STATE GOVERNMENT OF OSUN

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TEXT OF THE 2nd ANNIVERSARY MINISTERIAL PRESS BRIEFING

BY

HER EXCELLENCY

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THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR

AND

THE COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION,

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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1.0. **Introduction**

1.1. I am particularly happy to address you on this auspicious occasion of this quarter’s Ministerial Press Briefing of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, meant to detail the achievements and challenges of the Ministry, which coincides with the second year anniversary of the Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola’s led Administration. Without doubt, this Administration has demonstrated in no small measure its avowed focus on the provision of functional education to the good people of this state, IPINLE OMOLUABI.

This is in line with the Six-Point Integral Action Plan of the present Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) led Government in the State. Hence education is blazing the trail in the provision of dividends of democracy not only to the pupils/students and their parents alike, but even to the entire populace of Osun. It is therefore not a surprise that tremendous achievements are being recorded by the people-centred administration of Mr. Governor, especially in the education sector.

2.0. Operationally, the Ministry currently has a total of nine (9) departments as listed below:
i. Schools and Special Education;
ii. Curriculum Development and Evaluation;
iii. Inspectorate Services;
iv. Planning, Research and Statistics;
vi. Administration and Supply;
vii. Finance and Accounts;
viii. Osun State Mass Education Agency (OSMEA); and
ix. Computer Services and Information Technology.

3.0. Creation of Education Districts

Prior to November 27, 2010, and till the third quarter of 2012, the Ministry of Education had only one Permanent Secretary. The Aregbesola Administration is pleased to report that it has appointed five additional Permanent Secretaries to strengthen the Ministry and make it more efficient for quality service delivery. Permanent Secretaries have also been appointed for the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the newly created Teachers Establishment and Pension Office (TEPO). Equally, three Tutor Generals/Permanent
Secretaries have been appointed for the newly created three Education Districts.

Until quite recently, the Post-Primary Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM) was charged with the responsibility for the recruitment, deployment, remuneration and discipline of both the teaching and non-teaching staff in the public secondary schools. However, the Aregbesola administration has decentralised TESCOM and has established three (3) Education Districts on the basis of the existing three Senatorial Zones in the State. The new districts are headed by the newly appointed Permanent Secretaries/Tutor-Generals and for an effective spread of dividends of democracy, they are not located in the headquarters of the Senatorial Districts. For Osun Central, the TG/PS is in Ila Oragun, Osun East (Ile-Ife) and Osun West – Ikire. You will recall that the new Tutor-Generals/Permanent Secretaries took their oaths of office on Friday 28th September, 2012. This in a way is a promise kept by Mr. Governor.

These new educational districts have since taken off and before the middle of December, 2012, all assets of the defunct TESCOM will be shared among the Education
Districts while staff will also be deployed appropriately to the Districts. We urge all staff of former TESCOM to embrace this new innovation of the Aregbesola Administration and ensure its success.

4.0. **Creation of Teachers Establishment and Pensions Office (TEPO)**

Another innovation of the Aregbesola Administration in the area of Education is the creation of Teachers Establishment and Pensions Office (TEPO) with the following objectives:

(i) Process retirement benefits for the state post Primary School teachers:

(ii) Issue uniform guidelines to the Education Districts on Appointment, promotion, Discipline, Training and other Establishment matters as directed by the Head of Service;

(iii) Organise Capacity Building/Leadership Management courses for teachers and officers on GL13 and above in the state post Primary Teaching Service;

(iv) Organise subject-based training programmes for teachers on GL07 and above in the state Post Primary
Teaching Service;

(v) Prepare and co-ordinate promotion eligibility list for teachers in all the Education Districts;

(vi) Organise promotion examination for eligible teachers in the Education Districts in order to ensure uniformity of standard;

(viii) Attend all District's Personnel Management Board Meetings on Appointment, Discipline and other Establishment matters so as to ensure compliance with establishment procedure and strict adherence to the provisions of existing rules during deliberations;

(vii) Process and disburse housing loan to deserving teachers;

(ix) Carry out stress-free periodic verification of Teacher Pensioners for the purpose of updating existing records;

(x) Provide welfare packages for Teacher Pensioners.

