

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(K)(1)(A)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 7, 2011

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing
the substantial amendment to
Miami-Dade County's FY 2008-
2012 Consolidated Plan and FY
2008 Action Plan for the
Homeless Prevention and Rapid
Re-Housing Program

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Department of Housing and Community Development and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

Memorandum



Date: June 7, 2011

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Alina T. Hudak
County Manager

Subject: Resolution Authorizing the Substantial Amendment to Miami-Dade County's FY 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan and FY 2008 Action Plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) authorize the County Mayor or the Mayor's designee to substantially amend Miami-Dade County's FY 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan and FY 2008 Action Plan to reprogram \$324,479 in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds. More specifically, this Resolution will reduce funding for program staffing costs and increase funding for direct financial assistance services to eligible clients.

This Resolution further amends the eligibility criteria for financial assistance under the Homeless Prevention Program component of the HPRP by reducing the income eligibility threshold from 50 percent of area median income (AMI) to 30 percent. The exception to this would be youth aging out of foster care, who can continue to be eligible with income up to 50 percent of AMI. Youth aging out of foster care are still at a high risk of homelessness.

SCOPE

The HPRP has a countywide impact and is focused on housing for homeless individuals and households at risk of becoming homeless.

Among the eligibility requirements for assistance under the HPRP, residents must have incomes at or below 50 percent of the County's AMI. Below is a table showing Miami-Dade County's AMI thresholds by household size.

Miami-Dade County: U.S. HUD AMI Thresholds by Household Size

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
30% of AMI	14,800	16,900	19,000	21,100	22,800	24,500	26,200	27,900
50% of AMI	24,650	28,150	31,650	35,150	38,000	40,800	43,600	46,400
80% of AMI	39,400	45,000	50,650	56,250	60,750	65,250	69,750	74,250

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

Approval of this resolution will not have a fiscal impact on the County. This Resolution will simply reallocate HPRP funds to meet the most urgent and critical needs of the County's homeless population.

TRACK RECORD/MONITORING

The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (Trust) administers the HPRP through an existing countywide network of community service providers and ensures successful program implementation, monitoring, reporting, and ongoing compliance with federal guidelines and County policies.

BACKGROUND

Through Title XII, Division A, of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Congress designated \$1.5 billion for HPRP, allowing states and units of local government to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be rapidly re-housed and stabilized. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) awarded a total of \$7,468,222, in HPRP funds to Miami-Dade County.

HPRP funding has enabled the Trust to expand the level and depth of supportive services it is now able to offer to the County's homeless residents, including but not limited to; several months of rental assistance, utility assistance, legal services, credit repair, mediation, and outreach and case management services.

Reallocation of HPRP Funding

Based on the Trust's assessment of the current scope of its programs and projected use of funds, service providers do not need the staffing levels that were originally projected to meet the objectives of HPRP. Accordingly, the Trust recommends reducing program staffing costs by a total of \$324,479 from the Housing Relocation and Stabilization activities (\$300,000 from the Rapid Re-housing Program and \$24,479 from Homeless Prevention program) as indicated in the table below.

HPRP Budget Summary	Current Homeless Prevention Program	Current Rapid Re-housing Program	Total Current HPRP Funding	Recommended Homeless Prevention Program Amendment	Recommended Rapid Re-housing Program Amendment	Total Recommended HPRP Budget
Financial Assistance: - short-term rental assistance, - medium-term rental assistance, - security deposits, - utility deposits, - utility payments, - moving cost assistance, and - motel or hotel vouchers.	\$2,120,521	\$3,350,000	\$5,470,521	\$324,479	\$0	\$5,795,000
Housing Relocation and Stabilization: - case management, - outreach, - housing search and - placement, legal services, mediation, and credit repair.	439,479	1,000,000	1,439,479	-24,479	-300,000	1,115,000
Data Collection and Evaluation		184,811	184,811		0	184,811
Administration		373,411	373,411		0	373,411
TOTAL:			\$7,468,222			\$7,468,222

The Trust recommends these funds be reprogrammed to provide financial assistance to eligible clients through the Homeless Prevention Program. Under this program, the Trust provides rental assistance and related support to families currently being evicted from housing. The Trust reports that its network of service providers has experienced an increased demand for financial assistance due to the current economic environment. The County has fully exhausted the funding originally budgeted for financial assistance under Homeless Prevention Program component of the HPRP and has been forced to issue a moratorium on new applications for homeless prevention services. With the recommended reallocation of funding, the Trust will be able to respond to the growing demand for financial assistance services under the Homeless Prevention Program.

