



**MINISTRY OF WORKS,  
ASABA.**

**MINISTERIAL PRESS BRIEFING**

**BY**

**MR. PAUL OSAJI**

**HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER**



**MARCH 2009**

**A PRESS BRIEFING ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS BY THE HON. COMMISSIONER FOR WORKS MR PAUL OSAJI AT THE COUNCIL HALL, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, ASABA, ON MARCH 18, 2009**

**Gentlemen of the Press,**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

I have the great pleasure to address you this morning on the activities and achievements of the Ministry of Works and its plans and programmes for the future of our dear state.

As you are no doubt aware, the Ministry plays a pivotal role in the achievement of the roads/transportation infrastructural development policy of the 3-point Agenda of the Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan's Administration as it is the technical arm of the State Government responsible for formulation and implementation of civil engineering works which entail:

- planning,
- design,
- construction,
- supervision,
- certification,
- monitoring,
- maintenance
- re-appraisal

The civil engineering projects include roads, airports, bridges, sewerage and drainage schemes, waterways structure including foreshore walls, flood and erosion control facilities. In addition, the Ministry renders professional technical services on engineering to other MDAs (Ministries, Departments and Agencies)

This Ministry has seven departments comprising four professional engineering departments and three service departments. It also has field offices located at the headquarters of each of the 25 local government areas of the state.

The activities of the Ministry are traditionally categorised under two sectors of the State Capital Budget, and operated under three Sub-Sectors. The Sectors are Economic and Environment and the Sub-Sectors are Transport, Sewerage and Drainage, Urban and Regional Planning.

## **2.0 PROJECTS STATUS OVERVIEW.**

The Ministry has carried out a lot of infrastructural development especially in the areas of highway construction, airport, urban road development, sewerage and drainage schemes, and waterways structures.

In its avowed commitment to complete all ongoing projects and initiation of new ones, this administration has the following projects to its credit:

- completion of over 483.67km of trunk roads;
- completion 93.55km of Urban and Township roads;
- award of contract for the construction of another 51.52km of urban roads have been achieved since the inception of this administration;

- In addition, it has completed one major bridge project [**Okpare-Olomu bridge and access road**] while two others are at various stages of completion [**TransWarri-Ode-Itsekiri Bridge and Roads and Agbarho-Okan Junction Road and Bridges – 95%**];
- Also 669.02km of drainage works are under contract out of which 424.79km has been completed;
- We have a total commitment of over 123.43billion naira for the construction of roads, airport, bridges, drainage channels, jetties and foreshore walls.

It is important to note that road/transportation infrastructure development is capital intensive and most of the projects have been planned on rolling basis.

### **3.0 ROAD DEVELOPMENT**

In a bid to promote socio-economic activities within the state and beyond, improve intercity transportation and ensure better access to rural communities, the state government carried out the construction/reconstruction and rehabilitation of a number of trunk roads, rural access roads and township roads throughout the state including the dualisation of a number of highways and township roads. For clarity and quick appreciation of our roads/transportation infrastructure development program we have broken down the issues as such.

### **3.1 TRUNK ROADS AND RURAL ACCESS ROADS**

The Ministry embarked on the construction and rehabilitation of a number of state roads as well as completion of other on-going road projects across the state. Efforts are geared towards providing access to towns and cities with more emphasis on areas where none existed before now.

It is important to note that in constructing trunk roads, deliberate efforts have been made to connect as many communities as possible along the routes. Substantial progress has been made in the completion of on-going projects in this sub sector and new ones some of which are listed below have been embarked upon:

#### **3.1.1 SAPELE-ABIGBORODO-AROWON ROAD**

This 11.3 km project was awarded in 2008 at a cost of over 3 billion naira with a 24 months completion. It is meant to open the agrarian communities along this route and ensure that their farm produce and other products get to the markets on time. Work on the road as at today is ongoing as clearing is almost completed and sharp sand fill has started.

#### **3.1.2 KOKO-UBA-EGBELEMEJI ROAD**

This 3.6 km project was awarded in September, 2008 at a cost of about 397 million naira as one of the link roads to open up the rural communities and provide quick access to their various markets. It is specifically targeted at the enormous timber and forest resources along the Benin-Ossiomu River and will provide favourable environment for various cottage industries to thrive especially as it is close to the proposed Export Processing Zone at Koko. Work is ongoing at this road project and sharp sand fill and laying of crushed stone base are almost completed.

