



January 2025

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE

A NEW EDO HAS RISEN

Armed Forces Remembrance: Gov Okpebholo pays Tribute to fallen Soldiers



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has paid glowing tributes to the patriotism, courage and sacrifices of fallen heroes in the Nigerian Armed Forces, ascribing the nation's unity and peace to their sacrifices.

Governor Okpebholo paid this tribute, Wednesday, at the 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day celebration in Benin City, Edo State capital.

Acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of the fallen heroes, Governor Okpebholo said the occasion was a solemn one as it reminds all, that people paid the ultimate price for us to enjoy the unity and peace we currently enjoy today, stressing that no honor was ever good enough to quantify their level of sacrifices.

He urged all Nigerians, and Edo State citizens in particular to honour their memories by ensuring that the sacrifices of the fallen heroes were not in vain, emphasizing that caution must be taken to ensure that the events that led to the Nigerian Civil War is never allowed to repeat itself.

Governor Okpebholo said: "Our fallen heroes have served this nation and given their all by paying the ultimate price for the unity of this nation. We will continue to honor their memories and I pray that their souls continue to rest in peace."

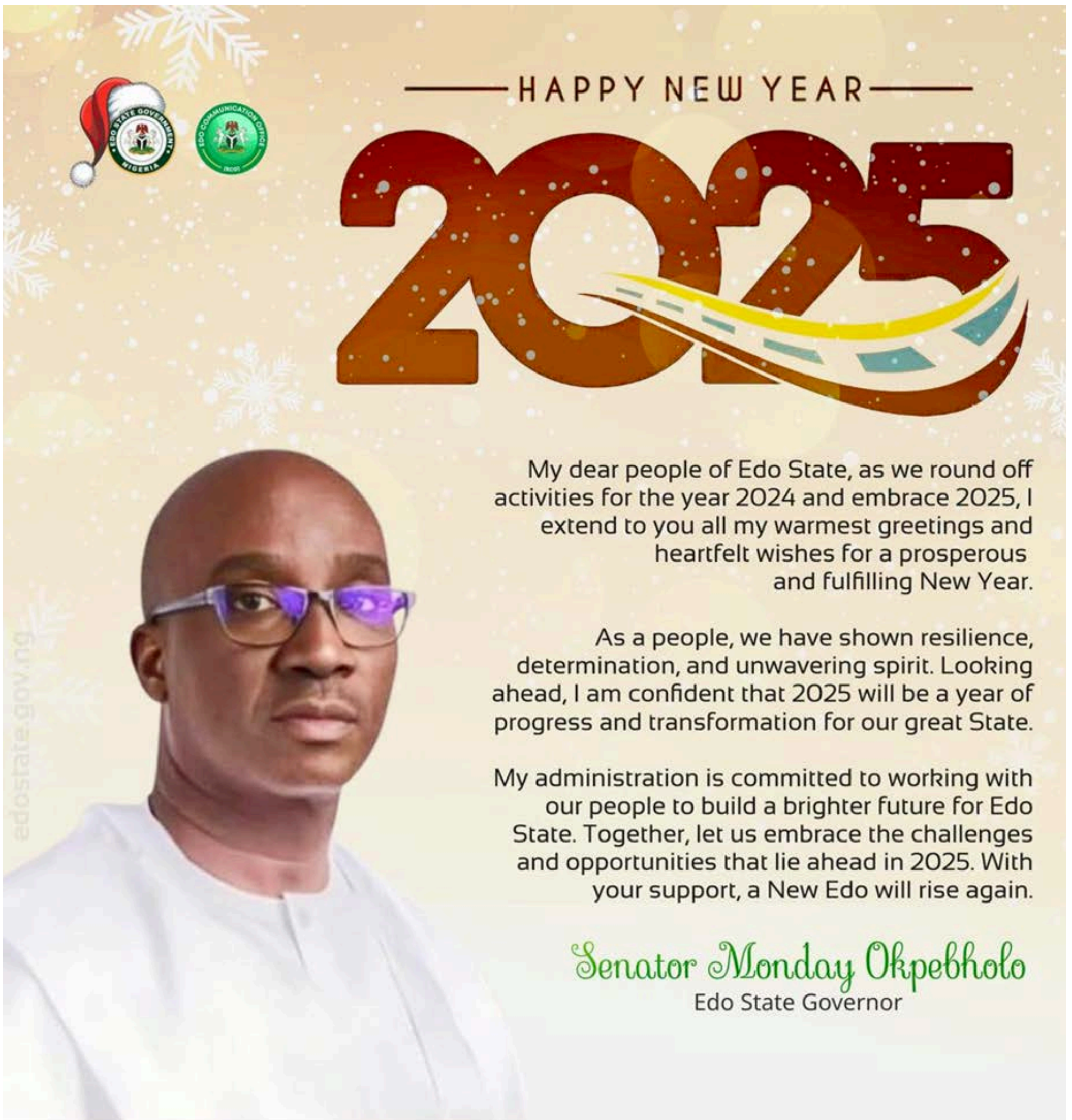
"Nigeria is enjoying peace today and we are still united as a nation today because, these gallant armed men laid their lives for the nation. We are here today because of their sacrifices and there is nothing we can ever do to adequately honor them, other than to make sure their sacrifices are not in vain."

Expressing Government's commitment to catering for the families of the fallen heroes, Governor Okpebholo said welfare packages will be initiated and sustain for their immediate families to cushion the effect of the loss of their breadwinners.

Governor Okpebholo who was accompanied by his deputy, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Blessing Agbebaku; Edo State Chief Judge, Justice Daniel Okungbowa; Chief of Staff, Gani Audu; Commander, 4 Brigade Nigerian Army; representative of the Oba of Benin, other security chiefs; and widows of some of the fallen heroes.

High point of the occasion was the laying of wreath by Governor Okpebholo, in honor of the fallen heroes.





The image is a festive New Year greeting card for 2025. It features a warm, golden-yellow background with white snowflake patterns. In the top left corner, there are three circular logos: the Nigerian coat of arms, the Edo State Government logo, and the Edo Communication Office logo. The text 'HAPPY NEW YEAR' is written in a simple, dark font, flanked by horizontal lines. Below this, the year '2025' is displayed in large, bold, dark red numbers. A stylized, multi-colored ribbon (yellow, green, and blue) curves around the bottom of the '2025'. On the left side, there is a portrait of a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white traditional Edo garment. To the right of the portrait, there are three paragraphs of text in a clean, sans-serif font. The first paragraph is a greeting, the second is a statement of confidence for the future, and the third is a commitment to the state's development. At the bottom right, the name 'Senator Monday Okpebholo' is written in a green, cursive font, with 'Edo State Governor' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. A vertical watermark 'edostate.gov.ng' is visible on the left side of the portrait.

— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

2025

My dear people of Edo State, as we round off activities for the year 2024 and embrace 2025, I extend to you all my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes for a prosperous and fulfilling New Year.

As a people, we have shown resilience, determination, and unwavering spirit. Looking ahead, I am confident that 2025 will be a year of progress and transformation for our great State.

My administration is committed to working with our people to build a brighter future for Edo State. Together, let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in 2025. With your support, a New Edo will rise again.

Senator Monday Okpebholo
Edo State Governor

Edo State Government ready to partner with Lagos Commodities and Futures Exchange

By Okojie Francisca

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Peter Osagie has disclosed the Ministry's readiness in collaborating with the members of Lagos Commodities and Futures Exchange in food security and for feed, fodder, and livestock projects in the State.

making this disclosure when he played host to the Executive Members of Lagos Commodities and Futures Exchange at the Agriculture Hub in Benin City, Dr. Osagie explained that their request for the allocation of 1000 hectares of land for feed, fodder, and livestock projects to generate forex for the State is being looked into by the State Government.

He therefore urged the team to ensure that detailed documentation of the project's profile and implementation plan is provided to the Ministry.

Earlier, the Head of Operations, Lagos Commodities and Futures Exchange, Nkechi Obi, stated that they were at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to solicit for collaboration in ensuring the success of their projects, adding that her team had requested for land allocation of 1000 hectares for feed, fodder and livestock projects to generate forex for Edo State, being one of the states with vast arable lands.

Mrs. Obi further explained that Edo State had been identified as one of the states to take part in the project, noting that the Ministry is the primary driver for their activities.

She reiterated that the key aspect of the project is the cultivation of feed crops and cultivation of fodder crops as well as the implementation of sustainable livestock production within Edo State, adding that the



provision of land in Edo would ensure that the critical input for the project to kick off in the state is provided for, as it would create employment and capacity building for the people of the State.

Special Adviser on Oil and Gas pledges commitment to serving Edo people

By Grace Oakhiena



The newly appointed Special Adviser to the Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, on Oil and Gas, Felix Osemwengie Isere Esq., has assured of his resolve to serve the people of the State through the discharge of his official duties.

The Special Adviser gave the assurance when he paid an official visit to the Ministry of Mining and Energy at the Secretariat Complex in Benin City. According to him, the visit marked an important step in his new role, as he sought to familiarize himself with the Ministry's operations and identify areas where he could make positive impact in the Oil and Gas Sector of the State.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Martina Ese Omoruyi, who welcomed him expressed optimism that collaborating with him would contribute in achieving the State Government's vision for the Oil and Gas sector. The S. A. appreciated the Permanent Secretary for her warm reception and willingness for harmonious working relationship.

Emphasizing his commitment to serving the people of Edo State, Isere Esq. cited his decision to leave a lucrative job in the United Kingdom to join the Governor Okpebholo-led administration in serving the State. He attested to the

Governor's dedication to treating civil servants with respect and dignity.

The Special Adviser thereafter outlined his strategies for addressing challenges facing the Oil and Gas sector in the State and expressed his eagerness to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to elevate the Oil and Gas sector to greater heights.

Electoral Victory, A Mandate from God to Bring Development to Edo State – Gov Okpebholo

By Ehis John Agadagodo

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has acknowledged his electoral victory at the September 2024 governorship election as a mandate from God to bring development and progress to Edo State.

Sen Okpebholo gave this acknowledgment while addressing Worshippers at Streams of Joy International, Abuja, recently.

Expressing appreciation to God for his electoral victory, the governor stressed that his emergence as the governor of Edo State was divinely orchestrated by God as an answer to the prayers and yearnings of Edo people for development and progress.

