



Inauguration Address
by
DR. RAHMAN OLUSEGUN ABAYOMI MIMIKO,
Governor of Ondo State,

I WILL
WORK
FOR YOU!

Protocol

THE BEGINNING

1. It is with great pleasure and delight that I stand before you the good people of Ondo State today as the fifth elected Governor of our Sunshine State. In this auspicious and epochal occasion of great meaning for all of us and our admirers across the world, I hasten to acknowledge the primacy of God in the events that led to what we have just had today.
2. Several years ago, I made up my mind to be a part of the noble and distinguished process of intervention directed at mainstreaming quality governance in our land. I offered myself for service before the people of Ondo State at different periods of our most chequered history as a State. Most recently, on December 14, 2006, in association with a mass of committed patriots across the State, we formally presented the Ondo State chapter of the Labour Party. It was also an auspicious moment for me to present myself to Ondo State as a candidate for the office of Governor.

APPRECIATIONS

3. For four months, we went on a most extensive and profoundly informative, if grueling campaign across the length and breadth of this State of beautiful vegetation and proud communities. Ondo State citizens, market women, students, artisans, farmers, senior citizens, civil servants, I cannot thank you enough for your attention, trust and support, which you demonstrated by your tumultuous welcome each time we got to you during those times.
4. You have confounded me by your resolute commitment to democracy and principled support for us these past 21 months of the just concluded legal campaign which remains unprecedented in the annals of democratic and electoral engagement in this country. No amount of appreciation would be adequate for that level of support and trust. Only good governance, in every sense, will be suitable enough as recompense to you. This, and only this, I solemnly pledge before you here today, is what I will strive to give in the next four years. The same way you stood with us and by us, unwavering, through thick and thin, even when it was clearly inauspicious for you to do so, so will I always stand by you. I will at all times ensure that this government which you laboured for, for which you were traumatized while the struggle lasted, and for which many of our loved ones lost their freedom, properties and limbs, remains your government.

5. I must at this juncture acknowledge our fallen compatriots. Some of these eminent men and women died while waiting for this day. Others were victims of one type of violence or the other visited on our people on all fronts before, during and after the April 14, 2007, elections. While we continue to commiserate with their loved ones, we stand committed to the ideals of a better society for which they struggled and died. In the days ahead, the Labour Party will unravel its programme of support for the survivors of these great patriots of our State who stand tall even in their death.
6. I wish to appreciate the National Chairman of the Labour Party and members of the National Executive Council, the State Chairman and his Executive Council and the teeming members of our great Party, this mass movement of a Party, for their dedication and total commitment to the common good.
7. The very important place of the noble intervention of the judiciary in the electoral process in our State, nay the country, cannot be overemphasized. Convinced are we that bad as things may seem with Nigeria, this country has a great future ahead. Our conviction is driven by the uncommon integrity demonstrated by the judges that God deliberately situated ahead of us to deliver Ondo State. My Lords, I, and indeed the entire people of Ondo State and democrats across this great nation cannot thank you enough for your determination and insistence, against all odds, to do that which is right and just, you have renewed our faith in Nigeria. You all had a choice to do otherwise. But you chose to stand firm till the end, interested only in upholding the truth. We shall continually be challenged by your action to do only those things that are ennobling and directed at enhancing the quality of governance and the goodness of Ondo State people.
8. As I reiterated after the July 25, 2008, ruling by the Hon. Justice Garba Nabaruma-led Election Tribunal, I once again thank President Umaru Yar'Adua who in a graceful and most profound manner has spurned a political and social environment in Nigeria that made it possible for the best in our Judiciary to blossom. Mr. President, Ondo State looks ahead to working closely with you as you strive to lift Nigeria out of years of unfulfilled expectations.
9. On behalf of the good people of Ondo State, I thank our numerous and extremely dedicated friends, especially our teams of lawyers and experts, and those men and women of God who toiled for us in prayer, for their multi-dimensional and unwavering support these past months. You stood by us during a time of truly suffocating difficulty. Your support made so much of a difference. I can assure you all that as a people, we in Ondo State do not forget our friends.
10. And last, but certainly not the least, join me, the good people of Ondo State, to give gratitude to my darling wife, Olukemi, and my adorable children, my mum, my parents-in-law, my siblings and other

members of my wonderful family for their total commitment to my cause, for their patience, for their perseverance and for their unqualified understanding in those difficult, dangerous, lonely and seemingly hopeless times.

