



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

### AKEREDOLU MITIGATING INTERVENTIONS

 **Adewale Omomowo**  
 **Ikusemiju Ayokunle**

**F**lood is a common phenomenon. However, in Nigeria's recent experience, two bouts of flood stand out - the 2012 and 2022. Incessant flooding has brought worries and concerns not only to government, but Nigerians and international communities. According to reports, the flood killed over 600 people, injured about 2,400 persons and displaced over 1.4 million residents. In addition, over 200,000 homes/houses and other valuable properties were destroyed, while thousands of hectares of land were also damaged. Experts have observed that the flood was caused by heavy rainfall, climate change and release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon.

Environmental Analysts, however, observed that the incident of flood in Kogi, Jigawa, Benue, Adamawa, Kano, Niger, Yobe States and other parts of the country was due to negligence on the part of the Nigeria government. According to them, when Lagdo Dam

was constructed in 1982, it was agreed by both Nigeria and Cameroon that Nigeria would build the second Dam, codenamed Dasin Hausa Dam, in Dasin village, Fufore local government area of Adamawa State, to contain the overflow of the Lagdo Dam. This Dam was never built by the Nigerian government; whilst on its part, the Nigerian government blamed it on environmental issue, accusing the public of indiscriminate construction on natural flood and storm paths, with poor drainage system.

According to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajjya Sadiya Umar-Farouq, there was enough warning and information about the flood to government and the people, but all were discarded. She further noted that there's need for strict enforcement of environmental laws to avert such problem in future.

The above situation is an impetus to the fact that in the business of securing peoples' lives and property, governments at all levels **Contd. on Pg 3.**

## Editorial

Between our last edition and the current one, the Ondo State Public Service celebrated its 2022 annual Public Service Week; the maiden edition under my humble watch. But for the approval and support of our worker-friendly Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON, the grand 4-day ceremony wouldn't have been possible considering the limited time we had to pull it through.

I must appreciate the commitment and participation of all public servants in the state during the anniversary especially during my outreach engagement with public servants across the three (3) senatorial districts of the state and at the grand finale event of the Public Service Lecture. It was clearly demonstrated that we appreciate our critical role in governance dynamics. Let's keep it up!

With our hands on the plough, we would keep reinvigorating the Public Service of our dear State, retooling and repositioning it for effective service delivery in line with the Redeemed Agenda of the current Administration. In our unrelenting drive to ventilate innovation and resourcefulness in the service, the "Civil Service Innovation Challenge" was recently held, leading to amazing discovery of ingenuity displayed by Public Servants. More details of the Innovation Challenge is served in this edition.

The cover story of this edition is a showpiece of the strides of the Akeredolu-led administration in overcoming environmental degradation. Through this piece, you will have insight into what the government is doing to prevent flooding and other environmental disasters in Ondo State. It will interest you to note that the government has partnered some strategic stakeholders to ensure that environmental degradation is curtailed in the State. It has given both structural and legal frameworks to relevant agencies to create and maintain world class strategic environmental policy, projects, interventions to safeguard the environment in line with the REDEEMED agenda of this present administration. More of this environmental impact of Akeredolu administration are contained herein.

My fellow patriots, as we continue this journey of building Ondo State of our dream, I urge you to join hands with the present administration. Let us create a Public Service of our dream, where bureaucratic measures will be adequately managed and not turn into an excuse for not being productive.

As you read through other columns of interest in this edition, I wish to assure you that government will continue to prioritise the welfare of workers. We must continue to reciprocate through our commitment to excellent service delivery.

On this note, I specially thank you for the

readership and acceptability of this medium and I wish to implore you to keep giving your best to the State Public Service. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Productive New Year.



**Kayode Ogundele, FCIPM., FPA**  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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**ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION...(Contd)**

need to do a lot in tackling environmental challenges or issues that could pose great threat(s) and hazard(s) to the lives of the people. In Ondo State, it is no longer news, as the present administration has demonstrated its determination to ensure that environmental degradation becomes a thing of the past.

In achieving this, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON, reinvigorated the Ondo State Ministry of Environment and the State Environmental Protection Agency by giving them enabling manpower, logistics, legal and structural frameworks to enable them create and maintain world class strategic environmental policies and projects that promote rural and agricultural development, industries and infrastructural development, as encapsulated in the REDEEMED agenda.

Akeredolu's administration in its efforts at fulfilling the social contract he has with the good people of Ondo State, ensured environmental resources are used in sustainable manner, thus, instilling right attitudinal behaviour into the people's lifestyle which invariably led to sustainable environmental management. The government took environmental awareness campaign to the door step of every resident of Ondo State, established environmental clubs in secondary schools across the State and also encouraged residents to properly dispose waste. Residents are also encouraged to engage in tree planting in order to control flood, erosion, improve environmental aesthetics and restore the ecosystem. In addition, government also maximized the instrumentality of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies to mitigate risks associated with human activities and interaction with the environment.