### **3.1.3 GBAREGOLOR-OGRIAGBENE ROAD.**

This 20 km road project was awarded in 2007 at a cost of over 7 billion naira. As a result of the peculiar nature of the terrain, clearing work is still on-going while fine aggregate fill and cement stabilisation work has started. Work has reached about 23% completion. It is hoped that the project would be completed within the next one year.

### **3.1.4 ISSELE-UKU-OKUNZU-OBOMKPA-IDUMU-OGO-ISSELE-UKU ROAD**

This 33km road project costs about 1.7 billion naira. **The first phase [about 10km]** was commissioned by His Excellency, the Governor late last year. The overall percentage completion of the entire project as at today is about **40%**. Asphalt and drainage work are presently going on. It is expected to be completed later this year.

## **3.2 TOWNSHIP ROADS.**

The Ministry embarked on the improvement of township or intercity road networks in major towns and cities across the State in the period under review. In this regard, emphasis was placed on link roads, access roads to densely populated areas as well as new layouts. In line with the policy of the administration, premium has been put on completion of all on-going township road projects inherited while a sizeable number of new projects have been awarded throughout the state since May 2008. A total of 245.4km of township roads was inherited and about 84km has been completed. As mentioned earlier, 51.52 km of urban roads have been awarded since the inception of Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan's Administration.

It is pertinent to state that we have aggressively started a crusade on slums renewals with the pilot scheme at Cable Point, Asaba (a blighted area). This program will continue in other such areas of the state.

### **3.2.1. DUALISATION OF TOWNSHIP ROADS**

The Ministry continued work on a number of road dualisation projects in Warri, Effurun and Ughelli which it inherited. This laudable policy will modernise the roads/transportation infrastructure in the towns, improve traffic flow and reduce man-hour loss due to road congestion. A cursory look at the status report on roads/transportation development in this sector is stated hereunder:

NO	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
1	DUALISATION OF AJAMIMUOGHA/EKPAN/OKERE ROAD, WARRI	ONGOING
2	DUALISATION OF BOWEN/ODION ROAD, WARRI	ONGOING
3	DUALISATION OF CEMETERY ROAD, WARRI	ONGOING
4	DUALISATION OF PTI/JAKPA ROAD, EFFURUN	ONGOING
5	DUALISATION OF UGHELLI ARTERIAL ROAD, UGHELLI	ONGOING
6	DUALISATION OF LINK ROAD TO WARRRI STADIUM	ONGOING
7	DUALISATION OF LINK ROAD FROM BENIN/WARRI ROAD TO JESSE	ONGOING
8	DUALISATION OF DECO/OKUMAGBA ROAD, WARRI	ONGOING

Further highlights of some of these projects are given hereunder:

### **3.2.1.1 DUALISATION OF UGHELLI ARTERIAL ROAD.**

This Road is targeted to open up Ughelli town from the Ughelli-Patani Highway axis and enhance free flow of traffic in the town. The project, which costs over 6 billion naira has a total length of 7.2 kilometres, has reached over 60% completion. It is being pursued vigorously for early completion.

### **3.2.1.2 DUALISATION OF AJAMIMUOGHA-EKPEN-OKERE ROAD/BOWEN-ODION ROAD/CEMENTERY ROAD, WARRI**

These 4.85 km road projects with a combined cost of 2.29 billion naira are part of the series of the Ministry's effort aimed at decongesting traffic flash points in Warri and environs and also improve the economic fortune of the town. As at now, construction works on these projects have reached an advanced stage. It is hope that the project will be completed before the end of this year.

### **3.2.1.3 DUALISATION OF PTI/JAKPA ROAD**

The state government embarked on the construction of this 9.6 km road project to improve free flow of traffic in and out of Warri/Effurun metropolis. Construction work is in progress on this 3.276 billion naira project. The project has reached very advanced stage with over 90% of the road thoroughfare completed. It is expected to be completed later this year.

