Ondo govt bans indiscrimate posters, billboards

by Yinka Oladoyinbo, Tribune, 11

Bisi Kolawole

The Ondo State government, on Monday, warned against indiscriminate erection of masts, billboards and pasting of posters in the state with an admonition that tough times now await offenders caught violating this order.

The new chairman of Ondo State Sinage and Advertisement Agency (OSSAA), Mr Kolawole Olabisi, who gave this warning in Akure, while assuming office, noted that such practices would negate and make nonsense of the concerted efforts of the Olusegun Mimiko-led administration in the state in the area of massive urban renewal with the spate of developmental works, going on all over the state.

Specifically, Olabisi, warned that a new era was now in town, stressing that one of the responsibilities of OSSAA is to complement the urban renewal initiatives of the state government by promoting the aesthetic values of cities in particular and the environment in general.

He further stressed that the agency was tasked with responsibility of standardising sinages and regulating indiscriminate erection of billboards, pasting of posters, control of construction and placement of masts in the state, adding that there was need to protect the environment from potential impact of visual blights.

Olabisi disclosed that, there were over 5,000 abandoned billboards and more than 6,200 active ones in the state, adding that in only seven towns, namely Akure, Ondo, Owo, Okitipupa, Ikare and Idanre alone, there are over 240,000 private sinages that must be removed because they have been abandoned and now constitute obstructions and source of great concern to the people of the state.