The EIA has helped policy makers in the State to think of the consequential effects of their decisions or actions on the environment before such projects or ideas are executed and this has helped to reduce hazardous effects on the residents and environment. Similarly, this feat has helped to sustain development in Ondo State, thereby preventing unforeseen calamities like floods, building collapse, among others.

In a related development, the administration of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON, is collaborating with the World Bank and the Federal Government midwifed the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) in Ondo State. The programme is designed to achieve greater environmental and economic security and is expected to address severe gully erosion and flooding problems in the short term, reduce vulnerability to soil erosion and climate variability in the medium term and promote long-term climate resilience, low carbon development. It is a multi-sectoral and multi-scale operation that target areas with acute gully erosion and flooding challenges.

Through the Ministry of Environment, the present administration has been able to carry out environmental impact assessment on hospitality industry, educational institutions, oil and gas industries and all other commercial sectors to ensure that residents live in a safe, secured and serene environment. As such, an EIA is carried out on every project executed in the State. For example: EIA was done on the 46.6km Ado-Akure road project, urban water supply project in Akure North, Akure South and Ifedore local government areas of Ondo State, etc.

Since inception, NEWMAP has been able to successfully deliver on its mandate by impacting on the following towns/cities: Abilogbo in Ogbagi-Akoko, Akoko North West LG; Agboriki, Akoko North East LG; Isua, Akoko South East LG; Obasekola, Egor & Igbanasa/GRA, Owo LG; Ijigba, Ala, Alagbaka in Akure South LG; Ibule, Ipogun and Ile Ojunla, Ifedore LG; Ofo River, Idanre, Idanre LG; Ore, Odigbo LG; Ijoka, Ehinala, Ilotin 1&2, Akure South LG; Ayeka, Okitipupa, Okitipupa LG; Ayetoro, Ilaje LG, among others. Others include: establishment of 100Ha of afforestation – that has helped to increase the carbon Stock of Ondo State in the climate change and resilient management, improve IGR, rejuvenate and sustain the State's forest ecosystem and provide employment; procure amphibious excavators that has helped to dredge several thousands of kilometers of rivers and streams banks in Ondo State, reduce flooding and erosion incidences; and many others.

In order to sustain the gains of NEWMAP, the government introduced Community Interest Group (CIGs), a sustainability strategy of the World Bank to sustain most of the achievements of NEWMAP in terms of Waste Management and in other components of the project. The strategy was to procure waste collection tools for the community interest group and provide takeoff grants to these groups in all the intervention sites for waste collection. This was done in collaboration with the Ondo State Waste Management Authority.

Conclusively, it is worthy to note that human activities within the environment pose a lot of challenges to everyone. As such, various environmental issues confront the planet Earth ranging from aquatic to terrestrial species. From the forest to the oceans, environmental resources are being depleted at alarming rate. Attitudes of people towards the non-human world have become so predatory that human may soon become endangered species. It is therefore a great concern that government at all levels must emulate the efforts of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON, by ensuring long-term harmony in the economic and ecological practices for all generations. Sustainable environmental development is not just a concept but also a process and a means to an end.

# YOU and the RULES

■ Aderemi Olabode

## DISCIPLINE, MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

If there are no regulations, rules and laws generally, the Public Service in fact would not have been in existence let alone functional. Therefore, for the Public Service to achieve its aims, a set of rules and code of conduct had been put in place so that services can be delivered effectively and efficiently.

Consequently, it is expected that every Public Servant should strictly comply with the provisions of the Rules. The overall aim of the public service rules is to ensure good conduct, loyalty, courtesy, hard work and ethical principles. Despite this, we cannot but have some erring officers.

Discipline generally refers to good conduct and behaviour. Anything contrary to this, becomes indiscipline. Act of indiscipline in the Public Service has been broadly classified into two – misconduct and serious misconduct.

Misconduct is an act of wrong doing or an improper behavior which is inimical to the image of the service and which can be investigated and proved. It can lead to termination and compulsory retirement. Rule 02104 defines misconduct as “a willful act or omission which prejudices the proper administration of the department of Government in which an officer is employed, or prejudices the order and discipline of the Civil Service or which brings the service into disrepute, including the following:

- (a) Conviction of a criminal offence
- (b) Debt through Debt through imprudence or other reprehensible cause (Rule 04202) b
- (c) Engaging in Business contrary to Rule 04212
- (d) Disobedience of a lawful order i.e. Refusal to take/carry out lawful instructions from superior officers etc.
- (e) Disclosure of official information, Rule 04205

### others include:

- Habitual lateness to work
- Deliberate delay in treating official documents
- Failure to keep records
- Unauthorized removal of public records.
- Dishonesty
- Sleeping on duty
- Improper dressing while on duty
- Hawking merchandise within office premises
- Discourteous behavior to the public

Serious misconduct is a specific act of very serious wrongdoing and improper behavior which is inimical to the image of the service and which can be investigated and if proved, may lead to dismissal.

