

BRIEFING "ABOUT OSUN STATE" BY THE
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ABOUT OSUN STATE

Osun State was created on 27th August, 1991 along with nine other States during the Military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida. Her appellation is the "*State of the Living Spring*" with the Capital in Osogbo.

GEOGRAPHY

The State covers an area of approximately 14,875 square kilometers. It lies between longitude 0400E and 0505 and latitude 05.558N and 08.07W. The geographical area known as Osun State was the main theatre of 100 years of the 19th Century Yoruba intertribal wars. That explains partly the concentration of many towns than any other State in Nigeria today.

POPULATION

According to the National Population and Housing Census exercise conducted in 2006, Osun State has a population of 3,423,535.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

There are 30 Local Governments in the State. The State is divided into nine Federal Constituencies and three Senatorial Districts. The Local Governments are Ayedaade, Ayedire, Atakumosa East, Atakumosa West, Boripe, Boluwaduro, Ede North, Ede South, Egbedore and Ejigbo. Others are Ifedayo, Ifelodun, Ife Central, Ife East, Ife North, Ife South, Ila, Ilesa East, Ilesa West and Irepodun. The rest are Irewole, Isokan, Iwo, Obokun, Odo-Otin, Ola-Oluwa, Olorunda, Oriade, Orolu, Osogbo and Ife East Area Office located at Modakeke-Ife.

The nine Federal constituencies are Osogbo/Olorunda/Orolu/Irepodun, Atakumosa East/West/Ilesha East/West Iwo/Ola-Oluwa/Ayedaade/Isokan, Obokun/Oriade, Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo and Ife Central/East South North.

The State Senatorial District are Osun Central represented by Senator Simeon Oduoye, Osun East represented by Senator Iyiola Omisore while Osun west is represented by Senator Isiaka Adeleke.

PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS

Col. Leo Segun Ajiborisa was the pioneer Head of Government from August to December, 1991. He had both the executive and legislative powers. He was succeeded by Otunba Isiaka Adeleke, the first elected Governor, who functioned as the Chief Executive, not under the

Constitution, but under a Military Government. He was removed from

Office by a Military coup in November, 1993. The State was administered from November, 1993 to May 1999 by a succession of Military Administration which included Navy Captain Anthony Udofia, Col. Anthony Obi and Col. Theophilus Bamigboye. In May 1999, Chief Bisi Akande, was sworn-in as the second Executive Governor and remained in office until May, 2003 when the incumbent Governor, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola was elected as the Executive Governor of Osun State. Governor Oyinlola was re-elected and sworn in for the second term in May 2007.

PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

The Executive arm of the administration is headed by His Excellency, Prince (Dr.) Olagunsoye Oyinlola, assisted by his deputy, Erelu Olusola Obada, top government and political functionaries such as Secretary to the State Government, Aihaji Kazeem Ademola Adio, the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Mr. Festus Adeyemo, the Head of Service, Elder Segun Akinwusi and fifteen (15) fifteen Commissioners.

The administrative Heads of Ministries and other government agencies are the twenty nine (29) Permanent Secretaries.

THE PEOPLE

The people of Osun State are warm and hospitable. They are a politically conscious people who are not ready to compromise their rights.

The people of the State are highly enterprising and are engaged in trading all over the country.

OCCUPTION AND INDUSTRY

The people of the State are mainly traders, artisans and farmers. Other occupations of the people include making of hand-woven textiles, tie and dye clothes, leather works, calabash carving and mat-making.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The State has some federal presence. These include the Osogbo Steel Rolling Mill, the Machine Tools, although moribund, a Federal University, one Federal Technical College, one Polytechnic and the National Control Centre of the Power Holdings Company Nigeria (PHCN). In addition, the State has her own Cocoa Product Industry sited at Ede while there are some privately owned industrial projects in the State, e.g. Tuns Farm and Obelawo Plastic Industry in Osogbo and the International Breweries, Ilesa among others.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Osun State is blessed with vast mineral resources. These include gold, clay, limestone, kaolin and granite.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The people are generally industrious and highly articulate. It is a State blessed with vast human resources. Because of the intelligence and

resourcefulness of the sons and daughters of the State, they have distinguished themselves in various fields of endeavour.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Investments opportunities abound in big cities in the State while Osogbo, the State Capital, can be reached from any part of the State by road within an hour. Agro Allied industries will prosper in the State because yam, maize, cassava, millet, plantain and rice are the major food and cash crops produced by farmers in the State.

Lumbering, including cultivation and marketing of crops like cocoa and kolanuts are carried out in a large scale.

