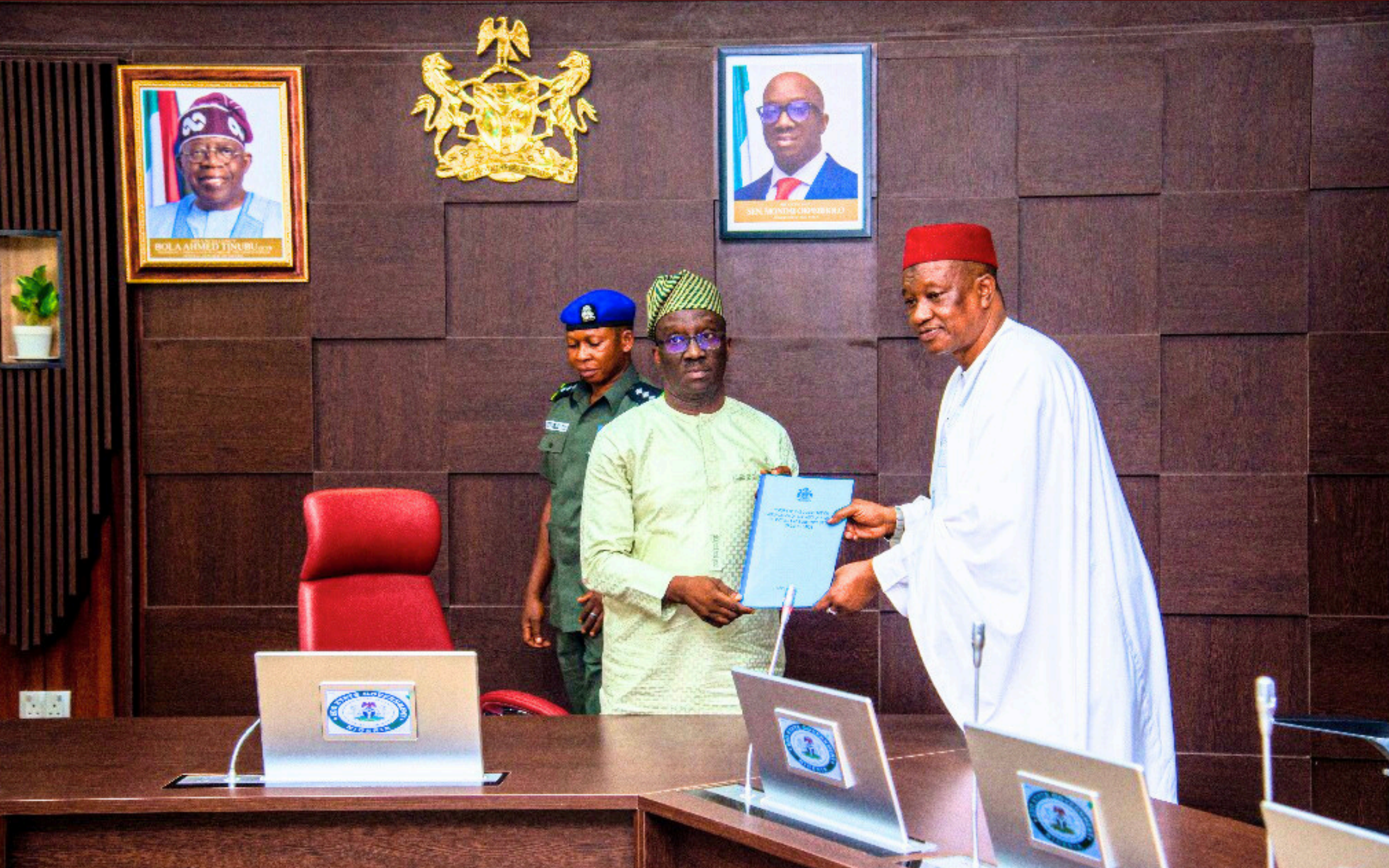




UROMI KILLINGS: FG, EDO STATE GOVT SET UP FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has disclosed that the Federal, in collaboration with the Edo State Government, have set up a fact-finding Committee to look into the circumstances surrounding the recent killings of some hunters in Uromi, Edo State.

Governor Okpebholo stated this on Thursday when he received a high-powered delegation from Kano State, led by the Deputy Governor of the State,

Comrade Aminu Abdulsalam Gwarzo at the Government House in Benin City.

The Governor said President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is not happy over what happened in Uromi and he is determined to ensure the State and nation are safe for everybody to live and do business.

“This incident has opened our eyes and we are ready to address a lot of issues about the country and how to make life

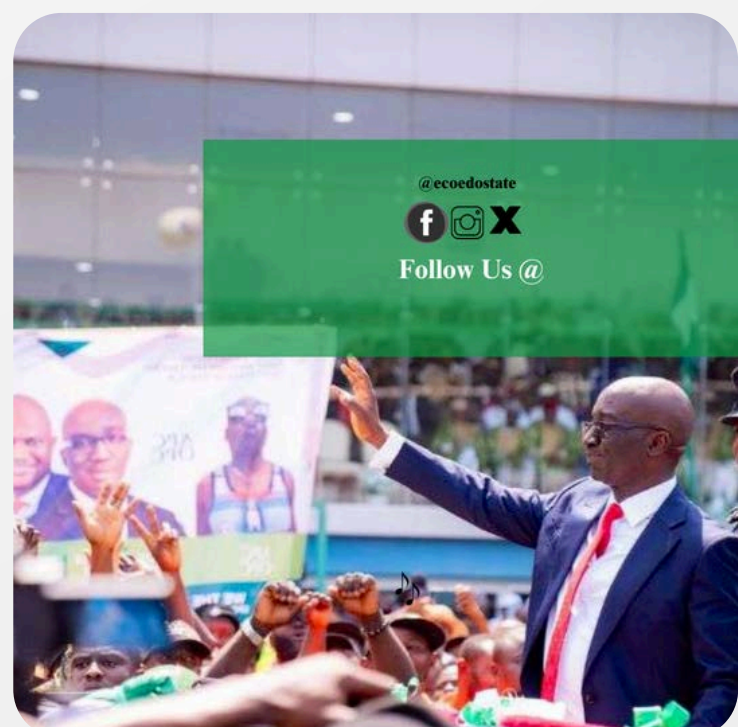
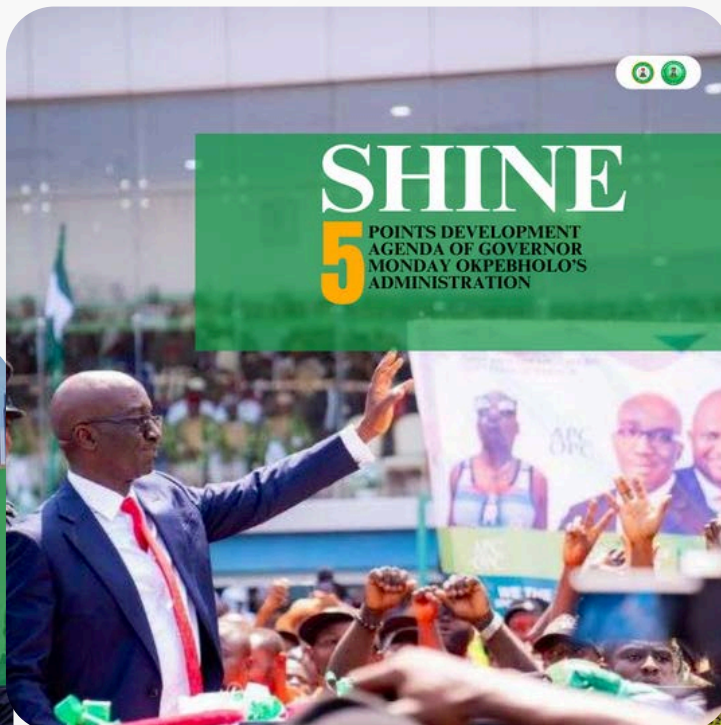
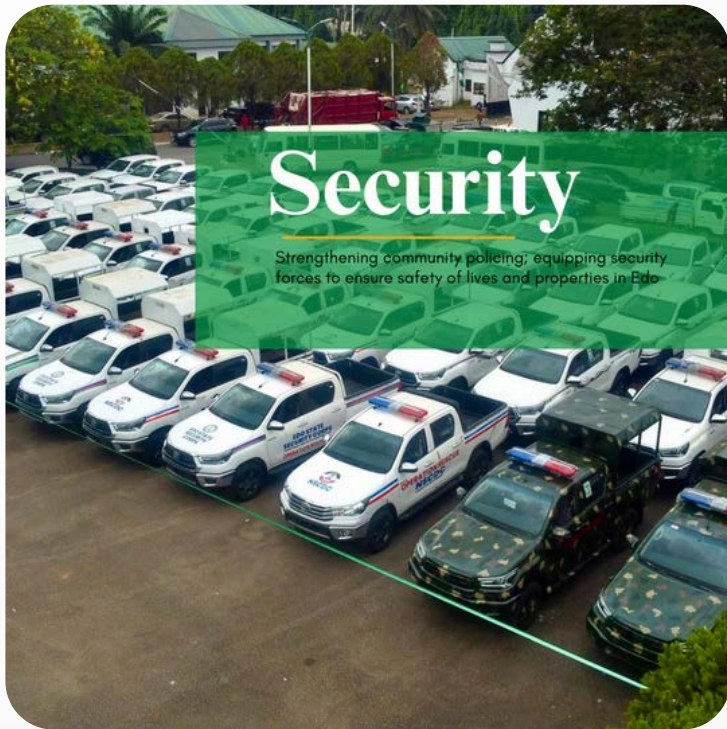
better for us all. The president is not happy with what has happened and he wants us to see to the end of this dastardly act.

“The President personally wants to see to the end of this issue. I want to also let you know that the President and Edo State Government have set up a committee to find out the remote cause(s) of the incident and put a lasting solution to the issue.

continues on pg 3



PROJECT SHINE



ESIPO, COMMITTED TO FACILITATING COLLABORATIONS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY – ODIGIE

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

The Managing Director, Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO), the Ease of Doing Business Secretariat, Hon Amen Odigie has said ESIPO is committed to Facilitating collaborations with relevant stakeholders in line with Governor Monday Okpebholo's vision to Achieving economic prosperity in Edo State.

Hon. Amen disclosed this while delivering a keynote address during the Edo State MSME Ecosystem Stakeholders Engagement held in Benin City recently.

According to him, "Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the lifeblood of our economy. They create jobs, foster innovation, and drive economic prosperity. However, they do not operate in isolation – collaboration and sustainable innovation are key to their success,"

Hon. Amen further emphasized ESIPO's commitment to bridging gaps within the ecosystem and ensuring sustainable business growth in line with Governor Okpebholo's vision For the state.

Earlier, Mr Nosa Obayowana, GIZ State Coordinator; Josep Edom, BOI State Manager and Babafemi Oyediran, Head, E.E, Component SEDIN among others also gave their remarks with emphasis on the need for strong collaboration among stakeholders in driving the ecosystem.

A major highlight of the event which was organized by GIZ in collaboration with ESIPO, SMEDAN, NASSI was a presentation by Joel Edionwe, State Coordinator of the Edo State One-Stop-Investment Centre (ES-OSIC), titled "Enhancing MSME Development: The Ecosystem Approach."



His session provided insights into best practices for strengthening MSMEs through strategic partnerships, capacity building, and policy support.

The engagement was highly interactive, with participants contributing their perspectives on how to address pressing issues within the MSME sector. Key discussions revolved around practical solutions for enhancing innovation, improving access to funding, and leveraging digital transformation to boost business sustainability.

... FG, EDO STATE GOVT SET UP FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE CONT'D

"This report you have submitted will actually help us so that we do not have to worry you. A lot will be done and made open to the public to know what the committee is doing on the issue.

"We are a peace-loving people in Edo State. We love those living with us in the State. Kano and Edo State have been collaborating in the area of commerce and industry," he stated.

The Deputy Governor of Kano State, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo appreciated Governor Okpebholo for his earlier visit to Kano.

He noted that the delegation was in Edo State to thank the Governor for the peaceful steps he took when he came to Kano State in regards to the Uromi incident.

"The Governor of Kano State set up a Committee to screen and verify, to establish the names, numbers, next of kin and those who survived the attack. We have been able to carry out these activities and we have come out with a report which we are here to submit to your Excellency.