### Serious act of misconduct includes:

- Falsification of records
- Absence from duty without leave or permission
- Engaging in partisan political activities
- Serious financial embarrassment
- Bribery
- Corruption
- Embezzlement
- Misappropriation
- Violation of oath of secrecy
- Holding more than one full time paid job
- Sexual harassment

It is imperative to mention that an officer who is dismissed forfeits all claims of retiring benefits.

### PUNISHMENTS

The following are the punishments that could be given to any officer who commits infraction on rules of service.

- **Dismissal:** When an officer is dismissed, he/she loses all claim to retiring benefits such as gratuity and pension. It is the ultimate penalty for serious misconduct; no notice is given to the officer. The effective date is the date when the officer is served the letter even though he/she may refuse to acknowledge receipt of the letter.
- **Suspension:** When an officer is accused of a gross misconduct, he/she may be stopped from carrying out the duties of his/her office pending investigation into the misconduct. In addition, he/she is denied the right of enjoying his/her salary and allowances during the period he/she is under suspension.
- **Interdiction:** When a serious case that may lead to dismissal has been instituted against an officer, the Permanent Secretary/Head of Extra-Ministerial Department may interdict him/her and place him/her on not more than half of his/her pay pending the determination of the case. When an officer is interdicted, he/she shall cease to report for duty
- **Reprimand:** When an officer is reprimanded, he/she loses one promotable year. Reprimand takes effect from the date the decision is communicated to the erring officer and it will last for a period of twelve months. Such officer shall not be considered for any promotion during the period of the reprimand. Two special reports shall be rendered on the erring officer at six months interval. He would, at the end of the effect of reprimand, be considered for promotion, subject to the two good reports and availability of vacancies which must be approved by the Office of Establishments and Training. Any such promotion enjoyed at the end of reprimand shall take effect from a current date.

# ODSIP PHOTO SPEAK



The Deputy Governor, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele and the three award winners of year 2022 Civil Service Innovation Challenge.



Group Photograph of the Judges for 2022 Civil Service Innovation Challenge.



Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele, FCIPM and some Permanent Secretaries during the Press Briefing with journalists on activities marking the 2022 Public Service Week



Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele, FCIPM, some Permanent Secretaries and Change Ambassadors at the 11th Head of Service's Interaction with Change Ambassadors

# ODSIP Update

-  **Adewale Omomowo**
-  **Olumuyiwa Akinkuolie**
-  **John Edema**

## HoS ASSURES THE RETOOLING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AT 2022 PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK.

The Ondo State Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele has hinted the readiness of the Public Service to retool itself for quality service delivery. He gave the hint during the celebration of the Year 2022 Public Service week which held between Monday, 28th November and Thursday, 1st December, 2022 with the theme *"The Roles of Public Servants in Governance and Political Participation"*.

Pastor Ogundele was particularly happy with the home grown Reform Initiative, ODSIP, driven by the office of the Head of Service, now making remarkable development on the value and virtue of the service and being boosted through digitization; noting that Human Resource (HR) administration has equally been notched up.

He thanked the Governor for approving the initiative as well as his commitment to workers' welfare. This year's edition of the Public Service week took a different dimension as the Head of Service's interactive session with public servants which was usually held only in Akure, the State capital, was taken to four different zones (Okitipupa, Owo, Ikare and Akure). This was done to have a better and more robust interface with the public servants across the State.

Beside other dignitaries in attendance, the grand finale played host to two former Heads of Service and Secretaries to the Government of Ondo State; Attorney Reuben Omolorun Modupe, *mnim* and Prince Clement Olatoye Bajowa, as the Chairman of the Session and the Guest Speaker respectively.

## INNOVATIVE CIVIL SERVANTS GET REWARDED.

Three (3) innovative civil servants got rewarded by the State Government during the celebration of the Public Service week. The Civil Service Innovation Challenge, a concept driven by the One Administration mantra, designed to harness the novel and procedural innovations from resourceful Civil Servants for the execution of Government, had its grand-finale on Friday 25th November, 2022, where five (5) public servants out of the initial twenty-one (21) that submitted their proposals, made presentations before the Panel of Judges.

Three (3) participants were adjudged winners by the panel of Judges and the details of the winners who were given awards and cheques are:

- i. Dr. Richard Adeola Alonge - 1st Position  
*"Agricultural Land Information System"*.
- ii. Mr. Olaseni Olubunmi Foluso - 2nd Position  
*"Generation of clean cooking Gas (BIOGAS) from household waste"*
- iii. Mrs. Oladipo Joycelyn Omobola - 3rd Position  
*"A community, A commodity"*

The Head of Service in his remarks stated that the competition is to create an innovation database of implementable ideas for the Government and that the event will come up annually.