Government has been doing her best for the industrial development of the State. The government intention at privatizing the ailing Cocoa Products Industry, Ede is to give the company a new lease of life. Moreover, government has granted close to a billion naira under the Micro-Credit Loan Scheme to Small Scale Industrialists in the State. The provision of Industrial Estates is also an incentive to encourage the industrial growth of the State. The first face of the Living Spring Free Trade Zone will soon be commissioned. The purposely built Industrial Park where Government has put in place, all needed infrastructures is to reduce initial set up cost for industrialists and so make the state attractive to local and international industrialists. This Trade Zone is to annex all natural

resources including agricultural products in the state for the rapid industrialization of the State. It is also to reduce unemployment among our youths.

LEGISLATURE

The State House of Assembly was inaugurated on 3rd June, 2007 by His Excellency, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, the Executive Governor of Osun State. It is made up of 26 legislators. The Speaker is the Rt. Hon. (Barrister) Rafiu Adejare Bello while the Deputy Speaker is Hon. Ebenezer Ropo Oyewole.

JUDICIARY

The Judiciary is headed by Hon. Justice G. O. Ojo, who is being assisted in the dispensation of Justice by other Judges.

TOURIST CENTRES

Ile-Ife, the cradle of the Yoruba Nation, which is about thirty minutes drive from Osogbo, the State Capital, is a repository of Yoruba culture. There are a lot of tourist attractions in the State. Some of these include the renowned Oranmiyan Staff, Ife Museum and Osun Osogbo Shrine. In addition, there are the Olumirin Waterfalls, Erin-Ijesa, the Mbari-Mbayo Heritage, Idi Baba Cultural Centre and the Adunni Susan Wenger's Art Works Centre in Osogbo. In short, there are about 58 tourist centres spread all over the State.

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

The present administration under the leadership of Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola came on board on the 29th May, 2003. Since then, a lot of positive changes and landmark achievements have been recorded by this administration. The achievements are so effective that it has touched the lives of all and sundry in the State.

EDUCATION

Education is the main industry of the people of Osun State. This is why school enrolment has increased astronomically since the abolition of all fees and levies. Because of the importance attached to education, the PDP administration began the implementation of free and qualitative education on assumption of office.

At the inception of the administration about 1,800 teachers sacked by the immediate past administration were recalled. The recall of these teachers has brought a new lease of life to schools while the morale of others, hitherto at its lowest ebb, has been lifted. One major area of government action in the Education Sector was the payment of Senior Secondary School Examination fees (WAEC) for all final year students in the State. The programme cost the government more than #150 million in addition to the payment of about #50 million bursaries to final year students in tertiary institutions annually.

As a means of reducing unemployment among the teeming graduates in the State, the government introduced a voluntary teaching scheme tagged "Oyin Corps" where not less than 2,500 teachers are now serving.

The promotion of teachers which had been delayed for years, has received the attention of this administration. A total of 18,000 teachers (14,000 primary and 4,000 secondary school teachers) were promoted within the last two years. To promote a cordial working relationship between parents and teachers, government has resuscitated the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) in public schools.

For statistical analysis, there are about 1,239 public Primary Schools with about 505,800 pupils and 147 Private Nursery Primary Schools in Osun State. As for Secondary education, there are 551 Public Secondary Schools and 84 privately owned Secondary Schools. There are 245,110 students in the Public Secondary Schools.

There are 8 Schools of Science, 3 Unity schools, Federal Technical College and 7 State Technical Colleges. In the area of Tertiary education, there are the College of Technology, Esa-Oke with a student population of 15,000 and the Osun State Polytechnic, Iree with a population of 15,000 students.

Osun State University established in 2007 is a multi campus University with each of the senatorial districts having two campuses. The campuses are located in Osogbo, Okuku, Ikire, Ejigbo, Ifetedo and Ipetu Ijesa.

There are two Colleges of education at Ilesa and Ila-Orangun and a Federal Polytechnic at Ede. Osun State also has a Federal University named Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU), Ile-Ife and four private-owned Polytechnic called the Universal College of Technology at Ile-Ife, and Igbajo Polytechnic, Igbajo, Interlink Polytechnic, Ijebu Jesa and Iresi Polytechnic, Iresi. It also has four private Universities, Bowen University at Iwo, Fountain University, Osogbo and Joseph Ayo Babalola University at Ikeji Arakeji and Oduduwa University, Ipetumodu. The College of Medicine, Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital (LAUTECH),

Ogbomoso jointly-owned by Osun and Oyo State is sited in Osogbo, the State Capital.

HEALTH

Health-care delivery in the State is a comprehensive one which covers curative, and preventive aspects. For effective health-care delivery, the underlisted health institutions are put in place.

Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital, Osogbo

9 State Hospitals

- 5 General Hospitals
- 38 Comprehensive Health Centres
- 2 Dental Centres, Ilesa and Osogbo
- 1 School of Nursing, Osogbo
- 1 School of Midwifery, Osogbo
- 11/20-bed hospitals located in different parts of the State

The Secretariat Staff Clinic commenced operation in October, 2004. For the first time in the history of this State, thirty-one units of ambulance were purchased and distributed to all Local Governments under the referral scheme. To further boost health care delivery system in all government hospitals in the State, drugs worth about **₦248** million have been procured between June, 2003 and December, 2004. In the year 2009, **₦500** million was expended on procurement of drugs and other medical consumables. The hospitals in the State are now adequately staffed with a total number of 1,055 medical experts that include Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Nurses, Medical Laboratory Technologists among others, working in the State owned hospitals. A sizeable percentage of this year 2010 is also committed to meeting the health needs of the populace.

Government has acquired 16 hectares of land at the Industrial Estate, Oroki for the construction of a Drugs Manufacturing Company

Which is almost completed. The objective of the project is to produce quality and customized drugs at reasonable costs. This project will soon be commissioned for use.

Furthermore, the Oyinlola administration commenced and completed blocks of classrooms and laboratory at the school of Nursing and Midwifery, Asubiaro, Osogbo. Government also released N18.5 million for the construction of a 20-bed Comprehensive Health Centre in Modakeke-Ife. These hospitals were commissioned for use about three years ago.

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

In fulfillment of the promise of this administration to provide good inter and intra-city roads for the safety and comfort of the people, it has, in the last seven years constructed and rehabilitated some access roads across the State.

Some of these roads are:

- (i) Dualisation of Oke-fia/Osogbo West Bye Pass Road
- (ii) Reconstruction of Oba Oyinlola Afolabi Humani Adigun Road
- (iii) Construction of Gbongan/Odeyinka/Orile-Owu Road
- (iv) Construction of Ifewara/Faforiji/Olode Road
- (v) Reconstruction of Iwo/Obamoro/Ikonifin/Ife-Odan Road
- (vi) Asphalted the Ajebandele/Gbongan/Ile-Ogbo Road

(vii) Rehabilitation of Ila/Ora/Federal Road

(viii) Reconstruction of Iree/Ada Road.

The dualization of Akoda to Osogbo and re-habilitation of Igbona-Oke Oni Tea also in Osogbo are some of the roads on which construction activities is on going. Others are Oke Gada-Awo-Ejigbo road, Aisu-Ede road, Ife township road and the networks of roads linking Okuku, Inisa, Ekusa, Igbaye and Iyeku in Odo-Otin Local Government Area among others. The six Zonal headquarters in the state are programmed to benefit from the on-going road rehabilitation project in the State.

Government also intervened in the transport sector by procuring an interest free loan to purchase about 100 buses (30 for the NURTW, 30 for identified community leaders from the 30 local government areas of the State and the rest for (RTEAN). The gesture is to help reduce transport fee for the benefits of commuters. Recently 20 buses were purchased on interest free loan for the Road Transport Employers Association, Osun State Branch. Taxi cabs were also supplied to Taxi drivers in the State. Also about 15 new official cars were purchased for the use of the Honourable Commissioners in the State.

In addition, 720 motorcycles have been distributed on interest free loan to "Okada" operators to generate employment and alleviate poverty.

In fulfillment of his pledge to assist Federal Government agencies in the State. Governor Oyinlola administration provided electricity at the Nigeria Television Authority, Osogbo, Ile-Ife and FRCN, Ilesa. The projects

Cost over twelve million naira. Over N6 million was released for the resuscitation of Gold FM Radio at Ilesa when it suffered some damages caused by an outbreak of fire at the station.

NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The administration of Prince Oyinlola completed the ultra-modern Government House at the GRA, Oke-fia, Osogbo.

AGRICULTURE

The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources through not directly involved in commercial production has provided conducive environment of private farmers participation in farming business.

To promote agricultural development in the State, Government acquired 36 Steyr tractors at a cost of **N73.9 million** and 36 ploughs at a cost of N16.2 million from the federal Government for distribution to all the Local Government Areas in the State. The Government has also purchased and distributed additional 300 tractors and ploughs and 150 each of Harrow, Ridger and tipping trailers at a total cost of **N1,340,860,500.00**. Towards the end of the Year 2009, the state procured three heavy duty land clearing equipment. These are to be used at the three senatorial districts for opening up farmlands for cultivation.

Before the advent of this administration, there were only 8 farm settlements in the state with a total of 6,139.36 hectares of land cultivated.

for growing
to various crops. Two additional farm settlements have been established at Ipetumodu and Ifon-Orolu.

Government has established Agricultural Youth Empowerment Programme for the training of the youths to reduce unemployment among them. While undergoing training, a stipend of **N3,500** per month is paid to each participants.

