

THE INNER MIND:
The Spirit That Moves Osun State Forward

By
His Excellency,
Chief Bisi Akande
Governor, Osun State

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FOREWORD

THE INNER MIND: The Spirit That Moves Osun State Forward

As could best be gleaned from his collection of speeches, the Inner Mind of Chief Bisi Akande, the 3rd Republic Governor of the State,

- is profoundly genuine in his concerns
- is very patriotic in his intentions
- is messianic in his philosophy (there is a deeper sense of mission, that he is beholden to the electorate and that he owes himself to earn a place in the minds of the population that he is serving in the manner that his political godfather and mentor – Chief Obafemi Awolowo did)
- is bold and courageous
- is blunt and Poignant in self-expression
- is a shrewd and astute manager: He scored highly in stabilizing the state's economy, and its social landscape.

Genuine interest:

It is very difficult to impute this against our elected and appointed politicians today-whether new, old or crossbreed, what is easily discernible in the lifestyle, conduct and pronouncements are selfish self-interest or "self aggrandizement" as the author will normally put it and shameful greed. In this collection of speeches, Chief Akande reveals a genuine interest in improving the quality of life of the people who elected him into office. Almost contrary to what obtains in the political class today Chief Akande portrays an abiding desire, a deep-seated commitment to affecting the lives of his people in all his discourse with them. Right from his inaugural address through to the last of the speeches recorded in this book, you will be touched by a spirit of commitment and genuine fellowship with the mass of the people.

Patriotic

You know a patriot by the side he takes in all matters. When men gather and discuss issues that have delicate tendencies to divide, most men will take the easy option, the selfish option or the less painful position. They tend to want

to get along willy-nilly. If these men are politicians, the propensity to bend the truth is twice stronger. Taking the less costly option is almost a foregone conclusion. Toeing the line of least resistance or danger holds special allure. For at all times the politician must be seen as a sweet angel that bears good tidings and never anything that will challenge the electorate to swallow bitter pills necessary for the cure of diagnosed malaise. Not with Chief Akande who took all the hard and apparently unpalatable decisions in his first term. His war with the labour soon after assumption of office and the firm decision he took about retrenchment of un-required teachers are very bold, selfless and patriotic.

The decision not to borrow -and-spend, but to carefully husband what is earned and meet the basic needs of the population, does not match the policy of his counterparts in some other states. It takes some patriotic zeal to make the improvement of the lives of his citizens the central focus of his government's policy as evident in its four cardinal programmes of:

1. Free and qualitative education for all at all levels;
2. Free medical services for all;
3. Maximum rural integrated development;
4. Full and gainful employment for all.

Another proof of Chief Akande's patriotism is the loyalty professed very effusively in this collection of speeches. At every given opportunity he makes his stand clear. And his stand is always on the side of the people or what is best for them. We shall also see this coming through when we read the historical favour and philosophical dimensions of the spirit that moves Osun State. From the collection we also see his single-minded devotion to the people and their well-being.

Messianic, Spiritual:

The spiritual diminution to the man Akande simply governs the whole. No wonder this collection goes with its chosen title: THE INNER MIND: The Spirit That Moves Osun State Forward.. In his budget speech of December 31, 2002 to the Osun House of Assembly, he said:

- "There are three important gifts from God Almighty. One is Life; the other two are grace and the Kingdom of God. The scripture tells us (in the Bible Genesis, Chapter 2, verse 7 and Koran Surah 32 verses 7 and 9) that man is ordinary dust to which God added spirit. Thereafter, through the Grace of God, man began his journey of life towards the kingdom of HEAVEN. At one time or the other, man gets to roundabouts of life from where he decides either to continue to the Kingdom of Heaven or to flounder into perdition. It is at those roundabouts where the Grace, otherwise known as kindness Of God, is needed most by man.

If God gives him the grace he will pass the roundabouts and face the rest of the journey to the kingdom of Heaven. What does he need to pass by the roundabouts of life? These are selflessness, love and charity towards his fellow men".

From such convictions so eloquently stated in the book you are about to read, you will not fail to come to the conclusion that Chief Akande is given to deep thoughts and is directed by a profound sense of mission having properly placed himself, his generation, and the dispensation in which he operates in accurate perspectives. There was a hint of his keen attention to history in his inaugural speech, but for a lengthier synopsis, read the speech on poverty reduction delivered to Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.

You must have a good sense of history to know who you are, who your people are, how they arrived at their present destination and what they need to do to forge ahead towards their collective destiny. Through and through Chief Akande shows a good grasp of the history of his people and the Nigerian Project. Having placed everything in its right perspectives, he is able to analyse the factors underlying and influencing the relationships between the geopolitical entities in the nation, on the one hand, and the dynamic interplay between the professional, political, military, traditional and rural cadres in the society.

This analysis unveils the motives and intentions of the groups and their demands. It, at the same time, provides a good platform for articulating what policies, programmes and project choices are in the best interest of the differing groups and the ultimate best interest of the larger whole.

If Chief Akande could muster devotees or disciples in sufficient numbers who have the appropriate favour and zeal, there is no telling how far the administration would go in laying a truly irreversible trend in orderliness and sustainable growth and development for Osun State. That he is forging ahead with his crusade of uprightness (which is usually a lonely road), we must give him kudos and commend his ways to others to emulate.

Bold And Courageous

It takes courage to forge ahead. In the face of what he inherited (we shall deal with those in better details soon) and the gargantuan opposition that rose up against his administration in its infancy, you could not but salute Chief Akande's boldness, persistence and perseverance. Every messiah comes to deliver his subjects from a defined predator/s. For Chief Akande, they were legion. Having traced the myriad of woes brought upon the young state at birth by the activities of self-seeking persons and the various administrators that had earlier ruled the state, he reviewed the period of the inception of his administration thus:

"It was at that point in the life of our dear State that this administration came into office. We were welcomed into office with workers' strikes; with brazen exhibition of delinquent acts by school pupils; with the poorest performance in public examinations ever recorded by students in Osun State when compared with the performance of children in other States. We also had to contend with a flurry of advice for the government to borrow money to pay arrears of salaries and with a barrage of complaints about low government internally generated revenue'

He also reported in his speech in February 2003 to Osun indigenes in Kwara State "That fresh start led to a serious surgical operation on the whole system and also led to a serious gang-up of there who knew for sure that, if we were allowed to succeed in our surgical operations, their illegal dealings would be blocked and they would not be allowed to continue to steal public funds ..."

The 2000 budget speech paints the full picture of the kind of administration Chief Akande inherited. With doggedness, with courage, with perseverance and boldness, he stuck to his guns, refused to borrow, paid salaries from what was available, tackled insurrections of the cabal that was not favoured by a regime of accountability. After nearly four years it may now be said that the message is beginning to sink that Osun State Government House is not the rendezvous of dishonest men and contractors.

Blunt and Poignant

It is important to note the literary style of The Spirit That Moves Osun State. The only way to know what a man's spirit is like is in the picture painted by the words he utters. As a man thinks (and speaks) so he is. Chief Akande's speeches are liberally sprinkled with tough direct language that does not mince words. He opened his 2000 budget speech on 23rd December 1999 with "In Osun State there is neither industrial production not serious crop agriculture to justify the type of consumption patterns desired by the residents". In building a case of conspiracy against the military rulers and the civil service he called them "consenting Partners" in his speech at the opening of the new legislative year on Monday July 9, 2001. Elsewhere, he warns "poor brain breeds poverty". Readers will find many memorable and picturesque statements like these.

A Shrew and Astute Manager:

The following lines are from Chief Akande's 2003 budget speech. It is indeed befitting epitaph for his first term as governor of Osun State.

"Our government is already reputed for proper budget implementation. We have never operated any budget deficits.

In the past three budgets we have always been having surpluses. We intend to continue with the prudent management of the State in year 2003. Our belt-tightening measures will continue. Our focus is the physical development of the State for the benefit of the generality of the people. We were elected to guide career officers to serve our people. As public servants it is a sin to indulge in serving ourselves to the exclusion of the masses. Hence, we have all shunned entreaties for self-aggrandisement"

To measure the success of the Akande administration it will be appropriate to look at the scenario before he took over. In his account, the five administrations that ruled Osun before him left in their trail:

- Local debt of N1.2billion
- 4½ months salary arrears
- Unpaid Pensions and gratuities
- Unpaid leave bonuses
- External debt of over US \$235million
- Dilapidated educational and health facilities/structures
- Dilapidated roads
- Serious rural urban drift
- Abandoned projects
- Disillusioned public service
- Communal Ife/Modakeke war
- Generally poverty-stricken population

The 2003 budget speech enumerates in greater details what the administration considers its major achievements since assuming power. Some of the key ones include the significant improvements to educational facilities and structures, revitalization and expansion of health care delivery, provision of potable water, building of rural feeder roads, the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation, operation of micro-credit scheme, part payment of external debt, Liquidation of debt owed to workers and continued prompt payment of their salaries and allowances.

Perhaps most significant is successfully avoiding any form of debt for the purposes of consumption and payment of salaries. The discipline should pay off soon enough if subsequent administrations will build on it. It will ensure that even if some desirable borrowings were to be embarked upon, the threat of diverting them to consumption or non-productive purposes would have been substantially reduced. Borrowing is not an evil idea if we have the discipline to judiciously utilize it. It can actually provide a fillip to jump-start the economy of the state.

Commendation must go to Chief Bisi Akande for his untiring efforts to uphold the tradition of performance in office shown by his political godfathers and mentors, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Chief Bola Ige. He has also, true to type, advocated the positions of the "progressives" on national issues. In an era when manifestoes from political parties are a rarity, he has under the auspices of the Alliance for Democracy, tried to keep an issue-based agenda for his electioneering campaign.

His stand on federalism will find consensus among mainstream politicians. Most Nigerians believe the central government is too powerful in relation to the federating states. As Akande rightly noted, military style of administration and true federalism are strange bedfellows. The component states are naturally subjugated in accordance to the hierarchy in the armed forces. Military high commands, which form the central governments, do not have respect for individual differences and the niceties of uniqueness'. In short, military intervention in government is the death of federalism.

If military killed federalism, the progressive balkanization and continuous splintering of the states encouraged it. The political class will be to blame for it, because they championed the clamour and agitation for more and more states. As the demands heightened, the military rulers simply granted "the wishes of the people". Many times, those "peoples' wishes" were mere euphemisms for empire-seeking gubernatorial hopefuls.

The progressive splintering of the states ensured their whittling down in size and political significance. In contrast, the federal government stood untouched. The fact of its being whole and undiminished meant, in relative terms, that it

was actually increasing in size and significance when compared with the new minion-states. If we think back and compare the original three Regional governments with the Federal Government of that time, it will be very obvious that they were not too far apart in terms of political power or even economic influence.

The extent of devolution of power from the centre to the periphery will for a long time remain contentious. But what is useful and to be advocated is that the political leaders should work progressively to find more and more areas of consensus. So doing, it will be easier to force through the kind of changes that will bring about the desired power parity between the states and the federal government. It may have to be an evolutionary process. It might be a pipe dream to think that in one legislative swoop 'true federalism' will be born. A political thinker once said, 'For forms of government, let fools contend. What is best administered'. Rather than insist on a particular type of federalism found everywhere, we should insist on developing or re-engineering our own to meet the dictates of our peculiar conditions. A national conference is a must, if we are to seriously determine the appropriate socio/political relationship of the various ethnic nationalities within the context of a united Nigeria.

The relevance of the traditional rulers can only be judged against the backdrop of their role as custodians of their peoples' culture and tradition; as the faithful repository of the knowledge of their peoples' wants, needs and their touch points; and as a vanguard for peace and stability in their domains. No other institution can do these better than the traditional rulers. They don't only settle rifts, which might otherwise blow up into full-scale communal feuds; they are used for fire-fighting purposes by government when it becomes apparent that all the necessary aces are in their hands. Certainly the traditional institutions deserve to be recognised for their roles and as being the closest to the grass root; and should be accorded due respect as father of their people.

Chief Akande has, in the **Inner Mind**, demonstrated an enviable astuteness and understanding of history and the antecedence of what is today's political landscape. He deserves all credit for his incisive thoughts and challenging exposition on his pet topic of our social history. However, I discovered that

there might be some wastage in terms of overburdening some of his audiences. In the speech to the Ibadan University students, the treatise on the origins of our modern society, though highly educative, may have been misdirected, as it may not make the expected impact on a youthful audience eager to hear rhetoric of today's economic emancipation struggle. I will strongly recommend a deliberate effort at developing an institutionalized forum where a well-targeted audience will be treated to what I consider food for thought for matured minds. Chief Akande needs a forum where he can share his vision, knowledge and genuine patriotic thoughts with others. Surely, by so doing, he will cultivate some new following, and thus expand his disciples.

I am delighted that, as a first step, these speeches are being published for the public at large to read.

Without doubt, anyone reading through the Inner Mind of Chief Akande will come to the conclusion that the spirit that moves Osun State forward under him is deeply profound in knowledge, selfless and staunchly patriotic, and has missionary goals.

Inner Mind is strongly recommended to all Nigerians interested in public administration and particularly to all politicians who genuinely and selflessly seek office to serve the best interest of their people.

OBA OLADELE OLASHORE

(former Managing Director; First Bank of Nigeria Plc.,

former Federal Minister of Finance)

Ajagbusi-Ekun of Iloko -Ijesa

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF CHIEF BISI AKANDE AFTER HIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AS THE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE ON MAY 29, 1999

I am most grateful to God Almighty for making this ceremony possible. I am also very grateful to all the people of Osun State for electing me as the new Governor of the State.

The events of today are taking place against the backdrop of a long and brutal military interregnum in the political life of Nigeria, during which the civil society has virtually lost confidence in itself, thereby creating the worst impediment to communal progress. Therefore, we are immediately faced with the difficulty of arousing public opinion on and support for government's policies and actions.

It is unfortunate that the attempts by the Hausa/Fulani to colonise the peoples of the Northern Minorities, the Kanuris and the Yorubas resulted in wars throughout the 19th Century. The subsequent colonisation of the Hausa! Fulanis, the Kanuris and the Middle Belt minorities as Northern Nigeria, together with the colonisation of the Yoruba people, the Ibos and the Southern minorities as the Southern Nigeria by the British, was also misadventurous. The amalgamation in 1914 of all the Northern emirates with the Southern Kingdoms and clan republics into one Nigeria, such that the South would help the British to shoulder the financial burden of administering the North, aggravated the bad blood that had resulted from the bloody wars of the 19th Century and set the stage for mistrust throughout the first half of the 20th Century.

The birth and running of the Igbo National Union by Ibo leaders towards Nigerian Independence from the British attracted bitter resistance from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa of the Yorubas and the Jamiyar Mutanen Arewa of the Northern leaders; and accentuated the suspicions among the various groups all over Nigeria.

All these, among others, led to the emergence of the military in governance (January 1966) and another bloody and bitter civil war shortly thereafter (1967-1970). Since then, things have not been the same again for the peoples of Nigeria. The spoils of war created a few 'nouveau riche' who began to collaborate with the soldiers to sustain the continuance of the military in power for twenty-nine out of the thirty - nine years of Nigeria's political Independence from the British.

Very many children that were born since Independence in 1960 have, therefore, begun to pick their heroes from among the new wealthy soldiers and their wealthy contractor agents. The children too have begun to cultivate the "habit of seeking wealth without work" by joining secret cults to constantly create circumstances of anarchy where armed robbery and '419' Fraudsters have become the vogue. The private initiative for legitimate business enterprises has become totally destroyed; the zeal for conspicuous consumption has replaced the urge for hard work and productivity. Most people have become alien to business forward planning and management control for co-coordinated results of efforts. The citizenry has become prostrate to inflation and unemployment. For survival, everybody now looks up either to the governments or to the prayer-revival services.

The military government too, for its own stability and for politics, resorted to bribing the religious leaders and the people with money as well as with the creation of more states and more local governments by military decrees without any scientific criterion. The new states and local governments have moved governments nearer to lumps of people without bothering about the contradictions in their past disharmonious and irreconcilable histories, their different affinities, incompatible religions, dissimilar economic propensities, and their multivarious cultures. The more the states and local governments created by the Federal Military Government, the more the people's demands for more of such creations; and the poorer each resultant state and local government becomes, the more inter-community feuds and industrial disharmonies they contend with.

The only wealthy government is the Federal Military Government which has used military decrees to appropriate to itself for disbursement 78% of funds in the Federation Account and to continue to steal for its additional disburse-

ment from every state sales taxes, particularly Value Added Tax (VAT) and revenue of eight naira (N8) per litre of fuel consumption via the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF).

While the Federal Military Government has bleached the States of all sources for internally generated revenue, it throws, like crumbs, only 22% of the Federation Account to 36 States and over 700 local governments for sharing among themselves with a formula most favourable to land size rather than the needs of MAN within the population ratio and derivation from the land. While the 100 million common tax payers are the citizens of States and local governments, the major "citizens" of the Federal Military Government are the soldiers, their contractors, and the numerous public officers many of whom award contracts to themselves and use the balance to fuel government vehicles for their comfort and to service their personal aggrandisement.

Hence the constant communal feuds over demands for more states and more local governments by the numerous other citizens looking for opportunities to also become a part of the bureaucracy's self-serving officers and self-awarding contractors.

In the process, the Yoruba Nation, which began as numerous Kingdoms each with her own monarchy before cohering into one Nation in the Old Western Region under Chief Obafemi Awolowo, has been split into seven (whole) and three (fractional) states.

Among these states of the Yoruba Nation is Osun State which was created in 1991 and which, up till today, has had no capital city with developed physical infrastructure, no enviable Government House, no definable Government Secretariat, no functional mass-media communication system, no adequate rural feeder roads, no good road net-work nor drainages etc. In these regards, however: the efforts of Colonel Theophilus Aduragbemi Bamigboye within his short time in Osun State must be acknowledged and appreciated.

Back to the national question, it has now become evident that the next millennium will be doomed to a siege of confusion in Nigeria unless:

1. The operation of true and genuine Federalism becomes imperative as a

basis for the continuing existence of the corporate entity known as Nigeria;

2. The practice of democracy expressed through the ballot and based on clean, free and fair elections in which there would be no inflation of voters in the electoral register and no indiscriminate thumb printing of ballot papers and other electoral frauds;
3. The well-being of the people becomes the sole purpose and *raison d'etre* of Government, and the glory of any government becomes the well being of the people;
4. Supremacy of the Rule of Law is absolutely accepted.
5. A Party Manifesto becomes an inviolable covenant between the party and the People.
6. Whether in the immediate or the ultimate, Power is allowed to belong to the people;
7. Man becomes the Unit, the prime mover and the sole purpose of development.
8. The universality of Man, whether black, brown, yellow or white, is accepted.
9. Self-discipline, self-denial and loyalty to common causes are practised.
10. Revenue Allocation is principally based on the principle of derivation.
11. Every man, who is a natural shareholder, by birth, of his group and nation, is therefore entitled to certain inalienable rights which will make it possible for him to have a sound mind in a sound body – "*Men sana in corpore sano*".

These inalienable rights include:

- a. right to free education
- b. right to free healthcare
- c. right to good food and good housing
- d. right to full and gainful employment
- e. right to all the things that are required to facilitate an all-round development of his mind, soul and body
- f. the full enforcement of the fundamental human rights as set out in Chapter 4 of the 1979 Constitution and as repeated in the recently promulgated 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It is true that the economy of Osun State today is comatose, to say the least. It

will therefore take the collective efforts of all of us to mobilise all the resources available within the state-human resources, agricultural resources, mineral resources – and turn them into wealth. The emphasis of this Administration will thus be to create and nurture the enabling environment which will attract, encourage and assist private investments in the exploration, exploitation, industrial development and commercialisation of the natural resources of this state, and thereby promote self-employment and the creation of jobs in the private sectors to absorb school-leavers and make them not only gainfully employed but very productive members of society.

The Yoruba are said to be the only race who is predominantly engaged in agricultural pursuits but still lives largely in towns and cities. No other state exemplifies this beautiful trait more than Osun State. My Government will sustain that tradition by ensuring that living conditions in all so-called rural areas are made very attractive for entrepreneurs to invest in, to carry out their production and industrial processing activities, and to actually settle there and further develop them into new towns and cities. Also, existing towns will be provided with essential social infrastructure so that they will remain a pride to live and work in.

All we need, to move ahead in that direction as a people, are self-discipline, self-denial, and loyalty to the common cause of making Osun State a place we all can be proud of. This State is the cradle of the Yoruba and, therefore, that of human civilization. By dint of hard-work and dedication by all of us there is no reason why Osun State cannot become within a short time the greatest, the most peaceful, and the richest state in Nigeria.

It has pleased God to make the good people of Osun State of Nigeria elect me, for the next four years, their Executive Governor from today, May 29, 1999.

My prayers to God, among others, are:

- (i) To grant me the wisdom to lead a most peaceful and successful administration;
- (ii) To enable me to use the opportunity to happily fulfill all the promises made during the electioneering campaign of my political party, which include:
 - a. Free and qualitative education for all at all levels;

- b. Free medical services for all;
- c. Maximum rural integrated development;
- d. Full and gainful employment for all;

(iii) To provide me with the reward of good health and protection from death for me and all members of my family, and

(iv). To give me glory from God and honour among the people of the Yoruba nation at the close of my service in this position.

I hereby affirm in total submission to God, service to my people of Osun State, and Yoruba land.

Grant me my prayers, O Lord.

As I stand before you now, I hereby declare that charging of tuition fees be stopped in all government-owned primary, secondary and tertiary schools throughout the length and breadth of Osun State from today. I also promise that very soon, particularly with the new budget that I will present to the Osun State House of Assembly, further changes in the educational and health sectors which will be for the benefit, development and happiness of the good people of Osun State, will be announced and pursued.

Thank you and God bless.

THE MAIDEN ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF BISI AKANDE, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE, TO THE OSUN STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, ON MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1999

It is with utmost delight that I appreciate the privilege and honour given me to present my maiden address to this august assembly.

The date May 29, 1999, is both unique and significant in the history of our dear country Nigeria. Since our independence on 1 October, 1960, the country has not been privileged to enjoy enduring democracy. Out of our thirty-nine (39) years post independence experience, we spent about twenty-nine (29) years under the military. Various attempts at evolving a culture of enduring democracy were frustrated by successive military coups and truncated Transition Programmes. It will be recalled that the beginning of the crisis that eventually led to the intervention of the military in governance started in the then Western Regional House of Assembly; Over these years of military incursion in politics, the country has suffered outright isolation and discrimination in the hands of the comity of nations. Some of those who came together to oppose the continuation of military rule in the country paid the supreme sacrifice for this. Many were imprisoned and subjected to unimaginable inhuman treatments while some others were forced to flee the country. It was an era of deprivation in the midst of plenty.

Like the Biblical Israelites, we have wandered in the desert for almost forty years. Happily, we are now at the threshold of the Promised Land. I therefore wish to heartily congratulate you all on your resounding successes at the last general elections which culminated in the disengagement of the military. Similarly, I like to congratulate you on the peaceful conduct of elections into the posts of the Honourable Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other important functionaries of the Assembly. As elected representatives of the people, you have conducted yourselves as men and women of honour. It is my hope that the conduct of the Legislature, the standard of debate, the integrity of members, etc. will make the House the primus in.ter pares among all the Legislative Chambers in the Country.

It is true that the military have voluntarily relinquished power to the democratically elected leaders of the people. The truth however, is that we are just in the process of transition after having been mentally militarised for nearly three decades. Consequently, it requires new political orientation, new set of values as applicable in civilized world where the political leaders will appreciate that the ultimate power belongs to the people and that such power must at all times be used for the good of the greatest majority where the leaders will see themselves as the Chief Servants of the people. It is my fervent hope that, collectively, both the Executive and the Legislature will cooperate, without compromising their traditional functions, in making the State a better place for the present and future generations.

In this my maiden address to this august assembly, I wish to brief you on the state of affairs, with regard to some specific issues, including:

- (a) finances of the state government;
- (b) the state public service and the issue of minimum wage;
- (c) specific programmes of the government;
- (d) Inter-relationship among the arms of government; and
- (e) Major policy thrusts of the administration.

Finances of the State Government

In terms of financial resources, Osun State is one of the poorest States in the Federation. There is very little internally-generated revenue, and this is, of course a by-product of the level of socio-economic development of the State. The allocation to the State from the Federation Account is usually one of the lowest (usually one of the last four) because the criteria for the allocation are not favourable to Osun State. Against this background of poor revenue of government, the State has behind it a long history of provision of social services, particularly in the areas of education and health. Consequently, there is a fairly large size Public Service, as well as ageing and decaying infrastructure.

As at Saturday, 29 May, 1999, the local and internal indebtedness of Osun State Government on Capital and Recurrent expenditure was two billion, one hundred and seventy-two million, nine hundred thousand and twenty-six naira,

forty one kobo (N2,172,900,026.41). Please find in Annexes I and II the details of the internal indebtedness of Osun State Government as at 29 May, 1999. The analysis shows that while a sum of One billion, two hundred and thirty-nine million, one hundred and ninety four thousand, five hundred and fifty- five Naira, fifty-seven kobo (N1,239,194,555.57) is owed to contractors, a total sum of Nine hundred and thirty three million, seven hundred and five thousand, four hundred and seventy Naira, eighty-four kobo (N933,705,470.84) is being owed to serving and retired Public Officers.

As at the same date, the total fund available in government Treasury which I took over was only two hundred and eighty seven million, seven hundred and forty three thousand, two hundred and twenty seven naira and thirty kobo (N287,743,227.30). For emphasis, a sum of N120 million out of this credit balance had been committed payment of salaries while some fund had been set aside for payment to some contractors. Strictly speaking, the bulk of the funds had been committed to one project or the other. Also, the monthly revenue picture which I summarize below does not convey any message of hope. The State has a net revenue of one hundred and fifty nine million, one hundred and ten thousand, two hundred and fifty four naira (N 159,110,254) made up as shown in the following table:

**Average Monthly Revenue
January -May, 1999**

	₦
a. Average Statutory Allocation:	
January- May, 1999.	130,069,486.00
b. Average VAT	41,899,792.00
c. Average Internally Generated Revenue	24,172,819.00
d. Average Total Revenue	196,142,097.00

Less Monthly Mandatory Expenditure:

	₦
(i) NEPA	3,000,000.00
(ii) NITEL	1,000,000.00
(iii) Counterpart funding	22,277,067.00
(iv) Running costs to Agencies	10,754,776.00
(V) Total Monthly Mandatory Expenses	37,031,843.00
Total available revenue	159,110,254.00

In summary, the state is far from being financially comfortable and it requires extra efforts to sustain it.

The Public Service:

The State has a fairly large size Public Service with a total of Twenty three thousand seventy seven (23,077) workforce made up of:

(a) Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff	9 300
(b) Staff of Tertiary Institutions	1,598
(c) Parastatals	1494
(d) Civil Servants:	
(i) Health Sector	2 550
(ii) Other arms of Civil Service	8,135 10.685
Total Staff Strength	23,077

The analysis has shown that the Education Sector accounts for 53.09% of the Personnel and 57.50% of the monthly salaries. It is to be noted that the

personnel in the teaching service are not even adequate as there is a shortage of teachers in the core subjects. Many schools depend heavily on Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) - employed teachers in core subjects such as English Language, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science. The Health Sector accounts for 12.42% of personnel and 12.60% of the monthly wage bill. The two major services- Education and Health account for 65.51% of Personnel and 70.10% of salary cost. All these happen now, when Education and Health are yet to be free. The parastatals comprising basic corporations such as Water Corporation, Osun State Broadcasting Corporation, Agricultural Mechanisation Corporation etc. account for 7.28% of personnel and 8.36% of salaries. The Civil Service comprising the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ministry of Works and Transport, Central Administration (Offices of the Governor and Deputy Governor) etc. account for only 27.21% of personnel and 21.54% of salaries.

It is our duty to restructure the public service for the purpose of implementing the free Education and Health Programmes of this Government. I have given these details to enable all of us to brace-up for the challenges ahead. By the grace of God, we will succeed.

Issue of Minimum Wage:

Unlike previous Salary review exercises that had taken place in the country, the last Federal Military Government announced the new minimum wage without any consultation with other tiers of Government. It unitarised the wage structure in a country with a Federal constitution. In March 1999, when Osun State Government fully implemented the new minimum wage, the wage bill for that month was Two Hundred and five million, nine hundred and sixty- three thousand, seventy-five Naira ninety- one kobo (N205,963,075, H) as against an average of a sum of Seventy seven million Naira (N77,000,000) paid in 1998 and One hundred and fourteen million Naira (N114,000,000) in January, 1999 when only the basic salary was paid. As from 29 May, 1999 the third arm of Government i.e. the Legislature came into force. It has its own budget hitherto not provided for. Similarly, all political appointees on the Boards of corporations and tertiary institutions are yet to have their salaries and allowances adjusted. The figure also excludes the monthly pensions bill. Also, the State Government will as from July, 1999 assume responsibility for the wages of the Staff of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology,

(LAUTECH), Ogbomoso. When the wage bill of Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso is added to that of Osun State Public Service, the total monthly wage bill will be about Two hundred and sixty million-Naira (₦260,000,00.00) per month. Thus, against the average monthly revenue of One hundred and fifty nine million Naira (₦159,000,000) the average monthly wage bill will be about Two hundred and sixty million (₦260,000,000). Given the present pattern of revenue allocation, the most intriguing aspect of the issue of minimum wage is that the structure did not take into consideration the ability of sub-national tiers of government to pay.

Before the introduction of the recent minimum wage, the bulk of the income of government was spent on the wage bill of public servants that constitute about twenty thousand (20,000) out of a population of two million and two hundred thousand (2.2 million) i.e. 0.93% of the population. If the public servants have been patriotic and diligent in their duties, the spending may be realised by the public mainly through education, health, good roads, water supply, and agricultural extension services. However, if there is no sufficient fund to build, equip and maintain schools, hospitals and other physical and social infrastructure, the bulk being paid is being wasted. Furthermore, in the meantime, it is the carpenters, barbers, tailors, mechanics, electricians and such other artisans in the streets that have made the economy resilient since the creation of this State. There must be extra funds to promote their interests too.

I am aware that the issue of minimum wage is national in complexity. However, the poor financial circumstance of Osun State compounds the problem. The ratio between the old (N909.36) and the new minimum (N3000) is 1 to 3.3 while the ratio between the least and the highest paid civil servants under the new salary scale is now 1 to 10.2. It calls for some drastic change in policy, both at the Federal and the State levels. The solution cannot be uniform because the circumstances are not the same as may always be in all Federations. While some States solve the problem by retrenching workers, I do not think that this approach is good for Osun State. I hope we shall collectively find a solution to the problem.

Party Programmes

You are no doubt aware that the generality of the citizenry of Osun State expressed explicit confidence in the programmes of the Alliance for Democracy by voting massively for our party. The people trusted us and we cannot afford to let them down. Consequently, within the limit of the resources at the disposal of Government, I shall faithfully adhere to the implementation of the party programmes, particularly free and qualitative education, free health care, integrated rural development as well as full and gainful employment.

Since the inception of this Administration, my Government has stopped payment of tuition fees in all public Primary and Secondary Schools in Osun State. Further guidelines will soon be given on the issue of fees in State Government-owned tertiary institutions. An inter-disciplinary Committee is already working on the modality of implementing the other components of the party programmes which include the provision of free health, full and gainful employment and integrated rural development.

The Three Arms of Government:

In Osun State, the three arms of government, namely the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, will keep strictly to the doctrine of separation of power in order to ensure checks and balances as well as accountability. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, firmly recognises the position of each arm. The three arms must cooperate and collaborate in order to make democracy work and encourage the development of true federalism in Nigeria.

Government intends to make the Legislature and the Judiciary financially independent. I am aware of the urgent need to provide suitable office and residential accommodations, vehicles, office equipment and other necessary wherewithal. Efforts will be made to tackle these problems within the limit of our financial resources. Government will make temporary arrangements for the accommodation of the Legislators until their quarters are completed and furnished. All of us must make genuine sacrifices for the growth and development of our young State.

Major Policy Thrusts or the Administration

I have already indicated the commitment of this Administration to the faithful implementation of the Party Programmes as spelt out in the manifesto of our party- Alliance for Democracy. In the administration of the State, the following shall be the major policy thrusts:

(i) Restructuring of the Country.

The State government, in collaboration with other states, will work towards the restructuring of relevant aspects of the national economy with a view to evolving true federalism. Efforts will be made towards ensuring an equitable allocation of the nation's resources among the three levels of Government and in consonance with their constitutional responsibilities. This is the ultimate and it is a long term arrangement.

(ii) Prudent Management of Resources.

The finances of the State are poor. However, this Administration will ensure prudent management of resources so as to maximise the benefits that will accrue to the generality of the people. Probity and accountability shall be our watchwords. I promise the people of Osun State an open and incorruptible administration. I shall not hesitate to flush out any public servant with corrupt tendencies. Our primary goal shall be service to the people.

(iii) Participatory Government.

As much as possible, it is not the attitude of my Government to evolve a policy of "winner-take-all". To that extent, all parts of the State will be made to participate in the administration of the State.

(iv) Meritocracy.

Osun State is richly blessed with men and women of substance. Consequently, in appointments to Higher Civil Service posts, meritocracy and reasonable geographical spread will be suitably combined.

(v) **Supremacy of the Party.**

As politicians, we must recognise the supremacy of the political party in all things. We must individually and collectively subject ourselves to the machinery of the party. This is one major difference between democracy and the dictatorial military regime. And this is where the Alliance for Democracy and its precursors- the Action Group and the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) were unique, strong and respected. Please, let us keep to the tradition of discipline.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Osun State deserves nothing but the best for its citizenry, if the dreams of the founding fathers are to be realised. We must work collectively as a group, emphasise unity and issues that tend to unite all parts of the State. The leadership and followership roles are complementary. I hope I can always count on your support at all times.