It is our hope and expectation that TEPO will live up to its mandate and that its officers will be diligent in executing the above lofty goals.

5.0. The New Permanent Secretaries
I wish to seek your indulgence to place on record the individuals who have been appointed as Permanent Secretaries for the Ministry of Education by Ogbeni Aregbesola Administration. These men were found worthy and competent after a rigorous screening/selection exercise. They are Mr Lawrence Oyelade Oyeniran for the main Education Ministry, Mr Fatai Adesina Kolawole for SUBEB, while Mr. Moses Oluwabosola Olayinka is for TEPO.

The Tutor-Generals/Permanent Secretaries are Dr. Bunmi Tubosun Obisesan for Osun Central (Ila-Orangun), Mr Rasheed Kola Buari for Osun East (Ile-Ife) and Mr Olabamiji Adisa for Osun West (Ikire). You will agree with me that these appointments constitute a revolution in the history of education and public administration in the State of Osun since its creation in August 1991. The appointment is not only an opportunity for self actualization and self fulfillment; it is a call to duty to all these officers to raise the bar and standard of education in our state. Ogbeni Aregbesola deserves commendation for making history and for being a man of history.

6.0. State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)
One point which we must note here is that the administration has strengthened the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) with the appointment of a substantive Permanent Secretary as the chief helmsman. As a body, SUBEB is responsible for the administration and supervision of the state-owned One thousand three hundred and seventy-eight (1,378) primary schools with a total enrolment of Three hundred and fifty-seven thousand, five hundred and thirty-three (357,533) pupils, and teaching staff strength of Twelve Thousand, One hundred and eighty-eight (12,188).

Since July 2012, SUBEB has recorded significant achievements in the following areas:

1. Repair and Renovation of the following Rural Schools across the State, namely:
   (i) St. Thomas Primary School, Iwoye Ijesa in Oriade Local Government;
   (ii) St. Stephen Anglican Primary School, Ere Ijesa in Oriade Local Government;
   (iii) Community High School, Igbaye in Odo Ofin Local Government Area;
   (iv) St. John’s Anglican Primary School, Ikinyinwa, Obokun Local Government;
(v) St. John’s Anglican Primary School I, Ikire, Irewole local Government;
(vi) St. John’s Anglican Primary School II, Ikire, Irewole local Government; and
(vii) Baptist Day School Itaasin Area, Modakeke, in Ife East Area Office.

2. Other significant achievements by SUBEB include:
   i. Completion of a “State of the Arts” warehouse and a medium sized hall to serve the twin purpose of storage and training facilities for teaching and non-teaching personnel of the agency.
   ii. Renovation of dilapidated SUBEB Headquarters.
   iii. Participation in National Sporting Competition for primary schools in Port-Harcourt (October, 2012).
   iv. Payment of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Term 2011/2012 Examination Grant to all Public Primary Schools in the State amounting to thirty-six million naira (₦36,000,000.00).
   v. Between July 2012 and now, a total number of Nine Thousand one Hundred (9,100) Public Primary and JSS Teachers were trained under the UBEC Teacher Professional Development Programme (2011, 2012).
vi. On-going recruitment of Three thousand, Two hundred and Thirty (3,230) teachers into the State Public Primary Schools.

vii. Regular payment of salaries and allowances to Staff and Teachers. A total sum of eighteen billion, five hundred and five million, six hundred and twenty-five thousand, seven hundred and fifty-three naira and sixty-eight kobo (#18,505,625,753.68) has been paid between November 2010 and August 2012 as monthly salaries, while a total sum of three hundred and forty-five million, six-hundred and thirteen thousand and sixty-seven naira and thirty-one kobo (#345,613,067.31) has been paid between January and August 2012 as Leave Bonus to staff and teachers.

