim Bantam, Doris Dika David, Fatima Grema Mustapha, Abubakar Yunusa, El-Buba Nissi, Bukar Umar Bolori and Mohammed Umar Bolori.

iii. Networking and Mentorship Opportunities:

The clinic provided a platform for students to connect with mentors and peers, building relationships that would support their personal and academic growth.

IMPACT AND FEEDBACK

The clinic had a profound impact on the students, with many expressing a renewed sense of confidence and clarity regarding their future goals. The event fostered unity among participants, encouraging collaboration and peer support. Feedback from students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive, with high praise for the relevance and quality of the sessions.

CONCLUSION

The Youth Leadership Clinic in Maiduguri was a successful initiative that achieved its goal of empowering young leaders. By providing a platform for learning and interaction, the clinic helped to inspire and motivate students to pursue their dreams and contribute to the development of their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Regular Follow-up Clinics:**

To maintain momentum, it is recommended that follow-up clinics be held regularly, allowing for continuous engagement and support for the students.

- **Enhanced Community Involvement:**

Greater involvement of community leaders, parents, and local organisations in future events would strengthen the clinic's reach and effectiveness.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The participants and organisers of the Maiduguri Youth Leadership Clinic would like to express their gratitude to the University of Abuja and particularly, the Abuja Leadership Centre for their support, the participating schools, the speakers, and volunteers for honouring their invitation to participate; the distinguished guests who honoured the invitation to witness the event; the Shehu of Borno for receiving the participants at such short notice, and most importantly, the Executive Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum and the Government of Borno State for their contributions to the success of the Youth Leadership Clinic. Special appreciations also go to the people of Maiduguri for their warm hospitality and support throughout the stay.

ABUJA LEADERSHIP CENTRE
TETFUND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

YOUTH LEADERS CLINIC BORNO STATE

TARGETS: SCHOOL PREFECTS AND BEST STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

VENUE: Multipurpose Hall,
Government College Maiduguri.
DATE: 22ND JULY, 2024

HIS EXCELLENCY
PROF. BABAGANA UMARA ZULUM MNL, FNSE, CON
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF BORNO STATE

PROF. AISHA SANI MAIKUDI
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