ANEW ERADAWNS

11. By the swearing-in of the Deputy Governor, Alhaji Alli Olanusi and myself, which we just had, deliverance has come for Ondo State. But I must hasten to add that the task ahead of us is by no means easy. Indeed, it is enormous. I cannot but acknowledge the contributions made to the development of this State by the former Chief Executives, Group Captain I.D. Ikpeme; Brigadier Esijolomi Tuoyo, Chief Michael Adekunle Ajasin, Commodore Bamidele Otiko, Navy Captain Ohai Akhigbe, Col. Ekundayo Opaleye, Commodore Olabode Ibiyinka George, Navy Captain Abiodun Olukoya, Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua, Lt. Col. Mike Torey, Col. Ahmed Usman, Commander Anthony Onyearugbulem, Col. Moses Fasanya and Chief Adebayo Adefarati. I also acknowledge my immediate predecessor, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, who had a mandate to govern us from May 29, 2003, to May 28, 2007, for his efforts to move Ondo State forward.
12. I must however not fail to mention the extensive social, economic, political and indeed attitudinal challenges imposed on us since the election of April 14, 2007, during which Dr. Agagu tried to use a mandate he never had. Several months ago, I spoke about a fundamental disconnect between government and people in Ondo State. The challenges imposed by that experience are innumerable. We therefore must brace up for hard work and especially a well-directed and holistic change of attitude. Truly, a new sun has risen today. Our duty is to begin to work very hard to ensure that the sun continues to produce a sustaining beam.
13. My good people of Ondo State, you will recall that I and a good number of our leaders here present were a part of the process that installed the Agagu-led government in 2003. As we all know, that government soon fell short of our collective expectation. I wish therefore on behalf of all of us to offer my profound apology for this.

ANEW PARADIGM OF GOVERNANCE

14. What we offer is a completely new paradigm of governance under which we shall use existing communal structures and our legendary 'my-brother's-keeper' spirit to drive development. Ours is a people-oriented government in which we shall help the masses to take decisions that will empower and

ennoble them; a people-driven development programme that involves ownership in conception, prioritization, execution and monitoring.

15. And let no one have any illusion about it. Our greatest asset in this State today is not our oil wells. It is not our luxuriant bushes and extensive forests. It does not consist in the beautiful and regal architectural pieces which define our cities' landscape. It is not our alluring villages around which our most prized cocoa, cashew and kolanut farms are built. It is not even our impressive outlay of granite spread out in compelling grandeur over our northern, central and southern zones, neither is it our pristine coastline, the longest in this most blessed country. Our greatest and most important asset as we stand today on this threshold of history is your trust, people of Ondo State! This is our social capital government-citizen trust, citizen-citizen trust, evidenced by the type of dedication you have demonstrated since the election of April 14, 2007. I am not about to betray or carelessly expend this unique capital. Indeed, we are determined to leverage upon this to bring about the massive transformation of our State. After all, this is what you voted for. And in the intervening period when your mandate was stolen, this is what you fought for, this is what you stood for, this is what you suffered for, and this is what you will surely get now that your mandate has been restored!
16. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me emphasize that while we believe in a liberalized, private-sector driven economy, we shall not shy away from the obligation of government, especially in an underdeveloped economy like ours to intervene responsibly as a social obligation, in direct employment, subsidized social services like health and education, social housing, soft credit and other poverty-reduction mechanisms that will ensure that the weakest in society is given the opportunity to develop and actualize their potentials. We must balance liberalism with social commitment to the weak and poor in society. Our conviction is that if government deliberately empowers people with knowledge and credit, it will ultimately develop the community.

OUR EXPECTATION

17. In the circumstances, it behoves us all to appreciate that the first critical step in our march to victory is a change in attitude on our part. I plead therefore for that change in attitude in all our ways - from the way we dispose of our 'pure water' sachets to how we dress, from how we celebrate, to how we handle government money, from how much attention we pay to our children, to how committed we are to the good of our neighbourhoods. Let the spirit of love, care and cooperation latent in us as a people now blossom. We must learn to truly be our brother's keeper. We must not shy away from contributing our expertise, materials, time, and prayers, for the well being of the next man and woman. This is a total

concept in community development, a new paradigm of thinking without which our agenda of social reconstruction will remain a mirage.

18. Ladies and gentlemen, let me emphasize again that the victory we celebrate today has been made possible by God Almighty. No doubt, the forces arraigned against us had been formidable. It therefore behoves us in utmost deference to the almighty to forgive those who either out of misguided conviction or deliberate mischief stood against us. Be that as it may, we shall review every commitment that our State was led into in the past five years, especially over the last two years of stolen mandate, to ensure that only the most patriotic ones are retained.
19. It is in this same spirit that I once again appeal to all of our compatriots, politicians and leaders who found themselves on the other side of the political divide these past 21 months that the time for collective action is now. The old divisions need not linger forever. It is time to join hands, once again, in the larger interest of our people and our State. For me, I am determined to be the Governor for the entire people of Ondo State.
20. Distinguished citizens of Ondo State, when we started in December 2006, we declared our project the 'Divine Agenda'. Because we brought God into what we sought to do, God indeed brought our 'Divine Agenda' to pass in miraculous circumstances which only Him, the sovereign God, could have brought about. I therefore humbly invite you from this day and this moment, to let us not only put God at the forefront in everything we do, but let us all indeed celebrate him at all times.

POLICY OUTLINE

21. My people, let's get down to our first assignment. I want to know all of you by name. I want to know where you live. I want to know what you do for a living. I want to be able to talk to you one on one. I want to know the exact number seeking employment and I want to know what type of qualifications you have. I need to know these and many other things to be able to catalyze the joint processes and mechanism for the realization of our collective dream.
22. Within the next few weeks, government officials and volunteers will come to your communities and give you some forms to fill. I hereby solicit your support and full participation in making the exercise a success. It is the very foundation of the edifice of joy, prosperity and fulfillment that we are about to build.
23. Let me reiterate what I said during the campaign. We know our destination - we want to build a modern

State, a State where the roads and waterways are functional and efficient and make commerce and the pursuit of happiness easier. We want good water to be available to all for drinking, household chores and industrial usage. Never again shall we be drinking water in conjured percentages and on the television.

