



EDUCATION: GOV OKPEBHOLO PLANS NEW DEAL FOR AAU STUDENTS

**...EDO STATE GOVERNMENT, CHINESE TOP VARSITY TO COMMENCE EXCHANGE
PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS**

The Edo State Government and the Federal Republic of China are exploring avenues for institutional collaboration aimed at deepening the exchange of knowledge across education, culture, and technology.

Governor Monday Okpebholo received a high-level delegation from Fujian Jiangxia University, China, led by the President of the institution, Mr. Ling Qzdan,

during a courtesy visit to Government House, Benin City.

The delegation expressed keen interest in partnering with Edo State Government to advance bilateral cooperation between academic institutions in both regions.

Welcoming the delegation, Governor Okpebholo remarked that his administration had long anti-

cipated such an engagement, emphasizing that meaningful partnerships with nations like China are critical for sustainable knowledge transfer and capacity development.

‘We are delighted to welcome you to Benin City; one of the oldest cities in Africa and the world, rich in cultural heritage and history,’ the governor stated.

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Democrach Day 2025

Today, I join the good people of Edo State and Nigerians across the country to reflect on the enduring legacy of June 12. This day reminds us of the unshakable resolve of Nigerians who, on June 12, 1993, spoke with one voice in favour of true democracy. It is a solemn moment to honour the memory of Chief M.K.O. Abiola and all those who sacrificed for the freedom we now enjoy. As Governor, I remain committed to a people-focused and accountable style of governance. Through our SHINE agenda, we are delivering real improvements in security, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, and education. These are the true dividends of democracy.

His Excellency

Senator Monday Okpebholo

The Executive Governor of Edo State

edostate.gov.ng

SECRET CULT & SIMILAR ACTIVITIES (PROHIBITION) LAW 2025



FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT THE EDO STATE

Secret Cult and Similar Activities (Prohibition) Law 2025



1

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



2

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



3

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



4

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



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...GOV OKPEBHOLO PLANS NEW DEAL FOR AAU STUDENTS CONT'D

“News of your visit brought us great joy, as this collaboration with China is one I have earnestly looked forward to. It presents an opportunity to exchange knowledge across education, culture, science, and technology. Learning is a lifelong pursuit, and the transfer of knowledge is central to our administration’s vision for transformation.”

Governor Okpebholo further emphasized Edo State’s cultural depth and expressed optimism that China would benefit from the richness of Edo’s heritage, just as Edo State stands to gain from China’s technological advancements.

“This partnership, particularly the agreement between Fujian Jiangxia University and Ambrose Alli University (AAU), is of immense value to us. We are excited by the possibilities and believe that this collaboration will be mutually beneficial. We look forward to sharing our culture with China and gaining insights from your educational and technological systems.”

In his remarks, Mr. Ling Qzdan, President of Fujian Jiangxia University, explained that the purpose of the visit was to formalize cooperation and strengthen institutional ties in the domains of education, culture, technology, and scientific research.

He observed that both institutions: Fujian Jiangxia University and Ambrose Alli University, share similar facilities and academic disciplines, which provide a strong foundation for long-term collaboration.

“This visit is intended to consolidate a robust partnership between Fujian and Benin City, particularly in education and cultural exchange,” Mr. Qzdan noted.

“We believe that through joint initiatives and leadership dialogue, we can significantly deepen collaboration and foster academic excellence. We are here to seek meaningful cooperation with Edo State’s educational sector and to promote mutual learning and understanding between our people.”



Speaking at the event, the Edo State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Paddy Iyamu described the partnership as a strategic milestone that will reshape the future of education in the state.

“The purpose of this visit is to facilitate institutional collaboration between Edo State and China,” he explained. “By September, we will begin finalizing the documentation to initiate a technical agreement between Fujian Jiangxia University and our own Ambrose Alli University. This is a remarkable step forward.”

The Commissioner reaffirmed the Governor’s commitment to ensuring that every Edo child is equipped to compete globally, adding that reforms are underway to dismantle systemic barriers to education.

“We are committed to building a globally competitive student population grounded in science, technology, and life skills. The Governor has made it clear that Edo children must not only participate in but lead innovation.

The Chinese are global leaders in infrastructure and technological advancement. Their integration into our educational ecosystem will not only bolster learning outcomes but also stimulate broader economic development.”

The visit marks a significant step toward international academic and cultural cooperation and reflects Edo State’s commitment to global engagement in education and human capital development.

Signed:
Fred Itua,
The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.

GOV OKPEBHOLO KICKS OFF DISBURSEMENT OF N1BN INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO EDO TRADERS



Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State, on Friday, officially launched a groundbreaking N1 billion interest-free loan scheme, a move he emphatically declared as a direct alignment with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda for national progress.

The initiative, designed to inject vitality into grassroots commerce, promises to be a beacon of hope for over 5,000 farmers and small business owners across the state. The atmosphere was electric at the launch event, which was held in Benin City, the state capital.

Governor Okpebholo, addressing a jubilant crowd of market women and men, drew a powerful parallel between his administration's vision and federal leadership. He told the jubilant crowd: "There is an adage: follow who know road. That is why we decided to follow the footsteps of our President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

According to him, "Today, what we are doing in Edo State is the implementation of the agenda of the President. We thank God for the kind of leadership He has given to Edo State and Nigeria. Now, it is time for the progress for our people."

The Governor underscored the personal commitment behind the scheme, recalling his campaign promise to provide soft loans. He emphasized that this N1 billion fund was the fulfillment of that pledge, but with a crucial safeguard.

"I just wanted to be sure that this money will not go to the wrong hands. That is the essence of this gathering. Because, with my past experience, whenever the Executive gives out loans, the money does not get to the grassroots," Governor Okpebholo noted.

A total of 5,000 beneficiaries are expected to benefit across the state. Governor Okpebholo issued a clear directive: "If you do not get this, come back to me and report." He also revealed that this initial rollout is a "pilot test," with its success paving the way for future replications of the scheme.

In his statement, Honourable Commissioner for Finance, Emmanuel Ehidiemen Okoebor, highlighted the far-reaching benefits of the initiative.

"It is with great pride and sense of responsibility that I stand before you today to welcome everybody to this occasion of the launching of the N1 billion interest-free loan to Edo people, our traders, our market women, our brothers and our fathers in the state," he declared.

Okoebor elaborated on the scheme's impact, stating it would "boost the economy of our rural areas and semi-urban areas, create jobs, and reduce poverty."

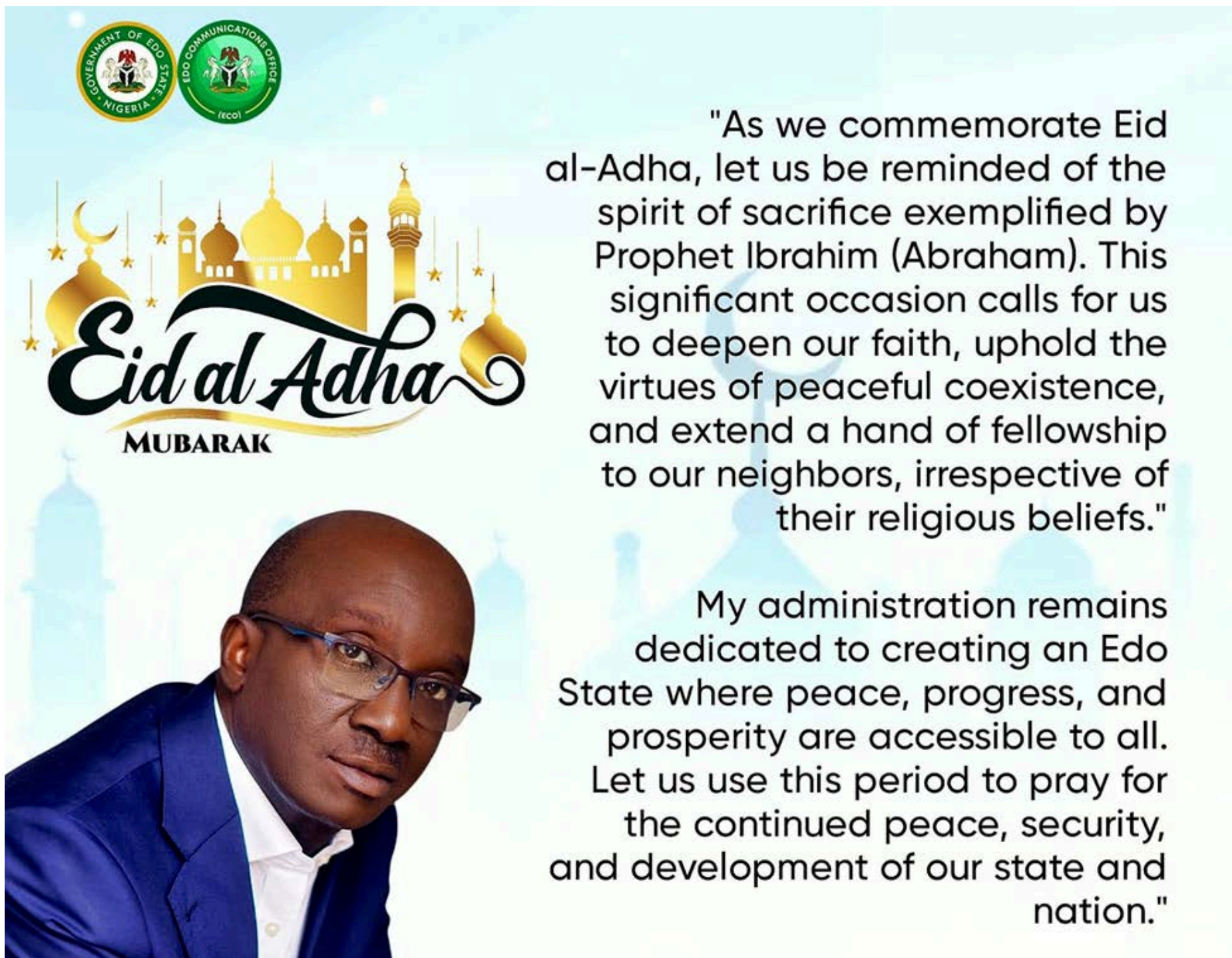
He lauded Governor Okpebholo's achievements in his relatively short tenure, noting that "he has built flying over, hospitals, schools, employed teachers, increased subvention for our universities to be better than what it was before.

He added, "Now, he has come to empowering the people." Crucially, he explained the zero-interest feature that sets this loan apart. "Before now, our mothers collected loans and paid 10% on N200,000. For this, there is no interest. You pay back what you borrowed."



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EID AL-ADHA: GOV OKPEBHOLO CELEBRATES WITH MUSLIM UMMAH, SUES FOR SUSTAINED PEACE, UNITY



His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State has extended his heartfelt felicitations to the Muslim faithful in Edo State, Nigeria, and across the globe, on the joyous occasion of Eid al-Adha.

Governor Okpebholo emphasized the profound significance of Eid al-Adha, a festival that symbolizes sacrifice, obedience, and devotion to Almighty Allah.

He urged Muslims to reflect on the core lessons of the celebration, which include compassion, generosity, and submission to the will of God.

"As we commemorate Eid al-Adha, let us be reminded of the spirit of sacrifice exemplified by Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)," Governor Okpebholo stated. "This significant occasion calls for us to deepen our faith, uphold the virtues of peaceful coexistence, and extend a hand of fellowship to our neighbors, irrespective of their religious beliefs."

The Governor highlighted the importance of unity and understanding, especially at this time, and called on all citizens of Edo State to continue to live in peace and harmony.

He assured the Muslim community of his administration's unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where all religions can thrive and where the rights and freedoms of every citizen are respected.

My administration remains dedicated to creating an Edo State where peace, progress, and prosperity are accessible to all," Governor Okpebholo added. "Let us use this period to pray for the continued peace, security, and development of our state and nation."

