

**BRIEF ON ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN
AFFAIRS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL
WELFARE**

1.0 PROFILE AND MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Development and Social Welfare was created on November 7, 1997 following a Federal Government directive as the then Women Commission had since then the Ministry has been seeing to the general well-being of the people, and in particular, vulnerable members of the society.

For ease of operation, the Ministry currently has five (05) Departments with a staff strength of 201, as at today working to achieve the aims and objectives of Government in establishing it.

It would be pertinent to mention that about 5% of the members of staff are physically challenged, while the remaining 95% are able bodied.

The Departments are:

- (i) Women Programme
- (ii) Social Welfare
- (iii) Child Welfare
- (iv) Community Development
- (v) Finance and Administration

In order to fully and effectively capture the aims and objectives of setting up the Ministry. The relevant arms of the Ministry frequently interact with the grassroots and various communities who are the targets of the various programmes. This enables us to have first hand information on areas of need as it affords proper planning.

2.0 SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

This department has the responsibility of providing family welfare services for families in distress, delinquent and maladjusted youths through preventive, institutional and curative programmes and rehabilitation services for disabled persons, destitute and other disadvantaged people in the State. These activities of the department are carried out through the rehabilitation homes and counseling centres which are spread throughout the State and the four (04) operational Offices located at Iyaganku for Ibadan/Ibarapa Zone, Akunlemu area for Oyo zone, Oja-Igbo in Ogbomoso Zone and Saki West Secretariat in Saki Zone.

2.1 Family Welfare Services

The services under this programme include Counseling and Reconciliation (in matrimonial disharmony), Juvenile Welfare Service, Care of the Elderly, provision of Care and protection for rescued abandoned children and grants to indigent parents of multiple births.

2.1.1 Counseling and Reconciliation of Matrimonial Disharmony

At the four (04) Zonal Offices of Social Welfare in the State, a total number of 3,426 cases of counseling and matrimonial disharmonies were treated in the last three (03) years.

Out of the 3,426 cases, 2,147 cases of matrimonial disharmony were reconciled out of court, 408 cases of delinquent children were re-united with their families.

2.1.2 Juvenile Welfare Services/Juvenile Remand Home

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A total number of 104 children have passed through the Juvenile Remand Home in the last 3 years. They were brought to the home through rescue operations from the streets by the police, court decisions and advice of the social welfare zonal offices. Seventy-six (76) children of the home were repatriated to their various States of origin and those of Oyo State were re-integrated with their respective families.

2.1.3 Provision of Care and Protection for Rescued Abandoned

Children

The Ministry responds promptly to calls of the society for the rescue of babies and children abandoned on the streets and other places. Care and protection of the children are provided at the State owned Child Care Unit of the Juvenile Remand Home, Ijokodo.

A total number of 82 children have passed through the unit in the last 3 years. The Children were released for further care through local adoption.

2.2. Child Adoption

The Children and Young Persons Law of Oyo State makes provision for the commitment of abandoned children in-need of care and protection to fit persons, who are referred to as adopters or foster parents.

2.2.1 *Local Adoption of children

A total number of 82 children were released on adoption to adopters, within the State in the last three years whereas there are more requests for child adoption than the number of children available.

2.2.2 *Inter-country Adoption.

This administration approved, in February, 2010 the release of children who are hitherto considered as “unadoptable” locally, to be released for inter-country adoption. It is with a view to sourcing for foster parents

who will provide relevant medical treatment, love and much needed affection for such children.

2.3 Care of the Elderly

To demonstrate its respect for the senior and elderly citizens in the State, this administration approved and released fund for the establishment of a Day Care Centre for the Elderly located at 8, Osunade Street, Off Kunle Abass, New Bodija, Ibadan. The purpose of the centre is to provide for the emotional and physical well-being of the senior citizens in the State.

The Day Care Centre for the elderly provides entertainment (dancing, excursions, games, singing lesson and physiotherapy programmes) for those that patronise the Centre. Plans are in progress to establish such centres at other locations in the State.

2.3.1 Relief and Rehabilitation of the Disabled

The State Government provides relief and rehabilitation for the Disabled through institutional trainings, community-based apprenticeship and production of artificial limbs.

Maintenance of institutions for the Disabled

(i) Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled, Moniya, Ibadan was established in 1989 and became operational in 1990. It has been providing residential Vocational trainings for youths who are physically- challenged

and those who have developmental problems. The number of trainees at the centre is 56.

(ii) **Nigeria Training Centre for the Blind, Ogbomoso (NTCB)**

This Centre has been furnished with equipment of various kinds worth over N5m, while the fencing of the centre has been completed for the safety of the trainees and Care-givers.