24. We want to build a State where no one goes to bed on empty stomach or wakes up preoccupied mainly with how to get decent meals for the day. We want household food security and agricultural products for industry. We want all of us, especially our children, pregnant women and the vulnerable, to have unfettered access to quality health care when and where they need it. We want our educational institutions to look good and functional and our children to be equipped with the type of instructions that will give them competitive edge in the national and global market place. We surely want employment for all those who are unemployed as well as those who are underemployed. We want our market women and artisans to have access to credit, and our farmers access to inputs in adequate quantities and as at when due. We also want all citizens and residents of our dear State to be able to go about their businesses in a secured space unmolested by all sorts of marauders and armed robbers.
25. We are fully conscious of the experience of our people in relation to the so-called free health programme of the outgoing government. Please note that the Labour Party government remains committed to providing free health care for all our children, ages 0 to 5 and all pregnant women from conception to delivery. Education is the key to breaking the yoke of poverty and ignorance. We therefore remain unequivocally committed to free and qualitative education for all our children up to the senior secondary school level. Our scholarship scheme shall be merit-driven. And bursary to our students in higher educational institutions across the country shall thenceforth be paid on time to make such support system meaningful to the beneficiaries.
26. To these ends and many others, we have committed ourselves. All of these will require a lot of financial resources. The challenges are enormous, especially in this era of global financial meltdown and dwindling national earnings from our mineral resources. The good news is that I know we can overcome. With hard work, again, hard work, the necessary sacrifice and renewal of commitment to our individual and collective responsibilities, we shall get there. I pledge before you again today that I will provide appropriate leadership. Your struggle will be my struggle, your joy will be my joy, and your aspirations will be my aspirations. I will strive at all times to take decisions that will benefit the greatest number of our people. We will step on toes if we have to, but at all times, in all seasons, I will work for you.
27. To our nation, let me say a few words. For us to be able to enact the processes that will lead to rapid

development of Nigeria of our dream, our leaders must be accountable. For our leaders to be accountable, they must know that they owe their positions to the people. Every vote must count. While we once again thank our President for creating the enabling environment for the judiciary to thrive and right some of the wrongs of the April 2007 elections, he must appreciate that the greatest challenge that we face as a nation, that single hurdle that we must scale for rapid advancement and development is not just the expansion of physical infrastructures, crucial as those ones surely are, but electoral reforms. We urge Mr. President to continue to work assiduously to ensure that all subsequent elections in this country are **FREE AND FAIR**. The development, nay survival of our nation depends on it. This is the yardstick by which President Yar'Adua will be judged by history! You can count on us, Mr. President, to lend our support to this new vision to which you have pledged commitment.

THE CHARGE

28. Citizens of Ondo State, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate, let us begin to roll up our sleeves in preparation for the work that lies ahead. Let us stand hand in hand, confidently as brothers and sisters, old and young, indigenes and non-indigenes but citizens all, on both sides of the political divide, in the conviction that in the new era unfolding before us in our Sunshine State, there is Room Enough for All, if we just choose to be responsible and work hard enough! We must very quickly move out of our comfort zone, if indeed we have any in light of our experience as a people these past 21 months. We must think from outside the box and hit the ground running. We will not be afraid to borrow ideas from wherever around the world such had worked. There is no point spending limited funds trying to reinvent the wheel. So, let the bugle sound across the length and breadth of Ondo State that emancipation has come to our State. The time to work is now!
29. Thank you. God bless you all. God bless the Labour Party. God bless Ondo State. God bless Nigeria.
30. *Eyin omo Ipinle Ondo, e se ooo. Ojo ayo wa to de, ni oruko Oluwa, ki yio di ibaje lae lae ati lae lae, Amin.*

IPINLE ONDO, ISE LOOGUN ISE!

