

AN ABANDONED PROJECT



Behold a project that is abandoned for almost a decade and a half. This project is neither a bridge nor man-made island. It is a Primary Healthcare centre located behind Alaj Petrol Station, Kofar Ruwar quarter of Dala local government area. It was initiated and started by Former President Olusegun Obasanjo during his second tenure (2003-2007) under the initiative of 'Constituency Projects'. The Federal government, as part of its health budgetary allocation, proposed the construction and equipping of Primary Healthcare centers across the constituencies in Nigeria.

Lucky, this particular project was part of the ones awarded and started at that time. This proposed Primary Healthcare facility which is meant for Dala constituency has passed linter level, bricklaying step and roofing level. It was erected, probably on a 100 m x 100 m piece of land given the size of the land. Unfortunately, it has not reached completion. This uncompleted facility that was designed as one-storied building with detached rooms (maybe for generator and guards) is fenced, Chinese-roofed, plastered both (exterior and interior) and has a gate. Some doors and window frames were fixed. It is really disheartening given that the project was abandoned when it has reached almost 80% completion and is now used by grown-up *Almajiris* as sleeping and laundry (all purpose) house. These *Almajiris* are further deteriorating the place because they have turned it into a laundry service center. They do all kinds of menial job there.

Ironically, Dala local government is the most populous local government in Nigeria. Hence, the constant and incessant demand for healthcare and other public services in the area. The completion of this project will greatly improve healthcare delivery in this locality. I was told that several attempts had been made by concerned indigenes to trace the contractor but to no

avail. This could be due to the long time this highly important project has been discarded. Given the level of completion of the work, one will not discard the possibility that the contract was awarded in full.

I am calling on governments-local, state, federal to please come to the rescue of people of Dala local government by completing this dejected yet vital project.



Even though there are uncompleted buildings in the vicinity of this proposed healthcare center, it was among the first buildings to attract people to the area, for the area was a semi-bush in the last 20 or so years. The completion of this work will, apart from bringing healthcare facility to the poor at the grassroots, alleviate the fear the people of the neighbourhood have regarding the potential of converting the place into criminals hideout by the Almajiris.

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