Okpebholo while thanking the convener, New Season Prophetic Prayers and Declarations (NSPPD) and Lead Pastor of the church, Pastor Jerry Eze, for his prayers and support during the elections, said he will be a good ambassador of the church by bringing unprecedented development and economic growth to Edo State.

According to him, “I have come to return all the glory to God for the electoral victory he gave to me during the last election. In 2023, I was here to testify as a senator. Today, I am here again to testify as a governor. When I wanted to join the race for the primaries, I came here and I told Pastor my intention. He prayed for me and asked me to go contest.

“I did and although the journey was tough, I emerged victorious and today, I am the governor of Edo State. I see my becoming a governor as a divine mandate to serve and bring development to the people. And I am here today to assure you, my brethren, that I will not disappoint the God of NSPPD”, he said.

While admonishing the worshippers to be steadfast and committed in their walk of faith, Okpebholo stressed that power comes from God alone who gives it to whoever he wishes for his own glory. He advised that such power must be seen as an opportunity to serve and fulfill God’s purpose and emphasized that, as a faithful and grateful steward, he was committed to utilizing the God-given mandate to better the lives of Edo people.



Senator Monday Okpebholo, a man referred to in many quarters, as “a man of uncommon grace” came into partisan politics in early 2020’s. He made headlines when he miraculously defeated the incumbent senator, Edo Central Senatorial District, and ended PDP’s 24 years dominance in the region on his very first attempt. On September 21st, 2024, he again halted PDP’s reign in Edo State by defeating the ruling party’s candidate in the governorship election and emerging, Governor of Edo State.

Akoko-Edo Council Chairman, Vice Impeached

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe

The Chairman of Akoko-Edo Local Government Council, Hon. Tajudeen Alade Suleman Esq and his Deputy, Hon. Beatrice Abukare have been impeached over allegations of financial misappropriation and executive recklessness.

Moving the motion for impeachment, Hon. Akosile Nicholas Imashimi, Councillor representing ward 9 at the hallowed chambers on Monday, 6th January 2025 and seconded by his ward 7 counterpart, Hon. Afolabi Hope Monday, disclosed that Akoko-Edo people were tired of secrecy in governance and poor harnessing of the abundant mineral deposits in the area for the betterment of locals.

Following the development, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue, leader of the House and Councillor representing Ward 5, stepped down and assumed the role of Council

Chairman in acting capacity, while Rt. Hon. Jacob Tope, Deputy Leader of the House, assumed office as leader of the legislative arm.

Addressing journalists at the event, the Acting Chairman pledged his unalloyed loyalty to the administration of Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, promising to key into his 5-points agenda to arrive at a new Edo.

He dissolved all political appointments of previous administration even as he set up a committee to recover all government properties in possession of the erstwhile Council Chairman, Deputy and Aides.

Meanwhile, legislators who were absent at plenary were put on two months suspension.



Gov Okpebholo Fulfills Employment Promise to Late NLC Chairman's Daughter

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi

SERVICE CORNER



...not just an employment, but an honor to my family, says daughter_

The Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has fulfilled a promise made to the family of the late Kaduna Eboigbodin, former Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Edo State chapter and civil activist, by granting his daughter, Ms. Flourish Evbuomwan an automatic employment in the State's civil service.

Speaking during the presentation of the appointment letter to her on 6th January 2024, at the State Government House, the Edo State Head of Service, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa Esq. highlighted the Governor's commitment to honoring his word, which he made during a condolence visit to the family.

He expressed optimism in Ms. Evbuomwan's ability to uphold her father's legacy of hard work and dedication to civil service.

According to Okungbowa: "I am pleased to announce that the Governor's desire to bring the young woman into the service has been accomplished. Mr. Governor insisted on the immediate fulfillment of his promise.

"She has been appointed as a Scientific Officer in the Health Management Agency, where hopefully she would work as hard as her father did and make all of us proud by being a dependable civil servant that the Governor wants her to be."

Expressing her gratitude for the job opportunity, Ms. Flourish Evbuomwan thanked the Governor for the gesture, describing it as both an employment opportunity and a recognition of her late father's contributions to the Edo State civil society.

She expressed: "On behalf of myself and my family, I extend my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, for this automatic employment. It demonstrates that hard work truly pays. This is not just an employment for me but an honor to my family, recognizing the service and sacrifices of my late father, Comrade Kaduna Eboigbodin.

"I promise to perform my duties diligently for the growth and progress of Edo State."

Recall that the late Kaduna Eboigbodin, a prominent labor leader, had tragically passed away following an altercation with police officers at a roadblock in the Upper Sakponba area of Benin City.

Gov Okpebholo Employs 360 Persons Into Edo Civil Service, Maintains N70,000 Minimum Wage

SERVICE CORNER

By Emily Eghosa

As part of his administration's commitments to enhancing good governance and improving livelihoods, the Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, has employed 360 personnel into the State Civil Service from across the three senatorial districts.

According to the State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa, the newly recruited workers have been deployed to various ministries departments and Agencies (MDAs) to strengthen the State's workforce. In a press briefing in Benin City, the HOS emphasised the present administration's shift from the previous reliance on contractors and consultants for essential services like office cleaning.

Dr. Okungbowa explained that Governor Okpebholo was dissatisfied with the system, which prioritized profit over workers' welfare. In response, the Governor directed a transition to direct employment, ensuring that all employees now receive the N70,000 minimum wage, as against the previous arrangement, where contractors employed cleaners on behalf of the State Government, with workers earning between N20,000 and N30,000 monthly with its attendant job insecurity.

"This administration is committed to ensuring Edo people benefit directly from Government policies. The 360 individuals employed have been issued appointment letters and deployed to their respective ministries and parastatals.

This initiative guarantees job security and a living wage. Another batch of workers will soon be employed to meet the workforce needs of the State's Civil Service," he revealed.



Dr. Okungbowa expressed gratitude on behalf of Edo State workers, lauding Governor Okpebholo for his people-oriented approach and commitment to improving the welfare of citizens. "This administration has redefined governance by prioritizing the people. These new civil servants now have the security and dignity of working directly under the State Government; a stark departure from the uncertainties of working under contractors," he concluded.



The initiative underscores the Governor's pledge to improve governance across all sectors, ensuring Edo citizens directly benefit from state resources and opportunities.

Edo Traditional Medicine Board Holds Maiden Orientation

By Edokpayi Adesuwa

The Edo Traditional Medicine Board has organized its first staff orientation program at the premises of the Ministry of Health in Benin City.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomhole commended the Board's dedication and urged them to continue their efforts, while emphasizing on the fact that traditional medicine should be seen as an alternative health solution, not something to fear.

Earlier, the Secretary of the Traditional Medicine Board, Dr. Joy Mike Opara highlighted the purpose of the meeting as a way to guide new staff on their roles while expressing gratitude to the Commissioner for his continuous support.

The program featured a presentation on the Board's history and its achievements, presentation of awards to dedicated members of staff with special recognition given to the Commissioner for Health and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Stanley Ehiarimwian.



Edo Dep Gov, Sues for Peaceful Coexistence Amongst Party Members To Drive Development in the State

By Godspower Eguasa



The Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa has urged members of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the State to embrace peace and unity in order to drive and support ongoing developments kick-started by the Sen. Monday Okpebholo-led administration, aimed at improving the well-being of citizens and residents in the State.

In a statement through his Chief Press Secretary, Friday Aghedo, Idahosa made the appeal at the New Year party celebration organized for leaders of the APC within the Southern region of the State on Saturday, January 4th, 2024, in Government House, Benin City.

Idahosa in his address to party leaders said: "The reason for this meeting is to bring all the political actors together in oneness and unity. God has been faithful to the APC in 2024 as the party unseated the then-incumbent party in the State winning the Governorship election.

"God answered our prayers and we all have to be united going forward in 2025", he said". According to Idahosa: "There are pockets of division across the State but it is high time we did away with the grievances and come together in unison to move the party and State forward".

Idahosa added: "Edo South should take the lead in terms of uniting the party".

He further urged aggrieved party members, to sheath their swords and embrace unity in order to drive development in the State, noting that the Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo is working tirelessly to ensure that the dividends of democracy are felt and enjoyed by all citizens and residents in the State.

"This is the time to come together and be united in all we do across the State, especially in the seven Local Government Areas in Edo South. I appeal to us all to be united in order to build a strong party and a strong State.

"We have to be united to promote this administration led by Senator Monday Okpebholo, ensuring that he delivers on his electioneering promises to the people", Idahosa added.

In his address, a former Governorship candidate of the party, Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu noted that the party has zero space for grievances, and disunity while suing for the support and cooperation of all party leaders and members to achieve greater results in the development of the party and Edo State at large.

Ize-Iyamu said: "We thank all party members for their support and collaboration in ensuring APC is in power in Edo State. We have been united in all we do as a party. That was why we were able to defeat the incumbent party but I urge us all to ensure the unity continues to ensure that our party performs for the Edo people".

According to Ize-Iyamu: "We should stop the lies, backbiting, disunity, and all other negative things that will pull the party back. If we are truly united, the administration of Senator Monday Okpebholo will surely deliver good and practical governance for the Edo people.

Ize-Iyamu added: "Henceforth, the party will not create room for those who are causing disunity in the party. This is a time to be united to develop Edo State as the doors are open only to those who want to join hands with the party to ensure Edo people enjoy the dividends of democracy".

Also, in his address, the former Deputy Governor of the State and leader of the Edo South APC, Lucky Imasuen urged all party supporters to embrace peace, unity, and cooperation, noting that they are vital instruments in driving the State to enviable heights.

Edo Holds Sensitisation Programme for Intending Pilgrims in Edo South

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

...Promises Maximum Support for Seamless 2025 Hajj

The Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has held a sensitisation programme in Edo South, Benin City reiterating its commitment to ensuring a seamless and successful Hajj experience for all intending pilgrims come 2025.

The event which held in Benin City on January 1st, 2025, aimed at preparing prospective pilgrims in the Edo South senatorial district for the 2025 Hajj.

The event brought together key Islamic organizations, including the Edo South League of Imams, FOMWAN, Edo State Council for Islamic Affairs amongst others served as a platform for the Board to educate intending pilgrims on the requirements and processes for a smooth pilgrimage in the year 2025.