7.0. Osun Elementary School Feeding and Health Programme (O’Meals)

In 2004, the Federal Government of Nigeria initiated the Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme (HGSFHP) through the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act. The legislation stipulated that at a minimum, all state
primary schools must provide one meal a day to each pupil.

To begin the national programme, the Federal Ministry of Education decided on a phased-pilot rollout for the programme, beginning with 13 Nigerian states selected from the 6 geo-political zones and included Abuja, Bauchi, Cross River, Enugu, Imo, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Rivers, Ogun, Osun, Nasarawa and Yobe.

The goal of this programme is in consonance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the six-point Integral Action Plan of the present Administration of Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola. The Osun Elementary School Feeding and Health Programme (O’MEALS) which was formerly known as Osun State Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme commenced as a pilot programme in May 2006. On assumption of office, the present administration undertook a comprehensive review of the inherited school feeding arrangement and came up with a totally overhauled and rebranded programme that was officially launched on Monday 30th April 2012. Implementation
started immediately across the One thousand three hundred and seventy eight (1,378) Primary Schools in State of Osun.

Out of the 13 original pilot states, it is only the state of Osun that is currently implementing the School Feeding Programme.

One of the objectives of the O’ Meals programme is to increase enrolment and retention of pupils in schools. It is aimed at improving the nutritional and health status of the pupils. It is also aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating development of small and medium scale enterprises.

The programme has since impacted positively on school enrolment with an increase of about thirty eight thousand (38,000) pupils representing 25% increment within four weeks of its introduction. A total of Fifty eight thousand five hundred and forty (58,540) pupils were projected to enrol as new entrants to Primary One across the state in the current academic session. However, data collected after 4 weeks of resumption of school (October 2012) revealed that a total of Eighty six thousand eight hundred and fifty-one (86,851) pupils enrolled as new entrants in
Primary One across the State, this is unprecedented. There have also been low and minimal incidences of absenteeism in schools as compared with the period before the commencement of O'Meals.

A total of One hundred and ninety four thousand two hundred and fifty three (194,253) pupils of classes 1-3 in Public primary schools benefitted from the school feeding programme in the last school Terms. Plans are being made to extend the feeding programme to pupils in Primary 4 with immediate effect. This will increase the projected number of pupils benefiting from the programme to over Two hundred and fifty two thousand, seven hundred and ninety three (252,793) pupils (pry 1-4).

It is apt to note that the O'MEALS Programme has helped to improve the production capacities of farmer-suppliers of farm produce, particularly poultry farmers and beef suppliers, who supply the protein contents of the menu. The farmers in Osun are involved in all the components of the food menu and this has led to increased prosperity for small scale farmers. This has consequently impact on the economy of the state.

To further enhance this programme, at a ceremony held in the Governor's office Osogbo, on Thursday, 22\textsuperscript{nd} November,
2012, we endorsed and signed the Osun State Elementary School Feeding Transition Strategy Plan document with the representatives of the Board of the Partnership for Child Development (PCD) of United Kingdom. This programme has been widely reported by the media and I thank you sincerely for this.

Let me quickly compare the O-Meal Programme of Aregbesola Administration with the Feeding programme we met on ground.

The previous administration was feeding each pupil with N30 while we have reviewed this to N50 to enable us provide rich protein, carbohydrates and fruits on daily basis to the pupils. At the inception of the programme, we fed the pupils with N7,765,900 per day, we feed the pupils with N11,793,500 per day because of the astronomical increase in enrolment.

While the previous administration recruited 2,060 cooks, we have recruited 3007 Food Vendors and provided them with interest free loans for procurement of cooking utensils. When we got complaints from some of the Food Vendors that they were making less than N8,000 monthly profit, we distributed questionnaires to all food vendors to
evaluate the Programme’s profitability to the women. We actually found out through the response of the Food Vendors that some of them were making a profit of only N8,000 and even below N8,000 because of the number of pupils allocate to them to unequal distribution of pupils in all schools.

As the O-Meal Programme is meant to empower our women also, we have decided to re-deploy all women who claimed to be making only N8,000 and below to other services that would enable them earn more in the state. This will take effect from next week.

