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OOPC 'll remain reference point in Palm Oil production -ODSG

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By **Smile Igbekele & Kemi Olatunde**



Ondo State Government has reiterated its commitment towards ensuring

that the Okitipupa Oil Palm Company (OOPC), Okitipupa continues to function to capacity, while remaining a reference point in oil palm production across the continent.

The State Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Chief Ayo Abiola made the assertion during a meeting with staff of the Okitipupa Oil Palm Company (OOPC) and stakeholders at the company's headquarters in Okitipupa on Wednesday.

He confirmed that the Governor's interest in making the company bounce back to life is what he (the Governor) wishes to achieve.

"His interest, despite of not being a native of the area has been very high to turn the place around.

"Past administrations in the state have failed to really inject into the company what could bring it back to its old glory.

Abiola asserted that the company is an inestimable asset which needs to be treasured jealously by all stakeholders.

"No reason why the company should not have black-soap making department, engage in palm kernel cracking and production of kernel oil as detergent which only requires caustic soda and palm oil," he wondered.

He reasoned that if Araromi/Ayesan is now producing at about 200 percent capacity without uprooting palm trees, no reason why the OOPC will not survive, warning that everybody involved must play his own role in the process.

The Commissioner, while praising the Managing Director, Engineer Omoniyi Ogunwa Oboli for a job well done, promised to address the problems facing the company.

Earlier in his address, Ogunwa, who enumerated problems of the company as finance for multipurpose, expired life span of trees, moribund mills, illegal harvesting of the fruits in the estates, land matters and boardroom conflicts presented recommendations to the Commissioner.

His recommendation included privatisation of the company to allow investors inject funds into the system, reconciliation of the Ondo State Investment Holding and a reviewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the host communities as a priority.

He informed his visitor that he has embarked on diversification into production of fish and poultry to generate more income.

On behalf of the stakeholders present, a member of the land owners, Princess Bukola Abilawon thanked the Commissioner for his readiness to move the company forward.

She applauded Oboli for his efforts at taking OOPC to the next level through good rapport with the land owners.

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