"You promised us that justice will be done and we believe you on this Mr. Governor. We need a transparent process on this issue. Sixteen persons lost their dear lives from five local government areas of Kano State," he explained.

Present during the visit were the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Hon. Dennis Idahosa; Speaker Edo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Blessing Agbebaku; security heads in the State, senior government officials, both from Kano and Edo State, among others.

Governor Okpebholo and the delegation from Kano also visited Uromi, where they met with members of Hausa Community in the area.



GOV. OKPEBHOLO PROMISES BETTER WELFARE PACKAGE FOR EDO WORKERS

by Eubaldus Enahoro



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has said that his administration will do everything within its powers to take care of Edo State civil servants and make them happy.

Governor Okpebholo said this when he received Executives of Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Edo State chapter, led by its Acting State Chairman, Comrade Bernard Egwekhide. He said they were in Government House to congratulate the Governor on his recent victory at the governorship election tribunal that affirmed his victory in the September 21, 2024 governorship election.

The Governor said whatever Edo State workers are enjoying in the State is the responsibility of his administration to do because it is worker friendly.

“Whatever we are doing, which is favouring Edo workers, is done because it is our responsibility as a government. Edo people voted for us to work for them, and that is what we are doing to ensure life is made better for our people, including the workers.

“We embrace transparency in all what we do as a government to enable the people to trust us as we are not afraid of criticism. Positive criticism will put us on our toes to work harder for Edo people.

“The renewed hope agenda of the president has given us room and a platform to perform and serve Edo people better as we embark on practical governance.

“We are doing everything in the State to ensure peace, unity, growth, and development. That is why we ensure smooth collaboration among the three tiers of government. In all we do in the State, we ensure the three Senatorial zones are carried along.”

On his part, the NLC acting chairman, Egwekhide, commended the Governor for his developmental strides and the friendly environment created for Edo State workers to operate.

He said the visit was necessary as the body had come to congratulate the Governor for his deserved victory at the election petition tribunal in Abuja.

According to him, “Workers in Edo State are proud of you for the developmental strides in the State. You have created a friendly relationship between your administration and Edo workers as you have always taken steps to favour Edo State workers.

“Without asking, workers received their 13th month. You raised the subvention of Ambrose Ali University (AAU) from N41 Million to N500 Million. You regularized casual workers in Edo State. You increased what is due pensioners monthly from N50 million to N1 billion naira for both local and State pensioners.”

He noted that a committee has been set up to look into the compulsory pension scheme, which has become a burden on retired civil servants, adding that the report will be submitted to him for his action.

“We thank the governor for several employment given to our people in the very short time in office.”

In a related development, Governor Monday Okpebholo also received the new branch controller, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Edo State, Apanke Utande who was on a courtesy visit to Government House, where the Governor urged him to collaborate with his administration to improve the lives of Edo people.



EDO STATE GOVT PLEDGES COLLABORATION WITH WHO ON BOOSTING HEALTHCARE

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



As part of its commitments to fostering quality healthcare services in the Edo State, the State Government has pledged to partner the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other relevant stakeholders in promoting policies and programmes geared toward providing better healthcare services to residents in the State.

The commitment was reiterated by the Coordinator, Office of the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, during a meeting with delegates from WHO at the Government House in Benin City.

Mrs. Anani while stressing the State Government's dedication to driving quality healthcare services in the State, said, "We will do everything within our power to support you in your

campaigns. We believe in your vision for our community, and we are committed to helping you make it a reality. However, I must stress that in your events and campaigns, our women and children should also be included. Their perspectives and needs are crucial to building a thriving and equitable society."

She asserted that the Governor Monday Okpebholo-led administration is passionate about the health of Edo residents, particularly women and children, and pledged to collaborate with WHO in their health programmes and campaigns.

The State Coordinator of WHO, Dr. Eyo Nora, emphasised the need for collaboration from the office of the Edo State First Lady as they carry out their health programmes and campaigns.

She added that Mrs. Anani's presence during their campaigns will help foster trust on the part of the mothers and also encourage the health workers to be more effective and efficient in their service delivery.

According to Dr. Eyo, "As mothers take their babies to the hospital to be immunized, we need to encourage the health workers to let them take their work seriously." She mentioned the importance of taking their vaccination and immunization campaigns and sensitization to the grassroots and how it could help reduce the risk of preventable diseases in the State.

In attendance was the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomole. The meeting climaxed with the presentation of a souvenir to Mrs. Anani by the WHO representatives.



GOV OKPEBHOLO: PDP, ASUE IGHODALO'S APPEAL WILL CRASH AT APPELLATE COURT

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, on Friday in Irrua, Esan Central Local Government Area, said the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate, Asue Ighodalo's appeal will crash at the Appellate Court.

Governor Okpebholo said this while speaking at Okaijesan Town Hall, Irrua, venue for the celebration of his election Tribunal victory hosted by Edo Central leaders.

The Governor thanked Edo people for their support and prayers and assured them that his administration would continue with the current pace of developmental strides.

He noted that Asue Ighodalo and the PDP have declared their intention to challenge the verdict of the election petition tribunal ruling, which gave him and his party victory on Wednesday.

Governor Okpebholo said Asue Ighodalo and PDP are both free to appeal the ruling, as he assured them that they will fail at the Appeal Court.

"The opposition party has been talking and shouting, but Edo people spoke very clear and loud with their votes on September 21, 2024. Edo people voted for the right person in Senator Monday Okpebholo. The people will speak again when the time is right.

"We have defeated them at the Tribunal, and they said they want to appeal the ruling. If they like, let them appeal and even get to the Supreme Court. We will defeat them.

"They have stolen enough money from Edo State. So, they are wasting the money on court cases. If they like, let them spend the whole money they stole from the people. They will never steal Edo people's mandates given to me and the All Progressive



Congress (APC) at the September 21st governorship election." Governor Okpebholo revealed plans by his administration to develop Esan land through road infrastructure, noting that his administration has awarded a contract to dualise the old road from Ekpoma to Ubiaja.

"As we won this election, the first thing we did was to make sure our roads were motorable across Edo State. If you come to Enewa now, it's looking like Abuja, as we are putting our efforts to ensure we have good roads to boost economic activities.

"I know the problem of Edo State and Esan land. I have already awarded the old road from Ekpoma to Ubiaja to be dualized. There will be much space to enable vehicles to pass freely without hitting each other. When completed, this road will boost economic activities in the area.



"I am an Edo man, an Esan man, and I know the problem of Esan people. Today, I came to tell you people that the Tribunal has given us victory again after the September 21st governorship election.

"The people have spoken, and by the grace of God very soon, what we promised our people, they will start enjoying it. The promise like the soft loan, our people will soon start getting the money. They will soon start to enjoy it. It will start happening in less than two weeks. The money is ready. Names are being compiled for the interested people who want the loan."

In his address to Esan people, the Secretary to Edo State Government, Umar Musa Ikhilior, said God gave Edo people double victory in the election of September 21st governorship and in the election petition tribunal ruling.

He noted that Governor Monday Okpebholo, who won the governorship election, has been affirmed as the true elected Governor by the election petition Tribunal in Abuja.

"God gave us double victory on Wednesday at the Tribunal judgment. We are grateful to God Almighty and the people of Edo State for their continuous prayers and support."

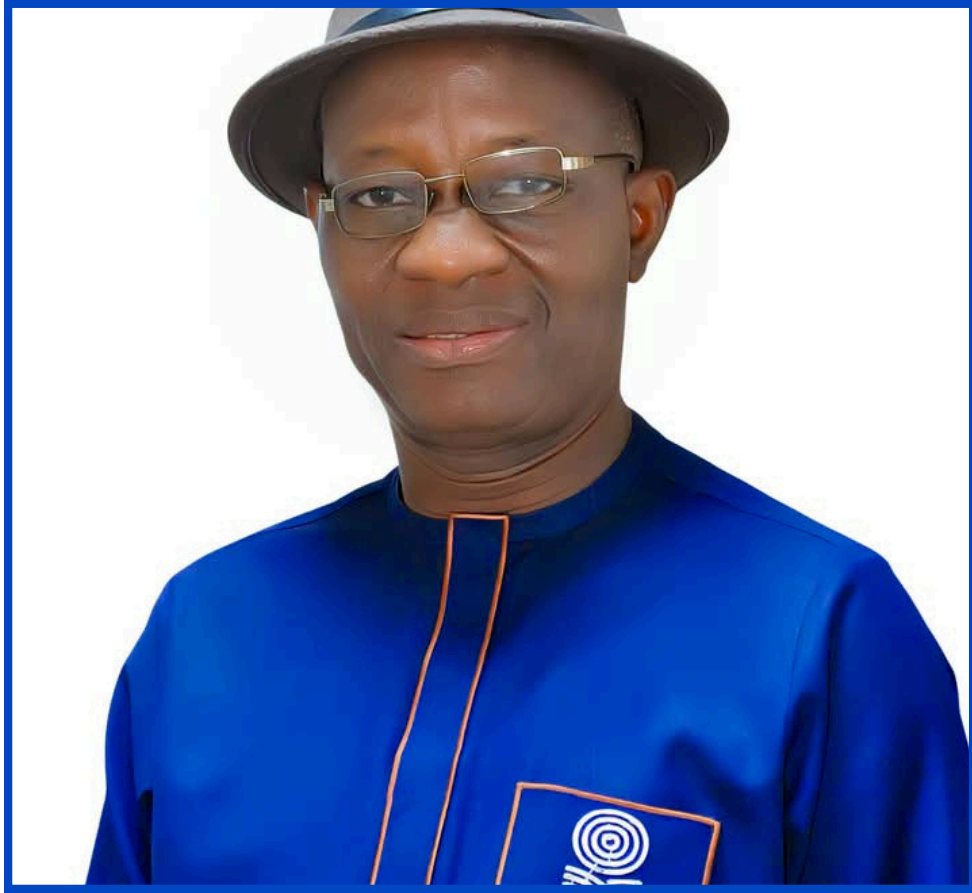
Leader of Arewa community in Esan land, Bawa Umar, commended Governor Monday Okpebholo for his efforts in ensuring peace, stability, and development in Edo State after the Uromi killings.

He noted that his visit to Kano State to condole with the Governor speaks volumes of his personality as a gentleman and a man of peace.



EDO TRIBUNAL JUDGMENT AND THE TASK OF GOVERNANCE – OHONBAMU

By Hon Paul Ohonbamu



The Judgment of the Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Abuja dismissing the petition filed by the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP and its candidate, Asue Ighodalo has upheld the supremacy of the law and given credence to the resilience of our legal system in ensuring that only right persons occupy elective positions.

With this ruling which has definitely affirmed Senator Monday Okpebholo as the elected governor of Edo State, it is now incumbent on Edo people, irrespective of political affiliations to work with the administration to build a state that thrives on justice, peace and the well being of every citizen.

Interestingly, It is no more news that the average Nigerian despise politics because it is regarded as a dirty game and its practitioners are viewed with suspicion, especially when those in opposition will not see anything good in what the government is doing.

However, this is not unexpected, given what some people regard as the failures of the political class, particularly some elected or those appointed into various positions.

But, with the calibre of some politicians today, there is a changing attitude of politicians. People are becoming more politically conscious and enlightened. They are becoming more probing of politicians and administrators to enable them score their performances.

Some public officers are equally becoming more dedicated to service with the urge to live up to the expectations of their people.

Today, the Executive Governor of Edo state, Senator Monday Okpebholo, also known as Akpakomiza belongs to this class of public officers striving to leave a mark for posterity sake in the art of governance.

The governor started his political journey by building a foundation based on his strong desire to meet the needs of

his people with the provision of the necessities of life such as water, schools and roads even when he was not yet in government.

It is public knowledge that during the eight years of the previous administration in the state, the people became frustrated as they found themselves in a state of hopelessness and despondency because of the in-action of the immediate past governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki.

The technocrat used contractors who were imported to the state to embark on construction jobs, sidelining Edo State people and using consultants who were engaged to take over the functions of the civil servants, while some legacies of former Governor, Samuel Ogbemudia were pulled down all in the name of reforms.

But, barely five months in office, the Senator Monday Okpebholo administration has overwhelmed both residents and visitors to the state with remarkable giant strides as he makes a lasting impression in governance.