Amending Eligibility Criteria for Homeless Prevention Program

In addition to the proposed reprogramming of \$324,479 in HPRP funds, the Trust recommends amending the eligibility criteria for financial assistance under the Homeless Prevention Program component of the HPRP by reducing the income eligibility threshold from 50 percent of AMI to 30 percent of AMI to ensure that the funds will be used to assist the neediest. The Trust recommends that youth aging out of foster care continue to remain eligible for the program if they have income of up to 50 percent of AMI since this segment of the community is still at a high risk of homelessness even at this income level.

BCC approval of the proposed amendments will enable the County to expend the HPRP funds in a manner that most appropriately and directly addresses the growing needs of the County's homeless population.


Assistant County Manager



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 7, 2011

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(K)(1)(A)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(K)(1)(A)
6-7-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO SUBSTANTIALLY AMEND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S FY 2008-2012 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND FY 2008 ACTION PLAN TO REPROGRAM \$324,479.00 OF HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM FUNDS AND AMENDING CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE ABOVE PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXERCISE THE CANCELLATION PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to amend the FY 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan and FY 2008 Action Plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) to reflect the recapture, reallocation and/or substantial amendment of \$324,479 in HPRP funds and to amend the criteria for financial assistance under the Homeless Prevention Program component of HPRP; authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to execute contracts, agreements and amendments, as are required, following approval by the County Attorney's Office and subject to proper execution by the parties; and to exercise the cancellation provisions contained therein.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner
who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of June, 2011. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Brenda Kuhns Neuman

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S FY 2008-2012 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND FY 2008 ACTION PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

A public hearing is scheduled for the Economic Development and Social Services Committee meeting on May 11, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in the BCC Chambers located on the second level of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW 1st Street, Miami, Florida. The purpose of the hearing is to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed Substantial Amendment to the Miami-Dade County FY 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2008 Action Plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The proposed Amendment seeks to reprogram \$324,479 in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds previously awarded to Miami-Dade County by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The Program is being administered on the County's behalf by the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. The public is invited to attend and comment. If you have any questions concerning this action, or to request accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents, Please call David Raymond, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Homeless Trust, at 305-375-1490. Federal regulations governing the HPRP program require that a participating jurisdiction provide citizens with reasonable notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, any Substantial Amendments to the Action Plans.

Sources of HPRP Funds to be Recaptured

Agency	Activity Name	Commission District	Amount
Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	Rapid Re-housing Program – Housing Relocation and Stabilization	Countywide	-324,479
Total:			-324,479

Recommended Redistribution of HPRP Funds

Agency	Activity Name	Commission District	Amount
Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	Homelessness Prevention Program – Financial Assistance	Countywide	324,479
Total:			324,479

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. A person who decides to appeal any decision made by any board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at its meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings. Such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Sign language interpreters are available upon request. Please call (305) 375-1490.

For legal ads online, go to <http://legalads.miamidade.gov>

WORLD BRIEFS

• TURKEY

Activists planning larger flotilla to Gaza

ISTANBUL — Pro-Palestinian activists said Tuesday they are in the final stages of organizing a sea convoy to the Gaza Strip, likely to be much bigger than a similar flotilla that was raided a year ago by Israeli forces, leaving nine people dead.

The campaign sets up the possibility of another showdown with Israel, which eased its land blockade of Gaza following the international furor over the raid, but is gearing up to thwart any attempt to breach its blockade off the Gaza coast.

Eight Turks and one Turkish American died in the botched commando operation on a Turkish boat, the Mavi Marmara, that was part of the flotilla on May 31, 2010. The incident drew world attention to the humanitarian situation in Gaza and plunged ties between former allies Israel and Turkey to a new low.

• TUNISIA

EX-OFFICIALS BARRED FOR 10 YEARS

TUNIS — Tunisia's interim prime minister said Tuesday that members of the ousted regime and the former ruling party will not be allowed to run for office for 10 years.

Beji Caïd Essebsi also warned that small-scale sit-ins and protests happening around the country are scaring foreign investors from returning to this North African nation.

The prime minister criticized some Islamist groups for praying in the streets, something not seen under autocrat President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who fled to exile Jan. 14 after an uprising.

• POLAND

ANOTHER TRIAL, ANOTHER ACQUITTAL

WARSAW — A court has again found a communist-era interior minister innocent on charges of involvement in the 1981 killings of nine miners by riot police.

The verdict Tuesday by Warsaw's district court concluded the trial of Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak — his fourth trial on the same charge in 15 years. Prosecutors said they planned to appeal.

Riot police were called to the Wujek mine in the southern Polish city of Katowice during a protest by miners against martial law, imposed in December 1981 by communist authorities to crack down on Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement.

Kiszczak was accused of a role in the killings of the miners, but he argued that a coded message he sent out ahead of the killings to police officers did not amount to authorization for commanders to order the shootings.

He argued that the message was only intended to remind commanders of the rules under which weapons could be used under martial law.