Another laudable programme of this administration is Agriculture-in-Schools. This is to impart agricultural skills to students while in School. Through the programme, schools participate in cultivation of crops like maize, cassava, yam, melon and livestock production such as piggery, fisheries and poultry. The State Government is also employing the rich agricultural base of the state to promote industrial growth of the state. The cassava flour production industries at Okuku, Ogbaagbaa and Ijebu Ijesa were commissioned two years ago. There are several other smaller cassava processing units in other parts of the state. These industries are to provide guaranteed market for cassava farmers in the state.

WATER

In realization of the importance of water to physical, health, economic activities and infrastructural development, the Oyinlola administration identified Water Resources sector as one which must be strengthened. Towards this end, it has embarked on the construction of at

Least one water scheme in each of the 30 Local Government Areas. Between 2004-2009, about 33 water schemes were embarked upon while government was able to secure N193 million Federal Government approvals for the rehabilitation of two Water Schemes in the State.

LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

In this area, this administration has done line cutting and the opening up of phase one of Osun GRA along Gbongan Road, Osogbo while it had also done perimeter and topographical surveys of Osun State Environmental Protection Agency's refuse dump site.

The perimeter survey of the NNPC mega filling station in the State Capital has been carried out. The survey of right of way of Osogbo Ring Road Phase II is being carried out.

JUSTICE

For the upkeep of the State Counsel, government has approved the purchase of Law Books and Law Reports at a cost of N5 million. This certainly has improved the morals of our State counsel. The purchase of 20 New Peugeot 406 cars and Nissans for High Court Judges and the Mobile Court Units is to further boost the morale of the Judges and facilitate quick dispensation of Justice in the State. The government has also in year 2010 purchased Toyota Jeeps to all High Court Judges to facilitate the easy dispensation of Justice, while Magistrates has all also been provided with official cars in the preceding years.

Osun State has got its own Law separate and distinct from Oyo State. The State's Boundary Settlements Commission has been resuscitated

by this administration for the purposes of adjudicating in inter Local Government boundary disputes to ensure peaceful co-existence among Locals Governments in the State.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In the pragmatic approach to promote accountability which is the hallmark of democracy, Prince Oyinlola has set the record of being the first State Chief Executive to initiate and sustain a monthly live interview programme on the State's Radio and Television Stations tagged "**OPEN FURUM**". In furtherance to this, Ministerial Press Conferences are organized for Commissioners, Chairmen of Boards and Parastatals and other Heads of Agencies to make them accountable to the people, while the Governor caps it all at the end of each year with an "**End of the Year**" Press Conference.

TOURISM

Government has stepped up action and ensured that the Osun Osogbo Grove is listed as a World Heritage site by UNESSCO. In addition, the resuscitation of many tourist centres in the State has been carried out. To make sure that tourism is given adequate attention, the State Government has set up a Tourism Board to oversee the promotion of tourism in the State. The Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding commissioned recently is also a tourist centre that will attract tourists from all over the world.

INFORMATION

The present administration in the State realizes the role of adequate and timely dissemination of information to people. To bridge the gap between the governed and the government, the Ministry of Information is being encouraged through the provision of adequate equipment to project the image of the Government. The Government Press of the State Ministry of Information is now fully equipped to handle all the printing jobs of the government and even the entire state.

A lot of money has been invested on the State's radio and Television Station in Osogbo, Ile-Ife and Ibokun while the long abandoned Television Station at Iwo that is now resuscitated and currently running test transmission will soon be completed and formally commissioned for use.

CONCLUSION

Osun State is reputed to be the most urbanized State in the country. The provision and maintenance of social infrastructure in the cities and towns in the State is therefore enormous. Yet the allocation from the Federation account is very low. The low statutory allocation from the Federation Account could be attributed to the un-der-enumeration of the State in the 1991 census and also in 2006.

The State Government will appreciate it if the Federal Government could expedite action on the construction of .Ilesa Water project. This

water scheme, in addition to the more than 30 mini-water schemes scattered all over the State will go ^a long way in meeting the water needs of the people of Osun State.

Osun State is a fastly developing State. It is a State that is politically stable and with the lowest rate of criminal activities in the country. It is a home to all Nigerians. Our door is open to investors from within and outside the country. The State Government has put necessary policy and mechanism in place to assist willing investors to facilitate the rapid industrial growth of Osun State. The State Government welcomes and appreciate suggestions from all stakeholders that will propel the state to greater heights industrially.

I want to assure you that your brief stay in Osun State will be eventful and rewarding going by the programme of activities already lined up for your group. The people and the environment are very friendly to the extent that you will be yearning to visit Osun State often.

On behalf of the Executive Governor of Osun State, I welcome you to Osun State, a state of the Living Spring. You are assured of effective security and so should feel free to interact with the people.