In a nation where public officers are often in the firing line due to allegations of corruption and other misdeeds, so far, Governor Okpebholo is building a reputation of honesty and displaying his sincerity of purpose to transform Edo state to an enviable state in the comity of states in the country.

The Governor has demonstrated his resolve for transparency in governance, by applying the laws for whosoever contravenes the law and no one will be protected.

There is no doubt that Edo people are gradually building an unshakeable trust in the governor whose words are his bonds as his actions speak louder than words. This has been demonstrated lavishly in the governance of Edo state since November 12th 2024.

With the land mark judgment of the Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, Edo people should expect the best from this politician who is in a hurry to ensure the state is risen.

Unlike most politicians who lack tenacity of purpose, Governor Okpebholo has so far been sincere with every promise made to the people of Edo state .

When he expressed his displeasure over the poor condition of the roads in the state, before the election, he was very concerned about the plight of the people who use the roads.

Barely few days on assumption of office, the Governor commenced the first fly over bridge in the state to solve the traffic situation along the Ikpoba Hill axis, and he has commissioned contractors to work on several dilapidated roads within Benin City and other places including the Benin - Ekpoma road.

There is no doubt that Governor Okpebholo is a man with integrity, hard working and determined to change the narrative of governance in the state.

It is therefore, now necessary for all well meaning sons and daughters of Edo state across the country and in diaspora to support the administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo to succeed with the task of governance ahead.

IDAHOSA TAKES OFFICE AS EDO-CSDA'S GM, URGES STAFF ON PROGRESS

By Gloria Agbongiasede



Hon. Ivie Idahosa has resumed office as the newly appointed General Manager (GM) of the Edo State Community and Social Development Agency (Edo-CSDA) with a call on members of staff to work collaboratively to achieve the Agency's mandate.

The Edo-CSDA Boss gave the call during her maiden meeting with members of staff to familiarize herself with the staff and workings of the Agency. She stated that teamwork, dedication and continuous learning would be her guiding principles as she leads the Agency.

In her words, "I am honored to take on this role and join the Edo-CSDA family. I recognize the great work that has been done so far, and I am here to build on it. I am ready to learn, to collaborate and to ensure that together, we deliver impactful projects that uplift communities across Edo State".

Meanwhile, Engr. Osarume Osazuwa who left an indelible mark on the Agency during his tenure as GM of Edo-CSDA, emphasised the importance of continuity, collaboration and dedication in sustaining the Agency's community development efforts. He urged staff and stakeholders to extend their full cooperation to the

current GM of the Agency through seamless operations and effective service delivery. He added that getting the work done should remain the priority of the Agency.

Engr. Osazuwa called on employees to remain committed, focused and result oriented under the new leadership, underscoring the need for collective effort in achieving the Agency's goals.

The staff of Edo-CSDA who warmly welcomed Hon. Idahosa, assured her of their unwavering support and cooperation. They pledged to work tirelessly to ensure the success of the Agency's goals and objectives.

Hon. Idahosa's appointment marks a new chapter for the Agency as she takes on the leadership role with a commitment on collaboration, learning and service delivery. She is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in leadership, project management and community development. Her diverse academic background, professional affiliations and career achievements, highlight her commitment to excellence and service.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development; a Master's Degree in International Marketing Management from Robert Gordon University,

Aberdeen, Scotland; and a Master's Degree in Data Analytics and Healthcare Services Management from Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey, USA.

Hon. Idahosa is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP), reinforcing her expertise in Project Management and Healthcare Administration.

Her career has spanned various sectors, particularly in Healthcare Management and Public Service. Prior to her appointment as General Manager of Edo-CSDA, she served as a Principal Manager at Cooper University Hospital, a renowned Research Hospital in New Jersey, USA. She was also an aspirant for the Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency in the 2023 General elections.

Hon. Ivie Idahosa hails from Ehor in Uhunmwode Local Government Area of Edo State.

TRIBUNAL VICTORY: BENIN CITY STANDS STILL FOR GOV OKPEBHOLO, IDAHOSA



Benin City, the Edo State capital, on Thursday, stood still for Governor Monday Okpebholo and Deputy Governor Dennis Idahosa, who arrived the State from Abuja after the election petition tribunal affirmed them as the duly-elected Governor and Deputy Governor respectively in the September 21, 2024 governorship election.

Deputy Governor Idahosa, Secretary to State Government, Musa Ikhilor, and other top government functionaries, accompanied the Governor on a motorcade from the airport to the palace of the Oba of Benin, His Royal Majesty, Omo N' Oba N' Edo Uku Akpolokpolo Oba Ewuare II, where he acknowledged cheers from residents.

“The three judges agreed that Senator Monday Okpebholo won the September 21st governorship election in Edo State. Three parties took APC to the tribunal, and all the cases were thrown out by the judges. This means that I am the duly elected governor of Edo State.

“Your Majesty, I am here to thank you and Edo people for the love, prayers, and support shown to my administration. I will continue to do my best and work for Edo people and ensure that Edo enjoys the dividends of democracy.”

His Royal Majesty, Omo N' Oba N' Edo Uku Akpolokpolo Oba Ewuare II, the Oba of Benin Kingdom who was pleased about the outcome of the election petition tribunal, described the Governor as a traditional son of the palace.

The Benin Monarch personally prayed for him, unlike the usual practice of delegating a palace chief to do so. The Monarch noted that some persons came to destroy the Kingdom, but the current Governor came to rescue the State and direct it on the path of development and growth. He prayed for the success of the current administration in Edo State.

“The tribunal judgment was a victory for Edo people. The Governor has been doing well for the State as he has hit the ground running. I am supposed to travel today on a working visit, but when I heard that the Governor was coming, I had to wait for him.

“We heard that he wants to bring the victory to his father. I had to wait for him. He is my traditional son. We will do our best to be praying for him and play a fatherly role.

“The Governor is a traditional son. We will not speak much. This is significant as we have not done this before. I appeal to the sons and daughters of the Oba, Chiefs in the palace, as we will not allow our son to kneel for too long. We have not done this before, leaving the throne to lift a person up from his knees. The ancestors directed us to do this.

“I encourage you to work harder, and I know you have been working so hard that sometimes you have no time to play. We thank you for coming here first. Thank you so much.”



EDO-CSDA GM INSPECTS ONGOING MICRO-PROJECTS IN EDO CENTRAL

By Gloria Agbongiasede

The General Manager (GM) of the Edo State Community and Social Development Agency (Edo-CSDA), Ms. Ivie Idahosa has embarked on a comprehensive inspection of ongoing micro-projects in Edo Central Senatorial District to assess the extent of implementation.

According to Ms. Idahosa, the tour was aimed at evaluating the level of project execution to ensure strict adherence to quality standards, to identify any challenges that could hinder timely completion.

The GM and her Team visited various project sites, including the renovation of primary healthcare centres; the rehabilitation of school infrastructure and the construction of town halls. Other projects which were inspected are electric transformers and the installation of solar-powered streetlights to improve security and nighttime visibility.

Ms. Idahosa expressed satisfaction with the level of progress recorded at the respective project sites but reiterated Edo-CSDA's commitment to quality assurance and timely delivery. She stated that the Agency remains dedicated to ensuring that all projects are implemented efficiently and in line with established standards.

She stated, "We are committed to delivering high-quality projects that make a meaningful difference in the lives of our beneficiaries. This inspection tour allows us to assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions for future projects. Our goal is not just to implement projects but to ensure they are durable, sustainable, and beneficial to the communities. Transparency, accountability, and excellence remain our guiding principles in all our endeavours."



"The tour aligns with the Agency's broader strategy to ensure that its micro-projects are executed in a manner that guarantees long-term impact. By monitoring project progress firsthand, the Agency aims to identify best practices that can be replicated in future projects, address challenges that may arise during implementation, and encourage community ownership to ensure long-term maintenance and sustainability."

Benefitting communities where projects were inspected include Idumose-Egoronaka, Aigboboh, Eghodaghe, Idaike, Aguni, Uwene, and Ebhoakhuala in Esan West; as well as Okos-Uromi in Esan North-East; and Ujabhole I, Udomi I, Ibhiolulu, Idumoghodor, Unogbo, Afuda-Uwesan in Esan Central.

Edo-CSDA remains steadfast in its mission to empower rural communities. The Agency will continue to monitor and evaluate ongoing projects, ensuring that they deliver the intended impact and contribute to the overall development of Edo State. The projects on completion are expected to improve access to essential medical services; create a more conducive learning environment for children; enhance communal engagements; and boost electricity supply in benefiting communities.



ANANI, OTHERS HONOUR LATE MRS OLAGUE

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Coordinator, Office of the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani has joined the children, relatives, friends and well-wishers of late Mrs. Grace Olague at a memorial event organized in her honour, held at the Edo Hotel in Benin City.

In a tribute to late Mrs. Olague, Mrs. Anani commended the exceptional life she lived and offered words of comfort to her family, saying, "The great life that Mama lived here on earth will always be remembered. While we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in knowing she is now resting in the Lord's presence. As the Bible says, she's not dead, but sleeping, and we will reunite with her at the resurrection.

"I want to thank everyone who joined us today. Together, we have honoured Mama's memory."

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi appreciated the life lived by late Mrs. Olague and commended the daughter of the deceased, Mrs. Joy Ogiemwonyi, for her contributions to society.

Chief Idaomi said, "She is loved by her children, so many wonderful children. Joy Ogiemwonyi, our leader's wife, a woman who has kept her home. You can see that all the women leaders across Edo State are here; led by the First Lady, that is because Joy herself, like her mother, is one person; she has given to society. So today, we have come to honor her mother. Joy is a woman of honour."

Appreciating guests at the event, Mrs. Ogiemwonyi expressed gratitude to God for His ever-presence with them and also to everyone present. According to her, "I want to thank God Almighty. First, I want to give Him praise and adoration. He has been with us. Since my mom passed away, God has been mightily with us. I also want to thank our First Lady and our Deputy Governor, Honorable Commissioner, our women leader of APC in Edo State, her entourage. I want to thank everybody that came today. I appreciate everyone. I'm overwhelmed, but in all, I give God the glory."

The event was graced by dignitaries from all walks of life, including the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; the Vice Chancellor, Benson Idahosa University, Prof. John Okuoya; amongst others. Guests were thrilled by the legendary Influence Akaba.



EDO STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RATIFIES SUSPENSION OF REBELLIOUS ENIGIES BY OBA OF BENIN ... DESCRIBES THEIR ACTIONS AS CULTURAL COUP D'ÉTAT



Edo State Government has officially ratified the decision of the Oba of Benin to suspend 71 Enigies, thereby overriding five Executive orders issued by former Governor Godwin Obaseki.

The Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu who disclosed this to Journalists after the State Executive Council meeting at the Government House in Benin City said the Exco approved the ratification of the suspension of the Enigies, a move aimed at maintaining order and discipline in the state's traditional institution.

Hon Paul Ohonbamu emphasized that the actions of the Enigies amounted to a Cultural Coup d'état, when they attempted to overthrow the Oba of Benin.

This move, he said, marks a significant development, given the approval and ratification of the suspended rebellious Enigies against the Benin Monarch.

Recall that the Benin Traditional Council, BTC, had earlier announced the suspension of the 71 Enigies in Benin Kingdom alleging that they engaged in anti-palace and rebellious activities against the Oba of Benin, His Royal Majesty, Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Ewuare II, CFR.

Hon. Ohonbamu said the past administration of Governor Godwin Obaseki attempted to carry out the balkanization of the Benin Kingdom using five Executive orders available to him, which has been vacated by Governor Monday Okpebholo using one Executive order.

He emphasized that the act was orchestrated by the last administration, when Godwin Obaseki allegedly picked some Enigies to act rebelliously against the palace of the Oba of Benin.

He highlighted some of the critical issues which include the vow made by the Enigies never to honour the Obas call, go to the palace, and pay allegiance to the monarch.

Ohonbamu described the position of the Benin Monarch as a repository of the rights, divinity, law, and the power of the Benin Kingdom.

He further stressed that all Benin people, no matter how highly placed, derive validity from the Oba, adding that the Oba is not only powerful, he does not make mistakes, nor apologize.

"The Oba does not make mistakes and does not apologize and he is all powerful and his source of strength remains a riddle, wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

"The Oba's word is law and even if you have PhD. three times over, your obedience to the word or directive of the Oba is obligatory by assent.

