

16th May 2010 Nigeria - ONDO State was weekend, rated top among 35 other states of the Federation and Abuja in the implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme and Millennium Development Goals, NHIS-MDG programmes.

A consultant to the NHIS in the South West, Dr Kolawole Owoka, said this during the presentation of cheques to some health institutions in six local government areas of the State.

According to Owoka, of the N250 million expected as counterpart fund from each of the six states in the South West, only Ondo State had advanced the sum of N70 million and about 72,000 people had been registered under the NHIS in the State.

While disclosing that the NHIS was spending N4 billion for the programme, the NHIS Consultant noted that "Ondo State stands a chance of receiving a whopping N521million out of the N4 billion. The scheme was initiated with the aim of tackling the challenges in the health sector. The current target is to attend to the vulnerable groups in the society like pregnant women, children below the age of five, pensioners and people with different forms of disabilities."

He said the money distributed to the six local government areas would be spent on the procurement of necessary drugs and medical equipment and charged the concerned local governments to set up 7-man committees to monitor the activities of health workers in their respective council areas.

Responding, Governor Olusegun Mimiko re-affirmed his administration's commitment to investment in the vital sector towards reduction in the current high rate of infant and maternal mortality in the state.

According to the governor, the success of the programme depended largely on the commitment of the Chairmen of the benefitting local governments and advised them to take vital and appropriate decisions at the right time to avoid unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks.

He said, "Health Care is like a war situation, you need a General to take right decisions, I want to advise you our benefitting council Chairmen to key into this programme. Certainly, if all the stakeholders in this project are transparent in their duties, it will be a huge success"

Dr Mimiko charged them not to abandon their financial responsibility by budgeting for the health facilities as a result of the development, which he referred to as complimentary and urged them to ensure proper utilization of the fund.

The governor said "I want to advise our benefiting Council Chairmen to key into this programme. Certainly, if all the stakeholders in this project are transparent in their duties, it will be a huge success."

He reminded and urged them not to abandon their financial responsibilities by ensuring that budgets are made for the health facilities adding that proper utilization of this funds must be

made.

The six benefiting local government councils in the State are: Akure South, Owo, Akoko South West, Irele, Ondo West and Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo.

Source: [Vanguard](#)