In furtherance of this government's policies, Dr, Uduaghan's led administration recently awarded the following projects:

- Dualisation of Old Lagos/Asaba Axial Road, Agbor
- Widening/Dualisation of Enerhen/Udu Road – project is at advanced stage of completion



## **4.0 DUALISATION OF HIGHWAYS**

The Ministry in line with government's policy of revamping the economic potentials of the state has embarked on the dualisation of many highways to promote economic activities and improve traffic flow in the state. At present, the state government is dualising a total of 192.1km of trunk roads throughout the state with lay-byes, bus stops, pedestrian crossovers, side walks, street lights within the urban areas,

These roads include:

### **4.1 DUALISATION OF UGHELLI- ASABA ROAD**

This road project, which is a mega project is 148.9km long and is split into three different sectors. Clearing work has since commenced at the three different sectors.

### **4.2 UGBENU-KOKO ROAD**

As you aware, the state government intends to establish an Export processing Zone in Koko and to improve traffic flow and modernise road infrastructure in the town, the state has therefore awarded a contract for the dualisation of 33km Ugbenu-Koko Road valued at about 11.2 billion naira. This road when completed will ensure free movement of goods and services from the seaport to any part of the country. The project has a 24 months completion period.

## **5.0 BRIDGES**

In its determined effort to integrate the riverine areas of the state, improve the socio-economic and political lives of the people and bring governance nearer to our people, the state government embarked on the construction of various sizes of bridges to provide access to the swampy and riverine areas in Bomadi, Burutu, Ndokwa East, Ughelli South, Warri South and Okpe Local Government areas. Some of these are:

### **5.1 OKPARE-OLOMU BRIDGE AND ACCESS ROAD**

This 1.7 billion naira bridge project was awarded in 2006 to link communities in Ughelli North and South and to provide easy access to people going to Warri and Port-Harcourt from this axis. It was completed in November, 2008 and put to use. It has improved the socio-economic lives of the people of this area.

### **5.2 RECONSTRUCTION OF AGBARHO-OKAN JUNCTION, WARRI/EKU ROAD (WITH 2 BRIDGES).**

This 1.0 km road and bridge project was awarded in 2001 and reviewed in 2008. It is to serve as a link road to Agbarho and to open up the various communities in that area. It has two bridges and it is virtually completed [95%] and put into use.

### **5.3. TRANS WARRI/ODE-ITSEKIRI ROADS AND BRIDGES**

This road and navigational bridge project awarded at 25.3 billion naira was started in 2007 and it is meant to open up the vast coastal area across the Warri river and provide access to many communities along this axis which will bring development closer to the people. The project is about 47 kilometres with 25 bridges and culverts. As at today, most of the access roads and some bridges have been completed. The contractor is about to embark on the construction of roads at Ode-Itsekiri. The major bridge across Warri River is being studied. Approval has already been obtained from the Nigeria ports Authority to implement the construction works. 15% of the construction work scope has been completed.

## **6.0 MAINTENANCE**

The ministry's concerted efforts in line with the current government agenda, has strengthened the directorate of road maintenance to face the challenges of ensuring pot hole free road network. Equally, the vegetation control unit is being set up to address the negative effect of vegetation growth on our roads and its attendant safety issues. In the mean time, we have acquired three sets of **vegetation control equipments/vehicles**. This unit when operational will work all through the year to maintain uncontrolled vegetation growth on our roads. It is pertinent to note that this administration has intensified its efforts to ensure that road marking and solar studs form an integral part of road construction for the safety of motorists and other road users. **Pilot road markings** have been done at Asaba and Warri. Ladies and gentlemen of the press, it may interest you to note that we made budgetary provisions for these.

## **7.0. DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN FOR ASABA AND WARRI.**

As you aware and as a result of global warming, flooding has become a serious problem in major towns and cities of the world inclusive of our state. The state government has decided to carry out survey and design of drainage master plans for most of the major cities and towns in the state starting with Asaba and Warri. . This will help to provide a permanent solution to the flooding and erosion menace in these towns and also allow the state carry out the construction of proper drainage channels for these cities.

## 7.1. ASABA DRAINAGE

In recognition of the devastation of flood and erosion in the state capital during the rainy season, the state government will this fiscal year complete the construction of ongoing underground conduits in the state capital and embark on new ones. In line with this, survey and design for the construction of Drainage from Core Area [DBS] to Anwai River has been completed. Construction work will commence this fiscal year. The project which cost is put at over one billion naira will properly channel flood water from this area to the Anwai river using both surface and underground conduit. The state government is partnering with The Central Bank of Nigeria on this project.

