

Roads: Govt to Pay N150m Compensation to Owners

By: James Sowole, This Day, Live



Gov. Olusegun Mimiko

Following plans by the Ondo State government to dualise the Arakale Road in Akure metropolis, the state government yesterday released an additional N150 million for the payment of compensation to owners of buildings slated for demolition in the area.

The government had earlier paid about N1 billion as compensation to owners of property earlier demolished to pave way for the dualisation exercise.

Speaking with newsmen in Akure, the state Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Mr. Akin Adaramola, said the new compensation to owners of buildings along the road was a result of the dilapidated nature of some of the buildings earlier affected by the exercise.

He said most of the buildings, which were partly demolished earlier, had become death traps along the road, hence the need to demolish the entire structure.

Adaramola, who is the Chairman of Arakale/Owo Roads Relocation and Compensation Committee, said 77 building owners along Arakale Road had been compensated in the second phase of the exercise while 27 people have not picked up their cheques.

“After the first phase of compensation was paid to building owners along Arakale road, Arakale was seen in a different way. Many of the shops and buildings that were partly demolished were no longer attractive.

“After the demolition, most of the shops no longer benefit the road. In short, these buildings have become dangerous for human habitation because almost three-quarter of the buildings have been partly demolished,” he said.

Similarly, the Commissioner hinted that about 150 building owners that would be affected for the Owo Township Road dualisation had been invited to appear before the committee for claimers’ interview slated for October 8.

He explained that government would only demolish buildings on the Owo road after the owners of such structures have been duly compensated.

Adaramola appealed to owners of buildings on the Owo/ Arakale dualisation exercise to come forward for their claims in order not to delay work on the roads as dry season approaches.