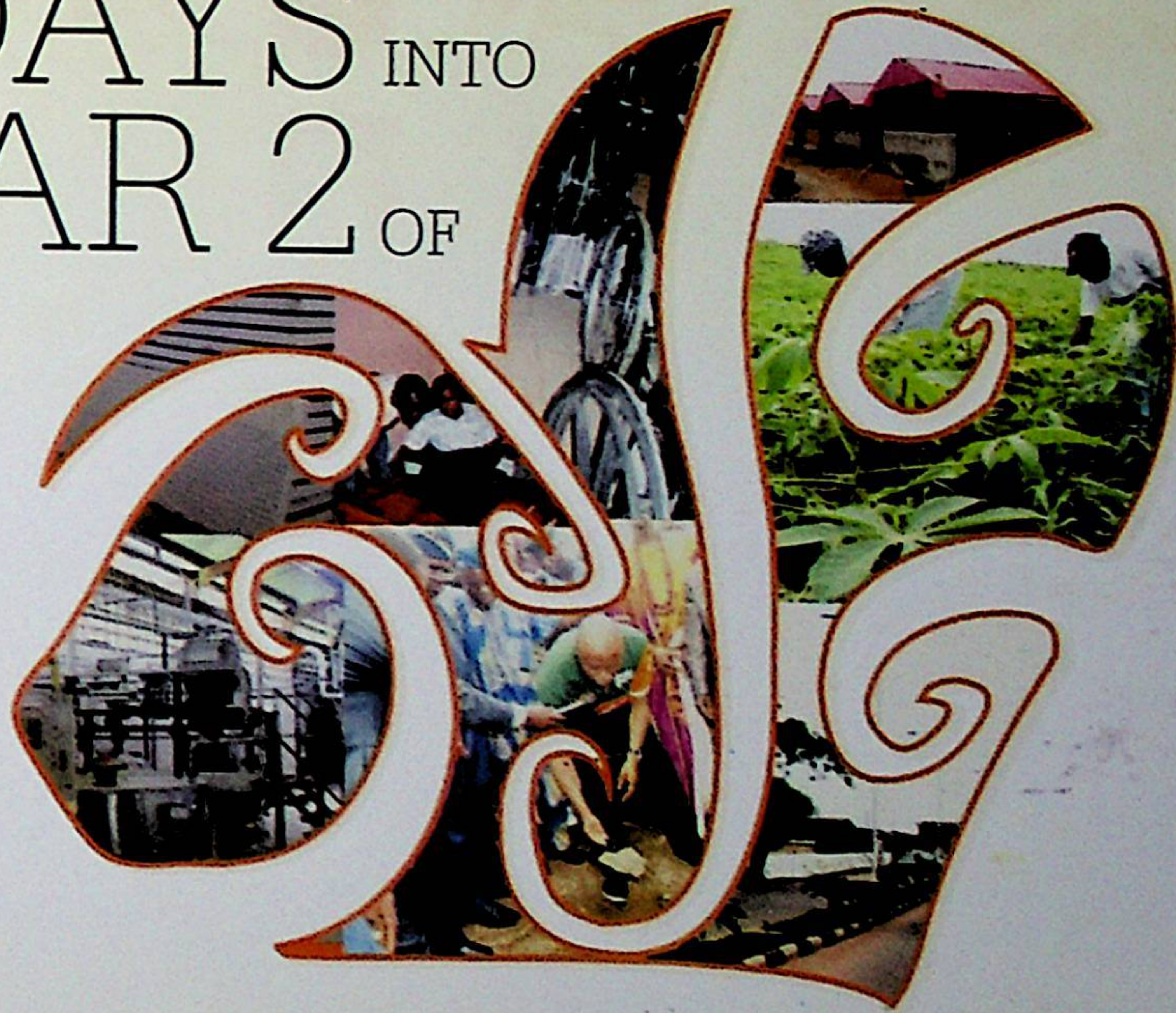
IPINLE ONDO, ISE LA FI N'DENIGIGA!!

ISE TAKUNTAKUN, IBUKUN REPETE!!!





120 DAYS INTO
YEAR 2 OF



a Caring Heart

MARCH - JUNE 2010.

FOREWORD

When this Administration clocked One year, we came out clean and clear before the people for an assessment and analysis of how we have fared. The results are before us: 80 - life - impacting projects across 80 Communities while we have in the last 4 months launched into another 150 projects across 150 Communities in 15 local government areas.

The litmus test with the Safe Motherhood "Abiye" project is better told by the beneficiaries in addition to the Mother and Child Hospital, Akure which is now in full operation. The diagnostic Centre, Ondo being constructed is already coming up. Other creative and people-centered projects are being delivered across the length and breadth of Ondo State.

This is your government driven by vision and your collective will.

A fundamental and clear appraisal of the numerous programmes and achievements of the present government through the various indices of development clearly shows that the 12- point programme has greatly impacted positively on the lives of the people both in the urban and rural communities of the state.

A noticeable pattern has emerged in Ondo State for the discerning eyes, a constant and dedicated search for new solutions to meet the various needs of our people underlines government's approach to opportunities in the marketplace. Dr. Olusegun Mimiko's commitment to a new Ondo State is no longer words, it has transformed many times over into actions.

Hence, a new story of positive transformation is unfolding in the Sunshine State - A place of pride.

Together, we will achieve our dream of an egalitarian and purpose-driven society where our potential will be fully unleashed.

Ranti Akerele

Hon. Commissioner for Information.