Through the O-Meal programme, 900 cocoyam farmers have been assisted to plant Red Cocoyam in all the Federal Constituencies. Just last week, we graduated 90 cocoyam women farmers who will cultivate cocoyam for making porridge to feed the pupils.

While the previous administration fed pupils in Primaries I and II, we are feeding pupils in Primaries I – II.

Having recently enumerated and collected the accurate figure of pupils in enrolment in Pry 4 across the state, we
shall commence the feeding of our Pry 4 pupils from next week.

It is noteworthy that while the previous administration spent N908,610,300 on feeding the pupils per annum, the Aregbesola administration, will be spending N3 billion naira to feed Primaries 1 – 4 pupils in all the public schools in the State of Osun.

8.0. **School Uniforms**

The unification of school uniforms is part of efforts by the State Government of Osun aimed to create a unique identity for our students and promote our culture. This innovation is expected to ensure uniformity and engender deep sense of belonging in public primary and secondary school pupils. The state government has therefore finalized arrangements to provide free customized uniforms for its new school system beginning from the 2012/2013 academic session. The Ministry has started taking delivery of the Uniforms in batches and distribution is expected to start any moment from now.

For clarity, I wish to reiterate that no aspect of the school uniform is designed or intended to be offensive in any way
because the sensibilities of all religious faiths in our state and our culture have been duly considered in its conception and design. Hence, I will emphasis again that the talk about the Islamisation of the State through the introduction of new school uniforms is unfounded and uncalled for.

Also, as a way of promoting economic development of the state, the new school uniform would be provided free by government only once at the commencement of the programme. Subsequently, private investors in the state, tailors and businesspersons would be encouraged to venture into the production of school uniforms, which would be sold at reasonable controlled prices at designated shops across the state. This will further empower our people economically, and generate more employment opportunities.

Already a garment factory known as Omoluabi Garment Factory, a subsidiary of Sam & Sara has agreed to make complete set of uniforms for all categories of students at a price of N1, 200 (both clothing material and sewing). An agreement has also been reached by the State Government
and Omoluabi Factory to build the capacity of local tailors sourced from every Local Government in the state.

All uniforms are expected to be delivered by the end of January, 2013.


Though the State is yet to have a dedicated facility for the education of gifted children of Osun origin, some gifted children of the state have successfully competed for and secured admission into the prestigious Suleija Academy for gifted children.

The State Government of Osun is committed to the education and general welfare of its citizens irrespective of their state of ability or disability. For the physically challenged children, hitherto called handicapped, special residential primary and secondary schools were established in Ikirun, Ikoyi-Ile, Ilesa and Osogbo. The State Government of Osun is responsible for the feeding and maintenance of all these students.
I also wish to place on record that SUBEB has also done very well for the physically challenged in the underlisted areas:

A. Execution of the UBE Special Education Fund Projects for the Schools of Handicapped in the State through:
   I. Construction of a block of 4 classrooms with Headmaster’s office at School of Handicapped, Ilesa.
   II. Procurement of 60 units of 2- seater Pupils furniture for school of Handicapped, Ilesa
   III. Procurement of 6 sets of Teachers furniture for School of Handicapped Ilesa.
   IV. Training of 120 Special Education Teachers of Schools of Handicapped in the State.
   V. Procurement and distribution of various Special Instructional Materials and School equipment to the 10 Schools of Handicapped in the State.
   VI. Provision of furniture for the pupils and teachers in the school.

B. Execution of UBE 2011 Special Education Fund Projects for the Public Schools of Handicapped in the State.
(i) In Osogbo, provision of furniture for pupils and staff of the Osun State Junior Secondary School for the handicapped.

(ii) Renovation of Hostels and classroom blocks in Ikirun.

(iii) Supply of 60 units of Pupils furniture to Ikirun School of Handicapped

(iv) Procurement and distribution of various Special Education Materials like Wheel Chairs, Crutches, Talking Calculators, computer with JAWs, Braile Machine, Braile Paper, Coloured T.V Sets; Generators, Deep Freezers etc., to the Schools of Handicapped.

