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*Text of the Address by*

*His Excellency*

**Dr. Kayode Fayemi, CON**

*Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria*

on the occasion of the

**INAUGURATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE COVID-19 ACTION RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS (STATE CARES) PROGRAMME**

Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State

*Monday, June 22, 2020*

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**Protocols**

1. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion of the inauguration of the Committee on the State COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (State CARES) Programme. The State CARES Programme is a World Bank Support Programme aimed at mitigating the effect of the novel COVID-19 pandemic.
2. According to the guidelines to the programme, it is expected to commence with the setting-up of a State CARES Team which is why we are here today. Consequently, a 10-person State CARES



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Team has been carefully selected to drive the programme in Ekiti State.

3. Let me use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the World Bank and other Development Partners for their tremendous support to Ekiti State. The effort of the World Bank, particularly, in the areas of People's Empowerment, Education, Community Development, among others cannot be over-emphasised. For emphasis, the Public Sector Governance Reform Development Programmes, the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) programme-for-Result and the State Education Programme Investment Project (SEPIP), RAAMP and NEWMAP are few of the World Bank projects in Ekiti State.
4. Today, Ekiti State has a Single Register (SR) of the poor and the vulnerable from which the poorest of the poor can be mined for participation in the Government Social Investment Programme. The register has really assisted the State for its various social investment programmes, including but not limited to “Owo Arugbo”, our Conditional Cash Transfer and distribution of food packs as palliative to thousands of households across the sixteen (16) Local Government Areas of our dear State.
5. As we are all aware, Coronavirus has since spread to over 200 countries of the world, including Nigeria. As a responsible government, we prepared ahead of the virus in Ekiti State by sensitizing our people on the need to stay safe and contain the



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virus. Eventually when the virus manifested in Ekiti State we took and are still taking necessary measures to prevent the State from having community spread. The government was not unmindful of the effect of the hardship fighting COVID-19 inflicted on the people, we therefore embarked on distribution of food items to the vulnerable ones in the State. Once again, I use this opportunity to appreciate Corporate Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and good spirited individuals who assisted the State to cushion the effect of COVID-19 on people whose socio-economic activities were affected during the total lockdown. I want to particularly commend the State COVID-19 Response Resource Mobilisation Committee for their relentless effort in combating the pandemic.

6. The pandemic practically affected the global economy and dealt a deadly blow on socio-economic activities of the nations of the World. The developing and emerging third nations are the worst hit. The Federal Government in collaboration with the World Bank, has developed the State Cares Programme to cushion the effect of the pandemic most especially on the vulnerable in the society.
7. The World Bank in response to and partnership with State governments will intervene, through the State COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (State CARES) committee being inaugurated today in the following areas in Ekiti State:



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- Social Assistance known as Cash Transfer to the poor or the vulnerable;
  - The FADAMA Programme where the World Bank will support in the area of production of seedlings, fertilizer and provision of Agricultural infrastructure;
  - Household micro and small enterprise support programme.
8. The programme is aimed at achieving the following, among others:
- Enhanced delivery of social safety net, social assistance and basic services;
  - Increasing food security and safe functioning of food supply chain;
  - Facilitating recovery of household and micro enterprises and preventing their collapse.
9. I urge the members of the Committee to see the appointment as another call to serve their State. You are chosen based on your portfolio, commitment and dedication to duties. Another test is here, do not betray the trust we all have in you. Be more committed and be more selfless while discharging your assigned roles. The interest of the people and the State should be far above any personal interest. May God help you all.



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**10.** Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, permit me to introduce members of the State COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (State CARES) committee to you:

- i. Hon. Femi Ajayi (Commissioner for Budget & Economic Planning) –Chairman
- ii. Hon. Akin Oyebode (Special Adviser on Investment, Trade and Innovation) –Member
- iii. Mrs. Margaret Fagboyo (Special Adviser, Development Partnerships) –Member
- iv. Dr. Yemi Alatise (Chairman, Ekiti State Community & Social Development Agency) –Member
- v. Mrs. Okunlola Olayemi (Programme Coordinator, FADAMA) – Member
- vi. Mr. Olawale Lawal (Head of Operations, Conditional Cash Transfer unit) – Member
- vii. Mr. Ariyo Oladele (Admin. Officer, YESSO) -Member
- viii. Mr. Kolawole Matthew Omoyemi (Head of Public Workfare, YESSO) –Member
- ix. Mrs. Feyisayo Yemisi Arogundade (Women Empowerment/Poverty Alleviation Programmes) –Member
- x. Mr. O.R. Ajanaku (Rep. of the Min. of Investment) Member/Secretary.



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**11.** The Team has the mandate to work out the modalities that will enable the State to benefit from the World Bank's post COVID-19 intervention programme.

**12.** The Committee is also saddled with the responsibilities of coordinating and delivering system to scale-up emergency support, regulating guidelines to support effectiveness and sustainability of livelihood and food security activities, capacity building and necessary guidelines to enable the State achieve the Seven Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs).

**13.** While congratulating the Team members, I enjoin you to put in your best to make the Programme successful in Ekiti State.

**14.** I pray that God will grant you all the needed wisdom and sound health as you embark on this assignment to help our State.

**15.** On this note, on behalf of the Government and the good people of Ekiti State, I have the honour and the privilege to inaugurate the State COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (State CARES) programme to the glory of God and benefit of humanity.

**16.** Thank you and bless you all.

**Dr. Kayode Fayemi, CON**

*Governor*