

NGF TOUR OF EKITI STATE

SUNDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY – THURSDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2010

Brief History:

Ekiti State was created on 1st October 1996 out of the old Ondo State by the military administration of General Sanni Abacha. The state, which its capital is in Ado-Ekiti, covered the former twelve local government areas that made up the Ekiti zone of old Ondo State. Now, with sixteen local government areas, Ekiti State could be described as one of the political drama of controversies since the return to democratic rule in 1999.

The state, with about fifteen different administrators in its just about fourteen years of existence is presently being governed by His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni, a member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

The Tour of Ekiti State

The team comprising of the NGF Secretariat staff, Policy consultants journalists and documentary crew arrived Ado-Ekiti, the capital of Ekiti State on Sunday, 28th February, 2010.

The mission of the team in the state commenced with an interactive session which was presided over by His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni, the Governor of Ekiti State. The highlights of the session were the presentation of sectoral achievement reports of the government of Ekiti State since inception in 2007.

The Director-General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), Mr. Asishana Bayo Okauru was quick to point out to the executive council members at the session the several firsts the state had scored considering the human

development index. Though, the Ekiti State was below average in GDP rating but life expectancy index rated Ekiti State above all other states in Nigeria.

The Director-General also eulogized the state government for its prudent management of fund for the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBEC) Programme. That commendation, the Director-General said wax in accordance with the clean bill of health given the state by the Independent corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni, in his remarks commended the Peer-review initiative of the Nigeria Governors' Forum which advantage would enable state governments to identify bench-markable practices in other states thus helping state governments to set their priorities right.

His Excellency said his vision for Ekiti State was to develop its infrastructures, social services, economy and to have a governance system that would be one of the best in the world. He further reiterated some of the best practices in governance which the state had adopted in order to serve the people of Ekiti State better. Some of those included:

Best practice in Governance:

- (a) ***The state of the state initiative.*** That was particularly inaugurated to appraise the budget performance of the state in order to ascertain its percentage of implementation and observe its shortcomings.
- (b) ***5 + 7 Review.*** That was to review the budget after the first five months of implementation thus creating the opportunity to refocus and redirect the priorities of the state.

The session, however, ended with further explanations on the workings of the government by all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

Thereafter, the team was taken on guided tours of the state projects on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd of March, 2010. The NGF tour then terminated on Thursday 4th March, 2010 with another interactive session with members of

the state executive council and directors of agencies to rub minds and give useful advice and suggestions on the strengths and shortcomings observed in the course of projects inspection. That session was chaired by His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Ekiti State, Alhaji (Dr.) Sikiru Tai Lawal.

Human Resource Development and Empowerment

▪ Education

The education sector in Ekiti State had received appreciable attention since Engr. Segun Oni came on board as the governor. No doubt, Ekiti State was one of the most educationally advance state in Nigeria and to further establish the state as first among equals in education, Engr. Segun Oni' administration initiated the following:

(a) The School Enterprise Project (SEP): SEP was an experiment in nineteen boarding schools across Ekiti State with objective of impacting basic entrepreneurship skills in the students which they could later pick-up as a profession. Apart from generating funds for the pilot schools through after-sale profits from their products, SEP was strategic in combating unemployment and increase productivity and capacity building in Ekiti State.

The team from NGF visited Christ School Ado-Ekiti, whose chosen enterprise was bakery (specifically bread). Loaves of bread produced by the students of that school were already competing with established bakers in the bread market of Ekiti State.

(b) The construction and rehabilitation of existing classrooms in selected primary schools across the state. A model storey building of six (6) classrooms with two (2) office rooms' terrazzo floor and long span aluminum roof was a standard being pursued to replace old primary school buildings. Already, the

state government through the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) had constructed forty two (42) of the model primary school buildings each of which was put at ₦15.6m, according to Mr. Ogundare B.J., Director, Planning and Research and Strategy SUBEB, who received the team from NGF at St. Mary Catholic Nursery and Primary School, Irona, Ado Ekiti where one of the model buildings had been completed.

(c) To facilitate computer literacy and improve information technology skills among secondary school students in Ekiti State, Oni- administration had procured and supplied computer laptops for every student in Senior Secondary School I (SSS1) in twenty one (21) boarding schools in the state. Those beneficiary schools were provided with complementary computer laboratories with internet facilities thus facilitating electronic access to information on subject areas in the schools.

That computer literacy programme, according to his Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni was beginning with the SSSI students with the target of having every student in the senior secondary schools own a laptop and be computer literate. However, owing to poor monitoring of projects and poor maintenance, the facility provided for internet access at Christ School, Ado-Ekiti had already fallen into disuse.