"The act of rebellion is complete on its own without more and the rebellious Enigies ought to know better. Their situation is such that Jesus said, "It is finished."

"We are aware that some said they signed in error and did not go further. But what they did amounted to a Cultural Coup d'état.

"They wanted to overthrow the Oba of Benin, no matter the defense they attempted to put forward," he noted.

While condemning some of the suspended Enigies who attempted to exonerate their actions, Hon. Ohonbamu admonished that the act of rebellion is complete on its own and for those who said they did not partake thereafter, the general rules governing a coup plot is that the planning of a coup, and its actual execution carry the same penalty.

He added that every action goes with consequences, making references to the traditional rulers and Chiefs edict of 1979, particularly section 19 subsection 1 as applicable to Edo State which gives power to the Executive Council to act accordingly.

"Former Governor Godwin Obaseki, through his actions, balkanized the Benin Kingdom by attempting to create other traditional councils through five Executive orders.

"But with one Executive order, Governor Monday Okpebholo has obliterated the five executive orders of Gov. Obaseki

The Commissioner further disclosed that the decisions made during the Exco meeting demonstrate the state government's commitment to good governance, transparency, and accountability.

He said that the EXCO also approved the payment of furniture allowance and all entitlements to political and public office holders in the state, thereby ensuring that those in leadership positions receive the necessary support to carry out their duties effectively.

AS RAINS LOOM, EDOFEWMA EMERGES AS BEACON OF HOPE AMID FLOOD WARNINGS

By Folake Adebudo

As six Nigerian States brace for heavy rainfall between Wednesday, April 9, and Friday, April 11, 2025, the Edo State Government through the Edo State Flood, Erosion, and Watershed Management Agency (EdoFEWMA) is rising to meet the moment with swift and decisive action.

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) issued a weather alert on Tuesday, listing Edo among the States expected to experience intense downpours, flash floods, and strong winds capable of damaging infrastructure and endangering lives.

To be fully prepared in anticipation for the unprecedented rainfall, EdoFEWMA had earlier intensified its ongoing statewide desilting and drainage clearing exercise to mitigate the impact and keep communities safe.

The Agency, under the directive of Governor Monday Okpebholo, is not just managing a crisis, it is restoring public confidence and strengthening the State's resilience against climate-related disasters.

EdoFEWMA teams are working around the clock to clear drainage channels and flood infrastructure across all vulnerable areas. The Agency understands the fear that comes with flood alerts, nevertheless, we want residents to know that they are not alone. We are prepared, we are present, and we are committed to protecting lives and livelihoods.

Residents are urged to exercise caution by avoiding walking or driving through fast-moving water, unplug electrical appliances during rainfall and follow safety instructions from emergency services.



The Agency also appeals to the public for cooperation during this critical period, especially as the desilting exercise may cause temporary inconveniences.

These disruptions are short-lived compared to the long-term benefits of flood control. By working together residents and government alike, we can reduce the risks and create a safer, more resilient Edo State.

EDO SCHOOL REFORMS: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYMENT

The Edo State Government has released the list of successful candidates for employment into the Edo State Secondary Education Board.

The newly recruited teachers will be deployed to various senior secondary schools across the state as part of the government's commitment to improving education quality. The list contains names of individuals selected after a rigorous recruitment process, ensuring that qualified professionals join the state's education system.

Successful candidates are expected to report for further documentation and deployment in the coming days.

This development aligns with the state government's ongoing efforts to strengthen human resources in the education sector and enhance learning outcomes for students.



ANANI APPRECIATES COALITION OF EDO MUSLIM WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL SUPPORTS

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Coordinator, Office of Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Okpebholo Anani has appreciated the Coalition of Edo Muslim Women Associations for its prayers and intercession, especially during the period of Ramadan.

Mrs. Anani expressed the appreciation when she played host to the Coalition, which paid a courtesy visit on the office of the Edo First Lady as part of Ramadan celebrations at the Government House in Benin City. She expressed gratitude for the visit and prayers for the Government.

She stated, "Thank you so much for coming during this Ramadan season. It's a period of intense prayer. I'm grateful that you're sharing this experience with me, and I pray that all our prayers are answered. Prayer has no limits or boundaries; it's unending. We all approach God in our unique ways through prayer.

"Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and for standing in the gap with your prayers. Your position is not easy. As the Scripture says, 'By strength shall no man prevail', and we can only overcome with God's help. Thank you for recognizing the importance of spirituality in your role. I'm truly grateful."

Mrs. Anani urged women to participate in politics, emphasising that policies affect everyone. According to her, "It is important that as women, we dive into politics because policies that are made affect you and me. If they don't affect you now, they will, eventually. We should have a voice in politics."

The Matron of the Coalition, Hajia Zuliet Bello Osagie, appreciated Mrs. Anani's positive contributions to the State and explained that the purpose of their visit included prayers for her and the State. She stated, "We are delighted to have this opportunity to formally pay you a Ramadan visit and pray with you in this holy month of Ramadan, for peace, progress and development of our dear State.

"We wish to use this occasion to convey our joy and happiness on the successful election of the 'Rescue Master, Akpako-rescue', Sen. Monday Okpebholo as Governor of our dear State. We are also grateful to him for bringing you in as the administrator of the Office of the First Lady.

"Your Excellency Ma, we are very proud of you and our prayers for you and your household is Allah's guidance, protection, peace, wisdom and sound health in the discharge of the daunting responsibility of moving Edo State to greater heights. We pray that Allah bestows on you all that it takes to discharge this assignment to His glory and for the benefit and for the benefit of Edo State in general."

Mrs. Osagie added, "The Coalition of Edo APC Muslim Women Group is a political group with over 5000 members and present across the 18 local government areas of the State. We also have coordinators across the three senatorial districts of the State. Our mission is to mobilize and sensitize Muslim Women in the State to participate actively in political activities in the State and also ensure that governance is brought closer to the people."



EDOSUBEB PARTNERS BESDA ON DATA MANAGEMENT, MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP

By Ebuaneke Joy



The Board Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Ada Oluku, conducted the mentorship for impact session. She emphasised the importance of mentorship in developing resilient, high-performing teams and encouraged participants to adopt innovative approaches to nurturing talents.

Each participant received a tablet and a backpack to facilitate proficiency in efficient data-related activities. The workshop also featured a diverse panel of facilitators, which included Mr. Boniface Aliu, Mr. John Thomas Oribhabor, Mr. Godwill Osayamen Iyalekhue, and Stanford Somina Dagogo. Others include Mr. Hope Emihian and Mr Akharamhe Ebenezer. Their respective expertise and practical demonstrations enriched the learning experiences, ensuring that attendees gained both technical knowledge and actionable strategies for real-world application.

The capacity-building initiative is a significant advancement in strengthening the educational infrastructure and leadership within the State; setting the stage for more efficient service delivery and impactful mentorship in the future.

The Edo State Universal Basic Education Board (EdoSUBEB) in partnership with the Basic Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA), has organised a two-day training support programme on data management and leadership, designed to enhance the capacity of education professionals across the State.

According to the Edo SUBEB Chairman, Barr. (Mrs.) Onomen Briggs, the event which held at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy in Benin City, is aimed towards ensuring a broad impact on leadership across the State. She stated that was the reason for organizing the workshop for participants from the 18 local government areas of the State.



Sessions featured during the training include data collection, collation, and compilation; equipping participants with technical skills required for effective data management. Key component of the programme was the leadership session, which was delivered by Mrs. Briggs. She focused on the fundamentals of team supervision and leadership; offering practical strategies to drive excellence in educational management.



UROMI KILLINGS: GOV OKPEBHOLO VISITS FAMILIES OF SLAIN VICTIMS IN KANO



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has paid a condolence visit to the families of victims, who were brutally killed in Uromi, Edo State. Some of the victims hailed from Bankure Local Government Area of Kano State.

The Governor, deeply moved by the tragic incident, assured the bereaved families and the people of Kano State that justice will be served.

Speaking during the visit, Governor Okpebholo described the attack as unfortunate and reiterated his commitment to ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

“I was deeply touched when I received the news of the incident at night. By 4 a.m., I left Abuja and rushed to Uromi to meet with the affected families. During my campaign, your people supported me, and I stand with you in this time of grief. I extend my condolences to the people of Kano State and pray for the eternal rest of the victims’ souls.

“We have made significant progress in our investigations. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is not happy about this incident and has directed security agencies to go after the culprits. I can assure you that justice will prevail.

“So far, about 14 suspects have been arrested, and after the holiday, they will be transferred to Abuja for further interrogation. More arrests will follow as investigations continue,” Governor Okpebholo stated.

In response, the Governor of Kano State commended Governor Okpebholo for his swift intervention and support to the bereaved families.

“We appreciate the Governor of Edo State for his prompt response to this tragic event. It is well known that our people were returning from Port Harcourt when they were brutally murdered. The majority of the victims were from two local governments in Kano State. Governor Okpebholo immediately visited the scene, ensured that the corpses were retrieved, and arranged for their proper burial.

“He also made commitments to support the affected families, and I can confirm that he has fulfilled those promises.

“We trust his assurance that the culprits will be brought to book, as justice remains our utmost priority. The people of Kano are peaceful and hospitable. This tragedy serves as a lesson to all, and I urge all leaders across Nigeria to ensure the safety and protection of all citizens, regardless of their location. Governor Okpebholo’s visit today is a mark of true leadership, and we appreciate his gesture.”



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EDHIC ENGAGES MOHS IN ENHANCING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

By Portia Osayande

Towards enhancing healthcare access at the grassroots level, the Edo State Health Insurance Commission (EDHIC) in partnership with the Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency (EDPHCDA) and the Local Government Commission, has convened a three-day strategic meeting with Medical Officers of Health (MOHs) from the 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Edo State.

According to the Director General (DG) of EDHIC, Mrs. Augusta Ikpea-Enaholo, the engagement which held from March 25 to March 27, 2025, focused on integrating MOHs, local government administration staff, and other key stakeholders into the operational framework of the Community-Based Health Intervention Programme. Discussions centered on strengthening administrative support for the effective implementation of EDOHIS health plans, fostering stakeholder collaboration, addressing primary healthcare challenges, and developing solutions to enhance effective and efficient service delivery.

Mrs. Ikpea-Enaholo commended the Governor Monday Okpebholo-led administration for prioritising access to quality healthcare. She emphasised that effective collaboration among stakeholders is critical to achieving the government's vision of extending healthcare services to underserved communities across the State. Acknowledging the challenges within the healthcare system, she encouraged MOHs to voice their concerns openly.

The DG EDHIC stated, "The Government is committed to delivering quality healthcare to the people of Edo State, and you are the key channels through which this promise can be fulfilled. We recognize issues such as manpower shortages and work ethics, but by coming together, we can identify solutions and drive meaningful change".

In her remarks, Mrs. Ikpea-Enaholo emphasised the importance of continuous dialogue and collaboration among government agencies, healthcare providers, and local authorities to achieve lasting improvements in healthcare delivery. She called for more frequent interactive sessions to ensure that all stakeholders remain aligned in their shared goal of expanding healthcare access.



"We cannot achieve meaningful progress in isolation. These engagements provide a platform to listen, learn, and refine our approach to healthcare delivery. By working together, we can build a system that truly serves every citizen, especially the vulnerable population" she stated.

Mrs. Ikpea-Enaholo reiterated EDHIC's commitment to fostering strong partnerships and ensuring that the voices of healthcare workers at all levels are heard. The Commission planned to sustain the engagements across the State to reinforce a collective effort toward building a stronger, more efficient healthcare system for the people of Edo State.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Sir Lucky Esegbe, appreciated the MOHs for their dedication as frontline healthcare administrators. He highlighted the session as a crucial step in strengthening primary healthcare delivery and acknowledged



existing challenges, including traditional institutional interferences, manpower shortages, and inadequate medical equipment. He assured participants that the State Government is actively working on resolving the identified issues.

"Healthcare is a vital pillar of societal development and your role in ensuring that quality services reach the grassroots cannot be overstated. This engagement serves as a call to action for greater efficiency, accountability, and innovation in Edo's healthcare sector," he concluded. The Executive Secretary of EDPHCDA, Dr. Coulson Oahimire, commended the State Government's commitment to improving healthcare at the community level. He underscored the importance of continuous engagement sessions to foster collaboration and improve policy implementation.