C. Besides, two private providers of Special Education for Handicapped Children/Physically challenge children in the state are:

ii. St. Mary’s Catholic Rehabilitation Centre Ipetumodu

iii. FOMWAN Special Model School, Osogbo

Let me use this medium to appeal to public spirited Nigerians of Osun extraction and friends of the State to make life worth living for our ‘akanda eda.’ Let us all unite
to put smiles on their faces and be committed to their future. They are our children and part of our future.

10.0. **SUBEB and Nomadic Education**

SUBEB recently took over the administration of nomadic schools at the request of the Federal Government, in collaboration with the National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE).

8.0.1. **SUBEB and Almajiri Education**

SUBEB has just received UBEC's/NCIAEP (National Council for Implementation Of Almajiri Education Projects) fund for the Almajiri School at Ikirun and Osogbo (Model 1) and 3 other Model III Almajiri Schools. This SUBEB fund has been given to Quranic Schools at Iwo, Ede and Modakeke.

11.0. **Supply of Instructional Materials and Teaching Aids to Schools**

To promote teaching and learning in schools, the Aregbesola Administration, in the last 24 months, has
committed a whopping sum of three hundred and fifty four million, one hundred thousand naira (₦354,100,000.00) on provision of instructional materials, Home Economics equipment, science equipment and teaching kits for public primary and secondary schools in the state.

In addition, the State Government took delivery of books in core subjects like English Language, Basic Science, Technology and Social Studies from UBEC, Abuja.

Government is also making arrangements for procurement of Reading and Talking pen for public primary schools in the state to enhance and promote learning of Yoruba language.

12.0. **Recruitment of Teachers**

Plans are at advanced stage in the primary school sector to employ Three thousand two hundred and thirty (3,230) teachers to improve staffing situation and to fill vacancies to be created by the exit of large numbers of teachers who are due for retirement in December 2012. Those to be engaged are being carefully scrutinized to determine their professional competence.
The exercise is transparent, open and devoid of the usual sentiment and undue favouritism and of course it is apt to state here that O'yes cadet are being given priority in line with government policy because of their openly acknowledged qualities of hardwork, perseverance and service to the state.

13.0. Payment of External (Final) Examination Fees

It is pertinent to note that the State Government has commenced the process of payment of WASCE registration fees of all Public Secondary School Students for the year 2012/2013 session. Over Thirty six thousand one hundred and seventy seven (36,177) students would benefit from the State Government gesture of full payment for all final year students as against the previous policy of payment for few successful students in a qualifying exam. A sum of Three hundred and fifty nine million, nine hundred and two thousand three hundred naira (₦359,902,300) would be spent by the Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola Government as a way of removing the burden of payment from parents in the State.

14.0. Payment of Running and Examination grants
Prior to November 27, 2010, public primary and secondary schools in the state were paid a paltry sum of between ₦200 and ₦600 per term as running grants. When the Aregbesola administration assumed office, the Governor considered the payment as highly unreasonable and unacceptable. In order to make for smooth administration and to ensure the quality of school based examinations, this Administration increased the running and examination grants paid to public school head teachers and principals.

Whereas the immediate past administration was paying a paltry sum of about One hundred and twenty five million naira (#125m) per annum on school and examination grants to the Primary, Secondary and Technical college sectors, the Aregbesola administration is paying the sum of about Eight hundred and fifty six million naira (#856m) per annum for the same sectors.

In addition, the State Government stopped the collection of PTA levies in all public primary and secondary schools in the state to take the burden of financing the schools off the parents.
15.0. O’Calisthenics

Mr. Governor demonstrated his passion for total development of the youth in the State of Osun when he approved the re-introduction of the PHYSICAL EXERCISE/TRAINING into the school system and made it compulsory in all public schools. The policy is aimed at improving the physical fitness of students and enhancing their psychomotor domain. Calisthenics was introduced as a specialised body of knowledge in the kinetic movement of human anatomy. At inception, 7,940 students from the nine federal constituencies in 42 schools were trained for six months. O’Calisthenics was commissioned during the 21st Anniversary of the State of Osun at a very colourful ceremony. The modest expectation is that pupils physically and mentally fit are likely to do better at school.