He encouraged everyone to celebrate responsibly, adhere to safety guidelines, and remember those less fortunate by sharing the blessings of the season.

Governor Okpebholo, on behalf of the Government and the good people of Edo State, wishes the Muslim Ummah a blessed and memorable Eid al-Adha.

Signed:
The Fred Itua,
The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.

EDO STATE GOVT THREATENS LEGAL ACTION OVER ALLEGED DEFAMATORY POST AGAINST GOVERNOR, COMMISSIONERS



The Edo State Government, through its Ministry of Justice, has issued a stern warning to Mr. Ogbeide Ifaluyi-Isibor over a social media publication described as malicious and defamatory against the Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, and Commissioners in the state executive council.

In an official letter signed by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Rt. Hon. Dr. Samson R. Osagie, dated June 8, 2025, the state government condemned the viral post circulated on June 6, 2025, alleging irregularities and incompetence within the administration.

The government described the publication as baseless, malicious, and intended to bring the Governor and his cabinet into disrepute.

The controversial post reportedly claimed that the state government had only held three Executive Council meetings in eight months and accused the Governor of residing mostly in Abuja while manipulating contract awards from the capital.

The author also alleged that state funds were being saved to pay for a Supreme Court judgment, referencing past contracts initiated by the previous administration.

Dr. Osagie dismissed the claims as “completely false,” emphasizing that Governor Okpebholo's administration, which is not yet eight months old, has convened several Executive Council meetings, resulting in key developmental decisions, including ongoing flyover projects in Benin City.

The government further accused Mr. Ifaluyi-Isibor of criminal defamation and warned that it would take both civil and criminal legal action if a public retraction and apology were not made within 24 hours.

The demanded apology must be published across all social media platforms and in at least one national newspaper.

“This publication amounts to criminal defamation,” the Attorney General stated. “We intend to proceed against you through the security agencies for you to prove the criminal allegations you have made.”

The government's response signals a strong stance against misinformation and perceived attempts to undermine its credibility, particularly as political attention intensifies ahead of the 2027 general elections.

GOV OKPEBHOLO: JUNE 12 CALLS FOR RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS



The Executive Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has called on all Edo residents and Nigerians, to reflect on the enduring lessons of June 12 and renew their commitment to the principles of democracy, justice, and unity.

Governor Okpebholo emphasized that June 12 serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by patriotic Nigerians who championed the cause of true democracy. He urged citizens to safeguard the hard-won freedoms and democratic gains.

"As we commemorate June 12, our Democracy Day, we are reminded of the strong resolve of Nigerians who, on that fateful day in 1993, spoke with one voice in favour of popular will," Governor Okpebholo stated. "It is a day to honour the memory of Chief M.K.O. Abiola and all those who played significant roles in the struggle for the democracy we now cherish."

The Governor highlighted his administration's dedication to people-centered governance, noting that the 'SHINE' agenda is geared towards delivering tangible improvements in the lives of Edo people across all sectors, including security, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, and education.

"Our administration is built on the bedrock of democratic principles and the belief that governance must be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people," Governor Okpebholo affirmed. "We are working tirelessly to ensure that the dividends of democracy are widely distributed, fostering an environment of peace, progress, and economic prosperity for all."

He further urged Edo citizens to continue their active participation in the democratic process, holding leaders accountable and contributing constructively to the state's development.

"Democracy thrives on active citizen engagement. I implore you all to remain vigilant, participate meaningfully in civic responsibilities, and collectively work towards strengthening our democratic institutions," the Governor added.

Governor Okpebholo wishes all Edo people and Nigerians a peaceful and reflective Democracy Day and prays for continued peace, unity, and progress in the state and the nation.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.

GOV OKPEBHOLO KICKS OFF DISBURSEMENT OF N1BN INTEREST-FREE LOANS ... CONT'D



Each of the 5,000 beneficiaries will receive N200,000, with a generous 12-month repayment period and a one-month moratorium, offering vital breathing room for businesses to stabilize.

The Edo State interest-free loan scheme, categorised as a micro loan, will allow beneficiaries to access between N200,000 and N500,000, empowering them to expand their

businesses, invest in inventory, and ultimately uplift their livelihoods.

With the N1 billion interest-free loan, Governor Okpebholo's administration has not only fulfilled a key campaign promise but also laid a robust foundation for inclusive economic growth, promising a brighter and more prosperous future for the people of Edo State.

The event was attended by a host of dignitaries, including the Deputy Governor, Hon. Dennis Idahosa; the Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly, Sheriff Agbebaku; Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Umar Musa Ikhilor; and the Chief of Staff, Hon. Ganiyu Audu.

Representatives from various trade associations, including the Igbo Traders Association, Hausa Traders Association, and numerous market women's cooperatives from the three senatorial districts, were also present.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.

EDO SUBEB TERMINATES CONTRACT WITH NEW GLOBE

By Ebuaneke Joy

The Edo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) has terminated its contract with the New Globe after seven years of engagement, on the grounds of dissatisfaction by Edo SUBEB's recent assessments of the Organisation operations' non alignment with evolving standards and strategic direction of the Edo State's Basic Education system.

The termination of contract was contained in a press statement dated 2nd June, 2025 and endorsed by Edo SUBEB. It stated that the termination of contract was the outcome of series of high-level consultations between the representatives of Edo SUBEB and the New Globe, under the coordination of the functioning Executive Chairman of Edo SUBEB, Hon. Omonzane Ebanehita Sonia.

The press statement read in parts, "The partnership with New Globe, initiated in 2018, was established to support the digital transformation of Basic Education in Edo State and to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes across primary and junior secondary schools. While the collaboration yielded some early results, recent assessments raised concerns about the alignment of New Globe's operations with the evolving standards and strategic direction of Edo State's Basic Education system.

"Following a comprehensive review process, Edo SUBEB's leadership unanimously concluded that the continuation of the contract was no longer in the best interest of the State's pupils, teachers, or broader educational goals. Accordingly, the contract with New Globe is hereby terminated with immediate effect, effective June 2, 2025. All programme activities carried out by New Globe in Edo State primary and junior secondary schools are now suspended.

"A formal letter of disengagement has been issued, duly acknowledged, and signed by the contractor, confirming the cessation



of all engagements under the auspices of Edo SUBEB. In addition, there was an official handing over of the office keys and facilities used by New Globe to the Edo State Universal Basic Education Board, marking the formal conclusion of the partnership."

Hon. Omonzane appreciated the New Globe for its services over the years and acknowledged its contribution to supporting education in the State during the period of partnership. She reaffirmed the Board's unwavering commitments to strengthening the delivery of quality, inclusive, and technology-driven education for every child in Edo State.

GOV OKPEBHOLO PLANS BIGGEST YOUTH GATHERING IN SOUTH SOUTH, LAUNCHES YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



A bold new chapter for youth development in Edo State has officially begun. The Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo is proud to announce the Edo Youth Impact Forum (EYIF 2025), a flagship empowerment platform, scheduled to hold on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub, Benin City.

Under the compelling theme, “Empowered Youth, Transformed Future,” EYIF 2025 is set to bring together over 1,500 in-person participants and 2,000 online attendees for an all-day, high-impact gathering. The forum will convene a diverse group of youth, policymakers, entrepreneurs, innovators, artisans, and thought leaders from across the state and beyond.

This critical event is convened under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo, whose administration is deeply committed to repositioning the youth as active and leading participants in Edo’s transformation journey.

“This is not just an event; it is a state-wide call to action,” stated Governor Okpebholo. “We are giving our youth a seat at the table and the resources to lead from the front. Our administration believes in the boundless potential of our young people, and EYIF 2025 is a testament to our commitment to their future.”

EYIF 2025 is deliberately designed as an action-focused event that moves beyond speeches and rhetoric. Participants will engage directly with:

- A compelling keynote address by the Honourable Minister of Youth Development on youth inclusion and digital economy.
- A robust panel session featuring accomplished founders and ecosystem leaders who will discuss practical strategies for transitioning from side hustles to scalable and sustainable businesses.

- Hands-on masterclasses providing practical skills in critical areas such as business design, digital monetization, vocational innovation, and content creation.
- Dynamic demo showcases homegrown ideas and innovative solutions developed by Edo youth aimed at solving real challenges within the state.

At the very heart of EYIF 2025 is the official unveiling of the “Hack the Future” Grant—a landmark ₦10 million pre-seed funding initiative. This grant is specifically designed to identify, nurture, and financially empower five brilliant youth-led ideas with ₦2 million each.

The grant aims to uncover and accelerate innovative solutions from young people in vital sectors, including:

- Agriculture & Food Security
- Basic Education
- Culture, Tourism & Arts
- Skills & Youth Employment
- Waste Management & Clean Energy.

Grant applications have been officially opened and ends on June 20, 2025. Shortlisted applicants will participate in an intensive 10-day incubation program, followed by a competitive pitch session. The deserving winners will be announced and presented with their cheques on the day of the forum.

A distinguished panel of judges will meticulously assess each idea based on its originality, potential impact, feasibility, and scalability.

Attendance at EYIF 2025 is free. However, registration is mandatory for both the forum and the “Hack the Future” grant application. Prospective attendees and grant applicants must register via the official website at www.edoyouthforum.ng.

This is a defining moment for every Edo youth, whether a student with a grand vision, an artisan with an innovative idea, or a startup founder seeking essential support.

A Forum of Firsts and a Movement for the Future. EYIF 2025 marks the first state-wide youth forum under Governor Okpebholo’s administration and is intended to be one of the largest youth gatherings in southern Nigeria this year.

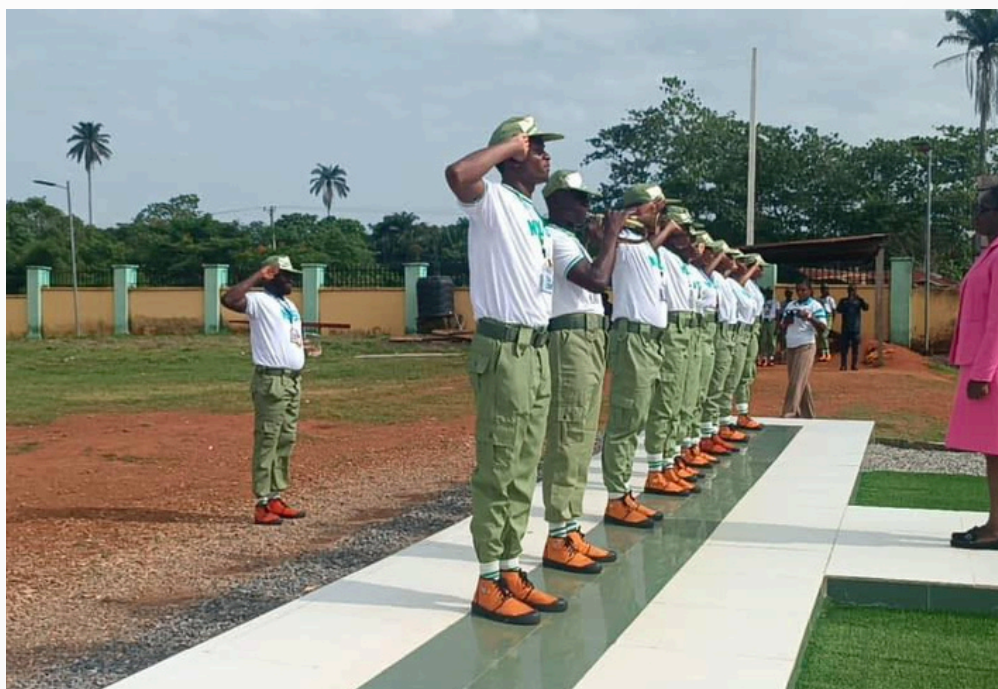
The event powerfully affirms the government’s strong commitment to co-creating solutions with the youth, not merely for them.