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... GOV OKPEBHOLO VISITS FAMILIES OF SLAIN VICTIMS IN KANO (CONT'D)

Speaking on behalf of the Arewa community in Edo State, Badamasi Sally reaffirmed the longstanding cordial relationship between the northern community and Edo people, emphasizing that the unfortunate event should not be used to tarnish the State's image.

"I was born and raised in Edo State, and we have always maintained a peaceful relationship with the people here. This incident should not be used to create division or smear the reputation of the Edo State Government. The swift response of the state government was commendable. Moreover, it was the people of Uromi who rescued some of the victims from the assailants. This tragedy will not change our bond with the people of Edo."

Fred Akhigbe, leader of the Edo community in Kano, also expressed appreciation for Governor Okpebholo's visit, urging both communities to maintain peace and unity.

"We are grateful to the governor of Edo State for personally coming to Kano to express his condolences. When this tragic incident happened, there was apprehension, but we are reassured by the swift actions taken by both state governments. We sympathize with the people of Kano State and pray for the victims."



"I have lived in Kano for 52 years, and we must remember that we are all one. There is no need for conflict between us. We commend both governors for their leadership and commitment to justice."

Governor Okpebholo's visit underscores his administration's commitment to justice and national unity. The State Government had assured that security agencies will continue working to ensure that those responsible for the killings are apprehended and prosecuted.

EDO STATE GOVT SUPPORTS NACTAL'S CRUSADE AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES *By Anita Obialor*

The Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has expressed readiness to actively participate in the mission of the Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) to bring about meaningful social development in the State through its campaign against gender-based violence, child trafficking and exploitation.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi expressed the Government's intention, when she played host to a delegation of NACTAL in her office in Benin City. NACTAL is a coalition of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating across West Africa. The visit by NACTAL was aimed at congratulating Chief Idaomi on her recent appointment and to discuss potential collaboration on addressing identified social vices in the State.

Among the representatives of NACTAL were the Girls Power Initiative (GPI), the Caritas Nigeria, amongst others. The Commissioner and the delegates engaged in productive discussions on fostering stronger partnerships to tackle identified critical issues, which are militating against social development in the State.

Chief Idaomi while appreciating the delegates guided thus, "On your next visit, please come with a proposal that spells out possible areas for collaboration and action steps. That way we won't forget about what we spoke of today; because I am result oriented".

The Secretary of the Organization, Mr. Nosa Erhunmwunsee stated that NACTAL is committed to eradicating exploitation and abuse of human rights through a comprehensive approach that encompasses policy advocacy, community education, and victim support initiatives.

The Team expressed enthusiasm for prospective collaboration with the Edo State Government to combat the challenges of social vices in the State.



EDHIC ENGAGES MOHS IN ENHANCING ACCESS TO ... CONT'D

In his words, “You are the engine room driving healthcare in Edo State. This session provides an opportunity to voice challenges and ensure they are addressed”.

The meeting featured brainstorming sessions, where participants engaged in practical discussions to identify bottlenecks in processes of healthcare service delivery and suggested probable solutions. MOHs shared challenges they face in their respective LGAs, which lectures were tailored to address. The topics included grassroots sensitization/mobilization, enhancing staff training, addressing supply chain gaps for essential drugs, and streamlining data collection for better healthcare planning.

Participants proposed various interventions, such as leveraging technology to improve patient records management, strengthening partnerships with private healthcare providers, and implementing community-driven awareness campaigns to increase enrollment in the EDOHIS health plans. The brainstorming sessions provided an opportunity for peer learning, with some LGAs sharing successful initiatives that could be replicated across the State.



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS BTVE ON BOOSTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

By Edefo Henry



The Edo State Ministry of Science and Technology has announced a strategic collaboration with the Board for Technical and Vocational Education (BTVE) on building capacity among technical teachers and students in renewable energy technologies.

According to the functioning Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ukpebor Jonathan JP, the initiative, which is aimed at promoting indigenous technology and local content, underscores the State Government's commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and economic self-reliance among technical teachers and students in Edo State.

Ukpebor, while providing an overview of the project, emphasised that with the growing global demands for clean and reliable power supply, solar devices have become highly sought after, creating a favorable market for both innovators and manufacturers. He stressed the need for developing local manufacturing capacity for solar products, noting that it is critical for the nation's economic sustainability, especially amid discussions on potential ban on solar products. He explained that nurturing young talent in the assembly and production of renewable energy technologies would not only yield economic benefits but also empower the youth to become self-reliant and entrepreneurs.

The project which aims to promote indigenous technology, develop the capacity of technical teachers for sustainability, enhance entrepreneurship and employability among technical

students, was detailed by Head of the Renewable and Conventional Energy Department, Engr. Esohe Asemota-Osagie. She disclosed that the programme would be piloted at the Benin Technical College before being extended to other institutions. Asemota-Osagie noted that the project is set to enhance technical education within the State while supporting the growth of local manufacturing by transforming technical schools into mini-production hubs.

The Board (BTVE) Secretary, Mrs. Stella Ogbeide expressed appreciation for the initiative and the collaborative efforts between the Ministry and BTVE. She affirmed the Board's commitment to empowering technical educators and students with innovative technology and highlighted the Board's roles in ensuring the success of the project. The discussions also covered potential funding avenues and the importance of securing technical partners to align with the State Government's vision.

The Permanent Secretary pledged his Ministry's support for the BTVE's upcoming TVET-ATHON series; a platform designed to encourage innovation among technical students. Both parties concluded the meeting on a positive note, agreeing to further develop and implement the project, which is poised to transform the landscape of technical education and local manufacturing in the State.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMEMORATION: OTAMERE REITERATES COMMITMENT TO WELFARE, WORLDCLASS TRAININGS

By Naomi Omorowa

The Director General (DG) of the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA), Mrs. Gina Otamere has reassured of her commitments to the well-being of women and the actualization of the Edo State Government's policy of a self-sufficient civil and public service through effective trainings in the State.

Mrs. Otamere gave the assurances during an event organized as part of activities marking the year 2025 International Women's Day in Benin City. The free medical services which included screenings and consultations, were aimed at promoting women's health and empowerment by providing access to essential medical services in line with the agenda of the Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo.

As a strong advocate for women's well-being and excellent public service delivery, Mrs. Otamere emphasized the importance of the free medical initiative stating, "We are committed to supporting initiatives that promote the well-being and empowerment of women and girls in Edo State. By working together, we can create a more equitable and prosperous society for all.

"We are dedicated to supporting initiatives that align with the Governor's vision for a self-sufficient Edo State and making sure outsiders no longer take the job of civil servants."

The free medical examination was a resounding success, with numerous women taking advantage of the opportunity to access essential medical services. Mrs. Otamere's participation in the event underscores JOOPSA's disposition to collaborations and reaffirms its commitment to promoting well-being as well as efficient and effective public service delivery in the State.



ANANI IDENTIFIES WITH DANCE TROUPE, CHARGES ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Coordinator, Office of Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani has welcomed a dance group known as the Sen. Okpebholo Gorgeous Dancers and Sonorous Singers in her office at the Government House in Benin City, with a charge that they take academic work seriously.

Mrs. Anani while highlighting the importance of dancing as a beneficial activity and appreciating the group's efforts in promoting dancing as a valuable co-curricular activity, said, "Dancing is an extremely beneficial activity that offers a multitude of benefits. Not only is it a form of exercise that helps improve physical fitness and coordination, but it's also a valuable part of extracurricular activities that can foster creativity, self-expression, and confidence."

She counselled the Troupe to take their education seriously, emphasising the importance of pursuing their studies to acquire knowledge and develop essential skills. "I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to take your education seriously. Pursuing your studies will not only equip you with knowledge, but also help you develop essential skills like effective communication, which will benefit you throughout your life," she guided.

Mrs. Anani offered her blessings and well-wishes to the Troupe. She prayed for God's guidance, protection, and blessings upon their careers and lives, wishing them joy, success, and fulfillment in their endeavours.

According to the Leader of the Troupe, Tutor Jerry Ohenhen, the group is composed of selected students from various government schools in Edo State. He said the visit was an opportunity for them to celebrate Mrs. Anani's birthday and interact with her.

Miss Osaigbovo Eunice from Imaguero Senior Secondary School, who also spoke on behalf of the Group, expressed gratitude for the inspiring words and blessings from Mrs. Anani. She appreciated Mrs. Anani's positive contributions to the State and sought collaboration from her office, saying "We are here to express our heartfelt appreciation for your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to the welfare and well-being of the Edo people, particularly women and children.

"Your initiatives and programmes aimed at promoting education, healthcare, and economic empowerment have had significant impact on the lives of many. Your dedication to the cause of women's rights and gender equality is truly inspiring."



EDO STATE GOVT PLEDGES COLLABORATION WITH LAPO ON EMPOWERING WOMEN, VULNERABLE

By Peace Osemwegie

In a bid to strengthen the economic capacity of women and the vulnerable, the Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, has pledged to strengthen collaborative measures with the Lift Above Poverty Organisation (LAPO).

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi, represented by Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Joy Ihensenkhen, made the commitment while playing host to a delegation of LAPO, led by the Executive Vice President, Social and Health Development, Mr. Honestus Ayobami.

Chief Idaomi expressed the Ministry's willingness to work with LAPO to achieve its goals, particularly in empowering women and vulnerable groups in Edo State.

According to Mr. Ayobami, LAPO's visit aimed to congratulate the Commissioner on her appointment and to explore potential collaborative opportunities. He commended the Executive Governor of Edo State, Sen. Monday Okpebholo on his achievements within his first 100 days in office.

Mr. Ayobami emphasized LAPO's commitment to empowering low-income individuals, especially women, through innovative health, social, and economic empowerment programmes. He stated, "LAPO seeks to

collaborate with the Ministry in ensuring legal and social protection for women, strengthening enforcement of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law, and advocating for free and affordable healthcare services.

"LAPO aims to advance financial inclusion for women, promote women's economic rights, and safeguard women's inheritance rights, property ownership, and access to credit. By collaborating with the Ministry, LAPO hopes to make a meaningful impact in the lives of women and vulnerable groups in Edo State".



NBS TRAINS EDO STATE BUREAU OF STATISTICS' STAFF ON STATE GDP EXERCISE

By Naomi Omorowa



The training, which took place at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA) in Benin City, focused on equipping staff with the knowledge and skills required to collect data, estimate and analyse the SGDP, towards enhancing statistical capacity of Edo State.

The trainers provided an overview of the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, its uses in measuring economic activities, and its evolution over time. They outlined the practical applications of SNA in economic analyses and policy-making; addressing challenges and limitations associated with implementing SNA. They also clarified the classification and definition of institutional units within the SNA framework and provided insight into basic concepts and definitions used in SNA.

Other areas covered by the Training were the three approaches used to estimate GDP; the Production, the Income, and the Expenditure approaches. The trainers emphasized the importance of GDP in providing a comprehensive overview of a state's economic growth and development, asserting its indispensable roles in informing policymakers and stakeholders to economic advancement.

The Coordinator of the Edo State Bureau of Statistics, Mr. David Obanubi expressed gratitude to the Edo State Government for its support and the NBS' expertise; hoping for a continued partnership in achieving a statistically empowered Edo State. He expressed optimism that the training programme will empower staff of ESBS to produce accurate and reliable State-level GDP estimates in providing a more realistic picture of Edo State's economic performance.

The collaboration between NBS and ESBS demonstrates a commitment to strengthening statistical capacity and promoting data-driven decision-making. By understanding GDP, policymakers and stakeholders can make informed decisions to promote economic development and improve the well-being of citizens.



ANANI ADVOCATES INCREASED WOMEN' REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS AGAINST NOMINAL PARTICIPATION

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Coordinator, Office of the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani has called for more women's representation in politics as part of her 'wakeup' calls on women in commemoration of the year 2025 International Women's Day and in harmony with its theme, "Accelerate Action: Enhancing Women Participation in Politics".

Mrs. Anani made the call during a one-day seminar held at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA) in Benin City, and organised by the Office of the First Lady in collaboration with the Edo Professional Women's Group, as part of activities marking the International Women's Day.

Speaking at the seminar, Mrs. Anani decried the underrepresentation of women in politics and urged women to rise and take up their space in governance. In her words, "Today, we're talking about women's participation in politics. But I don't think that's the crux of the matter, because women have always participated in politics.