Finally, I congratulate you once again and it is my hope and prayer that we shall all justify the confidence reposed in us by the electorates. Mr. Speaker, and Honourable Members, I thank you for listening. I want to say that the initial difficulties posed by the workers should neither disturb nor discourage members and the people of Osun State. In the Bible, Genesis Chapter 1 verses 1 to 5, we learn that even at the beginning, after creation, "the earth was without form and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep". By the grace of God, the spirit of God will soon move into Osun State. And there will be light in the heart of everybody, and there will be peace and progress in Bisi Akande's administration.

Long live Osun State,
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

ANNEX I
Indebtedness on Capital Projects;
Indebtedness during the first Civilian Administration (1991 -93):

	N	N
a. Completed and Confirmed Projects	91,756,728.59	
b. On-Going Projects	153,606,204.17	
Sub-Total (1991- 1993) =		<u>245,362,932.76</u>

Indebtedness during Military Administration:

a. Projects financed from the State Budget	729,247,970.77	
b. Projects financed from the Special Presidential Projects Grant	<u>264,583,652.04</u>	
Sub-Total (1993- 1999)		<u>993,831,622.81</u>
Total Indebtedness on Capital Projects		<u>1,239,194,555.57</u>

ANNEX II

2. Other Indebtedness on Recurrent Expenditure Items:

	N	N
a. Arrears of gratuity due to retired civil servants and secondary school teachers	120,080,264.00	
b. Arrears of gratuity due to retired primary school teachers	122,810,579.89	
c. Arrears of pension of civil servants and secondary school teachers	20,703,263.95	
d. Arrears of pension of primary school teachers	42,120,363.00	
e. Arrears of 1998 Leave Bonus	31,000,000.00	
f. Arrears of the implementation of the new minimum wage of N 3,000.00 per month for the months of January and February, 1999.	185,000,000.00	
g. Unpaid salaries for the months of April and May, 1999 (N206x2)m	412,000,000.00	
Total indebtedness on recurrent expenditure items		<u>933,831,622.81</u>
Grand total of indebtedness on Capital and Recurrent Expenditure items:		<u>2,172,900,026.41</u>

Note: Details of debts arising from foreign loans will be marked out and published later.

**BUDGET SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR, CHIEF
ADEBISI AKANDE, ON THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF OSUN STATE OF NIGERIA FOR THE 2000 FISCAL
YEAR, DELIVERED AT THE OSUN STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1999.**

Mr speaker and Honourable Members,

I have the greatest pleasure to present to this Honourable House today the first Annual Budget of this Administration.

**PREAMBL
E**

In Osun State there is neither industrial production nor serious crop agriculture to justify the type of consumption patterns desired by the residents. One might then wonder if the state as geographically expressed is viable. What we inherited when this Administration came on board on May 29, 1999 does not give much hope that the State will ever be viable except with a concerted effort to change the orientation of the people who believe:

(i) that all income must come from the government;

(ii) that they must share from the so-called government money, equal to or earn more income than people living in economically more viable states; and

(iii) that they do not have to work in order to receive salaries, hence the long list of innumerable non-governmental organizations and individuals who rely on the government for subventions or "running costs" for their livelihood.

It will be recalled, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, that the announcement of the creation of Osun State in August 1991 was heralded by an unprecedented stampede for appointments into public offices, and for contracts

by the top echelons of the military, traditional and civil political scramblers. Also in the stampede were workers, school leavers, rural migrants – all in search of booties from the new state. The vibrations of this stampede kept many citizens of Osun State rushing into Osogbo for "government salvation". In their train were business fraudsters waylaying various government agencies for fraudulent transactions.

Surprisingly, people generally believed that the new Osun State government should have unlimited financial capacity to absorb all sorts of demands. Even when such demands were shyly met for political reasons, the same people soon became dissatisfied and kept on demanding for what they considered as their own "bigger share of the state cake". Eventually, they formed themselves into "unions" and "associations" for the sheer purpose of mounting stronger pressures on and for bullying the State's authorities.

The effects of all these have resulted in over-staffing in virtually all departments of the state's public life, over-promotion of staff, over-award of government contracts and over-purchase of goods at incredibly highly inflated prices. There is also the scramble for and greedy sharing of government allocations from the Federation Accounts, as well as the plundering of our forest resources- all of which have led to the near total immobilization of the government by huge salary arrears, unpaid gratuities and pensions to retired public officers, and by uncountable debts to all kinds of creditors most of whom are now impoverished and strangled economically. On top of it all are foreign debts and grants totaling about half-a-billion dollars which were spent on invisibles and on roads constructed with World Bank loans which collapse as soon as the contractors handling them leave the sites.

The number of local government councils in Osun State is inordinately disproportionate to its overall population, land area, and revenue generation when compared with all the other states in Nigeria. And we are still demanding the creation of additional local governments.

The number of the members of Osun State Council of Obas and Chiefs is unjustifiably too high. It is about five (5) times the total number of members of the Council of Obas and Chiefs in the old Oyo State before Osun State was

carved out. And a greater number of our traditional rulers are still anxious to join the Council.

At the same time, our so-called businessmen and other elites of the society are daily parading the corridors of government for non-existing business contracts. Those who were lucky to have been in government as Commissioners, Civil Servants or Board members fell over one another either to award the few available government contracts to themselves or to serve as fronts for other contractors.

The people, perhaps having over-enjoyed unguarded pleasures and government booties for eight years, before this Administration came on board, have been forced by accumulated public debts to leave their children to roam the streets as public school teachers went on protracted strikes, while their wives have had to pay as high as N15,000.00 each as hospital bills just for being delivered of a baby.

It was at that point in the life of our dear State that this government came into office. We were welcomed into office with workers' strikes; with brazen exhibition of delinquent acts by school pupils; with the poorest performance in public examinations ever recorded by students in Osun State when compared with the performance of children in other States. We also had to contend with a flurry of advice for government to borrow money from any source to pay arrears of salaries and with a barrage of complaints about low government internally generated revenue.

We were therefore, expected to squeeze more money out of the already prostate citizens. Even some religious leaders began to lead their congregations in singing "E san owo Teacher o", etc. whereas, since the past five years, the children being taught by the teachers have always failed woefully all their prescribed examinations.

Meanwhile, the usual professional ethic affirming "the loyalty of the public servants to the government of the day" can no longer be taken for granted. This is because not few of Osun State public officers are disgruntled and very bitter at the determination of my government to stop the military regime-

induced practice whereby government officials corruptly but brazenly tum themselves into government contractors and/or agents of contractors for poorly executed government projects at highly inflated costs; that is if such projects were ever executed at all.

As a result of all these aspects of Osun State which this Administration inherited, the State finds it difficult to pay its workers. Also, it can neither settle the inherited debts to contractors nor venture into new development projects which could benefit the generality of the citizens of the state.

Unfortunately, the generality of the citizenry (who are being denied their due share of the State Government's welfare benefits) are themselves being hood-winked into supporting those on whom all the resources of the state are spent. They now join forces in pressurizing the government to find money by all means (if need be through borrowing) to pay those who have already cornered for themselves the available benefits accruing from the existence of the state. The reason is simple. Almost everybody is directly sharing from the booties from government's treasury while the rest of the population who should normally benefit from government's welfare programmes are themselves close or distant dependants of those who are already sharing the booties among themselves.

Consequently, hundreds of billions of naira which have accrued to Osun State since inception from either international borrowing or from the Federation Account allocations have been spent on invisibles, whilst the social welfare infrastructure has virtually collapsed. For instance, as at today, Osun State has only few good motorable roads, no functioning potable water supply scheme, no technical advisory assistance to our ageing farming population and no technological impetus of any kind for the youths with which to establish and develop industries.

Worse still, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, all the three (3) giant Federal Government-owned factories or establishments in Osun State -namely, the Nigerian Railways Corporation, the Osogbo Steel Rolling Mill, and the Machine Tools Limited- are totally comatose. Therefore, the state now finds itself in a situation whereby the tribe of self-employed professionals and

artisans, who are creditors to the government, are trapped, impoverished and liquidated by government's inability to settle its local debts, while the government is being compelled to spend the bulk of its resources to satisfy the comforts of the vocal government employees, the elites of the society as well as traditional and civil political rulers.

Before agriculture and industry can be developed properly in the state, it needs first and foremost an enlightened and healthy population. It also needs electricity, good roads and potable water in all its townships and rural settlements. As a first step in this direction, this Administration is religiously pursuing its principles of free education for all, at all levels, and free medical services for all citizens of Osun State.

The immediate priorities of the government are, therefore:

- (i) to continue with and consolidate our newly-introduced free medical services;
- (ii) to further advance our free education programme;
- (iii) to embark on the construction of good motorable roads to link all rural communities to the towns throughout the state;
- (iv) to provide potable water and electricity to all our people living both in the rural and urban areas;
- (v) to build and establish most urgently a functional Government Secretariat to house all ministries and other agencies of government at the New Secretariat site in Osogbo; as well as
- (vi) to revamp the State's Radio and Television stations.

In the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2000, the biggest expenditure item is the cost of the public service (i.e. salaries and allowances). We intend to rationalize the service in the coming years. To this end, Government will carefully consider and muster sufficient courage to implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Establishment Audit Committee which recently carried out a thorough study of the staffing position of the State's public service.

There is the need to re-orientate the general public about their civic responsibilities, restructure the state public service, and revamp the economy of Osun State by mobilizing our people to develop private entrepreneurship through cooperative agriculture, cooperative trading, and co-operative industrial production. The emphasis must be on "**COOPERATION**" so that together we shall all join forces to overcome the hurdles in the way of moving our dear State forward.

Review of the Implementation of the State's 1999 Budget

Mr Speaker and Honourable members, we are all aware that the 1999 budget was inherited by this Administration. Its total size was four billion, seven hundred and ninety million two hundred and ninety thousand naira (N4,790,290,000) out of which one hundred and seventy-eight million, three hundred and eighty thousand Naira (N178,380,000) represented the provision for the internally generated revenue by statutory bodies and tertiary institutions which they retained for their internal use in accordance with existing regulations and guidelines. Therefore, the total revenue expected to come into Government treasury was Four billion, six hundred and eleven million and ten thousand naira (N4,611,910,000) only.

However, as at the end of October 1999, the total revenue which accrued to Government from all sources stood at three billion, three hundred and twelve million, twenty nine thousand, five hundred and eighty eight naira, seventy four kobo (N3,312,029,588.74) while the total expenditure on all components of the recurrent and capital budget was two billion, nine hundred and eighty seven million, four hundred and forty five thousand, seven hundred and eighty five naira and fifty three kobo (N2,987,445,785.53).

As at present, the backlog of salaries of most of the agencies of Government is being paid up to October 1999. Also, Government is making strenuous efforts to settle the outstanding salaries of all public officers within the shortest possible time. In the same vein, whatever debts which cannot be accommodated in the 1999 Budget have been duly provided for in the year 2000 Budget now being submitted to this Honourable House.

Full details of the implementation of the 1999 budget will be prepared after the end of the 1999 fiscal year.

The Year 2000 Budget

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the major thrusts of this Administration's focus for the year 2000 have earlier been enumerated in this address. I wish to now summarise the State Government's Budget for the year as hereunder:

TABLE I: Summary of the Year 2000 Budget:

ITEMS	ESTIMATES ₦	%OF TOTAL REVENUE%
A. RECURRENT REVENUE:		
(i) Internally Generated Revenue of Ministries and Departments	795,974,830	7.88
(ii) Internally Generated Revenue of Statutory Bodies and Higher Institutions	191,913,000	1.90
Sub-Total (IGR)	987,887,830	9.78
(iii) Statutory Allocation	4,320,000.000	42.78
(iv) Value Added Tax (VAT)	600.000.000	5.94
TOTAL FOR RECURRENT REVENUE	5,907,887,830	58.50
Capital receipts	4,190,152,240	41.50
TOTAL REVENUE	10,098,040,070	100.00
B. EXPENDITURE:		
Recurrent Expenditure		
(I) Personnel Costs	3,427,088,910	29.00
(II) Overhead Costs	997,657,000	8.44
(III) Consolidated Revenue Fund Charge	694,616.000	5.88
Sub-Total (Revenue Expenditure)	5119,361,910	43.12
Capital Expenditure	6,696,797, 140	56.68
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	11,816,159,050	100.00

The projected total revenue accruing to the government from all sources is ten billion, ninety-eight million, forty thousand and seventy naira (N10,098,040,070) only, as against the projected total expenditure of eleven billion, eight hundred and sixteen million, one hundred and fifty-nine thousand, fifty naira (N11,816,159,050). Therefore, there is a projected deficit budget of one billion, seven hundred and eighteen million, one hundred and eighteen thousand, nine hundred and eighty naira (N1,718,118,980) only, which amounts to 14.54% of the budget. Government intends to source for funds (possibly through soft loans) for the prosecution of essential capital components of the budget such as in the areas of water supply and transportation.

The Capital Expenditure components of the budget amount to six billion, six hundred and ninety-six million, seven hundred and ninety-seven thousand, one hundred and forty naira (N6,696,797,140) or 56.68% of the total budget size. The sectoral and sub-sectoral allocations in the capital Budget are contained in table II below.

TABLE II:**Sectoral vs Sub-Sectoral Allocation of Capital Expenditure**

Sub-Sector	Details of Expenditure	Estimates 2000 ₦	Percentage Allocation %
A. ECONOMIC SECTOR			
450	Agriculture and rural development	105,018,000	1.57
451	Livestock	3,500,000	0.05
452	Forestry	5,250,000	0.08
453	fisheries	2,000,000	0.03
455	Urban/Rural Electrification	60,000,000	0.90
456	Industry, Commerce, Finance And Cooperatives	146,836,070	2.19
457	Transportation	1,061,000,000	15.84
Sub-Total		1,383,604,070	20.66
B. SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR:			
458	Education	422,703,000	6.31
459	Health	250,018,580	3.74
460	Information and Culture	330,300,000	4.93
461	Social Development, Youth and Sports	10,200,000	0.15
Sub-Total		1,013,221,580	15.13
C. REGIONAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR:			
462	Water Resources	3,257,114,560	48.64
463	Environmental Situation	10,700,000	1.65
464	Housing	53,493,000	0.80
465	Town and Country Planning	6,000,000	0.90
Sub-Total		3,427,307,560	51.18
D. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SECTOR:			
467	General Administration	872,663,930	13.03
CAPITAL	GRAND TOTAL	6,696,797,140	100.00

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMMES IN THE BUDGET

As I have said earlier, an enlightened and healthy citizenry is the bedrock of any meaningful socio-economic development. Therefore, education and health have been accorded high priority in the Osun State budget for the year 2000.

EDUCATION

All necessary steps will be taken to arrest the decline in the standard of education in the state right from the primary schools through the secondary to the tertiary educational institutions. The morale of both staff and students will be appropriately boosted so as to revive their interest, commitment and dedication to both teaching and learning.

In order to prepare our children for the challenges of the 21st century, a new impetus will be given to the study of science and technological subjects at all levels of our educational system. One of our policy thrusts in that direction is the establishment of seven (7) Technical Colleges to be spread across the geo-political zones of the State. For this, a take-off sum of N21million naira has been provided in the budget. Appropriate equipment and staff will also be provided for the existing two Technical Colleges in the State. The programmes of the State's existing tertiary educational institutions will also be restructured with a view to vigorously pursuing science and technology-based courses.

To underscore government's commitment to the state's educational sub-sector the Budget for the year 2000 has the following provisions:

- (i) one billion, eight hundred and ninety-seven million, five hundred thousand naira (N1,897,500,000) for personnel costs in the sub-sector, which is 55.37% of the total Personnel budget;
- (ii) two hundred and eighty four million, eight hundred and twenty thousand naira (N284,820,000) as overhead costs in the Education sub-sector, i.e, 28.55% of the total overhead budget;
and

- (iii) four hundred and twenty two million, seven hundred and three thousand Naira (N422,703,000) as the sub-sector's capital budget, amounting to 6.31% of the total capital budget.

I would like to use this opportunity to, once again, appeal to all stakeholders in the education sector (i.e. Parents, guardians, students, teachers, the general public, etc) to join hands with us in our conscientious and genuine commitment and efforts to salvage the education of our children from the brink of collapse where, unfortunately, it is at present as a result of apparent neglect by previous Administrations in the last sixteen (16) years or so,

HEALTH

With regard to the Health sub-sector, the commitment of this Administration is equally strong as can be seen from the systematic and phased implementation of our free medical services formally flagged off on October 1,1999. Already, we have established additional fifteen (15) health facilities, thereby increasing the number from thirty-four (34) to forty nine (49) so as to ensure the widest possible coverage of the free medical programme in Osun State. Adequate drugs and vaccines have also been bought and made available to these health facilities. It is gratifying to note that since the introduction of the programme, patients' attendance at the state's various health institutions has increased by between 500% and 1,000%.

The budget for the year 2000 will sustain and consolidate as well as improve on the successful delivery of the free medical services. Therefore, the Health sub-sector has been allocated

- (i) a sum of three hundred and fifty-eight million five hundred thousand naira (N358.500,000) as personnel costs, which is about 10.46% of the total Personnel budget;
- (ii) fifty one million four hundred and fifty thousand Naira (N51,450,000) as overhead costs, amounting to 5.16% of the total over-head budget; and
- (iii) two hundred and fifty million, eighteen thousand, five hundred and eighty naira (N-250,018,580) as capital expenditure, or 3.74% of the total capital budget.

It is also appropriate to stress that emphasis will be placed in the year 2000 on:

- (i) the completion and equipping of relevant on-going hospital building projects so as to put them to immediate use by the people;
- (ii) provision of residential accommodation around the health facilities to increase the comfort of health workers there;
- (iii) recruitment, training and re-training of relevant health workers; and
- (iv) continuous and adequate supply of drugs to all health facilities in the state.

Government cannot over emphasise that the success of the programme depends on the patriotism, dedication, and honesty of those in charge of its delivery, and the cooperation of all the citizens. Let me at this stage express my appreciation of the efforts of the doctors, the pharmacists, the nurses and all the other hospital or clinic workers in the execution of the new Health Programme. It is my hope that they will sustain and even improve on these efforts.

AGRICULTURE

It is not the policy of the present Administration to engage in direct involvement in farming or food production, but rather to assist farmers of all descriptions to achieve bumper harvests in their various agricultural pursuits. In this vein, every incentive would be given to the masses to farm efficiently towards the realization of individual or group self-reliance in food production.

What this Administration inherited on coming to office on May 29, 1999 consists of :

- (a) old and few self-employed farmers using ancient methods and crude tools in small, subsistent farm holdings on borrowed or inherited family lands.
- (b) few "farm settlers" each allocated ten hectares of Government acquired lands scattered at Ila Orangun, Esa-Oke, Igbaye, Ago-Owu, Oyere, Oke-Osun in Osogbo, Oluponna and Iwo, all associating to beg for Government assistance.
- (c) few individual farmers practising poultry, fishery and cash crop production on self-acquired, rented and /or inherited family lands.
- (d) few school leavers assembled and employed by government with little stipends under the unprofitable Osun State Agricultural Self Employment Programme (OSSASEP).
- (e) some school farms haphazardly monitored by school authorities but uncoordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- (f) local government palm-tree farms, fisheries and poultry farms totally uncoordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- (g) one or two state government owned poultry farms.
- (h) direct Government involvement in fanning, Fisheries and poultry projects through which many workers are under-employed and under-utilized while public funds are wasted on them.
- (i) direct State Government involvement in Project-farming and Project Livestock agriculture by certain governmental agencies, being financed with international loans but which have nothing to show for such huge funds except recriminations about diversion, mis-appropriation, and stealing of the borrowed international loans.

- U) "big Farmers' Unions" living fat on government grants, most members of which are influential city-dwellers without any farm-land.
- (k) Federal Government's badly managed and poorly-funded agricultural research institutes established in neighbouring states at Ibadan and Ilorin with numerous discountenanced research reports, but whose historical efforts are now being replicated at great costs by the state's Ministry of Agriculture.
- (l) corruptly depleted forests that are being continuously plundered and which are crying for regeneration and policing,

In order to arrest this dangerous trend, this Government proposes to restore farming to its well-deserved pride of place through the following strategies:

- (a) plans towards seeking the co-operation of the Local Governments (using each Local Government area as an Optimum Community -("OPTICOM")) in mobilising all secondary schools in the rural areas of Osun State (especially those in places where land is no constraint) to start cultivating at least 20 hectares of farm each with technical assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture. Such school farms will serve as "experimental farms" and have a special part to be nurtured for seed multiplication and to be used for agronomic trials, etc. thus bringing the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture nearer to the farming populace through their children. Each OPTICOM would also be encouraged to establish poultry projects in every urban secondary school where arable farmland may not be readily available.
- (b) mobilisation of the masses of the farming population towards effective agricultural production through co-operative farming schemes. This can be best handled by the staff of OSSADEP, staff of the Department of Co-operatives of the State Ministry of Commerce, Industries, and Cooperatives, together with those of the Department of Social Development in the Ministry of Information, who would be deployed to various Local

Governments (OPTICOM) to organize interested farming groups into co-operative societies and to register them for production and marketing produce in collaboration with the Local Government Councils. In doing so, the tenure system of the individual or family land to be used (or possibly several contiguous family land-holdings to be involved) would be borne in mind. Such land would not be acquired but leased with a memorandum of understanding between the registered co-operative farmers and the family owners of the land; and

- (c) the representatives of school farms, the local government representatives, the representatives of the co-operative farmers' societies, and representatives of interested individual small and big-time farmers will also be encouraged to establish joint storage, value-added processing, packaging and marketing of farming produce as 'OPTICOM Companies or Corporations duly registered under relevant articles of association.

Under these proposals, the State's Ministry of Agriculture shall have responsibility for stimulating agricultural production and marketing which may be classified as follows:

- (a) policy formulation;
- (b) laying down of guidelines and control systems ensuring compliance with formulated policies;
- (c) interpreting and facilitating policy implementation and ensuring that farmers are co-opted to produce optimally;
- (d) Using the various agencies:
 - (i) to produce information guidelines about the planting seasons, land preparation, soil suitability, planting distances, fertilizer application, weeding and harvesting, etc in simple, easy-to-understand English and Yoruba languages, and

- (ii) to print and distribute such well-illustrated literatures among the young farmers in schools and through the various co-operative farmers' societies in all the various local government areas of the state.

An Integrated Rural Development Committee will be established under the Chairmanship of a top government official with representatives from the Bureau of Local Government, the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Commerce, Information and Finance. This committee will advise Government on:

- (i) successful establishment and early take-off of school farms, co-operative farmers' and settlers' farms;
- (ii) the tools and implements currently available compared with those actually required for the success of the programme;
- (iii) the optimum cost of implementing each project under the policy;
- (iv) which aspect of the responsibilities attached to these policies should devolve on the State Ministry of Agriculture and which on co-operative societies.
- (v) which aspects of project implementation should devolve on Local Government Councils; and
- (vi) the extension staff required in each Local Government area.

The Committee will review and up-date its programmes from time to time and submit periodic reports to Government.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

As already amply indicated in this address, this Administration's approach to development is holistic. We intend to confront head-on and to overcome completely all obstacles to the political, social and economic development of Osun State. Our plan is to provide all towns and rural settlements with every desirable

infrastructure to make life more meaningful and more enjoyable for those residing in them. A panoramic view of the budgetary allocations to other relevant major sub-sectors not yet dwelt upon above is given below.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation subsector has been allocated a sum of One billion, sixty-one million naira (N1,061,000,000) or 15.84% of the Capital budget. With this, emphasis will be placed on completing all on-going road projects all over the state, especially those under the Multi-State Road Project Scheme, while some other roads will be constructed or rehabilitated. As much as possible, roads rehabilitation and maintenance works will be done by direct labour of the Ministry of Works and Transport in order to optimize cost-effectiveness.

ELECTRIFICATION

In order to provide the required power for socio-economic development of the State, a sum of fifty million (N50,000,000) had been allocated to rural electrification in the State's Budget for the year 2000. The various local governments will also be encouraged to provide street lights in their areas of jurisdiction. We also intend, where appropriate, to assist Federal Authorities in ensuring effective energisation of Osun State.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, FINANCE AND COOPERATIVES

The government has no intention of going into direct establishment and/or running of industrial projects. It will only strive to provide the enabling environment to attract and sustain private investments in the state. We shall, therefore, restrict our involvement to promotional activities and, where it becomes absolutely desirable and necessary, to equity participation in viable joint industrial ventures. The sum of one hundred and forty six million, eighty hundred and thirty six thousand and twenty naira (N146,836,020) or 2.19% of the total capital budget has been earmarked for this sector.

WATER RESOURCES

The largest sum of three billion, two hundred and fifty seven million, one hundred and fourteen thousand, five hundred and sixty naira (N3,257,114,560) (amounting to 48.64% of the budget) is allocated to this sector to demonstrate the high priority which this Administration attaches to the well-being of the citizens through the provision of potable water across Osun State.

CONCLUSIONS

Providence has assigned to all of us – Honourable members of this august House of Assembly and members of the Executive the arduous but very noble task of steering the ship of our State at this very critical stage in its life. In the last seven (7) months, both arms of the government have been doing their best to ensure that we do not shirk this sacred duty. Together, the Executive and the Legislature have been searching for the best workable solutions to the enormous political, social and economic problems which today make life unpleasant for the generality of the people of our State. It has been a learning period for all of us. I hope that the experience we have gained in the process would stand everyone of us in a better position in the coming year to further appreciate the very serious economic and moral decadence in which Osun state has today found itself because of the acts of omission and commission of its past rulers. That understanding itself should make us all to honestly rededicate ourselves to selflessly work in unison, as partners-in-progress, to faithfully plan, legislate on and prosecute programmes and projects which will bring broad smiles to the faces of all the people of Osun State as we step into the 21st century.

By electing us into our present respective offices as legislators and executors of government policies, the good people of this State have reposed their confidence in our collective capabilities to research into and understand the problems facing them. They are very right to expect, and even demand, that we work together as formidable allies, and use our vantage positions to find objective and sustainable solutions to those problems.

The Osun State Budget for the fiscal year 2000 has been prepared precisely to meet that justifiable challenge from the good masses who put us in office. The budget's various programmes and projects are tailored to address the desirable aspirations of the people within the constraints imposed by the revenue that may accrue to Government during the year. Therefore, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, it gives me great joy to place before this Honourable House for its dispassionate consideration the Osun State Budget for the year 2000 christened "**A FRESH START IN OSUN STATE**". Given the budget's direct focus on returning hope and bringing succour to all our people in Osun State, I have no doubt in my mind that the House of Assembly will find no difficulty whatsoever in passing the Budget into law very swiftly.

In closing, I thank you for your continued cooperation with my Administration, and especially for listening to me patiently during this Budget Speech. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and God Almighty's abundant blessings as we enter the New Millennium.

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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF 'BISI AKANDE, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE ON THE OCCASION MARKING HIS SIGNING INTO LAW, THE YEAR 2000 APPROVED BUDGET OF OSUN STATE ON MONDAY 27TH MARCH, 2000.

I am very happy to be here today, for the purpose of signing into law, the year 2000 Budget of Osun State, the first of its kind by the present Administration. Today's occasion is very spectacular for reasons of the celebration of a new beginning in prudent financial management.

I want to sincerely commend the efforts of our able legislators, for their scrutinising efforts on the draft budget and for finding time to invite the Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of non-ministerial Departments to the House of Assembly to defend the budget proposals of their agencies.

If you take and compare all the past approved budgets of Osun State since 1991 to date, you will discover that they were more or less copy works. There were no spectacular differences except on few occasions where the Civil Servants Capitalised on the ignorance of the military to trade-in or trade-off some sub-heads in the personnel component of the budget. Apart from this, other sub-heads of the budget were being repeated over the years, while the same road network kept on appearing in the budget. Members of the public were, very often, ignorantly happy when Government delivered its Annual Budget and made mention of some roads in the towns or villages as being slated for tarring. The joy however, was often short-lived when roads slated for tarring in the budget were eventually mortared. We thank God, the era of "unrealistic Budget preparation" is gone ilulu by the grace of God, it is gone forever.

Having settled the issue of unrealistic Budget Preparation, we are more than determined to deal with the same vigaur the monster of "Poor Budget Implementation". There is no time to waste. No corruption, unaccountability or other misdemeanours will be allowed. Everybody that will be involved in

the implementation of the year 2000 Budget that is being signed into law today must guard his/her loins, as no distraction will be tolerated. We have made promises to our people and we must deliver. I have directed the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to issue immediately the Guidelines on the implementation of the Budget which all agencies of Government must adhere to. By the grace of God, we will also ensure that the era of Poor Budget Implementation, Budget Indiscipline, corruption and lack of probity is equally removed.

Ladies and gentlemen, only the uninformed, the uncharitable and the unbelievers will not understand that this State is neck-deep in problems. To actually bail ourselves out of these problems, we must be prepared to make some sacrifices so that this State might be given a solid foundation. The A.D Government in Osun State is fully committed and we are going to implement all our programmes with good planning, realistic budgets and courage.

As at today, inspite of all the inherited problems, we are proud to tell the world that all the four months salary arrears that we inherited from the Military Administration have been paid to all our workers. And we shall be paying subsequent monthly salaries as and when due to the chagrin of some people who have had no other subject matter to discuss other than workers' salary arrears. As at May 1999, a total debt of over N2 billion plus external loans of about one hundred million pounds and over US \$150 million were inherited by the A.D administration in Osun State. All these were spent mostly on invisible projects; where the projects are visible, most of them are badly implemented. For example, the World Bank assisted MSRP (I & II) road projects are not properly executed as most of the roads have begun to spill off and somewhere collapsing. These were enough burdens to destroy the total employment opportunity for all the workers. Politics has its own science, which are beyond the ken of the uninitiated. My government shall soon begin to bring out gold from the rut of the inherited decadence. It is then that the authors of most of the on-going bulletins in Osun State shall stop coming out during the day to pontificate among the civilised citizens of modem era. Say what you like and do what you love, this government shall not allow itself to be dithered by known privileged thieves.

One of the satanic weapons for the destruction of man is "FEAR". Any man that succeeds in conquering fear will surely succeed in life. For example, when the going was roughest during Abacha regime, 'NADECO' was the only organisation that faced the "Anti-Democracy Oppressive Machine", from the beginning to the end. Afenifere was the pin-head of NADECO, particularly in Yoruba land. All along, I was the chairman of Afenifere in Osun State. I even openly contested and won election to Abacha's Constitution Review Conference in Afenifere's name. For reasons of salvation for democracy, I decided to boycott the Abacha's conference after the election. When Afenifere joined others from other zones to form the Alliance for Democracy, I also became the party's chairman in Osun State.

I doff my cap for Tell Magazine, Tempo, Punch and Concord and perhaps a few other newspapers boys, for joining efforts with the NADECO members in achieving the desired democracy. Now, who are the new historians that brought democracy to Osun State while I was allegedly doing my business in Lagos? History needs a lot of learning, writing and proofs! Historical facts can never be faulted. People may not know that I was born by a family of warriors. All Agba-Akins are warriors- not necessarily with the guns and bullets but always of courage and adventure. I have begun to lead A.D, inspite of all odds, into a big war of developmental rejuvenation in Osun State. We shall surely win, whatever may be the agony or the cry of anguish from the enemies of the State who might have paraded themselves as friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, before signing this budget appropriation into law, I want to thank once again our legislators for the speed with which they handled this assignment. I now have the honour and privilege of signing into law, the year 2000 budget of Osun State.

Thank you and God bless.

ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF BISI AKANDE, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE, TO THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA ON MONDAY, 5TH JUNE, 2000

It is with gratitude to the Almighty that I once again stand before this Honourable House to address this assemblage of honoured representatives of the good people of this State. Today's special sitting, Mr Speaker, which you have given me the privilege to address is to mark the first anniversary of democratic governance in Nigeria after many years of protracted military misrule. It therefore affords me a great pleasure to felicitate and share the joy of liberty and freedom from despotic rule with this respectable House and the masses of our people.

As you are all aware, the military bowed out of office on 29th May, 1999. I, as well as thirty five other Governors, was sworn-in on that same day, each in his State. The new elected President was also sworn-in. The event of that day is no doubt a remarkable watershed in the history of our country as it marks the commencement of democratic governance after more than 15 years of uninterrupted military dictatorship. (

In my inaugural speech on the occasion of my swearing-in ceremony as Governor of Osun State, I did remark, among other things, that the events of that day took place "against the backdrop of a long and brutal military interregnum in the political life of Nigeria, during which the civil society had virtually lost confidence in itself". Today, I intend to pick up the trend of that message by reminding our people that in the earliest of times, the totalitarian traditional authorities, which enhanced the use of the traditional rulers as agents of Europe in organizing the arrests of their subjects as goods and chattels for slave trade and which retarded the growth of the Yoruba wisdom, native education and civilization, needed no complication of the theory of separation of powers.

Indeed the tribal and intra-ethnic wars of uncontrollable dimensions which gave opportunity to the British to colonise our land for 100 years between

1860 and 1960 required no checks and balances. What further rubbished our psyche was not only the divide-and-rule tactics of our colonial masters but also the way and manner independence was bequeathed to us as a country with no recognition given to the equalities of component nationalities.

Between 1952 and 1959, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, as a counterpoise, used Egbe Omo Oduduwa and the Action Group Government of the old Western Region as an inclusive mechanism to unite the various tribes of Yorubaland. He combined the native wisdom of the traditional leaders with the activism of the civil political elites to dismantle the protectorate and colonial authorities, to give way to self-rule transitions, and to encourage some political tutelage before independence. These led to Yoruba unity, Yoruba progress and Yoruba development. Since then, the other ethnic groups in Nigeria have been envying and accusing the Yoruba people of dominating the economy of the country.