DR. OLUSEGUN MIMIKO
Governor, Ondo State

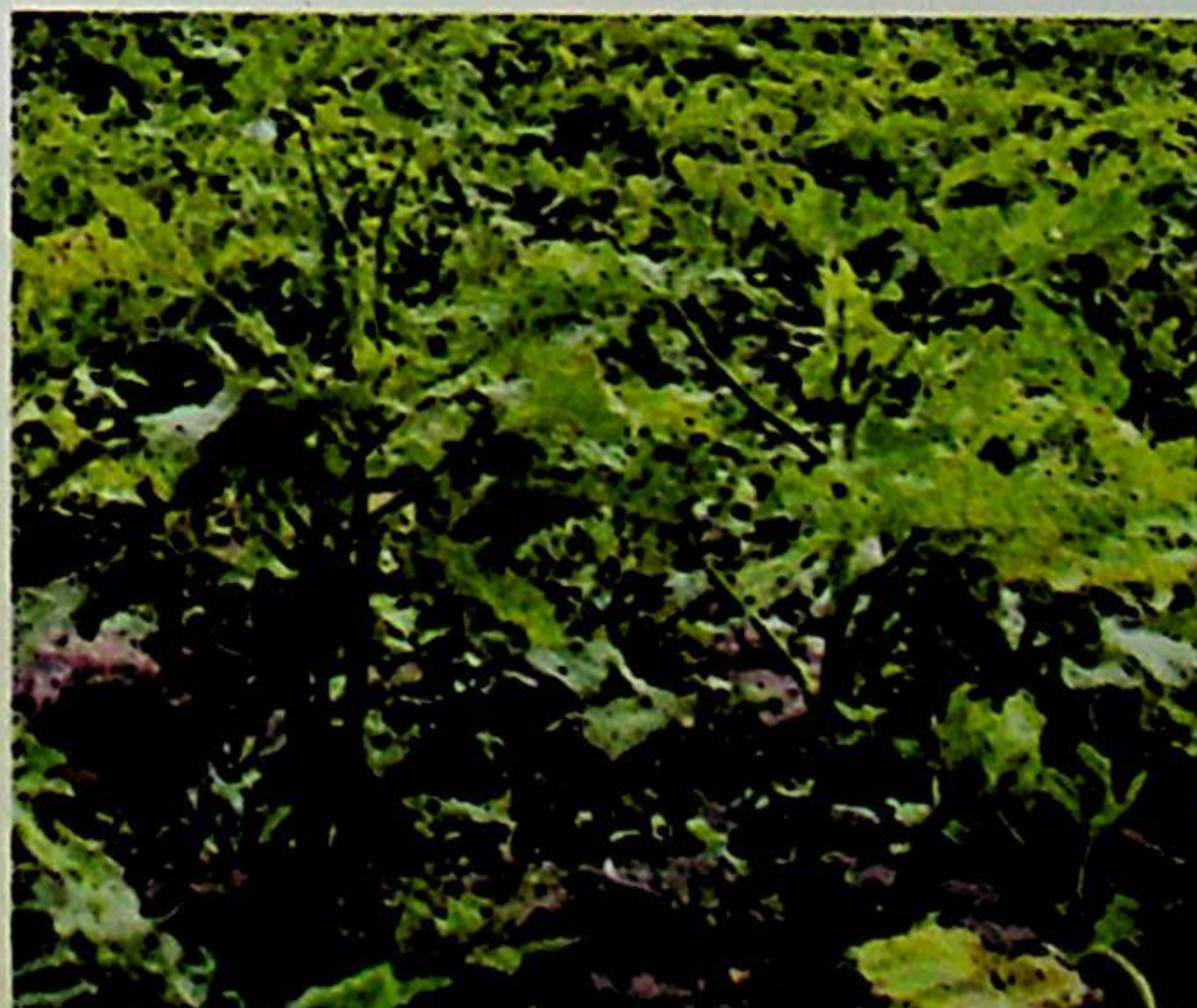


120 DAYS INTO YEAR 2 OF A CARING HEART





**ONDO STATE
AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE, ORE**



International Cultural and Event Centre, Akure (The Dome)