Alhaji Eranga Muhammadkabir Abdulkabir, the Executive Secretary of the Board noted, "We assure you of the maximum support from our team. We wish to announce that Hajj payment process has commenced with a deposit of 8.4 million Naira required by January 31, 2025"

He also highlighted the introduction of an installment payment option, which allows pilgrims to make partial payments ranging from 1 million to 8.4 million Naira.

Addressing concerns from previous years, Abdulkabir confirmed that the reimbursement process for the 2023 Hajj refund has begun. He encouraged beneficiaries who have not yet provided their account details to do so promptly to ensure swift refunds.

The Chairman of the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musa Muhammad Udwimoh, called for cooperation from all stakeholders to make the pilgrimage process smooth and successful.



He assured pilgrims of the Board's maximum support throughout the preparation and the journey itself.

Prominent speakers at the event, including the Chief Imam of Benin Central Mosque, Alhaji Abdulfatah Enabulele, and the Chairman of the Edo State Council for Islamic Affairs, Mallam Abdulazeez Igbinidu, demonstrated the importance of collaboration and spiritual readiness for a fulfilling Hajj.

The Board reaffirmed its dedication to supporting all intending pilgrims, emphasizing that every effort is being made to ensure a hitch-free and spiritually enriching experience for all participants.

HRH Ojirrua of Irrua Applauds Edo Gov't for Taking Hajj Sensitisation to Edo Central

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

The Ojirrua of Irrua, HRH Alhaji W. O. Momodu has applauded the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board for holding the first-ever Hajj sensitisation programme in Edo Central part of the state.

Expressing his gratitude to the present administration for bringing the sensitisation programme to the area, the traditional ruler, who received the board's team in his palace emphasized the importance of such initiatives in ensuring a smooth and successful Hajj experience for Muslims in the region.

Making the most of the opportunity, he also appealed to the state government to consider allocating Hajj slots to Muslims in Esan land when sponsoring Muslims to the Holy Land.

In their statements during the event held recently at Irrua Central Mosque, the Chairman of the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh, and the Executive Secretary of the board,

Alhaji Eranga Muhammadkabir Abdulkabir assured pilgrims of the Board's full support throughout the Hajj journey and called for cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure a seamless pilgrimage.

They noted that the event aims to prepare intending pilgrims in the region for the upcoming pilgrimage.

The sensitisation session, which had all the Imaams and members of the Muslim community in Edo Central in attendance provided valuable information on Hajj requirements, processes, and the introduced installment payment option, allowing pilgrims to make partial payments ranging from 1 million to 8.4 million Naira.

The Board reiterated its commitment to providing a spiritually enriching and memorable Hajj experience for all intending pilgrims.



Edo State Govt Partners Stakeholders On Immunizing Children Against Preventable Diseases *By Erharuyi A. Joe*



The Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency (EDPHCDA) under the auspices of the Edo State Government, in collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) and other partners, has concluded plans to roll out the first round of the Routine Immunization Intensification exercise in the State, beginning from 6th through 11th January, 2025.

The Edo State Director of Immunization and Disease Control, Dr. Esegbe Efeomon gave the information in his address, during a stakeholders' meeting held at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA), in Benin City. According to Dr. Esegbe, the 'Big Catchup' vaccination exercise is focused on intensification, where children of the target ages between zero and 59 months will be given vaccinations that they missed during past routine immunization exercises.

Dr. Esegbe clarified that the exercise was informed by year 2024 data domiciled with NPHCDA, which indicated that significant number of children of the target age group missed previous routine immunization exercises or were not immunized as a result of disruption occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, insurgency, amongst others.

He solicited stakeholders to join in the advocacy of influencing parents and caregivers in the State Government's quest to safeguarding children in the State against preventable deadly diseases, especially in the hard-to-reach locations. He disclosed that Edo ranks among states with wide coverage of virtually all its local government areas (LGAs), as against some states with three or four LGAs mapped for coverage.

The Zonal Technical Officer of NPHCDA, Ighodaro Lawani Osawe, while urging stakeholders to use all platforms in their disposal to disseminate the information on the safety and necessity of vaccines, emphasized that stakeholders' collaboration has proved to be a major contributor to the success of immunization exercises. He appreciated the traditional institutions, the religious groups, the civil society organisations, amongst others, urging them to amplify messages on the benefits of immunization.

The EDPHCDA Health Education Officer, Mrs. Irene Uabor, asserted that healthy adults in the society are as a result of same safe immunization they had in their childhood. She cautioned that there are incidences of the resurgence of some deadly vaccine-preventable diseases, which hitherto, were thought to have been eradicated, as a result of missed or incomplete vaccinations.

Uabor assured of the Agency's preparedness to take the vaccinations to every eligible child across the State with the execution of trained Health workers. She counseled the public to refrain from rumors and disinformation spread by mongers, maintaining that the vaccines are safe, effective, and are given free of charge. She concluded that parents, and caregivers, should endeavour to grant access or present their children for vaccination alongside their vaccination cards; at home or at their nearest Primary Health Centre across the State.

Stakeholders in attendance include Local Health Education Officers, representatives from the Traditional councils, Religious heads, Education, Media, Unions, CSOs, and NGOs, amongst others.



Gov Okpebholo Renames Edo State University



December 30, 2024

GOVERNMENT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby announced for the information of the General Public that the Governor of Edo State, **His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo** has approved the change of the name of “Edo State University, Uzairue,” to now be known as “Edo University, Iyamho” with immediate effect.

2. Accordingly, all documentations in respect of the Institution henceforth shall reflect the above change.



Umar Musa Ikhilor, Esq.
Secretary to the State Government

Gov. Okpebholo Reaffirms Commitment to Motorable Roads Across Edo State

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has reiterated his administration's commitment to providing motorable roads for the people of the State.

Governor Okpebholo made this known in Benin City after inspecting some road projects within the city and its environs.

Governor Okpebholo explained that the inspection is aimed at ensuring that contractors adhere to project specifications and maintain high standards.

During the inspection, which he conducted alongside senior government officials, the Governor visited several ongoing road projects, including the Obadan Junction on the Benin-Auchi Expressway, Upper Mission by Aduwawa Junction, Temboga Road, and Upper Ekenwan Road near the Military Cantonment.

At these locations, he was warmly received by residents who expressed gratitude for his administration's efforts to address their infrastructure needs.

Governor Okpebholo expressed satisfaction with the progress of the projects, noting that the roads have been a priority for his administration.

“I am satisfied with the level of work done so far. You can see that asphalt has been laid, and the progress is meeting my expectation. I think about these roads constantly because I want my people to enjoy smooth and accessible roads. This is why I personally monitor the construction instead of delegating the task to others,” Governor Okpebholo said.

He emphasized that the inspection, conducted during the holiday season, was to ensure contractors expedite their work while maintaining quality.

“We are in the holiday period, but I made it a point to see the work first-hand to ensure the contractors deliver on their promises and meet the required standards,” he added.

Governor Okpebholo also reminded the public of his administration's commitment to fulfilling the five-point agenda outlined in his inaugural



address. This agenda includes fostering economic growth and improving the lives of Edo citizens, with infrastructural development as a key priority in 2024.

Gov Okpebholo Lifts Ban On Nurtw, Charges Executive On Peaceful Progress

By Erharuyi A. Joe



The Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, has lifted ban on the activities of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in the State and charged the Executive of the Union to bring peace, progress, orderliness and protection of the rights of residents in the State.

According to a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor, Fred Itua, consequent upon the lifted ban, the Union has elected its Executive members, who will pilot its affairs for the next four years in the State.

The new Executive which is led by Comrade Saturday Oamen, was inaugurated at the Government House in Benin City. At the Inauguration, the Executive was charged on peace and progress by His Excellency, Governor Okpebholo, the National President of NURTW, Alhaji Musiliu Akinsanya, AKA MC Oluomo, amongst other National officers of the Union.

The inauguration of the new Executive was performed on behalf of the National Headquarters by the National Secretary of the Union, Comrade Kayode Agbeyana, who administered the Oath of Office on the newly elected State Council officials for a four-year tenure.

Represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Barr. Umar Musa Ikhilor, the Governor appreciation the Union for the support given to him during the September 21, 2024 gubernatorial election, hence the lifting of the ban to enable the Union contribute to the development of the State.

The Governor said the NURTW as an arm of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), represents the interests of Edo people and promised that his administration has resolved to bring peace, progress and orderliness to the Union in the State.

He noted that with hundreds of thousands of members of the Union across the Country, the Edo State Government is comfortable with its National Leadership under Alh. Akinsanya, describing him as a man who will bring peace to the State branch of the Union.

He added that with the support of President Bola Tinubu and the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Edo will witness lots of dividends of democracy which were denied the people by the immediate past administration in the State.

Alh. Akinsanya in his charge, urged the new Edo State NURTW Chairman, Comrade Oamen to carry every member along and ensure peace in

all branches across the eighteen local government areas of the State Chapter. He emphasised that keeping in touch with members will guarantee his success in the next four years.

Comrade Agbeyana noted that despite the disarray which previously affected the Union's activities, the State Governor lifted the ban on the activities of the Union to enable their swearing-in to bring peace and progress to the State's Transport Sector.

The Edo State Ag. Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Bernard Joman said the inauguration attests to the rescue of the NURTW in the State, after over twenty years of hijack by previous leaderships of the Union.

"For over 20 years now, one person has been the Chairman of this Union but the performing Governor of Edo State came and rescue the Union and the people of Edo State. On behalf of NLC we thank the Governor for his move to restore the Union back to its former glory by ensuring that the right thing is done." Comrade Joman concluded.

Gov Okpebholo Celebrates Edo-Born New Miss Nigeria, Doris Ogah

By Erharuyi A. Joe

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo extends his warmest congratulations to the newly-crowned 45th Miss Nigeria, Doris Esiokhayamhe Ogah on her outstanding achievement.

As a proud representative of the South South Geopolitical Zone and Edo State, Miss Ogah has brought honour and prestige to our great state.

Governor Monday Okpebholo conveyed his congratulatory message through his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Fred Itua, saying that Miss Ogah's triumph is not only a testament to her beauty, intelligence, and charm but also a reflection of her exceptional talents and passions.

As a lawyer and gender advocate, she has demonstrated a deep commitment to promoting the rights and empowerment of women and girls. Her participation in the Miss Nigeria pageant was more than just a beauty contest; it was an opportunity for her to showcase her skills, values, and dedication to making a positive impact in society.