From comprehensive logistics support, including free campus shuttle buses, to engaging networking lounges and branded engagement zones, every aspect of EYIF 2025 is being meticulously designed to deliver an immersive, empowering, and unforgettable experience.

In a time where many young Nigerians are searching for hope, direction, and opportunity, EYIF 2025 stands as a beacon—one that powerfully says to every Edo youth: your ideas matter, your voice matters, and your future begins now. With real capital, real access, and real commitment from the state’s highest office, this forum transcends a mere event—it is a movement. A movement to unlock innovation, ignite purpose, and drive a new generation of Edo leaders toward building the thriving, inclusive, and prosperous society they deserve. This is the call. We urge you to answer it

OKPEBHOLO ASSURES NYSC 2025 BATCH A STREAM II OF WELFARE, SAFETY

By Orumwense Sarah O.



The Executive Governor of Edo State, Sen. Monday Okpebholo has pledged his administration's commitments to the well-being and security of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) 2025 Batch B Stream II, who were deployed to the State for the compulsory one-year service to the Nation.

Sen. Okpebholo, represented by the functioning Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Humanitarian Affairs, Aiyegbeni Balogun, gave the assurance while declaring open, the 2025 Batch A stream II Orientation Course of the NYSC at the Permanent Orientation Camp in Okada, Ovia North-East Local Government Area (LGA) of Edo State.

In his words, "Edo State holds immense potentials for personal and professional growth. In the next one year you will discover numerous opportunities in agriculture, education, technology, entrepreneurship, tourism, amongst others. These sectors are central to our Development Agenda, and we encourage you to tap into them, leveraging the NYSC platform as a launchpad for your personal and professional aspirations".

The Governor urged the corps members to stay united as the NYSC has a mission to keep uniting Nigeria, foster development and empower young people. "I urge you to cooperate fully with the NYSC Management during the Orientation Programme and beyond. The orientation course is designed to equip you with

the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to excel during your service year and in your future endeavors. Participate actively, embrace the training and form lasting bonds with your peers from diverse backgrounds," He concluded.

In a welcome address, the NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General Olakunle Oluseye Nafiu, represented by the NYSC State Coordinator, Mrs. Ben-Ushie Frances Ifeoma, noted that the NYSC Camp in Edo State joined its counterparts across the Federation to commence the 2025 Batch 'A' Stream II Orientation Course on Wednesday, 11th June, 2025. She stated that as at midnight of Thursday, 12th June, 2025, a total of 1370 prospective corps members comprising of 672 males and 698 female corps members had been duly registered and were ready to be sworn in as members of the NYSC.

Mrs. Ben-Ushie congratulated the corps members on their successful enlistment into the noble Scheme, stating that it marks the beginning of a new chapter in their lives, which will contribute to their growth as individuals and professionals. She said the NYSC Platform provides a unique avenue to meet people from diverse backgrounds, build lifelong friendship, and create networks that can open doors to greater opportunities. She urged corps members to be disciplined and be willing to learn as it is the means of successfully realizing the objectives of the NYSC.

She implored the corps members to continue with their post camp training opportunities and develop the skills that will position them for self-reliance and entrepreneurship while they integrate into their host communities, assuring them of Edo people's hospitality and warmth. She highlighted some pressing challenges that affected the smooth implementation of some NYSC Programmes in the State and solicited the intervention of the Government.



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EDO STATE GOVERNMENT BEGINS PROFILING OF PROPERTY OWNERS IN NEW CITY DEVELOPMENT



The Edo State Government has commenced a profiling exercise for property owners in the New City Development Area, formerly known as Coral City, as part of Governor Monday Okpebholo's renewed efforts to resolve lingering community land disputes.

A statement issued on Sunday, May 31, and signed by the Secretary to the Edo State Committee on Land Dispute Resolution, Dr. Abdulwasii Oyakhire called on all property owners in Lot-A and Lot-B of the project area to come forward with their ownership documents for verification.

The exercise is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, and run through Friday, June 13, 2025.

According to the statement, the profiling will be conducted on-site by relevant state agencies and will take place simultaneously in both Lot-A and Lot-B.

Other sections of the New City Development are expected to undergo similar processes in subsequent phases.

Affected property owners are expected to present their survey plans. In cases where surveys are unavailable, accurate property coordinates will be accepted, with government-assigned surveyors available on the ground to assist.

This initiative follows a recent peace-building meeting convened by Governor Okpebholo with leaders from the Oke-Oroma, Obagie, and Amagba communities at the Government House in Benin City.

During the meeting, the governor emphasized the need for all stakeholders to submit their documents to the verification committee for profiling, authentication, and eventual regularization for the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy (C-of-O).

Governor Okpebholo reaffirmed his administration's commitment to restoring peace in the area, stressing that harmonious coexistence among residents is vital for the development of the New City.

The state government urges full cooperation from all affected parties to ensure a smooth and successful profiling process.

OKPEBHOLO ASSURES NYSC 2025 BATCH A STREAM II OF WELFARE, ... CONT'D



Appreciating the Edo State Government for continuously providing luxurious buses to convey corps members to the 18 LGAs at the end of every Orientation Camp, Mrs. Ben-Ushie assured the Governor of the NYSC's continued contributions to the State's socio-economic development. She asserted that the Scheme has over the years, consistently provided skilled manpower for critical sectors of the State, enhancing labour mobility, and promoting national unity through the deployment of corps members across communities in the State.

Highpoint of the event was the administration of the Oath of Allegiance to corps members by the Chief Judge of Edo State, Hon. Justice Daniel Iyobosa Okungbowa, represented by Hon. Justice Vestee Otumaye Eboreime. The corps members swore to serve their fatherland with dedication, honesty, and loyalty.

Other dignitaries at the event included the Chairman of Ovia North-East LGA, Hon. Omoruyi Igbinake, the Director of Military Hospital, Major O. S. Ojo, the DPO Okada, CSP. Opatoyinbo John, the Vice Chancellor of Igbinedion University, Okada, Prof. Lawrence Ikechukwu Ezemonye, represented by the Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. Charles Ochem.

EDO STATE GOVT INAUGURATES 1,472 SECURITY CORPS TRAINED ON SECURITY MANAGEMENT

By Godspower Eguasa



The Edo State Government has graduated 1,472 recruited officers of the Edo State Security Corps after two weeks of intensive training on Security Management, which held at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp in Okada, the administrative headquarters of Ovia North-East Local Government Area (LGA) of Edo State.

The Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo represented by his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa, charged the recruited State Security Corps on dedication and professionalism in the discharge of their duties. According to him, "It is with a high sense of responsibility that as the Chief Security Officer of Edo State, I consider security as one of the key elements of my five-point Agenda. The recent upsurge of crime in Nigeria has affected the security of lives and properties and thereby creating enormous anxiety, fears, and apprehension among the populace.

"In Edo State, the high rate of crime, especially in recent times, has been a source of concern to the Government. It was observed that the existing security agencies were overstretched and needed support. In this regard, the Edo State Government established the Edo State Security Corps, backed by the Edo State Government Law 2024, to assist the Police in intelligence gathering and low-level operations in combating criminality."

Sen. Okpebholo continued, "Regrettably, the activities of the Corps were politicized, lacked professionalism, and have not met its set objectives. Based on such developments, I decided to reorganize and restructure the Edo State Security Corps, capable of meeting the demands of complex security emergencies.

"Looking at the display on the parade, together with the level of training the personnel were subjected to during the two weeks intensive training coordinated by the Nigerian Army, I hope it will reflect on their performance in providing the desired support to the Nigerian Police and other security agencies in combating crime in the State."

Sen. Okpebholo pledged the continuous support of his administration in creating the enabling environment for the effectiveness of security operations in the State and commended the Nigerian Army for its continuous commitment to making Edo a safe place for residents.

"On our part, we shall provide the necessary logistics for the operational efficiencies of the rebranded Corps. Finally, I want to thank the Chief of Army Staff for approving the Brigade Commander to coordinate the training, and the Director General of the NYSC, for providing the Orientation Camp for the training of the security personnel," Okpebholo concluded.

The Chairman of the Reorganization and Restructuring Committee of the Edo State Security Corps, Maj. Gen. Cecil Esekhaigbe, represented by Maj. Gen. Victor Ebhaleme (Rtd), commended the Edo State Governor, Sen. Okpebholo for his relentless commitment to security in the State. He assured Edo residents of a safe and improved security environment, leveraging the operational efficiency of the newly trained officers of the Edo Security Corps.

Maj. Gen. Esekhaigbe stated, "Today marks a significant milestone in the Edo State Security Corps recruitment drive as it marks the culmination of a two-week rigorous training conducted by the Nigerian Army to assist the Corps to be more effective and efficient in the performance of its duties. This training commenced on the 22nd of May, this year, with an intake of about 1,600 recruits drawn from 13 LGAs of the State, cutting across the three senatorial zones.

"It is important to mention here that recruits from the other five LGAs will be starting their training to be coordinated by the Nigerian Army at the Police Training School in Ogida on Monday. We have high expectations from the passing out recruits in assisting the State to checkmate the menace of security and criminal activities in the State. They will uphold the high values imparted to them during the training thereby contributing to the enhancement of security in the State".

GOV. OKPEBHOLO IS DEPLOYING RESOURCES FOR THE GOOD OF EDO CITIZENS--OHONBAMU



Edo State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon Paul Ohonbamu has assured that resources allocated to projects and Programmes by the Governor Monday Okpebholo administration will be judiciously deployed for the good of the citizens of the state.

The Commissioner who gave the assurance in a statement in Benin City, noted that Governor Okpebholo is poised to ensuring that project embarked upon by the government is completed and of immense benefit to the citizens.

"The transformative blue print for Edo State Development, Project SHINE, which stands for Security, Health Care, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Food Sufficiency and Education will be executed to impact the people positively.

"The Governor is not interested in having a blue print on paper, but transforming it into projects and Programmes that Edo citizens can see, like the Ramat Park fly over and others across the state," he added.

According to the Commissioner, Edo people are no more going to have a government that claims to have spent billions on Flood and Erosion control for eight years and the problems still persist.

"The Spokesman of the People's Democratic Party PDP, Chris Nehikhare admitted that the Obaseki administration left

extremely formidable project plans and processes for the annual preparation of the state for the flooding that happens every year.

"The question Edo people are asking is that what happened to the huge resources allocated to stop the problem of flooding in the state for eight years

"From the excuses of Chris Nehikhare, no sustainable solution was embarked upon with the huge sums of money claimed to have been spent on the project.

"But the PDP spokesman and his pay masters are expecting the Governor Okpebholo administration to solve the problems they created in eight years in less than Seven months in office.

" However, the Okpebholo administration will not allow the people to continue to suffer this hardship because the resources now allocated for the project will be judiciously deployed unlike in the past when resources are only deployed on paper," he added.

While urging the good people of the state to ignore the rantings of the PDP and be patient, Hon Ohonbamu said, the Governor should be praised for deploying the state's resources judiciously for the good of the society.

DEMOCRACY DAY: GOV OKPEBHOLO IS BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE EDO STATE- OHONBAMU



Edo State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon Paul Ohonbamu has reaffirmed that the Governor Monday Okpebholo led administration will deliver dividends of democracy, build an inclusive and equitable Edo state.

The Commissioner in a statement in Benin City disclosed that Governor Okpebholo believes that democracy should improve the lives of the citizens.

According to Ohonbamu, as the nation celebrates Democracy Day, everyone should reflect on the principles of freedom, equality, justice and good governance. The Commissioner noted that Democracy Day is to reflect on the sacrifices of those who fought for the rights and freedoms of the people.

"Democracy is not just a system of government, but a way of life that empowers citizens, promotes accountability, and fosters inclusive development.

" As we mark this day, let's recognize the progress we have made and acknowledge the challenges we still face.

Let us work together to strengthen our democratic institutions, protect

human rights and ensure that the voices of all citizens are heard.