(iii) **Community Based Vocational Rehabilitation (CBVR)**

Programme

This programme was established to provide vocational training through apprenticeship for the physically- challenged persons within their respective localities of abode, as against training in Institutions.

The programme was moribund for some years before it was resuscitated in year 2009.38 trainees, spread over 19 Local Government Areas of the State are undergoing apprenticeship trainings in vocations of their choice. The vocation chosen by the beneficiaries include soap-making, tailoring/fashion design, computer/photocopy, shoe making among others.

2.3.2 Provision of Artificial Limbs:-

The State Government, since it came to power has been giving comfort and support to the less privileged and the disabled persons in the society. To this end, the State Government released funds for distribution of one hundred (100) artificial limbs to about one hundred (100) amputees.

(i) **Rehabilitation of Mentally Deranged institutions and Homes**

For the time being, this assignment is carried out in conjunction with two (02) Non-governmental Organisation in the State. Reported cases of violent mentally-deranged and destitute constituting nuisance to the tranquility of the environment were evacuated from the streets of Ibadan metropolis and kept in the Rehabilitation Centres of such Non-Governmental Organisations, for medical treatment and stability of mind.

2.4 **Support of Ex-Servicemen**

2.4.1 **Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration**

From year 2007 till date, the State government did not fail to mark the Armed Forces remembrance Day with a –Week long programme. The Celebrations were organized to honour the fallen national war heroes, raise fund for the maintenance of their widows and children and support the disabled (halcad) ex-servicemen. Serving and ex-servicemen collaborate with the Ministry to organize the programme every year.

2.4.2 **Grants to the Nigerian Legion**

Since year 2007, the State Government has been releasing annually the sum of N3million as grant to the Nigerian Legion, Oyo State Command. The fund is for the execution of its annual Local Government programmes, maintenance of offices at State and Local Government Areas and to carry out its national assignments.

2.5 Celebration of International Day of the Disabled

Since its inception the present administration in Oyo State never failed to mark the International Day of the Disabled on 3rd December, every year.

2.6 Proposed Asylum Project

The State Government approved, in May, 2010, a sum of money to prepare a temporary site for an Asylum project in the State. The Ministry is in the course of achieving this with a view to mopping up lunatics dotting our streets

3.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:-

In order to encourage massive development through the provision of basic social development of Local Communities, the department of Community Development co-ordinates all the socio-economic activities at the grass root level throughout the State in the following areas.

3.1 Self Help Unit:-

Over 1,000 self-help projects being supervised by the Ministry are on-going in the 33 Local Government areas of the State.

3.2 Integrated Rural Development:-

Oyo State Government creates job opportunities in the rural areas, through donation of machines, tools and cottage industries. Fund has been released by the State Government towards empowering the people in

the rural areas economically. To this end, palm oil processors have been donated to eight (8) Pilot Villages in the State.

They are:

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|--------|------------|----|----------------------|
| (i) | Ayetoro | in | Afijio Local Govt. |
| ii) | Olubi | in | Oluyole Local Govt. |
| (iii) | Arikuyeri | in | Lagelu Local Govt. |
| (iv) | Lademo | in | Ona-ara Local Govt. |
| (v) | Ahoro-Dada | in | Oriire Local Govt. |
| (vi) | Sabe | in | Atisbo Local Govt. |
| (vii) | Elebekebe | in | Surulere Local Govt |
| (viii) | Idi-Iya | in | Oyo East Local Govt. |

However, it is gratifying to note that I commissioned the Elebekebe Pilot Village in Surulere Local Government and Idi-Iya Pilot Village in Oyo East Local Government Areas in June, 2010.

As a result of this assistance, the programme has greatly promoted cohesion, job opportunity, emotional stability and improved living conditions of the people.

3.3 Project Support Communication Unit(Agbajo-Owo):

This is a Radio and TV Programme , which serves as an avenue for mobilizing and sensitizing people for self-awareness and self-reliance

The specific activity of the Centre includes advocacy for breast feeding and Early Childhood Care and Education. The State Government continues to support the two institutions through promotion of exclusive breast feeding and promotion of Early Childhood Education and Care for children of pre-school age.

4.2 Distribution and Implementation of the Child Rights Law to all Local Government Areas of the State

Oyo State is one of the States of the Federation that has domesticated the Child Rights Act and passed it into Law. Similarly, the State Ministry of Justice has simplified the Child Rights Law, with a view to distributing it to all relevant Stakeholders. The Ministry monitors the Local Government Child Rights Committee to ensure implementation of the contents of Child Rights Law.