• SWITZERLAND

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLING HUGE BLAZE

GENÈVA — Police said Tuesday that almost 300 firefighters and the army were battling strong headwinds and dry conditions to extinguish a huge forest fire in southern Switzerland.

Firefighters aided by helicopters struggled to contain the blaze Tuesday night after it broke out at an auto repair shop on the outskirts of Visp and quickly advanced on forestland in the Swiss canton (state) of Valais.

The exact cause of the fire remained unknown. Authorities warned residents to stay inside.

Lack of snowfall and an unusually mild spring have contributed to low lake levels and fire tinder in the forests of many areas of Switzerland.

Strong winds pushed the flames fast up the nearby mountainsides, blocking the main road to Visp, about 20 miles from popular ski area Zermatt and the famed Matterhorn.

MIAMI HERALD WIRE SERVICES

AFGHANISTAN



BACK TO PRISON: Recaptured prisoners line up in jail Tuesday in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The Justice Ministry said that the 498 inmates who escaped from the nation's largest prison had inside help.

Forces blamed for jail break

■ The Afghan justice minister blamed local and international forces for failing to prevent the escape of 488 inmates from the main prison.

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE
Los Angeles Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — The mud house where insurgents began digging a lengthy tunnel that at least 488 inmates used to flee an Afghan prison had been searched about 2 1/2 months before by security forces who failed to notice anything amiss, authorities said Tuesday.

Afghan Justice Minister Habibullah Ghaleb faulted security forces for overlooking the almost quarter-mile tunnel and failing to prevent the escape Sunday night and Monday morning from Kandahar's Sarposha prison. Authorities estimate that militants spent five months digging the tunnel.

"Earth or soil dug out of the tunnel must have been moved and should not have been missed by the eyes of the security forces," Ghaleb

said in a report to President Hamid Karzai.

But Ghaleb also blamed Canadian troops, noting that Canadian forces had been stationed at the prison in the past, and that U.S. troops had been building living quarters and judicial offices at the prison for the past four months even as the tunnel took shape beneath them.

Ghaleb said he suspects escapees had help from someone inside the prison, since they managed to unlock multiple cells to reach the tunnel, which ended within a single cell. The escape went on for more than four hours.

Afghan authorities and foreign troops launched a manhunt for the escapees but had only captured 65 as of late Tuesday, according to Turyalari Wesa, the governor of Kandahar province.

The Taliban, who consider the escape a major victory, had claimed 541 inmates fled through the tunnel and were later driven to safe houses.

Also Tuesday, it was announced that U.S.-led NATO forces killed a top al Qaeda member, Abu Hani al Najdi, also known as Abdul Ghani, in an airstrike April 13 in the eastern province of Kunar.

"The International Security Assistance Force confirmed their No. 2 overall targeted insurgent in Afghanistan was killed during an airstrike in Dargam district, Kunar province," a statement said.

Abdul Ghani was killed along with another al Qaeda leader named Waqas, who was working with him to coordinate attacks on Afghan and coalition forces, the statement said.

Kunar is a remote province that borders the lawless tribal areas of Pakistan, known as havens for the Tal-

iban and their al Qaeda associates. Militant attacks have increased in the province lately.

Abdul Ghani, a Saudi Arabian national, operated primarily from Kunar and traveled frequently between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the statement said. He directed al Qaeda operations in the province, including recruiting, training and employing fighters; obtaining weapons and equipment; organizing finances; and planning attacks on Afghan and coalition forces.

He was responsible for coordinating numerous high-profile attacks, the statement said.

On the morning of his death, he reportedly had directed a suicide attack that killed tribal elder Malik Zarin — a supporter of President Karzai — and nine other civilians.

This article was supplemented with information from the McClatchy News Service.

LIBYA

Gadhafi's grip may be slipping

■ Gadhafi's setbacks in western Libya could mean his power is waning and it's only a matter of time before supporters defect. Still, it may take awhile.

BY KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Moammar Gadhafi has suffered military setbacks in recent days in western Libya, a sign that his grip may be slipping in the very region he needs to cling to power.

His loyalists were driven out of Misrata, a key rebel stronghold in Gadhafi-controlled territory. A NATO airstrike smashed parts of his Tripoli headquarters into smoldering rubble. And rebels seized a border crossing, breaking open a supply line to besieged rebel towns in a remote western area.

From Libya, he shifted recently in two months of fighting, and the poorly trained, ill-equipped rebels have given no evidence that they could defeat Gadhafi.

The Libyan leader has deep pockets, including several billion dollars in gold reserves, that could keep him afloat for months. His forces keep bombarding Misrata from afar, unleashing a barrage Tuesday against the port area — the city's only lifeline to the world.

Yet Gadhafi appears increasingly on the defensive. Some see the past week as a turning point in the fighting, citing growing military and political pressure on him.