"Check the voter's register, women make up 70% of voters. The question is representation. Women have not been represented in politics, but have participated. We're always there to sing, we are always there to dance, we are always there for pageantry. But what happens to us? We're often relegated to the back seat, and it's time for us to speak out against this injustice. Women should wake up!"

Mrs. Anani urged women to support one another, emphasising that by sponsoring and rallying together, they can amplify their voices, increase their influences, and earn the recognition and respect they deserve. She said, "What's really most important for professional women is what we do with what we have at hand. As professional women, it's crucial that we take someone under our wing and sponsor them. I'd say to women, if we rally around one woman, men will be begging for our votes.

"Once the house is divided, you cannot find a seat in parliament, honestly. It is important that women find their voices. To accelerate action; what action are we accelerating? Who better makes policies that affect women than women themselves?"

Mrs. Anani restated her dedication to empowering women at the grassroots level, who possess innate intelligence and wisdom, emphasising the importance of their involvement in politics, as according to her, the policies created will directly affect their lives, families, and careers.

The Deputy Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Maria Edeko, lent her voice on the need for more women representation, saying, "Women's participation in politics is not the problem but women representation. If you go to political parties there are constitutions; the only thing you have there is the role given to the woman leader. She will mobilize women to vote. For who? For the men."

The Seminar featured a keynote speech titled, "Her Seat in Parliament and Governance Campaign", by an educationist and politician, Dr. Amen Ogbemudia, a panel discussion centered around women in politics amongst others. It was attended by dignitaries including the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi; the Wife of the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Nimata Umar Ikhilor; the DG of JOOPSA, Mrs. Gina Otamere; The Chairman, Edo SUBEB, Barrister Briggs Onomen; Senatorial Women Leader, Mrs. Tina O.; Former Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Memuna Momodu; amongst others.

Highpoint of the seminar was the presentation of an award of excellence to Mrs. Anani, in recognition of her exceptional leadership and dedication to the welfare of Edo Women.



GOVERNOR OKPEBHOLO FLAGS OFF 2025 FARMING SEASONS, PROMISES TO POSITION EDO AS LEADER IN AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA

By Okojie Francisca



The Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo on Thursday flagged off the 2025 farming season in the state with a promise to position the state as a leader in agriculture in Nigeria.

Okpebholo who was represented by the State Head of Service, Dr Anthony Okungbowa, noted that part of the governor Okpebholo-led government's policies to boost agriculture was the allocation of N70 billion to the sector in this year's budget and the "Back to Farm Initiative".

He said the flagging off of the 2025 farming season is an important step in his government's efforts to improve agriculture, ensure enough food for citizens, and help farmers grow more and earn better incomes.

"Since we took office in November 2024, we have made it clear that agriculture is a key part of our development plans. We understand that farming creates jobs, grow our economy and puts food on our tables. That is why my administration has worked hard to improve the agricultural sector"he said.

Governor Okpebholo stated that under the "Back to Farm Initiative", the government would prepare large farmlands across the three Senatorial districts for large- scale farming.

The governor explained that by grouping farmlands together, farmers would have better access to tractors, improved seeds, fertilizers, and modern farming methods.

He said these would not only improve food production but also create thousands of jobs, attract investors, and position the state as a leader in agriculture.

The governor added that to make farming easier, the government would ensure that farmers are provided with modern equipment and machines to reduce the hard labour in farming.

Earlier, Dr. Osagie Aibuedefe Peter, the State Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, noted that the 2025 farming season signals not just the start of a new agricultural cycle, but also the beginning of renewed hope for the farmers and food systems.

Dr.Peter opined that Governor Monday Okpebholo within the short period in office has taken bold steps to reposition agriculture as a driver of inclusive growth and economic resilience.

"One of the most remarkable of these steps is the launch of the "Back to Farm" Initiative, through which over 1,500 hectares of farmland are being developed across the state.

"This ambitious programme aims to support both smallholder and commercial farmers with access to land, inputs, and extension service, ultimately boosting productivity and ensuring food security for our people.

"This year, as we step into the planting season, we do so with renewed energy and clear direction. From land clearing and mechanization to improved seeds and farmer support programs.

"We are also deepening ongoing initiatives such as the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Programme (LPRES), promoting climate-smart practices, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring our farmers are equipped to face the challenges of the modern agricultural landscape, " he added.

In their separate goodwill messages, the State chairman of All Farmers Association (AFAN), Alhaji Bako Dogwo, and his National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NNPAN), counterpart, Mr. Atoe Edosa commended Governor Okpebholo for the launching of the farming season.

They, however, called on the governor to address the insecurity in the state, especially herdsmen and kidnappers which they noted as impeding agricultural development in the State.



TRAINING IS KEY IN EXPANDING YOUR PROFESSIONAL FRONTIER, OHONBAMU CHARGES MEDIA OFFICERS

By Aichienede Akhabue Goodluck



The Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu has underscored the importance of training and retraining of Media Officers in order to expand the frontiers of their journalistic profession.

He gave this assertion in the Ministry's Conference Hall in Benin City, during a one day in-house training programme, with the theme "Effective Communication and Information Dissemination in the Digital Era", organized by the Ministry for Media Officers across MDAs in the State.

Hon. Ohonbamu who noted that Media Officers are the key drivers of Government policies and programs, emphasized the need for training and retraining programs that will equip them to become efficient in the dynamic world of the media eco system.

"This training will give you the opportunity to expand the frontiers of your profession and knowledge. The best in one MDA, can get better after this training program". He said.

The Commissioner advised Media Officers to commit to the ethics of the Journalistic profession and uphold good conduct.

"Your job, as Media Officers, is very crucial. Ensure that the information that is coming from your table is cogent, accurate and reliable. You cannot spread falsehood and you have a great task especially in the Social Media, where some persons disseminate falsehood". Hon. Ohonbamu continued.

In his opening remark, the Director of Information, Mr. Odion Daniel, expressed gratitude to the Commissioner and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for making the event possible. He noted that, Media Officers play a critical role in disseminating accurate and timely information to the public, media and other stakeholders, adding that the training workshop was aimed to equip them with the latest skills, knowledge and best practices in information management and communication.

The event featured presentation from key resource persons, including the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Desmond Agbama, who delivered a lecture entitled, "Information Officers and the ethics of the profession", where he stressed the need for Media Officers to uphold media ethical values and shun yellow Journalism or sensationalism in the discharge of their duties, encouraging them to always verify their news sources before reporting.

In the same vein, the Director of Documentation and Publication, Mr. Matthew Okunsebor gave a lecture entitled, "Effective Management and disseminating of information in the 21st Century", while the third Lecture was delivered by Mr. Ehi Omoighe who spoke on Social Media Management.

The event provided Media Officers the opportunity to ask pertinent questions and share ideas on how best to enhance their media tasks.

EDO STATE GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

By Daniel-Nwosu Nohunwan Lucy



Edo State Government has reiterated its commitment to strengthening Local Government Governance by prioritizing Security, Infrastructural Development and Economic Empowerment across the eighteen Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the State.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Sir (Dr.) Lucky Esegbe, in an exclusive interview with Journalists in his office in Benin City, emphasized the significance of the third tier of Government in ensuring security and improving the well-being of citizens. He stated that the Okpebholo led administration remains focused on creating a secure environment that will attract both Local and International investors.

"The people at the grassroots voted for this administration, and we have no excuse not to provide them with security. The Governor's number one agenda is security and that responsibility extends to the Local Government Chairmen, who are the Chief Security Officers of their respective Councils". The Commissioner stated.

He asserted that as part of efforts to enhance development, the Government is placing emphasis on capital projects that directly impact the citizens of Edo State. Key areas of focus include the provision of clean water, road construction, sanitation in public spaces and electrification projects. He noted that, the Local Government Chairmen had been tasked with implementing these initiatives to ensure visible progress at the grassroot level.

He further reiterated the State Government's stance in championing Agricultural Development, urging Local Government Councils to take a leading role in reviving farming as a means of boosting food security and economic growth.

"In addition to promoting large-scale farming, the Government plans to support smallholder farmers and market traders". He said.

"Mr. Governor is saying everyone must go back to farming. The only way to achieve this is through the Local Government Councils. We must prioritize projects that will improve the lives of our citizens. We expect to see accessible roads, potable water, security, electricity, and support for farmers, including soft loans for market traders". He continued.

Dr. Lucky Esegbe pointed out that, environmental hygiene remained a top priority, with a directive for Local Government Councils to improve on waste management in markets and public places. This initiative he said aligned with the Government's broader five-point agenda, which focuses on Security, Agriculture, Food sufficiency, Education and Healthcare.

As the State Government intensifies efforts to strengthen governance at the grassroots, the Commissioner assured that the Ministry would continue to supervise and support Local Government Councils in executing capital projects that would uplift Edo residents and drive sustainable development. With these measures in place, the administration aims to deliver lasting dividends of democracy to citizens across the State.



EDO STATE GOVT TO PARTNER US-BASED NGO ON COMBATING DRUG, SUBSTANCE ABUSE

By Osemwegie Peace

Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, has expressed readiness to collaborate with the New Life Dream Centre, a US-based non-governmental organization (NGO) on rehabilitating individuals struggling with drug and substance addiction.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon. Bisi Idaomi made the expression while playing host to delegates of the Organisation in Benin City. The organisation, which has been in operation for 42 years, aims to transform lives and promote long-lasting success through its interventions of rehabilitating persons who are victims of drug and substance abuse.

Hon. Idaomi expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for the NGO's presence and interest in the crusade against drug abuse among youth. She highlighted the alarming rise in drug and substance abuse among youths, which according to her, often leads to severe mental illnesses.

She commended the Founder, Bishop Anastasi, for his commitment to the non-profit venture and expressed her willingness to collaborate with the organisation.

Meanwhile, Bishop Anastasi revealed that New Life Dream Centre is a Christ-centered organisation born out of the need to enhance rehabilitation processes. He emphasized that most young people who indulge in drug and substance abuse come from dysfunctional societies or families.

He said, "Our programme deals with the root causes, not just the symptoms; to achieve long-lasting success. The transformation of people's lives is a miracle."

According to the General Overseer of Divine Intervention Ministry, Pastor Timothy Oamen, a branch of the NGO is set to be inaugurated in Benin City on Saturday, 28th March, 2025. He disclosed that he will oversee the Benin City branch, where he will share his experiences from the six months' training he received at the New Life Dream Centre in New York. He expressed his readiness to replicate the results in Benin City and invited the Commissioner and management Team of the Ministry to grace the inauguration.

The partnership between the Edo State Government and New Life Dream Centre marks a significant step in addressing the growing issue of drug and substance abuse among youths, which will promote rehabilitation and community development in Edo State.

The meeting was attended by directors of departments in the Ministry, demonstrating the State Government's commitments to address the issue of drug and substance abuse in the State.



EDO GOVT, OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY SEEK SOLUTIONS TO INVESTMENT HURDLES, IMPROVE HOST COMMUNITIES

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah



In line with Governor Monday Okpebholo's five-point agenda, focusing on security, infrastructure development, healthcare, natural resources to achieve food sufficiency, and education, the Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO), which is the Ease of Doing Business Secretariat and Okomu Oil Palm Company recently met to address pressing challenges hindering investment and operational efficiency in the region, while also fostering improved relations with host communities.

Key discussions at the meeting centered on land disputes, security concerns, infrastructural bottlenecks, labour issues, healthcare challenges among others, all of which directly impact the Governor's vision for a prosperous Edo State.

The meeting, lasting over five hours, highlighted Okomu's commitment to collaborating with the Edo State government to foster a more supportive business environment to achieve economic prosperity.

However, the company also voiced significant concerns that require urgent attention to ensure the state's development aligns with the Governor's agenda. These include: Land and boundary issues, which requires the attention of the EdoGeographic Information System (EdoGIS); security and infrastructure; labour and community relations; regulatory; healthcare and environmental concerns.

The Managing Director of ESIPO, Hon Amen Odigie noted that the Governor's vision is to make Edo State a preferred investment destination for investors thereby achieving economic prosperity. And in doing that, it is important that ESIPO collaborates with the business community to not only retain already existing investments but also attract new investments into the state.

