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

**at the**

**SIGNING OF THE THREE SECTOR REFORM BILLS (RURAL ACCESS AND ROAD AUTHORITY, THE STATE ROAD FUND) OF EKITI RAAMP AND EKITI STATE WEALTH FUND BILL INTO LAW**

Ado-Ekiti | Ekiti State | Monday | June 5, 2023.

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**PROTOCOLS:**

1. Today is a momentous occasion as we gather here to witness the signing of three significant sector reform bills into law. It is with great pleasure and a sense of fulfilment that I stand before you to inaugurate the Rural Access and Road Authority, the State Road Fund, both vital components of the Ekiti Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) and the Ekiti State Wealth Fund Bill.
  2. These reform bills mark a major milestone in our commitment to transforming the infrastructure landscape and lay a very solid economic foundation for our beloved state. They signify our resolute dedication to improving the lives of our people, especially those in rural areas who have long yearned for enhanced connectivity, better access to vital services and the vulnerable whom have been negatively affected by various government policies.
  3. The Rural Access and Road Authority (RARA), established through this Law, will serve as the engine driving the development and maintenance of rural roads in Ekiti State. It will be responsible for planning, implementing, and monitoring the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of class C and D rural road networks in Ekiti State, through which we aim to foster economic growth, facilitate the transportation of goods and services, and ultimately uplift the standard of living for our rural communities.
  4. Additionally, the State Road Fund (SRF), as established by the second Law, will provide a sustainable financing mechanism for the maintenance and rehabilitation of our class B, class C, and class D road infrastructure. This dedicated fund will ensure that we have the necessary resources to carry out timely repairs, thus prolonging the lifespan of our roads and minimizing disruptions to transportation networks. We envision a state where our
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roads are not only well-built but also well-maintained, ensuring smooth and safe travel for our citizens.

5. The Ekiti State Wealth Fund Law is our bold attempt to put in place the building blocks for sustainable growth and development. It is a combination of Infrastructure, future generations and Investment Fund to drive our shared prosperity agenda.
6. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Speaker, Principal Officers and members of the Ekiti State House of Assembly for their diligent efforts in reviewing and passing these reform bills. Your commitment to the welfare of our people and your tireless work in crafting legislation that reflects the needs and aspirations of Ekiti State is commendable.
7. I also extend my gratitude to the World Bank System especially the Country Director and his team for witnessing this historic occasion. Also worthy of mentioning are the Task Team Leader (TTL), the National Coordinator RAAMP, other members of the Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU), State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU), Members of the State Executive Council, and, various stakeholders who have contributed their expertise and insights during the formulation of these bills. Your valuable input has shaped the final versions of the legislation and has ensured that they align with our vision of a prosperous and inclusive Ekiti State.
8. As we witness the signing of these bills into law today, let it be known that this is just the beginning of a transformative journey. The implementation and operationalization of these reforms will require concerted efforts from all stakeholders involved. It will demand coordination, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Together, we can build a stronger and more resilient Ekiti State, where no community is left behind and where progress knows no bounds.
9. In conclusion, I reaffirm our administration's commitment to the effective implementation of these sector reform Laws. We will ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance in the utilization of resources earmarked for rural road development and maintenance. Let us move forward hand in hand, guided by the spirit of unity and the unwavering belief that a better, more prosperous future awaits us.
10. Thank you, and God bless Ekiti State.

**Biodun Oyebanji**  
**Governor**