4.3 State Children's Parliament

Similarly, the present Administration approved the Establishment of the State Children's Parliament consisting of 40 members. The State Government released funds for its continuity and sustenance. The second sitting of the State Children's Parliament for this year was held at Ogbomoso from 28th – 30th July, 2010. This activity is aimed at encouraging our children to create interest in the political life of our nation.

4.4 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

In order to assist Orphans and Vulnerable Children, the Ministry has carried out some relevant activities for the benefit of orphaned and helpless children. Trainings were organized for OVC care-givers, where 90 care-givers of the HIV/AIDS orphaned children benefited of the vocational training in bead-making, tie & dye and soap-making. The maiden edition of Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Day was organized in the State on 7th May 2010. Various food items and toiletries were given to this category of Children through their co-ordinators.

The Department also held meetings with the coordinators of Orphanages in the State as well as undertook inspection of these Orphanages to ensure that proper care is given to these children.

4.5 Anti-human Trafficking:

In her bid to eradicate the scourge of human trafficking, the State Government facilitated the donation of one-storey building within the premises of the Social Development Training Centre, Samonda, Ibadan to serve as a rescue centre for rescued trafficked victims in the State. So far, children who were rescued from various parts of the country had been re-integrated into their various homes in the State.

5.0 WOMEN PROGRAMME DEPARTMENT

The Women Programme Department of this Ministry is saddled

with the responsibility of providing skills acquisition programmes to women in the State to empower them economically towards self-reliance, increase women's participation in decision making process through capacity building; discourage all forms of discriminatory acts against women and also to facilitate access to soft loan for women in order to enhance socio-economic ventures among others.

The Department carry out its function through the following Avenue;

5.1 Vocational Training

A lot of Women and Young Ladies were trained in various vocations like: tie and dye, soap making, bead making, hat making etc at Oyo, Ogbomoso, Saki and Ibadan/Ibarapa zones of the State.

Thousands of women were also trained in candle making, nylon making, cream, soap etc. by this department in collaboration with MF.7 consultant.

5.2 Procurement of Equipment to Women Training Centres:

Equipment like gas cooker, cylinder, sewing machines, deep freezers, fryers etc. worth One Million Naira (N1,000,000,00) were distributed to Oyo and Ogbomoso Women Training Centres.

5.3 Micro-Credit Loan Scheme:

The State Government assisted some Women under this Scheme:

5.4 Widowhood Loan Scheme

Widows in the State benefited from Widowhood Loan Scheme of the State Government, to start up a small business or improve their trading activities. To a large extent, it is aimed at improving the economic empowerment of the beneficiaries.

5.5 Centre for Women Development Project:

The Centre for Women Development Project at Samonda Ibadan was initiated in 1991 but was abandoned in 1993.

However, the present Administration led by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of the State, Otunba (Dr) Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala had approved and released fund for the continuation of the project. It is worthy of note to state that the phase 1 of this project which comprises the wall fence, Gate house, Dormitory and Auditorium are nearing completion.

5.6 Collaboration With NGOs

The State Government gave financial assistance to viable Non-Governmental Organizations in the State.

5.7 Advocacy/MDGS Programmes:

A lot of women participated in various sensitization programmes, such as reduction of maternal mortality rate, discouraging female genital mutilation and reduction on rape cases.

5.8 Collaboration with Market Leaders Advisory Council:

Sensitization programme held at Alesinloye Market, and House of Chiefs, Secretariat, Ibadan for Market Leaders in the State to ensure peace amongst themselves and their communities.

The wife of the Governor, Chief (Mrs.) Oluwakemi Alao-Akala inaugurated the Market Leaders Advisory Council on 21st December, 2009

6.0 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

6.1 Workshop, training and seminars:

The present Administration since inception has been spending huge amounts of money on training programmes designed for all categories of workers. This is with a view to motivating Civil Servants in the State to perform better.

6.2 Provision of Vehicles and office equipment:

The present Administration in her bid to improve the productivity of workers has been making provisions for office equipments where need be. In my Ministry, the Government provided the following equipments; Purchase of two (2) brand new buses and seven (7) brand new cars and equipment such as, Computer set and accessories, photocopiers, generators, CTV monitor, Bulk purchase of stationery, installation of Burglary Proofs in some offices.

6.6 Conclusion:

Finally, to end this briefing, I sincerely wish to express my gratitude to our Executive Governor, His Excellency, Otunba (Dr.) Christopher Adebayo Alao Akala (JP) psc for his unalloyed support to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Development and Social Welfare in the execution of all her programmes and projects, without which we would not have been able to reach the less privileged in the State. I wish you journey mercies to your various destinations.

“Long live Oyo State”.

“Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria”.

I thank you all for listening.