



Jonathan lifts ban on mining in Zamfara after lead poisoning



Gusau (WorldStage Newsonline)-- President Goodluck Jonathan on Monday announced the immediate lifting of the temporary ban on mining of solid minerals in Zamfara State and assured the people that the Federal Government will invest more in solid minerals development if given the mandate to direct the affairs of the nation in the coming April 2011 presidential election.

Speaking at a PDP campaign rally in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, the President said following consultations with the state governor, Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi, the ban imposed following the lead poisoning in the state was no longer necessary.

President Jonathan who indicated the interest of the Federal Government to invest more in solid minerals development, noted that in the next four years, more jobs will be created for youths in that sector. "We will do more to stabilise power here and encourage farming," he said, noting that Zamfara State had the potential of producing rice not only for local consumption but also for export.

The President who promised that the state would have a federal university next year, also assured of his administration's commitment to fighting desert encroachment and complete eradication of wild polio. Governor Shinkafi, while thanking President Jonathan for Federal Government's support in the provision of socio-economic and physical infrastructure especially roads, assured him of the total support of the 1.8 million registered voters in the state during the presidential election on April 9.

During a courtesy call on the Emir of Gusau, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Danada, the President restated his commitment to the peace and unity of the country without which he said, development would be impaired. The President who holds two traditional titles of Zamfara State, reiterated his plan to make a difference in the next four if given the opportunity at the April poll by "building on the good foundation laid by our founding fathers and to commemorate 100 years of the amalgamation of Nigeria by 2014."

The Emir thanked President Jonathan for the promise of a federal university and prayed for his success at the presidential election.

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