## ODSIP Update Contd.

### INTERACTIVE SESSION: HoS WARNS AGAINST MISMANAGEMENT OF STATE'S RESOURCES.

The Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele has affirmed his determination to actualize the objectives of ODSIP while charging 'Change Ambassadors' to re-evaluate themselves and build their capacity in the necessary areas to avoid being replaced.

He gave the charge at the 11th edition of the Head of Service's interaction with the Change Ambassadors for the last quarter of the year which was held on Tuesday, 29th November, 2022 at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

He warned that mismanagement of state resources will not be tolerated, noting that giving the best isn't about semantics but action. While stressing the need for them to be alive to their responsibilities, he explained that it is important that they utilise the lectures being received and also cascade it in their various MDAs for improved service delivery.

The interactive session also featured two major lectures delivered by the Chief Executive Officer, Living Health International, Lagos State, Dr Gbenga Adebayo and the Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD) Rev. Somo Ogunlade. They spoke on Stress Management in an Organization and Your Temperament and You: Implications for Effective Service Delivery respectively.

In his welcome address, the Administrative Secretary of the Department of Public Service Reform and Development, Mr. Adewale Omomowo while expressing appreciation to the Head of Service for his support towards the Reform Office, noted that the initiative has been productive, especially in the areas of knowledge sharing and collaborations.

He commended the ambassadors for reforms and good practices in their various MDAs, calling for more input from them as plans are underway for the development of the Change Ambassadors in year 2023. He added that they must be up and doing in the coming year to catch up with the sustainable reforms for better service delivery.



### AKEREDOLU EMBARKS ON MASSIVE WATER PROJECTS FOR AKURE AND FIVE LOCAL GOVT. AREAS.

Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON on Tuesday 6th December, 2022 launched the State Urban Water and Sanitation project at the International Culture and Events Centre (DOME), Akure, the Ondo State capital. The project is being co-financed by the French Development Agency/African Development Bank (AFD/AfDB) to rehabilitate the Ondo-Owena water supply scheme and the Owena Multipurpose Dam for the provision of safe and potable water to the people of six Local Government areas: Akure South, Akure North, Idanre, Ondo East, Ifedore and Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo.

Speaking at the launch of the project, Governor disclosed that his administration has increased the access to potable water to 17.6% as against the 4% that was inherited in 2017. He disclosed that the KAMOMI AKETI project, which is the arrowhead of the policy, has now become the template for provision of rural water in Nigeria and that the urban water and sanitation project was significant as it further demonstrated his Administration's abiding commitment to improving general access to potable water supply in every nook and cranny of the State.

The Commissioner for Water Resources, Public Sanitation and Hygiene, Mr. Fatai Olotu, said the projects on completion would help facilitate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) as well as the Governor Akeredolu's REDEEMED agenda on provision of water to the people of the state.

Similarly, the Director General of AFDB, Nigeria, Lamin Barrow, said the Akure Water Sanitation Project would yield significant development benefits to the residents, providing potable water for 24 hours. He emphasized that one of the unique features of the project is the establishment of a social water supply connection fund.



# ODSIP Lens

## DEFAULTING CHANGE AMBASSADORS DENYING THEIR MDAs ACCESS TO QUALITY INFORMATION.

The attention of ODSIP Lens has been drawn to the fact that some Change Ambassadors (CAs) who were nominated by their MDAs have been found wanting in carrying out their responsibilities

ODSIP Lens wishes to inform all CAs that the Reform Office will not condone any lackadaisical attitude from them. Hence, stricter measures will be adopted to achieve the mandate of the office, most especially those that concerns the effectiveness of the CAs.

Consequently, non performing Change Ambassadors will be reported to their MDAs for replacement.

## AKEREDOLU BURIES MUM

ODSIP Lens was at Owo, Ondo State where the remains of Evangelist Grace Akereolu was laid to mother earth on the 9th of November, 2022.

The burial of Mama Akeredolu, who passed on to glory in her sleep on the early hours of Thursday, 15th September, 2022 was attended by dignitaries across the country. May God grant her eternal rest.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

ODSIP Lens wishes the entire Public Service a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



# FUN FACTS

Mosquitoes are the deadliest animal in the world: They kill more people than any other creature, due to the diseases they carry. - [cdc.org](https://www.cdc.org)

According to research, the human nose can distinguish at least a trillion different odours - [nature.com](https://www.nature.com)

# Words on MARBLE

"I don't care who gets the credit! As long as the job gets done!!"

- Harry S. Truman

# Letter to the EDITOR



## NOTE:

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INNOVATION  
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