? note

(d) Scholarship scheme was also initiated by Oni administration to financially assist Ekiti State indigenes in the law schools across Nigeria. According to his Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni, the state government had expended ₦246million in pursuant of that goal.

(e) To further status of school children in Ekiti State was being boosted with twice per week supply of egg and chocolate to every student in the state.

(f) To further complement the efforts of Oni administration in training personnel at the highest level to drive the science and technology enterprise in the state, His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni established the University of Science and Technology, Ifaki-Ekiti, thus bringing the number of the state owned universities to three, the other two being University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) and The University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (TUNEDIK), which was temporarily operating from Ifaki-Ekiti.

▪ **Health**

The administration of His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni has attained some level of success in re-invigorating the health sector. Some of the major achievements in this sector are:

(i) ***General Hospitals (Secondary Facilities)***

- (a) Upgrading of the State General Hospital, Ijero-Ekiti to a Specialist Hospital at the cost of ~~₦~~59,663,089.50k. The project was 98% completed.
- (b) Comprehensive Renovation and rehabilitation of the following General Hospitals:
 - (i) General Hospital, Ijesa-Isu at ~~₦~~96,573,756.1k. Perimeter fencing of same hospital was on-going. The rehabilitation was 90% completed while the perimeter fencing had gone 10%
 - (ii) General Hospital, Emure-Ekiti at ~~₦~~106,896,538.50k (80% completed)

- (iii) General Hospital, Ifaki-Ekiti at ₦117,490.222 (80% completed)
- (iv) General Hospital, Efon Alaaye at ₦99,782,930.1k (80% completed).

Primary Health Centres

Ekiti State government under the leadership of His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni was aggressively revitalizing the primary health care facilities across the state. Tagged 'Blue Facilities', Oni administration had completely renovated 115 primary health centres out of the total 283 primary health facilities available in Ekiti State. So far, the government had spent ₦1,749,999,915.00 to provide PHC facilities. The breakdown of which was:

- (a) Cost of Infrastructure – ₦831,686,223.00
- (b) Procurement of Equipment – ₦748,813,692.00
- (c) Insecticide Treated Mosquito Net – ₦80,000,000.00
- (d) Artesunate Combination Therapy – ₦90,000,000.00

Eye Centre, University of Ado-Ekiti Teaching Hospital

Engr. Oni administration had in 2007 expended ₦30million to treat twelve thousand, eight hundred and forty-one (12,841) eye patients (9000 of the patients received eye glasses, 469 of them were operated while 3,372 of them were treated with drugs).

The experience of that programme consequently impressed on the state government the need to establish a comprehensive eye centre in the state. Thereafter, the Ophthalmologic Centre at the University of Ado-Ekiti Teaching Hospital was conceived in partnership with the Cuban government who

provided medical experts and sophisticated equipment at the cost of ₦894,600,000.00

Central Medical Store-UDRF/Mega Depot

Oni administration has effectively partnered with the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British government by establishing a well coordinated Drug Revolving Fund through the intervention of Partnership for Transforming Health System (PATHS) of DFID. That partnership in DRF with the buy-in of communities' health workers and patient medicine vendors had culminated in the reduction to barest minimum of the incidence of fake drugs in the state.

UNAD Teaching Hospital Theatre

The theatre which was built in 1971 was undergoing total renovation by First Foundation, a renowned medical consultant. The renovation which included the supply of complementary equipment was at a cost of ₦135million.

The ~~team~~^{team} from NGF was at the Eye Centre, Central Medical Store, the new UNAD Teaching Hospital Theatre, the General Hospital, Ijesa-Isu and the Primary Health Centre, Ilagun-Ekiti to assess the level of work done by the administration of Engr. Segun Oni in the health sector.

Infrastructure Development

▪ Roads

The administration of Engr. Segun Oni had made modest achievements in the road infrastructure sector. Prior to Segun Oni's administration, about 200kms of roads were in fairly good condition in Ekiti State. Governor Segun Oni said his administration had to reverse the ugly situation of

roads by constructing and rehabilitation over 400kms with a target of 1000kms by the end of 2010.

Typical of the many road projects by the present administration in Ekiti State was Ikole-Itapaji road. The first section (4.5kms) of the 35kms road had been completed. The second section which was to reach Eruku in Kwara State was on-going. The project was awarded to Kopek Construction Limited at the cost of ₦1.478billion. In addition, several roads leading in and out of Ado-Ekiti, the state capital were being dualised to improve the landscape and also to expand the road facility within the capital for the volume of traffic that traversed the capital on daily basis.

- **Housing**

The administration of Engr. Segun Oni had evolved in partnership with relevant stakeholders towards providing decent but affordable homes for the people of Ekiti State.