16.0. Computer & Information Technology Education

A. To further strengthen the passion of Mr. Governor for ICT and the promotion of education, this administration has taken a step towards ensuring that our students become ICT compliant, both for learning and self development. Towards this end, the Aregbesola
administration will, in few days time, be distributing Computer tablets (Opon-Imo) for the SS 1 - 3 students in public secondary schools. The tablet is preloaded with seventeen (17) subjects offered by students in the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (WASSCE) and NECO. It also contains six extra-curricular subjects including Sexuality Education, Entrepreneurship, Yoruba Proverbs, Civic Education, Yoruba History and the Yoruba Traditional Religion. This is another landmark achievement by the Aregbesola Administration which is novel and unprecedented in the annals of Education not only in Nigeria but in the World at large.

This initiative will definitely aid teaching and learning and would improve the general performance of the students in the state of Osun.

Kids In Technology and Science (O'KITS) Youth Camp

As part of efforts of his administration to add value to educational development of the teeming youths of the State of Osun, Governor Rauf Aregbesola has approved that a technology and science educational exchange programme be conducted in the State. The programme is
named O'KITS and would hold annually with secondary schools students participating during each camping session.

O'KITs is aimed at catching young the students of JSS2 – SS2 in the Middle and High Schools of the State to encourage them to develop sustainable interest in learning technology and science in non-conventional classroom this is in collaboration with Champlain College, USA. The programme will take place during the holidays in a carefully selected CAMP location within the State of Osun to ensure maximum gains of the benefiting students.

O'KITS is designed to engage students from less privilege communities in hands-on experience in the Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, combining lectures, tutorials and other activities in an environment designed to be supportive, enriching and captivating. The topics covered in the programme will span science, engineering and technology.

The first edition of the O'KITS YOUTHS CAMP holds in the State of Osun for one week in December 2012 with 300 students selected from across public secondary school in the State.
17.0. **New School System and State of the Arts Schools**

The State Education System is witnessing restructuring into Elementary, Middle and High Schools, to further enhance effective teaching/learning process and stimulate the performances of students at school. The construction of these State of the arts schools has taken off across the state.

(a) It is apt to note that a State of the art Elementary School is under construction at Ilare in Ile-Ife

(b) The Middle School has been completed at Alekuwodo in Osogbo and would soon be commissioned.

(c) An High School is also being constructed at Ejigbo.

O'school is also going to embark on massive construction works in various locations for its projects across the state, beginning from the month of December, 2012.

It is important to stress that Government is already considering upgrading and building blocks of classroom in some primary schools with dilapidated structures. In order to actualize this, the state government has put in place a Committee under the headship of the Head of Service to go round the State to determine the capacity of the existing structures in our public schools.
18.0. **Training and Retraining**

For innovative teaching/learning in public schools, periodic training and retraining are being organized for public schools teachers, an encouragement aimed at enhancing their productive capabilities. To this end, two thousand (2,000) teachers of public schools were recently trained by UNIOSUN. Arrangements are in top gear to begin the training of another set of six thousand teachers of public secondary schools in the State in December 2012 while six thousand teachers to be recruited for primary and secondary schools will undergo training before resumption of schools in January 2013.

19.0. **Access to TETFUND Facilities**

The Ministry has completed all on-going projects under TETFUND while Monitoring Officers from Federal Ministry of Education (FME) have approved of the completion of these projects. The sum of over 20 million naira is expected to be paid as balance for all the completed projects. Meanwhile, the State Ministry of Education has requested for new funds to commence the 2011/2012 projects.
20.0. **Promotion of Technical and Vocational Education**

The present administration has done a lot to improve the quality of Technical and Vocational Education in the State of Osun.

In order to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the nine (9) Technical Colleges and to put a stop to all sorts of illegal collection of money from students, this administration has increased substantially the amount payable as examination grants/running cost to all the nine (9) Technical Colleges in the state.