" Together, we can build a brighter future for ourselves and future generations and the Monday Okpebholo administration remains committed to enforcing the rights of the citizens.

" Under the capable leadership of His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, the government has prioritized initiatives targeted at building a more inclusive and equitable Edo State," he added

EDO STATE GOVT RESCUES, REUNITES STOLEN BABY WITH FAMILY

By Peace Osemwegie



The Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has rescued a 9-month-old baby and reunited same to its biological family in Benin City.

The said baby was alleged to have been stolen during a church service on Sunday, 1st June, 2025, around the Siluko Road axis of Benin.

The suspect, a young lady whose name is yet to be disclosed, was alleged to have taken the said baby to an orphanage, claiming to have found the child abandoned. However, her story raised suspicions, which prompted staff of the orphanage to contact the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and upon interrogation by the Police, the Suspect confessed to stealing the said baby during a church service.

The Ministry's intervention and collaboration with the Police ensured the safe return of the baby to its relieved family.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the motive behind the suspect's actions, and she is currently in Police custody. The Ministry's efforts have brought respite to the family and highlighted the importance of community vigilance and collaboration with law enforcement agencies in safeguarding the well-being of residents in the State.

GOV OKPEBHOLO APPROVES RETURN OF SCHOOLS TO MISSIONARIES IN EDO



In a significant policy shift, Governor Monday Okpebholo has approved the return of schools to missionary organizations in Edo State.

This landmark decision was announced following a meeting between the Governor and the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Auchi, Gabriel G. Dunia, on Monday in Government House, Benin City, Edo State capital.

Governor Okpebholo committed to establishing a committee to identify the specific schools that will be handed over. He clarified that any of the affected schools currently undergoing renovation by the State Government would remain under its supervision until their completion.

Among the schools expected to be affected by this policy are prominent institutions such as Our Lady of Fatima College, Auchi; St. Angela's Grammar School, Uzairue; St. John Grammar School, Fugar; St. Peter's Grammar School, Agenebode; St. James's Grammar School, Afuze; St. Joseph College, Otuo; St. Mary Grammar School, Eme-Ora; and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Grammar School, Ososo.

The move comes decades after the civil government forcefully took over Catholic primary and secondary schools in the 1970s.

Bishop Dunia revealed that despite persistent appeals to previous administrations, the state government had not positively responded to the Church's requests for the return of their institutions until now.

Bishop Dunia underscored the strategic importance of these educational institutions to the Catholic mission, emphasizing their role not only in the intellectual formation of children but also in fostering "ideal moral character, which constitute the bedrock of good society."

This approval marks a significant step towards addressing long-standing grievances and potentially enhancing educational standards through faith-based initiatives in Edo State.

Signed:
Fred Itua,
The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.

Governor Okpebholo committed to establishing a committee to identify the specific schools that will be handed over.

GOV OKPEBHOLO BUILDS SUB-INJECTION STATION TO LIGHT UP OVER SIX COMMUNITIES IN EDO CENTRAL



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has fulfilled his campaign promise of providing a 2.5MVA injection sub-station to Udomi community in Esan Central Local Government Area of Edo State.

The governor, accompanied by top officials, was at the injection station to inspect the project, which is already completed and ready for use.

He said the people had not experienced such development before but that this achievement will open up the communities and other communities that will be connected to the sub-station.

The governor said: "I feel very happy and great, bringing development to the people of these communities. This is a new development for the people as they are feeling the impact of governance, which should be closer to the people.

"You can see the happiness in the faces of the people as they had not experienced governance in a long while, but my administration will ensure the people of Edo State feel the impact of good governance.

"The State will witness more developmental projects as we have keyed into the Renewed Hope Agenda of President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"This sub-station will surely open up this area and bring economic development to the people of this locality as businesses will thrive with constant electricity supply."

The Business Head, Technical Operations at the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC), Engr. Mokwenye Jidenmah commended the governor for the sub-station and

assured that Udomi and other communities would benefit from the project.

"This is a 2.5MVA injection sub-station which is meant to serve over nine transformers around here, bringing down the 33KVA line to 11KVA lines. The red line is to be energized on 11KVA. Before the end of today, the community will start enjoying electricity," he said.

The electricity extension phase 11 will connect six communities, which include Udomi 1, Ujabhole 1, Unogbo, Idimoghodor, Ibhioloulu, and Afuda all in Uwessan.

The governor, who also visited the site for the construction of Edo State College of Nursing, Health Sciences and Technology, commended the Edo State House of Assembly for ensuring passage of the bill.

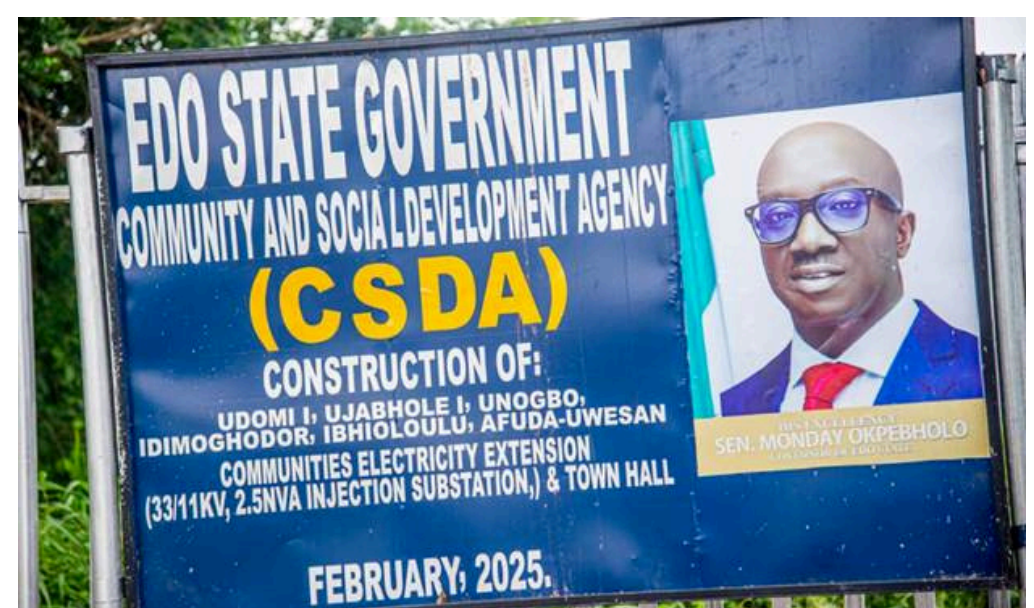
"I want to thank the Edo State House of Assembly for their support in ensuring that they passed the Bill for the Edo State College of Nursing, Health Sciences and Technology Law Udomi, 2025 which I have signed.

"This ongoing project is made possible due to the action of the lawmakers. Work is ongoing. We are serious about the project. Edo people should expect more projects," he said.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State.



HOS ADMITS OKENINI'S BOOKS' LAUNCH AS CATALYST FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



The Edo State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa has asserted the position of the books launched by the Director of Establishments, Labour and Productivity, Victor Okenini Esq., titled "Reformulating the Policies of the Civil Service" and "Effective Writing for Public Servants and Business Professionals," as contributions towards practical and good governance in the State.

As part of the books' launch, the Author, Okenini Esq. in collaboration with the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA) convened a public lecture themed, "The Public Service as a Catalyst for Good Governance." The event which held at JOOPSA in Benin City, had top dignitaries in attendance.

At the Public Lecture and presentation of Okenini's books; "Reformulating the Policies of the Civil Service" and "Effective Writing for Public Servants and Business Professionals," the Chairman of the occasion and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa cited the Edo State Public Service as such that can serve as catalyst for good governance, only if it conducted its affairs and manage public resources in an effective, transparent, accountable and equitable manner.

The HOS, represented by the Permanent Secretary (PS) of Edo Pension Bureau, Mr. Washington Abbe, said, "Edo like every part of Nigeria had faced issues such as infrastructural decay, educational challenges, healthcare deficits and unemployment. But over the last decade and half, the State has seen significant improvements in many of these areas; changes geared towards reforming the Public Service to become the engine of progressive governance.

"Edo under the present administration of His Excellency, Sen. Monday Okpebholo has seen a lot of focus on the pragmatism and practicality of good governance. The State enjoys the privilege of having a Governor who can boast of several successes just after 200 days in office. The Governor has initiated series of reforms and projects that underscore the pivotal role of an efficient and accountable public service.

"The Governor is strengthening the institutions of government through trainings by prioritizing the institutionalization of JOOPSA; training the workforce on functional skills which align with their core duties, and this in turn guarantees a better equipped workforce, enhance service delivery to

meet the need of the people with utmost professionalism and dedication. By investing in human capital, the administration seeks to build a civil service that is responsible, transparent and accountable to the citizens."

Unveiling the books, the HOS congratulated the Author, whom he described as the, "Irreplaceable Victor Okenini," for his valuable contributions to the body of knowledge in the Civil and Public Service of Edo State. He hinted that his books will provide the Civil and Public servants as well as those who are interested in governance and policy making, with a portal into the intricacies of bureaucracies and public administration.

In his words, "It is noteworthy to mention that not many people have contributed to the growth and development of Edo State Civil Service in the way that Mr. Okenini has done. I have never seen an administrative officer while still very active in Service, showing ambition and desire to record his knowledge for the present generation and the ones to come. You are a source of inspiration and we are proud of you.

"I reserved special thanks to the Author for not just making these valuable contributions to the Service, but for allowing his work to serve as a platform; bringing together some of our best heads to a round table for a public lecture to help devise ways to move our dear State forward."



continue on pg 19

... OKENINI'S BOOKS' LAUNCH AS CATALYST FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE CONT'D



Delivering a lecture on the first sub-theme, titled, “Critical Issues in Purposeful Leadership, the Guest Speaker, who is the Director General of Dr. Osahon Enabulale Foundation and immediate past President of the World Medical Association, Dr. Osahon Enabulale, stated that any leadership not geared towards leaving lasting legacies is not purposeful. He advised the attendees to be visionary, passionate about their work and tolerant of feedbacks and innovative initiatives from their followers.

Dr. Enabulale while emphasizing the need for emotional intelligence, urged commitment to followers’ welfare and transformational leadership, suggested that leaders carry out what he termed, “strategic envisioning,” and to distinguish themselves with dedication to excellence.

In his address, the Chief Convener and Author of the books, Mr. Okenini, appreciating guests for honouring the invite, revealed that his inspiration was from Bible Book of Matthew, chapter five verse fifteen, “Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light to all that are in the house.”

Reiterating the importance of contributing one's quota towards the development of the State, he disclosed that he got into the State Civil Service on merit in August, 1999, following his outstanding performance during his mandatory one-year National Youth Service. “I could not have been in a better civil service than Edo. I really want to thank the State Governor for this opportunity and my mentor, the Head of Service for his support. The proceeds of these books will be used for more research and publication of more books on Public Service,” he concluded.

On the books’ review, a retired PS, Researcher and Consummate Administrator, Mr. Edionwe Joel, hinted that “Reformulating the Policies of the Civil Service” is a 92-page book consisting of six chapters and the foreword is credited to a former Acting Head of the Edo State Internal Revenue Service (EIRS), Kingsley Odabi Esq., whilst the foreword of “Effective Writing for Public Servants and Business Professionals” is to the credit of the Edo State HOS, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa. He asserted that they would serve as veritable tools in the hands of all public officers.

The public lecture featured a panel which examined the second sub-theme, “Entrenching Excellence in the Public Service,” which was led by the Director General of JOOPSA, Mrs. Gina Otamere. Other panelists included a retired PS, Deborah Enakhimion Esq.; the PS, Ministry of Budget, Mr. Efe Iserhienrhien; PS in the Public Service, Dr. Desmond Agbama; the PS, Directorate of Corporate Change, Communication and Performance Management, Dr. Mrs. Joy Akhigbe Esq.; the Head of Human Resources, Uselu Psychiatric Hospital, Dr. Mrs. Isede Clara Celimat.