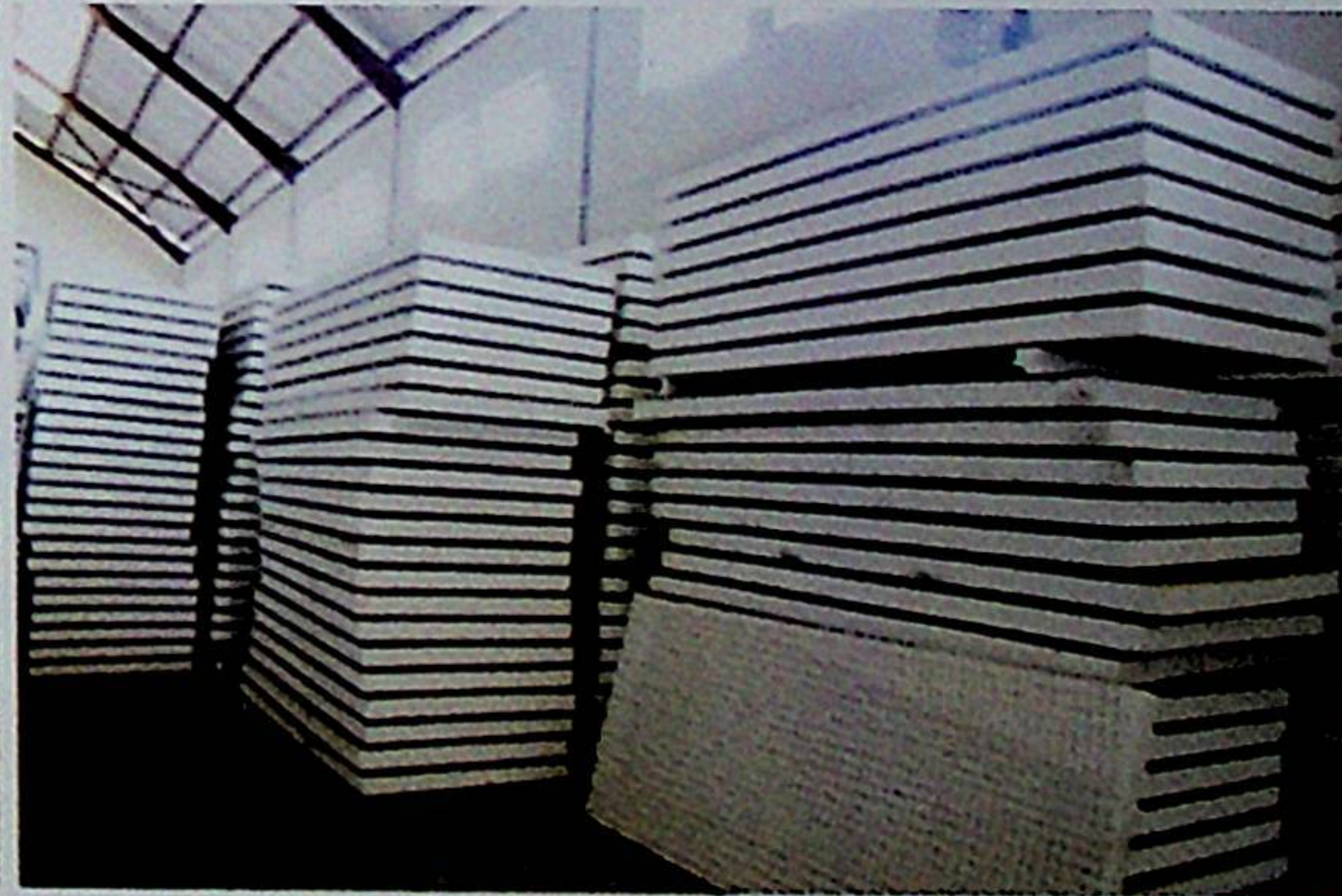
Construction In progress



Structure to carry the Dome



**Completed
Alpha 3D Panel Plant
at Ikare-Akoko**

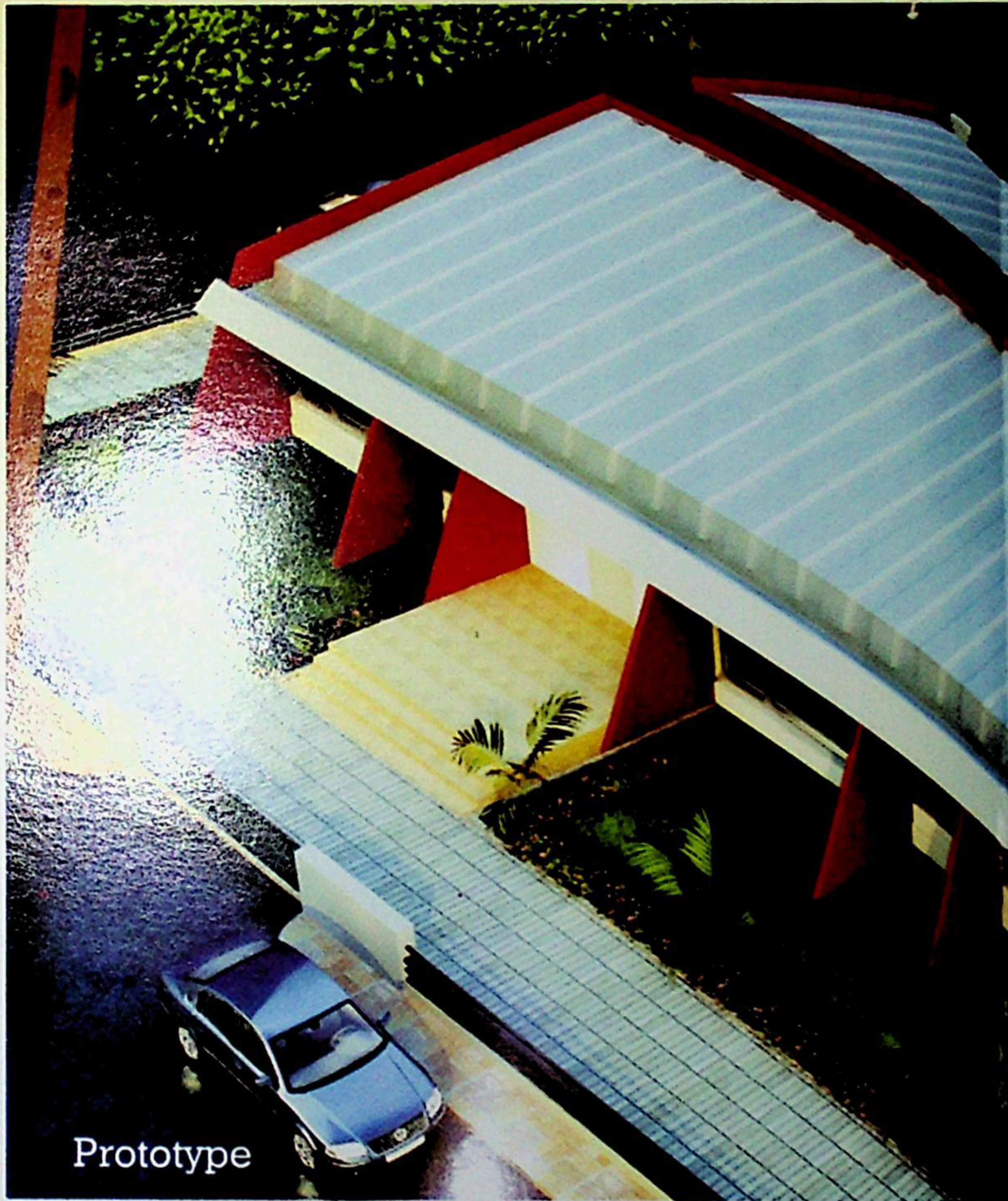


**Products
of the factory**



Landscaping &
beautification
work in progress
at Ore



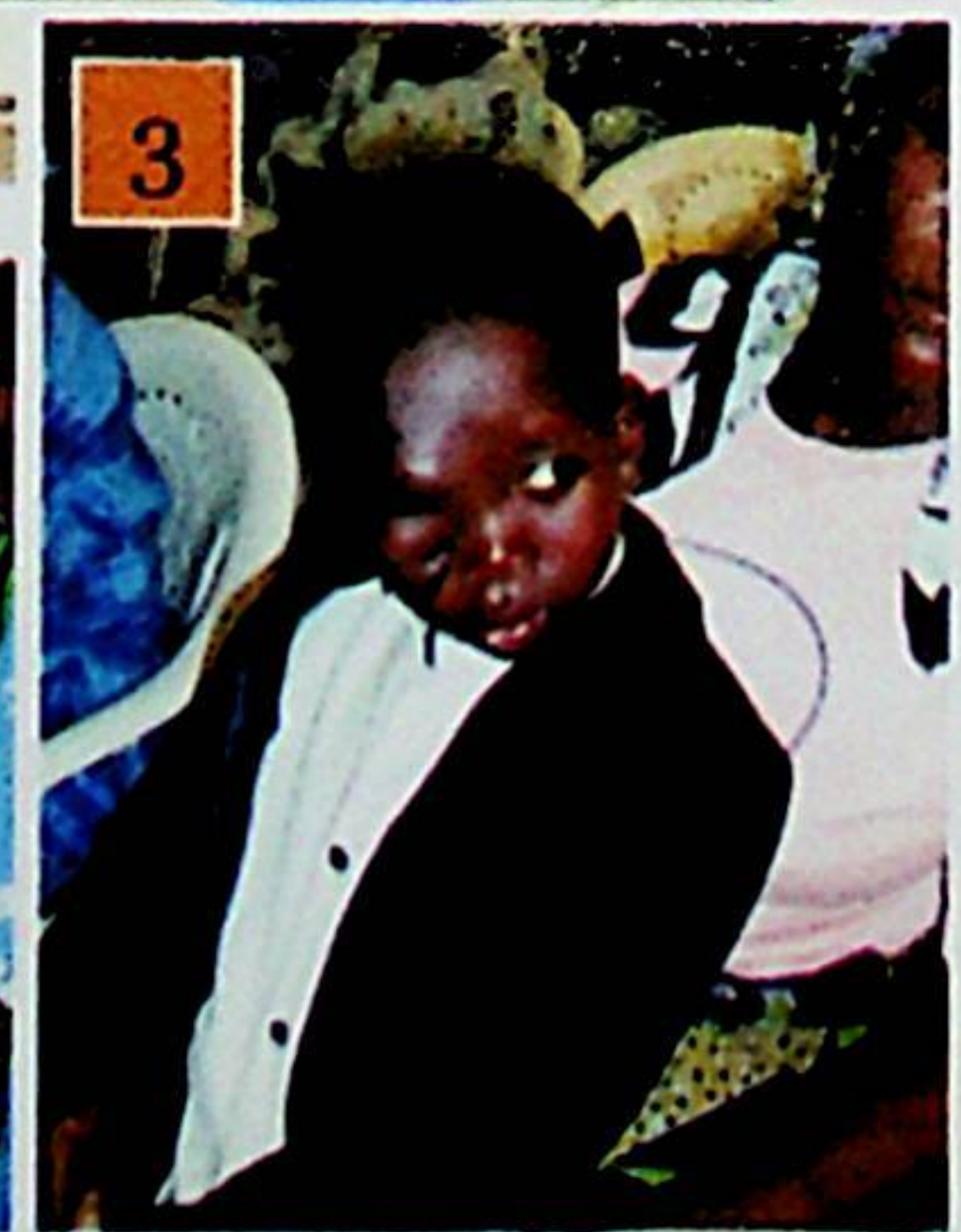


Prototype

GANI FAWEHINMI DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

1. Mr. Governor turns the sod for the construction of the Chief Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre at Ondo
2. Mr. Governor displaying the master plan of the Diagnostic Centre
3. The Diagnostic Centre under construction





1. Patients being attended to by medical personnel.
2. Cross-section of pregnant women at the Mother and Child Hospital, Akure (A typical Day).
3. 8-year old Ahmed: one of the beneficiaries of financial assistance for critical ailment.