The State Government has therefore paid ₦150 (One Hundred and Fifty Naira) per student as running grant and ₦400 (Four Hundred Naira) per student as examination grant for the 9 (nine) Government Technical Colleges per term amounting to ₦550 (Five Hundred and Fifty Naira) per student as against ₦150 (One Hundred and Fifty Naira) per student for both running and examination grants paid by the previous administration.

Prior to the inauguration of the present administration, there had been acute shortage of teaching and non-teaching personnel in the nine (9) Government Technical Colleges
leading to negative impact on the students performance in both internal and external examinations. On assumption of office, this administration promptly responded to the challenges and recruited a total of 170 different categories of personnel for the nine (9) colleges:

In order to provide conducive learning environment and to enhance the quality of infrastructural facilities in the colleges, the Governor approved the repair and renovation of 2 (two) old workshops at Government Technical College Osogbo. He also approved the conversion of one existing old workshop at the same college, into a multipurpose Hall capable of accommodating about 500 students at a time.

21.0. **Domestication of School Based Management Committee (SBMC)**

Domestication of School Based Management Committee (SBMC) in the State of Osun is conceived to facilitate good governance and community participation in the running of public schools in the State. It aims to encourage harmonious relationships between the school, community, and LGA. It is also intended to promote active community participation in school planning and monitoring and evaluation of school progress. Furthermore, the SBMC will
help to facilitate greater support for the disadvantaged groups within the school community. SUBEB has organised several workshops, seminars and public hearings on the need to embrace the programme. The law establishing SMBC is currently receiving the attention of the State Government and the State House of Assembly.

22.0. LAUTECH

LAUTECH recently got back its accreditation for medicine, nursing and medical laboratory science in Osogbo campus while the NUC also accredit most of the courses offered in the University. We are in the process of inaugurating its Council.

23.0. Endowment of Professorial Chair at UNIOSUN

During the last convocation ceremony of the Osun State University Osogbo, the Governor of the State of Osun who is also the Visitor announced an endowment of a Professorial Chair in the University for research activities on Building Knowledge-based Society on Innovation, Infrastructure and Quality of Lives. This endowment is in realisation of the government commitment to the significant position of knowledge as an invaluable catalyst to human, communal
and national growth and development. In fulfilment of this commitment, the University through the approval of the Governor has appointment a Nigeria-born America-based Aeronautic Engineer, Professor James Ayinde Fabunmi to head the Chair. This is to enable him domesticate his knowledge and technical knowhow, and to disseminate them for the advancement of knowledge, especially in science and technology and infrastructural development for productive purposes in the state. This endowment represents a solid step towards government determination to support knowledge-based and innovation-driven initiatives for the rapid growth and development of the state.

For your information, John Ayinde Fabunmi is an Osun State-born- U.S. Professor of Aeronautics with over 27 years experience as an individual research and development consultant. He has provided scientific, engineering, programme development and management consulting support to industries, academia and governments in a variety of fields in the USA. He is also a board Member of the American Heritage Defence Corporation; and Fellow of the Research and Development Business.
24.0. Constitutions and Inauguration of New Governing Council for Osun State University, Osogbo

Government has recently constituted and will be inaugurating a new governing council for the Osun State University, Osogbo tomorrow. The new Council is made up of highly experienced academics and other tested professionals that can give a new lease of life to the institution. The Council is currently headed by Professor Gabriel Adesiyan Olawoyin (SAN), a distinguished and revered professor of law. Other members include the doyen of Insurance profession, Mr Remi Olowude; a guru of computer and information communication technology, Sir Demola Aladekomo; a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Professor Obafemi Ajibola; a medical icon, Professor Akinyinka Omigbodun, Professor Gabriel Adebayo Adegboyega, former Dean Faculty of Technology Obafemi Awolowo University and a renowned chemist, Dr. (Mrs) Mopelola Abeke Omotosho.

