Ondo bans graduation parties in nursery, JSS3 classes

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Ondo bans graduation parties in nursery, JSS3 classes  
  
Ondo State Government has announced the abolition of graduation ceremonies in nursery schools and Junior Secondary School III (JSS3) across the state.  
  
The Nation reports that the ban, which affects public and private schools, was part of new reforms introduced to reposition the state’s education sector under the Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa administration.  
  
Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Igbekele Ajibefun, made this known yesterday after a stakeholders’ meeting with proprietors and owners of private schools from the 18 local governments.  
  
He said the move was a deliberate step to regulate and sanitise school operations.  
  
“To reposition the education sector to its former enviable pedigree, the ministry has made some critical decisions to sanitise private school activities. Part of these decisions includes the prohibition of illegal and unregistered schools, banning of graduation ceremonies for nursery and JSS3 classes, and the re-accreditation of private schools for quality assurance,” he added.  
  
The commissioner said private schools played a critical role in education, but noted that things had deteriorated, requiring urgent reforms.  
  
He urged strict compliance with ministry’s directives on the use of recommended textbooks, adherence to the approved curriculum, observance of the official school calendar and respect for public holidays.  
  
Ajibefun announced a six-month grace period for unapproved schools to secure government approval, saying conditions for registration would soon be reviewed to make the process easier.  
  
He cautioned against the use of unapproved or foreign curricula, underage admissions, excursions without clearance and compulsory extra lessons.  
  
He frowned at exploitative practices such as compelling parents to buy new textbooks every year, stressing that siblings should be allowed to reuse books for a reasonable period.  
  
The commissioner said the ministry was working on digitising education system, with plans to migrate primary and secondary school students in the state to a digital learning platform.  
  
He said schools unable to meet the “irreducible minimum” standards set by the government should “find another business.”