According to him, "His Excellency's vision is to make Edo State economically viable in a manner that will improve the lives of all of us. And we understand the vital role your businesses play in the economy of this state. So, we are here to listen to your concerns. Your feedback are extremely important to us"

The Managing Director of Okomu Oil Palm PLC, Dr Graham Hefer appreciated the government for its efforts but raised some issues which include the presence of illegal squatters on government land leased to them and ongoing legal battles over land ownership in concession 2, urging the government to intervene.

Okomu also revealed that they spend a staggering 4 billion naira annually on security measures, citing recent murders in neighboring communities and called for a sustained military presence to protect investments and personnel.

He noted: "We have issue with locally sourced labour. Over 80% of our plantation workers are coming from neighboring states. We have requested assistance even from government in recruiting local labour in boosting local employment and community development. But this is not available here"

On their corporate social responsibility efforts, the MD said that 29 communities benefit, showcasing their commitment to the region's well-being.

To address the challenges raised, several action items were discussed, all aimed at supporting the Governor's five-point agenda with a commitment from both parties to maintain ongoing dialogue and collaboration to resolve these pressing issues, ensuring a more conducive business environment in Edo State and aligning with Governor Okpebholo's vision for a prosperous and developed region.



GOV OKPEBHOLO INAUGURATES COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION, EDO VARSITY GOVERNING COUNCIL



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has charged the newly-inaugurated governing councils for Persons with Disabilities, Edo University, Iyamho and Edo State House of Assembly (EDHA) Service Commission to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently.

The Governor gave the charge after inaugurating the three groups in the new Festival Hall in Government House, Benin City Edo State.

The Governor said the task for the newly-inaugurated bodies is enormous and charged them to discharge their duties and responsibilities according to the law governing the State.

“We are all here because of this event today as my administration has carefully selected those we are inaugurating today to collaborate with us to pilot the affairs of the State and contribute to its development.



“We have carefully selected great minds to run the affairs of Edo State House of Assembly Service Commission believing they will bring the needed change required to develop Edo State.

Speaking to the members of the Governing Council Edo State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, led by the chairman, Mr. Theophilus Egbodion, the Governor said that despite their challenges, his administration would not discriminate against anybody.

“There is no discrimination in this administration. We are all one working to achieve our common goal, which is to develop Edo State. The situation you find yourselves is not made by you but caused by circumstances and with you in our Government, we will relate with others very well. You are not disabled in mind as I promise to work with you as all your requests will be looked into.”



For the governing council of Edo State University Iyamho, led by Prof. Olusegun Akinyinka, the Governor, said the members chosen by his administration were a well-calculated move to bring credible people with proven characters to govern and move the school forward.

“Your choice is deliberate as we believe that with your experience, the school will do very well. As we inaugurate you today, the university will experience a new dawn such that the school will assume an enviable height.”

Okpebholo said the task ahead of the newly-inaugurated members is enormous and “I charge you to discharge your duties and responsibilities according to the law governing the State. I want to thank and welcome you to the fold.” Responding, the chairmen

Edo State House of Assembly Service Commission, Hon. Ezechi Igbas; chairman Governing Council Edo State commission for persons with disabilities, Mr. Theophilus Egbodion; and Chairman Governing Council of Edo University, Iyamho, Prof. Olusegun Akinyinka thanked the Governor for finding them and their team worthy of the appointments and promised to support and collaborate with the administration to succeed.

EDO STATE HOS RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

By Violet Obamwonyi

The Edo State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa, has been honoured with an award by the Student Union Government (SUG) of the University of Benin (UNIBEN), in recognition of his exemplary leadership and contributions to the transformation of the State's civil and public service.

The award presentation was part of engagements by the Student Union Body during its courtesy visit on the office of the Edo State HOS in Benin City, as led by its Vice President, Comrade Omotuemen Osalumenese Favour.

Appreciating the award, Dr. Okungbowa advised young leaders to embody the change they wish to see in the nation; emphasizing the importance of initiating transformation at their current levels of leadership. He remarked, "Those of you who would be leaders of the future are already leaders today. If you do not begin to bring in the changes now, you cannot implement them in the larger society."

Dr. Okungbowa encouraged the students to remain optimistic about Nigeria's future, urging them not to succumb to despair or fear of the unknown; particularly as

they are near the climax of their first-degree academic journey.

While stressing the need for students to commit their efforts to nation-building and personal development, the HOS advised them to take advantage of digital learning platforms and to pursue certifications in areas such as e-governance and cybersecurity to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving public service landscape.

Dr. Okungbowa urged the students to uphold integrity and dedication in their pursuits, reminding them that a functional system ultimately benefits them and that it is their responsibility to contribute to its success.

Comrade Osalumenese expressed gratitude to the HOS for his warm reception and inspirational message, noting that the award was a testament to his dynamic, outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in driving positive reforms within the Edo State's Civil Service.



EDO STATE GOVT PARTNERS NWADI TO TRAIN 500 WOMEN IN AGRIC QUARTERLY

By Peace Osemwegie



In a bid to promote women's economic empowerment through their participation in agriculture, the Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, has unveiled plans to collaborate with the Nigeria Women for Agricultural Progressive and Development Initiative (NWADI) in the State.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief (Hon.) Bisi Idaomi, who played host to NWADI during a courtesy visit, disclosed the plans of training 500 women in the Scheme every quarter, over the next four years as pathways to intensify women's participation in agriculture. She stressed that empowering women in all economically viable sectors, including agriculture, is her core mandate.

Hon. Idaomi stated that her goal is to train women on cultivating short-term crops that can be harvested within three months. According to her, such high-yielding crops over short period of time would culminate in high turnovers, which would enhance the economic status of the female farmers in Edo State.

The State Coordinator of NWADI (Edo State Chapter), Mrs. Tracy Ebuoluwa, acknowledged that the Commissioner's goals are achievable, saying that it is in harmony with their initiative and part of the purpose for their visit. She disclosed that a formal proposal outlining the details and action plans for the initiative will be presented to the Commissioner on a later date.

The initiative is expected to significantly contribute to the economic emancipation of women in the State through engaging in contemporary high-yielding agricultural produce.

Other personalities present during the visit include the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Joy Ihensenkien.



JUBILATION AS EDO STATE GOVT DELIVERS RELIEF MATERIALS TO EKEKE-ERAH

By Edeniye Abraham Osose



Ekeke-Erah Community was distressed by the destruction caused by the failed Dam to its farmlands, markets, and key infrastructure, including the bridge linking the area to other parts of the State. In response, the Executive Secretary of EdoSEMA, Hon. Jerry Idahosa, who represented the State Government, reassured the Community of the administration's commitment to their welfare. He stated that the intervention to provide immediate relief to the affected people was directed by the Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo.

Hon. Idahosa said during the presentation of the relief materials, "We are here this afternoon under the directive of His Excellency, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, to distribute these relief materials. We have just handed them over to the head of the Community. I want to assure you that all your concerns will be taken back to the Governor, and I know he is a proactive and listening leader. In due time, he will respond to your needs".

The EdoSEMA Boss reminded residents of the toll-free EdoSEMA emergency hotline (739), which can be used to report disasters or emergencies. He urged the people to take advantage of the service, noting

that it was a direct link to the State Government for swift responses. In his words, "Many people are unaware of this number. It is free to call, and through it, we can escalate any emergency or disaster-related case to the appropriate agencies. We appeal to the general public to make use of this service".

Hon. Idahosa assured the people that additional relief items, including eight bags of sugar and two bags of mosquito nets, would soon arrive to mitigate the effects of polluted water and to prevent mosquito-borne diseases. He urged the residents to



remain hopeful, as the State Government was already considering their request for a healthcare facility in the Community.

He appreciated the Director-General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Zubaida Umar, and called for more support from NEMA, NGOs, and concerned stakeholders. He emphasised that disaster management requires collective efforts and urged other organisations to support the State Government's efforts in responding to emergencies.

The delegation from the Edo State Ministry of Health also assured the Community of the State Government's commitment to addressing their health challenges. A representative from the Ministry confirmed that plans were already in motion to establish a healthcare facility in the area to cater for the medical needs of the people. Expressing gratitude, the Leader of Owan East Assembly, Hon. Fred Enaikhe, described the relief intervention as unprecedented, stating that it was the first time the Community had ever received such assistance from the Government.

"For over two decades, no relief material has ever come to the people of Ekeke-Erah. We have felt abandoned and forgotten. But today, through the EdoSEMA, the Governor has demonstrated that he is a man of conscience, a man with passion for the people. This is not the first time our Community has experienced flooding, but previous administrations never responded. Today, the Governor has finally seen our plight," he said.

An indigene of the Community, Comrade Morude Innocent, appreciated the State Government for the relief materials but also called for more infrastructural development. He appealed for a security post, a healthcare facility, better roads, youth empowerment programmes, and other essential amenities to improve the quality of life in the Community.

The relief materials delivered included essential food and household items such as bags of rice, beans, garri, cartons of tin tomatoes, cartons of noodles, bags of salt, sachet water, among others.

With the Edo State Government's intervention, the people of Ekeke-Erah have renewed hope that their Community is no longer neglected and that more infrastructural development will follow in due course.

UKHUN ROAD CONSTRUCTION: IDAHOSA ASSURES OF OKPEBHOLO'S COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT

By Godspower Eguasa

... Concluded procurement processes for Ekewan 12km Rd rehabilitation

The Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa has assured residents in the State, especially of the Ovia Constituencies, of the Sen. Monday Okpebholo-led administration's commitment to the well-being and meaning development of the area through speedy rehabilitation and completion of the Ukhun and Ekewan road networks under the Local Government Area (LGA) in the State.

Rt. Hon. Idahosa gave the assurance when he played host to the leadership of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Ovia North East Constituency, led by the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Oscar Aghedo, who paid a courtesy visit on the Deputy Governor at the Government House in Benin City.

The Deputy Governor, who commended the Governor, Sen. Okpebholo for prioritizing the well-being of the Ovia people, assured them of a more meaningful impact and development under the current administration in their locality.



"They have briefed me, and I am glad to announce to them today, on behalf of my Principal, the Executive Governor of Edo State, that Ovia is already benefiting from this Government. I want to use this opportunity to inform you that the Executive Governor of Edo State has done all the procurement processes for an extension of about 12km road rehabilitation, from Ekewan Barracks, all the way to Ekewan Community.

"In addition, the Executive Governor of Edo State has also completed the procurement processes for the rehabilitation of Ukhun Road, from 7up, all the way to Siluko Road, also in Ovia North East".

The Deputy Governor commended the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Aghedo, and the leadership of the APC in Ovia North East LGA, for their dedication, and unwavering commitment to driving peace and unity amongst members of the Party in the locality, describing the move as a panacea for meaningful development.

In his address, the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Aghedo, joined by a leader of the Party, Prof. Ovenshehi Aibueku, commended the giant strides of the Deputy Governor in driving development across the State, noting that residents of the locality are proud to identify with the Deputy Governor and congratulated him on his victory at the last Governorship election in the State.



In his words, "The Leadership of Ovia North East Local Government Area, under the platform of the APC, ably led by the party Chairman, Hon. Oscar Aghedo, has come today on a courtesy visit to congratulate my humble self and my Principal, the Executive Governor of Edo State, on our victory at the recently conducted Governorship elections in the State.



EDO STATE GOVT STRENGTHENS DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

By Eghosa Emily.

The Edo State Government through its Diaspora Agency, has advocated inclusive governance aimed at improving the lives of Edo State indigenes; at home and in the diaspora, irrespective of religious, political, tribal, or socio-cultural affiliations.

The Director General (DG) of the Edo State Diaspora Agency, Dr. (Mrs.) Loretta Oduware Ogboro-Okor, reiterated the commitments of the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, towards the development of the State, during a media chat at the Agency's office at the Government House in Benin City.

Dr. Ogboro-Okor explained that the Agency was established to serve as a link between Edo indigenes abroad and the Government back home. According to her, the Agency aims to leverage the skills, resources, and experiences of the Diaspora Community for the development of the State, with particular focus on grassroots growth.

She emphasized that the Agency is dedicated to building sustainable channels for engagement, collaboration, and investment between the Diaspora Community and local institutions. Among the Agency's key objectives are enhancing the welfare of Edo citizens abroad, establishing a comprehensive database system, and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Edo.



The DG asserted that the Agency would work in synergy with relevant ministries, departments, agencies (MDAs), and local governments to effectively contribute to the SHINE transformation agenda of Sen. Okpebholo. Appreciating the Governor for entrusting her with the responsibility of being the Agency's pioneer DG, she assured the public that she and her Team are committed to their roles and will work diligently to meet the expectations of Edo people.