During the pageantry process, Miss Ogah's exceptional business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly as she won the business pitch event with an innovative product designed to support women and girls, which is a testament to her creativity, resourcefulness, and passion for driving positive change.

Edo State Governor is proud to have Miss Ogah as an Ambassador of our State, and he celebrates her achievement as victory for all Edo people. Her success is a reminder that our State is home to talented, intelligent, and driven individuals who are making a difference in various fields.



As Miss Nigeria, Ogah will have a platform to amplify her voice and advocate for the causes she cares about, and I have no doubt that she will use her position to inspire and empower young women and girls, promoting education, entrepreneurship, and social justice.

Once again, I congratulate Miss Doris Esiokhayamhe Ogah on her well-deserved victory and wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting journey as Miss Nigeria.

Council Vice play Host to Community Head, sue for Peace to engender Development.

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe

The Vice Chairman, Akoko-Edo Local Government Council, Rt. Hon. Comrade Tope Jacob has received the village head of Egetua community, Chief Peter Momoh in his office at the Council Headquarters.

Speaking on behalf of the council boss, the Vice Chairman, commended the community Chief on his disposition about security matters in the community, positing that synergy is key to checkmating the spate of criminal activities in the area. He added "Government cannot do it alone. When you see something, say something!"

I appreciate your intelligence gathering and security tips. It is our resolve to work assiduously to improve the security situation in Ososo and its environs as well as the entire local government area".

Speaking earlier, the village head said he was on a courtesy visit to felicitate with the vice chairman on his elevation to the exalted position as the number two citizen of the local government area while suing for the council's collaboration to curb the menace of criminal activities in the locality.



Edo State Govt Celebrates 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day, Lays Wreaths In Honour Of Fallen Heroes

By Orumwense Sarah O.

In demonstration of his administration's commitment to honoring the sacrifices of the Nation's heroes past, the Executive Governor of Edo State, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, has commemorated the year 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day in a parade to declare the event opened at the Oba Ovonramen Square in Benin City.

Governor Okpebholo laid wreaths at the cenotaph, in honour of the memories of heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the First and Second World wars, as well as the Civil War to preserve Nigeria's territorial integrity.

The poignant moment was accompanied by the release of pigeons by the Governor, symbolizing unity, and serving as a powerful reminder of the importance of coming together as one nation.

The event also witnessed the release of the ceremonial gunfire in honour of the fallen heroes.

It would be recalled that Governor Okpebholo had earlier launched the Emblem Appeal Fund for the 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration in December, 2024, with a pledge of ten million Naira.

In attendance were dignitaries including the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; the Speaker, Edo House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Blessing Agbebaku; the Chief Judge of Edo State, Hon. Justice Daniel Iyobosa Okungbowa; the Head of Service Edo State, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa; the Chairman, Nigeria Legion, Edo State, A. C. G. Ignatius Enabulele; amongst other top government functionaries.



GOV OKPEBHOLO SEEKS SYNERGY AMONG EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE, JUDICIARY IN EDO

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has called on the three arms of government to synergize and ensure the State's rapid development under his administration.

Governor Okpebholo made the call when he received Judges of the Edo State Judiciary led by the Chief Judge of the State, Justice Daniel Okungbowa, who were in Government House on a courtesy visit.

Governor Okpebholo said the Legislature has been very cooperative, especially with regards to the Appropriation Bill, ensuring its passage for the benefit of the people.

He urged the Judiciary to equally follow suit, ensuring it collaborates with his administration to ensure justice is delivered in order to propel the growth and development of the State.

"Today, I am happy to see the Chief Judge and members of the Judiciary. Yes, we have challenges in Edo State, and the Executive can't solve them alone as we need to synergize to develop and grow the State.

"I need synergy between the three arms of government, the Executive, Legislature, and the Judiciary. The Executive arm of government has worked with the Legislature. The legislative arm is doing well as they honoured the requests in the budget, supplementary budget, and other requests we made. They helped us to make the process easy.

"I welcome you all to Government House today. This visit is long overdue because in my inaugural speech, I said I would collaborate and work in synergy with the three arms of Government, especially the Judiciary.

"When I didn't see the Judiciary I was afraid, but I am happy now that you are here on this courtesy visit. As a parliamentarian, I know what other State governors go through, but the way they open their arms to receive me, I am very happy. I believe the Judiciary will do the same, starting from today.



"My drive is to develop Edo State. We will build on our educational system and improve on it. We will do the same to the Judiciary to ensure that the Judiciary also succeed in their activities.

"Synergy between the Executive and the Judiciary is very important, and I commend the Chief Judge for the visit. Inclusiveness in governance is very important. I urge you to support the administration to enable us succeed because to be successful, it will be a collective decision to carry everyone and the State forward," Governor Okpebholo said.

The Chief Judge of Edo State, Justice Daniel Okungbowa, said they were committed to delivering justice to the people.

He noted that they were in Government House to familiarize with the Executive and assured Governor Okpebholo that the Judiciary will work with the Executive and Legislature to develop the State and ensure the people enjoy good governance.

Edo: Subeb Chairman, Six Commissioners, Board Chairmen Take Oath Of Office



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, on Monday, swore in the Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), six new Commissioners, Chairmen and members of Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (EDSOGPADEC), Edo State Independent Electoral Commission (EDSIEC), and State Secondary Education Board (SSEB).

Addressing the newly sworn in executives at the New Festival Hall, Government House, Edo State, Governor Okpebholo development.

Harping on the unique qualities and capacity of the newly sworn in executives, Governor Okpebholo noted that they reflect the requisite commitment of his administration to bring good governance, efficient and effective service delivery and fulfill the promises made to the people of Edo State.

Governor Okpebholo said: "To the newly appointed executives, congratulations on your appointment. This appointment is not just an honor but a call to serve with dedication, integrity, and excellence. You have been chosen because of your skills and the trust we have in your ability to contribute meaningfully to the development of our State.

"I encourage you to work with a sheer sense of purpose, prioritize teamwork, and remain focused on improving the lives of our citizens. Together, we can make Edo State a model of growth and prosperity."

The new Chairman of SUBEB is Onomen Goodness Briggs. The new Commissioners are Sir Lucky Esegbe; Hon. Paul Nosayaba Ohonbamu; Dr. Emmanuel Paddy Iyamu; Hon. Dr. Washington Osa Osifo; Mr. Andrew Ijegbai; and Barr. Marie Olabisi Idaomi.

Portfolios for the new Commissioners will be announced later. Also sworn in are Jonathan Aifuobhokhan as Chairman, EDSIEC; Francis Osaretin Osabuohien as chairman, EDSOGPADEC; and Omozane Ebanehita Sonia as chairman, SSEB.

Speaking on behalf of the newly sworn-in executives, Hon. Paul Ohobamu thanked the Governor for finding them worthy of the appointment and assured him of their commitment and dedication to ensuring that Edo people enjoy good and practical governance in the State.

Present at the swearing in ceremony were the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; Secretary to Edo State Government, Musa Ikhilor; Chief of Staff to Edo State Governor, Gani Audu; Edo State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Barr. Samson Osagie; former Deputy Governor of Edo State, Comrade Phillip Shaibu; immediate-past State chairman, All Progressive Congress (APC) Col. David Imuse (rtd); Party leaders, top government functionaries, amongst others.

Akoko-Edo LG Congratulates Commissioner on Appointment

...calls for synergy to Fastrack development.

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe

Akoko-Edo Local Government Council under the leadership of Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue has felicitated with Chief Bisi Idaomi on her appointment as Edo State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development.

The council boss noted that her appointment would foster a new paradigm and change the narrative of Akoko-Edo through the instrumentality of the state government.

Rt. Hon Alabi who disclosed that the appointment is well deserved, posited that the commissioner had carved a niche for herself in traversing the country and the world at large in her quest for human capital development, while calling on her to bring her expertise and exposures to bear as the local council embarks on a journey to reinvigorate the local government area and meet the yearning and aspirations of the people.

He lauded the stance of Edo state governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo by appointing the best brains to help redefine the state that is in dire need of development.



GOVERNOR MONDAY OKPEBHOLO AND THE HEFTY COST OF CULTISM IN EDO STATE

By Hon. Paul Ohonbamu

When Governor Okpebholo assumed office on the 12th of November 2024, he met a State that was at war with itself. In fact, he inherited several social maladies and other life-threatening vices including armed robbery, kidnapping with cultism at the apex of the pyramid. With continuous and senseless killings by various cult groups, Edo State became an abattoir of human souls. The former Governor Godwin Obaseki did nothing to stem the tide. He just watched in helpless emasculated impotence. The existing law, which was the "Secret Cult Prohibition Law of 2018" was a half-hearted attempt to arresting the situation. It was like a slap on the wrist. Governor Monday Okpebholo came and saw the need for a proactive action which he did by first putting an end to the killings and then took a critical look at the legal framework.

The 2018 Law by Obaseki was such that cannot be amended; hence it was repealed by the Edo State House of Assembly. The new Law which is the 'Secret Cult and Similar Activities Prohibition Law 2025', by Governor Monday Okpebholo is clear from its provisions on what it wants to achieve. The Governor's action is well-intentioned and deliberate. He wants to make Edo State safe and peaceful for all. The Law captures all in the chain of activities contrary to what gives peaceful repose or tranquility to the conscience of the society. This includes the actual perpetrators or executioners of violence, the masterminds, the sponsors and even those who provide cover-ups. They risk imprisonment of twenty-one years to at least ten years and in the event of fatality even death. They also risk the possibility of their residence, or any property attached to their name being confiscated or demolished by the State Government. This is the effect of the combination of Section 5, 6, and 12 of the Law.

The Law says "And Similar Activities"; for the avoidance of doubt, this Law targets other sundry negative activities; people who are not cultists simpliciter, but engage in acts whose effects are either similar or diametrically the same with those of cultists are also covered by the Law. People who control guns, and yet cannot shoot; people who upturn justice and yet recommend the Law. These are the glamour cultists or bandits. They gave birth to the forested ones. The Law covers them. Then people who subscribe to subterranean values; people who adopt violence as their principal weapon of choice in interaction. People who are obstinate at heart and malevolent in intent as well as people who tolerate or encourage violence are all covered by the Law.

