

THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE WORLD WATER DAY ORGANISED BY THE OGUN STATE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH NESTLE NIGERIA PLC HELD AT THE OBAS COMPLEX, STATE SECRETARIAT, OKE-MOSAN, ABEOKUTA ON TUESDAY 22ND MARCH, 2022 WITH THE THEME: "GROUND WATER: MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE".

COMMUNIQUE

The maiden edition of the World Water Day celebration held on 22nd March, 2022 in Ogun State with the theme: "**Ground Water: Making the invisible visible**". The meeting was declared opened by The Deputy Governor of Ogun State Her Excellency, Engr. (Mrs.) Noimot Oyedele-Salako who was represented by Hon. Kola Salako, S.A to the Governor (Deputy Governor's Office).

2. The meeting had 253 participants in attendance from diverse Organizations (Private, Public and Academic) in Nigeria, notably: the Deputy Governor of Ogun State her Excellency, Engr. (Mrs.) Noimot Oyedele-Salako who was represented by Hon. Kola Salako, S.A to the Governor (Deputy Governor's Office), Ogun State Head of Service, Dr. Nafiu Aigoro; Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Mr. Ola Oresanya, represented by Mr. Olatunji Egbemuyiwa; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment, Engr. R.O. Ojetola FNSE, FNIEE; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Rural Development, Mr. Tunji Kanimodo; The General Manager Water Corporation represented by Engr. Kamil Okedara; Managing Director, Nestle Nigeria Plc. represented by Mrs. Gloria Nwabuike (Category and Marketing Manager), Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN) represented by the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Motunrayo Elegberun, Honourable Lanre Jaji from Association of Water Well Drilling Rig Owners and Practitioners (AWDROP), The Managing Director, Ogun – Oshun River Basin Development Authority, Mr. Olufemi Odumosu.

3. The Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Mr. Ola Oresanya, represented by Mr. Olatunji Egbemuyiwa; gave the keynote address while goodwill messages were received from: The General Manager Water Corporation represented by Engr. Kamil Okedara; Managing Director, Nestle Nigeria Plc. represented by Mrs. Gloria Nwabuike (Category and Marketing Manager), Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN) represented by the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Motunrayo Elegberun, Honourable Lanre Jaaji from Association of Water Well Drilling Rig Owners and Practitioners (AWDROP) and The Managing Director, Ogun – Oshun River Basin Development Authority, Mr. Olufemi Odumosu.

4. *After extensive deliberation and key points from each of the presentations, the following resolutions were reached:*

- While the State Government is making effort at making potable water available to all residents, there is a need for conservative usage.

- The groundwater extraction control scheme is established towards sustainable utilization of groundwater resources in the State, therefore all concerned stakeholders are to cooperate fully for its implementation.
- All water service providers throughout the value chain must make the provision of water in safe quality and quantity their principal objectives.
- It is observed that there is an alienable nexus between Water, Sanitation and burden of diseases and death thus Government should ensure that population have access to clean, safe and quality water.
- Local Experts should be engaged more in the water drilling industry in view of their competitive advantage in the area of Local Geology over expatriates.
- There is need for constant monitoring, evaluation and analysis of groundwater by the State Government.
- The State Government must put in place system to regulate the current trend of indiscriminate drilling of boreholes in the State considering the associated potential risk.
- All Organizations utilizing water, particularly groundwater, should put in place sustainability plans and implementation strategies.
- The State in collaboration with academia and private Organizations should develop rain water harvesting system to reduce groundwater extraction.
- Government should increase environmental monitoring to curtail Soil surface water and ground water pollution.
- Groundwater management requires availability of data, thus, the Ministry of Environment should create appropriate data bank on Ground water in the State.
- The Waste Management System and Infrastructures, including disposal sites should be strengthened in a way that will protect groundwater.
- There should be a platform where of actors and operators in the water sector network for the purpose of information, sharing and exchange of best practices.

5. Finally, the panel expressed its profound gratitude to the Governor of Ogun State His Excellency, Prince Dapo Abiodun MFR, Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Mr. Ola Oresanya, the Permanent Secretary Ogun State Ministry of Environment, Engr. R. O. Ojetola FNSE, FNIEE and good people of the State for their hospitality and successful hosting of the maiden edition of World Water Day in Ogun State.

Done this 22nd day of March, 2022 at Obas Complex, Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta, Ogun – State.

Ogun State Ministry of Environment