

ONDO STATE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

Ondo empowers market women with N100m, commences work on Akure roads

As the administration of the Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko clocks one year old; over five thousand market women across the eighteen Local Government areas have benefited from its **N100million** Micro Credit Loan within the period.

Also, the State government will, within the first quarter of this year, extend the empowerment Scheme to artisans through the granting of loans to boost their trade.

Governor Olusegun Mimiko said this during the presentation of cheques to market Women under the Special Market Women Improvement Loan Empowerment Scheme in Akure at the weekend.

Dr. Mimiko described street and road side trading as injurious to the State's urban renewal efforts and a major cause of avoidable road accidents on the State's urban roads.

This, he explained, led to the establishment of two Neighbourhood Markets in Akure due for commissioning this week to accommodate roadside traders while similar markets would be built in cities such Ikare, Ondo, Owo and Okitipupa in due course.

The governor further said his administration is planning to turn Akure into a model City within the next six months and make Market women economically active and viable through concrete development efforts.

Dr. Mimiko, who expressed dissatisfaction with the take over of asphalted link roads between Oba Adesida and Arakale roads in the State Capital, said work, would soon start on the ever busy Arakale road in order to have two axial roads in Akure.

The governor lauded the success of the first phase of the Loan Scheme enthusing that beneficiaries have utilized the seed-fund effectively to enhance their commercial activities which he noted would eventually in the long run lead to lower cost of food in the State.

He added that the gains from the initiative will make more people have access to local food production and appealed to beneficiaries of the first and second phases to pay back within the tenure of the loan to allow others to benefit.

In her address, the Chairman of Ondo State Micro Credit Agency, Mrs. Adenike Ademujimi said the loan would help the market women expand their business for a better livelihood, wealth creation and employment generation in the State.

She explained that the scheme was introduced as part of major ways to combat poverty among the weakest and vulnerable segment of our society.

Kolawole Olabisi

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