## 8.0 STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING STANDARDS

To ensure best practices and standards in roads/transportation infrastructure delivering, the Ministry embarked on the construction of a **soil test laboratory** to ensure quality control during road construction. In a complementary move, the ministry has already awarded contract for the supply of laboratory equipments and the facility will soon be put into use. Also, to enhance the quality of our road construction, the ministry has insisted that all projects are properly conceptualised and monitored during construction. In this direction, the ministry has set up an **in-house design office** to take care of the design of minor road projects while that of major road projects are outsourced to external consultants to handle with the ministry giving its input.

For us to enhance project supervision, reporting and monitoring, the Ministry in this fiscal year will establish its **website and web portal system** to ensure that all its activities are accessible online and real time. Also information on its projects will be put online for all Deltans to access. This will improve relations between the state government, ministry, communities and contractors as frictions will be quickly attended to and progress of execution can be traced online and real time.

The State Government has observed that a number of contracts awarded are not receiving the desired attention from the contractors and are not being executed on schedule and in accordance with project specifications. Accordingly, the ministry has taken steps and six of such contracts have been **revoked on the ground of repudiation**. Some others are currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice. Revoked contracts will be re-awarded to enable benefiting communities reap the full dividends of government programmes.

## **9.0 SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

The Ministry procured some special projects which are under Special Project Directors appointed by the state government. The special projects are as follows:

- I. Trans – Warri/Ode – Itsekiri Bridges and Access Roads awarded to Messrs Setraco Nig. Limited at a contract sum of **N25, 377,764,299.57** on **22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2006** has several bridges and spurs. The contract is about **15%** completed and the contractor is on site.
- II. Asaba Airport Project, awarded to Messrs ULO Consultants Ltd at a contract sum of **N6, 477,907,484.81**. The contractor is on site and has

achieved about **55%** overall job completion under the monitoring of The Project Monitoring Team (PMT) comprising all professional Ministries related to the project: Works, Housing, Energy, Economic Planning and Water Resources

- III. Construction of Okerenkoko – Pepe – Ama and kokodiagbene Road is located in the Gbaramatu area of the State was awarded to Messrs Woksons International Limited on **22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2007** at the contract sum of **N9, 816,511,054.35**.
- IV. Construction of Ubafan – Inikorogha – Azama – New Jerusalem Zion – Oporoza – Opedebuodo – Okpele – Ama – Ikpokpo – Madangho Road is also located in the Gbaramatu area of the State and is equally awarded to Messrs Woksons Int'l Limited on **22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2007** at a contract sum of **N11, 532,323,588.63**.
- V. Ughelli – Asaba Dualisation is **148.9Km** long and was split into three different sectors as follows:
  - a. **Sector A**, awarded to Messrs Woksons Int'l Limited at the contract sum of **N15,342,450,642.75**.
  - b. **Sector B**, awarded to Messrs CCC Construction Company Ltd. at the contract sum of **N15,285,998,562.45**.
  - c. **Sector C**, awarded to Messrs U.L.O. Consultants Ltd at the contract sum of **N16,174,904,499.60**.

## **10.0 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS.**

This department in addition to its traditional function of preparing, planning annual capital budgets/reports also serves as the secretariat of the Ministerial/Departmental Tenders Board. Between January and December, 2008, it processed and awarded 51 contracts to the tune of 1.3 billion naira.

The sum of 830,000.00 thousand naira was collected as processing fees in 2008.

## **11.0 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**

In the period under review, the ministry promoted 18 senior and 3 junior staff while 5 officers retired from the service. In addition, the ministry procured in 2008 various office items such as air-conditioners, computer sets, etc, to the tune of 5.526 million naira.

## **12.0 CONCLUSION.**

We are delighted to be partners in the success story of infrastructural development being championed by His Excellency Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan. It is on record that Delta State Government has demonstrated more commitment to the construction of roads and bridges than any other State Government in the country within the last one year. Some of these projects when completed will have unparalleled impact on the economy of not just Delta State but the entire country in general.

I salute the vision, clear focus and exemplary leadership style of our Governor and his massive support for the Ministry's giant strides in roads/transportation infrastructure development.

Finally, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I want to seize this opportunity to thank you all, members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm for the coverage and publicity you have always given to our activities.

I entreat you to continue in your good work of being partners in progress with the Ministry in the delivery of democracy dividends to our people.

Thank you for your patience.

May God bless you all.

**MINISTRY OF WORKS, ASABA.**

**MARCH, 2009.**