



Text of the Remark
By
His Excellency
Mr. Biodun Oyebanji
Governor, Ekiti State

At the
**INAUGURATION OF HIGH COURT BUILDING COMPLEX DONATED TO THE
EKITI STATE JUDICIARY BY CHIEF WOLE OLANIPEKUN, SAN, CFR**

Venue: High Court Premises
Ikere-Ekiti| Ekiti State |Thursday| January 19, 2023

Protocols

1. It is my delight to be here to witness the inauguration of the High Court Complex donated by a very distinguished son of Ikere and a worthy Ekiti patriot, Chief Oluwole Olanipekun, *SAN, CFR*. Today's event is very significant for Ekiti Judiciary, the Government and people of Ekiti State, and I am sure it means a lot for Chief Olanipekun himself.
 2. The significance of this occasion can be found in the fact this is definitely unprecedented in the history of our State and nothing bears an eloquent testimony to this than the cream of the witnesses at today's event.
 3. I therefore want to congratulate Chief Wole Olanipekun, *SAN* and his wife on this occasion. Let me, on behalf of Ekiti State Judiciary and Ekiti State Government in general, express my profound appreciation to him for the generous donation of this magnificent edifice which is another remarkable contribution to his long list of such public-spirited donations to the society.
 4. I have known Chief Wole Olanipekun for quite a while. In Ekiti State, aside Aare Afe Babalola, I am yet to find a man who finds satisfaction in giving back to his place of birth as he does. His signature act of kindness can be found in every aspect of his life in Ikere-Ekiti. I am aware of his immense role to the transformation of the then College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti to Bamidele Olumilua University of Science and Technology. His doggedness and commitment to see the University succeed led to his appointment as the first Chancellor of the University
-



after a similar appointment in the University of Ibadan where Chief left an enduring legacy.

5. And in line with his determination, Chief Wole Olanipekun has led the leading lights of this community to donate major infrastructure to ease the teething challenges associated with newly established institution of higher learning like the University. Of course, he has similarly donated fully equipped building to his secondary school alma mater, the Amoye Grammar School, Ikere-Ekiti in the past.
6. As a devout Anglican Christian, he is a major patron of the Church and has donated buildings to the Church at different times in the past. I am also aware of his generous supports to the Nigeria Bar Association Ikere-Ekiti branch in terms of infrastructure and regular sponsorship of its activities.
7. Similarly, for the glory of this ancient town than commercial consideration, Chief Olanipekun established the only radio station outside Ekiti State capital here in Ikere-Ekiti some years ago. This is apart from his numerous humanitarian and economic empowerment programmes for many people through education scholarship, startup capital and other form of social investments in the lives of the vulnerable, through the Wole Olanipekun Foundation and Wole Olanipekun Scholarship Programme. I attended the Saturday November 12, 2022 programme in Ikere and was pleasantly shocked at the mileage achieved by the two programmes.
8. There is no doubt that Chief Olanipekun is a man who takes pleasure in giving back to the society and institutions that once nurtured him. This is yet another demonstration of his commitment to giving back to the Law Profession where he has made his mark as a distinguished member of the Bar and the Bench
9. As a people who are in need of urgent development, Chief Olanipekun has given us a legacy to copy. I want to therefore, call on all Ekiti indigenes all over the world to emulate this act of generous giving back. If we all look back at our family houses, our communities, our primary and secondary schools, our worship places and other places that once contributed to whom we are, and give back, we will have a better Ekiti of our dream.
10. There is no doubt that the task of developing Ekiti cannot be solely that of the Government alone, as individuals, we can chose to pick on something of interest in our community and make a significant impact in the lives of our people.



11. As Government, our administration understands the importance of law and order to the progress and development of our State. We are committed to effective administration of justice that serves the public by ensuring that the condition of our courts and the welfare of the judicial officers are well attended to. This government has partnered with the Judiciary to improve the business environment by being one of the first States to create a Small Claims Court for the settlement of commercial matters, which will provide comfort to lenders, and improve medium enterprises.
12. In addition to this, the government is working on two Executive Bills to be forwarded to the House of Assembly, namely: Ekiti State Wealth Fund Bill, as well as the Ekiti State Startup Bill. The Ekiti Wealth Fund Bill will ensure the State establishes a proper savings culture, while the Startup Bill will ensure the State creates an enabling environment for startups in Ekiti complementing the Ekiti Knowledge Zone project.
13. There is no doubt that our judicial system is one of the most progressive and innovative in the country and our judges, some of the most courageous and erudite. This is in spite of obvious inadequacies. I want to therefore thank you all for your commendable sacrifices in spite of obvious challenges in the sector. We are committed to creating an enabling environment for a seamless dispensation of justice.
14. It is my hope that with more resources available to the State, the current financial autonomy of the Judiciary will bring about the envisaged rapid transformation of the Justice sector in the State.
15. Finally, I want to once again thank Chief Olanipekun and his wife for this edifice and to congratulate the Ekiti State Judiciary on this brand new court complex. I hope that the building will be well maintained to encourage Chief to do more. May all who will work and seek justice here do so with the same spirit of generosity of the donor and may God continue to bless him.
16. Thank you for listening.

Biodun Oyebanji

Governor

January 19, 2023 | Ikere-Ekiti