The power-play that followed Chief Awolowo's eight-year rule led to the declaration of a state of emergency in Yorubaland and the imprisonment of Chief Awolowo by the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Federal Government and this led to the eventual collapse of the First Republic and subsequently to the Nigeria Civil War. It also led to "WET-E" and the "AGBEKOYA" riots in the South-West. All these were to give those who had cleverly schemed to dominate the military, the much needed opportunity to use military rule to stifle the education of our youths and to hoist poverty on the otherwise prosperous people of the Yoruba Nation. It was no doubt an orchestrated design to promote cowardice and lack of confidence in our ability to resist marginalisation.

The grand scheme by those who had sworn to do all they could, not only to put a stop to our forward march to progress and national development but also to hold our race to ransom in captivity forever, reached its high-point during the regime, of the maximum ruler, Sani Abacha, whose ultimate ambition was to be President for life of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. His authoritarian regime, which was sustained with bribe and incredible corrupt practices, kept high the hope of the "new breed" politicians who were to be used for the purpose of mobilising the gullible members of the public, majority of whom

suffered in silence, to support Abacha's mad and inordinate ambition of self-succession. While NADECO leaders and pro-democracy groups, in their support for JUNE 12, were engaged in activities directed at stifling and check-mating the diabolic plan of the "new breed" politicians, traditional rulers all over Nigeria were spontaneously mobilized by Abacha with 5% of the income of the Local Governments in Nigeria. We give glory to God that, through divine intervention, we are today witnessing a new democratic dawn.

This is the political environment which we inherited as elected representatives through a Constitution written by the military and their political cohorts, designed primarily to confuse the operators and to infuse acrimonies amongst the three arms as well as the three tiers of government in order to ensure a somersault of the political system and a total collapse of the hard-won democracy.

Thus, Osun State, a land blessed with abundant human and material resources, which ought to prosper if its resources were well harnessed and managed, was as at May 29th, 1999 soaked in debt and was known more for its poverty profile and penury as it could not boast of any tangible developed asset or property.

It is necessary, Mr Speaker and Honourable members, to know one's past in order to be able to appreciate the present and plan for the future. It may therefore interest you to note that geographically, what is now Osun State was an amalgam of the old Ife Native Authority and part of the old Ibadan Native Authority. The old Ife Native Authority covered what later became known as Ife, Ijesha and Igbomina Divisions, while the whole of what is now Iwo, Ede, Osogbo and Ikirun zones were part of the defunct Ibadan Native Authority. It is by the joint resolve of our elders and leaders that we have become recognised as a people with a common destiny. Therefore, the earlier we reconciled ourselves to this fact of history and allowed education to be available to all and sundry without hindrance as the only impartial "leveller" capable of restoring us to our original pride of place, the better. It will also interest you to know that our Traditional Chiefs have braced themselves up together ready for the salvation of the interests of the Yoruba Nation particularly in Osun State where their leadership has begun to reorganize the State Council of Obas

and Chiefs with a view to making their institutions to continue to be relevant to modern political and social objectives. I will soon bring a Bill to this Honourable House of Assembly to assist them in their aspirations.

After the foregoing historical sketch, I wish, most sincerely, to express the deep appreciation of this Administration to the entire Honourable Members of this House for your support of government policies. In particular, I am quite appreciative of your understanding and support during the labour crisis over the minimum wage which lasted very close to six months. Also on record and very much appreciated are the prompt considerations and approvals given to a number of Orders and Bills presented to this Honourable House, especially the Year 2000 Appropriation Bill which has since been signed into Law. But for the cooperation and mutual understanding between the Executive and the Legislative Arms of Government it would not have been possible to record any appreciable achievement, given the odds that faced the government at its inception.

Let me quickly add that between these two arms of Government, as expected in an emerging democracy as ours, the goings-on have not been smooth; I believe that much more ground would have been covered by government if the Executive and the Legislature had fostered closer rapport and understanding on some fundamental issues. We all need to, at every stage of our deliberations either as the Legislature or as the Executive, ask ourselves the question: "Is what we are doing in line with the Principles of Separation of Power?" While there is no harm in the Legislature jealously guarding its Jaw making functions, it should not attempt to execute policies. The same goes for the Executive: it should not dabble into law making.

I like to observe that it is natural to have differences and occasional frictions in a democratic set up. It is indeed the beauty of democracy. I am, however, happy to note that such incidents have been few and have not degenerated to a level that could make the State ungovernable. Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, I want to assure you that you are all my friends and whatever differences we may have should be based on principles. But as Chief Obafemi Awolowo would say, "Principles are not negotiable but the nature and method of their implementation is negotiable". For the sake of the masses that are yearning for development, the sooner we closed rank, the better.

Our colleagues in the Judiciary also deserve a sincere pat on the back for their forbearance and understanding. In Osun State, we recognise the independence of the Judiciary as one of the cardinal principles of the Rule of Law. As such, no executive machineries are allowed to interfere with the dispensation of justice in the State. Unfortunately, unlike judges in some States of the Federation, the judges of Osun State are poorly equipped, poorly housed and poorly clad to the extent that the government, since the inception of this State, has not been able to provide them with serviceable cars. It is most encouraging, however, that our judges, working under these unwholesome situations are still able to carry out their functions without blemish. In other words, our judges in Osun State have proved to be among the best in the whole world in spite of the fact that they are perhaps the most neglected of public servants. I can make bold to say here that since I assumed office as Governor of this State, I have not taken any step towards influencing the Judiciary in its functions of translating and interpreting the Laws of the land. I promise to abide by my oath of office in this regard, no matter the disposition of our decadent society towards corruption. However, the apparent neglect of the past in the case of the Judiciary will be redressed as soon as the resources of the State improve.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, because of our set objectives, this Administration intends in due course to shift emphasis from the humanities to the sciences in our higher educational institutions in order to prepare the future generations of Osun State indigenes for technology-based careers. To achieve this desirable goal, more teachers in the sciences and technology will be recruited to reverse the present trend where well over 60% of teachers in public schools specialise in liberal arts and related subjects.

In appreciation of the crucial role of teachers towards the successful implementation of our free education programme, this Administration is committing itself to a number of projects and schemes that will boost the morale of teachers and enhance their comfort and those of rural health workers in the State. In this connection, Government plans to establish "Satellite Villages" around all public health and educational institutions in rural areas. Meanwhile, Government has mobilized the Osun State Property Development Corporation for the purpose of establishing Pilot Satellite Villages at Temidire (Atakunmosa East Local Government), Tonkere (Ayedaade Local

Government), Agisa (Boluwaduro Local Government), Ajaba (Ila Local Government), Odeyinka (Irewole Local Government), Oguro (Ejigbo Local Government), and Oniperegun (Ife South Local Government). Plans have also reached an advanced stage for the provision of sanitary facilities (toilets) in schools.

The State Government is concerned about the quality of power supply by NEPA to the various towns and villages in the State. Arrangements have therefore been completed with the Federal Ministry of Power and Steel to strengthen power supply to Ede, Iwo, Osogbo, Ile-Ife, Ilesha, Ikirun, Iree, Esa-Oke, Ikire, Ila, Gbongan, Ejigbo and Okuku among other towns. Also rural electrification schemes are in the offing for Aladodo, Kajola-Agisa, Wakajaiye and Oke-Osun.

In order to address the environmental problems confronting the State, I am pleased to inform this Honourable House that a sum of N70million has been set aside to fight flood and erosion in Osogbo, Ilobu, Iwo, Ilesa, Ede, Ejigbo and other areas that are similarly affected.

In collaboration with Local Governments, about 120 boreholes have been slated for construction in various parts of the State in order to boost water supply to our people. Similarly, as complement to our free health programme, several sanitation projects will be put in place across the State. It is also envisaged that by the grace of God, and with the support of our people, Government should be in a position to commission before the end of this year, the ongoing water projects at Okuku, Iree, Iba, Ikire/Apomu, Orile-Owu, Ipetu-Ijesa and Ikeji Arakeji. It is also gratifying to note that the water pipe network at Iwo is progressing satisfactorily and will be nearing completion by the end of the year. Similarly, Ilesa and Ejigbo water scheme will have reached an advanced stage of completion by this time next year.

If there is one area of physical development which the unwary can easily point fingers to as neglected by this Administration, it will be in the area of road construction and maintenance. In this regard and in particular, mention will readily be made of the road network within the State Capital, which is in a state of disrepair. The reasons for this are not farfetched. To start with,

Mr Speaker and the House, it will interest you to note that the major roads in Osogbo township (namely, the Old Garage-Ikirun Road, Old Garage Station-Ilesa Road, the Old Garage-MDS-Gbongan Road and Old Garage-Okefia-Ilobu Road) which traverse the entire length and breadth of the township are all Federal roads. Attempts to get the Federal Government through the Federal Controller of Works to undertake the maintenance of these roads are yet to yield the required results. In addition, this Administration's earlier frantic attempt to award the contract for the construction of the Ola-Iya, Ita Olokan Road suffered legal draw-backs.

However, this Administration has, since our assumption of office, completed 240 Kilometres of macadamized/"tarred" roads linking Ife to Abiri to Ogudu towns; Ogudu to Odemuyiwa to Garage Olode; Ipetumodu to Ode-Omu; Ajebandele to Araromi Owu; Garage Olode to Ajebandele; Iwo Railway Station to Ikire; Ife to Mokuro to Itagunmodi to Ibodi; Ilesa to Ifewara; Imesi-Ile to Igbajo; Ada to Ibokun to Idominasi and others. While it is true that the construction of these roads was commenced and undertaken with World Bank loans by the past Military Administrators, we share the credit for its completion and for not abandoning them as was the practice hitherto. However, I can neither vouch for the standard, quality nor the durability of any of these roads, the terms of their construction having been determined and settled before my assumption of office. I am however aware that some other roads similarly undertaken and completed with the World Bank loans and which were commissioned before we came into office have begun to (fail) depress. Yet such loans are not yet ripe for repayment. The affected roads are Awo/Ogbagba/Iwo, and Ede/Ara/Ejigbo.

Within our limited resources, however, Mr Speaker and the Honourable Members, I am pleased to inform you that another 65 Kilometre of roads have been approved for construction. These include:

- (a) Ede-Egbedi-Erin-Osun Road;
 - (b) Esa-Oke-Ila Road;
 - (c) Ila-Oyan Road;
- and (d) Orita Ola-Iya-Ita Olookan Road in Osogbo.

It is hoped that those charged with the supervision of these roads would be patriotic enough to ensure their durability. Very soon as well, necessary machinery will be put in place for the maintenance of other township roads within Osogbo and other big towns in the State.

As we are all aware, Osogbo is not only the Capital of Osun State, it also hosts the headquarters of two of the State's 30 Local Governments. Therefore, a very high percentage of the total revenue accruing to Osun State since its inception in 1991 has been spent in promoting the beauty and physical development of the town and the welfare of its people. All the same, my Administration continues to fund development projects in Osogbo at a very great financial cost to the Government. Some of such projects include the State Broadcasting Corporation's Village at Oke-Baale, Legislators' Residential quarters etc. We must not forget however that there are other big cities and towns in Osun State which also deserve to be provided with various social amenities. My Government, therefore, accepts it as its bounden duty to assist all other cities and towns as well as the villages and rural farmsteads all over Osun State to enjoy improved facilities. Our efforts at developing Osun State will continue to be non-discriminatory and, as we have started, we shall continue to shower socio-economic development projects on all areas of Osun State.

The cardinal programmes of our party – the Alliance for Democracy – form the basis of the people's mandate to me as the Governor of Osun State. Those cardinal programmes emphasize the need for the overall development of all parts of the State, not only its capital, nor only the big cities. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I am reassuring all our people through this Honourable House that no amount of blackmail, or clandestine circulation of seditious pamphlets by cowardly and faceless anti-social/anti-progress elements in our midst, will stampede this Administration to abandon its avowed determination to put broad smiles on the faces of all citizens of Osun State through the prosecution of mass-oriented programmes which transcend clannish and parochial interests.

As I have always emphasized, the target of this Administration is the holistic development of rural areas so that city dwellers themselves may be able to live in happiness through the resultant improvement to their living standards

by way of provision of cheap, good quality foodstuffs all the year round; through stemming of rural-urban migrations; through the arrest of mass unemployment and checking the spread of city squalors which breed criminals of all descriptions and make life rather unsafe in our society today.

In the same vein, we are working assiduously towards expanding the basis for self-actualisation by the people of Osun State through school and cooperative agriculture, the provision of good technical training opportunities for the youth, promotion of individually-owned and self-managed small scale industries and, of course, through a buoyant economy, which will result from all the developmental efforts of this Government. Towards this end, my Administration has initiated and is vigorously pursuing negotiations with prospective investors from North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Our efforts have reached advanced and encouraging stages for the setting up in the near future a number of small/medium-scale industries by foreign entrepreneurs in this State. Our areas of interest include electricity, power plant, coloured T.V. Assembly plant, metal and plastic Spectacle Frame Factory, Sugar Cane Processing Plant, Food Processing Plants and Marble Processing Factory.

In my maiden address to this Honourable House, I did say that it is our bounden duty "to restructure the public service for the purpose of implementing the free education and health programmes of this Government". I mentioned it then because, having watched from the sidelines the untoward effects which the various Civil Service Reforms, especially the 1988 Reforms had on Public Servants, I know the public service we were inheriting was not the same as we had in yesteryears. Since my assumption of office, however, the need to re-shape and restructure the public service in order to re-orientate and reposition public servants, as well as make them more relevant to the needs of democratic governance has even become more apparent. I hasten however to assure this honourable House that in carrying out the restructuring exercise, fairness and justice shall be our watchwords. The intention is not to witch-hunt anyone as our primary interest and concern is to ensure that round pegs are put in round holes, and thus promote discipline, decency and efficiency in the public service.

In the meantime, the Head of the Civil Service has been asked to put necessary machinery in place for the training and re-training of public servants in order to "sharpen" them for improved performance. It is a matter for regret that, over the years, organization of training programmes had been put at the back burner. This should not be so. If we expect civil servants to perform creditably well, adequate and regular training is a *sine qua non*.

At this juncture, I wish to say it loud and clear that our concern for the welfare of public servants in all ramifications is genuine and real. This brings me to the issue of the current minimum wage which has just been approved by the National Assembly. I have said to the Press and I wish to re-state here, that notwithstanding the fact that the Federal Government did not involve the States in its negotiation with labour, my Administration is determined and resolved to pay the new minimum wage as approved for workers by the National Assembly. This will, however, not hinder proposed reorganisation of the Public Service which is meant to ease out all officers of doubtful integrity as well as dead woods, and thus pave way for the injection of new blood in relevant fields into the Public Service.

May I also use this occasion to let this Honourable House know that my concern for the welfare of public servants transcends their service years. Because of the value which I attach to the sacrifices made by a considerable number of public servants, I have, since assuming office, shown keen interest in the payment of gratuities and pensions to retired officers. When we came into office, we inherited an incredible backlog of gratuity and pension arrears running into numerous of millions of naira. As a matter of fact, there were pathetic cases of officers who retired five or six years before who were neither paid their gratuities nor put on pension roll. There were even a number of reported cases of retired officers who died while anxiously pursuing the payment of their entitlements. I am pleased to inform this House that that trend has since been reversed. The machinery for the administration of payment of pension and gratuities has been overhauled and more improvement is expected soon. As a matter of fact, I have asked the Head of Service to ensure that an acceptable and open pattern of payment is evolved in order to ensure fairness and parity of treatment to all concerned.

Having spent one year in office, this Administration must begin to count its days. And as elected representatives of the people, we must bear it in mind at all times that we have joint responsibility to promote and ensure the sustenance of our hard-earned democracy. We must do nothing or leave undone anything that is capable of giving the military an excuse to re-commence the political and economic rape of our people.

Permit me to emphasize that what we need most is peace and mutual understanding. Peace in our inter-personal, inter-community, inter-clan, and inter-tribal relations. It must be emphasized, however, that while peace promotes social, economic and political development, only equitable development can in turn promote peace. I am not unaware, Mr Speaker, that some of our people at present feel that they are being alienated and put at a disadvantage by some of the masses-oriented programmes of this Government. This feeling is unfortunate as this Government has no deliberate plan to discriminate against any group of people or any part of the State. I, therefore, wish to use this medium to assure all and sundry that the implementation of our integrated socio-economic programmes will be of immense benefit to every citizen of Osun State, be they city or rural dwellers, salaried or self employed. This Government wishes to assure all our people of its commitment to improving the lot of the common man in the areas of free health, free education, rural integration and employment opportunities among others.

There is no gain-saying the fact that what we are doing now is a sharp departure from what used to happen in the State. Our policies, which are a sort of leveller, cannot but hurt some category of people who hitherto had milked the State since 1992. The class of people who feel most offended by the attempts of the present Administration to transform Osun State positively is made up of some contractors who, before the advent of this Administration, used to collect money from Government for non-existing contracts. They also had the penchant to "co-opt" and "initiate" any in-coming administration into their fold by offering it mouth-watering shares of the proceeds from re-negotiated costs of such contracts (known in popular parlance as "contract variations") only to abandon the executions of the contracts thereafter. Our refusal to be associated with such nefarious activities and complicity against the people,

who gave us the mandate to serve them, has earned us all sorts of name calling even as they resort to rumour peddling, anonymous pamphleteering, or use of false pseudonyms in an attempt to tarnish the public image of this open, sincere, and masses-oriented Administration. Considering the viciousness of this group, a lot of caution is required in order not to allow them cause untold disaffection amongst us. We must always be wary of their diversionary and subversive activities especially in view of the violent acrimonies already going on in some parts of the State.

Mr Speaker and the House, as the saying goes, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. We must not leave room for unnecessary distractions in our joint resolve to move this State forward. I therefore, wish to also call on all well-meaning citizens of this State to join hands with Government in its bid to take the State to a new haven. Let us all pull together. I urge those with means, especially those residing outside the State, to come home to establish industries and create job opportunities for our growing youth population.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I sincerely thank you once again for the cooperation which exists between the Legislature and the Executive of Osun State. I, no doubt, will very much cherish that we continue to work very harmoniously together for the progress of our State and dear people. May I also, through this Honourable House, extend the deep appreciation of the Government to all Chairmen and Councillors in the various Local Governments and to all the good people of Osun State for their unflinching support for this Administration. I pledge, on behalf of this Government and myself, that we shall not betray the confidence, which the State's electorate has reposed in us. With God Almighty's continued guidance and protection, and with the cooperation and support of all our people, my Government will take Osun State to enviable heights in the years ahead.

I thank you very much. God bless.

**BUDGET SPEECH BY CHIEF BISI AKANDE, EXECUTIVE
GOVERNOR, ON THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF OSUN STATE OF NIGERIA FOR THE 2001
FISCAL YEAR, PRESENTED TO OSUN STATE HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY ON 7TH JANUARY, 2001.**

Introduction

The Year 2001 Annual Budget of Osun State will be the second for this Administration and the tenth to be presented by successive Administrations since the inception of Osun State. In spite of your being in recess, I decided to put the estimates of Revenues and Expenditure before this Honourable House of Assembly in December 2000 in keeping with Section 121 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Today, I stand before this House with a view to joining the members in setting the tone of the deliberations on the Appropriation Bill.

The implementation of the Year 2000 Budget triggered off a running battle, as it were, between uncertain and dwindling revenue on the one hand, and the insatiable propensity to incur recurrent expenditure on the other. The result is the very limited resources available for developing and maintaining capital infrastructure. This scenario played out against the background of a lot of noise and, at times, riotous and violent acrimony. My government was thus caught in the crossfire occasioned by this fiscal warfare. It is gratifying to report that we survived its destabilising consequences.

I painted a graphic picture of the over-dependence of the populace on the State's meagre resources when I presented the Year 2000 Budget to this Honourable House. I explained then that the situation had landed the State into huge debts accumulated over the years on invisibles. The privileged military, with the connivance of the leadership of the civil service and some spurious contractors and agents, should be held accountable for this unfortunate state of affairs; the consequence of which is the economic impoverishment of the mass of our people. I pledged then that I would ensure a changing the

direction of visible infrastructural development of the state such as should imbue confidence in government among the citizenry.

Unfortunately, two major constraints militated against the full realization of this aspiration. There is the lack of proper understanding of the workings of democracy on the part of the political leadership, and the aversion of the present Federal Government to the practice of true Federalism.

Democracy

It is fraudulent to climb to political power on the people's votes, but fail to use the State's resources in a democratic sense to fulfill the social needs of the people and promote their economic well-being. Apart from the satisfaction of the basic needs of education, good health and potable water, the economic well-being of the people are further promoted by the provision of good roads, adequate power supply and other infrastructural facilitators of development. Other items of expenditure outside this list embarked upon by political leaders are merely self-serving. Such expenditure ought to be reduced to the barest minimum possible.

Federalism

Professor Adebayo Adedeji, an economist, a former Nigerian Minister of Economic Planning and a former Head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (E. C. A), in his keynote address to the First Annual Colloquium of the Adekunle Ajasin Foundation, described "Federalism" as a system of government in which "there are only two tiers - the federal government and the federating units and that under no circumstances should the federal government interfere in the exclusive jurisdiction of each of the federating units".

Local Governments are **NOT** and **CANNOT** be a tier of government in a Federal arrangement. They are under the authority of the respective states. The Local Government is an administrative agent of the federating units (i.e. the States) mainly to serve as development points between the local people and the federating units. On the other hand, the State is **NOT** and must **NOT**

be seen as an agent of the Federal Government. It is a co-ordinate government to the Federal Government. Each is superior to the other only in respect of the functions allotted to it by the Constitution.

Self-Aggrandisement

These two constraints impeded to a great extent the performance of our Year 2000 Capital Budget. They also accounted for the unanticipated increase in our recurrent expenditure that warranted a Supplementary Appropriation Bill in November 2000. It is pertinent to stress that Capital Expenditure is mostly supposed to be for the benefit of the generality of the public, while Recurrent Expenditure represents substantially the entitlement and welfare package of the political and civil service functionaries of government. For as long as recurrent expenditure is bigger than capital expenditure, for that long would our claim to be taking care of the social and economic well-being of the generality of the public, who voted us into office, remain a ruse.

In year 2000, we realised less than N9 billion in revenue, instead of the projected revenue of N12 billion, but we spent about N7 billion on current expenditure instead of the estimated N5.2 billion. In other words, we earned less income but spent much more on recurrent expenditure. Substantially, this huge recurrent expenditure went to fund the increases in salaries and allowances recommended by the Federal Government during the year, together with about N1.5 billion which we paid as arrears of debts inherited from the Military on staff salaries, pensions and gratuities.

The situation has been most critical in many of our "city-local governments" such as in Ikirun, Ikire, Iwo, Ilesa and Osogbo areas because the Federal Government, which has not been contributing its quota of revenue to local governments, indulged in direct deductions from their statutory allocations to pay teachers' salaries, buy vehicles for the Police, and to buy, furnish and maintain secretariats for the Association of Local Government Chairmen, without bothering to pay the pensions of retired primary school teachers.

This practice is most unconstitutional, backward-looking, and poverty-aggravating to the extreme. It is an abuse of the process of governance in view of the fact that the Federal Government has no authentic statistics of the needs of each local government regarding the ratio of teachers to pupils and regarding their qualifications viz-a-viz their emoluments. Such practice only creates an avenue for corruption and cheating. Why should the Federal Government arrogate to itself the knowledge and the right to determine priorities of the local governments as regards the brand of vehicles their police would ride and the luxury of the magnificence of the house that befits the association of their chairmen - particularly when the local governments are, indeed, only agents of the State Government in urban-rural integrated development?

Mr Speaker and Honourable members, you and I should accept that Democracy without Federalism in a multi-ethnic community like Nigeria is fraught with danger. Such a democracy, as now practised in this country, seeks to uniformise expenditure without establishing parity of income. No wonder, it breeds poverty in the midst of plenty. It generates discontentment among the unemployed. It also promotes social incendiaries and galvanises violence.

It is inconceivable that the Federal Government, or any of its agencies, should arrogate to itself the right to award contracts from Abuja for the building of class rooms for primary schools all over Nigeria. The unconstitutionality of such thinking apart, no agency of the Federal Government can claim sufficient knowledge of the peculiarities of each of the Local Governments to afford it the necessary competence to serve its needs. It is not surprising, therefore, to observe a marked inferiority in the quality of Federal Government-awarded classroom blocks of the 1976 UPE era compared with those built twenty-one years earlier during Chief Obafemi Awolowo's Free Primary Education scheme. Regrettably, some functionaries of the State Government are yet to shed the toga of militarism and unitarism and are, thus, being left behind in our march to true federalism.

Review of Year 2000 Budget

Despite the administrative confusion occasioned by the conflict between unitarism and federalism, Osun State, in the year 2000, continued the pursuit of its four programmes of:

- (a) Free Education for all at all levels,
- (b) Free Medical Services for all citizens,
- (c) Rural Integrated Development, and
- (d) Full and gainful self-employment, using locally available technical and technological possibilities.

As we are all aware, the year 2000 Budget of Osun State was a deficit one. The initial size of the Budget was N11, 872,368,132. (Eleven billion, eight hundred and seventy two million, three hundred and sixty-eight thousand, one hundred and thirty-two naira only). When the Supplementary Budget of N2,329,695,000 was added, the size increased to N14,202,063,132 (Fourteen billion, two hundred and two million, sixty-three thousand and one hundred and thirty-two naira only). The total revenue projection for Year 2000, in the initial Budget together with the Supplementary Budget, was N11, 658, 040.070 (Eleven billion, six hundred and fifty-eight million, forty thousand and seventy naira only) out of which N4,190, 152,240.00 (or 35.94%) was expected from borrowings and loans (i.e. Capital Receipts).

As at the end of November 2000, the total actual disburseable revenue collection was N8,282,434,791.49 (Eight billion two hundred and eighty-two million, four hundred and thirty-four thousand, seven hundred and ninety-one naira, forty-nine kobo) which was 58.32% of the budget. The expected revenue from borrowings and loans (i.e. Capital Receipts) did not materialise. Hence, most of the budgeted Capital Projects in the areas of water supply, roads and rural development could not be executed on the scale we had anticipated. We shall work harder on this in the ensuing year.

As I observed earlier, the disturbing trend of our expenditure pattern in the out-going year is that, out of the total actual expenditure, recurrent expenditure took the lion share. By November 2000, recurrent expenditure

was 83.31% while only 16.69% was spent on Capital Expenditure. In spite of this lopsided fiscal circumstance, our efforts so far include the following:

- (a) In the year 2000, we enjoyed the appreciation and the praise of all sectors of the national security agencies. We made surer in-road to peace in Ile-Ife and environs. Crime rate was drastically reduced throughout the rest of the State. It is our hope to continue to seek further improvement in these regards, as the primary function of any government is the provision of the security of life and property of its citizens.
- (b) We purchased adequate drugs and equipment for the execution of the Free Health programme of Government. In addition, the state partook in the type of health delivery being enjoyed in the Americas when we invited medical practitioners from there to diagnose and treat our people. About 5,000 of our citizens benefited from this arrangement.
- (c) We provided educational materials and equipment to schools, and we established a state-of-the-art Computerized Examinations Centre to process the preparation and results of all examinations conducted by the State Ministry of Education;
- (d) We constructed and rehabilitated a number of roads and purchased road construction equipment worth millions of naira for the execution of direct labour projects of government;
- (e) We have stocked water treatment chemicals sufficient for all the State's requirements for sometime;
- (f) We pursued modern development of the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC);
- (g) We paid counterpart funds for foreign-assisted Projects;
- (h) We purchased substantial shares in viable companies including

those being privatised by the Federal Government;

- (i) We constructed the first phase of the Governor's Lodge at Abuja;
- G) We constructed 42 apartments in seven locations under the Rural Housing Scheme for teachers and other public officers posted to rural areas;
- (k) We gave substantial Capital Grants to the LAUTECH Teaching Hospital and College of Health Sciences in Osogbo;
- (l) We also gave substantial Capital Grants/Subventions to LAUTECH main campus at Ogbomoso and to our Government's Parastatals/corporations and four tertiary institutions;
- (m) We completed and furnished the Legislators' Quarters and other staff quarters;
- (n) We played host to both the President and the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and
- (o) We set in motion the construction of the first phase of the New State Secretariat in Osogbo which is expected to be completed within the next ten months.

THE YEAR 2001 BUDGET OF OSUN STATE:

The year 2001 Budget of Osun State, like that of the previous year, is a deficit one. Its size is N20,482,470,700 (Twenty billion, four hundred and eighty-two million, four hundred and seventy thousand, seven hundred naira only). The total revenue projection is N16,276,861,000 (Sixteen billion, two hundred and seventy-Six million, eight hundred and sixty-one thousand naira). Thus, the expressed deficit component, like in the previous year, is N4,205,609,700 (Four billion, two hundred and five million, six hundred and nine thousand, seven hundred naira) or 20.53% of the Budget.

During the 2001 fiscal year, we should therefore concern ourselves more with meaningful actions than rhetorics. We should work towards continued peace rather than rancour and acrimony. The progress and physical development of Osun State should be given a boost. It is only then that the mandate given to all of us – the Executive and the Legislators alike - would not have been misplaced. We should, therefore, work harder to justify that mandate. In this regard, the policy thrusts of the Year 2001 Budget of Osun State will include the following:-

- (a) consolidation of our gains in the areas of qualitative education and good health care, without which no meaningful development can take place;
- (b) improvement on the provision of basic infrastructure like rural and urban roads, provision of potable water, electricity and reliable information system for our people;
- (c) running an open and transparent administration based on the principles of Accountability, Prudence and Probity;
- (d) development of a Public Service that is result-oriented, efficient, effective and responsive with a view to making it one of the best in the Federation; and
- (e) emphasizing the need for the practice of true Federalism within a truly democratic polity.

Summary of the Budget

Items	Estimates	Percentage of Total Revenue (%)
A. Recurrent Revenue		
(i) Internally Generated Revenue of Ministries and Departments	1,281,856,000	7.88
(ii) Internally Generated Revenue of Statutory Bodies and Higher Institutions retained for their use	205,005,000	1.26
Sub-Total for IGR	1,486,661,000	9.14
(iii) Statutory Allocation	7,200,000.00	44.23
(iv) Value Added Tax (VAT)	660,000,000	4.05
Total for Recurrent Revenue	9,346,861,000	57.42
CAPITAL RECEIPTS	6,930,000,000	42.58
Total Revenue	16,276,861,000	100.00
B. Expenditure		
Recurrent Expenditure:		
(i) Personnel Costs	5,927,600,000	28.94
(ii) Overhead Costs	1,307,787,000	6.38
(iii) Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges	1,202,183,700	5.87
Total Recurrent Expenditure	8,437,570,700	41.19
* Capital Expenditure	12,044,900,000	58.81
Total Expenditure	20,482,470,700	100.00
Budget Deficit (B-A)	N4,205,609,700.00	

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

Capital Expenditure is the core of the budget. It is the only aspect of the budget that touches directly on the lives of the citizenry. The Capital Expenditure budget objectives for year 2001 include the following:

- (a) adoption of the principle of zero-based budgeting, as approved for the Year 2000 Budget, whereby allocations to projects were defended and justified, even in respect of on-going capital projects;
 - (b) evaluation of all projects on the basis of their potential contribution to poverty alleviation and their multiplier effects on growth and development;
- and (c) desire to avoid accumulating unpaid contract bills during the tenure of this Administration as that is consistent with the belief of Government that this State cannot afford to continue to pile up abandoned projects, waste its scarce resources paying fluctuation or delayed claims on such abandoned projects.

Hence, efforts will be made to complete all on-going projects already started by this Administration. Efforts will also be made to maintain and service the existing structures and also start new ones which will be equitably spread among the three Senatorial Districts, the nine Federal Constituencies and within the existing thirty Local Governments. The total size of the Capital Budget for the 2001 fiscal year is N12,044,900,000 (Twelve billion, forty- four million, nine hundred thousand naira) or 58.81% of the Budget size. It has to be noted, however, that part of the funds projections for Capital Budget are either from loans or external grants.

The Sectoral and Sub-sectoral classifications of the provisions are as follows:-

**Osun State of Nigeria Estimates 2001:
Summary of Capital Expenditure Sectoral Allocation**

Read	Details of Expenditure	Estimates (N)	Allocation %
450	A. Economic Sector		
451	Agriculture and Rural Development		0.61
452	Livestock		0.008
453	Forestry		0.004
454	Fisheries		0.004
455	Urban/Rural Electrification		0.332
456	Industry, Commerce, Finance and Cooperatives	73,000,000	1.14
457	Transportation	1,000,000	29.02
		500,000	
	Sub-Total	500 000	31.12
		40,060,000	
	B. Social Service Sector		
		137,336,070	
458	Education	3,495,000,000	3.62
459	Health		3.68
460	Information & Culture		1.39
461	Social Dev. Youths & Sports	3,747,336,070	0.11
462	Sub-Total		8.80
	C. Regional Planning & Environmental Development Sector		
463	Water Resources		29.89
464	Health		1.68
465	Information & Culture	436,000,000	0.68
466	Social Dev. Youths & Sports	443,500,000	0.04
	Sub-Total	167,600,000	32.27
		12,900,000	
		1,060,000,000	
	D. General Administration Sector		
467	General Administration		27.82
	GRAND TOTAL		100.00

Highlight of Projects

The highlights of the programmes and projects slated for execution in the various Sectors/Sub-Sectors of Osun State Administration and economy in year 2001 are as stated hereunder:-

Education:

Government will continue to accord Education the priority it deserves because a well-educated person will be more productive, more effective and more efficient in contributing to the growth and development of his society.