We must commend the Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo who knows the burden that the Constitution places on him. The security and welfare of the people is the primary purpose of government.



Governor Monday Okpebholo has risen to the challenge and this Law is a testament. Senator Monday Okpebholo knows that the welfare of the people would be rendered nugatory without security, just as the constitutional right to life is meaningless without the corresponding right to earn a living.

This is why apart from infrastructure and enabling environment for business to thrive, the Governor has also started employment of Edo People into the Civil Service of the State. Employment is nature's physician and very important to mankind. All must therefore hail Governor Monday Okpebholo for his determination to turn Edo State into what Rogers Robinson calls 'Portable Paradise'.

What the former Governor slept over, this Governor is determined in his resolve to put right, because he is the only one that can do it. He cannot abdicate that responsibility for any other person.

This brings to the fore what Shakespeare said "If correction lies in the hand that committed wrong, to who shall we complain." Correction laid in the hands of the former Governor Godwin Obaseki which he could not correct. Here is Monday Okpebholo putting right the wrong of Obaseki. The first criterion of anybody who wanted to be part of the Edo State Security Network in Obaseki's time was to own a gun.

A man who owns a gun can use it for sundry things including illegalities. The question as to how he got the gun was never an issue. The net effect was a State where madmen became specialists and specialists became madmen, apology to Wole Soyinka's Play, Specialists and Madmen.

Okpebholo's pattern of recruitment into the State Security Network is different and very civilized. The body is headed by a retired Commissioner of Police, Mr. Friday Ibadin to show the seriousness of the matter. That explained why in the last administration all manner of people dominated the space; all that has changed now.

The State is free from savages, cannibals and people belonging to the night of first ages. This is part of the reasons for this law, to ensure a safe and peaceful Edo State. Okpebholo believes that to enact a barbaric law is to endorse a barbaric society.

We must join him to reinvent the Edo of our dream. Good enough, punishment awaits all persons who transgress the present Law even those who think themselves gorgeous rebels like Satan in John Milton's Paradise Lost. Governor Monday Okpebholo is following the admonition of the Greek Playwright Sophocles "Thou shall not ration justice, where the offence lies let the great axe fall."

Thank you!

Hon. Paul Ohonbamu
Commissioner for Information and Communications

ESIPO, Edojobs Strengthen Collaboration to Boost Business Ecosystem

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

The Managing Director of the Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO), Ease of Doing Business Secretariat, Mr. Amen Odigie, has paid a scheduled visit to the Managing Director of Edo State Skills Development Agency (Edojobs), Honourable Kerimu Shehu Kelly, to strengthen the existing partnership between the two agencies.

During the visit, Mr. Odigie emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with EdoJobs, highlighting its crucial role in supporting businesses through skills, grants, and other incentives.

According to him, "We are happy to continue the long-standing collaboration with your agency. When I came on board, I was made to understand

that EdoJobs is one of the key agencies we work with in terms of support, skills, grants and other incentives to businesses in the state. And this is key because, one of key requirements for the state's ranking in terms of ease of doing business is data of businesses supported by states and that also falls within your agency."

In response, Honourable Kelly reiterated his commitment to strengthening the partnership. He highlighted the ongoing "Grassroot Development Initiative" (GDI) as a key area of focus.

He noted, "I have already been briefed on our partnership. We will do more things together. We have an ongoing initiative, GDI, which stands for Grassroot Development Initiative. We decided to



come up with this initiative because, Edo people will be the real beneficiaries of all our interventions going forward. We will be working with the already existing structures which are the LGAs. The free interest loan for market women which is an initiative of the current administration is meant to address the challenges of the Edo business people. These are some areas we will tailor our collaborations."

This renewed collaboration between ESIPO and EdoJobs is expected to significantly contribute to the growth and development of the state's business ecosystem by providing crucial support and resources to Edo-based businesses.

Edo State Conducts Pre-Hajj Visit to Saudi Arabia

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

The Chairman of Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh and the Executive Secretary Alhaji Eranga Muhammadkabir Abdulkabir, have traveled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to prepare for the upcoming 2025 Hajj pilgrimage.

The officials who are currently in Saudi Arabia with the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) team to finalize crucial arrangements for the smooth and successful pilgrimage of Edo State pilgrims are expected to negotiate and secure suitable accommodation for pilgrims from Edo State in Makkah and Madinah.

According to the chairman, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh who spoke via a WhatsApp voice note today, logistics coordination is part of the arrangement to be perfected during the visit.

He said, "Arranging transportation, catering, and other essential logistical services to ensure the comfort and safety of our pilgrims throughout their journey is a priority for us"

"We need to work with Saudi authorities in establishing and maintaining effective communication with relevant stakeholders to address any potential challenges and ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience for Edo State pilgrims"

The Executive Secretary in his response noted that the pre-Hajj mission is a crucial step in ensuring a well-organized and fulfilling Hajj experience for all pilgrims from the state. He added that they are working closely with NAHCON and relevant authorities in Saudi Arabia to address any concerns and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for a safe and spiritually enriching pilgrimage.



Edo State Govt Advances Energy Access with Mass Metering Initiative

By Grace Oakhiena

Towards ensuring energy fairness and efficiency, the Edo State Government, through the Ministry of Mining and Energy, has reiterated its commitment to empowering residents with reliable power solutions.

On Thursday, January 15, 2025, the State took delivery of over 1,000 new prepaid meters under the Edo Mass Metering Programme. The initiative is a direct response to the long-standing challenges posed by estimated billing, which has historically burdened residents with arbitrary and often inflated electricity bills.

The State Government through the provision of prepaid meters, is addressing the challenges head-on, by offering residents the tools to accurately measure their energy consumption. Unlike estimated billing, which is often inaccurate and lacks transparency, prepaid metering ensures that residents only pay for the electricity they consume. This fosters accountability among electricity providers and eliminates disputes over billing discrepancies.

The prepaid meter enables residents to monitor their energy usage in real time, plan their expenses effectively, and avoid the frustrations associated with overbilling.

The Edo State Government's collaboration with key stakeholders like New Hampshire Capital has been effective and efficient in driving the initiative. By securing investor-backed funding for the prepaid meters, the State ensures no financial burden on its treasury while delivering tangible benefits to its citizens.

The introduction of the prepaid meters is part of a broader strategy to modernize Edo State's energy infrastructure. Alongside solar mini-grid projects; enhanced regulatory frameworks; and partnerships with energy investors; the State Government is laying the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable energy landscape.

The metering initiative exemplifies the State Government's commitment to improving the quality of life for its citizens.



By replacing arbitrary billing practices with accurate, user-

controlled systems, the Edo State Government is empowering residents, reducing energy waste, and fostering a more transparent and efficient energy sector.

Edo State Government remains resolute in its mission to deliver modern, equitable, and sustainable energy solutions to its citizens, marking yet another milestone in its journey toward energy independence and economic empowerment.

Edo State Announces 2025 Final Hajj Fare

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

The Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has announced the final Hajj fare for the year 2025 Hajj to Saudi Arabia.

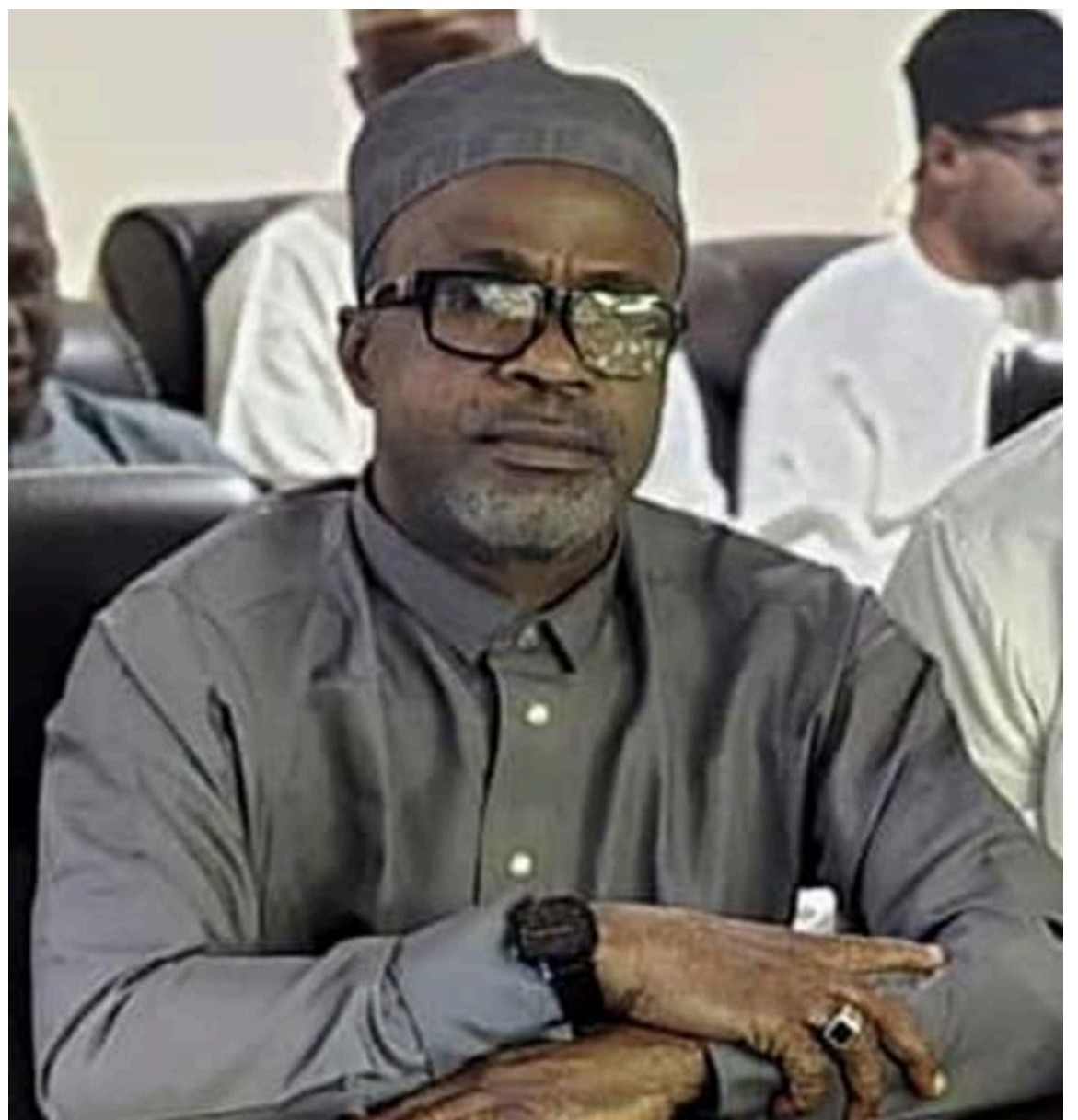
This announcement was contained in a press statement made available by the board early this morning. According to the press statement, Edo State intending pilgrims will be paying N8,784,085.59 (eight million, seven hundred and eighty-four thousand, eighty-five Naira, and fifty-nine kobo) for the 2025 Hajj.

