**Text of the Address Delivered**

**By**

**His Excellency**

**Mr. Biodun Oyebanji**

**Governor, Ekiti State**

**at the**

**WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY CELEBRATION**

**Ado-Ekiti|Saturday|October 05, 2024.**

**PROTOCOLS:**

1. It gives me a lot of excitement to be here today in celebration of our erudite teachers. Today’s occasion was established to celebrate and pay tribute to the great work that teachers do in our society as an enduring agent of civilization, source of professional development and soldiers against illiteracy and ignorance.
2. More importantly, this occasion, is for me, an avenue to celebrate Ekiti teachers who are at the center of our human capital development initiative. I therefore want to thank you for your resilience, dedication and commitment to our human capital development agenda. Our Government is grateful for your service to our State in spite of inadequate resources. We salute your dedication in the face of many challenges.
3. Great Teachers, as a profession, teaching is not just a profession for making a living, it is a noble calling that demands utmost dedication, integrity, discipline and passion. You are like the mother who lovingly and dedicatedly nurtures her children to adulthood. Like the candle, you burn yourself to light up your environment.
4. You are like the tree planter who exercises a lot of perseverance, patience and endurance to see his plants bear beautiful fruits. I, therefore, want to express my appreciation to all the stakeholders in education sector, such as: the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools (ASUSS) and Association of Public School Head Teachers of Nigeria (APSHON) for being professional, selfless and cooperative at all times.

4.​Let me note that the theme of this year’s celebration *“Valuing Teachers’ Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education”* resonates well with our emplaced inclusive governance and avowed commitment to the wellbeing of our teachers and infrastructuraldevelopment of our public schools as evidenced in our various policies and multi-pronged interventions.

5.​In spite of our overburdened financial position, Ekiti State is a trail-blazer in good governance and human development. Since the inception of our administration, we have placed high premium on regular and timely payment of teachers’ salaries and other personnel emoluments, ensured local and international trainings to further equip our teachers with the requisite skills and knowledge to ensure an excellent learning environment.

6.​It is on record that our administration has initiated Car and Housing Loans Schemes for Primary School teachers, ensured distribution of laptop computers to Public Secondary Schools to support digital literacy and innovation programme, recruited an ample number of teachers/tutors at Primary, Secondary, Colleges and Special Schools levels to mitigate the consequential personnel gap, regular disbursement of revolving housing/car loans to eligible secondary school teachers, among several other incentives.

7.​There is no gainsaying the fact that this administration has irrevocably committed itself to building infrastructure that would ensure serene and conducive environment for learning at both primary and secondary schools. Through the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE), World Bank assisted project, many of our public schools’ buildings have been refurbished and perimeter fences have been constructed in line with our safe school initiative.

1. ​I am also glad to that we have fulfilled our promise to address the issue career progression for teachers in primary schools by approving their advancement from grade level 15 to grade level 16 so as to bring them to a parallel peak with their counterparts in the Civil Service. It is our hope that this lofty career enhancement will promote job satisfaction and fulfillment among our primary school teachers. I want to assure you that we will continue to play our part for improved welfare packages for all categories of teachers in the State public schools.
2. Before I end this address, I want to sternly warn all school managers at all levels that Government has zero tolerance to examination malpractice and that investigations are ongoing to look into some of the allegation of connivance in the promotion of examination malpractice in some schools which led to the seizure of the results of senior secondary school certificate examination. I have not sent any school manager to impress me with bogus result to prove anything to me. We are not in phony competition to earn fake glory that is cancerous to the future of our young ones. Ekiti has had a great name as a land of scholarship, learning and integrity, we will not tolerate any unwholesome and unethical practice from any school or staff that could tarnish this glorious reputation.

9.​I therefore appeal to you to continue to do your best to give our students the best they deserve in learning. I urge you to remain committed to the human capital development agenda of this administration.

10.​Once again, I appreciate you all for making the celebration worthwhile and memorable.

11.​Thank you and God bless.

**Biodun Oyebanji**

**Governor**

**October 5, 2024**

**Ado-Ekiti**