**A beneficiary of the Government
Special Assistance Programme
gets wheelchair and crutches.**

**Some of the mobility aids provided
by the state government for
distribution to the needy.**



The resuscitated
Tomato Paste
Industry at
Arigidi-Akoko.



The Managing Director
conducts some top
government functionaries
round the factory.



ICT trainees at NIEPA Ondo





**Newly constructed Caring Heart
Neighbourhood Market**
(NEPA & Afunbiowo both in Akure)
now in full use.

Two more Caring Heart Neighbourhood Market under construction

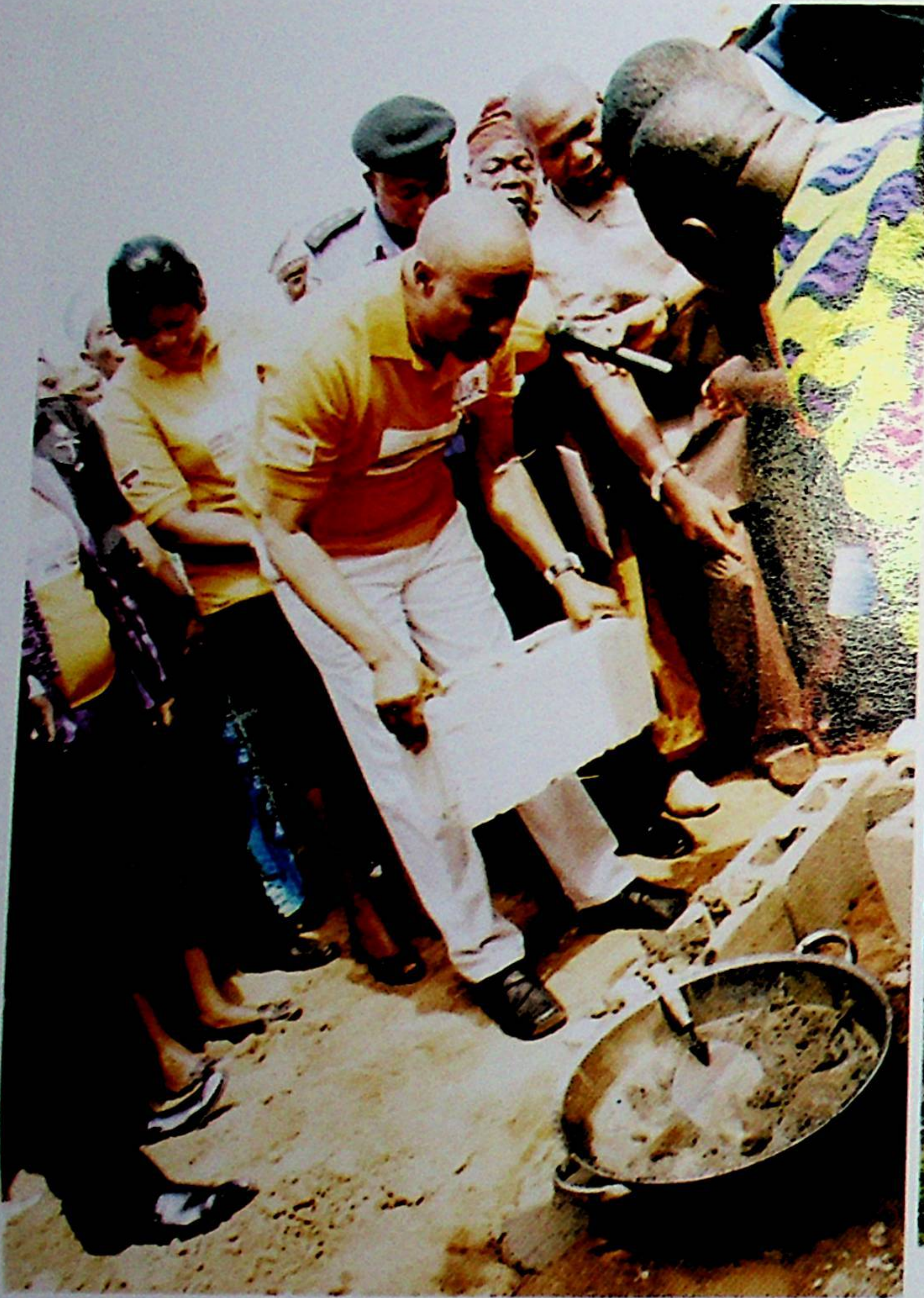


Ikare- Akoko

Isinkan,
Akure



Mr. Governor lays the foundation of the Caring Heart Mega Primary School in Akure.



A section of the Caring Heart Mega Primary School under construction





The new-look NEPA/Secretariat Road, Akure with street light



URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME



A section of the Oba Adesida road being rehabilitated

