

History of Mediwat Computer Science School.

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During my last few research trips to Kano, I ran into former students from my time in the Peace Corps in the 1960s, and from later in the 1970s when I taught at the Kano State College of Advanced Studies. One of my Kano State College students, Abdullahi Nashe, went on to work for the Water Resources and Engineering Construction Agency (WRECA) as a Scientific Officers responsible for Water Quality Management.

In 1992, Abdullahi and his friends had a partnership agreement to establish a consulting company for Medical Laboratory, Water and Waste Water Quality Consulting hence the name “MEDI” (Medical) and “WAT” (Water)= MEDIWAT. Later the Medical Laboratory aspect was dropped and still the name MEDIWAT was maintained and is now a company known for Water and Waste Water Quality Consulting.

In 1994 when Petroleum Trust Fund was established by the Abatcha regime and headed by the current President Buhari as the Chairman, a company was mandated to look at the Water Resources Management of Nigeria with view to finding solution(s) to Water Supply and Quality Control situation in Nigeria, that company was Afri-Project Consortium Limited, which appointed Mediwat through another company DAR-ALHANDASAH to study the supply and quality of drinking water in Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Jigawa, and Kano in the North Western Nigeria. That was where the investment came to enable the partners established Mediwat School for Computer Science.

The school is officially registered with the Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria and was one of the pioneering computer institutions in Northern Nigeria. The school educates students, ages 10 to 17. Adults are also trained.

The curriculum contained all aspect of computer and information technology, so that the students can get professional certificates, diplomas and other computer appreciation training.

I visited the school in 2009. There were about 50 students—both men and women. Half sat in a classroom for a lecture and demonstration, while the others were situated in front of computers for practical work. After two hours, they switched places. I observed a class, talked to some of the teachers and students and was very impressed with the quality of the school.

Mediwat is a nonprofit organization and only charges students a small fee. It also relies on donations, which is where FON comes in. One of the dire needs is reliable electricity, something that Kano does not have. The school runs from 9am to 6pm, six days a week, and since the power goes off frequently for hours, Mediwat must run a generator. The costs for fuel, maintenance and repair are quite expensive. Thus, Mallam Nashe requested a \$4,500.00 grant from FON to install a solar system to provide constant electric power to the school. The board of FON has generously decided to fund that request. It will improve the school immensely, cut its costs, allow it to continue to educate students and function well into the future.

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