Dr. Ogboro-Okor called for greater collaborations and supports from the Diaspora Community and other stakeholders in promoting positive narratives about Edo State. "I must commend the resilience and patriotism of our Diaspora Community. Despite being away from home, your unwavering commitments to the growth and welfare of Edo State is both evident and inspiring," she concluded.



EDSG COMMENCES DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL SHANTIES

By Evelyn Unuigbo

As part of measures to ensure the State is clean, safe and beautiful, Edo State Government has commenced the demolition of illegal structures and shanties within the metropolis.

The demolition exercise, which took place at Dumez Junction along Sapele Road, was carried out by the Director and officials of the Development and Building Control Agency alongside security operatives.

Speaking during the exercise, the Managing Director of the Agency, Hon. Igabali Imoisili Darlington, who was represented by the Director of Department of Development Control, Town Planner Henry Enabulele said the exercise is part of the development control mission to give the State a facelift.

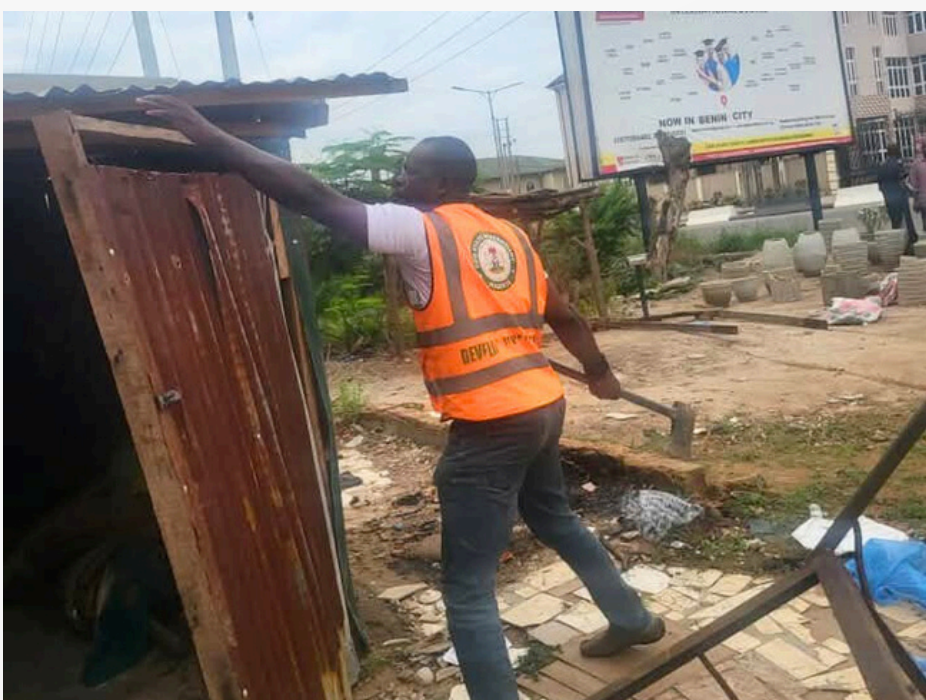
Hon. Igabali noted that the State Governor had given directives for the city to be rid of illegal shanties and Clearing of debris in the city, announcing that the Agency will continue to visit all other open spaces where illegal structures had been erected and taken over by hoodlums.



"We will be visiting other open spaces because these people think they can just erect structures any where they want to. About three notices have been served them before now, informing them on the need to vacate the said areas. Such places could pose as criminal hideouts and the Government is doing all it can to reduce criminality in the State.

"Such illegal structures and shanties will no longer be tolerated in the City". He said.

Honourable Igabali further explained that the Agency would be collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, Parks and Gardens to beautify the open spaces as they will not be left bare.



GOV OKPEBHOLO BEGINS PAYMENT OF GRATUITIES TO RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS IN EDO STATE, TWELVE YEARS AFTER



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has approved the payment of gratuities owed to pensioners since 2012, a move many say will address the long-standing plight of retired civil servants in the State.

The State Government has, therefore, commenced the disbursement of N1 billion as the first batch of payments, fulfilling a commitment to clear the backlog inherited from previous administrations.

Governor Okpebholo emphasized his administration's resolve to prioritize the welfare of retired civil servants who have dedicated their years of service to the State.

"For over a decade, many of our retirees have suffered due to the non-payment of their gratuities. This administration is putting an end to that hardship. I have approved the release of N1 billion for the first phase of payments, and we will not rest until all outstanding entitlements are cleared," Governor Okpebholo assured.

The Governor reiterated that his administration is committed to restoring the dignity of pensioners by ensuring that they receive their due benefits without further delay.

"We recognize the sacrifices made by our retirees, and it is unacceptable that they have had to wait this long for what is rightfully theirs. Our administration will not

only clear these arrears but will also put measures in place to ensure such delays do not happen in the future," Governor Okpebholo stated.

He reaffirmed that his administration's goal is to clear all outstanding gratuities in phases, ensuring that retirees enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The Governor further assured that the disbursement process will be transparent and fair, with pensioners receiving payments in batches based on a structured verification process.

"This is just the beginning. We will not abandon our pensioners. We are determined to ensure that those who served Edo State diligently are treated with the respect and care they deserve," the Governor concluded.

Some pensioners who spoke to newsmen expressed relief and gratitude over the development. One of them, Mr. Patrick Edobor, a retired principal, described the payment as a lifeline.

"For years, we have been waiting for this moment. Many of our colleagues passed away while hoping for their gratuities. I commend the Governor for taking this bold step," he said.

The payment of gratuities after a 12-year delay marks a significant milestone in the State's efforts to improve workers' welfare and demonstrates Governor Okpebholo's commitment to addressing inherited financial obligations.

A RESOUNDING TRIUMPH FOR EDO STATE: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEADERS

By Peace Osemwegie

Towards supporting career mothers, the Edo State Government through the office of the First Lady, has officially delivered the state-owned creche to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

According to the Coordinator, office of the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Anani, the Ministry will oversee the creche's operations, including recruitment and staff supervision in line with extant rules.

Mrs. Anani commended the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo for his swift approval of the handover and opening of the creche; describing the Governor as a strong supporter of mothers and children. She asserted that the facility will boost productivity among career mothers, who would be certain of their children's safety and well-being.

She appreciated the Ministry for its efforts in creating a sane society, stressing that they are often underappreciated. She charged the Ministry with conducting thorough background checks on childcare workers to ensure the children's safety.

On behalf of the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Irenonsen Ihensekhien appreciated the Governor and the office of the First Lady for their vital roles in establishing the creche, which according to her, meets high standards of safety, learning, and care. She emphasised the importance of early childhood development and the government's commitment to supporting career parents and fostering a more inclusive society.



The event was attended by dignitaries including the wife of the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaja Umar-Musa Ikhilor; the APC State Woman Leader, Directors and Staff of the Ministry. It climaxed with the Director of Child Development Department, giving the closing remarks.

EDO ATTORNEY GENERAL CONGRATULATES GOVERNOR MONDAY OKPEBHOLO AND RT. HON. DENNIS IDAHOSA ON THEIR VICTORY AT THE EDO STATE ELECTION PETITIONS TRIBUNAL

By Clementina Agweda

The Edo State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Rt. Hon. Samson Osagie, has congratulated Governor Monday Okpebholo and his Deputy, Rt. Hon Dennis Idahosa on their victory at the Edo State Election Petitions Tribunal.

In his congratulatory message, the Attorney General extolled the Governor's leadership style, which he said resonates with the people of Edo State.

He highlighted the administration's achievements in infrastructure, human capital development, the Justice Sector, education, healthcare, security, agriculture and others, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable growth and prosperity for all.

Dr. Osagie's message also acknowledged the Judiciary's role in upholding truth, fairness and justice, expressing his prayers for God to grant the Governor wisdom, strength and resources to deliver the dividends of democracy to all Citizens of Edo State.

He offered his Hearty Congratulations on the Governor's landmark electoral victory, affirming that the days ahead will be filled with tremendous transformations in every sector of the State.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



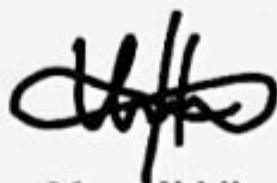
March 15, 2025

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 reintroduction of Monthly Environmental Sanitation Exercise in the State, which will be conducted on the last Saturday of every month between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.

The reintroduction of the exercise is premised on His Excellency's commitment to ensure a healthier and cleaner environment for the good people of Edo State. During the exercise, human and vehicular movements will be strictly prohibited except for officers on essential duties. This is to ensure that all residents of the State partake in the sanitation exercise to keep their immediate environment clean.

The exercise is billed to commence on Saturday 26th April, 2025.



Umar Musa Ikhilor, Esq.
Secretary to the State Government

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Government House, P.M.B. 1081, Benin City, Edo State.

Email: ssg@edostate.gov.ng

PICTURES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE IN VISUALS



ECO NEWS

FOOD SECURITY: GOV OKPEBHOLU EARMARKS 3,000 HECTARES FOR FARMING IN EDO STATE

The Edo State Government has started the cultivation of 3,000 hectares of farmlands across the three Senatorial Districts of the State.



Office of the First Lady

“Your strength, your talent and your resilience are the cornerstone upon which more equitable society is built.”

Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani
Coordinator, Office of the First Lady.



Ministry of Information and Communication

“I am here to say thank you as I appreciate your dedication and hard work, which have brought us this far. Edo is marching forward, and we will continue to do our best to uplift the well-being of our people”.

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
The Executive Governor, Edo State

#EdosWorkingAgain
#ANewEdoHasRisen
#PracticalGovernance



“No individual should be more powerful than an entire community—burning houses and killing people just to steal farm produce. Wherever they are hiding, we will hunt them down, bring them to justice, and ensure that peace prevails,” Governor Okpebholo declared.

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
Governor, Edo State



Ministry of Information and Communication

“My administration will continue to inspect projects to be very sure that contractors work according to specifications and also meet the timeline for completion of the projects for the betterment of Edo people.”

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
The Executive Governor, Edo State

#EdosWorkingAgain
#ANewEdoHasRisen
#PracticalGovernance



Edo State Digital Policy Project Workshop

Some Facts About the State Digital Policy

- Agriculture sector: A Comprehensive farmers database for data driven decisions
- Education Sector: Improving technology based education
- Transportation sector: Modernized transportation through e-ticketing
- Procurement sector: Electronic procurement to increase efficiency and transparency
- Justice sector: Digital infrastructure and improved legal processes
- Health sector: Enhancing health care through the e-Clinic system

#ANewEdoHasRisen
#PracticalGovernance
#ProjectShine

Edo State Govt assesses communities plundered by suspected militants

Hon. Idahosa assured the affected communities that the State Government, under the leadership of Sen. Monday Okpebholo, remains committed to securing lives and properties. He stated that plans were already in place to provide relief and interventions for displaced persons.



ECO NEWS



Ministry of Information and Communication

“We are not sleeping. We go round the state to monitor all on going projects to ensure quality job delivery. Also to ensure contractors meet specifications”

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
The Executive Governor, Edo State

#ANewEdoHasRisen
#PracticalGovernance
#ProjectShine



Ministry of Information and Communication

You have demonstrated love and commitment for your people by embarking on people-oriented projects. In less than 150 days in office, you have turned the entire capital city into a construction site. I commend you for this foresight. Under you, miracles are happening and under you, the road tagged federal roads are now fixed”

David Umahi
Minister of Works

#ANewEdoHasRisen
#PracticalGovernance
#ProjectShine



Office of the First Lady

“Let us pledge to accelerate our collective efforts for the rights and empowerment of every woman and girl child.”

Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani
Coordinator, Office of the First Lady.



Ministry Of Information And Communication

“Agriculture is a key priority in my administration because, as a nation, we must be able to feed ourselves and Edo state will lead the way. That is why we are making significant investment in agriculture, not just to ensure food security but also to drive the economic growth”

- Sen. Monday Okpebholo



Office of the First Lady

“Across every sector of society, we must come together to eliminate barriers that still deny thousands of women their fundamental human rights.”

Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani
Coordinator, Office of the First Lady.



**EDO
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE**



**WE WISH
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU**

**Via Our
Contacts
Below**

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