

Ogun State Government celebrates Remita

As the federal government e-payment regime for all her contractors and suppliers kicks off this month (January 2009), the Ogun State government has started celebrating her success story in e-payment with Remita. Also, the Lagos State government has adopted Remita for the e-payment of all her pensioners.

Speaking to *Update*, a biweekly publication of Ogun State public service, Babatunde Salawu, the state Accountant-General said "the world has grown into a global village through ICT, and e-payment is the easiest way of payment anywhere, whether in the private or public sector of the economy". He described e-payment as an electronic device which has made both lodging of staff salaries and withdrawal convenient for both government and workers. He disclosed that with the system, workers can withdraw salaries within 6 hours of lodgment as against delayed lodgment of cheques necessitating a waiting period of four to five days before salaries could be cashed.

While alluding to the fact that the old methods of payment were not only time wasting and burdensome, Salawu said that the e-payment has brought lots of convenience and has reduced paper wastage among other advantages in processing staff salaries in the state.

Furthermore, he said that despite the slight mix-up recently experienced in the payment of workers salaries through the newly introduced electronic payment technology, the system remains the best approach for government towards effective and timely payment of workers salaries and other entitlements.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Waheed Badru, also told *Update* that the public service had been further modernized with the new innovation of e-payment. He praised the painstaking efforts of the present



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Administration to better the lots and improve the wellbeing of the workforce with various welfare packages.

He corroborated the earlier position of the Accountant-General that e-

payment technology would credit salaries into workers' accounts immediately without frustration. The Permanent Secretary was quick to add that, with the newly introduced system, workers' salaries can easily be reconciled even with detailed information without stress. He observed that the development of e-payment has given fillip to the present administration's posture as an ICT compliant government with the determination to bequeath on the State, an ICT propelled public service.

Update also reported that, "Scores of public servants accosted across the agencies confirmed that e-payment is one of the best things that have ever happened to the public service in recent times."

Remita is Nigeria's leading corporate e-payment solution that rides on secured e-payment platforms to deliver funds to bank accounts and associated schedules to relevant bodies. With Remita, you can pay your vendors, suppliers and staff salaries; and also send notification to beneficiaries by the click of a button from the comfort of your office.

Remita is currently being used by organizations both in the public and private sectors, some of them are: Petroleum Equalisation (Management Board) Fund - PEF, The Federal Government (IPPIS Project), Lagos State Government, Schlumberger, Noble Drilling, British Airways, etc.