Primary Education:

Education will continue to be free for all pupils in the primary schools. In year 2000, a total of 222 additional class-rooms were built and equipped with new furniture. They are now at various stages of completion. Many more will be built in the coming years until all the old and dilapidated school buildings will have been replaced for the comfort of the pupils.

The State Primary Education Board will be encouraged to ensure adequate provision of suitable teachers for all our primary schools, while supervision will be geared towards ensuring proper teaching of the pupils at such foundation levels. The payment of Primary Schools' Staff Salaries and the disengagement entitlements of retirees in form of pensions and gratuities will be given proper attention. For the present, the Federal Government has unconstitutionally usurped the payment of the salaries of primary school teachers in order to wreck local governments' programmes in education and to the detriment of the payment of the entitlements of retired primary school teachers.

While efforts will continue to be made to let the Federal Government know its limitations, Osun State Government cannot continue to see its retired primary school teachers wallow in penury in their old age. The situation has to change. Pending the time the Federal Government will see reason, provisions are being made in the Budget for the payment of the retirement benefits of our Primary School teachers within the limit of available fund.

Secondary Education:

- (a) As in the year 2000, there will be no payment of School fees or education levy in the Secondary Schools in the State;
- (b) Government will continue to off-set the costs of internal examinations of students in the secondary schools;
- (c) Emphasis will be placed on the teaching of the Sciences, Mathematics and English Language in all our Secondary Schools. In this regard, the newly-established 24 Schools of Science, in addition to the 3 existing ones, will be adequately staffed and equipped;
- (d) Running grants based on school population will continue to be given to our Secondary Schools;
- (e) Provision of teaching apparatus and infrastructure in our secondary schools will be accorded great attention;
- (f) A State Schools Monitoring Organ will be established to ensure that everybody involved in education delivery is alive to his/her responsibilities and to ensure that we get value for money from our investments on Education.

Technical Education:

In the outgoing year, a Committee was set up to advise on the establishment of seven new technical colleges in the State. The colleges did not take off because Government later realised that sciences were not being adequately taught in our secondary schools.

Efforts will however, be made in the new year to establish fourteen (14) new technical colleges in addition to the existing two at Osogbo and Ile-Ife, thereby increasing our technical colleges to sixteen (16)

My Government has decided to accord functional technical education the desired priority in order to put Osun State on a modern developmental plane, since modern civilisation depends on Science and Technology. All the proposed and existing technical colleges will be adequately staffed and equipped.

Tertiary Education:

- (a) The four (4) tertiary institutions solely owned by Osun State will continue to be funded to enable them to perform their assigned functions efficiently and effectively. However, each institution will be allowed considerable autonomy with a view to enabling it to hold its destiny in its hands. The Governing Council of each institution will be the defacto employer of its staff. Each institution will be given monthly subventions to be managed by its Governing Council. It will be unacceptable for any tertiary institution to always run cap-in-hand to the State Government for the solution of its internal problems;
- (b) Adequate staffing and provision of facilities/equipment for each tertiary institution have been provided for in the budget;
- (c) The policy which enables each tertiary institution to retain its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for its internal use will continue. It is, however, expected that the Governing Council will ensure the prudent utilization of human, financial and material resources of each institution;
- (d) Government will give scholarships, based on merit, to science and technology students in our tertiary institutions;
- (e) The co-funding of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) with Oyo State Government will continue in the new year;
- (f) It is gratifying to note that the LAUTECH Teaching Hospital has taken off effectively in Osogbo. In the 2001 fiscal year, it is expected that the College of Health Sciences would also be moved down to Osogbo so that both the Pre-clinical and Clinical Students might henceforth attend their courses in Osogbo. Provisions are already made in the Budget for the accreditation facilities of the institution.

Library Education:

Government will continue to ensure that reading and research are encouraged at all levels of Education in the State. The State Library will be better stocked with relevant books and reading materials, while the National Library of Nigeria will be attracted to establish a branch in the State in the new year.

Health

Government is desirous of pursuing more effectively its Free Health programmes in the realisation that a healthy person will be very productive and useful to the society.

During the outgoing year, and in fulfillment of its promise to the electorate, Government provided drugs and dressings free of charge in all our health institutions. The timely provision of these drugs and dressings has increased the percentage patronage of the Government hospitals by about 400%.

In order to accommodate the sudden increases in hospital patronage, the State Government has rehabilitated, renovated and provided more health facilities, including the provision of electricity generators to our hospitals at Iwo, Ede, and Ilesa. A well-equipped modern Laboratory was also constructed for students' use at the School of Health Technology, Ilesa. Perimeter fencing was carried out at Ikirun State Hospital and at the Comprehensive Health Centre, Ode-Omu. 20-bed Comprehensive Health Centres were commissioned at Iragberi and Kuta, while equipment worth N1.5 million was supplied to Iloko 20-Bed Comprehensive Health Centre. A number of health projects is also awaiting commissioning. These projects include the 40-bed Hospital at Oke-Ogbo, Ile-Ife and an additional 2-bed to complement the existing facilities at Asubiaro, Osogbo.

In its efforts at eradicating the incidence of Polio and other childhood diseases, the Ministry of Health, together with the National Programme on Immunization, immunized over 1 million children under 5 years of age in each round of Immunization Exercise under the National Immunization Days (NIDs) in the thirty Local Government Areas of Osun State.

In the same vein, adequate provision has been made in the year 2001 Budget for the prosecution with greater vigour of the Health-care delivery programmes of Government. Government will also not relent in its efforts at increasing the number, and improving the working environment and the welfare of medical and health workers.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of Osun State. Most of our people continue to earn their living directly or indirectly from agriculture. The policy of Government of basing the agricultural programmes on tripodal schemes will continue in the 2001 fiscal year. Thus:-

- (a) the School Agricultural Programme will be vigorously pursued to "catch them young" for agricultural training and enlightenment in our schools;
- (b) the Farm Settlement Schemes will be encouraged, adequately funded and provided with access roads;
- (c) Cooperative Farming Schemes will be encouraged among school-leavers more than hitherto.

Government will continue to subsidise the processes of land clearing, ploughing and hallowing with a view to encouraging the production of food at relatively low costs through the above three schemes. Government will also continue to make available to all other interested genuine farmers subsidized agricultural inputs like seedlings, chemicals and implements as well as agricultural loans.

Agriculture, in most civilised countries, is mostly a private business concern. Thus, the policy of our Government will be to provide the necessary enabling environment with a view to encouraging the private sector to participate more effectively in agriculture. The various agencies of Government currently engaged in agricultural development in Osun State (e.g. OSSADEP, Agric Mechanisation Corporation and Agric Credit Corporation) will be re-structured with a view to making them more efficient in their extension services to all sectors of agriculture.

The Hand Tools Technology Programme, designed to provide farmers with modern but handy farm tools with a view to maximising their potential profits per unit of farm enterprise, will take off in Osun State in the new year.

Forest regeneration activities will also be pursued in order to prevent our valuable forests from being totally depleted. The plundering and reckless depletion of our forests, which was the case in the past, will be stopped and future reoccurrence will be jealously guarded against.

Integrated Development.

Transportation:

Transportation is one of the lead sub-sectors in the year 2001 Budget of Osun State. The allocation to the sub-sector is N3,495,000,000 (Three billion, four hundred and ninety-five million naira) or 29.02% of the Capital Budget. In the out-going year, most of the road constructions started by this Administration are on course and will soon be completed.

In the 2001 fiscal year, provisions have been made in the Budget to maintain **and** rehabilitate our township and inter-city roads. Many other village roads **are** also slated for construction or rehabilitation in the new year. In most cases, we will prosecute our road construction/rehabilitation programmes through direct labour by encouraging the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Local Government to be up and doing.

Pressure is also being mounted on the Federal Government for the rehabilitation of the Federal roads in the State. It is hoped that those already started will soon be completed.

Water Supply;

The supply of potable rural and urban water to our teeming masses is also a priority of this Administration. The Capital fund allocation to the Sub-sector is the highest with a sum of N3,600,000 (Three billion, six hundred million naira) or 29.89% of the Capital Budget. Our efforts to source loans for the

prosecution of Ilesa/Ejigbo Water Schemes are yet to be successful. We have obtained the Federal Government's guarantee for the loans. We will continue to make efforts to source the required loans. In the meantime, other avenues are being explored to ensure that our people in Ilesa and Ejigbo areas will be supplied potable water soon. The provision of potable water to other areas of the State will also be improved upon.

Electrification:

A total of N40million has been allocated to Rural and Urban Electrification. Government has written to and begun discussions with the Federal Ministry of Power and Steel concerning the peculiar problems of energy supply and distribution in Osun State. We have also asked our members in the National Assembly to assist in mounting further pressure towards early reconstruction of the system to the advantage of our people.

Housing:

Provision of quarters for teachers, health workers, agricultural extension workers and other public workers in the rural areas has been accorded a great priority by this Administration. Currently, work is going on in seven (7) rural locations where 42 housing units are being built on behalf of Government by the Osun State Property Development Corporation. Additional 84 housing units will be built in 14 additional rural locations before the end of this dry season. These housing units will serve as central points for rural road directions, rural water supply, rural electricity installations, rural agricultural and industrial establishments; and also as models for local government councils' rural development programmes. A sum of N40 million has been allocated for the purpose in the Budget.

Funds are also allocated to encourage individual workers obtain very soft loans to build their own houses through the Civil Service and the Teaching Service Housing Loan Schemes.

Industry, Commerce, Finance and Cooperatives:

The policy of Government on industrialisation will continue to be promotional. Government is not going to be involved in direct establishment of industries. Government will, however, continue to create a conducive environment for industrialisation to thrive through:-

- (a) the development of Industrial Estates;
- (b) provision of Micro-Credit Schemes for small and medium-scale enterprises;
- and (c) equity participation by Government in the share-holding structures of viable enterprises.

I wish to use this opportunity to appeal to business men and women of Osun State origin to come and establish industries in the State.

In the area of Cooperatives, efforts will continue to be made to encourage our people to form or join Cooperative Unions where their economic benefits could be more speedily realised. Efforts are urgently being made to complete the construction of the Cooperative College at Ode-Omu.

Information:

In year 2001, public Information System in Osun State will be overhauled and rejuvenated. The television and the radio organs of the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation will be reactivated. The Ministry of Information will be provided with the wherewithal to perform its assigned functions more effectively. A total sum of N167,600,000 (One hundred and sixty-seven million, six hundred thousand naira) has been allocated to the information sub-sector in the Budget.

The Fire Services Department will be strengthened and provided with relevant equipment like fire tender and other facilities to improve on its performance.

Social Development, Women Affairs, Youth Development and Sports:

It is clear to all of us that Government alone cannot meet all the needs of the society. Hence, Government will continue to encourage the various community-based organisations (CBOs) and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to participate in the growth and development of OSun State. Self-help is often said to be the best help. Government will also continue its assistance to the handicapped and the disabled persons.

Regarding Women Affairs, Government will continue to accord our daughters, sisters, wives and mothers the desired respect. They will be actively mobilised and enlightened about trades, crafts and industries from now on. It is, however, to be noted that the prosecution of our cardinal programmes of free education, free health services and rural integrated development are of greater advantage to women who often bear the brunt of poor education for their children, poor health and poor infrastructure more than men in the course of their daily businesses.

Our idea of Youth Development is always to ensure that youths are caught young and piloted to meaningful activities. We are not interested in "trading" with sports. Rather, we want to encourage meaningful sport development in our schools through the organisation of various relevant competitions among primary and secondary schools in the State.

General Administration:

Before we came on board, Osun State was the only State with neither a Liaison Office nor a Governor's Lodge in Abuja. Rather, succeeding Governments continued to use rented apartments. I have broken the jinx. In October, 2000, we packed out of the rented house at Abuja which was being used as Governor's Lodge.

I am happy to announce that we have completed the first phase of the Governor's Lodge. Provisions are already made to complete the second phase in year 2001. Subsequent developments will be in phases in view of fund constraints. We are also looking forward to the development of an "Osun

House" which will accommodate the Osun State Liaison Office at Ahuja. The land allocated to Osun State for the purpose has been left unattended since 1992.

We also want to commercialise the Osun State Liaison Office, Ikoyi, Lagos while we are making efforts to purchase a smaller property at Ikeja GRA which we can also develop further to our moderate taste as a new Liaison Office for Lagos.

Contracts for the construction of the new eleven-unit State Government Secretariat at Abere in Osogbo have been awarded. The project will be completed in year 2001. The payment schedule for the project has taken cognisance of the fund constraint reality of Government.

The provision of vehicles, office equipment and facilities has also been provided for within the limit of fund projections in the 2001 Budget.

The Judiciary and the Legislature.

The Capital Budget of the Judiciary is provided for since the National Judicial Council is, for now, responsible for deducting the Judiciary's recurrent expenditure from the Consolidated Account of the Federation. The Legislature also has been provided for in terms of its recurrent and capital programmes within the limit of fund projections.

Staff Welfare:

We are all aware that when we came on board in May 1999, we met about 5 months' unpaid salaries of workers and about N200 million unpaid gratuities. We have cleared all the unpaid salaries. We have also nearly cleared all the outstanding gratuities. The newly introduced minimum wage again created a problem which has just been resolved. Henceforth, our workers will be paid as and when due.

Again, all of us should continue to press it on the Federal Government to abide with the Constitution of Nigeria by letting us practise true Federalism. Any unilateral determination of the wage structure by the Federal

Government is not acceptable in a Federation. It will continue to breed labour unrest, violence and instability such that make foreign investors unwilling to invest in Nigeria. This situation has aggravated the country's unemployment problem.

Just as we cater for officers in active service, we are also going to cater for our retired people. This Administration cannot afford a situation whereby our senior citizens/retirees will be left uncared for. We have, therefore, made adequate provisions in the Budget for the payment of the pensions and gratuities of entitled retirees.

A stagnating Public Service is worse than dead. Therefore, adequate provision has also been made for the constant training of public servants with a view to making them the best in the country.

Budget Implementation

Experience has shown that poor budget implementation is the bane of budgeting in our society. Our Administration has, therefore, decided to tackle the problem headlong. In each agency, there will be a Budget implementation monitoring organ to see to the implementation of the programmes and projects of the particular agency.

At the macro-level, we have a Budget Implementation Committee and a Capital Projects Implementation Monitoring Committee which will be involved in the financial and physical monitoring of budget implementation. A Price Reference System has been approved to be established very early in January 2001 in order to ensure that we get value for money. A situation whereby different agencies buy the same equipment or material at different uncompetitive prices should stop. Government Auditors have also been directed to be more alive to their responsibilities as the watch-dog of public funds.

With all the programmes WE have mapped out, I am confident that the year 2001 Budget will be faithfully implemented. However, it is necessary to sound a note of warning to all of us. The realisation of our expenditure projections will depend on how far the total revenue projections are actualised.

In the first instance, there is an expressed Budget Deficit of N4,205,609,700 (Four billion, two hundred and five million, six hundred and nine thousand, seven hundred naira) which is 34.92% of the capital Budget. In the second place, there are other deficit elements in that loans are being expected for Water and Road Projects. Thirdly, the Recurrent Budget surplus is only N909,290,300 (Nine hundred and nine million, two hundred and ninety thousand, three hundred naira) or 7.55% of the Capital Budget. Thus, if care is not taken, Government will lapse into borrowing money for the welfare of its functionaries or buying goods and services on credit for functionaries' self benefit to the utter neglect of the needs of our voters who, in fact, are the authentic owners of the government.

It, therefore, follows for now that only about 45.63% of the Budget is fairly realistic, since that is the limit of recurrent revenue viz-a-viz the Budget size. The implementation of the Capital Budget depends mostly on the actualisation of the Capital Receipts Projections. All agencies/functionaries of Government should, therefore, guard their loins and curtail their recurrent expenditure fund requests in the new year. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development should "watch" diligently the expenditure pattern of Government in the 2001 fiscal year. All hands should be on deck to improve on the internally generated revenue in the new year with a view to increasing the quantum of actual disburseable revenue.

Conclusion:

It will require greater understanding, selfless service and high patriotism from all of us to rescue Osun State from its financial mess and economic underdevelopment. We should always put the interest of the State above our own personal interests. While I am thanking our Royal Fathers and all our well wishers for their assistance and support in the outgoing year, I want to solicit more understanding of the intentions of Government in the ensuing years.

Our Government should not be self-serving. We want to improve the lots of the teeming masses. We have to develop for posterity. We should continue to give peace a chance. We cannot afford to fail and we shall not fail, God willing.

Mr Speaker and Honourable members, it is my hope that this Honourable House will find no difficulty whatsoever in quickly passing the Year 2001 Budget Estimates which I have had the pleasure of placing before you. This Appropriation Bill aims at drawing the roadmap to prosperity in Osun State—a prosperity which our people justifiably deserve and expect, a prosperity which even the meagre resources of our state can ensure, if efficiently and properly husbanded and selflessly harnessed for the good of the greatest majority of the masses as provided for in this bill already submitted for your consideration and approval. May I be permitted to ask that Year 2001 budget be christened "**MOVING OSUN STATE TO PROSPERITY**".

May God bless you all in the noble efforts of **MOVING OSUN STATE TO PROSPERITY**.

Thank you all and stay blessed.

POVERTY REDUCTION IN A DELICATE DEMOCRACY: AN ADDRESS PRESENTED AT THE FACULTY OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN, NIGERIA, ON FRIDAY, 20 APRIL, 2001, BY CHIEF BISI AKANDE, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE

Introduction:

Either in a democracy or in a dictatorship, national power is measured in terms of economic self-sufficiency and military superiority. Knowledge promotes economic and military power through scientific and technological impetus. In a dictatorship, knowledge cannot grow because free thinking, free speech and free discussion are stifled to the extent that MAN has no opportunity to exercise those fundamental human rights. In a democracy, however, access to rights such as free movement, free education, free healthcare, decent housing and good food are demanded, debated and discussed; even if they would not be addressed by the people in authority, they would form the basis for eventual promises by those aspiring to power through elections.

Democracy becomes delicate, however, in a polity consisting of rival ethnic groups whose people are economically poor and their government militarily weak and where MAN has no personal opinion for fear of contradicting the aggregate opinion of his ethnic group. It becomes worse where the leadership of such ethnic groups are either misinformed, confused and unfocussed and/or where the leadership use the opportunity of the credulity of their kinsmen for personal aggrandisement and wealth. It is necessary, at this point, to place the present state of the Nigerian democracy in its historical context.

The Settlements Along The Rivers Niger and Benue

The water from Futa-Jalon Highlands from around the towns called Jariba, Segu and Niani, which flows into a confluence at Jenne begins the flow of River Niger. It passes through Timbuktu and Gao at its northern bend into the lands of the Rausa Fulani near Kamba town and through the lands of Ekanberri at Bussa, the lands of Takpa (Nupe) at Pategi, the lands of Ebira at Kotor!karfi, the lands of Igala at Idah, the lands of Igbo at Onitsha before entering into the

swamps of its own delta via Ugheli, Warri, Degema and Yenagoa etc. From these it empties into the Atlantic Ocean via Forcados, Brass and Port-Harcourt. Into river Niger flows River Benue at Lokoja. River Benue begins from the Cameroon Mountains and passes through the lands of the Mumuye at Yola, the lands of Apa people (the Jukuns) at Benue-Gongola confluence and the land of the Tiv at Makurdi. At the middle of the northern part of Rivers Niger and Benue is a wide range of High Plateau and mountains from where Rivers Sokoto, Mariga and Gurara flow into river Niger by the North-Western part of Lokoja, and from where River Gongola flows into River Benue. Also from there flow Rivers Hadejia and Komadugu Gana towards the North-Eastern part of Lokoja into Lake Chad. River Taraba also flows into River Benue from Godel Mountains.

These water net-works made it possible for the beginning of the village, town and tribal settlements among the Hausa Fulani, the Kanuri, the Gwari, the Margi, the Bata, the Longuda, the Angas, the Nupe, the Igala, the Epira, the Idoma and the other ethnic groups that are located around and towards the northern part of the confluence of Rivers Niger and Benue. The Southern part of the confluence is rich in moisture from constant rainfall. While to the western part of River Niger are settled the various Yoruba and Edo kingdoms; to the eastern part are settled the Igbo and the Ekoi independent and republican hamlets and villages. To the South are the Ijaws, the Itsekiris, the Urhobos and the Efik and Ibibio family clans and village kingdoms.

Trades Along River Niger

To the north of Rivers Niger and Benue, there were small individual family farm-holdings for grains production while to the south, similar farm-holdings were devoted to tuber production. Many women engaged in food preparation for the consumption of family members and for neighbours at a price by barter. This stimulated inter-family relationship. This sort of inter-family co-operation developed into daily (or nightly) markets and periodical markets (every third, fifth, ninth or fifteenth – day markets) in all the settlements within the neighbourhood kingdoms and village republics to the north and south of the Niger and Benue rivers. Trade activities and cultural relationships thus started and became regular and intense. Apart from farming,

hunting, fishing, gathering, and trading, cattle rearing became another economic activity in these parts.

Strategically located along the Niger river were Yauri, Rabba (a Nupe entrepot destroyed by war in 1842) and Idah. Trade across the Sahara Desert involved import and export from the Mediterranean coast through Katsina and Bomu to Kano and from Kano and Bornu again to Rabba and Idah water-way markets and also to Yauri and Nikki from where the south coastal markets of Ejinrin, Whydar and Porto Novo were reached via the caravan routes. Trade intercourse between the Sahara of the north and the southern coast of West-Africa stimulated economic activities which included iron-mining and smiting, wood and leather craft, soap making, salt and potash refining, palm produce and intensive land, water and animal transportations. This commercial interaction later encouraged kingdom and empire building, raiding expeditions and aggressive inter-tribal warfare which degenerated into slave raiding, slave labour, local slave trading and slave exportation across the Sahara to the Arabian countries. In the meantime, numerous rudimentary chieftainships were already being founded by hunting tribes in the areas covering the mouths, the estuaries, the dehas, the valleys and the swamps of the various rivers that flowed into the Atlantic Ocean on the western coast of Africa. Some of these chieftainships were already growing or federating into feudal states and kingdoms.

Slave Traders

To aggravate the confusion arising from these induced inter-tribal warfare was the arrival of the Portuguese to the Ocean gulf between the mouth of river Senegal at St. Louise and the delta of River Niger which was named as the Gulf of Guinea ("guinea" is a derived word from the Berbers' phrase meaning 'land of the Blackman'). The Portuguese stopped to catch Senegalese slaves in 1445, reached River Gambia in 1455, arrived in Sierra Leone (the Lion Mountains) in 1462, began trade in Benin river in 1472, built a fort in Gold Coast (Ghana) in 1482, landed missionaries in the Congo in 1484, arrived Cape Coast in South Africa in 1486 and loaded slaves into their trading vessels in the Forcados rivers in 1522.

By 1659, 'Ichoo' (Eko) an Island settlement by the 'region of river Laguna' with the only natural harbour on the West Africa Coast was already on the Dutch map as a slave market. The name 'Lagos' was later derived from the Portuguese word 'Lagoon'. The estuary of the Cross River was already being used to export slaves by 1698. These slaves were being used for mining and for plantation works in Mexico and Peru in the Hispaniola and Cuba. All along, as was earlier remarked, from about the middle of the 15th century, slaves were being exported more intensively through Katsina and Bomu across the Sahara Desert in exchange for horses, salt and jewelry. In all these tribulations, the traditional rulers and the powerful people always acted as the agents of the slave traders against the interests of their subjects.

Fulani Jihads

In 1804, the Fulani Jihadists under Uthman B. Fudi (Usumanu dan Fodio) began the colonization of the Rausa kingdoms and those other kingdoms adjacent to the Rausa territories by conquest, by Islamic religion evangelisation and by imperial administrative control through caliphal authority from Sokoto. By 1812, the whole of Northern part of Rivers Niger and Benue except Bomu and Tiv land had almost been conquered by the Fulani Muslim Empire. To placate the vanquished and to consolidate their rule the Jihadists called the area Hausa/Fulani land and emphasized the reformation of Islamic religion in line with their own doctrines.

In the meantime, Oyo Empire to the South West of River Niger had begun to disintegrate since about 1790. While the South-Western territories were seceding, Fulani Moslem Jihadists began attack by the North in 1810. In the process, Afonja, a Chief of Alafin of Oyo, posted to the outpost of Borin rebelled against Oyo Empire. In 1817, he secured the support of the Fulani Muslim Jihadists to establish himself as the ruler of Ilorin. The wars that followed the rebellion led to the destruction of old Oyo and the total collapse of the Oyo Empire. From the ruins of the collapse emerged the new war camps of Ibadan, Ijaiye, and Abeokuta.

Ibadan And Ilorin Wars

Afonja was eventually killed by the Fulani Muslim Jihadists who thereafter, treacherously in 1831, took over Ilorin. Ibadan soon became the master of Yorubaland in wars and began battles against Ilorin. Ibadan defeated Ilorin in all battles and demonstrated sagacity in the consolidation of its hold on the conquered territories. It planted tyranny among the vanquished. This led to the formation of the 'Parapo' among the Igbomina, Ekiti and Ijesa kingdoms who went into alliance with Ilorin against Ibadan in 1878. Ibadan still won. The parapo renewed the challenge in 1879 and the war persisted till 1893 when British colonialists had to separate them at Offa – having colonized the rest of Yorubaland from Lagos. If it was a war of 'Yoruba unification', neither Ibadan nor Ilorin succeeded in establishing the 'Pan Yoruba State'. The British ceded Ilorin with the parts of Oyo, Igbomina, Ekiti and Ibolu districts of Yorubaland in its environs to Hausa/Fulani Emirate of the Sokoto caliphate in 1906.

The British Incursion

Two British Acts of Parliament- in 1807 and 1833 -abolished slavery and the slave trade. Yet the illicit trading in slaves continued to service local trades till about 1850 or much later.

The British explorers, beginning with Mungo Park's two explorations via Gambia and Segou (1795-1799) and from Timbuktu to Bussa (1805-1806), Oudney, Denham and Hugh Clapperton via Tripoli (1820-1822) Hugh Clapperton and Richard Lander via Lagos (1825-1827), Richard and John Lander at Bussa (1830) and Macgregor Laird to Lokoja via the Niger Delta creeks in 1832, were trying to discover Lake-Chad and the navigability of any River to the interior from the Ocean. In the meantime, British merchants were active at the ports of Badagry, Lagos, Benin River, Warri, Bonny, Brass, Old and New Calabar. At the same time Christian missionaries were having evangelical in-roads into Badagry, Abeokuta, Lagos, Ibadan and Warri in the west, and Bonny, Nembe, Okirika, Eleme, Kalahari and Calabar in the East Coast.

In 1827, a naval presence was established at Fernando Po and in 1849 a British diplomatic link was made by the appointment of John Beecroft as the Consul for the Bights of Benin and Biafra to regulate, they said, legal trades on the coast, to ensure total abolition of slave trade, and to afford protection to religious missionaries working among the natives. Thus far the British military, religious missionary, commercial, consulate, exploration and administrative presence were already established to begin the exploitation of the people on the coast and in the hinterland.

By 1854 the drug for malaria had been discovered and European merchants began to set up trading companies along River Niger. Water ferrying as a form of transportation started along the Niger with the involvement of the British and the French beginning in 1860 and 1870 respectively in the buying of local palm produce, ivory, pepper etc. or the exchange of same for manufactured goods of various kinds and appearances.

Water-way markets sprang up in Aboh and Onitsha on the River Niger and native merchants criss-crossed the bush paths and the caravan routes to link up the river side markets at Yauri, Jebba, Lokoja, Idah, Onitsha, Benin, Atijere, Okiti-pupa, Epe, Ejinrin and Baclagry. Business was also brisk on the Ogun River between Abeokuta and Lagos and on the Benue, Qua Iboe, Cross and Imo Rivers.

Lagos was ceded to the British in 1861. In 1879, the British merchant firms amalgamated to become United African Company (U.A.C). The name of the company was changed in 1886 under a Royal Charter which enabled it to maintain peace and orderly government of the entire Niger Basin together with the whole of what is now known as the Northern States.

The British And The Fulani

The scramble for Africa by various European powers began in 1880 and this made the Royal Niger Company both a trading and a governing concern for the British. In other words, both Lagos (1861) and the whole of the Northern States of the present Nigeria had been presumed colonized by 1886. While the Governor of Lagos, under the guise that he was clearing the trade route being blocked by the Yoruba wars, was adopting all means including bribery,

cajolery, intimidation and military aggression to induce or coerce the Yoruba kings to sign treaties placing Yoruba territories in the west under British protection between 1886 and 1893, Lugard bombarded the North with military might from between 1897 to 1906.

By 1885, the political authority of Ekpe (law makers) and the king of Calabar was taken over by the British declaration of a Niger Coast protectorate. The take-over rendered impotent the authority of the kings of Bonny, Eleme, Kalahari and Opobo.

The colonization of the areas north and south of Rivers Niger and Benue by the British was almost complete by 1900.

The British colonialists were frustrated because they could not gain access to the Igbo heartland by that date. In 1902, the military attack on the 'Aro' oracle opened to the British the way to the governing of the Igbo people. This was followed by the expedition to Afikpo, Umunneoha and numerous village settlements, ending with eleven expeditions mounted in 1915 and many more troop patrols against violent resistance of the Ibo up to 1917.

The railway lines which began in 1895 from Lagos reached Ibadan in 1900, Osogbo 1905, Offa 1907, Ilorin 1908 and Kano 1912; and from Port Harcourt to Enugu coalfield in 1913 to 1915. These two later cities began as a result of the discovery of coal at Enugu in 1908 and the need for a railway outlet to the ocean through a more suitable route than Calabar. Thus the founding of Port Harcourt in 1913 and Enugu in 1915.

It can thus be seen how the European powers, particularly the British in this case, had used the combined efforts of their explorers, traders, Christian missionaries, diplomatic consulate, administrators and their military might to outmanoeuvre the Hausa-Fulani Caliphate in its guile to use religious reformation to subjugate and colonise the native empires and kingdoms in this part of West Africa in the 19th Century.

Lord Lugard became the High Commissioner of the protectorate of the North in 1900 while Sir W. McGregor was Governor for the South. Lugard left for the governorship of Hong-Kong from 1907 to 1912. He returned to combine

the governorship of both the South and the North. He proclaimed the amalgamation and full colonization of the combined territories by the British in 1914. In the meantime, in 1898, in an article published by the 'Times' of London, Mrs. Flora Shaw, who later got married to Lord Lugard, had suggested a name for the new British colony so proclaimed. It was called 'NIGERIA'.

Native Tutelage

The Clifford Constitution of 1923 which permitted elective representation from Lagos (3 seats) and Calabar (1 seat) in the Legislative Council gave birth to such political parties as the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) in 1923 and the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) in 1934. The NYM replaced the People's Union which had existed since the previous century.

In August 1944, at the initiative of the Lagos King's College branch of the Nigerian Union of Students, an organisation embracing a conglomeration of various bodies known as the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroons (NCNC) was formed for the purpose of providing a forum for expressing criticisms against the Colonial Administration.

In December 1944, Sir Arthur Richards- the Governor- published a new constitutional proposal which widened native representation by nominations, and stipulated opportunity for deliberations on, rather than participation in, colonial administration. The Southern Nationalists, who were opposed to mere legislative discussion by native representatives nominated by colonial officers, called for elective representation and native participation in the whole process of government.

The constitution was wholly welcomed by the natural rulers who were then regarded by the nationalists as puppets of the British Administration. In spite of serious objections by the nationalists, the people's reaction was ignored and the proposal was promulgated into the Richards Constitution of 1946.

In 1949, the new Governor, Sir John Macpherson, began consultations for the review of the Richards Constitution. It was the beginning of practical training

For the natives in constitution making, and in political compromise between the politically conscious and socially developed South and the less politically conscious and socially developed North.

There was no political party to champion the mobilisation of the people and the co-ordination of opinions emanating from the various discussions which took place at various forums, including provincial meetings and conferences in 1950. The NYM and the NNDP were already dead, while the NCNC had been weakened by internal wranglings largely caused by the allegation of embezzlement of funds made against some of its members in the wake of the party's unsuccessful delegation to the United Kingdom to oppose the Richards Constitution. The Zikist Movement, which came into being after 1944, had been declared illegal in April 1950 by Government for engaging in violent activities.

In April 1951, the Action Group (AG), put together by the quiet and painstaking efforts of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, was inaugurated at Owo as a political party. The party had a structure and a well-articulated programme of action. Thereafter, the NCNC transformed into a political party under Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. It may be necessary to point out that one Raji Abdallah had founded the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU) in 1947. Its existence was, however, epileptic because of the hostility of the colonial officers and their agents – the conservative Emirs. However, at the instigation of the British Administrators in the North, the cultural organisation -the JAMIYARMUTANEN AREWA-formed by the first Northern medical doctor, Dr. R. A. B. Dikko- was turned into a political party, the Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) in 1951. Those who opposed the conversion of JAMIYAR MUTANEN AREWA into a political party were led by the organisation's General Secretary, Mallam Aminu Kano. They resuscitated the ailing NEPU.

Nigerian-Independence

By the date of independence in 1960, Nigeria had three largely autonomous regions- namely, Northern Region, Western Region, and Eastern Region. The Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) was the party in power in Northern

Region with the Action Group (AG), in the opposition; the Eastern Region had the National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC) as the party in power with the Action Group (AG) in the opposition. The Action Group (AG) controlled Western Region with the NCNC in the opposition.

At the Federal level, an NPC and NCNC coalition had Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (NPC) as the Prime Minister and Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe (NCNC) as Governor General while Chief Obafemi Awolowo of the Action Group (AG) was the Leader of Opposition.