The wife of the Author and Lead Fiduciary of the Edo State Flood, Erosion and Watershed Management Agency, Mrs. Osasu Okenini, appreciated all attendees and the Committee members for their support towards the success of the books’ launch.

Other dignitaries included an Edo State High Court Judge, Justice Ovenseri Otamere; the State Auditor General, Mr. Henry Odiase; permanent secretaries from the State Public Service; representatives of the Edo State Chapter of the Nigeria Labour Congress, the Trade Union Congress, the Nigeria Union of Pensioners, the Teachers, the Senior Staff Union of Nigeria, the Edo Elders of Nigeria.

ANANI COMMENDS GSTC GIRLS' AWARD-WINNING INNOVATIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



Towards fostering innovation and ICT skills among adolescent girls, the Edo State Government, through its Office of the First Lady, has congratulated students from the Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), Usugbenu, Irrua, on their impressive performance for clinching the third position at the National Girls in ICT competition, which held in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani delivered the congratulatory message when she played host to the students' representatives at the Government House in Benin City. She appreciated the project; a smart waste bin system, which uses real-time tracking and alerts to improve sanitation.

While encouraging the young girls to cultivate strong work ethics, Mrs. Anani sued for more girls in the sciences. In her words, "Seeing you girls achieve this and coming third is truly impressive. Honestly, you have made me so proud. This shows us there is a future for girls in technology, which is driving our nation. Unfortunately, we have few girls in tech, a field dominated by men. Your innovation is a valuable addition. You have done exceptionally well. Thank you for making the State proud, your parents proud, and representing the girl child."

Mrs. Anani stressed that education is key. She advised the students to prioritize their studies and steer clear of negative influences like cultism and illegal migration, saying, "We are discouraging girls from migrating because the land here is green and it is green for you. With the knowledge you possess, you can create innovative solutions that benefit humanity. Please take your studies seriously. Education is the foundation for success. As I always say, avoid negative influences and steer clear of cultism."

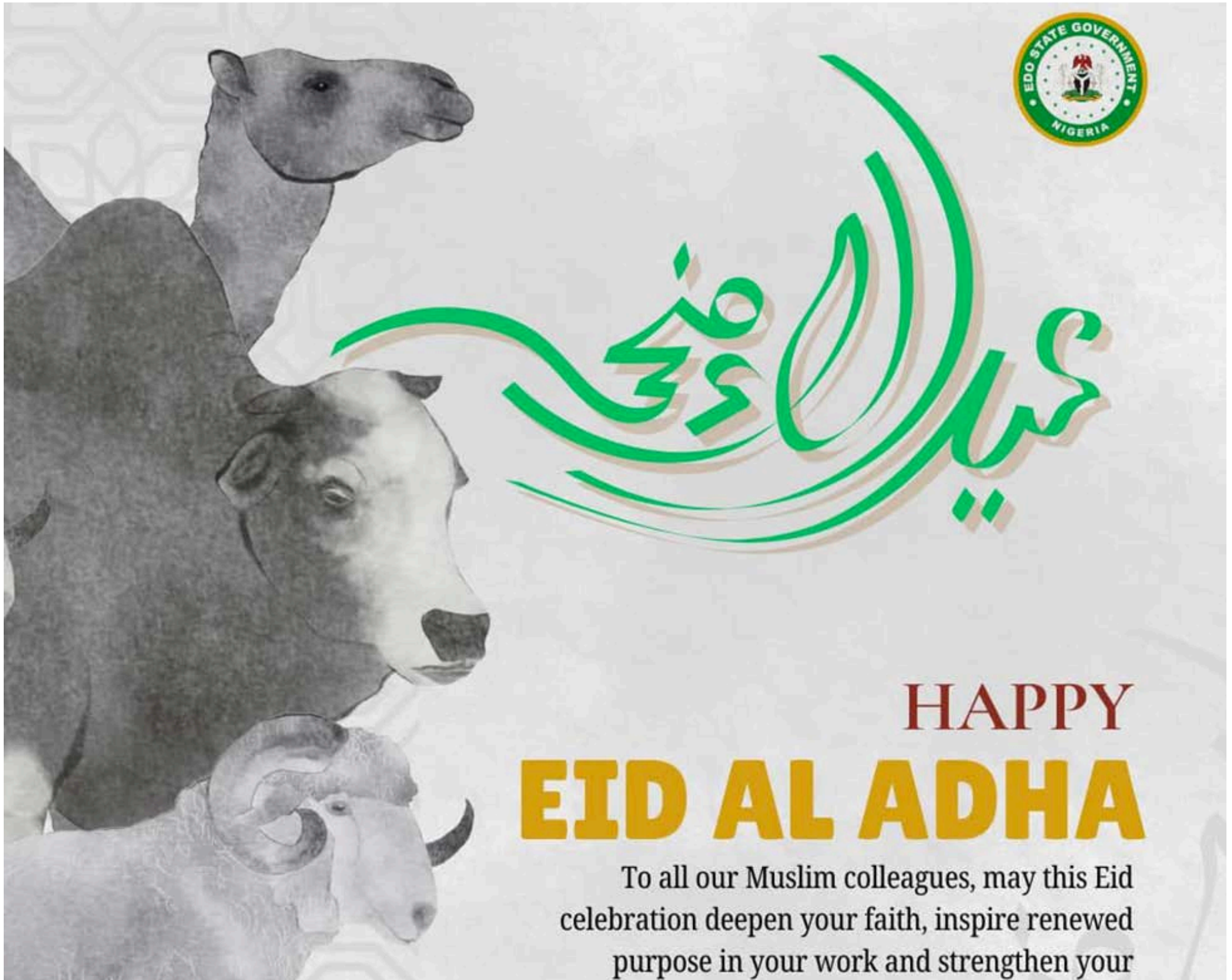
"Maintain good moral standards and uphold the reputation of your school. You have already put your school on the map, and this is just the beginning. Our Governor is particularly passionate about empowering girls, especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields."

The students showcased their smart waste bin project to Mrs. Anani, explaining that it features sensors that automatically opens and closes the lid as waste approaches. They highlighted its purpose to improve waste segregation and management. They stated that it was their minimum viable product (MVP), marking the first phase of development. The students were led on the visit to the Office of the First Lady by their Principal, Mrs. Agbonlahor Juliet.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDO STATE HEAD OF SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF THIS YEAR'S EID AL-ADHA

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



On the sacred occasion of this year's Eid al-Adha, the Edo State Head of Service, Dr. Anthony Osas Okungbowa extends heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to all Muslim faithfuls in the Civil/Public Service and the State at large.

As we mark this significant celebration, we are reminded of the enduring values exemplified by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him); values such as integrity, humility, compassion, and justice. His life continues to serve as a guiding light for all muslims, especially those entrusted with the responsibility of public service.

To all our Muslim colleagues, I pray that this celebration strengthens your faith, renews your sense of purpose, and inspires greater commitment to excellence, sincerity, and service. May it also reinforce our collective resolve to uphold the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct in the service of our dear State.

May this season of sacrifice bring peace, joy, and abundant blessings to you and your families.

May I use this opportunity to encourage all civil/public servants in the state to use the occasion of this celebration to reaffirm our shared commitment to peace, tolerance, and national unity.

May Almighty Allah bless us all.

Eid al-Adha Mubarak!

Anthony Osas Okungbowa, Esq., PhD (Constitutional Law), MBA (Artificial Intelligence)

Head of Service,

Edo State.

EDO STATE IS RISING UNDER THE WATCH OF GOVERNOR OKPEBHOLO – OHONBAMU



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has shunned frivolities and he is executing a well planned programme of actions for the state.

Those who know and are aware of the processes and actions taken so far in government know that new things are beginning to happen under the watch of Governor Monday Okpebholo.

There is Machinery in place to revive the Edo Line transport service that used to be an identity for the state across the nation. The offices are being created in some states and the buses have been Commissioned.

It will interest everyone to know that from the very first day the governor stepped into government house, he exhibited a faithful commitment to the slogan, 'Edo has Risen,' because he is envisioning the Edo of his dream manifesting in the days ahead.

But, like every thing that must pass through a process, there is absolute need for the cooperation and understanding of everybody, as all the issues that need to be fixed will surely get the deserved attention at the appropriate time.

Edo people are advised to be patient as a lot have been achieved and many more are in the pipeline across the state.

The Governor is not unaware of the drainage problems across the state which leads to the flooding of some parts of the state when it rains. This no doubt will soon be a thing of the past.

However, what is obvious is the dogged determination of the Governor to fix the issues as soon as possible. For example there is now a Mobile Barracks in Uromi, Esan North East Local Government Area to curb the incessant harassment of farmers by gunmen in the communities.

The goal of Governor Okpebholo is to change the narrative and deliver the dividends of democracy across critical sectors and in six months he has no doubt given Edo people a glimpse of what to expect in the coming days, considering the driving energy he is deploying to ensure good governance.

More over, the ovation for Governor Okpebholo is getting louder by the day for his commitment to ensure transparency and accountability and rapid execution of strategic developmental projects that will be for the interest of all.

His relentless drive to sanitize the state of hoodlums who in the guise of cultists or criminals do not mean well for the state will not be compromised.

Along with his bold and daring steps to enhance peace and security of lives and property, the Governor is providing human capital and infrastructural development that will transform Edo to the state of everybody's dream.

Hon Paul Ohonbamu Esq.
Commissioner For Information and Communication

GOV. OKPEBHOLO'S IMPACTFUL LEADERSHIP STYLE

By Hon. Paul Ohonbamu



There is no doubt that in the last six months, the leadership style of Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has continued to excite everyone.

Interestingly, the political and economic turnaround in so short a time from hopelessness to rising hope of a better future for the state has placed the Governor on an unimagined pedestal.

The story is everywhere, across the three senatorial districts of Edo South, North and Central that there is indeed a new sheriff in town who has come prepared to write his name on the sands of time.

Prior to being a Senator, representing Edo Central, Governor Monday Okpebholo, popularly known as 'Akpakomiza' was very concerned about the plight of his people, whom he gladly reached out to with provision of basic necessities of living, such as Water, electricity, educational scholarships for indigent children and lots more as community service.

It was apparently that humanitarian spirit that prompted him to venture into politics, on which platform, he would be able reach out to more people.

From his utterances and actions during and after the political campaigns it was very clear that "Akpakomiza" is a people oriented die hard who will go any length to ensure a good life for his people.

Though critics, especially from the opposition People's Democratic Party, PDP could not see the hidden strength of Okpebholo, but his gingerly steps in governance so far has proved a lot of persons wrong as he tenaciously keeps faith with his pledge to the people.

Now, the Governor has often reiterated that he has not come to government house to talk too much but to work for the people who elected him and in keeping to his words, his critics are disappointed to see that the Governor is quite in a hurry to make Edo rise from the shadows of obscurity and mediocrity.

Hon. Paul Ohonbamu is the Commissioner for Information and Communication

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORGANIZES ONE-DAY EVENT TO CELEBRATE DEMOCRACY DAY

Ilobekeme Mary



The Ministry of Information and Communication has organized a one day event with the theme "Strengthening Democratic Institutions: Challenges and Opportunities" to commemorate Democracy Day

Speaking at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy in Benin City, the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu noted that Nigeria's democratic journey took a significant turn in 1993 under the military leadership of President Babangida, adding that despite transitioning to civil rule politics, Babangida's annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election led to a series of events that ultimately resulted in a full blown military dictatorship in 1994, set backing Nigeria's democratic aspirations.

Hon. Ohonbamu emphasized the importance of acknowledging Nigeria's democratic progress while recognizing the challenges that remain. He highlighted the significance of freedom enjoyed under democracy.

