

**A WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MRS. ATINUKE OSUNKOYA, THE
HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AT
2018 HUMAN TRFFICKING DAY CELEBRATION, ORGANISED BY LIVE
ABUNDANTLY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE HELD AT CIVIC CENTRE, IDI-APE,
IBADAN ON MONDAY, 30TH JULY, 2018.**

PROTOCOLS

I'm delighted to welcome you all to this special occasion marking the 2018 World Day Against Human Trafficking.

This event is held annually globally on this day, the 30th of July. It was first adopted in 2011 by United Nation member States to raise awareness and increase the prevention of human trafficking and modern day slavery. Both of these issues were highly prevalent globally across international borders – and unfortunately they still are, especially in Western Africa and specifically in Nigeria.

Human Trafficking involves the recruitment, transporting or harboring of people into a situation of exploitation against their will, through the use of violence, deception or coercion. So, this year's occasion is not only relevant but necessary following the unprecedented increase in human trafficking cases. There is a rising determination to end this scourge, which has lead to a growth in movements against sexual harassment, violence, hard labour and discrimination against victims. There is no gainsaying that victims of trafficking are forced into these situations with no reward or support, as well as little chance of escape. Therefore, it is our collective responsibility to raise public awareness and offer adequate aid to victims.

The Oyo State Government under the amiable leadership of His Excellency, Senator Abiola Ajimobi is committed and is working intensely to ensure this menace is heavily resisted and reduced. The State is highly dedicated to both tracking down the perpetrators of these crimes as well as sponsoring various advocacy programs at both the grassroot and the urban centres. Through the State Emergency Management Agency and the Ministry of Women Affairs, victims are counseled and returned to their families especially the recent mass deportation of Nigerians from Libya, of

which a few have been successfully empowered by Oyo State Government.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to appreciate the organizer of this programme. LIVE ABUNDANTLY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE for deeming it fit to partner with Oyo state during the recognition of this day. His Excellency, the State Governor and the First Lady are also appreciated for embracing this programme. Respected listeners, may I use this medium to place on record that, the Governor of Oyo State and the First Lady have made exceptional effort at positively touching the lives of women, children and vulnerable groups to live healthy and productive lives.

Distinguished guests, I welcome you once again and I encourage you to please sit back and learn from today's program which promises to be enjoyable and very informative. At the end of the event, we should have a better understanding of why Human trafficking must be eradicated at all costs.

Thank you for listening, God bless.