The State Of Emergency

In May, 1962 there was an open crisis in the AG which the then Federal Government exploited to declare a state of emergency in Western Region. The Western Region House of Assembly and indeed the Government of the Region were suspended to pave way for the imposition of a caretaker Government headed by an appointee of the NPC-NCNC Federal Government- Dr. M.A. Majekodunmi.

Before the expiration of Dr. Majekodunmi's administration Chief S.L. Akintola, the Premier of Western Region, whose conflict with his party leader, Chief Awolowo, had led to the declaration of a state of emergency, quietly put together a new political party – United Peoples' Party (UPP). At the expiration of the emergency Chief Akintola's UPP agreed to a coalition with the NCNC opposition led by Chief Remi Fani-Kayode.

After the inauguration of Egbe Omo Olofin by Justice Adetokunbo Ademola on 29th February, 1964 with a view of sub-merging Egbe Omo Oduduwa (founded in 1946 and the precursor of Awolowo's Action Group) Akintola's UPP merged with Fani-Kayode's faction of the NCNC to form another political party known as NNDP (an off-shoot of the Egbe Omo Olofin). Chief Akintola remained premier of Western Region while Chief Fani-Kayode was appointed Deputy Premier.

The population figures collated from the National Census of 1963 were announced in the early part of 1964. The figures were unacceptable to the NCNC which rejected them outright. This development caused a crack in the NPC-NCNC Federal Government.

On 3rd June, 1964, and in preparation for the impending Federal Elections the Action Group and the NCNC formed an alliance known as the United Progressive Grand Alliance (UPG A). The NNDP reacted to that by forming an Alliance with the NPC, known as Nigerian National Alliance (NNA). Following the political crisis arising from the December 1964 Federal elections, there was tension all over the country.

On 11th October, 1965, there was election into the Western Region House of Assembly. The election was widely claimed to have been wantonly rigged. The Government which resulted from the disputed election appointed virtually all the members on the Government side as Ministers.

The protest against the rigged election which lasted ninety-three (93) days was marked with widespread civil unrest, demonstrations and rioting popularly known as "WETI-E" (i.e. "**BURN HIM**"). The extent and duration of the violence led to a coup d'etat on 15th January, 1966—the first in Nigeria.

Military Rule

There was a counter-coup d'etat on July 29, 1966 because, as it was alleged, the then military Head of State, General J.T.U Aguyi-Ironsi, had set in motion the process of changing the country's federal structure to a unitary one.

The confusion that followed led to the purported secession of the former Eastern Region from Nigeria and a bloody civil war which ended in 1970. The military remained in government till 1st October 1979. There was a brief civilian democracy for the four years between 1979 and December, 1983. The democracy experiment collapsed because of the massive rigging of the 1983 elections. A Military Government was back in the saddle at the end of 1983.

By July 1985, Major General Ibrahim Babangida ousted Major-General Muhammadu Buhari to become the first self-styled Military President of Nigeria. Generals Abacha and Abubakar took turns as military heads of Government in that order with the latter handing over power to an elected President after another horrible spell of military dictatorship.

In the meantime, the Western Powers through their agencies – World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) exploited the naivety and credulity of the military to teleguide and manipulate Nigeria's economy to suit their own interests.

Military Contractors

All along, Military rule had bred a sizeable number of nouveau riche from among the soldiers and their contractors from the spoils of the civil war and the wastes of the oil money. These nouveau riche collaborated with the soldiers to sustain the continuance of the military in power for twenty-nine out of the forty years of Nigeria's political independence.

Most Nigerians who were born in 1960, and later, spent a greater proportion of their lives under military rule. It is therefore not unusual for such Nigerians to have taken after the class of wealthy retired soldiers and their contractor agents. The habit of seeking wealth without sweat which this situation has bred is the propelling force for the prevalence of armed robbery, cultism, fraud etc. in the country today. As a result private business initiative is being strangled; inflation and unemployment are beyond control. As a way of coping with the resultant malaise, everybody now looks up either to government for patronage or to the prayer-revival services.

The Regime Of Bribery

The military government in order to ensure its longevity, resorted to bribing religious and other leaders with money or government appointments. States and Local Governments were created by fiat without any discernible or objective criteria. Communities were grouped into such contraptions without consideration of their cultural, historical or political compatibility. The more the State and Local Governments created by the Federal Military government, the more the people's demands for more of such creations; and the poorer each resultant State or Local Government becomes, the more the inter-community feuds and industrial disharmonies they contend with. The proliferation of States and Local Governments has impoverished the States and paradoxically enhanced the Federal Government.

Concentration of Powers

While the Federal government has bled the States of all sources of internally generated revenue, it throws, like crumbs, only 22% and 24% of the revenue in the Federation Account to 36 States and over 700 Local

Governments respectively for sharing among themselves. To worsen matters the formula used in sharing the amount due to the States favours sheer land size as opposed to the needs of man who ought to be the focus of development. Between the soldiers and their contractor agents and several public officers as collaborators, the bulk of the resources of this country have been frittered away through self-aggrandisement.

Hence the constant communal feuds over demands for more States and more local governments by the numerous other citizens who are looking for opportunities to become councillors, governors and commissioners or to be a part of the bureaucracy's self-serving officers and self-awarding contractors. The traditional leaders too are not relenting in their bid to share power with civil democratic authority or possibly to out manoeuvre it. After all the traditional fathers feel more comfortable with military rule.

Historical Epitome

From the foregoing historical sketch, we have seen:

- (1) how the family developed into village, town and kingdom polities of diverse numerous ethnic nationalities;
- (2) how these polities were being colonised by the Fulanis and how the British took over from them;
- (3) how the Nigerian polity was put together by the British irrespective of ethnic differences;
- (4) how our contact with scientific education and modern technology before independence was most rudimentary;
- (5) how our economy has remained poor, and how our security of life, of food, of property, of employment and of movement has since been most unreliable and weak;
- (6) how post-independence democracy turned to military dictatorship;
- (7) how the military split the political class into the "old" and the "new" breeds as a divide-and-rule tactics to perpetuate dictatorship and to entrench waste and corruption;
- (8) how the international powers had used the military to "SAP" the Naira and subject the Nigerian economy to the manipulation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through World Bank loans;

- (9) how the traditional rulers constituted problems for their subjects by serving as the agents of the international slave merchants, as indirect ruler under British colonial exploitation, and as the collaborators of the military in their wasteful and corrupt management of resources;
- (10) the current demonstration of indiscipline among the leadership of the Federal Government's ruling party dominated by retired military generals and their collaborators;
- (11) the continued attempt to buy over or to coerce into submission the leadership of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) with a view to submerging democratic process and turning Nigeria into a one-party state;
- (12) how the history of Nigeria provides the basis for Democratic – Federalism, as opposed to a unitary arrangement; and
- (13) how our fledgling democracy is in such delicate state as to threaten the survival of Nigeria as one country.

Delicate Democracy

In a delicate democracy, nothing is certain. The stability of the polity cannot be taken for granted. Consequently, there is jostle for power by all means and at all cost. It is a situation which could degenerate to a state of anarchy where man shall be a threat to other men depending on the strength and the sophistication of the arsenal of power available to each person. A state of anarchy can be likened to the kingdom of animals in the jungle where the lion can freely eat the antelope with impunity. In such a state, any talk of freedom of speech, or of movement or of life becomes hollow. Laws become impossible to enforce. By the same token, disorder will reign and the society will lack security of life, security of property, security of food and security of energy for transportation.

Poor Brain Breeds Poverty

The head is the mental engine of the body; a poor brain is thus the beginning of man's poverty. In other words, any efforts to reduce a person's poverty must start with his education.

The more educated a man is, the cleaner should be his drinkable water, the more nutritious should be his foods, the more hygienic should be his home, the more conducive to the weather would be his clothings and the more the technology of the transportation he should desire, the more the serenity of the environment he should love to live in so that the air he breathes would be pollution free.

Political Imperatives

It is evident, therefore, that the immediate future will be doomed to a siege of confusion in Nigeria unless:

- (i) The operation of true and genuine Federalism becomes imperative as a basis for the continuing existence of the corporate entity known as Nigeria;
- (ii) The practice of democracy is expressed through the ballot and based on clean, free and fair elections in which there would be no inflation of voters in the electoral register and no indiscriminate thumb-printing of ballot papers and other electoral frauds;
- (iii) The well-being of the people becomes the sole purpose and *raison d'etre* of Government and the glory of any government becomes the well-being of the people;
- (iv) Supremacy of the Rule of Law is absolutely accepted.
- (v) A Party Manifesto becomes an inviolable covenant between the party and the people.
- (vi) Whether in the immediate or the ultimate, Power is allowed to belong to the people;
- (vii) Man becomes the unit, the prime mover, and the sole purpose of development.
- (viii) The universality of Man whether black, brown, yellow or white is accepted.
- (ix) Self-discipline, self-denial and loyalty to common causes are practised.
- (x) Revenue Allocation is principally based on the principle of derivation.
- (xi) Everyman, who is a natural shareholder by birth of his group and nation, is therefore entitled to certain inalienable rights which will make it possible for him to have a sound mind in a sound body- "*Men sana in corpore sano.*"

Conclusion

The major responsibility of any government is to seek the welfare of its people, and for this to be achieved, a nation requires political stability predicated on democratic ethics. Democracy as a form of political arrangement presupposes, for its sustenance and survival, an understanding amongst the polity of the rules of the game and the equitable sharing of the revenue accruing from its resources. The more proliferated and varied the ethnic nationalities constituting a country are, the more difficult it is to reach a consensus on the main issues that need to be resolved to make meaningful co-existence real.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF BISI AKANDE, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE, ON THE OCCASION MARKING HIS SIGNING INTO LAW THE YEAR 2001 APPROVED BUDGET OF OSUN STATE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2001.

We are here gathered again today for the purpose of signing into Law the year 2001 Appropriation Bill of Osun State. We thank God for making the occasion possible. On Monday, 27th March, 2000, I signed into Law the year 2000 Appropriation Bill of Osun State. All of us in the Executive and the Legislative Arms of Government thought then that we were late in signing the Appropriation Bill into Law. We had therefore hoped that the year 2001 Appropriation Bill would be signed into Law very early in January year 2001. That aspiration eventually became unattainable not because of our lack of will or lack of purpose but because democracy is a process of meetings, debates, arguments, altercations, compromise, openness, learning and wisdom which promotes peace, friendship and understanding as the conscience of the practitioners. Suffice it to say that every one of us should have learnt one or more lessons from the experience of the past two years.

What has happened in Osun State in the last few months should be seen as a true test of democracy which requires tolerance, dialogue, give-and-take and adherence to constitutional limitations. If the good citizens of Nigeria, the Federal Government and all the federating States had in the past two years of the take-off of our new democracy learnt the expected lessons, then the subsequent years should be free from ethnic/religious acrimony, diabolical confrontations, self aggrandisement and arrant disregard of the rule of law. What we are currently experiencing in Nigeria is far from what a true federal system should be. Since we have all pledged to have a federal system of Government, each federating State should be given a chance to operate by using its initiatives to prosper the citizens of the State.

The Federal Government is responsible for the macro economic policy for the whole country. If the Federal Government is found to be inefficient and

ineffective in the handling of the monetary and fiscal policies for the whole federation, then the whole country is doomed. For the economy of Nigeria to develop meaningfully and thrive, the Federal Government should guide and control jealously the supply of money. The present high rate of interest, which is detrimental to the growth, and development of the economy, should be reversed. The current exchange rate policy which has led to the naira depreciating against other currencies, is a killer to innovation, genuine investment and physical development of the country. The high rate of interest coupled with high exchange rate of the naira is only encouraging speculative monetary transactions, hyper inflation, import oriented economy, corruption and joblessness which the on-going Federal Government policy of poverty eradication is most inadequate to combat. The Federal Government should use its functions of monetary and fiscal policies to promote the unity of the country in diversity. The focus of all levels of Government should be transparency, prudence and accountability in the management of all the resources at their disposal. It is not enough to preach verbally against corruption. It is necessary to go further by showing by example, good leadership, good governance and a high sense of responsibility in contract awards that will lead to the improvement in the standard of living for the masses of our people. For a good inter-governmental fiscal relations, all levels of Government should adhere strictly to their constitutional limitations. The current experience whereby even the Federal Government flout constitutional requirements should stop.

Another pertinent issue worthy of mentioning is the unacceptable Revenue Allocation formula which, unless it is quickly addressed, may jeopardise the success of our fledgling democracy. It is incomprehensible that the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission is yet to come up with a new Revenue Allocation formula that will encourage true democracy and true federalism in the country; whereas, they saw it fit to scheme public functionaries' salaries presently being called "Gbemu". We are again appealing to the national Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission and the Federal Government to gear up their actions towards the evolvement of a new acceptable Revenue Allocation formula for the whole country which will encourage genuine development of the economy. All of us politicians at any level of Government were elected to serve the people meritoriously. The people

who elected us into office expected good governance, credible performance and dividends of democracy in terms of good qualitative Education, good qualitative Health Care, integrated rural development with emphasis on good and passable road network in the rural and urban areas, urban and rural housing, good communication system, etc. It is also expected that Government should protect the lives and properties of the citizenry which, of course, should be the primary function of Government.

On my own part, I still give my promise to lead the current Osun State Administration towards the enthronement of good governance characterised by transparent administration, prudent management of resources, high level of probity and accountability in all our transactions. I also want to assure the good people of Osun State that the year 2001 Budget will be implemented as programmed. There will be no room for budget indiscipline of any kind. The implementation of the Capital Budget will continue to be accorded top priority attention while Government will continue to accord the welfare of serving and retired officers due consideration. I therefore wish to call on all and sundry to support us in the onerous task of building Osun State into enviable heights.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express my appreciation to our Legislators for a job well done and for the way they have handled the examination of the year 2001 Budget of Osun State. Now that we have understood one another so to say, it is hoped that our subsequent Budgets will be prepared, considered and approved with a view to promoting the welfare of our people to higher heights. I now have the privilege again this year to sign into Law the Year 2001 Appropriation Bill of Osun State to the glory of God with a view to moving Osun State forward into greater prosperity, meaningful and sustainable development and the attainment of concrete improvement in the welfare of our citizens.

Thank you and God bless.

**ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF 'BISI' AKANDE,
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE, TO THE OSUN
STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AT THE OPENING OF A NEW
LEGISLATIVE YEAR ON MONDAY 9TH JULY, 2001.**

Military personnel are public servants. The training and mentality of public servants entail the inculcation of trade unionism and self-reward in the name of improved condition of service. In practical terms, the condition is not always measured with altruistic yardstick as to whether the services were rendered or not; before one knew it, public servants would be rendering services to themselves rather than to the members of the public. Military government is virtually synonymous with government by public servants. It is essentially a bureaucratic rather than a democratic government. Hence, almost invariably, a military government devotes the resources of the state to the self-aggrandisement of the rulers and their consenting partners in the public service. Whatever is left is spent on doubtful projects. This explains why military regimes in Nigeria were characterized by:

- (i) Infrastructural Decay; Capacity
- (ii) Under-Utilisation; National and
- (iii) International Debts; Naira
- (iv) Instability;
- (v) Serious Structural Unemployment;
- (vi) Hyper Inflation and Abject Poverty for low income earners;
- (vii) Insecurity of Life and Property;
- (viii) Institutional Fraud (otherwise known as 419 in Nigeria but called 417 by the Japanese);
- (ix) Insecurity of tenure of government;
- and (x) Ungovernable Revolution.

Substantial demonstrations of various social, economic and political chaos have been witnessed in the life of this country, in good measure, during military administration and before the advent of democratic experiment that began in 1999. These unprecedented level of chaos have resulted in the emergence of large-scale Criminal Violence, Burglary and Armed Robbery which triggered the silent revolution called 'OPC' in the West, the 'Egbesu' in the East, the 'Bakasi' in the South-South and the 'APC' in the North.

In January, 1999 we of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) won elections so massively, in Osun State, to the bewilderment and utter discomfiture of our political adversaries. As soon as they seemed to have recovered, they regrouped and constituted themselves as the enemies of the common citizens of Osun State for whom our programmes and policies were designed as they have always been, since the days of Chief Obafemi Awolowo through to the administration of Chief Bola Ige in the old Oyo State.

Before our assumption of office in June 1999, these selfish enemies of the people had prepared the ground for students' demonstrations, negative press and workers' strikes which heralded us into office and which were orchestrated, manipulated and amplified to the shock and amazement of most of our supporters during our first year in office. A fallout of this contrived chaos was the attempted impeachment of the State's Chief Executive by this Honourable House in November, 2000. Although the impeachment attempt failed, the impeachment virus is now all over the place and our own Local Government Councils are not spared.

I regard these and similar events as the necessary transition that must manifest when a polity moves from military governance to democratic and focused experiments typified by the regime of Chief Awolowo and its ideological successors. As good governance unfolds, self-seeking politicians, fronts for military subjugators and other military apologists are ganging up to frustrate it. Incapable of success in a free and fair election, these political opportunists, together with certain other persons who hid under the credibility of our party to win elections at various levels, began to collaborate to sabotage the people's programmes. Some of them are now decamping and more of their group would soon appear in their true colour to demonstrate that a leopard cannot change its skin. We must not be deterred by the unfolding convergence of interests between political harlots and military business fronts.

Amidst the chaos of demonstrations and workers' strike, I spoke to this Honourable House of Assembly for the first time on Monday June 14, 1999. In my speech on that occasion I quoted from the Bible (Genesis Chapter 1 verses 1 to 5) that at the beginning, after the creation, "the earth was without form and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep"; and I prayed that

HBy the grace of God, the spirit of God will soon move into Osun State. And there will be light in the heart of everybody, and there will be peace and progress in 'Bisi Akande's administration"

I made the prediction because, deep down in my mind, something has always told me that this government, under my leadership, has been ordained and blessed as a divine intervention in the affairs of Osun State which were being mismanaged hitherto for selfish interests. The unbelievers among us must have begun to see now that all recriminations are already being drowned by sounds of applause. The remaining feeble efforts, in certain quarters, to sow seeds of discord are already being thwarted by powers behind our honest approach to governance. If our predictions cannot overtake the enemies of good cause, they will soon (according to Psalm 7 Verses 15 & 16) begin to fall into the ditch which they are making and their intrigues and violence shall soon rebound upon their own heads.

It would never be forgotten however that, following my first speech to this Assembly in June 1999, the intervention of this Honourable House became the pillar upon which the solutions to the initial workers' strike were found. It is hoped that members would not allow the wolves in sheep's skin to talk into their mouths by sponsoring motions and debates that would continue to negatively impact upon the good reputation of our party and the progressive development of the foundations for the social and economic well being of our good people of Osun State. I implore you, Honourable members of the House of Assembly, to continue to work hard in the interest of the development of our people and our State; and please, let us leave the chances of winning future elections to God.

And what shall we do next? As we did not let their ceremonisation of chaos, negative press, demonstrations and strikes distract us in the past two years, so also shall we continue to manage to bypass them in our efforts to relieve the poorest of the poor by:

- (i) improving the quality of our free education for all at all levels;
- (ii) intensifying the scheme of free health services to every citizen;
- and (iii) renewing our attack against infrastructural decay, at the

grassroots levels, through rural transformation and integration of the rural communities with the urban areas of the State.

These efforts would continue to revive economy at the grassroots by providing adequate gainful self-employment for traders, transporters and artisans such as bricklayers, carpenters, dressmakers, plumbers, motor mechanics etc. We must resist the temptation of the culture of money (now in American dollars) in "Ghana-must-Go" bags now prevalent at the Federal Government level. We must continue to insist that authority for security maintenance should be decentralized as is the practice in a true federal arrangement. The present practice of power aggregation is antithetical to federalism. It is unitary both in purpose and practice. It merely promotes the stealing of public funds by each subordinating level from top to bottom and by which the benefits stop at the "grass" without reaching the 'roots'.

We must endeavour to stop the on-going argument that the states would misuse power against their perceived opponents. Did the Buhari government not declare that the Shagari Administration abused Federal powers to rig elections against its opponents in 1983? For now, are the Federal Political Functionaries more educated, more experienced, more exposed, more honest, more patriotic or more efficient than State Political Functionaries? Are Federal Public Servants brighter and more professional than their state counterparts? Why is the Federal Government so anxious to attract to itself all powers to collect all taxes and to take decisions for all levels of government including the local councils other than to extend the frontiers of largesse?

We in the Legislature and the Executive arms of government must learn to master politics in its broadest and long-range sense. We must learn to persuade others through acts of selflessness and altruism with a view to promoting the tradition of credibility and charisma for which the Action Group and the Unity Party of Nigeria – the precursors of Alliance for Democracy (AD) were well known. We must not aspire to amass wealth that would assimilate us into the group of the wealthy and the powerful so much as to make us easily forget that we were put in power by the votes of the poorest of the poor. We should regard ourselves as the vanguard of democracy who

were elected to save the ordinary people from the antics of the military and their collaborators. We must accept to act as political functionaries who are ordained to change the orientation of the public service from self-serving practices of personal aggrandisement. Our efforts must be directed at arresting the neglect which led to the present silent revolution and which may, if unchecked, lead to an unguided and uncontrollable revolution.

It will be our joint responsibility to think and work together to pass resolutions and make laws that would go a long way towards the education of the general public, particularly, the local government political functionaries who might be pushed by selfish considerations to think that all powers should be unified in the hands of the National Assembly; the event which would lead to a Unitary Constitution as against Federalism- (i.e. reasonable centralization) which is the best for the unity of the diverse interests in Nigeria and for the overall welfare of our people.

Osun State will continue to remember years 2000 and 2001 Appropriation Laws which were enacted by this Honourable House of Assembly to turn-around the lives of our people from era of delusion to a state of hope. It is also my hope that Osun State will be transformed from the regime of disorder into the position of transparent democracy through the State Independent Electoral Commission Law and the Local Government Administration Law now being enacted by this Honourable House of Assembly.

Mr Speaker, sir; the Honourable members of the House of Assembly, I salute and congratulate you all on your successful participation in the management of the affairs of this state in the past two years; and, it is my prayer and hope that our efforts, in the next two years, shall redound to the credit and honour of the people of Osun State.

May God bless all of us.

BUDGET SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR, CHIEF BISI AKANDE, ON THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF OSUN STATE OF NIGERIA FOR THE 2002 FISCAL YEAR, DELIVERED AT THE OSUN STATE BOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2001.

INTRODUCTION:

I am delighted to present, again, to this august Assembly, the third Annual Budget of our government and the eleventh, by successive Administrations, since the creation of Osun State. The first two Budgets of our Government - for years 2000 and 2001 - were deficit Budgets. We had then budgeted for more than the envisaged revenue in the hope that help would come somehow. Alas! no such help came. It has now dawned on us - more than hitherto - that "heaven helps only those who help themselves". Hence, the year 2002 Budget which I have the honour to present to you today, will be a balanced budget in keeping with our experience and the realities of budget implementation.

Traditional Native Authority

Before the advent of British imperialism in Nigeria, each traditional local government, otherwise known as empire, kingdom, fiefdom or family hamlet, enjoyed complete autonomy. Among such Empires were the Hausa kingdoms, the Bornu Empire for the Kanuris and the middle-belt Kwararafa Empire among the Plateau communities. We also had the Oyo Empire covering the present Oyo State and parts of the present Ogun, Lagos and Kwara States; and Iwo, Ede, Osogbo, Ikirun, Ejigbo and Okuku parts of the present Osun State. Benin Empire covered the present Edo and Delta states and substantial parts of the present Ondo, Kogi and Ekiti states. Among the other kingdoms were the Ife kingdom (which included parts of Irewole and Aiyedaade and Isokan local governments); Ila kingdom (which included the present Ila and Ifedayo local governments and spread into Igbomina area of the present Kwara

State); and the Ijesa kingdom covering the present Ilesa (East and West), Atakunmosa (East and West), Obokun and Oriade local governments and parts of the present Ekiti State.

Although, the European invasion for the slave trade (16th to 19th century) and the wars arising from the Fulani Jihads (otherwise known as Jalumi and Kiriji wars (1804- 1893) appeared to have weakened and altered some of the boundaries, the emerging kingdoms and emirates became the strongest pillars for the administrative structure (Native Authority) of the British rule in Nigeria from 1914. In other words, in the ancient feudal arrangements, administrative power began with our traditional rulers in the various kingdoms, fiefdoms and family hamlets now called local governments.

Local Government and the Traditional Councils

For a proper integration of our traditional title holders into local government administration, Government will soon enter into dialogue with our traditional fathers with a view to bringing a bill before this Honourable House for enactment into a befitting Chiefs Law

Power Oscillation

With the advent of democracy in Nigeria in 1952, power shifted to the Regions (now split into states) from which the Central Government derived its authority. The three founding fathers of post-colonial Nigeria- Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Alhaji Ahmadu Bello – at first, preferred to remain in the Regions -the source of political power and authority! Later came the military who, basing administrative arrangement and governance on military tradition, shifted power and authority to the centre. They created 36 states and 774 local governments, based on no scientific principles, but on nepotism and transient political pressure, thereby, making nonsense of federalism. Thus, the military and their collaborators have, through the back-door, restructured Nigeria from a Federal to a quasi-unitary system of government.

Unitary Federalism

Each of the 36 states is now so weak that it struggles with the local governments between being autonomous from and, at the same time, being subordinated to the Federal government in practically all major functions which the old Regions were performing. By decree 21 of 1998, the military transferred virtually all powers of taxation from the States and Local Governments to the Federal Government, thereby making the other tiers of governments (i.e. states and the Local Governments) financially helpless and virtually totally reliant on funds from sale of crude oil. Hence, the strident demands for restructuring, resource control, and a sovereign national conference. Take it or leave it, the only thing that can give strength to and sustain the unity of the diverse peoples of Nigeria is **TRUE FEDERALISM**-the definition and practice of which do not appear to be clear yet to the neophyte Nigerian politicians.

True Federalism

Before true federalism can be achieved, each of the nationalities that make up Nigeria- particularly from the South-West, South-East and South-South zones of the country - must begin today its separate national conferences with a view to reviewing and re-writing separate constitutions each for the Yoruba, the Igbo, the Edo, the Urhobo, the Ijaw, the Annang, and the Ogoja nations and so on, as if, each would be administered as a separate entity. The various nationalities in the Middle-Belt, the North-West and the North-East will then learn to follow in double-quick-march. In the end, all these constitutions will assume domestic autonomy and what authority to surrender to the Federal Government would be easier to specify at an all-Nigerian national conference.

Man as a Unit Of Development

For our Party, the Government Party, the Alliance for Democracy, man is the unit of Development. Therefore our cardinal objectives of:

- (a) free education for all at all levels;
- (b) free health services for all, and
- (c) full gainful (self) employment

have presupposed that, whatever funds are available to us in Osun State must be allocated, first and foremost, to target the development of every individual human citizen through the financing of primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and technological schools, the various medical and clinical institutions, and through regular payment of salaries and allowances to all our public officers, including medical workers and teachers. As part of full gainful self employment for all, the people in rural areas, the women, the youths, the technical experts, the artisans, the city traders and the transporters are being mobilised and encouraged to group themselves into co-operative organisations capable of perpetual succession, with a view to introducing them to micro-credits from various financial institutions and to train them to use the corporate organisations for self-realisation in business and trade. China began in this way to transit quickly from poverty arising from over-population into prosperity and a World power status. Today, China aspires to feed the world after having adequately fed its own people.

The Optimum Community Concept

Side by side with individual human development, our funds are also being used to integrate the rural areas with the urban centres through road linkages with every one of our 305 secondary schools, each being designated as the headquarters of an optimum community, (OPTICOM) and around which water, electricity and rural housing units are being provided. In the end, with easy transportation, decent housing and shelter, water and energy, every community in both rural and urban areas of the state would devise opportunities for processing locally-grown crude primary agricultural produce into simple manufactured goods and for packaging for easy transportation, distribution and marketing within the community and beyond.

We have good ideas, and the will-power to prosecute them. However, we must develop the spirit of selflessness and altruism to back up the ideas. But, we need money; we need peace; we need, also, the support and co-operation of every citizen to move our state from its present economic crudity and backwardness to economic modernity and prosperity.

Local Government and Community Development

It is our expectation that each primary school shall be the headquarters of the community in which it is located. Our Local Government Councils shall therefore be directed to link up each primary school neighbourhood with good roads, potable water, electricity, housing facility, and grassroots mobilisation **and** organisation of occupational co-operative societies for ease of micro credit **for** their trades. Also, local government councils will be expected to become partners in the maintenance of state amenities within their council areas.

Life, Property and Economic Security

In the meantime, however, the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, would be persuaded and assisted:

- (i) to solve the prevalent security problem of crimes like armed robbery and assassination; inter-communal and inter-religious feuds which are being sponsored and financed by the rich and the powerful members of our society in their greedy and selfish efforts at self-enrichment but which continue uncontrollably to destroy lives and property;
- (ii) to solve the problem of political disorder arising from a deliberate mis-interpretation and mis-application of the Constitution, an instance of which is bringing the National Assembly and the Federal Government into conflict with the 36 state Houses of Assembly and governments on the matters of State Joint Local Government Account, zero allocation, Electoral Bills and so on; and
- (iii) to solve the problem of economic mismanagement by which the Federal Government constantly over-spends its budgets which worsened the inflation rate from 5% in 1999 to 18% in year 2001; which devalued our currency from N80 per dollar in 1999 to N140 per dollar in year 2001; and which raised bank interest rates from 21% in 1999 to 36% in year 2001.

National Revenue Allocation

Also, Chief Obasanjo needs be persuaded to put before the National Assembly the necessary Revenue Allocation Bill to enable smooth forward planning by the various levels of government rather than unilaterally toasting the labour with suggestions about new increases in salaries and pension rates which are totally not in consonance with the economic realities of the various societies that make up the Nigerian polity and which generate needless tensions among the workers and the pensioners.

In the economy of Nigeria, where manufactured goods for export is less than 8% and foreign exchange is being brazenly stolen and stashed away to other countries, and where foreign debts stand at \$28 billion, it is not likely that the value of the Naira will not further fall if the debt repayment of \$2 billion per year is insisted upon by both the Paris and London Clubs with the support of both the IMF and the World Bank. The present high bank interest rate is not sustainable in the long run without proving harmful to the financial health of the banks themselves. Already, there is widespread speculation that some banks are in distress. Whatever the circumstances, one thing is sure. The Governor of the Central Bank, Chief Joseph Sanusi, was quoted by the Nigerian Tribune of Monday, 5th November, 2001 as saying that "the Nigerian economy was performing below expectations". Therefore, the operational cost of government will increase and the prolonged political agitation and tension now going on, if not quickly arrested, could lead to an economic climate of uncertainty and political instability. As long as our people abandon primary and secondary economic sectors (i.e. agriculture and manufacturing) for the service sector (i.e. banking, marketing, accounting, insurance etc) so long shall there be poverty in Nigeria.

While I seek the support of this Honourable House to join me in persuading the President to submit the Bill for Revenue Allocation to the National Assembly, I tabulate below the situation of allocations since 1980 together with the new recommendations of the National Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission.

Vertical Statutory Allocation Formula in Percentages

Level of Government	1980	1987	1990	1995	2001 Being recom- mended, waiting for President's Bill.
Federal Government	55.0%	55.0%	50.0%	48.5%	41.3%
State Government	34.5%	32.5%	30.0%	24.0%	31.0%
Local Government	8.0%	10.0%	15.0%	20.0%	16.0%
Special Funds	2.5	2.5	5.0	7.5	11.7%

It needs be noted from the above, however, that while the National Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission has constitutional responsibility to recommend revenue allocation among the two tiers of government and the Local Governments, it has no powers for revenue appropriation to the departments of government. Therefore, the figures stated under special funds are largely repugnant to the provisions of the 1999 'Unifederal' Constitution and should, therefore, be allocated to the States and the Local Governments. It is a sound argument to insist that the Federal Capital Territory should not have an allocation bigger than the putative expected average of the allocation to any of the 36 States.

General Assumptions

May I present the underlisted assumptions for my position on this matter of revenue allocation:

General acceptance of the principle of Federalism

Under a true Federalism (USA, Canada, Australia, India etc) there are two tiers of government – The Federal Government and the governments of the federating units (otherwise called States). However, while the federal

arrangement in those countries evolved from historical union of diverse ethnicity, geographical separateness and language dissimilarities put together by agreement among peoples of the federating units, Nigerian federalism is based on states created by demands considered by the military on the basis of no principles other than nepotism and transient pressure from time to time.

In any federation, unlike in any unitary polity, local government administrations are mere geographical, zonal or district departments created by each state government for ease of allocating functions, supervising, monitoring and controlling the maintenance of the amenities provided by the states using the instrumentalities of primary facilities such as infant schools, preventive and minor health clinics, local markets and motor parks etc. In other words, a unitary arrangement has one central government with possibly several levels of local, divisional, district or parish administrations while a Federal system has two tiers of governments – (Central and States only).

Allocation of Functions between the two tiers of government

In a true federal arrangement, the Central Government will be saddled with functions that would unify the various federating units (States) and such functions would be listed to avoid controversy. Such functions include common legal tender, railways, defence, territorial boundaries, research in education, health, agriculture and technology etc. All the residual (non-listed functions) would be reserved for the federating units. While listed functions can be assessed, estimated and evaluated, the residual functions cannot. That is why, in some federations, there are concurrent functions which are always listed:

- (i) to enable the Central and the State governments to participate voluntarily depending on the available resources and needs: and
- (ii) to enable the Central government to intervene where there are needs but no resources without such caveat that the involvement of one invalidates the authority of the other as it is currently the case in Nigeria. Such caveat automatically reduces all the listed concurrent functions into the exclusive preserve of the Central government.

