



## The WellBeing Foundation Hosts Village Earth, Others

The Kwara Wellbeing Trust working under the auspices The Wellbeing Foundation will from the 26<sup>th</sup> of February to 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2005 play host to two US based international developmental organisations in their bid to bring sustainable development to Kwara State.

A statement issued by Mr Adeniran Adedokun, Director of Liaison of the organisation, said Village Earth, a world renowned consortium for village-based development and an arm of the Colorado State University, USA, will be working with the Cosmopolitan Allied Health Institute (CAHI) also based in the US, and The Wellbeing Foundation to bring steady but sure footed development to villages in Nigeria.

The statement indicated that the one-week long visit, which will take the delegation to several rural communities in the country, resulted out of the search by the Founding Trustee of The Wellbeing Foundation, Her Excellency Mrs. Toyin Saraki to pioneer a systematic, well organised development plan for our villages.

The statement explained that "Mrs. Saraki holds a view similar to that of the two other parties that the development of people must originate from the rural areas where majority of the peoples in the country reside"

The visit which will take the delegation round the three senatorial districts of Kwara State is to enhance the growth of rural communities in the state and the country as a whole in the areas of basic health care delivery, safe motherhood, creating opportunities for self-employment and ensuring that children have more quality life through education and health care delivery.

The organizations have a philosophy of participatory involvement by all stakeholders in the village. According to them, this is vital in creating a positive development climate. "Participation is the key to human motivation. Villagers must have the opportunity to participate and have ownership in the decisions affecting their lives." The statement quoted one of the co-founders of VillageEarth saying.

Meanwhile, The Wellbeing Foundation is sponsoring the surgery of young Abiba Issa who has been diagnosed with a heart condition to the tune of N1.5 million naira.

Abibat who is two year old will be traveling to India for the surgery after initial treatment in a Ghanaian hospital. Her treatment is being facilitated by Ibadan, Oyo State based "Save A Child's Heart".

Speaking on this intervention, Adedokun explained that this was just in line with steps that have been taken by Mrs. Saraki and some of her friends who co-formed the Lifestream Charity mainly for the treatment of children with heart conditions in 1998. He noted that Mrs. Saraki and her friends on the Lifestream Charity decided to give quality life to children suffering his ailment by their own little contribution.

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