The 400 units Irewolede Housing Estate which started in 2007 was embarked upon on Private-Public Partnership arrangement to which Ekiti State contributed 25% of the total cost. The completed buildings within the estate had been allocated to their owners at the mortgage cost of ₦3.4million for 2-Bedroom, ₦7.5million for duplex and ₦11million for mansionette.

- **Water**

Development of sustainable water supply scheme was the major considered factor in the water policy of Engr. Segun Oni's administration. The governor said to the visiting team from NGF Secretariat that Ekiti State required 180million litres of water per day to assure water supply to every home.

However, the total capacity of water generated at present was 10MLD while the governor said his target was 205MLD plan to boost water requirement in the state, the excess of which his administration would sell to neighbouring states.

Oni administration had begun the rehabilitation of the four major dams in Ekiti State on concessionaire arrangement for the dams' management. Conceding the management of the dams and supply to PPP was to reduce the heavy dependence on public finance towards greater reliance on private capital and control.

Rehabilitation work had been completed at Ureje Dam in Ado-Ekiti and Itapaji Dam at Itapaji all of which had been conceded to a private firm for management. The dam at Itapaji had been redesigned for further development in area of agriculture and hydro-electricity.

The administration of Engr. Segun Oni, as the governor said was considering the exploration of carbon-based energy in bio-fuel, nuclear and solar to improve the electric supply in Ekiti State. The present administration had embarked on the construction of 132/33KVA substation transmission line to ensure constant supply of electricity to Ado-Ekiti and enormous. The governor said the state had paid a compensation of ₦200million to people whose property would give way to the transmission line.

Economic Development

▪ Privatization

As part of Engr. Segun Oni's determination to revive all moribund and non-performing state-owned companies, the government had concluded plans to privatize some of the state-owned enterprises in order to revitalize the companies and removed all forms of government interference.

The governor, Engr. Segun Oni informed NGF team that his administration had conceded the administration of Fountain Hotel and ROMACO to private investors from which the state had realized annual revenue of ~~₦42~~million and ~~₦56~~million respectively.

In furtherance of its plan to privatize government owned enterprise, Fountain Dairy which was established in Ikun-Ekiti in 1993 but had become moribund since then had been received with the state government recent expenditure of over ~~₦400~~million to purchase 500 cows from South Africa for milk production, a purchase that was part of incentives to make the factory attracting to investors.

The NGF team was at the dairy farm in Ikun-Ekiti, which dairy equipment had been rehabilitated in readiness for milk and yoghurt production.

- **Agriculture**

Agriculture, being the mainstay of the majority living in Ekiti State was receiving further growth assistance from the state government. As a measure to combat poverty through making agriculture attractive to the youth, Oni administration initiated Millenium Farmer's Project in Orin-Ekiti.

The Orin Ekiti farm Estate settlement with over 100 housing units for farmers in the estate had been received with about 30 farmers engaged in maize and cassava cultivation, fish farming, poultry and piggery. In 2009, 200 metric tones of fish was invested from the estate while 250 and 300 metric tones of cassava and maize respectively was recorded in 2009.

The state government was encouraging the farmers in the project with ~~₦10,000~~ monthly stipend while each of them was provided with motorcycles. Many more youths were expected to join in the scheme.

In addition to the government poverty alleviation scheme, a total sum of ₦2billion had been approved as soft loans disbursable through micro-finance banks to assist small scale business owners in Ekiti State.

Administration and Sustainability

▪ Due Process

Though, the state government observed due process in its award of contracts, the bills on public procurement and fiscal responsibility act were said to be before the State House of Assembly.

▪ The Judiciary Legislature

According to Mr. Dare Bejide, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), the state government had not been interfering in the administration of the judiciary, and the legislative arms of the government as both organs enjoyed financial autonomy and had an assured freedom from the executive interference.

▪ Youth and Sports Development

Oni administration was committed to the development of sports and recreation facilities in Ekiti State to encourage the youth in the state to engage in meaningful productive activities that could enhance their creative potentials.

It was in view of youth development that the present administration awarded contract for the rehabilitation and expansion of sporting facilities at the Oluyemi Kayode Stadium, Ado-Ekiti. The 6000 capacity stadium, which rehabilitation project started in March 2009, according to Dr. Rufus Ajayi, Commissioner for Sports, would be completed with astro-turf football pitch and tartan track. The project cost was initially ₦813million which had been revised upward with additional ₦200million.

Similarly, 4Nos tennis courts and 2Nos training pitches with parking lots and spectator stand had been completed within Fountain Hotel premises. The project cost ~~N~~310million.