The Commissioner stressed the need for critical voices to speak out against wrongdoings and for self reflection, emphasizing that these actions are crucial for Nigeria's progress and forward movement.

On her part, the Functioning Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Rose Imonikhe encouraged students present at the event, emphasizing their role in shaping Nigeria's democracy as future leaders. She advised them to reject cultism, maintain good conduct and focus on the study of Civic Education in order to understand their responsibilities and roles in a democratic society.

In his remark, Professor Felix Oriakhi, of the Department of Political Science, Federal University, Otuoke Bayelsa State urged youths to actively participate in the democratic process,

condemning electoral malpractices, such as ballot box theft. He defined youth empowerment as a process that enables young people to take control of their lives, improve their awareness and develop positive beliefs, values, and attitudes.

He counseled youths to reject fraudulent activities and social vices, and instead cultivate a positive self-image, self-discipline, strong moral principles, social connections and good decision-making skills, calling on the Government and the community to support youths through empowerment initiatives and good education.

Hon. Chris Omorere, Retired Permanent Secretary, Deputy Clerk(Admin) Edo State House Of Assembly, defined democracy for the program's purpose as a system of Government where power is held by the people, either directly or through elected representatives. He noted that Nigeria's democratic journey has spanned twenty six years, marked by an uninterrupted period of democratic governance, explaining that until 2018, Nigeria celebrated its democracy on May 29, commemorating the day former President Olusegun Obasanjo was sworn in as the country's first democratically elected president.

Hon. Omorere highlighted Nigeria's significant progress under democracy, characterized by a stable society and active citizens demanding accountability from leaders. He emphasized that democratic governance is about collective problem-solving, emphasizing the importance of freedom, liberty and social justice.

Meanwhile, Comr. Charles Emhonbotiti Fin. Sec. National Youth Council Of Nigeria advocated for strategies to encourage Nigerian youths to engage in politics and take on more active roles in the country's democratic processes.

EDOSEMA SPREADS SALLAH CHEER TO MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN BENIN CITY

By Edeniyere Abraham Osose



In a heart-warming gesture to mark the Sallah festival, the Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA) has brought smiles and succour to the Muslim Community around Lagos Street in Benin City.

Among the relief items distributed by the Agency included food, clothing and mats. The Agency's Executive Secretary, Hon. Jerry Idahosa said the gesture reflects the Governor Monday Okpebholo administration's vision of inclusive and compassionate governance. He added that the initiative is aimed at supporting vulnerable populations and the State Government's commitment to fostering unity and shared prosperity across the State.

Hon. Idahosa emphasised the dedication of the Sen. Okpebholo's dedication to the well-being of all residents, regardless of faith or background. "This outreach is a testament to Governor Okpebholo's resolve to ensure no one is left behind. We are here to celebrate Sallah with our Muslim brothers and sisters, sharing in their joy and extending the State's goodwill through these essential supplies," he stated.

Hon. Idahosa reiterated the State Government's focus on solidarity, stating, "This administration stands for everyone, Christians, Muslims, and others alike. Today's gesture is a clear demonstration of our support for the Muslim Community during this special occasion."

The Chief Imam, Mohammed Abdullahi of Amwar Islam, Lagos Street, appreciated the Edo State Government for the timely support. He assured that the relief materials would be equitably distributed through a house-to-house approach; prioritising widows and other vulnerable individuals. "This kind gesture from Governor Okpebholo's administration will significantly alleviate the burdens faced by many in our Community," Chief Abdullahi said.

He praised the leadership of the Governor, the Secretary to the Edo State Government, Musa Ikhilor Esq., and the Chief of Staff

to the Governor, Gani Audu, whilst congratulating the administration on its recent victory at the Appeal Court.

The Sallah outreach is a testimonial to EdoSEMA's commitment to compassionate governance, reinforcing the State's pledge to stand by all communities and ensure inclusivity in the State.



EDO SUBEB TO COMMENCE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNALLY DEVELOPED LESSONS IN SCHOOLS

By Ebuaneke Joy



To bridge the gap occasioned by the recent disengagement with its Consultant, the Edo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) has produced weekly scripted lesson plans for Early Childhood Care Development and Education (ECCDE) through Junior Secondary School (JSS).

According to the functioning Executive Chairman of SUBEB, Hon. Ebanehita Sonia Omonzane, “Over 50 educators from Edo South, Central, and North senatorial districts convened for a two-day workshop to finalize the Lesson Plans, aligning content with the National Curriculum for Basic Education. Each lesson content development officer was equipped with a tablet, schemes of work, textbooks, and supplementary resources, to function optimally in producing the scripted lesson plans.

Hon. Ebanehita lauded the Team’s dedication, saying, “I commend every educator who contributed the requisite skills and

insights. This transition underscores our commitment to sustainability and localized expertise. Deployment has not yet begun but is scheduled for the upcoming week once schools resume from the mid-term break.

“The Planning, Research, and Statistics (PRS) Team is finalizing formatting, ensuring that teachers receive uniform, high-quality lesson scripts digitally to their devices. When deployment starts, SUBEB will conduct periodic reviews and gather feedbacks from teachers and students to continually refine instructional delivery.”

The Desk Officer for Curriculum Development, Mr. Dele Salami, corroborated the SUBEB’s Boss, stating, “We provided our officers with tablets and all necessary instructional materials to enhance speed, accuracy and efficiency. This approach strengthens SUBEB’s capacity and reduces reliance on external providers.”



AKOKO-EDO COUNCIL BOSS APPRECIATES EDO STATE SECURITY CORPS AT POP

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe



The Akoko-Edo Local Government Council Chairman, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue has described the trained members of the Edo State Security Corps as worthy crusaders against criminality in his Council area of Edo State.

Rt. Hon. Oshionogue gave the assertion during the passing out parade (POP) organized by the Edo State Security Corps for the 1,472 personnel, who graduated after two weeks' intensive training in Okada, Ovia North-East Local Government Area (LGA) of Edo State.

Addressing journalists after the ceremony, the Rt. Hon. Oshionogue posited that the LGA is in safe hands considering measures already

put in place by the Edo State Government in collaboration with the Council, to prioritize security. He stated, "Edo State is in safe hands. That means we are good to go. We can now go to our beds with our two eyes closed. We are there for you and we will do more things together to ensure a safer Akoko-Edo."

The Chairman who explained that the completion of the exercise is the first phase of the Scheme, pointed out that more personnel would be trained and integrated into the security architecture at the grassroots in ensuring that the ten wards of the LGA are secured to make residents have a sense of belonging.

He commended the Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo for his knack to eradicate crime across the State, praying God to continue to strengthen him in his determination to redefine progress in all critical sectors of the State's economy.

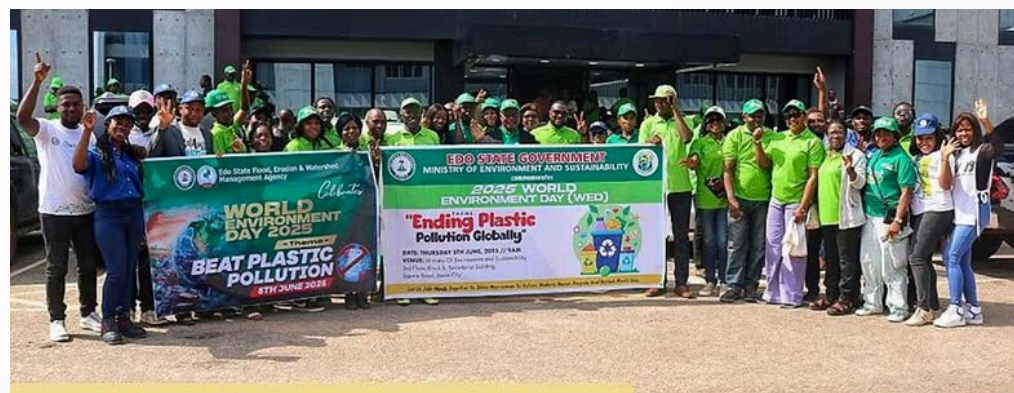
The leader of the Akoko-Edo Corps, officer Adele Cletus, appreciated the Council Boss for providing the enabling environment for them to contribute their quota to their fatherland, stressing that they will carry out their duties dispassionately by working with other security agencies in Akoko-Edo even as he urged personnel to ensure that they are validated at the Council Secretariat before resumption.

Present with the Council Chairman at the event was the Secretary to the Local Government Council, Hon. Topa John Okomayin, among others.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION; EDOFEWMA CHARGES

By Winifred Inarumen



EdoFEWMA joins sister MDAs in Benin City to mark World Environment Day 2025



In celebration of World Environment Day, the Edo State Flood, Erosion, and Watershed Management Agency (EdoFEWMA) joined the international community in raising awareness about one of the most urgent environmental challenges of our time: Plastic Pollution.

Plastics are synthetic materials that do not naturally decompose. Instead, they break down into microplastics, tiny particles that persist in the environment for hundreds to thousands of years. This long-lasting pollution poses serious risks to land, water, animals, and humans.

Over 400 million tons of plastic are produced globally each year, half of which is single-use, burdening our environment with waste. Unfortunately, less than 10% of this plastic is recycled effectively, leading to widespread accumulation in urban and rural areas.

Plastic pollution seriously threatens stormwater infrastructure, particularly in urban areas where drainage systems are critical for managing rainfall and preventing floods. When plastic waste such as bags, bottles, wrappers, and containers is improperly discarded, it often ends up in street drains and accumulates over time, creating physical blockages that prevent the free flow of stormwater.

As drains and pipes become clogged, rainwater flows onto roads, walkways, and residential areas, leading to flash floods even after moderate rainfall. This not only disrupts transportation, and economic activities and increases the risk of waterborne diseases, but also puts immense pressure on essential flood control infrastructure such as pumps and valves, reduces system efficiency, and causes premature wear. The result is frequent repairs, desilting, and equipment replacement, thereby increasing maintenance costs and straining government resources.



Moreover, when these plastic materials degrade into microplastics, they mix with stormwater runoff and infiltrate natural waterways. This pollution compromises the quality of water in rivers, lakes, and underground aquifers, ultimately affecting the health of entire ecosystems.

The toxins in plastics travel up the food chain, as wildlife often ingest them. They are now found in seafood, salt, drinking water, soil, and air, posing potential risks to human health such as hormonal disruption, reproductive challenges, and possibly cancer. These concerns highlight the urgent need for individuals and communities to act now.

Plastic pollution is preventable. Solutions lie in our hands: reducing, reusing, and recycling plastics; embracing sustainable alternatives like glass, stainless steel, or biodegradable materials; and supporting initiatives like the Edo State Government's Monthly Cleanup Campaigns and Community Cleanup initiatives. By participating in these exercises, residents can play a direct role in preventing floods, protecting public health, and safeguarding the environment.

EdoFEWMA remains committed to sustainable environmental practices that protect people, infrastructure, and natural ecosystems. Let us work together for a cleaner Edo, a healthier Nigeria, and a greener Planet. Happy World Environment Day!



EDO STATE GOVT RESCUES ABUSED PUPIL OF OKOUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Ebuaneke Joy

The Edo State Government through its Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Gender Issues, has facilitated the transfer of an alleged abused pupil, Glory Joseph, to a secured shelter in Benin City, where she is receiving medical attention and emotional support.

According to the functioning Executive Chairman of Edo SUBEB, Hon. Omonzane Ebanehita Sonia, "The news of an alleged case of Child Abuse concerning one Glory Joseph was reported by a Primary Four teacher, Mrs. Osifo Okungbowa, at Okoue Primary School, Oghede, in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State.

"The Teacher noticed a serious injury on the neck of the ten-year-old pupil, Glory Joseph. When questioned, the child explained that she was assaulted days earlier, on Sunday, May 25, by her 'big aunty,' identified as Mercy, and Mercy's two daughters. The girl said they tied a headscarf around her neck and beat her in the stomach with a pestle while she was alone at home in Uholor Barracks and that the abusers fled when her Caregiver returned.

