

I really want to appreciate the efforts of the state government in ensuring that children are recognised in ~~the~~ very significant ways. This is a step ahead of what was. We're now in the era of what is, and what is, is good for ~~us~~ us.

GOODWILL MESSAGE OF THE SPEAKER EKITI STATE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
AT A MEETING OF THE STATE STAKEHOLDERS
PEER REVIEW MACHANISM HELD AT THE ADETILOYE HALL, TRADE FAIR
COMPLEX IYIN ROAD ADO-EKITI ON 10th 11 NOVEMBER, 2011

Thank you,
Mr Governor

PROTOCOL

Miracle centres

I'm sure a lot of stakeholders are present

This for me as a
child is governance
at its' best.

I consider it a great privilege to be in this gathering with people from various fields and works of life, to discuss the very vital and un-ignorable issue of the progress of our state and our contributions as key role players. I am particularly delighted, that in such an important issue of state, children are being involved, in what is a crucial decision making process. If records be checked, I believe it is the first of it's sort in our state, this further strengthens the active participation of children in issues of state, which directly or indirectly affects us.

2. The instrument of government/governance is a very important one in any society. For those who understand the concept of governance, it is very clear, that governing a state, region or a province is not about the leaders alone, but it is inclusive of the active involvement and participation of the various arms of society in contributing their quota towards a common goal and interest: 'The progress and rapid development of the society'.
3. It is a great task that has been committed into our hands; 'to review the activities of government in the last one year and identify areas of best practices, so as to replicate these in other states of the country for even development'. But I dare say, that we are not just here to identify 'areas of best practices' only, but to also point out the areas where there is, indeed, enough space for improvement.
4. It is a call of duty by our fatherland, to be pioneers in charting a way forward for the individual and collective progress of our state, states and nation as a whole. From the sensitization programme which was held two weeks ago, it is very clear that we have three main objectives, spread across ten areas of assessment and numerous rewards/benefits, derivable from the State Peer Review Mechanism. To fulfill these, government has faithfully and dutifully ensured that participants are drawn from all aspects of the society, including the seemingly insignificant. It is therefore not a coincidence, that we are all here today, but just as it is boldly stated in the Nigerian pledge, that we should serve Nigeria with all our strength, our gathering here today, as stakeholders, is a service to our country, yet, even greater is our purpose for being gathered today,
5. It is my very strong opinion, that everyone who has accepted and honored this call, has become a decision and policy maker in the state, and the conclusions we reach today, are sure to go a very long way in having a lasting impact on the lives of people, and various aspects in our nation.

6. I urge therefore, that in making our contributions and decisions, caution must be applied, selfish opinions and biased statements should be completely avoided. We must not hesitate to make useful contribution and share vital information. WE will do well not to limit our views, but to broaden our horizons and deliver the great possibilities that accrue from unity of purpose in such a forum as this. Since we have been called upon from various fields and areas of expertise, let us bring our wealth of experience and store of Knowledge to significantly bear on this process. It will be good to keep it at the back of our mind, that this is not a programme Initiated by one man. The SPRM is designed by the NGF and DFID. Ekiti state, due to the tireless effort of the Dr. Fayemi led administration over the period of one year, has been given the Honour and privilege of being pioneers of the SPRM.
7. May I at this point, commend the effort of the Ministry of Integration and Intergovernmental Affairs, in ensuring proper sensitization for this programme. It wouldn't have been possible, without Knowing /understanding the purpose of our gathering.
8. Highly esteemed participants, I want to state clearly, that this forum is a giant leap that will mark the beginning of a series of change in our nation. Be rest assured that our discussions within this period will be exciting and fruitful. This forum will be an eye opener, towards the immense possibilities that are achievable, when Government actively involves stakeholders and grassroots in quality decision making process. Even more exciting is the fact that even the contributions of children here will travel across borders to impact on societies both large and small. I therefore wish to plead for your effective participation and contribution at this meeting, to ensure that acceptable decisions are reached.
9. On this note I believe that our hearts are fully prepared for the task ahead of us.

Long live Ekiti State

Long Federal Republic Nigeria.

Thank you and God bless.