The statement reads in parts, "In accordance with the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board is pleased to announce the Hajj fare for the 2025 season"

"Following approval from the Office of the Vice President, NAHCON has set the Hajj fare for intending pilgrims from Southern states at N8,784,085.59 (eight million, seven hundred and eighty-four thousand, eighty-five Naira, and fifty-nine kobo)"

"NAHCON Chairman, Professor Abdullahi Saleh Usman, attributes this modest fare to extensive consultations with all stakeholders, including the Presidency and the Forum of State Executive Secretaries. This collaborative effort aimed to ensure inclusivity in the decision-making process"

Regarding early registration and payment recommended, the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board urges all interested pilgrims to register early and make timely payments to avoid last-minute inconveniences. The statement emphasized the importance of adhering to timelines and Saudi guidelines throughout the Hajj process.



EDSG To Fast Track Payment of Gratuity Backlog For Pensioners

By Daniel-Nwosu Nohunwan Lucy



The Commissioner, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Sir (Dr.) Lucky Esegbe has expressed optimism regarding the payment of Gratuity to Pensioners in Edo State. He assured that His Excellency, the Governor, Senator Monday Okpbehlo and his team were working assiduously to ensure the prompt payment of the gratuity backlog of Local Government Pensioners, aiming to bring back smiles to the faces of Pensioners.

Sir (Dr.) Lucky Esegbe gave this assurance, while receiving some members of The Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Edo State Council, led by the Public Relations Officer, Comrade Claudette Ehannire, who were on a courtesy visit to his office in Benin City.

He commended the Pensioners for their continuous patience and understanding, adding that their contributions to the development of Edo State will never be forgotten and as such, modalities were already in place to ensure that outstanding gratuity payments are cleared and all other pending issues treated.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of quality health care for the retirees and assured that Government will look into the issues surrounding the Edo Health Insurance Scheme, which aims to provide comprehensive health coverage for all citizens, including Pensioners.

“Health is wealth, these are the little benefits we ought to get from government, having taken our youthful age in serving the State. The only way we can say thank you is by paying your pension and entitlements, whether you call it gratuity; salary arrears”. He added.

The Commissioner stated that he had given the Pension Office a 72 hour ultimatum to compile and submit a list of all outstanding payments concerning Local Government retirees to his office. This is in view of ensuring that all entitlements are paid within the shortest possible time.

He further assured the Pensioners that the Governor Monday Okpbehlo led- administration is committed to ensuring their welfare remains top priority and will continue to work towards their wellbeing.

Discussions were centered on the payment of monthly pensions, consequential adjustments approved in 2019, Health Insurance amongst others.

On her part, Public Relations Officer, Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Edo State Council, Comrade Claudette Ehannire, who congratulated the Commissioner on his assumption of office, appealed for an improved method in the payment of gratuity as the previous government had cleared up the backlog to 2011.

She also appealed for the Commissioner to look into the health services and other matters for Pensioners.

Edo Joins Global Hajj Conference in Jeddah, Seeking Improved Services for Pilgrims

By By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah



Edo State is actively participating in the prestigious Global Hajj Conference and Exhibition currently going on in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The four-day event, hosted by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and the Pilgrim Experience Programme, brings together over 300 exhibitors and 100 speakers from around the world to discuss and showcase advancements in hajj and umrah services.

This significant event, which commenced on Tuesday January 13, 2025 aligns with Saudi Vision 2030's ambitious goal of modernizing and enhancing the pilgrim experience.

Edo State's presence at the conference signifies a proactive approach to improving services for its own citizens undertaking the pilgrimage.

According to the chairman of Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh and the executive secretary, Alhaji Eranga Muhammadkabar Abdulkabir who spoke via WhatsApp call this morning, the exhibition is focusing on the latest technologies and innovations within the hajj sector. It provides a valuable platform for Edo State officials to gain insights from global leaders in hajj and umrah management, including advancements in logistics, transportation, crowd management, and accommodation.

According to Chairman Uduimoh, "We are using the opportunity to network with key stakeholders. We are building relationships with service providers, industry experts, and other government delegations to explore potential collaborations and partnerships through this conference"

In his response, the executive secretary, Eranga added: "The conference also provides us the opportunity to investigate how cutting-edge technologies, digital solutions can enhance the safety and comfort of Edo State pilgrims"

The conference's theme, "The Road to the Nusuk," emphasizes key pillars for improving pilgrim services, including logistics, transportation, housing, and hospitality.

The active participation in these discussions by Edo State aims to translate the learnings into tangible improvements for its own pilgrims, ensuring a safe, seamless, and spiritually enriching experience.

This participation in the Global Hajj Conference and Exhibition underscores Edo State's commitment to providing the best possible support for its citizens embarking on this sacred journey.

Edo Attends Pre-Hajj Meeting in Zam Zam Hotel Makkah

....Discusses Pilgrim Welfare, Hajj Fare By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

The Edo State delegation to Saudi Arabia for pre-Hajj visit were among the active participants in a crucial meeting held at Zam Zam Hotel in Makkah yesterday Monday January 13th 2025.

The Chairman of the board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh and the executive secretary, Alhaji Eranga Muhammadkabar Abdulkabir who led the delegation Noted that the key issues discussed include welfare of pilgrims, review of Hajj fare for a possible reduction and payment deadline.

The meeting brought together Chairmen/ CEOs and Secretaries of Pilgrims Welfare Boards from all 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja to discuss critical issues related to the upcoming Hajj season.

According to the Chairman, Edo State Muslim Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh, "The meeting focused on enhancing the welfare of Nigerian pilgrims during their stay in Saudi Arabia, including accommodation, transportation, and medical services. Strategies were explored to potentially reduce the cost of Hajj for Nigerian pilgrims. The meeting addressed the deadline for Hajj payment and registration for the 2025 season, providing crucial information to prospective pilgrims in Edo State and across Nigeria"

The executive secretary of the board, Alhaji Eranga Muhammadkabar Abdulkabir noted that the Edo State delegation actively participated in the

discussions, sharing insights and contributing to the collective efforts to ensure a smooth and successful Hajj pilgrimage for Nigerian Muslims.

This pre-Hajj meeting serves as a vital platform for Nigerian officials to coordinate with Saudi authorities and address any challenges that may arise during the Hajj season.



EDSOGPADEC Perm Sec. Charges Staff on Effective Service delivery

By Clementina Agweda

The Staff of Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (EDSOGPADEC) have been charged to embrace work ethics in order to improve upon their job efficiency in the year 2025.

The Permanent Secretary of the Commission, Mrs. Stella Agbonghede Eshieshi who gave the charge during a meeting with the workers at EDSOGPADEC premises in Benin-City, urged them to commit themselves to achieve the vision of the Commission which is to ensure that indigenes in the mandate area of the State enjoy improved basic amenities of life and are adequately empowered.

She further urged Staff to work with unity of purpose as a family, stressing on the need for them to be punctual and present at their duty posts, in view of obeying constituted authority.

Present at the meeting were both Management Team and Staff of the Commission who assured the Permanent Secretary of their absolute support and pledged their unalloyed commitment to ensuring that the progress and optimal service delivery of the Commission is achieved as enshrined in its mandate.



Edo Govt. Set to End Land Grabbing

...Frowns at Menace of Racketeers in Auchi, ...Assures of Staff Welfare in EDOGIS By Tunde Eigberemolen

Edo State Government has solicited the support and cooperation of residents in the State to end the menace of land grabbing.

Speaking on behalf of the State Governor, the new Managing Director of Edo State Geographic Information Service (EdoGIS), Dr. Tony Ikpasaja at his maiden meeting with the entire Staff of the Agency said the Government was poised to end the menace of land grabbing in record time.

He particularly frowned at the menace of land racketeering on government lands in Auchi in Edo North Senatorial District.

According to the MD, the immediate concern of his leadership is to broaden the revenue base of the Agency in line with His Excellency, the Governor's directive and seek ways of encouraging the entire workforce through various incentives that will positively impact on their welfare.

Dr Ikpasaja hinted that he was already aware of reported incidences of land grabbing in parts of the state, the latest being in Auchi area of Edo North, and cautioned Staff not to connive or collaborate with unscrupulous elements to promote the unwholesome activity which he warned will be visited with serious sanctions when discovered.

He advised them to always come early to work and be committed to their assigned tasks in order to meet the target of the Agency, promising that he will bring back necessary incentives to encourage them.

The interactive session afforded staff the opportunity to ask questions to which answers were provided, while the MD promised to run an open door policy anchored on confidentiality.

It will be recalled that on resumption as the new Managing Director of EDOGIS on Monday, January 6, 2025, Dr Tony Ikpasaja immediately hit the ground running when



he met with the Management Team who led him on a guided tour of the Departments and units where he interfaced with members of Staff at their duty posts.

Renewed Hope Initiative: Ministry Partners with Office of the First Lady for a Transformed Agricultural Sector

By Francesca Okojie

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Dr. Peter Osagie accompanied by a delegation of Ministry officials has visited the Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady, Edo State, Mrs. Edesili Anani. The visit which was initiated by the Co-ordinator aimed at exploring potential collaborations between the two offices in implementing the Renewed Hope Initiatives (RHI) of Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, the Wife of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) focuses on four key agricultural support projects and is aimed at transforming agriculture and improving livelihoods. The first project involves training and empowering women in agriculture, with additional support provided to young male and female farmers to encourage their participation in the

sector. The second project, the “Every-Home-a-Garden” program, seeks to encourage families to cultivate small gardens, thereby boosting national food production, reducing market pressure, and improving household food access. This program also offers a cash incentive to motivate participation. Lastly, the revitalization of the Young Farmers Club aims to re-engage young people with agriculture as a viable and sustainable career path.