"Further revelations by the child revealed a long history of abuse. She stated that she had previously been forced to drink cement, and on another occasion, was stabbed. She had lived with her grandmother and an aunt named Blessing, after the death of her mother and submitted that the abusers often accused her of witchcraft.

"Upon receiving the report from the class Teacher, the Headmistress, Mrs. Agbonile Glory, escalated the matter by reporting to the Evbotubu Police Station and the Local Government Education Authority. The Police launched an investigation and ordered the arrest of the suspects. So far, one suspect identified as Miracle, has been apprehended and in custody of the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Benin City. Efforts are ongoing to arrest the other two suspects, Mercy and Vivian, who are still at large.

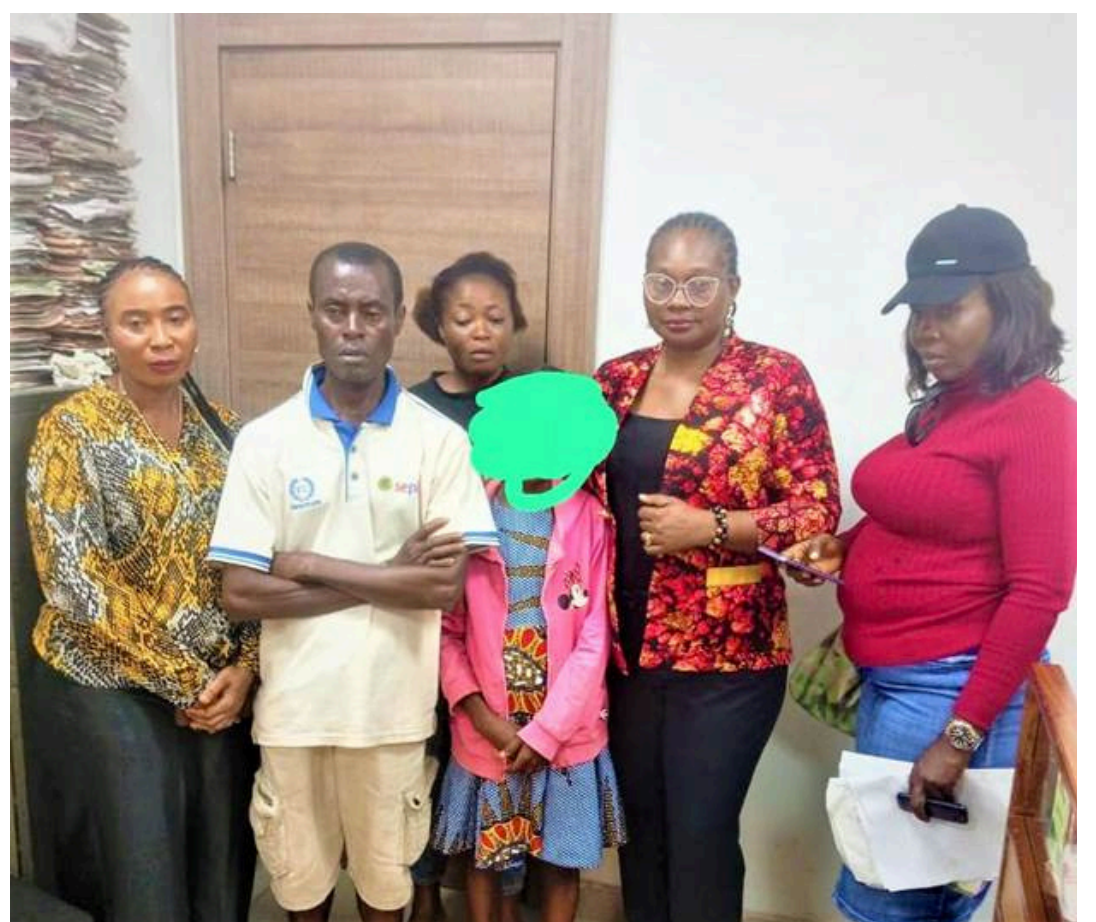
Hon. Omonzane continued, "The Edo SUBEB's Child Safeguarding and Protection Officer, Mrs. Osemwengie Isoken Betty, has been detailed on the case, ensuring that all protocols for the protection of vulnerable children are followed. She is working with the Social Welfare Authorities, the School and the Police to coordinate the necessary interventions for Glory's immediate safety and long-term well-being."

Edo SUBEB expressed concern over the Child's condition and commended the School for promptly reporting the incident. The Board reiterated its commitment to child safety and pledges to continue



working with relevant authorities to ensure that justice is served and that no child in the school system is subjected to abuse or neglect.

"This case is deeply troubling, and we are working closely with law enforcement agencies and the Ministry of Women Affairs to protect the child and pursue justice. Every child in our schools deserve a safe environment to learn and grow. Investigations are ongoing. Edo SUBEB and the Police continue to call on the public to provide any useful information that may lead to the arrest of the remaining suspects," Hon. Omonzane concluded.



GOOD ROAD INFRASTRUCTURES: A KEY CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

By Nosakhare Agbonigiarhuoyi



The ongoing construction of the Ramat park flyer, no doubt, has brought relief to motorists plying this axis of the State's capital, and with certainty, they are optimistic that the completion of the project will ameliorate their plights.

Furthermore, it is worthy of note that the Senator Monday Okpebholo's led administration has also promised to build more flyovers in the State where the aforementioned challenge is experienced, such as the Adesuwa road junction along Benin-Sapele road.

In the world over, the need for good road infrastructures as major catalyst in ensuring a thriving and sustainable economy cannot be overemphasized.

It effects cuts across every fabric of any economy, including trade and economic growth facilitation, social development enhancement, Employment generation, Stimulation of urbanization, just to mention a few.

It is against this backdrop that Edo State government, under the leadership of His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has prioritized the construction of roads across the State as a way of promoting the welfare of her people.

At the inception of his administration, the governor commenced road construction and rehabilitation across the State's three senatorial districts. According to him, this feat is in keeping with his promise to the good people of Edo State to address their plights as it pertains to bad road infrastructures, which was a major source of concern to them before he came on board; which will in turn stimulate economic growth and development across the State.

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OSHIONOGUE ADVOCATE SYNERGY AMONG SECURITY STAKEHOLDERS TO COMBAT CRIMINALITY *By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe*



The Chairman of Akoko-Edo Local Government Council, Rt Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue has called for collaboration among security agencies, religious and traditional leaders, as well as residents in the locality, to unite in the fight against criminal activities in the locality.

Rt Hon. Oshionogue made the call during a peace and security meeting with stakeholders in his office at the Council Secretariat. He appreciated the commitments of traditional rulers and other stakeholders in fighting the resurgence of kidnapping in the locality and harped on timely dissemination of relevant information to appropriate authorities in order to eliminate the menace, positing that government alone cannot do it.

The Council Boss re-emphasized that the repair on some failed portions of major roads linking the South-West; the South-East; the South-South; and the Northern part of the Country is of utmost importance to his administration. He disclosed that working in collaboration with the State Government, local security was being given urgent attention and called for more support across all levels of government to enhance rapid development in the area.

The Imah fourth of Somorika, HRH Oba Sule Idaiye commended the developmental strides of the Council Boss since assumption of office, five months ago. He called on the Council Boss to convene an expanded security stakeholders' engagement involving all village heads with a view to addressing issues relating to some identified flashpoints in the area. He asserted that a collective approach in the fight against criminality would bring about lasting solution to the resurging criminal activities in the locality.

HRH Oba Idaiye emphasized intelligence gathering for more rapid responses, urging the Local Council to look into the issue of gas stations, which are built in-between residential houses, in order to forestall what he described as unimaginable consequences in the future. The Secretary to the Council, Hon. Topa John Okomayin, urged traditional rulers to be wary of some of their subjects and that the security agencies should perform their duties without fear or favour.

On behalf of the Area Commander in charge of Owan East and West, (Igarra), ACP. Charles Onuh, the Nigeria Army, OC. Osula E. O. and the SP. Barnabas Zumji, sued for the cooperation of traditional rulers in information gathering and dissemination, pointing out that Fulani Herdsmen who are not willing to live among locals should be made to leave communities. The need to cut down road side bushes to enhance visibility was also emphasized as solution to curb the spate of insecurity in the area.



EDOSEMA CONDOLES WITH OMOTOR'S FAMILY, SUPPLIES RELIEF ITEMS

By Edeniyere Abraham Osose



The Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA) has again condoled with the family of the late Firefighter, God'stime Omotor, who lost his life while responding to a fire incidence in Benin City.

While conveying the Agency's condolences, the EdoSEMA's Executive Secretary, Hon. Jerry Idahosa with his Team, comprising the Director of Operations, Engr. Michael Aigbokhan, and other senior officials, delivered essential relief materials to the bereaved family to help alleviate their immediate needs.

The relief items included bags of rice and beans, cooking oil, tubers of yam, school supplies, and other household essentials. The EdoSEMA Boss said the gesture was aimed at supporting the late Firefighter's Widow, Mrs. Blessing Omotor, and their six children. He appreciated late Omotor's dedication, heroism, and described him as a professional, who was hardworking and committed, as well as made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Hon. Idahosa while assuring Mrs. Omotor of the State Government's commitment to her family, stated, "We will stand with you. Edo State will not forget your husband's sacrifice." The supplies reflect EdoSEMA's mission to honour and support the families of emergency service personnel who lose their lives while protecting others. The Agency is committed to ensuring the welfare of such families, underlining the importance of recognising the sacrifices made by first responders.

The Omotor family expressed gratitude for the support, noting that it would help ease their burden during the difficult times. EdoSEMA's gesture serves as a reminder of the State' Government's appreciation for bravery and selflessness of its emergency workers.



EDO STATE GOVT RESCUES 20-YEAR-OLD WOMAN TRAFFICKED TO BURKINA-FASO

By Gloria Osemudiamhen

The Edo State Government through its Office of the First Lady in collaboration with the State Migration Agency has coordinated the rescue of Miss Iwinosa Okuonobo, a 20-year-old woman, who was alleged to have been trafficked to Burkina Faso at the age of 15years, with the guise of getting a job in Dubai.

During a welcome ceremony at the Festival Hall of the Government House in Benin City, The State Governor, Sen. Okpebholo, represented by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Rt. Hon. Samson Osagie, reiterated the State Government's dedication to combating human trafficking and irregular migration in the State.

Sen. Okpebholo reiterated his administration's commitments to pursuing legally, the implementation of the established laws on human trafficking, stating that was why the Edo State Trafficking in Persons Law of 2018 was replaced by the Edo State Migration Law. He asserted that the new Law was designed to protect vulnerable women and children who have been most affected by the ugly incidences of human trafficking and migration in the State.

In her remarks, the Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, appreciated the Sen. Okpebholo-led administration and the Director General, Edo State Migration Agency, Hon. Lucky Agazuma for the Agency's role in rescuing Miss Okuonobo. She reaffirmed her Office's dedication to supporting vulnerable children, promising comprehensive care comprising rehabilitation, reintegration, education, healthcare, amongst others for Miss Okuonobo.

Mrs. Anani stated, "Today, we are here to welcome our daughter home with a warm embrace from everybody here. We are here to tell her that we stand with her. Her story is just beginning, but she is already a success. I'm a very strong believer that everything happens for a reason.

"Her story will save another girl from going through what she has endured. Her story is one of inspiration for another child, and it's also a story of resilience. She cried out for help and shared her story. We will rescue every child that cries out for help, and we will break the chain of illegal migration in this State. No longer will our children be forced into exploitation."

