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Text of the Speech  
*Delivered By*  
**Hon. Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji**  
Governor, Ekiti State

at the  
Commissioning of the New Council Chamber of the Ekiti Council of Traditional Rulers  
Governor's Office

Ado-Ekiti | Ekiti State | Friday, July 21, 2022

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**Protocols:**

1. It gives me a lot of joy to be here today to witness the historic task of commissioning this hallowed Chamber of Ekiti Council of Traditional Rulers by the Chairman of the Council, the Onisan of Isan-Ekiti. Today marks an important milestone in our State and it gladdens my heart that history has been kind to me to be the Governor that will bring this to bear in Ekiti State.
  2. The demand for a more befitting Council Chamber for our Traditional Rulers to hold their Statutory and Committee meetings have been on for long. Indeed, I was in attendance in one of the meetings as the Secretary to the Government in the immediate past administration when the then Council Chairman, HRM Oba (Sir) Oluwole Ademolaju, the Oloye of Oye-Ekiti made a passionate appeal to my predecessor that he would want to be the Chairman that would lay the foundation stone of the Chamber but then the question of appropriate location was yet to be determined.
  3. At his inauguration as the Chairman of the Council on August 15, 2019, Oba Ajibade Alabi, the Alawe of Ilawe-Ekiti, made a renewed request to the Government for a befitting Council Chamber in his acceptance speech. Consequently, this location was approved and the foundation of the project was laid by my predecessor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi on October 15, 2019. The contract was awarded with a contract execution period of twelve months. Unfortunately, COVID-19 broke out and stalled the progress of the work which also led to the contractor asking for a contract variation that pushed the initial contract sum up by about 120%, a situation which the Government considered as outrageous. At that time, the project had reached 35% completion but since the contractor would not return to site, Government had to terminate the contract and adopted direct labour to complete the job. Consequently, government mobilized the Bureau of Special Projects in December, 2022 to resume the continuation of the project with a mandate to finish within six months. It is to the glory of God and my utmost joy that I have the privilege of completing this historic project that will be commissioned for use, today.
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4. I am glad to inform you that this Chamber can sit at least 145 people and that it is fitted with quality furniture and electronic devices to make meeting easy. Apart from the main Chamber, the building has two floors of office accommodation. The ground floor houses Council Chairman's office, conference room for meetings and office of the Secretary to the Chairman. The second floor houses the office of the Executive Secretary, Directors and Staff of the Bureau of Chieftaincy Affairs.
  5. The Chamber is well ventilated with air conditioning system in adequacy with spacious conveniences. The compound is fenced, well gated and has a large car park to conveniently park many cars. To ensure constant power supply, the building has a 100kva standby power generating set that is capable of powering the whole building and more. There is also an independent borehole water supply fitted with 5000 liters of water to ensure constant water supply. In total, this project has cost the Government the sum of **Three Hundred and Eight-four Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-one Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-five Naira and Eighty-one Kobo (₦384,321,825.21)**.
  6. I want to therefore congratulate all the past Chairmen of Council who worked tirelessly to ensure that we have this beautiful Chamber today. I want to particularly congratulate HRM Oba Gabriel Adejuwon Ayodele, the current Chairman whose tenure of office will come to end in a couple of days, for this achievement during his tenure.
  7. Royal Majesties, I am glad Ekiti is about the first State to have such a magnificent edifice like this, solely as Council Chamber for the Traditional Rulers in the South West, apart from Oyo State which inherited the old Western Nigeria House of Chiefs. Our commitment to have a structure like this for our Royal Fathers was borne out of our appreciation of the role of our traditional rulers play as critical stakeholders in the peaceful administration of our dear State.
  8. I personally have profound respect for the Ekiti traditional institution because of the pivotal role our royal fathers played during the quest for the creation of this State. This is in addition to the roles of the traditional rulers as development enablers, arbitrators, conciliators and peacemakers. Apart from being the symbol of our cultural identity, the contribution of our royal fathers to the peace, progress and stability of our State cannot be estimated.
  9. Our Royal Fathers therefore deserve the best from us. This is the minimum we can do show our token of appreciation for your commitment and sacrifices. As Government, we will continue to support the Council. More importantly, I am personally convinced that the traditional council is more balanced, independent of partisan censorship and equitable in representation than the State Executive and Legislative Council for that matter.



10. The quality of minds here is highly rich, diverse and sound. Here, you have distinguished people from different walks of life such as retired senior civil servants, retired judges, lawyers, academics of note, business moguls, diplomats, surveyors, architects, security experts, engineers, economists, accountants, former government officials, bankers, farmers, entertainers and what have you. There is no Council that is as rich with brilliant, experienced and courageous individuals as the Traditional Council of any State.
11. Yours is a Council of highly intelligent, cerebral and sagely personalities where truth is spoken with candor and wisdom guides every uttered word. You are our pride and heritage, and we will continue to do our best to support your service to our people.
12. Your Majesties, even as we rejoice in the delivery of this Council Chamber, I want to reiterate my commitment to my other promises to you, particularly the issues around your welfare which need to be enhanced. We are indeed committed to fulfilling all our promises to our Royal Fathers.
13. Before I end this address, I want to quickly appeal to you to assist the Government in communicating the policy of subsidy removal on petrol motor spirit, (PMS) and the predictable initial hardship that we are experiencing. This is the teething state of the policy, things will get better very soon. The President is mindful of the effects on income and salary earners generally.
14. To ameliorate this, a cluster of palliative measures are being planned, just as salary increase is being discussed with the relevant stakeholders nationally. With the removal of subsidy, it sure that the federation account will post better allocation and this will ultimately percolate to everyone very soon.
15. We therefore appeal to our people not to be despair and turn to desperate measures. We are committed to their best interest and we will ensure life is made easier in so many ways.
16. I also appeal to you to continue to be our ears and eyes and not to hesitate to reach us whenever you need to advise us. We must continue to sustain the relative peace currently being experienced in our State. I also urge you to continue to support the security agencies in the fight against insecurity.
17. Finally, I want to congratulate all the Council members and to thank you for your unwavering support to our Government at all times. I wish Your Royal Majesties successful deliberations in the Chamber.
18. Thank you and God bless

**Biodun Oyebanji**  
**Governor**

July 21, 2023 | Ado-Ekiti