

ONI WARNS SABOTEURS OF WATER SCHEME

Contributed by Lere Olayinka
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Ekiti State Governor, Engr. Segun Oni has warned that stiff sanctions await any one found trying to sabotage his administration's water policy under which production facilities in four major dams have been leased out to private companies for increased productivity.

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Wale Ojo-Lanre said in a statement that Governor Oni, who gave the warning during a with some stakeholders in Ado-Ekiti yesterday, accused certain individuals who had over the years been involved in the pilfering of diesel and

water treatment chemicals in the various water schemes across the state of being behind the plot.

He said his administration would not allow some selfish and desperate individuals to reverse the successes so far federation.

"Government has been spending a lot of money on the production of water in the past and there was nothing to show for it. A lot has been spent on the procurement of diesel and water treatment chemicals. Half of these crucial inputs have been going into the pockets of some fraudulent officials since the creation of the state longer business as usual. These characters as well as the political party supporting them are now blackmailing us that corporation.

"Everyone in Ekiti knows that we leased out the production facilities at the dams to competent companies to ensure efficiency in the production of water while the water corporation is still saddled with quality control and distribution to members of the public. The decision was taken after series of meetings with important stakeholders and competitive bidding. We are happy and grateful to God for what we did because it is already a success and other states are now showing interest in our initiative," Oni said.

The Governor noted that the companies running the dams had made remarkable progress since the facilities were early this year as the volume of water being produced has increased dramatically.

"You would not believe the authorities of the Water Corporation had been running the Itapaji Dam on diesel since it was established in 1974. In less than two months, the concessionaire has reconnected the dam to the national grid. It is a similar story at Ero Dam where only one pump was working when we leased it out. Today the company running

the place has now made sure that four pumps are working in the place.

"There will be water, a lot of places which hitherto did not have water now have water. We are not there yet but we are certainly almost there because serious minded people who are working hard are now in charge of water production at our dams .

“Government cannot successfully run the water plants. Adebayo tried it, he failed. Fayose tried it, he failed woefully. Fayose believed that the solution was to buy one or two rickety tankers and start vending water of the least four states in the country are presently understudying what we are doing, so it is already a success,” the governor said.

Oni advised the critics of his administration to be objective in their criticism “We have been in opposition between 1999 and 2004, whenever we criticised the then government in the state, we were objective in our criticism. We even complimented the state government. We didn’t criticise for the sake of criticising like our friends in the other side of the divide who see every thing that our government does as criminal. We even complimented the state government. For instance, I personally ensured that the ETF made immense contributions to state-owned public schools and tertiary institutions in Ekiti state during the tenure of former Governor Adebayo. It also on record that the first letter in the project file of the 132/33 KV substation Ado-Ekiti was written by me during the Adebayo-administration”, he said.