Grassroot Development in the Poor and Emerging Developing Countries

In abnormal circumstances, like Nigeria, where all the powers of taxation and revenue exploitation are virtually totally centralised, allocation of revenue should be extended to the local administration levels (not tier of government). If the States are to create the structure and functions of such local administrations, the estimation and valuation of such functions and of what to allocate require the absolute concurrence and agreement of the state government which created the local administrations and the functions to be financed by them in the first instance.

Human Propensity

The smooth running of any administration, together with the cordial inter-relationship among the various tiers of governments and levels of administration, depends mainly on the erudition, training, exposure, experience and propensity (evil-doing or developmental e.g. corruption, selfishness, nepotism, obsessive desire to stick indefinitely to public offices by all means or creativity, frugality, accountability etc) of our political leadership at every level of administration. In a unitary and parliamentary polity like Britain, political tutelage begins with ward councillorship to the membership of the Central Parliament; while in a federal system, like in U.S.A, political tutelage also starts with Councillorship, then Mayor, Governor, Senate and President. In Nigeria, where access to money determines at what level to start a political career, political tutelage may begin directly at the Presidency. And that is why the human propensity to evil-doing in politics is likely to be more profound among Nigerian politicians than in the more advanced countries.

Hence the possibility of gross incapacity and utter lack of honesty and comprehension of the situation on the part of those who direct and administer the affairs of our governments in both tiers and at all levels. It is worse at the Local Government level where it is not unusual for illiterates, in a practical sense, to become chairmen of councils whose staff are, too, low educationally and are both unexposed and inexperienced. These are the reasons for corruption otherwise referred to as "weekly pools" whose proceeds are shared by local politicians and career officers without

compunction at that level of government. For these reasons, one wonders if much funds should be entrusted to that level of government.

THE YEAR 2002 BUDGET OF OSUN STATE:

The year 2002 Budget of Osun State is a balanced one, the size of which is N18,874,645,000 (Eighteen billion, eight hundred and seventy four million, six hundred and forty five thousand Naira only). The budget is predicated on the following objectives:

- (a) consolidation of and improvement on our gains in the areas of Education, Health, Transportation, Water Supply, Rural Housing, Rural Electrification etc.;
- (b) provision of gainful (self) employment opportunities to the masses of our people, Youths, Women, Farmers, Traders, Artisans, Professionals, Co-operative movements etc.;
- (c) encouraging our people to imbibe the spirit of hard work, honesty, probity, accountability and prudent management of resources with a view to improving their welfare;
- (d) building a virile Public Service that will be second to none throughout the Federation;
- (e) contributing our own quota towards the building and survival of our nascent democracy.

Summary

The summary of the Budget is as follows:

The Revenue Budget:

ITEMS	ESTIMATES 2002 ₦	PERCENTAGES TOTAL REVENUE %
i) Internally Generated Revenue		
(a) Ministries & Departments	2,044,995,00	10.8
(b) Revenue of Statutory Bodies and Higher Institutions	287,450,000	1.52
Sub-Total for IGR	2,332,445,000	12.36
ii) Statutory Allocation	8,550,000,000	45.30
iii) Value Added Tax (VAT)	960,000,000	5.09
Total Recurrent Revenue	11,842,445,000	62.75
Capital Receipts	7,032,200,000	37.25
TOTAL REVENUE:	18,874,645,000	100.00

The Expenditure Budget:

ITEMS	ESTIMATES 2002 ₦	PERCENTAGES TOTAL REVENUE %
(i) Personnel Cost	4,639,950,080	24.58
(ii) Overhead Costs	1,304,936,860	6.91
(iii) Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges	2,216,828,060	11.75
(iv) Total Recurrent Expenditure	8,161,715,000	43.24
(v) Capital Expenditure	10,712,930,000	56.76
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	18,874,645,000	100

Details of the Expenditure Budget:

(i) Regarding the total Expenditure Budget (Recurrent and Capital) Education takes N4,356,914.170 (four billion, three hundred and fifty six million, nine hundred and fourteen thousand, one hundred and seventy Naira) or 23.08%, Health N1,901,000,000.00 (One billion, nine hundred and one million Naira) or 10.07% while the other sectors take N12,616,730,830 (Twelve billion, six hundred and sixteen million, seven hundred and thirty thousand, eight hundred and thirty Naira) or 66.85%.

(ii) The Recurrent and Capital Expenditure Budget has been packaged in a way that there will be no room for wastage, corruption or budget indiscipline.

Details of the Capital Budget:

Capital Budgets are concerned with the actual growth and development of the various sectors and sub-sectors of the economy. Since our coming on board, we have always been discouraging the invisibles while we encourage the visibles, particularly those areas that can lead to positive improvement of the welfare of the masses of our people who voted us into office.

The sectoral and sub-sectoral summary of the year 2002 Capital budget is as follows:

Head	Details of Expenditure	Estimate 2002	Allocation
A.	Economic Sector:	₱	%
450	Agriculture and Rural Development	53,230,000	0.50
451	Livestock	1,000,000	0.01
452	Forestry	10,000,000	0.09
453	Fisheries	3,000,000	0.03
455	Urban/Rural Electrification	185,000,000	1.73
456	Industry, Commerce, Finance & Coop.	165,719,000	1.55
457	Transportation	2,434,500,000	22.72
	SUB-TOTAL:	2,852,449,000	26.63
B.	<u>Social Services Sector:</u>		
458	Education	1,260,200,000	11.76
459	Health	1,000,000,000	9.34
460	Information & Culture	298,950,000	2.79
461	Social Development, Youth & Sports	10,050,000	0.09
	SUB-TOTAL:	2,569,200,000	23.98
C	<u>Regional Planning and Environmental Development Sector:</u>		
462	Water Resources	2,234,000,000	20.85
	Environmental Sanitation	421,000,000	9.34
463	Housing	187,495,000	1.75
464	Town and Country Planning	4,900,000	0.05
	SUB-TOTAL:	2,847,995,000	26.58
	<u>General Administration Sector:</u>		
467	General Administration	2,443,886,000	22.81
	GRAND TOTAL:	10,712,930,000	100

Our Trade Mark

The year 2001 Budget of Osun State has a revenue size of about N16.30 billion and an expenditure size of about N20.70 billion, leading to a budget deficit of over four billion Naira. As at the end of September, Year 2001, the total revenue realised from all sources was about N9.13 billion. It is obvious that the projected revenue for the year cannot be achieved as envisaged. But, we have prudently managed the little resources at our disposal such that;

- (i) We have not executed any project on credit. Before we embark on any job, we would have gotten ready the fund. If not, we will start conserving the money for the project immediately;
- (ii) Salaries and allowances of workers have been paid as and when due. We have also fully paid the year 2001 Leave allowances of workers including the recess allowances of the legislators.
- (iii) We have cleared all pension and gratuity arrears inherited by us.
- (iv) Officers are now being trained and re-trained;
- (v) All officers due for promotion are already being decided;
- (vi) Out of the little fund remaining, we have spent over two billion Naira on meaningful capital projects.

We have been able to achieve so much with so little because we have plugged most of the avenues for leakage and wastage. We have been very meticulous and selfless. We are guided by the belief that those of us in government are only trustees of the people who are the real-owners of the Government.

To demonstrate lack of self-discipline by the erstwhile Military regimes, the 1998 overhead budget of N436.2 million approved for Osun State, by the military themselves, was over-spent by over N100 million (23.03%). We came in May 1999 to inherit the military's overhead budget of N621 million, yet, we managed to demonstrate a sense of frugality by saving over N103 million (16.6%). For year 2000 and up to September 2001, we are happy to announce that, in spite of the gloomy economic situation (described above), we have saved over N300 million (26.4%) and over N400 million (34.4%) respectively from the over-head budgets approved for the state by this Honourable House of Assembly.

Up to date Audited Accounts

Also, when we came on board in May, 1999 the Auditor-General's Report for the accounts of the periods from 1992 to 1998 had not been published. Today, the Accounts for up to year 2000 have been prepared and audited. An up-to-date Audited Accounts of Osun State, even for the year 2001, will soon be printed and published for public use. I felt exhilarated when Mr. O.S. Abiola, the Auditor-General of Osun State, in a letter dated 23rd November, 2001, addressed to be concluded thus: "Your Excellency's stance towards accountability and probity is highly noted by the office of the Auditor-General"

The Legislature and Judiciary

There is no gainsaying the fact that for the Nigerian nascent democracy to succeed, the three arms of Government must cooperate since their duties are supposed to be complementary, not competitive. In Osun State, we thank God for the new spirit of understanding among the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. Adequate provisions have been made in the year 2002 Budget to enable the Legislature and Judiciary to function effectively.

Staff Welfare

In the out-going year, Government gave a greater fillip to staff welfare. In spite of the few skinnishes and mis-understandings traceable to mis-information or communication gap, there is relative industrial peace in Osun State. I want to appeal to all our workers and labour leaders to continue to ensure industrial peace into year 2002 and beyond. This Government has the interest of its workers at heart. With the conclusion of the restructuring exercise, all of us should work for the development of our State. Trade Union Leaders should not mix labour matters with active politics. The two are different. Workers should also be aware of Labour Leaders or Politicians who want to use them for selfish ends. They should resist such opportunists. On the part of Government, the welfare of workers will continue to be given adequate attention. All labour issues should therefore be resolved through dialogue not by confrontation.

Budget Control and Implementation

We have noted that the year 2002 Budget of Osun State is a balanced Budget. It has to be indicated that the balancing has been delicately achieved. For example, the Capital Receipts element is 37.26% while there is a loan element of N2.25 Billion or 11.92%. Budget formulation without adequate control and implementation can only lead to unfulfilled hopes. Our own government is not a Government of deceit. The year 2002 Budget is achievable. But it requires sacrifice on the part of all of us. There will be the need for further belt-tightening for the sake of posterity and our future. Thus, all efforts will be made to ensure that the projected Revenue is achieved. All Revenue generation agencies of Government have, therefore, been directed to be up and doing with a view to ensuring that the revenue targets are met.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker and the Honourable Members of the Osun State House of Assembly, it is necessary to alert the unwary that our efforts, since we came on board, are geared towards ensuring that we leave Osun State better than we met it. We are indeed carrying out a Revolution – a silent and peaceful revolution for that matter. Things were so bad when we came on board. The mess to be cleared was gargantuan. It was a mountain of morass! We thank God that we have succeeded this far. By God's grace and the support of the good people of the State, we will succeed fully. As we continue to clear the mess as well as preventing a re-occurrence, it is inevitable not to step on toes; but such toes must be those of fraudsters, 419ners, briefcase contractors who may want to be paid for jobs nor done, AGIP politicians who have no independent principles except for 'Any government In power', cowardly liars and blackmailers and unproductive and inefficient workers and so on. Of course, there is no room for such people in our Government. However, all the good people of Osun State must heave a sigh of relief that they now have a Government that caters for their welfare. We thank everybody who has assisted government to make a success of year 2001 in Osun State. We still count on the positive contribution and cooperation of all the good people of Osun State to make year 2002 more prosperous for the state than the previous years.

Let us pray

May God destroy the tribe of the secret politicians in military uniform. May God assist Mr. Speaker and the Honourable members of this House of Assembly, in Osun State, to urgently consider this Budget together with the Financial Guidelines for its implementation and pass the necessary Appropriation Bill before this year runs out to enable us to start the implementation of the Budget early in January year 2002. May God be with the rulers and the citizens of Osun State throughout this Ramadan period and during the coming Christmas and, at the same time, grant Osun State abundance of progress and happiness in the **NEW YEAR**.

AMEN.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF BISI AKANDE, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE ON THE OCCASION MARKING HIS SIGNING INTO LAW, THE YEAR 2002 APPROVED BUDGET OF OSUN STATE ON FRIDAY 10TH MAY, 2002.

By the first day of June year 2002, the current Osun State Government will be three years in office.

When we started, our salary bill was bigger than our income. Our debt to the workers was about N1billion and our debts to the contractors were about N2billion. Also our foreign debts were 105 million pounds sterling and USD \$150 million totaling about N42billion.

We succeeded in paying all the debts to our workers and substantially paid the debts to our contractors. We also moved ahead to introduce Free Education to the pupils in all our 1,217 Primary and 305 Secondary Schools. We established additional 24 Science Schools and 7 Technical Schools, while all efforts are now geared towards establishing 9 more Technical Schools and introducing scholarship and bursary to our 350,000 students in tertiary institutions. We also introduced Free Health Services (including free medication and simple Surgical operations) to all the patients in all our state hospitals, comprehensive and primary health centres all over the State. We have rehabilitated almost 1000 kilometers of roads to link our rural villages with all our cities and towns. We provided water and electricity to our people particularly those in th..., rural villages.

We now pay salaries and allowances regularly to our workers. We have not borrowed money to prosecute our projects and have bought nothing on credit. We have embarked on erecting a solid foundation for the administration of the government of Osun State by building the legislative quarters and the new Secretariat Complex.

However, it is pertinent to recapitulate our experience since we came on board in June, 1999 with regard to the pattern of the expenditure of Government. Between January and December 1999, total Recurrent Expenditure of Government was 78.96% of the total expenditure. It was made up of Personnel

Cost of 59.43%, overhead costs of 12.85% and consolidated Revenue Fund charges of 6.68%. The Capital Expenditure was only 21.04% of the total expenditure. In year 2000, the situation was almost the same. Recurrent Expenditure took 79.28% of the total expenditure of Government while Capital Expenditure took just 20.27%. It was then that it dawned on us that unless we took decisive steps, Government, in Osun State, was fast becoming self-serving since Recurrent Expenditure was essentially for officers of Government's personal and self-aggrandisement. This led to the restructuring exercise which we carried out late in year 2000.

Due to our concerted efforts in Year 2001, the pattern improved slightly. Recurrent Expenditure took 66.63% of the total expenditure while Capital Expenditure took 33.37%. That position was still not acceptable because it showed that about two-thirds of Government revenue was being spent on self-serving matters in the guise of Recurrent Expenditure, while little was left for the real and physical capital development projects.

As I have always said, governance, in a democratic setting, means stewardship. The actual owners of Government are the real people at the grassroots.

May we now fasten our safety belt? Nigeria is likely running into galloping storms. The year 2002 Budget which we are signing into Law today started on a good note. The price of crude oil in the market was at the time the budget was being prepared \$32 to \$35 per barrel. However, towards the end of Year 2001, the price of crude oil nose-dived to about \$17 per barrel. Since oil revenue accounts for more than 80% of the total revenue accruing to the Federation Account, all levels of Government (be they Federal, State or Local Governments) have their fortunes seriously affected. However, the experience has been a conciliatory one for the Osun State Government because we have always been preparing for the raining day. In particular, we have always conserved funds for all the capital developmental projects started by this Administration and which, by God's grace, will be completed by this Administration.

As we earlier said, we have also ensured the continued payment of workers' salaries and allowances as at when due. Of course, it has not been a palatable experience because, in the past three months, we have had to use part of the money set aside for the implementation of our capital developmental priority projects before the workers' salaries could be paid. With God on our side and with the backing of the good people of Osun State, we will continue to discharge

our governance responsibilities creditably and satisfactorily. It is, however, necessary to appeal to the generality of the state's public workers and the readership of the State Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary to learn to begin to cut down our overhead expenditure by as much as 60% in order to enable the Government and the people of Osun State weather the galloping storms as safely as possible.

Since 1999, our Salary Bill has increased from N260 million to N400 million per month. Our Pension Bill has increased from N17 million to N127 million per month, pending the Federal Government's review processes on the 30% and 142% when estimated Pension Bill may rise to some N250 million per month. Repayment of the Foreign Loans, which had been suspended since 1995, notwithstanding the debt forgiveness appeal about which President Obasanjo has traveled round the world many times over in the past three years, may resume any time from now. Our calculation is that Osun State would have to be repaying the inherited N42 billion over-seas loans at the rate of N342 million per month. In other words, when our income per month remains at less than N500 million, our first line expenditure on salary (N400 million), pension (N250 million), and debt repayment (N342 million) would approximate to *one billion naira* per month.

For the past six months, when our income has been an average of N400 million per month, our first line charges of salary and pension have constantly stood at N527 million, leaving an average deficit of N127 million per month. You will now realize why expenditure on overhead and running costs is being slashed. We thank God, we had not been "feasting with the ten fingers of our hands" since we assumed office, lest we would have been faced with untold embarrassment.

The success of the current fledgling democracy rests on all of us whether in Government or not. The masses of our people should be able to distinguish between genuine politicians who are out to serve the interest of the masses or the "Jeun-Jeun" politicians who are out to serve their own pockets and interests. The current experience in the management of the macro-economy of Nigeria as a whole has not been encouraging. Inflation is still very high, interest rates are still excruciating, while the exchange rate of the Naira is still discouraging. The failure of banks to adhere to the prudential guidelines stipulated by the Central Bank is still disappointing. We

should all continue to appeal to and at the same time assist the Federal Government to desist from mismanaging the nation's monetary and fiscal processes for which only the Federal Government is solely responsible by the Constitution. ***Kleptomania*** is part of the ***mental illness*** of the ***thieves*** and the "***419***", many of who are presently warming up to become councilors and governors in the new Nigerian democratic dispensation. When this ***mental illness*** is added to ***immaturity*** and ***lack of vision*** in one man, such a person should not be permitted to rule any decent society in order to avoid chaos and abysmal poverty for the majority of the populace. I therefore urge Osun State citizenry to be wary of any ***governorship aspirant*** who performed woefully ***as a youth*** and whose most recent board chairmanship appointment has been forfeited for undisclosed reasons. There are such candidates in abundance among the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and the nation must be vigilant.

The year 2002 Budget of Osun State is being signed into Law today, five months into the New Year. This is not very good. However, I wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Members of the Osun State House of Assembly who, in spite of the turbulent situations we have all passed through, are still able to approve the Year 2002 Budget of Osun State.

I thank everyone present here listening to this address. It is, therefore, again my pleasure and privilege to now sign into Law the year 2002 Appropriation Bill of Osun State to the glory of God and for the benefit of the entire citizens of Osun State.

Thank you and God bless.

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF
OSUN STATE, CHIEF 'BISI AKANDE AT THE OPENING OF THE
FOURTH SESSION OF THE OSUN STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OSOGBO ON MONDAY 3RD JUNE, 2002**

It is exactly six months today since last I addressed this Honourable House at the formal presentation of the 2002 Budget on 3rd December, 2001. Since then, this state has had its own share of the horrors of violence that have bedeviled Nigeria for some time now. In the process, we lost one of our members of the House of Assembly, Hon. Odunayo Olagbaju and an Ife A.D. leader, Lawrence Olayiwola. Also, an illustrious Yoruba leader, Chief Bola Ige, was assassinated. If may ask: what have the perpetrators of these acts of violence gained but disgrace and perdition which are always reserved for murderers? May the souls of the dead, who departed in glory, rest in perfect peace.

Like any polity, a state without a solid foundation is doomed to suffer perpetual destabilization. The beams upon which the foundation of any State such as Osun can be erected are:

- (1) The establishment of the Administrative Headquarters for its services and operations;
- (2) The development of its human resources through sound education and good health;
- (3) The constant renewal of its natural forest resources such as timber, cocoa, oil palm, kola-nuts and other trees and products that can be processed for export earnings;
- (4) The encouragement and facilitation of local production of the essential needs of the citizens such as food, housing and clothing; and
- (5) The development of the inter-connected economic and social infrastructure such as road transportation, energy, water supply, communication net-work and social amenities, within the cities, among the rural communities, and between urban and rural areas for the comfort and easy movement of people and the distribution of goods.

You may note that I have not included the possible exploitation of all our mineral resources. That is because I realize that it is rather too capital intensive for the immediate reach of a young state such as Osun.

Between 1991, when this state was created and, 1999, when this Administration was inaugurated, it either did not occur to the state's successive rulers that these pillars of development were necessary or they lacked the focus, the knowledge and the ability to think of putting them in place. However, since the inception of this Administration, we have dug the trenches, re-inforced the base, and poured the concrete for the stabilisation of the beams upon which a solid foundation, for the development of Osun State, can now stand.

We have had to face numerous obstacles in our concerted efforts to lay this foundation, for instance:

- (i) The first obstacle is the poor management of the nation's macro economy by the PDP Federal Government. It is generally accepted, by the United Nations, that any country with a GDP less than USD\$1,200 per capita cannot provide the basic necessities of food, shelter, clothing and good education for its citizens. In 1981, the figure for Nigeria was USD\$1,000: but by Year 2001 it came down to USD\$300. This is why the UNDP, in 2001, classified Nigerians as living below poverty line, since 67% of the population were either unemployed or under-employed. The widespread incidence of graduate unemployment has triggered a spate of armed robbery and other violent anti-social activities all over Nigeria. How could we expect the badly-clad and irregularly - paid Federal Government Police, in rickety vehicles, to compete with unemployed graduates trained in modem technology, and armed with sophisticated weapons operating in new Prado Jeeps? Unless urgent and drastic steps are taken, this country might be in the throes of a bloody and vicious revolution in which the rich, the noble and the powerful would be prime targets.
- (ii) The second obstacle has to do with the appointment of persons of questionable credibility to senior positions at the Federal, State and Local Government levels. It is now becoming manifest that Public

Service, which has been under the military virtually from 1966, is already becoming semi-political staff organizations which do not really believe in competence and hard work to achieve promotion but essentially in god-fatherism, lobbying and some other unorthodox methods. How can any officer, with qualifications less than the standard of a University Degree, without adequate and relevant training and, who had crossed above grade level 07 into senior management cadre, be able to comprehend the complexity of the present Nigerian economic and social situation, within the context of global information technology, with a view to advising his political boss on what to do to change the present trend of unemployment in the country? How can such officer manage organized labour, who depend on monthly salaries from government, to appreciate that self-employed labour (like carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, motor mechanics, transporters and other artisans) are vely important to the productive sector of the economy?

- (iii) The third obstacle is the falling, one upon the other, of members of the political class in their scramble for free money from government coffers and without the slightest compunction. In most cases, almost every politician has decided to register as a contractor or supplier of one form or the other in whatever business, including those for which they are not trained, to compete among or invariably to collaborate with organized labour and political functionaries. The current trend is that they now belong to a cartel which they style 'caucuses' to intimidate, sometimes with violence, the government at the Federal, State and local government levels. In most of our local governments, they have developed into cabals: some of which are christened as Redemption Group, Concerned Patriots, Youth Forums, Elders' Committees, etc. At such places, where zero allocation is the pattern, they usually start some Nigeria-wide umbrella organizations which they operate as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to demand subventions from Government. Those of organized labour demand car and housing loans from government, even nowadays, when the banks (including the Mortgage Banks) find it most difficult to give car or housing loans to their staff. In Osun State, it does not appear that we have stopped a moment to ask if these demands are rights or mere privileges for which workers should declare trade dispute

or walk out on strike, particularly, in a situation where it has become so glaring that the State is poor financially and it is merely struggling to find its feet. It is fast becoming a fashion that the opposing political parties, including some aggrieved NGOs, sponsor strikes among organized labour for flimsy excuses, while the local 'caucuses' too constitute themselves into 'kingmakers' for the councillors and governorship aspirants to whom their stewardship would eventually be rendered, rather than to the ordinary citizens of Osun State. They all will soon join the band-wagon of the rich, the noble and the powerful at the mercy of armed robbers – the soldiers of the on-going dangerous revolution.

We will continue to appeal to you to assist in the education of the masses against the belief that salary employment is the only and best source of income. Experience has always shown throughout history, and all over the world, that salary earners are always the poorest members of any decent society; that self-employment is the best and surest employment which promotes globalization of technology and manufacturing, and which can boost the bust of wealth for the citizens and eradicate poverty. This is one reason for the commitment of this Administration to the intensification of the study of science in all our secondary schools and for our promotion of technical and technological education. I am convinced that you can enter this Honourable House into the vanguard of the campaign for better life for the generality of our people (as against the 'hijack' efforts of some organized labour and NGOs) so that the prayers of the common citizens who, I am sure, are nearer to God than the rich, the noble and the powerful, shall continue to see us through. I say this because when our leaders in the Yoruba nation visited this Honourable House some time ago, yours was assessed as the most articulate and, perhaps, the most focused of the State Legislatures they visited. May your star grow no less.

As at the end of May 2002, many of our 30 local governments were still earning zero as monthly allocation from the Federation Account. For this reason, most of them have not been able to pay the salaries of their workers and the emoluments of their political functionaries regularly. As an illustration, the indebtedness of our local governments to their political functionaries alone, between June 1999 and May 2002, is in the region of N7billion. We were constrained to give the Local Governments adequate supervision because the Federal Government, which encouraged them to form the Association of Local

Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) by-passed the State Governments in order to manipulate the Local Governments centrally, in a way that resulted in their believing that they were directly under the Federal Government. This also encouraged some of them to mismanage their funds with impunity. Indeed, many of them became ungovernable until the recent historic interpretation of relevant sections of the 1999 Constitution by the Supreme Court which confirms the subordination of local governments to the authority of the State Government. Very shortly, I will submit a bill for the consideration of this honourable House for a review of the sharing of allocations to local governments such that zero allocation shall become a thing of the past. We shall also take steps to ensure that the salaries of political functionaries become manageable. The auditing of local government accounts will be re-organized also in order to achieve effective monitoring.

Osun State can safely depend on commodities such as cocoa, timber, oil-palm produce, fruits and food crops whose production; for now, is virtually neglected because of the revenue accruable to the state from the Federation Account—thanks to crude oil. Realising the utter neglect of these trees and crops, we have directed the Ministry of Agriculture to intensify the regeneration of forest economic crops and we intend to use the youths, outside government, to assist them in seed multiplication of fruit trees. Since the agitation for "resource control" by the oil producing states, our efforts in Osun State have been directed at encouraging school agriculture and co-operative farming to boost grassroots food production for the consumption of our citizens and for possible export to neighbouring states with a view to generating income for the rural communities who engage in peasant farming and allied activities.

For social economic infrastructure, we have begun to build new roads and rehabilitate old ones so as to facilitate the transportation and distribution of agricultural produce to cities and among rural areas. We have also begun to make the villages attractive to our youths by providing rural housing, drinkable water and electricity for their comfort.

In the area of human resources, we have made education free in public primary and secondary schools. We are already investigating the situation whereby fee paying schools are more attractive to our people than the free public schools with a view to correcting it. We approve about three million Naira annually towards the energisation and improvement of school supervision. We intend to

introduce scholarship and bursary awards to Osun State students in tertiary institutions. Our free health programme for all, including the innovation of free mobile surgical operations, is second to none in Africa.

Our only regret is that the more we strive to develop the standard and quantum of purposeful education and to expand the scope of our free health services, the more those of our citizens, with perverted education of the military era, congregate to pull down our efforts. We are happy, however, that our people are generally convinced that we know the direction to the successful welfare of the citizens of Osun State.

May I say that this Honourable House has approved reasonable funds for the training and retraining of public servants. Today, at about 6p.m, a one-week workshop for Permanent Secretaries and certain other senior management staff of government will commence. We plan to build a Public Service Training School soon with a view to imparting knowledge that is germane to the disorientation of the service from the military administration mentality and, at the same time, for the inculcation of such knowledge that would promote people-oriented advice from the service to the political functionaries in their joint efforts to formulate for government, workable, inexpensive and appropriate policies.

Without further attempt to take much more of your time, and knowing fully well that we are beginning the last lap of our four-year term in office and entering into the year of elections, may I ask:

- (i) Must we endeavour to remove the obstacles enumerated in paragraph 4 of this address, even if it would involve stepping on some toes, in order to enable us to do for the generality of our people what we consider right, just and noble?
- (ii) How shall we be able to make credible history for ourselves, even if this would be our only chance, by leaving behind the legacy of tradition of purposeful service like Chiefs Obafemi Awolowo and Bola Ige of blessed memory?
- (iii) Who is surer of God's support - the honest and dedicated leaders in support of the poorer majority of our people or the rich, noble and powerful exploiters and blackmailers together with their election-rigging roughians?

(iv) Who knows tomorrow?

Mr Speaker, sir, Honourable members of the House of Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen, may God bless you all.

**BUDGET SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR,
CHIEF ADEBISI BAMDELE AKANDE, ON THE POLICIES AND
PROGRAMMES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF OSUN STATE OF
NIGERIA FOR THE 2003 FISCAL YEAR, DELIVERED AT THE
OSUN STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON
TUESDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, 2002.**

The Honourable Speaker,
The Honourable Members of the Osun State House of Assembly,

THE BEGINNING:

It is indeed with joy and satisfaction that I am here again before this august Assembly to present the Draft Year 2003 Annual Budget of Osun State which is the FOURTH of its kind by this Administration, and the twelfth Budget by successive administrations in the State. It is a thing of joy because, once again, it affords me the opportunity to use this responsible forum to talk to the good people of Osun State to enable me, through you, to recapitulate in some details a few of the good works which this administration has been able to do within the past three years and seven months, using the limited resources available to Osun State.

Between the date of my election in January 1999 and my assumption of office, I did some deep and cogent thinking about the future of our state which led to the great expectations that were expressed in my inaugural speech of May 29, 1999. Since then, I have driven the people of Osun State towards meeting those expectations. In the process, there have been conflicts of viewpoints and clashes of personalities, all of which are normal in human organizations.

Our Score Cards:

Our score cards in the area of social and economic amenities include, inter alia, the following:-

- (a) Provision of Good and Improved Educational Facilities for our Children:

Direct Subsidy to Parents and Guardians

It is to be recollected that this Government cancelled the payment of school fees immediately it came on board. In this regard, it has been estimated that our Government has subsidized the parents and guardians to the tune of about N522.95 million which the students would have paid as school-fees from June 1999 to date, but which Government has written off. This, no doubt, has improved the standards of living of the respective parents and guardians.

Primary Schools

This administration has constructed 639 classrooms and provided furniture at a total cost of N341.5million for our primary schools. We have also rehabilitated 114 classrooms also in the primary schools at a total cost of N46.2million.

Secondary Schools

On Secondary education, this Government has constructed 40 new classrooms and rehabilitated 85 classrooms across the State. We have also provided furniture and materials for all our secondary schools.

Science Schools

In addition to active promotion of the teaching of science subjects in all the 305 secondary grammar schools, the state government established 24 schools of science located across the state in year 2000. These schools are specially dedicated to the teaching of science and technology at the secondary school level.

Technical Schools

In addition to two trade centres (one at Osogbo and another at Ile-Ife), seven (7) new technical schools have been established spread evenly among the Federal constituencies in the state. They are expected to serve as satellites for the two state-owned polytechnics for the production of self-employable skilled

artisans and crafts-men and women. This is in furtherance of the Administration's encouragement of job-creation through self-employment by promoting trades and crafts among the citizenry.

Tertiary Institutions

It is also to be noted that recurrent and capital grants were adequately given to all our tertiary institutions, including LAUTECH, Ogbomosho as well as the LAUTECH Teaching Hospital at Osogbo.

Provision of Free Health Services:

The delivery of free health services to our people of Osun State is second to none in Nigeria and perhaps throughout Africa. Since the inception of this administration, drugs and vaccines for our health centres and hospitals have been supplied regularly free-of-charge. Seventeen (17) new hospitals have been built across the State. Free surgical operations have been carried out for more than one thousand people during the first and second phases of the mobile surgical programme. The government's Immunization programme has covered about four million children.

Between October 1998 and September 1999 about 140,000 patients attended Government hospitals and paid about N6million for hospital services. Since October 1st, 1999 when we introduced free health services, about 600,000 patients annually (i.e. 430% increase) have been patronizing government clinics and health centres. By that arrangement, a further subsidy of about N100million has been granted to patients in various hospitals in Osun State in the last three years. Similar arrangements are being introduced in all the maternity centres and dispensaries in all the 30 Local Governments of Osun State.

Environmental and Ecological Projects:

Government has spent a total sum of N247.41million on the re-roofing and re-ceiling of rain-storm-damaged classrooms across the State and the channelisation of selected streams in the Phases one and two of Ecological projects since the inception of this administration. By these efforts we have

successfully managed the menace of flood in parts of Osogbo, Ede, Ile-Ife, Apomu, Ila-Orangun, Iwo, Ejigbo, Ifon, Ilesa, Esa-Oke, Ikirun, Igbajo, Otan-Aiyegbaju, Iree, etc.

Provision of Potable Water Supply to our People:

Thirteen urban water supply schemes were rehabilitated across the State at a total sum of N294.9million while 212 rural water schemes (boreholes) were sunk since the inception of this administration costing about N42.4million.

Provision of Good Motorable Roads across the State:

In this regard, about 800 kilometres of township roads, intra-city State roads, and rural roads have been constructed, rehabilitated and are being maintained at a cost of about N3.5billion since the inception of this administration. Some of these roads, which are still under construction, will soon be completed by the grace of God.

Execution of Rural Electrification Projects across the State:

Since the inception of this administration, 18 rural communities have benefited from the rural electrification projects of this government across the State at a total cost of about N209.6million.

Execution of Rural Housing Scheme for Teachers and Workers in the Rural Areas:

As part of our Integrated Rural Development programme, a total number of 126 apartments in 21 rural locations have been completed at a cost of N80.70 million during the phases one and two of the scheme. Phase three of the scheme will soon commence.

Provision of Good, Unsurpassable Communication and Broadcasting Outfits for the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC)

Since the inception of this administration, a total sum of N295.84million has been expended on the OSBC (Radio/TV) Complex together with the supply and installation of FM Transmitter at Ile Awiye; repairing and overhauling of

old AM, MW Transmitter; the purchase and installation of a new HARRIS Radio Transmitter and other broadcasting outfits. The OSBC is already becoming the pride not only of Osun State, but also of the Yoruba race.

