

## **SAHARA DIRECTOR'S SERVICE TO THE NATION**

### **QUESTION/ISSUE**

The role of one of Sahara Group's Director as a special assistance to the president in Nigeria's recent democratic process.

### **SAHARA'S POSITION**

In 1999, one of the Directors of Sahara Group Mr. Tope Shonubi was invited to serve his country under the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Mr. Tope Shonubi served as a Special Adviser on Youths Affairs to President Olusegun Obasanjo between 1999 and 2003. During the period, he resigned his appointment as a director in Sahara Group. His role entailed the collaboration with the Youth's Ministry as well as the Presidency, in the development of national policy and strategy on job creation, economic empowerment for the development of and growth of entrepreneurship, SMEs and youth development nationwide.

Some his functions during the time include the following

- Liaised with the Youth Ministry and the Presidency, serving as a primary point of contact in the development of national policy and strategy on job creation, economic empowerment for the development and growth of entrepreneurship nationwide.
- Prepared briefing memos and background research to prepare the President for engagements on youth empowerment and entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Supported the President's media activity with respect to youth development and empowerment.
- Worked with the Ministries of Youths & Sports, and Labor & Productivity on strategy for growth of SMEs and youth development.
- Research, prioritize, and follow up on incoming issues and concerns addressed to the President on youths, including those of a sensitive or confidential nature and advise on appropriate course of action.
- Coordinated special projects on youth empowerment throughout the Federation, on behalf of the President.