Hundreds of coalition airstrikes over five weeks have eroded his fighting power. NATO says it destroyed one-third of his military equipment, pinned down troops and cut off supply lines. Armed Predator drones — agile low-flying aircraft suited to urban combat — has made it harder for his army to hide tanks and rocket launchers in civilian areas.

NATO appears increasingly willing to go beyond purely military targets and strike at symbols of the regime, such as the library and reception hall in Gadhafi's residential complex badly damaged by two powerful bombs earlier this week.

International sanctions and the exodus of hundreds of thousands of foreign workers have disrupted daily life on the home front, including in Tripoli, Libya's capital and Gadhafi's power base. Motorists wait in line for days to fill up their tanks. Prices are up, and the economy is largely paralyzed.

Even if most Libyans

were to blame NATO, the hardships send a strong message that life won't return to normal as long as Gadhafi remains in power. It's impossible to gauge the level of popular support for the regime because of government restrictions on reporting. But there are signs — like hushed comments to reporters in Tripoli — that his popularity is waning.

If Gadhafi troops lose more ground, "we could be witnessing the beginning of the end" for the Gadhafi regime, said Raed Kibwaj of the Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis.

It might not necessarily be quick or play out on the battlefield. The regime might collapse from within if military victory or hanging on to western Libya seems no longer possible.

"The key to the next stage of this conflict will be the psychology of those still supporting the regime," said Malcolm Chalmers of the Royal United Services Institute, a London think tank.

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S FY 2008-2012 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2008 ACTION PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

A public hearing is scheduled for the Economic Development and Social Services Committee Meeting on May 11, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers located on the second level of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW 1st Street, Miami, Florida. The purpose of the hearing is to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed Substantial Amendment to the Miami-Dade County FY 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan and 2008 Action Plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The proposed Amendment seeks to reprogram \$324,479 in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds previously awarded to Miami-Dade County by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) under the XI of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The Program is being administered on the County's behalf by the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. The public is invited to attend and comment. If you have any questions concerning this action, or to request accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents, please call David Raymond, Executive Director Miami-Dade Homeless Trust, at 305-375-1490. Federal regulations governing the HPRP program require that a participating jurisdiction provide citizens with reasonable notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, any Substantial Amendments to the Action Plans.

Sources of HPRP Funds to be Recaptured			
Agency	Activity Name	Commission District	Amount to be Recaptured
Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	Rapid Re-housing Program - Housing Relocation and Stabilization	Countywide	-300,000
Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	Homelessness Prevention Program - Housing Relocation and Stabilization	Countywide	-24,479
Total:			-324,479
Recommended Redistribution of HPRP Funds			
Agency	Activity Name	Commission District	Amount to be Redistributed
Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	Homelessness Prevention Program - Financial Assistance	Countywide	324,479
Total:			324,479

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. A person who decides to appeal any decision made by any board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at its meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings. Such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Sign language interpreters are available upon request. Please call (305) 375-1490.

For legal ads online, go to <http://legalads.miamidade.gov>

NIGERIA

Attacks, thefts hinder voters

■ The violence that has erupted in the aftermath of elections has threatened the stability of this major U.S. oil-supplying nation in West Africa.

BY JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

IKOT EFUM, Nigeria — Gunmen fired Kalashnikov rifles in the air and others brandished machetes while storming a polling place here Tuesday, as voters in Africa's most populous nation struggled to cast ballots after the presidential election sparked riots killing at least 500 people last week.

The attackers made off with the yet-to-be-voted ballots, the ballot box and the youth volunteer in charge of this village's election in Akwa Ibom state, witnesses told The Associated Press.

While international observers applauded Nigeria's legislative and presidential elections held earlier this month, the violence that has

erupted in the aftermath has threatened the stability of this major U.S. oil-supplying nation in West Africa.

Problems had begun even before polls opened Tuesday for gubernatorial elections in about two-thirds of Nigerian states. Two elections in the state's hardest hit by the postelection violence that left charred corpses along the highways are due to be held Thursday.

About 700 members of Nigeria's National Youth Service Corps, who were supposed to run polling stations, already had been evacuated from states in the country's Muslim north hit by violence last week, said Nigerian officials.

Abdullahi Adamu, a spokesman for Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency,

"I just left," said a 25-year-old woman who had been serving in the northern state of Gombe as a poll worker. "Very few corps members are left in the state because we were not safe."

The one-year service program is mandatory for Nigerian university graduates younger than 30.

Rioting broke out across the north when election results showed President Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian from the north, had won. Many in the predominantly Muslim north believe someone from their region should be in power because the elected Muslim president died last year before he could finish his term.

Tuesday's gubernatorial races also carry tremendous importance, because governors represent the closest embodiment of power many ever see in a nation of 150 million people.