Micro Economic Scheme

This Administration has introduced and supported a number of schemes, like the Mass Transit Scheme, for members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) at a total cost of N96.9million through a loan negotiated with a commercial bank where Government only acted as the guarantor. Government has also completed plans to assist the various Okada Unions to purchase motor-cycles for their trade. This scheme will soon come into fruition by God's grace. Funds have also been set aside as loans to rural co-operative farmers, small-scale traders, and youths who are artisans and tradesmen.

Settlement of Local Debts

Government has also paid a substantial proportion of debts owed local contractors by the previous administrations in the state.

Staff Welfare

In the area of staff welfare and staff development, we have excelled, because we have always matched our words with our actions. We have, among other things:-

- (a) paid all inherited backlog of arrears of salaries and leave bonus, which were left unpaid by the previous administrations, totalling about N628million ;
- (b) . paid all inherited arrears of pensions and gratuities which amounted to N305.72million.
- (c) continued to pay salaries and allowances of all our workers, which is about N4.9billion on the average per year, as and when

due, while the Federal Government Agencies and states which are even more financially buoyant than Osun State are still owing workers salaries for several months.

- (d) continued to accord the training and re-training of our staff -serious attention, the first of its kind since the creation of the State. In all, a total number of 536 officers have enjoyed training programmes in about nine courses/workshops arranged for them. The officers involved were drawn from the clerical, executive, administrative, professional cadres, as well as top civil servants like General Managers, Executive Secretaries, Permanent Secretaries and even Commissioners. In a similar vein, Local Government Service Commission has trained numerous local government junior and senior staff in all the state's Local Government Councils.
- (e) We have almost completed an ultra-modern secretariat for staff of all the agencies in all our Ministries . Ten of the eleven complexes in the new secretariat are already in use. Similarly, the ultra-modern Governor's office is likely to be completed not later than February, 2003. Also, the Government liaison office and Governor 's guest house at Ikeja and the Osun State House at Abuja will be completed before the end of March 2003.
- (f) We resuscitated at enhanced value the granting of housing and vehicle loans to all categories of public servants.
- (g) We have totally resolved the problems of zero allocation to all Local Government Councils and thereby enhanced the process of funding the traditional institutions of the Obas and Chiefs all over the state.

Promise Kept

We have kept all the promises we made to the good people of Osun State during the last electioneering campaign. We have even done more. We have not used our privileged positions to amass personal wealth, to steal public,

fund, or to revel in self-aggrandisement. We belong to a very disciplined political party- the Alliance for Democracy (AD)- the only party in Nigeria that has the interest of the masses at heart.

We would have done much more, but for:-

- (a) inadequate fund;
- (b) lack of technical know-how of our people; and
- (c) deliberate acts of sabotage by those who do not like our style of governance, those whose illegal dealings were blocked and are still being blocked by our actions, those who prefer cheating the masses and stealing public funds to serving the people diligently. Such saboteurs have never triumphed and they will never triumph because darkness, which they represent, will always disappear in the face of the light which we represent.

REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PAST ANNUAL BUDGETS:

This Administration has formulated and executed three Annual Budgets for the 2000, 2001 and 2002 fiscal years respectively. The first two Annual Budgets were deficit budgets, while the current Year 2002 Budget is a balanced one. Whether balanced or deficit budgets in formulation, one thing is true of this Administration – it is that we have never borrowed any fund, whether locally or externally, to execute any of our programmes. We have never executed projects on credit. We have always ended each fiscal year, since we came on board, with actual budget surplus. We have also continued with that frugal and austere style in the execution of the current year 2002 Budget, which is a balanced budget.

As at the end of November 2002, the actual revenue realized from all sources during the year was N11,685,666,591.40 (Eleven billion, six hundred and eighty five million, six hundred and sixty six thousand, five hundred and ninety one Naira, forty kobo) instead of N17,307,757,916.60 (Seventeen Billion Three Hundred and One Million, Seven hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixteen Naira, Sixty Kobo). The actual total expenditure at the

same time was N10,997,544,742.30 (Ten Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Forty Four thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Naira, Thirty Kobo) or 63.56% of the Pro-rata Expenditure Estimates. The figures may, however, change slightly when the final accounts of Government are prepared and audited after today, which is the last day of year 2002.

During the course of executing the year 2002 Budget, we introduced a number of austerity measures, particularly when the financial position of Government was becoming precarious. We cut by half, for some months, the running costs of agencies of Government. We also stopped frivolous travelling by officials to unnecessary meetings and workshops. We continued to block loopholes of waste. and squander-mania.

Our experiences in the formulation and execution of the past three Annual Budgets have assisted us immensely in the formulation of the Year 2003 draft Budget of the State.

THE YEAR 2003 DRAFT BUDGET:

The Year 2003 Draft Budget, which I have the rare privilege to present to the good people of Osun State through this august Assembly, is a very modest, trimmed and realistic balanced Budget, the size of which is N14,534,145,250.00 (Fourteen billion. five hundred and thirty-four million, one hundred and forty-five thousand. two hundred and fifty Naira). It is the most realistic of all the four Annual Budgets prepared by this Administration. The Budget is predicated on the following policy objectives:-

- (a) Galvanization and harmonization of all our previous gains into a consolidated whole ;
- (b) Ensuring the sustainability of all the good democratic dividends already delivered by us to the good people of Osun State;
- (c) Ensuring the continued lifting to greater Heights the delivery of good, reliable and efficient educational and health services to our people;

- (d) working strenuously towards ensuring that the Public Service of Osun State is one of the best in the Federation in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, honesty, competence, training and re-training and increased productivity;

The features of the Year 2003 Revenue Budget are as follows:-

NO.	ITEM	ESTIMATE 2003 (N)	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REVENUE (%)
1.	Internally Generated Revenue(IGR):		
	(a) Ministries & Departments	1,705,165,000	11.73
	(b) Revenue of Statutory Bodies and Higher Educational Institutions	369,875,180	2.55
	Sub- Total for IGR	2,075,040,180	14.28
II.	Statutory Allocation	8,750,000,000	60.20
III.	Value Added Tax (VAT)	1,500,000,000	10.32
	Total Recurrent Revenue	12,325,040,180	84.80
	Capital Receipts	2,209,105,070	15.20
	TOTAL REVENUE	14,534,145,250	100.00

The features of the Expenditure Budget, on the other hand, are as follows:-

NO	ITEM	ESTIMATE 2002 (N)	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE (%)
i.	Personnel Costs-	4,775,111,360	32.85
ii.	Overhead Costs	1,517,104,770	10.44
III.	Consolidated Revenue Fund/charges	3,416,631,540	23.51
IV.	Total Recurrent Expenditure	9,708,847,670	66.80
v.	Capital Expenditure	4,825,297,580	33.20
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,534,145,250	100

The Budget for Priority Sector:

It is necessary to consider how much Government intends to spend for both Recurrent and Capital Expenditures in the priority sectors during the 2003 fiscal year. The highlights are as follows:-

Sector/Sub-Sectors	Recurrent Expenditure Personnel Cost and Overhead N	Capital Expenditure N	Total Recurrent and Capital Expenditure N	% of Total Expendi- ture
1. Education	3,293,604,270	966,687,580	4,260,291,850	29.31
2. Health	846,000,000	743,890,000	1,589,890,000	10.94
3. Agriculture	224,541,600	51,720,000	276,261,600	1.90
4. Transportation	52,582,470	609,000,000	661,582,470	4.55
5. Water Supply	145,983,080	525,200,000	671,183,080	4.62
6. Communication	175,283,530	151,950,000	327,233,530	2.25
7. Rural Electrification	22,122,350	41,800,000	63,922,350	0.44
8. General Administration	4,524,568,110	1,505,644,000	6,030,212,110	41.49
9. Others, Housing, Town & Country Planning etc	424,162,260	229,406,000	653,568,260	4.50
TOTAL	9,708,847,670	4,825,297,580	14,534,145,250	100

It is clear from the total budget allocation for the 2003 fiscal year that the four cardinal programmes of Government (in terms of free, qualitative education, free healthcare services, Rural Integrated Development, and provision of gainful employment) continue to be accorded the required attention as in the previous years. We will continue in the same manner with increased tempo in the ensuing years.

THE YEAR 2003 CAPITAL BUDGET:

The details of the Year 2003 Capital Budget are as follows:-

Heads	Details of Expenditure	Estimates 2003 N	Allocation %
	(A) <u>ECONOMIC SECTOR</u>		
450	Agriculture & Rural Development	44,020,000	0.91
451	Livestock	1,500,000	0.03
452	Forestry	4,000,000	0.08
453	Fisheries	2,200,000	0.05
455	Urban/Rural Electrification	41,800,000	0.87
456	Industry, Commerce, Finance & Cooperatives	66,500,000	1.38
457	Transportation	609,000,000	12.62
	Sub-Total	769,020,000	15.94
	(B) <u>SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR</u>		
458	Education	966,687,580	20.03
459	Health	743,890,000	15.42
460	Information & Culture	151,950,000	3.15
461	Social Development, Youth & Sports	9,550,000	0.20
	Sub-Total	1,872,077,580	38.80
	(C) <u>REGIONAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEV. SECTOR</u>		
462	Water Resources	525,200,000	10.88
463	Environmental Sanitation	62,000,000	1.28
464	Housing	90,003,000	1.87
465	Town and Country Planning	1,353,000	0.03
	Sub-Total	678,556,000	14.06
	(D) <u>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SECTOR</u>		
467	General Administration	1,505,644,003	31.20
	GRAND TOTAL	4,825,297,580	100

As shown above, the Social Services sector is the leading sector for the 2003 fiscal year. It is allocated 38.80% of the Capital Budget. This is followed closely by the General Administration Sector which has an allocation of 31.20% of the Capital Budget. The Economic Sector has 15.94% while the Regional Planning and Environmental Development Sector has 14.06% of the Capital budget, respectively.

Within the Social Services Sector, our activities in the Education and Health Sub-sectors will continue at a greater tempo. The focus of Governmental activities in the Education sub-sector in the 2003 fiscal year will include, among others:-

- (a) Improving the quality and standard of education in the State at all levels – primary, secondary and tertiary;
- (b) Construction of new classrooms
- (c) Development of Library Education
- (d) Provision of Science and Technical Equipment
- (e) Giving sufficient autonomy to tertiary institutions including LAUTECH, Ogbomoso (being co-funded with Oyo State) and developing them (within fund constraint) to meet their accreditation requirements.

In the health sub-sector, the provision of drugs, vaccines and health consumables, completion of the construction of health facilities, the special surgical operation project, and the proper development of the LAUTECH Teaching Hospital (in conjunction with Oyo State) will be accorded proper attention. All our activities in the Health Sub-sector will be geared towards ensuring that our free health services continue to be second to none throughout the federation.

The Information and Social Development Sub-sectors will also be given adequate attention. The development of Osun State Broadcasting Corporation will continue to receive a boost with a view to making it the leading broadcasting outfit in the country while the Ministry of Information will continue to be encouraged to perform its statutory functions creditably.

In the Economic sector, transportation is the leading sub-sector. We intend to complete all the road construction projects we have started and to embark on new ones.

The agricultural policy of Government (based on the tripodal programmes of Schools' Agriculture, Farm Settlements and Cooperative farming) will continue unabated. Government will not be involved in direct agricultural production which has always been inefficient and wasteful. Rather, it will give extension services and provide the enabling environment for agriculture to develop in this State. Osun State Agricultural Development Corporation (OSSADEC), an amalgamation of three previous inefficient and wasteful corporations, has already taken off and will be given greater filip in agricultural mechanization, provision of agricultural credits, and agricultural extension services.

Rural and Urban Electrification projects already started will be completed while new ones will be started. Government will not be involved in direct commercial activities but will create the enabling environment for industrialization to thrive.

Water Resources Development is the leading sub-sector in the Regional Development Sector. It is the intention of Government to provide water for Ilesa, Ejigbo and other areas, in phases in view of fund constraints. Ecological problems, rural housing schemes and town and country planning projects will also be implemented with vigour.

The provisions in the General Administration Sector are meant for the construction of the Government Houses at Osogbo, Ahuja and Ikeja; the construction of Osun State House at Abuja; the completion of the first phase of the Government Secretariat, the Governor's Office, provision of office furniture and equipment, computerization projects, purchase of official vehicles, the prosecution of the various empowerment schemes and provision of equipment and facilities for the proper discharge of fire service activities.

STAFF WELFARE:

This Government is reputed for caring about the welfare of its staff. For the 2003 fiscal year, Government intends to continue, among other things, to:

- (a) pay all workers their salaries and allowances as and when due;
- (b) ensure the proper functioning of the staff Vehicle and Housing Loan Schemes within the limit of fund constraints;
- (c) pay the pensions and gratuities of retired workers as and when due;
- (d) improve on the creation of an enabling environment for workers to perform to the optimum; and
- (h) give training and re-training opportunities to all categories of workers

As earlier stated, this Government intends to ensure that the Public Service of Osun State becomes one of the best in the Federation.

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION:

Our Government is already reputed for proper budget implementation. We have never operated any budget deficits. In the past three budgets we have always been having budget surpluses. We intend to continue with the prudent management of the scarce resources of the State in year 2003. Our belt-tightening measures will continue. Our focus is the physical development of the State for the benefit of the generality of our people. We were elected to guide the career officers to serve our people. As public servants, it is a sin to indulge in serving ourselves to the exclusion of the masses. Hence we have all shunned entreaties for self-aggrandizement.

The year 2003 Budget is very modest, trim and realistic. By the grace of God and the support of the good people of Osun State, the budget will be faithfully implemented.

WARNING SIGNALS:

It is necessary to invite attention to the following warning signals:

- (i) **External Debts**
The Debt Management Office of the Presidency has alerted that Osun State Government has to pay \$29,985,608.07 annually from January 2003. That works out at N313,350,083.75 per month.
- (ii) The situation in Iraq poses another serious threat to our economy, because if Iraqi oil should enter the market as part of OPEC's supply, the price of crude oil would either go down or Nigeria's quota of oil production would reduce. In either case, Nigeria's total earnings would decrease and Osun State's share from the Federation Account would correspondingly decline.

If the huge repayment of the external debt inherited by this Administration was to be deducted from a reduced allocation from the Federation Account, Osun State could be forced to adopt further austerity measures in the management of its resources. It is quite obvious, therefore, that only an intelligent, insightful and foresighted leader can see this state to economic and political salvation.

GENERAL CALL:

There are three important gifts from God Almighty. One is Life; the other two are Grace and the Kingdom of Heaven. The scripture tells us (in the Bible, Genesis, Chapter 2 verse 7, and the Koran Surah 32 verses 7 and 9) that man is ordinary dust to which God added spirit. Thereafter, through the Grace of God, man began his journey of life towards the Kingdom of Heaven. At one time or the other, man gets to roundabouts of life from where he decides either to continue to the Kingdom of Heaven, OR to flounder into perdition. It is at those roundabouts where the Grace (otherwise known as kindness) of God is needed most by man. If God gives him the grace he will pass by the roundabouts

and face the rest of his journey to the kingdom of Heaven. What does he need to pass by the roundabouts of life? These are selflessness, love and charity towards his fellowmen.

But, where is the kingdom of Heaven? Is it in Europe, in America, or in Asia? Is it in the sky or under the deep seas? No! The kingdom of Heaven is in the peace of our mind. Check quickly: Do you have peace in your mind?

You are, without a doubt, aware as I am that, from this moment, Osun State is approaching a roundabout. However, I am convinced now, more than ever before, that God in His infinite mercies will give me his Grace to enable me to lead Osun State sincerely and peacefully past the roundabout into the political kingdom of Heaven after the elections of year 2003.

It is my prayer that, by the Grace of God, when we return to power in year 2003, the minds of the people of Osun State will be filled with peace.

The Hon. Speaker, members of the House of Assembly, please, go back home to make necessary preparation for the end of this year. Sleep well and wake with perfect peace of mind into the new year. May year 2003 bring peace of mind to all the people of Osun State and to the entire Yoruba race within the polity of one Nigeria.

May God bless you all.

**A SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF
BISI AKANDE, TO THE FORUM OF OSUN STATE
INDIGENES IN KWARA STATE AT THE AMUSEMENT-
PARK, ILORIN, ON SATURDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2003**

All Protocols Duly Observed:

I am happy and delighted to be among you at this auspicious time, being the last few months to the end of the First Term of Democratic Governance of the Fourth Republic in our great Country. The Osun State Government, of which it has pleased God to put me at the helm of affairs, came into the saddle on 29th May, 1999 only to discover that things had been seriously messed up by the past Governments that had administered the State since its creation in 1991. It is to be recollected that five (5) Administrations (four Military and one Civilian) ruled Osun State before our arrival. But what did they leave behind for us? Some of the terrible astounding things they left behind include the following, inter-alia:

- (a) local indebtedness on Capital projects of N1,239,194,555.5₦ (One Billion, Two Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand Naira, Fifty-Seven Kobo);
- (b) unpaid four and half(4¹/₂ months salary arrears, unpaid arrears of pensions and gratuities, unpaid 1998 and 1999 Leave Bonus and other entitlements of workers totalling of N933,714,470.84 (Nine Hundred and Thirty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Naira, Eighty-Four Kobo);
- (c) total external debts of about US \$235.20 million (Two hundred and thirty five million, two hundred thousand US dollars)
- (d) dilapidated educational and health facilities/structures:
- (e) dilapidated roads, including roads rehabilitated with external loans which started to crumble few months after rehabilitation;

- (f) serious rural/urban drift since no meaningful infrastructures like water, electricity, good roads, communications, housing, etc were provided for the rural areas;
- (g) a seriously lopsided Public Service where square pegs were put in round holes, particularly where there were over population of teachers in certain subjects whereas there were insufficient teachers in other very important areas like the Sciences and Technology;
- (h) very many abandoned projects in respect of which huge mobilization fees had been paid only for the contractors to disappear and not to resurface again;
- (i) a despondent and disillusioned Public Service that had not been given the opportunity of training and re-training for years;
- G) a communal war between two brothers of the same ancestry at Ife-Modakeke, leading to the strangulation of the economy and social infrastructures of the whole area;
- (k) a serious poverty-stricken populace who found it difficult to take three square meals per day, from whom exorbitant school fees were being extorted and to whom PTF drugs were being sold for their ill health without mercy.

Indeed, we met a gargantuan mess on our coming on board. It was apparent there and then that the situation should not be allowed to degenerate further, otherwise the whole State would collapse on all of us and we would become bankrupt. We knew that we had to embark on a serious overhauling of the whole system and re-orientation of the masses of our people towards galvanizing them and mobilizing them to become more productive with a view to reducing the poverty level in the society. We therefore decided that there should be a fresh start in Osun State, which was the title of the Osun State Year 2000 Budget. That fresh start led to a serious surgical operation, on the whole system and also led to a serious gang-up of those who knew for sure that, if we were allowed to succeed in our surgical operations, their illegal dealings would be blocked and they would not be allowed to continue to steal public funds; neither would anybody be allowed to continue to revel in self-serving contract design nor rendezvous in self-aggrandisement which had been the hallmark of the so-called rulers before our coming on board. The gang-up

was indeed potent, but, in the long run, God, who knew that we had no other motive but to serve God and humanity, saved the situation. The labour, the market women, the farmers, the various artisans, the students and the teachers, the Obas, Chiefs and the masses of Osun State have now realized that we are different and that God has sent us to make life more meaningful for them, a task which we are doing tenaciously even at the expense of our own personal comfort. The masses of the people of Osun State are now our friends and they pray for us everyday that we would continue to succeed in the onerous assignment God has given to us.

If you were in Osun State in 1999 when we took over, and you visit the State now, you will know that we have been able to turn around most of the dilapidated structures and we have succeeded in enthroning probity, accountability and transparency in governance. We have set an example and a standard of government that would be difficult, if not impossible, for any of our successors to match. Our budget implementation mechanism and style are scrupulous, difficult but not impossible. Some of our styles include the following:

- (a) monthly review of the revenue and expenditure of Government through the Fund Allocation Committee, of which I happen to be the Chairman, where priorities are set and reset towards ensuring that the scarce financial and human resources of Osun State are judiciously used and directed for the benefit of the masses and not for the benefit of the ruling few;
- (b) the method of contract award was drastically changed such that there are no payment of mobilisation fees which any contractor may collect and fail to perform. In Osun State, we pay contractors on performance. Thus, any contractor that fails to perform would not be paid and such contract will be immediately terminated and re-awarded to willing contractors;
- (c) direct labour projects are being undertaken such that many Public Officers that used to sleep during office hours are now on the field doing what they should normally do- adding value to the economy of Osun State. Thus, the professionals in the Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development, Property Development Corporation, etc are now

being made to execute most of Government projects directly thereby reducing cost and also making it possible for the Officers to be expertly engaged;

- (d) we ensure that we neither borrow money nor buy things on credit, and that we have not added a kobo to the loans we inherited from the previous Administrations either internally or externally; Rather, we have fully paid all the inherited debts owed to the workers and have almost fully paid likewise to the local contractors;
- (e) meritocracy has now been elevated above mediocracy. we have no time for mundane issues like ethnic, religious and other sentiments;
- (f) we created the Central Economic Planning Office (CEPO) that produces bi-monthly a price bulletin through which comparative and competitive prices of all goods and services are published for the use of Government agencies with a view to ensuring probity and transparency in governance;
- (g) we created a Capital Budget Implementation Committee that goes around periodically to physically monitor the execution of projects with a view to ensuring that physical achievements matched financial commitments before payments are made.

You are aware that the Government of Osun State under my humble leadership is a Government being controlled by the Alliance for Democracy, the only party in Nigeria with a clear-cut focus, track record of performance, and which is composed of people of impeccable character and integrity who were followers of our great leaders. Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Chief Bola Ige. As you are all aware, the four cardinal programmes of our great party are:

Free Qualitative Education for all at all levels:
Free health services for all;
Rural integrated development
and Provision of gainful employment.

We have in the past three and half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) years been executing these programmes relentlessly without wavering. Indeed, we have moved Osun State to prosperity

as encapsulated in my Year 2001 Budget Speech. We are now in the **pro s** of consolidating and improving on our gains and the democratic divides already delivered to our people. Without being immodest, I am presenting below, our score card in the area of the implementation of the four cardinal programmes of our great party in Osun State as follows:

(I) **Provision of Good and Improved Educational Facilities for Our Children:**

(a) **Direct Subsidy to Parents and Guardians:**

The Osun State Government cancelled the payment of school fees immediately it came on board. In this regard, it has been estimated that our Government has subsidized the parents and guardians to the tune of about N522.95 million which the students would have paid as school-fees from June 1999 to date, but which Government has written off. This, no doubt, has improved the standard of living of the respective parents and guardians;

(b) **Primary Schools:**

Our Administration has equitably spread the construction of Six Hundred and Thirty-Nine (639) new classrooms and provided furniture at a total cost of N341.5 million for our primary schools. We have also rehabilitated 114 classrooms in primary schools all over the state at a total cost of N46.2 million;

(c) **Secondary Schools:**

On Secondary Education , the Osun State Government has constructed forty (40) new classrooms and rehabilitated eighty-five (85) classrooms across the State. We have also provided furniture and materials for all our secondary schools;

(d) **Science Schools:**

In addition to active promotion of the teaching of Science subjects in all the Three Hundred and Five (305) Secondary Grammar Schools, the State Government established twenty-four (24) Schools of Science located across the State in the year 2000. These Schools are specially dedicated to the teaching of Science and Technology at the Secondary School level. It is important to note that, in the December 2002 Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS) competition for all Schools in Nigeria which was held in Umuahia, six out of ten students that represented Osun State emerged from the State free education public secondary schools. This is a significant improvement on what used to happen in the past where only students from private fee paying schools usually represented the State. At the end of it, by and large, Osun State came fourth and its National Theme Project – "Cassava a raw material, as a product for eradicating poverty in Nigeria" is among those that will be presented by the Federal Ministry of Education later in the year at Africa JETS Competition in South Africa.

(e) **Technical Schools:**

In addition to two Trade Centres (one at Osogoo and another in Ile-Ife), Seven (7) new Technical Schools have been established and spread evenly among the nine (9) Federal Constituency in the State. They are expected to serve as satellites for the two State-owned Polytechnics for the production of self-employable skilled artisans and craftsmen and women. This is in furtherance of our Administration's encouragement of job-creation through self-employment by promoting trades and crafts among the citizenry;

(f) **Tertiary Institutions:**

It is to be noted that recurrent and capital grants were adequately given to all our tertiary institutions, including LAUTECH Ogbomosho as well as the LAUTECH Teaching Hospital in Osogbo;

(II) Provision of Free Health Services:

The delivery of free health services to the people of Osun State is second to none in Nigeria and perhaps throughout Africa. Since the inception of our Administration, drugs and vaccines for our health centres and hospitals have been supplied regularly free-of-charge. Seventeen (17) new hospitals have been built across the State. Free surgical operations have been carried out for more than one thousand three hundred (1,300) people during the first and second phases of the mobile surgical programme. The third phase has also started. The Government's Immunization programme has administered about four million doses. Between October 1998 and September 1999, about 140,000 patients attended Government Hospitals and paid about N6 million for hospital services. Since October 1st 1999 when we introduced free health services, about 600,000 patients annually (i.e. 430% increase) have been patronizing Government Clinics and health centres. By that arrangement, a further subsidy of about N100 million has been granted to patients in various hospitals in Osun State in the last three and half (3½) years. Similar arrangements are being introduced in all the maternity centres and dispensaries in all the thirty (30) Local Governments of Osun State.

(III) Environmental and Ecological Projects:

The Osun State Government has spent a total sum of N247.41 million on the re-roofing and re-ceiling of rain-storm-damaged classrooms across the State and the channelization of selected streams ;n the phases one and two Ecological Projects since the inception of the Administration. By these efforts we have successfully managed the menace of flood in parts of Osogbo, Ede, Ile-Ife, Apomu, Ila-Orangun, Iwo, Ejigbo, Ifon, IlesaEsa-Oke, Ikirun, Igbajo, Otan-Aiyegbaju, Iree, etc.

(IV) Provision of Potable Water Supply to our People:

Thirteen urban water supply schemes were rehabilitated across the State at a total cost of N294.9 million. while 212 rural water schemes (boreholes) have been sunk since the inception of our Administration, costing about N42.4 million;

(V) Provision of Good Motorable Roads Across the State:

About 1000 kilometres of township roads, inter-city State roads, and rural roads have been constructed, rehabilitated and are being maintained at a cost

of about N3.50 billion since the inception of our Administration. Some of the roads which are still under construction, will soon be completed by the Grace of God;

(VI) Execution of Rural Electrification Projects Across the State:

Since the inception of our Administration, 12 rural communities have benefited from the rural electrification projects of Government, while the project was also extended to six other locations across the State at a total cost of about N209.60 million. The Communities are:

Iponda, Ikinyinwa and Ilase in Obokun Local Government;
Iwaro in Atakunmosa West Local Government;
Oyi Araromi and Oyi Ayegunle in Ifedayo Local Government;
Iwoye in Egbedore Local Government;
Asa in Ola Oluwa Local Government;
Papa in Iwo Local Government;
Kajola- Ajaba in Ila Local Government;
Agisa in Boluwaduro Local Government;
and Wakajaye in Ayedaade Local Government.

The underlisted Communities also benefited from electrification extension programme of Government.

Ilobu/Ifon/Erin in Irepodun and Orolu Local Governments
Iyeku in Odo Otin Local Government;
Ola and Oguro in Ejigbo Local Government;
Eko-Ende in Ifelodun Local Government;
and Ere Ijesa in Oriade Local Government.

(VII) Execution of Rural Housing Scheme for Teachers and Workers in the Rural Areas:

As part of our Rural Integrated Development Programme, a total number of 126 apartments in 21 rural locations have been completed at a cost of N80.70 million during the phases one and two of the scheme. The Communities covered by the Rural Housing Scheme are:

Kajola -Ajaba in Ila Local Government;
Odeyinka in Irewole Local Government;
Tonkere in Aiyedaade Local Government;
Oguro in Ejigbo Local Government;
Agisa and Okerun in Boluwaduro Local Government;
Oniperegun and Ara Joshua in Ife South Local Government;
Temidire and Alaka in Atakunmosa East Local Government;
Oyi Araromi and Oyi Aiyegunle in Ifedayo Local Government;
Amukegun in Ife North Local Government;
Dagbaja in Oriade Local Government;
Illie in Olorunda Local Government;
Konda in Irepodun Local Government;
Alajue in Ede South Local Government;
Iwaro in Atakunmosa West Local Government;
Asa and Ikonifin in Ola-Oluwa Local Government;
and Igbotente in Aiyedire Local Government.

I am happy to inform you that the third phase of the programme which will cover thirty-one additional Communities will soon commence.

(VIII) Agricultural Development

We are aware that Agriculture should be the mainstay of the economy of Osun State and of Nigeria as a whole; but the way Agriculture was being tackled in the past left much to be desired. In particular, when our Government came to Office on 29th May 1999, we found out to our dismay the characteristic manner in which Agricultural Development was being pursued by the previous Administrations in the State. These un-wholesome methods included the following, inter-alia:

- (a) Old and few self-employed farmers using ancient methods and crude tools in small, subsistent farm holdings on borrowed or on inherited family lands;
- (b) Few "Farm settlers" each allocated ten hectares of Government acquired lands scattered at Ila-Orangun, Esa-Oke, Igbaye, Ago-Owu, Oyere, Oke-Osun in Osogbo, Oluponna and Iwo, all associating to beg for Government assistance;

- (c) Few individual farmers practising poultry, fishery and cash crops production on self-acquired, rented and/or inherited family land;
- (d) Few School leavers assembled and employed by Government with little stipend under the unprofitable Osun State Agricultural Self Employment Programme (OSSASEP);
- (e) Some School farms haphazardly monitored by school authorities but uncoordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- (f) Local Government Palm-tree farms, Fisheries and Poultry Farms totally uncoordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- (g) One or two State Government-owned poultry farms whose products were always consumed by the operators;
- (h) Direct Government involvement in farming, fisheries and poultry projects through which many workers were under-employed and under-utilized while public funds were wasted on them;
- (i) Direct State Government's involvement in Project-farming and Livestock agriculture by certain government agencies, being financed with international loans but which have nothing to show for such huge funds except recriminations about diversion, misappropriation, and stealing of the borrowed international loans;
- U) "Big Farmers' Unions" feeding fat on government grants, most members of which are influential city-dwellers without any farmland;
- (k) Federal Government's badly managed and poorly-funded agricultural research institutes established in neighboring States at Ibadan and Ilorin with numerous discountenanced research reports, but whose historical efforts were then being replicated at great costs by the State Ministry of Agriculture; and
- (l) Corruptly depleted forests being continuously plundered but crying for regeneration and policing.

Since 1999, however, we have started the restoration of agriculture to its well-deserved pride of place. The current Agricultural Policy of the Osun State Government is based on the tripodal programmes of: -

- (a) Schools Agricultural Programme whereby all Primary and Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions are encouraged and assisted to embark on crop farming, fish farming and

- animal husbandry, depending on the nature of their environment;
- (b) Farm Settlement Schemes whereby plots of land in the eight (8) Farm Settlements are being allocated to willing farmers for agricultural production;
- (c) Cooperative farming whereby farmers are encouraged to form cooperatives through which they would be able to secure loans and implements for their agricultural activities.

Of course, we do give encouragement to individual farmers in terms of supply of inputs like fertilizers, tractorisation, harrowing and ridging. Our Government has decided not to be involved in direct agricultural production, which has always been inefficient and wasteful; rather, we give extension services and provide the enabling environment for Agricultural development in Osun State. The construction and rehabilitation of roads (both rural and urban) across the State are also meant to ensure easy evacuation of agricultural products. We have also ensured the establishment of the Osun State Agricultural Development Corporation (OSSADEC), which is an amalgamation of three former inefficient and wasteful corporations. Through the OSSADEC, we are giving a greater filip to Agricultural Mechanization, provision of Agricultural Credits and Agricultural Extension Services. The net effect is that there has been increased agricultural out-puts in Osun State. Food has consequently become cheaper than before. We hope to continue with our Agricultural Policy with greater vigour in the coming years.

(IX) Industrialisation, Cooperatives and Tourism:

The policy of the Osun State Government in the area of industrialization is that Government will not go into direct establishment and/or running of industrial projects because such direct involvement of Government in Nigeria has proved to be wasteful, inefficient and uneconomical. Our policy is therefore to provide the enabling environment to attract and sustain private investments in the State. We also encourage the development of Cooperatives and Tourism within the limit of available funds. We have ensured:

- (a) equity participation of Government in viable industrial ventures;
- (b) giving of loans to industrialists for the establishment of cottage and small-scale industries

- (c) development of industrial estates at Osogbo and Ilesa;
- (d) rehabilitation of the Trade Fair site at Osogbo; and
- (e) development of the Osun State Cooperative College, Odeomu.

We have also given adequate attention to tourism through the development of Osun Shrine International, Oshogbo and improvement of Erin-Ijesha Water Falls. These activities have made it possible for artisans and tradesmen to be productively engaged in Osun State. Employment rate has increased while the crime rate has, as a consequence reduced drastically.

(X) Provision of Good, Unsurpassable Communication and Broadcasting Outfits for the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC):

Since the inception of our Administration, a total sum of N295.84 million has been expended on the OSBC (Radio/TV) Complex together with the supply and installation of FM Transmitter at Ile-Awiye, Osogbo; repairing and overhauling of old AM, MW Transmitter at Iwo; maintenance of F.M. at Ile-Ife and the purchase and installation of a new HARRIS Radio Transmitter and other broadcasting outfits. The OSBC is already becoming the pride not only of Osun State, but also of the Yoruba race.