By targeting schools in Edo State, this initiative seeks to reshape students’ perspectives on farming, highlighting it as a business opportunity and an essential investment for national food security.

In his response, the Permanent Secretary expressed gratitude for the invitation and reaffirmed the Ministry’s unwavering support for the successful implementation of t



hese projects in Edo State. He highlighted that the RHI’s objectives align with the Ministry’s mandate and the 2025 budget priorities of His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, Governor of Edo State, who has placed a strong emphasis on agriculture.

Dr. Osagie further highlighted several ongoing initiatives within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) that could serve as effective channels for implementing the Renewed Hope Initiatives. These include the IFAD-Life-ND Program, which employs an incubator-incubatee model to facilitate agricultural apprenticeship; the Commercial Agriculture Credit Loan Scheme, designed to provide farmers with affordable credit at single-digit interest rates; and the Fadama NG-CARES Program, which focuses on supporting agricultural clusters with an emphasis on processing and value addition among other programmes.

Edo State Govt Intensifies Efforts to Boost Oil and Gas Revenue Through Strategic Partnerships

By Grace Oakhiena

As part of efforts to optimize revenue generation from the Oil and Gas Sector, the Edo State Government has embarked on a collaborative initiative with key stakeholders on revenue generation and appropriation.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Oil and Gas, Hon. Felix Osemwengie Isere Esq. in company of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Mrs. Omoruyi Ese Martina, led a high-level delegation to the Edo State Internal Revenue Service (EIRS) to explore strategies for enhancing the State’s earnings from its oil and gas resources.

The delegation also featured the Special Adviser to the Governor on Finance, Investment, and Revenue, Mr. Kizito Okpebholo, amongst other notable stakeholders. The Team engaged in discussions focused on improving revenue collection systems, identifying untapped opportunities, and streamlining operations across the oil and gas value chain.

Hon. Isere emphasizing the importance of inter-agency collaboration in achieving the State’s revenue goals, said, “Our mission is to maximize the economic benefits of Edo State’s oil and gas resources by working closely with relevant stakeholders. This collaboration will strengthen our fiscal position and drive sustainable development across the State.”

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mining and Energy took a firm stance on transparency and accountability in revenue collection. As part of the Ministry’s efforts to optimize revenue generation, she emphasized that all funds collected on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Mining should be duly credited to the Ministry’s accounts.

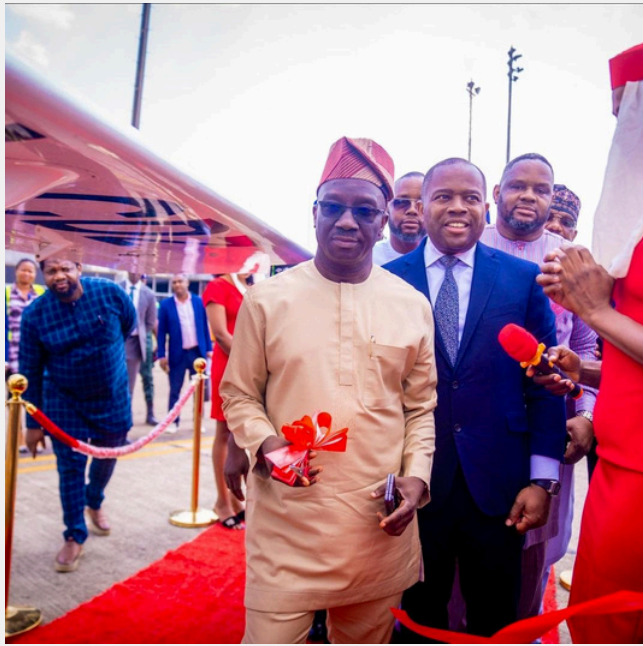
According to Mrs. Omoruyi, the directive is to ensure that all revenue collected is properly accounted for, transparently recorded, and utilized for the intended purposes of developing the State’s Energy and Mining Sector. She said that by doing so, it is aimed at promoting fiscal discipline, reduce leakages, and guarantee that the State’s resources are harnessed efficiently to drive economic growth and development



The Chairman of the Edo State Board of Internal Revenue Service, Hon. Oladele Bankole Balogun, commended Hon. Isere for his initiative and assured him of the Board’s full support in implementing strategies to boost oil and gas revenues. The discussions highlighted the need for enhancing tax collection frameworks and creating efficient mechanisms to harness the full potential of the sector.

These efforts align with the broader vision of the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, of diversifying the State’s revenue base to fund critical infrastructure and drive economic growth. Under the leadership of the Governor, the Edo State Government has demonstrated its commitment to transparency, fiscal discipline, and innovation by engaging experts and stakeholders in formulating impactful revenue-generating policies.

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



OKPEBHOLO RECOMMITTS TO SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN EDO

...unveils Technical, Management Team, Players of Bendel Insurance, Edo Queens

By By Godspower Eguasa



Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo has again, reaffirmed his commitment to sports development in Edo, creating the path for youth productivity and talents development amongst Edo youths, while unveiling the technical, and management team, as well as newly injected players for the Bendel Insurance, and Edo Queens Football Clubs to drive development in the State.

Okpebholo who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Rt Hon. Dennis Idahosa, made this known during the unveiling ceremony held on Tuesday 14th of January, 2024, at the Festival Hall of Government House, in Benin City.

According to Idahosa: "It is with great pleasure I welcome you to this epoch-making event. Today's unveiling of the management and players of Bendel Insurance FC and Edo Queens underscores the importance this administration places on sport as a verifiable vehicle for cohesion and progress.

"The appointment of the new management team and extra players are testaments of government commitment to revitalize a and reposition Bendel Insurance and Edo Queens FC for efficient service delivery".

"Since the inauguration of the present administration, we have continued to prioritize the welfare of sports men and women, giving them the necessary encouragement to spur them to attaining greater heights in the sports endeavours".

Idahosa added: " let me place on record the renewed commitment of this present administration to support Edo State Commission's vision of grooming talents, especially youths in channeling their energy as envisioned by the founding fathers".

Idahosa who sued for synergy and team spirit among the entire management structure of the Bendel Insurance and Edo Queens Football Clubs, noted it will position the clubs on the path of victory and sustainable development.

Idahosa said: "The new coach, the technical directors, and the team management must work together to improve on the performance of Bendel Insurance FC and advance the club beyond the Premier League tournament. The new players must shun indiscipline, hooliganism and embrace teamwork to place them ahead in the league."

Stressing further, Idahosa said: "It is on this record that the superlative performance of Edo Queens FC as the defending champions of the Women Football League has restored the position of Edo State as the home of sport in Nigeria. The

state governor is proud and elated over the performance of Edo Queens in Nigeria's female football tournament and in continental engagements".

Idahosa added: "It is my honor and privilege to unveil the new management and players of Bendel Insurance FC and Edo Queens FC for more victories and success."

Earlier, the Chairman of the Edo State Sports Commission, Hon. Desmond Enabulele, commended the developmental strides of Sen. Monday Okpebholo in driving development in the sports sector of the State, while noting the ceremony was a notable one for the State, as it creates the opportunity for the Governor to unveil the team that would take the clubs to victory heights, in the national and international competitions arena.

Highlight of the event was the unveiling of Austin Iyamu as Technical Director, Peter Obanor as Team Manager, and Greg Ikhenoba as substantive Coach of Bendel Insurance FC. Also unveiled were 12 new players injected into Edo Queens FC to further fortify them in the new season.

Council Chairman interfaces with Civil Servants, Political leaders.

... Unveils Plan for 24hrs waste evacuation

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe



The Functioning Chairman of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, Rt Hon Alabi bliss Oshionogue has met with senior Civil Servants in the local council as well as leaders of the political party to brainstorm on better ways to fast-track rapid development in the local government area.

The Council boss who sued for synergy among stakeholders, harped on collective efforts to foster meaningful development. According to him, "It is a new dawn in Akoko-Edo and I'm ready to work with all and sundry to quickly address the infrastructural deficit that has bedeviled our local government area over time and the time to change the narrative is now" Alabi enthused.

The Ag. Chairman commended party leaders for being pivotal to the actualization of a new Akoko-Edo, stating that they have never taken the local government area for granted, while also commending the Civil Servants for bringing their collaboration and expertise to bear, describing them as indispensable.

Speaking on the importance of the ceremony, a former speaker of Edo State House of Assembly and a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress, Rt Hon Kabiru Adjoto, noted that the meeting was apt to enable them key into the 5-point agenda of Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo for the actualization of a new Edo State.

In a statement, the leader asserted, "A lot of mistakes have been made in the past which we must now correct.

This type of meeting has not taken place in a long while as we are determined to fathom ways out of our present predicament. This is why it has become expedient to meet and deliberate on issues affecting our collective psyche and we shall replicate this going forward"

The former speaker who disclosed that a lot was expected from the Alade-led administration, noted that the erstwhile council boss will come under probe for failing to deliver, to serve as a deterrent to other erring council executives, while suing for the cooperation of all to enable the Oshionogue-led administration record the desired success.

Also speaking, the Local Government Party Chairman, Hon Monday Oseh appreciated stakeholders and the Head of Local Government Administration (HOLGA) for their cooperation, calling for more synergy to drive the necessary change which he noted had gone into extinction.

In his contribution, Mr Teddy Adewumi, represented by Hon Paul Ojemu noted that power is transient. He explained that history is being made in the Local Government Area with the coming of Alabi while entreating the Chairman not to allow Ego override his decisions. On their parts, Chief Chris Dirisu, Hon S O Ehihi, Madam Cordelia Iyogun, others emphasized the need to work with all critical stakeholders for the attainment of a new Akoko-Edo that is birthed on prosperity and rapid development.

Baring his mind during deliberations, the head of local government administration (HOLGA) Dr BES Mathew said development is faster when square pegs are put in square holes. He appreciated the passion of Rt Hon Kabiru Adjoto and other stakeholders to envision a new Akoko-Edo under the watch of the council helmsman.

The Holga commended the legislative arm for doing the needful in its quest to have a working local government area, pointing out that allocations meant for the third tier of government would be judiciously used to drive an all inclusive development for locals.

