



Opening Remarks by Dr Adesola Adeduntan, CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Limited at the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the Construction of Primary Health Centre in Ijedodo, Ojo Local Government Area, Lagos on Tuesday, 27 July 2021.

- It is with great pleasure I welcome you to this remarkable event, on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of First Bank of Nigeria Ltd.
- In the words of the famous Roman Philosopher, Lucius A. Seneca, “Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness”.
- Every year, as part of our corporate responsibility initiatives, FirstBank embarks on and encourages other citizens to undertake community development projects under the SPARK (Start Performing Acts of Random Kindness) initiative beginning from our immediate environment and spreading across the nation.
- FirstBank’s Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CR&S) Week is an annual event during which special activities are dedicated towards promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental growth and development across the country.
- This year, our theme is **“Kindness...A Way of Life”** and the 2021 activities have been designed to cut across our CR&S strategic pillars which are Education, Health and Welfare, Financial Inclusion and Responsible Lending & Procurement
- At FirstBank, we continue to advance the course of quality education, health and welfare of underserved communities in Lagos and other parts of the country.
- To mark the 2021 CR&S week, FirstBank is supporting the Lagos State Government on its ‘One Community at a Time (OCAAT)’ initiative with the construction of a Primary Health Care Centre to improve the standard of living of residents of Ijedodo, Ojo Local Government Area (LGA), Lagos.
- The OCAAT initiative is an integrated, inter-sectoral and community-based programme that will achieve sustainable improvements in the lives of people across Lagos State.

- UNICEF has committed to fine-tuning the OCAAT initiative approach, championing the community engagement, training core team members and developing a robust monitoring and evaluation system to ensure sustainability.
- The key targets of this initiative are underserved communities with little or no access to fundamental basic amenities such as sanitation, basic healthcare and education.
- Partners of the initiative are required to provide wholesome end-to-end solutions to one or more communities in any of the four focus areas – Sanitation, Healthcare, Education, and Recreation.
- FirstBank’s support for the construction of this health facility is borne out of the passion to see all communities have access to quality and affordable healthcare services. As the saying goes, ‘Health is Wealth’ and we are committed to ensuring a healthy and wealthy society.
- In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, one of the biggest challenges faced by the populace is poor access to healthcare facilities.
- At FirstBank, we have consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the health and welfare of communities in Lagos state and Nigeria as a whole.
- The Bank is also committed to ensuring every citizen has an equal opportunity to quality standards of living and we continuously seek every opportunity to bridge the gap between the underserved communities and metropolitan areas within the state.
- At FirstBank, empathy is at the core of our brand promise and we care about the people living in the environments where we live and conduct our business.
- The construction of this Primary Health Centre will bring quality and affordable healthcare services closer home to the people of Ijedodo, especially children and women.
- As part of other community development goals, our banking services will continue to be within the reach of communities across the state with our ever-growing network of branches and Firstmonie Agents.
- Indeed, you can also apply to become a Firstmonie agent with its numerous benefits to you and your community.
- We enjoin every member of Ijedodo community to take advantage of this and enjoy the wide array of our products and services including the Firstmonie wallet and USSD banking which are carefully tailored towards meeting the needs of unbanked and underbanked citizens.

- Even though the FirstBank CR&S week is a week-long programme, we encourage everyone to adopt kindness as a way of life and seek every opportunity to show kindness to others on a daily basis.
- Let me also mention that our staff members are already taking the lead under the SPARK initiative this year, as various departments and branches are providing relevant interventions in our various host communities.
- FirstBank will continue to partner with Lagos State in its drive to facilitate a modern Lagos with equal opportunity for all and sundry.
- We at FirstBank will not renege on our support for the State Government in advancing quality education, health and welfare of the generality of the beautiful people of Lagos.
- Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me leave you with the words of Scott Adams who said- "Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."
- Therefore, do not let any act of kindness stop with you, pay it forward!
- I also enjoin every member of the community to continue to observe all COVID-19 protocols laid down by the Lagos State Government to ensure we jointly defeat the monstrous pandemic.
- Once again, I congratulate every member of this community and encourage you all to support the Lagos State Government during and after this project by making judicious use of the facility.
- Please remember to show kindness to someone today and everyday!
- Thank you.

Dr Adesola Adeduntan

Chief Executive Officer