

quarters, to pay the salary.

3 corps members die in Ekiti

From **OLADELE ADEDAYO, Ado-Ekiti**

THE passing out ceremony of 1,389 2010 batch "B" Corps members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Ekiti state was yesterday celebrated amid tears as three of them were said to have died as a result of accident and illnesses.

The NYSC State Coordinator, Mr. Afolabi Abiola who made the disclosure yesterday in Ado-Ekiti, the state capital said two of the Corps members died as a result of ill health while one died in an auto crash.

Besides, the state coordinator stated that three of the Corps Members were anctioned for various offences ranging from indiscipline to outright abscondment.

He also disclosed that 18 corps members were rewarded for their diligent and exemplary performances during the service year.

The NYSC Coordinator said five corps members received prestigious state honour awards, ten got Chairmanship Commendation award and three bagged State Coordinator's recognition award.

According to him "The NYSC scheme has over the

years been an authentic toll for mobilizing Nigerian youths for national development. It has also served as a profitable platform for impacting in the youth values of nationalism, patriotism, loyalty and accountable leadership."

"I therefore want to commend the efforts of our

corps members in the areas of socio-economic development of Ekiti State."

"Your contributions in health care delivery, education, agriculture, legal aids and infrastructural development have gone a long way in the process of transforming Ekiti State and Nigeria as a whole",

Kwankwaso orders conversion of ministry complex to school

From **MUSTAPHA GIDE, Kano**

Kano State Governor, Engineer Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso has directed the State Ministry of Education to convert the old Ministry of Works (Annex) complex along Ibrahim Taiwo Road in Kano city to a public Secondary School between now and September, 2011.

Governor Kwankwaso gave the directives when he paid an unscheduled visit to the complex, stressing that the directives became imperative considering the necessity to decongest the existing schools in the state as well as to compliment the zeal of his administration in boosting the education sector.

"The project must be

completed on schedule for the prospective beneficiaries to start academic activities in earnest", the governor stressed, instructing that the main gate of the complex be relocated to its eastern side to prevent accidents caused by wanton crossing of the main road by the students.

Dr. Kwankwaso spoke on the need for the construction of an overhead pedestrian bridge along the Kofar Nassarawa - Ibrahim Taiwo road axis to ease movement.

Conducting the Governor round, the permanent Secretary, state Ministry of Health Malam Tajuddeen Gambo explained that the complex would comprise 50 classrooms, administration block, a library, laboratories,

Speaking further, the governor disclosed that "further insight into the finances of the state revealed that the out-gone government dipped its hands into the N3.9 billion which was the amount realized from the sale of government quarters," saying, "the amount had hitherto been penciled down for the cushioning of pensioners' sufferings".

Governor Ajimobi maintained that "in its bid to fritter off this heritage, the out-gone

increase".

"With pains, this administration made it known to the labour leaders that, unless government's earnings significantly improved, it would be impossible for it to pay the new minimum wage. For instance, the administration took labour on a journey into Lagos State earnings and informed it that the state's monthly Internally Generated Revenue alone stands at N20 billion, on the average. Out of this, the state pays its monthly wage bill of N5 billion, which is 25% of its IGR, leaving a substantial portion of its IGR - specifically 75% - and the Statutory Allocation from the Federation Account, to target infrastructural development.

Conversely in Oyo State, however, 400 per cent of the state's IGR will be needed to implement the payment of salaries as demanded by labour," the governor noted.

Governor Ajimobi while thanking traditional rulers, religious leaders, retired permanent secretaries, Heads of Service and community leaders in the state for their intervention which prevented industrial disharmony in the state assured that there will be no going back in his administration's determination "to reposition our dear state, to reform it and transform it," saying, "We will tackle decay in infrastructure headlong and bring smiles to the generality of our people".

play ground, assembly hall, toilets and workshops among other things.

While assuring of readiness to commerce work on the project soon, the Permanent Secretary told the Governor that because of the good quality of the most of the existing buildings, they would not be demolished but would be renovated to suit the architectural needs of the school.

Meanwhile, the Governor and his deputy Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje were at the Ado Bayero House, the State ICT Park for inspection and were conducted round by the Permanent Secretary of the State Ministry of Science and Technology, Alhaji Auwalu Zubairu Galadanchi.