"We will do our best to collaborate with the council chairman to succeed. We will rejig the security architecture by providing adequate funding and logistics to drive the process. Concerted efforts would be made to revisit abandoned projects, while also boosting our revenue profile and doing something that would resonate across the local government area to herald a new beginning in the next couple of months" the statement reads.

Three in Police Custody as Edo State Govt. Vows to get Justice for 12-Year-old Gang-Raped Victim

By Peace Temisan Osemwegie

Edo State Government through the Administrator of the Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edisili Annani, has condemned a heart-wrenching case of a 12-year-old girl who was allegedly gang-raped by five men on December 24, 2024, and recorded on tape in Igiafodo Awuyemi, Okpella, in Etsako East Local Government Area (LGA) of the State.

Speaking during a visit to the young lady at the Diasy Ehanire Danjuma Centre, Mrs Anani vowed that the perpetrators would face the full wrath of the law, citing the provisions of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law.

“The Edo State Government will leave no stone unturned to ensure that these perpetrators are brought to book. Section 4 of the VAPP Law defines rape, while Section 5 outlines the punishment. EDO State has zero tolerance for any form of violence, and we are standing firmly with the victim,” she stated.

Mrs. Anani condemned the perpetrators, who reportedly filmed the act and circulated the video on social media, adding that the evidence strengthens the case against them.

“The video footage makes it impossible for anyone to cover up this crime. The law will take its course, and these individuals will be dealt with decisively,” she assured. She commended the Okuokpelligbe of Okpella, His Royal Highness, Lukeman Akemokue, and his wife, Blessing for their swift action in bringing the case to light and ensured that both the victim and her mother were relocated to Benin City for safety and medical care due to threats against their lives.

“I really want to commend your Highness. He did a fantastic work with his wife. It happened in his Community, Okpella Kingdom, they didn’t hide it, immediately he saw the videos he took it up, and I want to say when things like these happen speak out, speak out for somebody else, because tomorrow it could be your own child,” she advised.

On his part, the Okuokpelligbe of Okpella, HRH. Akemokue, thanked the Executive Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo, and the office of the First Lady for a fantastic job for being proactive in response, noting that Okpella Community will continue to support the administration.

Mrs. Anani was also at the Edo State Police Headquarters with the victim and other stakeholders. She commended the Police for responding promptly and appealed that the little girl gets justice.

In his response, the Edo State Commissioner of Police, CP. Umoru Ozigi commended Mrs. Anani for the visit, assuring that the victim will get justice. He disclosed that three persons are currently in police custody in connection with the crime.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Mrs. Irenonsen Joy Ihensekhien, expressed optimism that the Police will apprehend the remaining two suspects, who were at large. She urged the public to always speak out and take advantage of the free services offered by the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).



EDSG SEALS UP BUILDING OVER GAS EXPLOSION

By Evelyn Unuigbo



Edo State Development and Building Control Agency has sealed up a building located at number 48, Ogunrobo Street off Newton Street, Ekosodin Community in Ovia South-West Local Government Area in Benin City, due to a gas explosion leading to the partial collapse of the building.

The Managing Director, Edo State Development and Building Control Agency Hon. Igabali Imoisili Darlington who got a distress call concerning the gas explosion which led to the damage of the building where two students were said to have sustained various injuries quickly mobilized his Team led by Town Planner Henry (TPL) Enabulele to the scene for an "on the spot" assessment.

According to Mr. Enabulele, "the partial collapse of the building is as a result of a gas explosion and from all indications, it is obvious that the house is no longer habitable, hence the need for the residents to quit the building".

He added that the building was already a disaster in waiting because there were cracks on the wall which indicated that the building was seriously distressed.

The Director who affirmed that experts would be called upon to assess the building to ascertain the level of damage before actions would be taken, advised against the use of the building for the time being, ordering it to be sealed till further notice.

On his part, Director, Department of Urban Renewal, TPL Musa Daudu explained that it was very rare for a building to collapse as a result of gas explosion but the building clearly had a weak structure, hence the colossal damage.

Meanwhile, the Director, Department of Planning Permit, TPL Nosa Asemota, who sympathized with the victims, advised prospective developers to seek the advice of Professionals before embarking on building projects to avoid future damages of a like nature.

Responding, the caretaker of the house, Mrs. Victoria Ekong Achibong explained that she was in her shop beside the building when she heard a loud sound and suddenly the roof of her shop went off and a part of the building came crashing down.

The two students who sustained injuries are currently receiving treatment in a nearby hospital.

SECRET CULT AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES (PROHIBITION) LAW 2025.



FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT THE EDO STATE

Secret Cult and Similar Activities (Prohibition) Law 2025



1

The Bill was passed into Law by
the Edo State House of
Assembly and signed by His
Excellency, **Senator Monday
Okpebholo**



2

The Law took effect from **24th
of January, 2025** and confers
stiffer penalties for anyone
found guilty of secret cult
related offences in the State



3

The Law provides for **twenty-one (21) years
imprisonment** for financial and material sponsors
of secret cults; without an option of fine and in the
case of any fatality, the perpetrator (s) shall be
liable to death upon conviction. Any properties in
his name as well as his place of residence shall be
confiscated and demolished by the State
Government



4

Also, the Law provides for **ten (10) years
imprisonment** for those who knowingly
harbor members of a secret cult or permit a
secret cult meeting or activities to be held in
a house, building or place over which they
have control. Such person (s) properties will
be confiscated and demolished by the State
Government



Follow for more tips

   
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QUOTES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Ministry of Information and Communications

DID YOU KNOW?

The repeal **Secret Cult and Similar Activities (Prohibition) Law 2025** has been passed by Edo state House of Assembly and signed into law by His Excellency, Sen. Monday Okpebholo.

Facts about the Law:

- 21 years imprisonment for financial and material sponsors of secret cults.
- 10 years imprisonment for those who knowingly harbour members of a secret cult or permit a secret cult meeting or activities to be held in house, building or place over which they have control.
- 21 years imprisonment for any person being a cultist who assault, injures, maims or kills any person(s) or destroy any property in furtherance of the activities of any secret cult.
- In the case of any fatality, the perpetrator(s) shall be liable to death upon conviction and any properties in his name as well as his place of residence shall be confiscated and demolished by the State Government.



Hon. Paul Nosayaba Ohonbamu

Bachelor's of Law (LL.B.)
University of Benin

Ministry of Information and Communications

MEET THE COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Hon. Paul Nosayaba Ohonbamu is a seasoned legal expert and distinguished Nigerian politician with over 30 years of experience. A graduate of the University of Benin (LL.B, 1992), he has dedicated his career to advancing governance and advocating for the welfare of the people.

Hon. Ohonbamu served as a Member of the Edo State House of Assembly from 2007 to 2015, holding influential roles including Minority Leader, Deputy Speaker, and Chairman of key committees. He also served as Commissioner for Communication and Orientation in Edo State between 2017 and 2020.

He is the Senior Partner at Ohonbamu & Ohonbamu Law Firm (Equity Chambers) and currently the Commissioner for Information and Communications continuing his legacy of leadership and legal excellence.



" I encourage you to work with a share sense of purpose, prioritize teamwork and remain focused on improving the lives of our citizens. Together, we can make Edo state a model of growth and prosperity"

— **Sen. Monday Okpebholo** —
Governor, Edo State

Ministry of Information and Communications

Inspection of ongoing work at failed sections of the Benin _Ekpoma, Auchi road, Ugha, Ehor, Igeiduma, Okemuen, Ihie and Utene community roads.



" We want to assure everyone that the Government is doing everything possible to ensure that these roads are motorable"

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
Governor, Edo State



" My leadership style is rooted in action, not rhetoric. I will continue to personally oversee projects to ensure they are executed to the highest standards"

— **Sen. Monday Okpebholo** —
Governor, Edo State.



" We are here today because of their sacrifices and there is nothing we can ever do to adequately honor them, other than to make sure their sacrifices are not in vain."

— **SEN. MONDAY OKPEBHOLO** —
Executive Governor Of Edo State



PHOTO NEWS

GOV OKPEBHOLO BEGINS MASSIVE REPAIRS ON FAILED SECTIONS OF BENIN-EKPOMA-AUCHI HIGHWAY

The Governor in company of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, John Obanor, Edo State APC Chairman, Jarrett Tenebe and some government Officials also inspected Onewa primary school road, by Utako junction in Uromi and other adjoining roads in the area.



" We are here today because of their sacrifices and there is nothing we can ever do to adequately honor them, other than to make sure their sacrifices are not in vain."

— **SEN. MONDAY OKPEBHOLO** —
Executive Governor Of Edo State



PHOTO NEWS

SHUN CORRUPTION, PROTECT COMMUNITIES- GOV OKPEBHOLO CHARGES 493 NEW POLICE CONSTABLES

Governor, Monday Okpebholo has tasked the 493 constables of Edo and Delta State origin who were recently recruited into the Nigeria Police Force to use the knowledge gained in their training to shun corruption, build trust and protect communities. Congratulating the new recruits, Governor Okpebholo said the essence of their training is to protect communities and build relationships while serving with honour and integrity.



PHOTO NEWS

GOV OKPEBHOLO CONDOLES WITH FAMILY OF FORMER BENDEL STATE MILITARY ADMINISTRATOR, JEREMIAH USENI OVER DEMISE

The demise of the former military administrator of the defunct Bendel State, General Jeremiah Useni (ret'd), is a big loss to the people and Government of Edo State. General Useni was a true statesman who championed education reforms, oversaw the development of crucial infrastructure, and was a tireless advocate for justice.



PHOTO NEWS

REMEMBRANCE: GOV OKPEBHOLO PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN SOLDIERS

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has paid glowing tributes to the patriotism, courage and sacrifices of fallen heroes in the Nigerian Armed Forces, ascribing the nation's unity and peace to their sacrifices. He urged all Nigerians, and Edo State citizens in particular to honour their memories by ensuring that the sacrifices of the fallen heroes were not in vain



PHOTO NEWS

EDO STATE GOVERNMENT RECEIVES ACCOLADES FOR INITIATIVES AGAINST ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES.

The Edo State Government has been commended by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its initiatives to curb illegal migration and other related issues. This was during a courtesy visit from the Head of Sub-office in Benin City, who was accompanied by his team, to the Government House in Benin City, Edo State.



**EDO
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE**



**WE
WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU**

Edo Bulletin is a publication of Edo Communications Office (ECO), Ministry of Information and Communication