

Amosun wants to industrialise Ogun with agriculture

From **Coffie Gyamfi**, Abeokuta

OGUN State Governor Ibikunle Amosun has said his administration is turning to agriculture in its determination to revolutionise the state's economy. The initiative is also targeted at creating jobs for the electorate.

Amosun disclosed this when the management of the Bank of Industry (BoI) led by the Managing Director, Mrs. Evelyn Oputu, and some investors visited him in his Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta office. He said the state was ready "to go back to the basics."

Recalling that the Nigerian economy before the discovery of oil depended solely on agri-

cultural products, Amosun said: "We are gifted in the state and we should be able to take advantage of our abundant resources in Ogun State. We know the importance of commerce and we are prepared to industrialise our state using agriculture."

According to him, before the advent of oil, Nigeria's economy was vibrant and strong, citing the groundnut pyramids, palm oil, rubber, cotton and cocoa revolution in various regions of the country to buttress his stance. "Our founding fathers did a lot with agriculture and commerce. For us in Ogun State, we are going to the basics."

He explained that his government would take advantage of the proximity of Ogun to Lagos to attract investors to the state.

Mrs. Oputu said the investors were in the state to tap into its economic potential "and add value to agriculture." She expressed joy that the Amosun government had demonstrated the desire "to rebuild and reposition the state."

"Our emphasis is always on the small and medium-scale industries with a focus to creating wealth among the people and making meaningful impact towards the development of our society. We are in

Ogun State because there is land mass waiting to be tapped into," she said.

Earlier, Amosun had received the management of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) in his office where he pledged that his administration would collaborate with all stakeholders to stamp out examination malpractice among students in the state.

The governor charged the body not to relent in its efforts to fight against vice so that the falling standard of education in the country could be arrested.

The governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG),

Taiwo Adeoluwa, said the zero tolerance for examination malpractice had been yielding results and enjoined stakeholders in the sector to complement the efforts of the state government by providing qualitative education for the youths.

Amosun, who decried the mass failure of students in the

just released WASSCE results, urged collective action against the trend.

The leader of the team, Mr. Akin Olamusi, lauded the state government for giving education more attention and listed the state government's recent payment of students' examination fees as commendable.

NOA leads campaign against filth in Jigawa

From **John Akubo**, Dutse

THE National Orientation Agency (NOA) is at the forefront of a campaign to rid Jigawa State of filth, especially polyethylene bags used for sachet water to reduce their adverse effects on the health of the residents and their environment.

In fact, most Nigerian cities and towns are daily littered with polyethylene bags, which often block drainages and canals resulting in flooding.

NOA Director in the state, Hajia Tani Umar, represented by Malam Sani Abdulrazak, head planning, research and statistics at the launch of "Operation Keep Nigeria Clean" in Dutse, said the culture of disposing off polyethylene bags on the streets is a serious menace that requires the combined efforts of all citizens.

She said since the government alone could not shoulder the responsibility of making the streets free of the bags, which takes a long time to decompose, it makes it imperative for the people to join the crusade.

they aide the spread of air and water-borne diseases.

"Other effects of the polyethylene bags are the blockage of drainages, water canals and the disruption of germination of seeds due to its artificial attributes that make it to last for 500 years to decompose as shown by research thereby threatening food security in the country."

Umar said the agency is saddled with the function of value reorientation in Decree 100 of 1993 hence the need for the campaign targeted at attitudinal change in the disposal of the substance.

The Commissioner for Environment Salisu Dauda, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Isah Muhammed Nassarawa, urged all stakeholders to support the initiative.

The campaign with the theme "Ridding Nigerian streets off polyethylene bags" was carried out with the Ministries of Health, Environment, Jigawa State Environmental Protection Agency (JISEPA), the Red Cross, The Nigerian Security and

Two die in Plateau violence

From **Isa Abdulsalami**, Jos

TWO persons were feared dead yesterday in a fresh sectarian clash at Angwan Rukuba and Duala junctions in Jos North Local Council of Plateau State.

Reports said a commercial motorcyclist who was allegedly stopped by some youth in Angwan Rukuba junction was

killed. He was suspected to be a Muslim of the Hausa-Fulani stock.

When the news got to his kinsmen, they mobilised and killed another resident believed to be a Christian at Duala junction.

The two groups quickly mobilised for full-scale battle but were stopped by the combined team of the security

operatives, who dislodged them. One person was said to have been shot in the leg by the security agents at the scene.

At Angwan Rukuba, where the trouble started, the security men arrested three persons in connection with the first killing. The suspects were taken to the Duala Police Station but the restive youths at

Angwan Rukuba milled around the station demanding the release of the detainees.

The Police Public Relations Officer Apev Jacob, did not respond to calls put to him as he was alleged to be busy.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Dipo Ayeni could not be reached too for his comment on the matter.

Ngige, Abe decry Nigeria's poor business environment, facilities

From **Ann Godwin**, Port Harcourt

SENATOR Chris Ngige of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) has described Nigeria's poor business environment and the collapse

The country is going down, the riots, Boko Haram, militancy are all symptoms of underlined diseased. Poverty is pervasive in the country. The people are no longer satisfied with the system, they see the

attract investments.

Abe said countries which do not have oil have refineries while Nigeria, which is blessed with oil has no plan for functioning refineries."

Abe, who represents Rivers