(XI) Micro Economic Credit Scheme

Our Administration has introduced and supported a number of schemes, like the Mass Transit Scheme for members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) at a total cost of N%.9 million through a loan negotiated with a commercial bank where Government only acted as the guarantor. Government has also completed plans to assist the various Okada Unions to purchase motor-cycles for their trade. Funds have also been set aside as loans to rural co-operative farmers, small-scale traders, and youths who are artisans and tradesmen.

(XII) Settlement of External Debts:

Government has paid a substantial proportion of the inherited multi-lateral debts owed by the previous administrations to various countries of Europe and America.

(XIII) Staff Welfare:

In the area of staff welfare and staff development, we have excelled, because we have always matched our words with our actions. We have, among other things:

- (a) paid all inherited backlog of arrears of salaries and leave bonus, which were left unpaid by the previous administrations;
- (b) paid all inherited arrears of pensions and gratuities;
- (c) continued to pay salaries, allowances and leave bonus of all our workers, as at when due, while the Federal Government Agencies and States which are even more financially buoyant than Osun State are still owing workers salaries and leave bonus for several months or even years;
- (d) continued to accord the training and re-training of our staff serious attention, the first of its kind since the creation of the State. In all, a total number of 536 Officers have enjoyed training programmes in about nine courses/workshops arranged for them. The officers involved were drawn from the Clerical, Executive, Administrative, Professional cadres, as well as top civil servants like General Managers, Executive Secretaries, Permanent Secretaries and even Commissioners. In a similar vein, the Local Government Service Commission has trained numerous Local Government junior and senior staff in all the State's Local Government Councils;
- (e) just commissioned an ultra-modern Secretariat for the staff of all the agencies in all our Ministries. Ten of the eleven complexes in the new Secretariat are already in use. Similarly, the ultra-modern Governor's Office, Osogbo will be completed and commissioned very soon. Also, the Government Liaison Office and Governor's Guest House at Ikeja (Lagos) and the Osun State Governor's Lodge at Abuja will be completed very soon;

- (f) resuscitated at enhanced value the granting of housing and vehicle loans to all categories of public servants in the State;
- (g) totally resolved the problems of zero allocation to all Local Government Councils and thereby enhanced the process of funding the traditional institutions of the Obas and Chiefs all over the State.

CONCLUSION:

Dear Fellow Citizen, I have presented the fore going appraisal of our efforts in the administration of Osun state in the last 3¹/₂ years. We are all aware that very soon we would be going for rounds of elections. There have been insinuations, and threats that one party or the other would capture one State or the other in the coming elections. It is unbelievable how people easily forget history. Those who forget or those who refuse to learn from history will have themselves to blame. But all Nigerians should be aware and should not allow bad history to repeat itself. Why has it always been impossible to transit from one civilian government to another civilian government in this country? From our experiences, the following are some of the reasons:

- (a) the electoral bodies that handled the past elections were biased in favour of the party that controlled the Federal Government and discriminated negatively against other parties;
- (b) the Police of the past that handled past elections were also in most cases corrupt and biased;
- (c) the Federal Government of the day used what it called "federal might" to intimidate and coerce people against their will;
- (d) the elections were blatantly rigged while unbelievable results were announced in the so-called "moonslide" or "landslide" victories; and
- (e) local champions who could not win a free and fair election in their local governments always wanted to ensure that they delivered by whatever means their States to the Federal Government

The solutions to these and other problems that are not listed herein are very clear and simple – **let there be a free and fair election in Nigeria at all levels during the coming elections.** The Independent National Electoral Commission, the incorruptible Police, the impartial Judiciary should prove themselves by acting as indeed unbiased umpires of the electoral system. The "money bags" should direct their money elsewhere to the productive sector of our economy. They should not pollute our fledgling democratic system. Anybody that allows this democracy to fail would be condemned by God and humanity; and if any group of people connive to destroy this democracy, then the group may be singing a **Nunc Dimittis** for the end of Nigeria, which I do not pray for.

My hope and prayer for Nigeria is that it should be a very great country, where true federalism is practised and where the different nationalities are allowed, within a united Nigeria Federation, to pursue their normal interests which should not jeopardize the interests of other nationalities. There should not be first-class, second-class or third-class Nigerians. Every Nigerian should be equal before the law and should be allowed to practise his or her legitimate trades anywhere in the country without molestation. Those who are fanning the embers of religious disharmony or ethnic confrontations should be stopped because they would be dragging the hands of the clock back.

I am happy that you, the Osun State indigenes in Kwara State, are living amicably and in peace with the people of Kwara State. That should be the case, because we are brothers and sisters. I want to appeal to you to continue to live in peace with your hosts and to pursue your legitimate economic interests peacefully at all times.

During the coming elections, let all Nigerians resolved: that this time around we shall do it right. I have agreed to put myself forward for a second term in Office to continue to serve the people of Osun State with a view to making it possible for me to consolidate and improve on what God has enabled me to deliver to the good people of Osun State. I am, once again, giving myself out to serve the people selflessly.

Any form of injustice, rigging, political violence would not be tolerated this time around; and I hope will not be practised or encouraged by anybody. Those beating the drums of war should beware. Nobody has the monopoly of violence. A repeat of the 1983 episode in the old Oyo State will not be allowed in Osun State this time. The masses of Osun State are ready to defend their hard-earned democracy. I hope that those who have ears will hear.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you all for welcoming me and my team warmly into your midst. I pray that God will continue to be with us all this year and in the years ahead. Thank you and God bless you all.

Long live Osun State! Long Live Kwara State!! and Long Live our Great Country -Nigeria!!!

VALEDICTORY MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF OSUN STATE THROUGH THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY BY CHIEF 'BISI AKANDE ON THE EXPIRATION OF HIS FOUR YEAR TENURE OF OFFICE AS THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OSUN STATE ON MONDAY 26THMAY, 2003.

INTRODUCTION

Permit me to congratulate all of you who have been eased out of this honourable House of Assembly by the farce called "2003 Elections"-in the same manner as I have myself been shown the 'red card'. At least, you are leaving with your personal reputations intact. For the few of you who will be part of the next Assembly, I pray the Almighty God to grant you the courage to stand always on the side of the truth and to serve the people of Osun State with good conscience in all deliberations of the House.

A call to public office is invariably associated with the use of and responsibility for power. The Holy Bible informs us that, in his service to the people of Israel, Moses – in spite of using the power of God – encountered a lot of problems, frustrations and disappointments from the people he was called upon to serve. In the process, he offended even God. That story shows that nobody ever serves man conscientiously without courting troubles.

As for me, my call to public service begin in 1971 when my people at Ila-Orangun drafted me to represent them as a councillor in Ila Local Government; I was returned unopposed as councillor each time until 1979. In that same year (1979) I was literally conscripted to be Secretary to the Government of old Oyo State under Chief Bola Ige. Since then, I have been drafted into one public office or the other and, in all cases, I am always convinced that it is easier and more rewarding to serve God than to serve man. It becomes more difficult when one decides not to serve narrow selfish interests but to do justice and promote the overall welfare of man generally, especially the downtrodden.

THE PICTURE IN 1999

By the time my party, the Alliance for Democracy (A.D.) successfully drafted me as its Governorship candidate and the people of Osun State gave *me* overwhelming support to become Governor in 1998 certain factors were then glaringly at work and they were bound to dictate the strategies and tactics for administering the state in order to take it out of the stupor it was in. Let us now examine those factors briefly in order to objectively appreciate the recent events in our society.

Yoruba's Destiny

I am convinced that the attainment of the mission of the Yoruba people and their destiny within the comity of nations which make up the contraption called Nigeria are more embedded in the practice of true political and economic federalism than in Yoruba joining the so-called "mainstream political party, or in unified control under a one party-system as the likes of President Olusegun Obasanjo and his cronies are currently prescribing as the elixir for our problems.

Confusing Exploiters for Benefactors

In an underdeveloped society, it is customary for governance to be reactionary and elite-centred. This is particularly true of Nigeria where, before May, 1999 when we came on board, the military and their cohorts were in power for 29 out of the 39 years of Nigeria's existence as an independent country. In the process, they had appropriated to themselves the wealth of the country.

On the other hand, a government made up of the progressives which is oriented to improving the lots of the greatest number of the ordinary people and which commits itself to achieving the objective is almost invariably too weak and helpless to protect and sustain itself in power. Unfortunately but understandably, having become prostrate to abject poverty, the ordinary people to whom the progressives are committed, more often than not confuse their exploiters for their benefactors when they are bribed with immediate cash: that way, their exploiters, like slave-merchants, use the surplus which they have made from the sweat of the enslaved masses to dazzle and confound the poor people's sensibility in times of crisis.

Government of the Progressives

As a leader of Afenifere and a founding member of Alliance for Democracy (AD), I was sure that a government of the progressives would have to be foisted on the states to be ruled by AD, judging by the tenor of the 'Awolowo Creed' which Afenifere adopted as its credo and which forms the bulk of AD's manifesto.

One-Term Government

I was sufficiently informed about the attitudes and traditions of Yoruba politics, since Nigerian Independence in 1960, to realize that a government of the progressives might not be sustained in office beyond one-term. I had expected that in the same way that the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) was allowed to rule in the old Oyo State for only one term (1979-1983), the AD's experiment of 1999 might not last beyond 2003.

Opportunity for Innovative Governance

Therefore, I accepted my election in 1999 to be Governor of Osun State as a good opportunity for me to innovate daringly by implementing AD's programmes premised on the "Awolowo Creed" so that, even if only for a short while, our good people of Osun State would taste good governance and know that, with honest and dedicated leadership, the lots of the common man could be made better than hitherto.

Osun State, theatre of 100 Years of Yoruba Wars

The agelong feud between Ile-Ife and Modakeke communities was escalating into a war such that all the jungles to the south of Osun State were stockpiled with various weapons of destruction. It should be recalled that the geographical area now known as Osun State was the main theatre of the 100 years of the 19th century Yoruba inter-tribal wars. That, arguably, explains, at least partly, the concentration of many towns and cities within its boundary. The state has more urban centres than any other state in Nigeria today. Its economy is based mainly on agriculture (largely subsistence) and petty trading.

Despite its poor economic base, Osun State has eight higher educational institutions, namely: a Federal University at Ile-Ife, Ladoke Akintola's Medical School and Teaching Hospital at Osogbo, Bowen University at Iwo, three polytechnics (one of which belongs to the Federal Government) and two Colleges of Education. It therefore has the largest pool of unemployed graduates – a consequence of past military maladministrations. These circumstances, to my mind, explain the incidence, in the state, of gangsterism, terrorism, as well as lawlessness among students, the labour force and unemployed youths generally.

Debilitating Debt Overhangs

As at 1999, Nigeria was neck-deep in bi-lateral and multilateral foreign debts. Our colossal domestic debts were also debilitating to our economy. While the cartel of lenders were ganging up to black-list and molest Nigerian cargoes in the air and on the high seas around the world, the agents of new international loans and contractor-financiers were already in ambush for the newly elected governors in their offices and in their homes.

I have always known that international loans are, often worse than slave-trade. For instance in 1980, Nigeria's international debt was put at three and a half (3.5) billion American dollars. Without any additional loan, and after Nigeria had paid sixteen (16) billion American dollars out of the same debt of 3.5 billion dollars, we were still owing 26 billion dollars on the same debt in year 2000. In other words, in 20 years, a debt of 3.5 billion dollars had increased to 42 billion dollars. Apart from the staggering interests on servicing foreign loans, it is sad to note that when such loans are frittered away on projects that lacked the capacity to pay back, the Naira would collapse as a means of foreign exchange – a situation which leads invariably to higher inflation, increased poverty, mass unemployment, hunger, violence, cultism and armed robbery among our youths. When the existence of foreign loans is compounded by that of domestic loans, a situation of disinvestment occurs and leads to further general unemployment, mass poverty, hunger, and higher rates of crimes and violence.

In the peculiarity of Osun state - where the civil service was over-bloated, where teachers in many cases were not better educated than the pupils under

their charge, and where a restructuring of the entire establishment was inevitable, I could see that the state was set for an unavoidable confrontation with Labour.

However, today, Nigeria's foreign debt is about thirty (30) billion American dollars and when the Federal Government alone saddles itself with a domestic debt of about N1.3 trillion naira, I am happy, indeed proud, that my administration during the past four years did not apply for or take any loan to execute any of its numerous projects. I have been guided by the old adage :
·'He who goes aborrowing, goes asorrowing'!

Federal Monopoly of Instruments of Coercion

One of the booby traps set by the military in the 1999 constitution is the retention of the police in the hands of the central government. This I was sure would not only destroy federalism but would also abort democracy. The monopolization of policing by the central government would necessarily promote a very corrupt police apparatus in the country. The immediate recent past (2003) elections have glaringly demonstrated how the power of the people at elections may be usurped by the might of the Federal-controlled police and the chicanery of a corrupt Federal Government-controlled electoral commission. When President Obasanjo leaves power, it would be seen more clearly how the present crave for Yoruba joining the so-called mainstream of Nigerian politics could totally subordinate, if not completely enslave, the Yoruba people from their present enlightened professional height (which is the envy of all other Nigerians) to the bug of money politics and mass poverty which have always been prevalent in several other parts of Nigeria.

BAPTISM OF FIRE

All the above-listed situations provided the platform for powerful enemies who quickly conspired to bend me on my coming to office, with a view to pocketing and controlling my administration according to their whims and caprices. They bribed Labour, students and the press to welcome my administration with open and intense hostility.

I assumed office on 29th May, 1999. On my third day in office, Osun state public servants embarked on a strike on the false premise that I had decided to pay N1 ,400 instead of the N3,000 minimum wage introduced by the out-going military authority- arrears for five months of which the same military authority in Osun State had not been able to pay by the time it left office. The workers were very soon to be joined by the press, students, and finally by the churches and the people, including members of my own political party, to vilify me. A spirited effort was even made to impeach me- just for my sheer tenacity of purpose.

Only very few progressives, who included, particularly Chief Bola Ige, my leader, and who believed in serving God through the common man stood by me. To scare those few people away from giving me further support, Chief Bola Ige was insulted, harassed and ultimately assassinated by enemies who believed in serving demon through acquiring big money. Despite all these, I remained undaunted in my pursuit of the fulfilment of the promises for which I was elected as the Governor of Osun State.

DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

Even President Olusegun Obasanjo's PDP government has now discovered the enormity of the problems created by the Military while they were in power. The sheer enormity of the problems confounds the PDP-controlled Federal Government which is at a loss for an effective response to a situation which calls for an urgent solution.

Today, the continued use of unified powers in a Federal set-up has increased the inter-personal, inter-tribal and inter-ethnic resentment, bitterness and hatred as well as unmitigated world-wide defamation of our national character. While President Obasanjo once screamed that PDP was an undisciplined party, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Gali Umar Naaba, his fellow PDP Chieftain concluded that PDP had no agenda for Nigeria. At the same time, the bulk of PDP members (who are retired soldiers, military contractors and military apologists and who drafted Obasanjo into politics) got together and conspired to force the Yoruba into the much orchestrated but meaningless

mainstream politics of the government in power. They used money to split the Alliance for Democracy (A.D.)'s interim officers and are, currently employing all means to buy over its new set of officers. It is most regrettable that the A.D., which has a credible agenda for the country, and which agenda the various state governments controlled by the party have pursued relentlessly, is now being rigged out of existence.

The Conference of Nigeria's Political Parties (CNPP) has the contention, as much as I do, that the last April elections were massively rigged through the conspiracy of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Federal Government and its agencies which included the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the security agencies (particularly the police). This position was supported by international observers, including the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU-EOM) who reported cases of specially arranged multiple voting techniques, stuffing of ballot boxes, falsification of results, snatching of ballot boxes, inflation of figures, police intimidation of opposition party agents, and massive use of money.

The PDP Federal Government, sensing the credibility problems arising from these contentions, has challenged the aggrieved parties to prove their cases in courts. Meanwhile the party is already hiding under the doctrine of substantial compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Acts in the conduct of the elections. As for those of us in Government in Osun State, being faithful members of AD, we remain committed to the Awolowo creed. We shall always prefer the worst democracy to the best military dictatorship. Consequently, we consider our being rigged out of office as part of the sacrifices we are prepared to make to ensure the sustenance of democratic governance. After all, since Nigeria's independence, we the progressives have almost always operated without being in government. But what do the two big parties – PDP and ANPP – stand for? Though currently at each others throat, the leadership of both parties are almost totally made up of retired military men of the old military governments and their contractors.

The only contention remaining to be sorted out concerns the position of the Yoruba people in any future dispensation. It is a settled matter that the South-Western Yoruba people prefer to live as an autonomous entity within a federal

union of Nigeria. On his part, Obasanjo, a military man by training and upbringing, has been advocating One Nigeria under a unitary constitution and a one-party system; hence his constant slogan of "taking the Yoruba people to the mainstream political party". The solution to this outstanding contentious issue may not be found unless the reason for the alignment of Yoruba people with Afenifere and their preponderance in A.D. are critically analysed and fully understood.

JUSTIFYING FALSEHOOD?

Mr. Speaker, honourable members, so far, I have stated what informed my posture in the governance of Osun State as its Executive Governor in the last four years. It may be recalled that when we came on board in 1999, there were in this House of Assembly, one PDP member, 2 ANPP members and 23 AD members. Now that most of the legislators are not returning to the House, permit me to dwell a bit on why members of AD in the next House may be only 2 instead of 23, since, of course, I can only speak for my party alone.

Since the last fraud called 2003 elections, I have read many articles about the role of the Afenifere and the A.D. as a contributory factor to the way the electorate voted. The fact of the case is that every man has a body and a soul. Politically, the Yorubaman's body has been moving between Afenifere and the Alliance for Democracy (A.D), while his soul remains constantly and strongly in the creed of Awolowo which is usually called 'Afenifere credo'. Following the demise of Chief Bola Ige, it can be argued that Afenifere seems to have lost substantial glamour and style. Nonetheless, the personality and the performances of each of the six AD Governors (which tower very much over and above those of their PDP counterparts in neighbouring states) are more than adequate to knock the bottom out of the pedestrian justifications being peddled about for removing any of them through glaring electoral frauds masterminded by the PDP "Federal Might". Or, how can any right thinking analyst defend that a political party, with 23 seats in the State House of Assembly in 1999, which controls the Executive arm of the State Government and which perform most significantly since the creation of Osun State to date, could only manage to retain just 2 out of the 23 seats only four years later?

AD/PDP ALLIANCE BID

28. President Obasanjo, sometime in 2002, indicated an intention to dialogue with the A.D. governors. We quickly alerted Afenifere leadership to take over the negotiations with the President. A meeting was thereafter held at Ota where Afenifere's terms for supporting Obasanjo's 2nd term bid were discussed and accepted by President Obasanjo. The terms were as follows:

- (i) Convocation of a National Conference by the Federal Government for the resolution of most national questions;
- (ii) Conduct of an accurate census for Nigeria;
- (iii) Equitable Revenue Allocation Formula for Nigeria; and
- (iv) Devolution of Power from Federal to the States.

The strategy for the support required by President Obasanjo with reciprocal steps by both parties to ensure stability of tenure for A.D. governments of the South-West was to be discussed at a later date. We met again at Abeokuta to review the relationship and the President promised to invite Chiefs Segun Osoba, Cornelius Adebayo and me for further discussion on the strategy. When mistrust and stalling were being noticed, Afenifere involved Oba Sikiru Adetona (Awujale of Ijebu-Ode), and two senior Yoruba Christian clerics (Bishop Gbonigi and Arch-Bishop Ladigbolu) to attest to any possible act of political mischief and deceit on the part of President Obasanjo. That was when we asked A.D. to insist on no commitment with PDP until after the first elections of 12th April 2003.

From the above narratives, it can be seen vividly how President Obasanjo and the PDP, like the NNDP at the 1965 elections and the NPN at the 1983 elections, used guile and mischief to capture the body of the Yoruba people without knowing how to recover and domesticate their soul. Naturally, what the PDP have captured will soon begin to decay in their hands, while the soul will remain indestructible in our own hands, because Obasanjo and his cohorts believe in neither Awolowo nor in his creed; whereas, it is the employment of Awolowo's creed (which knows no discrimination nor corruption) that has seen us through in the past four years.

Perhaps, at this juncture, the Yoruba people may wish to ask themselves some; pertinent questions:

- (i) Why has Obafemi Awolowo not been admired by President Obasanjo as a hero of Yoruba politics?
- (ii) Is it an ego crisis resulting from Awolowo, who never became President of Nigeria, remaining the undisputed reference-point of the Yoruba people while Olusegun Obasanjo, inspite of having been Nigeria's Military Head of State (1976-79) and President of Nigeria since 1999, could not even get the support of the electorates of his native village during the 1999 Presidential election?
- (iii) Can the on-going efforts to dismantle Awolowo's myth together with his political dynasty be a vindictive revenge for the disapproval (by Afenifere at Owo in 1995) of Obasanjo's proposal for the Yoruba to join his so-called Nigerian mainstream politics?
- (iv) Is there a hidden agenda to replace Awolowo's political dynasty with Obasanjo's cronies in the running of Yoruba politics? If yes, wouldn't such attempt fail like General Oladipo Diya's efforts during the Abacha era to substitute capable Yoruba politicians (but who were opposed to Abacha) with newbreed Awoists?
- (v) Is it envy of the way Yoruba leaderships have been congregating on pilgrimages at Ikenne home of Awolowo in his days, at Owo home of Pa Adekunle Ajasin later, and subsequently at Senator Abraham Adesanya's house in Ijebu-Igbo? Would Obasanjo have preferred that the congregating pilgrimages should take place at his Ota farm or in his Ibogun village?
- (vi) How comparable is Obasanjo to Awolowo in intellect, in ideological belief, in self-discipline, in political vision, in administrative wizardry, in financial and fiscal management, or in personal charisma? Or are we merely trying to compare lead with gold?

MY JOY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Today, I count myself as one of the luckiest and happiest men in Nigeria for three reasons. Firstly, not until my party nominated me for Governorship in 1999 did the idea of being elected Governor ever cross my mind. Since assuming office as Governor, my administration, my Party (the Alliance for

Democracy) and my win-win team have all concentrated on progressive agenda for the benefit of the greatest number of the ordinary citizens of Osun State as had never been done before. We have given education and health **free** to our people to the best of our ability and within the resources available. We have done a lot to enhance the physical appearance of our cities and villages by providing them with good roads, drainages, housing, water and electricity. We have embarked on providing gainful self-employment for our needy citizens -farmers, artisans, road transporters including Okada riders, unemployed youths and the women – all of whom have been encouraged to form co-operatives and to whom loans were made available to run their trades.

We have done more. We have established a useful foundation for administration by providing residential comfort for our legislators and by building for Osun State one of the best government secretariats in Africa. As I have always used my budget speeches and other occasions to brief this Honourable House on activities of Government, there is no need to go into lengthy details of our numerous achievements here; but a summary on about 900 different projects completed by my administration is contained in my handing-over notes to the incoming administration, copies of which will be made available to members of this House.

Secondly, inspite of all the hostilities, vicissitudes and tribulations from enemy sectors, our government has remained resolute, unbending and strong on the wicket of our mission to serve the interests of the ordinary citizens to the end. The aggregate of current public opinion in Osun State, in Yorubaland and, indeed, in Nigeria, through the print-media and general public discussions, has profusely commended our efforts. In other words, since we came to the political stage. the ovation is loudest now.

Thirdly, about one year ago, something, deep inside me, told me that Nigeria might soon run into deep economic and social problems. You. Mr Speaker. Honourable members. will recall that I have used the floor of this honourable House of Assembl.Y on several occasions to enumerate instances of the mismanagemn of our national economy by the PDP Federal Government, and to warn about possible disastrous consequences of such mismanagement. Unless there was divine intervention and a change in its management style,

the PDP government, like its ancestor, the NPN which initiated Nigeria's journey to the debtors' club might lead Nigeria to total economic ruin before the end of this year. The Naira may have further collapsed to a level that no good economist could ever imagine; inflation may have eaten up many of our banks, and more factories may have had to close down. Sensing these possibilities, it occurred to me to vacate government before the trouble would start.

However, many of our notable traditional rulers, leaders of opinion as well as most of the leaders and members of Alliance for Democracy, (AD) in the state, prevailed on me to carry on. Now, when the ovation for this administration is loudest, the PDP, the INEC and the Police have assisted me with an escape route when they rigged, rather shamelessly, the just-concluded general elections. I therefore thank God most sincerely for this timely and well-contrived displacement, which has become a source of happiness for me since the recent past. The most extraordinary thing about my governorship is not the way it is now ending, but the impact of my stewardship on the people of Osun State and in the perceptions of the entire Yoruba Nation and the generality of Nigerians. May God continue to protect me through the landmines that may have been laid for me by my political adversaries.

GRATITUDE

I thank you all and, through you, I wish to also thank all our good people in Osun State, for their love and support which have made my tenure as Governor of Osun State a most successful, most memorable, and most rewarding experience. It is my fervent prayer that God Almighty will continue to bless all our people and prosper their endeavours.

Farewell and God bless.

EPILOGUE

FOCUS AND TARGETS OF DEVELOPMENT

Administrative Structure

The state is subdivided into 30 Local government areas of varying land sizes, populations, natural endowments, and at different levels of socio-economic development. Each local government has an administrative headquarters.

Primary and Secondary Education

The state has and it wholly finances 305 secondary grammar schools spread according to the populations and human settlement patterns all over the 30 local government areas.

In addition to the active promotion of the teaching of science subjects in all the 305 secondary grammar schools, the state government established 24 schools of science in Year 2000, located across the state and specially dedicated to the teaching of science and technology at the secondary school level.

The 305 secondary grammar schools attract pupils from 1,217 public primary schools in the state, which primary schools are themselves supposed to be jointly financed by the Federal Government (7%), State Government (10%) and Local government (83%).

No school fee whatsoever is charged in all the primary, secondary grammar, and secondary science schools in the state.

Tertiary Education and Training for Gainful Self Employment

In addition to two trade centers (one at Osogbo and another at Ile-Ife) sixteen (16) new technical schools are being established spread evenly among the Federal constituencies in the state. They are expected to serve as satellites for the two state-owned polytechnics for the production of self-employable skilled artisans and craftsmen and women. This is in furtherance of the Administration's encouragement of job-creation through self-employment by promoting trades and crafts among the citizenry.

Communications

The state government is constructing roads to link the 30 local government headquarters to Osogbo, the state capital. In addition, the state government is linking with good roads each of the 305 secondary grammar schools to their various local government headquarters. Each Local Government is being encouraged to construct roads to link all primary schools to the nearest secondary grammar school(s), thereby facilitating more convenient transition of pupils from primary schools to their neighbourhood secondary grammar schools.

The State government mobilizes those interested among the local parents into cooperative societies for the purpose of engaging in transportation business, and it assists them to obtain vehicles on soft loans to provide 'mass transit' transportation facilities for commuters from and to the villages.

Health

State Government's health facilities are sited as close as possible to each of the 305 secondary grammar schools in order to provide medical services to the teachers, pupils and local communities there. Similarly, potable water is being provided for all the 305 secondary schools so as to reduce incidence of water-borne diseases among the rural dwellers.

No fee of whatever description is charged for registration, consultation, tests, medication, and minor surgical operations in all the health and medical institutions owed and financed by the state.

Rural Housing

Decent housing units, together with potable water, electricity and health facilities, are being built by the state government for its workers posted to the villages which host any of the rural secondary grammar schools. This is to serve as an incentive for government workers (especially teachers and health workers) posted to the rural areas to willingly go and stay there and serve with

diligence. It is also to encourage local communities to learn and practise modern hygiene by copying the type of decent houses which government builds among them for its workers.

Agriculture

Each of the 305 secondary schools in the state, where there is no constraint of land, is encouraged to have a farm for cultivating foods and raw materials for industrial processing. Where land is a constraint, the schools keep small ruminants, poultry, bees, rabbits, etc. That way, the pupils are being introduced to agriculture early; they are also being taught dignity of labour and, at the same time, are being developed to be of productive influence to members of their community in agricultural development.

Adults in the rural areas (i.e. parents of the pupils in the various secondary grammar schools) are themselves encouraged:

- (i) to farm as settlers on government-owned farm settlements and fish-farm estates where plots of land are allocated to those interested in farming (including fisheries, livestock, etc); or
- (ii) to associate with others into farmers' cooperative unions which government assists to practise modernized agriculture, and to add value to their primary farm produce by processing them into semi-finished industrial raw-materials or even packaged foods (like fruit juices).

Government plans to help such school farms and farmers' unions around them to acquire small-scale (simple-to-maintain) processing machines/hand tools to facilitate simple farm gate industrialization.

Industrialisation

Osun State is an agricultural state. Therefore, its industrialization can be best jump-started through private enterprise - promoted agro-allied/agro-based businesses. This is what the state government is pursuing by encouraging the residents in the state to invest in the exploitation of its abundant natural resources.

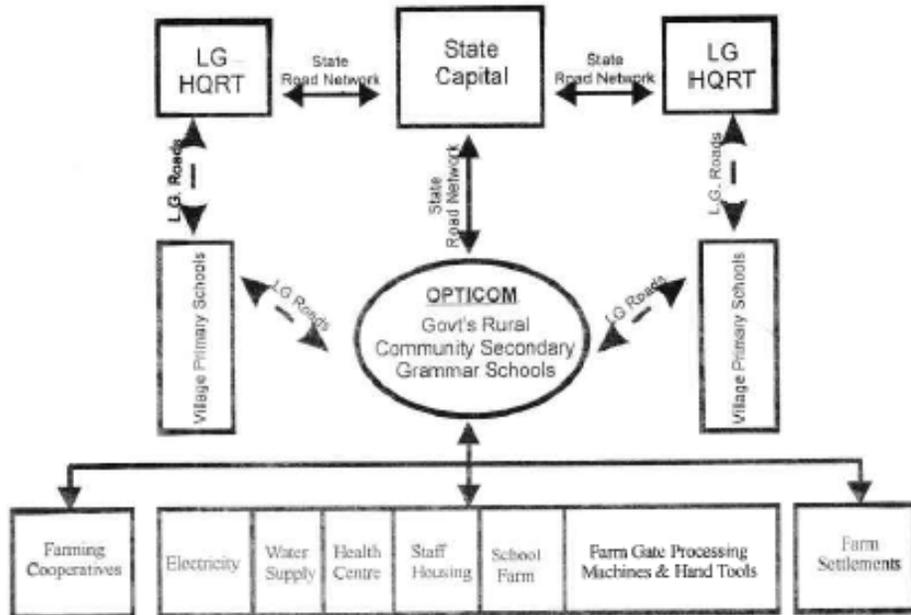
Optimum Community

As can be seen from the above descriptions, each secondary grammar school is regarded by the present Administration in Osun State as the headquarters of a rural optimum community ("OPTICOM"), while the adjoining settlements (with or without primary schools) from where pupils attend the secondary school constitute the 'OPTICOM'. Government's developmental efforts are based on the OPTICOMs and, therefore, put "MAN" as the target of such efforts. And because every man in the state belongs to one OPTICOM or another, everybody benefits from government's developmental activities in education, health, communications, industrialization based on gainful self-employment, decent housing and environmental sanitation. Besides, development is evenly and equitably promoted throughout the length and breadth of the state.

Implementation Strategy

Government has set up (at state, local government, and ward levels) Integrated Rural Development Committees, Women Empowerment Committees, and Youth Empowerment Committees to mobilize the entire citizenry towards active participation in all government's developmental activities which are targeted at poverty eradication.

Integrated Rural Development Diagram



Co-operative Organisations for Mobilisation of Agriculture and Micro Economic Activities

1. Rural Integrated Committees in the State, in every LG and in every Ward
2. Women Empowerment Committees in the State, in every LG and in every Ward
3. Youth Empowerment Committees in the State, in every LG and in every Ward

Political Will and Good Governance

Although the finances of the state are rather poor, this Administration's policy of good governance by practising probity, accountability and transparency stands the government in a good stead to alleviate poverty among the population through its Free Education, Free Health and medical services at all levels, and Integrated Rural Development, as enumerated above. For instance, while the Year 2001 budget of Osun State was deficit to the tune of about N4billion, the state government ensured that, at the end of the year, there was a surplus of about N1 billion set aside as committed fund for its priority projects.

Proofs of this Administration's political will, strong commitment to good governance and poverty eradication in Osun State can be deduced from the Budgets (and progress reports on their implementation) for Years 2000,2001 and 2002 as well as from the Governor's budget speech to the State House of Assembly for Year 2003.

Chief Bisi Akande
Governor, Osun State.
4th January, 2003.



Chief Bisi Akande born from a long lineage of Warriors and administrators hails from Ila Orangun.

An Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries Chief Akande has also been honoured with a Fellow of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants. He served British Petroleum, a Nigerian Petrol Marketing Company between 1963 and 1979 before he became Secretary to the then Oyo State Government under Chief Bola Ige and later became the Deputy Governor having been unanimously elected by the House of Assembly in 1982.

On the return to civilian administration in 1999 Chief Bisi Akande won the election to become the Executive Governor of Osun State between May 29, 1999 and May 2003.

Chief Bisi Akande holds many Chieftaincy titles amongst which are The Asiwaju of Ila-Orangun, Agbaakin of Oke-Ila, Balogun of Aramoko, Basorun of Ilobu, and Jagunmolu Oodua of Ijebu-Ife.

Chief Bisi Akande is a co-author of Ila-Orangun, the Principal City of Igbomina Land. His other works include – "A Fresh Start in Osun State" "Moving Osun State to Prosperity" and "Restructuring: Nigeria's Approach to True Federalism.

The Inner Mind is the totality of the speeches he delivered to the House of Assembly throughout his tenure of 4 years. His inaugural speech, the Speech delivered to Osun Indigenes in Kwara State and the epilogue which elucidates his targets of development are the only exception.