25.0. Sponsoring of UNIOSUN Medical Students to Ukraine

For some time, the medical students from 300 to 500 levels of the Osun State University (UNIOSUN) got stagnated in
their academic activities as they could not proceed to the clinical classes because there was no Teaching Hospital to cater for their needs. In the wisdom of Mr. Governor and in order not to abort the visions and dreams of the affected students, the state government has facilitated the transfer of the affected 92 students to Karazin University in Kharkiv, Ukraine to continue and complete their academic programme. The cost of training and maintaining the students in Ukraine in the first year, excluding other miscellaneous expenses is One hundred and fifty two million, nine hundred and forty five thousand, and four hundred naira (₦152, 945, 400.00). The first batch of these students would depart for Ukraine shortly.

26.0. Inauguration of Visitation Panel for all Tertiary Institutions in the State of Osun

In line with the enabling law establishing tertiary institutions in the State of Osun, the Governor and the Visitor to these institutions is empowered to conduct investigative Visitations into all state institutions once in five years. In compliance with the enabling laws and in exercise of his power, the Aregbesola Administration has
instituted the Professor O. O. Ladipo led Visitation Panel into the affairs of all the state owned institutions. The primary objective is not only to take a holistic look at the vision and mission of these institutions, the exercise is also conceived to promote integrity, ethics, transparency and accountability in public office.

27.0. Bursary and Scholarship Awards

In order to reduce the burden of higher education for citizen, the present administration has reviewed upward the bursary award to final year students of Osun State origin in Tertiary institutions from the N2, 000 /N3, 000 which was paid once to students for the entire duration of their studies by the previous administration. The new rates which would be paid annually to the various categories of students are as presented in Table 4

Table: 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates</th>
<th>Categories of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N10,000.00</td>
<td>Colleges of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N10,000.00</td>
<td>Polytechnics and Allied Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N10,000.00</td>
<td>Humanities, Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N20,000.00</td>
<td>Medical/Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N100,000.00</td>
<td>Special Grant for Law School students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is on record that throughout the tenure of the immediate past administration (90 months), bursary was paid four times totalling One hundred and fifty two million, seven hundred and fifty eight thousand seven hundred and twenty naira (N152, 758,720). With the newly approved bursary regime by Mr Governor and once the State House of Assembly completes its appropriation process, a whopping sum of Two hundred and sixteen million, three hundred and thirty four thousand naira (#216,334,000) would be paid to a total of 20,215 deserving students in 74 institutions all over Nigeria.

28.0. Downward Review of School fees in State-owned Tertiary Institutions

Government has reduced fees payable in the state-owned tertiary institutions as presented in Table 5 below:

Table: 5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Old fees</th>
<th>New fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colleges of Education</td>
<td>₦28,000</td>
<td>₦20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poly/Col. of Education</td>
<td>₦42,000</td>
<td>₦25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osun State University</td>
<td>₦195,000</td>
<td>₦100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law &amp; Medical</td>
<td>₦155,000</td>
<td>₦75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>₦130,000</td>
<td>₦75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29.0. **Non-Discriminatory Regime of School Fees**

The Osun State University is the first state university in Nigeria where students are not discriminated against on the basis of school fees. For the government of Aregbesola, the indigene and non-indigene divide does not exist. All students are the same in the eyes of the Aregbesola Administration. This is a remarkable feat in the education sector and the Nigerian project.

**Conclusion**

Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot end this address without thanking our highly amiable, kind, considerate, humane and hardworking Governor, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, for his unflinching support towards the reawakening of the education
sector in the state and his unalloyed commitment to the provision of qualitative and functional education to the students of the State.

Finally, I thank you members of the fourth estate of the realm for your healthy support for the activities of this Administration. Personally, I have felt the impact of your balance, fair and honest reports, particularly on our transformational programmes in the education sector. I thank you all for your commendation as well as objective and constructive pointers to areas needing improvement.

I thank you all for listening.

OSUN A DARA

Otunba Grace Titi Laoye-Tomori,
Deputy Governor/Hon. Commissioner for Education,
Science & Technology