

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR ABEKE ADESANYA, SECRETARY
IJBUR-ODE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON POVERTY REDUCTION (IDBPR)
ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNORS' FORUM
OF NIGERIA AT THE ERIWE FARM ESTATE, ODOGBOLU LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA, OGUN STATE ON 10TH MARCH, 2010.**

Protocol

PREAMBLE:

On behalf of the Grand Patron, His Royal Majesty Oba (Dr.) Sikiru Kayode Adetona, CFR, LL, JP, and Board members and my Chairman, Chief Olu Okuboyejo, I wish to heartily welcome you to Eriwe Farm Estate.

The Ijebu-Ode Development Board on Poverty Reduction (IDBPR) was established on the 29th of July 1999, as a private sector community contribution for tackling the poverty trap in Ijebuland (Ogun State) and elsewhere nationwide. Its first seed money contribution was a **N10,000,000.00** donation by the Ijebu Community.

Its establishment was the result of programmed collaboration with the Development Policy Centre (DPC), Ibadan, and the African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies (ACDESS) Ijebu-Ode based on a strategy of City Consultation for mobilizing the existing social capital of the entire Ijebu Community. The City Consultation was financed by the UNDP/UNCHS/World Bank sponsored Urban Management Programme (Regional Office for Africa), Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The IDBPR is structured on a broad-based, community representation of 30-Board members (inclusive of 10 Executive members).

The primary objectives of IDBPR include:

- To mobilize of the Ijebu citizenry to address the problems of environment, poverty, governance, and management through a plan of action.
- To seek financial assistance, other support and encouragement from individuals, varied stakeholders (including the three tiers of governments, multilateral and donor agencies, NGOs, CBOs, Private sector, Women Organisations, and Trade Organisations).

IDBPR has successfully been networking with: **Ogun State Government** (on the current leasehold of 100 hectares Eriwe Farm Estate Farmland); **NAPEP, Abuja** (on seed money provision of *N45 million* for its micro credit scheme); **FAO/UN/NPFS/FMARD Abuja** (for its Chinese technical support); **FAO:Rome/Accra/Abuja** (on Technical backstopping tours: Hishamuda N., Moehel J., & Miller Jim); **Ford Foundation** (For Youth Centre and Logistics/Training equipment support); **RAWOO, Netherlands** (on Global Poverty Reduction collaborations); **OGADEP, Abeokuta** (on Extension Services); **State Ministry of Agriculture, Abeokuta** (on Technical Backstopping on Policy issues); **Ogun State Fadama Development Office (OGSFDO), Abeokuta** (on varied producer) groups' infrastructural & resources supports) and **the World Bank Mission, Abuja** (on the Global Food Crisis: CSO/RBZ dialogue).

The Board received a worthwhile donation from the Staff of the International Court of Justice of former Yugoslavia at the Hague in Year 2002.

The IDBPR has won awards and commendations which include: Dubai International Award and Best Practices Certificate (from UNCHS/HABITAT in 2002); letters of Commendations on Best Practices to improve standards of living of stakeholders from former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Governor Gbenga Daniel of Ogun State); and award as the leading grassroots Non-Governmental Organization on Poverty Eradication in Nigeria during the International Day On Poverty Eradication at Abuja (16th & 17th October, 2008) by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR.

ERIWE FARM VILLAGE

The Eriwe Farm Village is West Africa's first and largest cooperator-based Fish Farm Estate as established on its **156** hectares farmland. Today, it has provided opportunities for **450** beneficiaries in fish farming with a mean annual output of **450,000kg** of fresh farmed catfish worth **N180million**. Inclusive in its endeavours are bee honey production, pineapple production, livestock (Poultry) production, and cassava production. The Eriwe Fish Estate has **67 fish tanks, 890 earthen (dugout) fish ponds, 84 boreholes** (derived from a rich Artesian complex), **30 worksheds, several pumping machines and an ultra-modern 5 tons/day feedmill worth N10,000,000.00**. The Fish Farming in the Estate alone engages over **120 youths and women workers** who serve as farm hands, security, diggers, etc. The multivariate cooperator-driven farm production activities are coordinated by a Central Management Committee (CMC) of representatives of Cooperative Societies.

ACHIEVEMENT MILESTONES

The IDBPR has successfully organized **twenty-eight (28)** Training Workshops on varied enterprises for **5,329 beneficiaries**. A total of four hundred and eighty five (**485**) specialised cooperative societies have been formed. It has undertaken nine (9) Annual General Meetings (AGMs). It has supported the rehabilitation of the Accident & Emergency Unit as well as the construction of a Modern Car park and drainage at the Ijebu-Ode State Hospital at a cost of **N9.5 million**. Under the Micro-Credit Scheme, IDBPR has disbursed a total of **N160,990,000.00** as revolving loan to **5,117** beneficiaries, while it has disbursed a total of **N91,675,000.00** as revolving loan to **1,171** beneficiaries in **86** cooperatives under its Enterprises Development Programmes (EDPs). IDBPR has also undertaken Project Facilitation Training (PFT) for other poverty reduction agencies which include 37 NAPEP Coordinators, (from every state and Abuja FCT); Ekiti, Yola, Orile-Owu, Yewa, Remo and Egba zones in Ogun State, etc.

NEEDS

To further enhance our productivity we will require the following:

- i. 50KVA Diesel Generator for the feedmill
- ii. Transformer Installation/Electrification of Eriwe Farmland.
- iii. Project Vehicle (Double Cabin) pick-up
- iv. Farm Road network development within Eriwe.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to welcome you and wish you happy site seeing and safe journey back home.

Prof. Abeke Adesanya
Secretary