

## **NATIONAL LAUNCH OF 2008 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION IN NIGERIA**

The 2008 International Year of Sanitation in Nigeria was officially launched on July 24, 2008 in Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island Lagos as part of the National Council on Water Resources Meeting. The IYS was launched by the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola on behalf of the Federal Government. Also in attendance were; the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources; Honourable Minister of State of Agriculture and

Water Resources; the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources; the Honourable Commissioners of Water Resources from all the 36 States, UNICEF, NGOs/CSOs and representatives of private sector. The launch which also

coincided with the opening ceremony of National Council on Water Resources attracted over 200 participants from all over the country. UNICEF presented a goodwill message at the occasion.



**The Executive Governor of Lagos State, the Honourable Ministers of Agriculture and Water Resources and other dignitaries at the Opening Ceremony of National Council on Water Resources and The Launch of 2008 International Year of Sanitation**

Although, the IYS was officially launched in July, the occasion provided another opportunity of highlighting the sanitation crisis in the country and the need to scale up successful models towards achieving the set targets for the year. The National launch of IYS has further demonstrated Federal Government's



**The Executive Governor of Lagos State officially launching the 2008 International Year of Sanitation in Nigeria with release of balloons and supported by the Honourable Ministers of Agriculture and Water Resources and other dignitaries**

commitments to sanitation and hygiene development in the country and would motivate other states that have not yet endorsed the IYS plans to do so. Up to date, 24 States have endorsed the IYS plans and are implementing various activities in the State Action Plans.

Considering the late commencement of IYS activities in the country, the National Council on Water Resources has approved the proposal for adoption of 2009 as National Year of Sanitation in the country and would be presented to Federal Executive Council for approval. Also approved by the National Council on Water Resources among so many other memoranda are; the Implementation Guidelines for National Water-Sanitation Policy; and the Strategy for Scaling up Sanitation development in the country.