

Ondo's new emergency medical service to tackle deaths on roads

by Sade Oguntola, Tribune

From left; Dr Cecilia Babalola; Ondo state governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko and leader of the Medical Mission of Mercy team, Dr Franklin Adekoye at the opening of the free free tests and medical care in Ondo town, recently.



Ondo State governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has announced the commencement of emergency medical services to bring succor to victims of road traffic accidents, which is currently the greatest killer of people within the productive age group.

Dr Mimiko, while speaking at the opening of the medical mission organised by African Business Owners Forum International (ABOFI) in Ondo, expressed concern that road traffic accidents had killed more people than cancer and other non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

According to him, issues of appropriate first aid and prompt access to the hospital was central to the survival of accident victims and this could only be possible where there was an effective emergency care service.

The governor stated that the modern trauma centre being planned for each senatorial district would have the state-of-the-art equipment and would be manned by trauma care experts as well as supported by ambulances that could give emergency care.

According to him, these ambulances which would be reached through dedicated cell phone numbers, would be centrally controlled to ensure that accident sites are located and prompt care is provided through these mobile hospitals at accident sites.

Dr Mimiko, who identified the psychological situation of motor parks as one of the root cause of road traffic accidents, said the state's motor parks were to be modernised to ensure that their rough and disorderly conditions could be reorganised as well as put a lasting solution to sales of alcohol at these parks.

The governor, describing the medical mission organised by ABOFI as a response to the clarion call by the state government for collective development of Ondo State, remarked that the health of the state's citizens was of paramount importance to his administration.

He declared that his government's pragmatic health policy had brought about a significant positive impact on the health care delivery system and the health status of people. This, he said, was possible through such initiatives as the Mother and Child Hospital, Akure (Abiye programme); construction of over 80 basic health centres across the 18 local government areas; and the upgrading of the Millennium Eye Centre, as well as the institution of the festival of surgery and eye camp.

Dr Mimiko declared, “in less than two years of its establishment, the Mother and Child Hospital, Akure, registered more than 16,285 under-5 children, catered for over 12,339 antenatal patients, 5,347 normal deliveries, 1,014 caesarian sections and 3,394 under-five children admissions.”

Earlier, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr Bade Omooloja, stated that people diagnosed with diseases such as hypertension and diabetes at the five-day long free medical outreach would be referred to government hospitals for further medical follow-up.

Leader of the Medical Mission of Mercy and Chairman of ABOFI, Mr Franklin Adekoye, said the team picked the state for its intervention because Ondo State was now a tourist attraction for health care development.

The intervention, whose estimated cost was put at over 20 million naira, had nine doctors and pharmacists collaborating with other Nigerian doctors and nurses to screen people for diseases such as diabetes and hypertension as well as offer them free medicines.