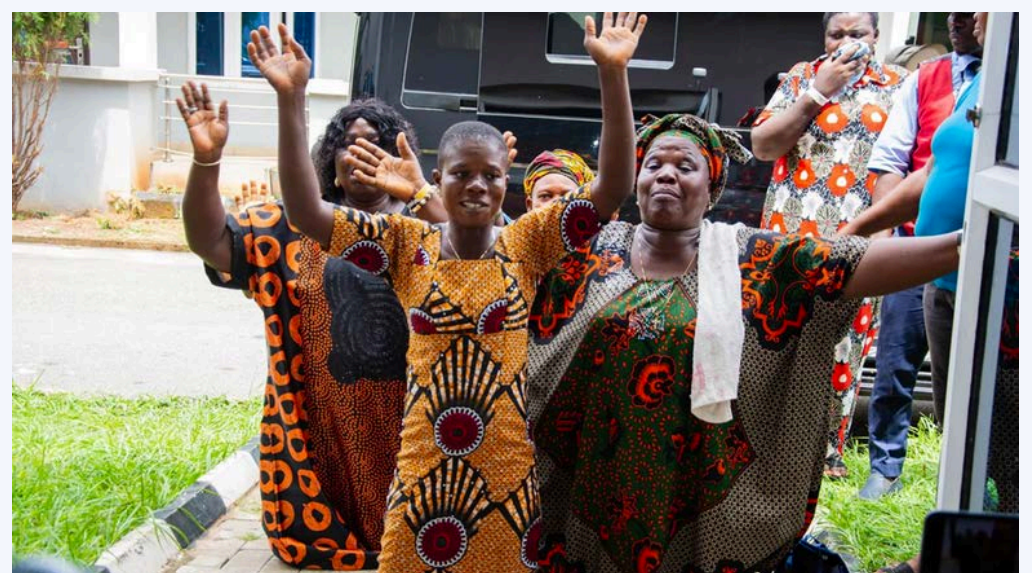


While advocating for justice, Mrs. Anani expressed deep concerns about the prevalence of rape cases; fathers sleeping with children, among other issues. She urged relevant stakeholders to promote awareness and protect the dignity of children, noting, "I keep saying this body of ours is the temple of the living God and it should not be violated.

"Let's sensitize our environment and State; please give value to every girl child in this State. Make her to know she is more than enough; she's important. Make her know that she's loved; Make her know that her voice matters; Make her know that she's safe. Let's preserve the honour of our children and protect them. It is heartbreaking to think that anyone has to endure violation, especially to pay for something they have no knowledge of."

Hon. Agazuma appreciated the Governor, Sen. Okpebholo and Mrs. Anani for their prompt response and collaborative efforts. He specifically thanked Mrs. Anani for her maternal support and dedication to bringing the survivor home from Burkina Faso.

Miss Okuonobo expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the State Government and the Migration Agency for their great support and love she received. She said her profiteers subjected her to sex servitude in Burkina-Faso instead of the promised job in the United Arab Emirates.



EDO HAJJ DELEGATION ACTIVELY ENGAGES IN CRUCIAL PRE-ARAFAT MEETING IN MAKKAH

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah



The Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board played a critical role in a crucial pre-Arafat meeting held on Monday, June 2, 2025, in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

The meeting, chaired by the Chairman/CEO of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Professor Abdullahi Saleh Usman, brought together various stakeholders to finalize preparations for the 2025 Hajj.

Speaking via a WhatsApp voice note from Makkah, the Chairman of the Edo State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh, confirmed that the meeting served as a vital platform to address a comprehensive agenda of critical issues pertaining to the upcoming Hajj rites.

Mallam Uduimoh, who attended the meeting alongside the Executive Secretary of the Board, Eranga Abdulkabir Muhammadkibir, underscored the importance of the discussions for ensuring a smooth and successful pilgrimage for Edo State pilgrims.

He noted that the agenda for the high-level meeting included detailed briefs on essential aspects such as tent and feeding arrangements in Mina and Arafat. He added that these discussions are paramount to ensuring adequate comfort and sustenance for pilgrims during the most intensive days of the Hajj. Medical matters were also

extensively reviewed, highlighting the proactive measures being taken to provide comprehensive healthcare support to all Nigerian pilgrims.

Furthermore, critical security tips were shared and discussed, emphasizing the safety and well-being of the pilgrims. The implementation and usage of the Nusuk card, a key digital tool for pilgrim identification and access to services, also formed a significant part of the agenda. Discussions around Taradudiya (transportation) and Jamarat (stoning ritual) logistics were also held to streamline movement and ensure the efficient execution of these vital Hajj components.

The active participation of the Edo State delegation in this pre-Arafat meeting underscores the Board's strong commitment to the welfare of its pilgrims. By engaging directly with NAHCON and other stakeholders, the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board is working diligently to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for a spiritually fulfilling and challenge-free Hajj experience for its citizens.

EDO STATE MINING MINISTRY TRAINS TASKFORCE ON COMPLIANCE WITH MINING REGULATIONS

By Grace Oakhiena



The Edo State Ministry of Mining has organized training and orientation for members of the newly inaugurated Taskforce, aimed at equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively monitor and enforce compliance with established laws and regulations of the Mining Sector in the State.

The training, which featured speakers from the Federal Ministry of Solid Mineral Development and the Edo State Ministry of Mining, covered areas such as the laws governing the mining sector; safety measures expected by government; general knowledge of mining; and mining-related matters.

According to the Commissioner for Mining, Hon. Andrew Ijegbai, the training is aimed at enhancing the skills and orientation of the Taskforce to effectively deliver on their mandate. He expressed confidence that the Taskforce's capacity will boost the Mining Sector's viability, and urged members to strategize in achieving set goals.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Omoruyi Ese Martina, emphasized the importance of the Taskforce's role, urging members to act in accordance with the law and avoid encouraging illegality among miners or shortchanging the mining practice regulations in the State.

Engr. Adegbulu Onimisi, a representative of the Federal Ministry of Solid Mineral Development, charged the Taskforce to focus on curbing illegal mining, which according to him, has negatively impacted the State and the Country's economy.

The State Chairman of the Taskforce, Okpame Bello, pledged to work closely with the Ministry and to deliver on the Taskforce's mandate, by ensuring that the Mining Sector in Edo State is properly monitored in compliance with established laws and regulations.



COMMISSIONER MONITORS ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION EXERCISE ACROSS EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

By Daniel-Nwosu Nohunwan Lucy



As part of efforts to ensure a cleaner and healthy environment, the Edo State Government embarked on its re-introduced Environmental Sanitation exercise.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Sir (Dr.) Lucky Esegbe monitored the exercise at Esan West, Esan Central and Igueben Local Government Areas of Edo State, to assess the level of compliance amongst residents, which he rated sixty five percent (65%), describing it as better than expected.

This he attributed to adaptation to change which is often difficult, but with the turnout from Local Government Chairmen to Council staff, other Enforcement teams and residents, he noted that the sanitation exercise was commendable, expressing optimism that full participation will increase in the coming months.

He emphasized that the exercise was re-introduced by the Executive Governor of Edo State, His Excellency Senator Monday Okpebholo as part of his efforts to improve the environment and public health in the State.

Commending the Nigerian Police Force and other Enforcement teams on ground for their cooperation, it was observed that some residents chose to disregard the Government directive even after confirming that they were aware of the sanitation exercise. It was on this premise, the Commissioner issued a firm directive that defaulters be brought before the mobile courts for disciplinary actions, appealing that minimal force be used. Some of the defaulters were made to clear an assigned portion with cutlasses as part of corrective measures.

In Esan West, about thirty individuals faced trial at a mobile court for failure to comply. Similar levels of enforcement were observed in Esan Central.

Dr. Lucky Esegbe emphasized that the Senator Monday Okpebholo-led administration will not tolerate any form of indiscipline towards compliance with the sanitation directives. He however admonished residents on the need for keeping the environment clean as a way of ensuring good hygiene, as it is beneficial to their well-being.

At Igueben, the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Henshaw Elimihe, said that the sanitation exercise was progressing smoothly, with high level of compliance, adding that effective measures had been put in place with pay-loaders and trucks contracted for immediate waste evacuation.

A resident at Igueben, Mr. John Ayemhe who expressed pleasure at the administration's renewed commitment to environmental sanitation, appreciated Governor Monday Okpebholo and the Commissioner for their commitment to improving sanitation in the State, while welcoming the re-introduction of the environmental exercise.

This marks the first exercise in what is expected to be a continuous effort to maintain cleanliness and public health in Edo State.

EDO HAILS SAUDI ARABIA'S ARAFAH SERMON BROADCAST IN NIGERIAN LANGUAGES

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah



The Chairman of Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh, currently in Saudi Arabia with Edo State pilgrims for the 2025 Hajj, has lauded the Saudi Arabian authorities for their groundbreaking initiative to broadcast the Arafah sermon in 34 languages, including three Nigerian dialects.

Among the 34 languages selected, three prominent Nigerian dialects—Hausa, Fulani, and Yoruba—have been included. This ensures that a large segment of Nigerian pilgrims, including those from Edo State, and the broader Muslim community can directly engage with the spiritual message of the Khutbah Arafah (Arafat Sermon), which will be delivered at Masjid Namirah on Arafat Day (Thursday, June 5).

Speaking via a WhatsApp voice note from the Holy Land, Chairman Uduimoh and the Executive Secretary of the board, Eranga Abdulkabir Muhammadkabar emphasized that this move will significantly enhance understanding and foster a greater sense of belonging among pilgrims and listeners worldwide.

The Presidency of the Religious Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque officially announced on Saturday, May 31, 2025 that the Arafat sermon will be translated and broadcast live, a development that has been met with widespread appreciation from the global Muslim community, including the Edo State contingent.

This initiative, as highlighted in a post on Inside the Haramain's Facebook page, will enable Muslims globally, including those from Edo State, to hear the crucial sermon in their native tongues.

Sheikh Bin Humaid, a respected Imam and khateeb of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, is set to lead the sermon and prayers at Namirah Mosque on the Day of Arafat, marking the most significant day of the Hajj pilgrimage.

The Saudi Press Agency reported that this extensive translation project, spearheaded by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, is recognized as the world's largest of its kind. Since its inception in 2018 with translations in five languages, the project has seen remarkable growth, expanding to 50 languages by 2024. This rapid expansion underscores the Kingdom's strong commitment to disseminating the message of moderation and core Islamic values globally, a dedication keenly observed and appreciated by the Edo State officials.

OSHIONOGUE TASKS AYANWOZA-MAKEKE DELEGATES ON YOUTHS' REORIENTATION

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe



The Akoko-Edo Local Government Council Chairman, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue has charged delegates from Ayanwoza Community in Ward five that collective approach is critical in the upbringing of youths in the phase of numerous temptations in recent times.

Rt. Hon. Oshionogue admonished against some youths being overwhelmed with quick money mentality, describing it as "Get-rich-quick" syndrome. He pleaded for collaborations in the effort to reorientate the concerned persons with a view to changing the narratives, saying he cared much about his people and constituents.

"Some of our youths have abandoned education and with this development, they are obviously not prepared for the future. As a government, our desire is to change this ugly trend to be able to prepare our younger ones for greater tomorrow" Rt. Hon. Oshionogue stated.

The Council Boss who decried the behaviour of some youths whom he observed at the burial ceremony of late Prof. Miyaki Damisa, tasked all and sundry to collectively rejuvenate the youths to guarantee a brighter future for the area.

Speaking earlier, Mrs. Susan Oyedele appreciated the Council Boss for making an appearance at the burial ceremony of late Prof. Damisa. She apologized for the misdemeanor of some youths, praying God to grant him more political strength and relevance. She recommended youth empowerment scheme and solicited the Chairman's interventions to broker peace between Ayanwoza, Onumu and Ogugu communities over alleged land disputes as a way of guaranteeing enduring peace among the concerned communities.

In a vote of thanks, Dr. Danladi Damisa appreciated the Council Chairman for honouring them with his presence at the event, praying God to enlarge his coast.





Ministry of Information and Communication

FACTS ABOUT DIPHTHERIA AND DENGUE FEVER

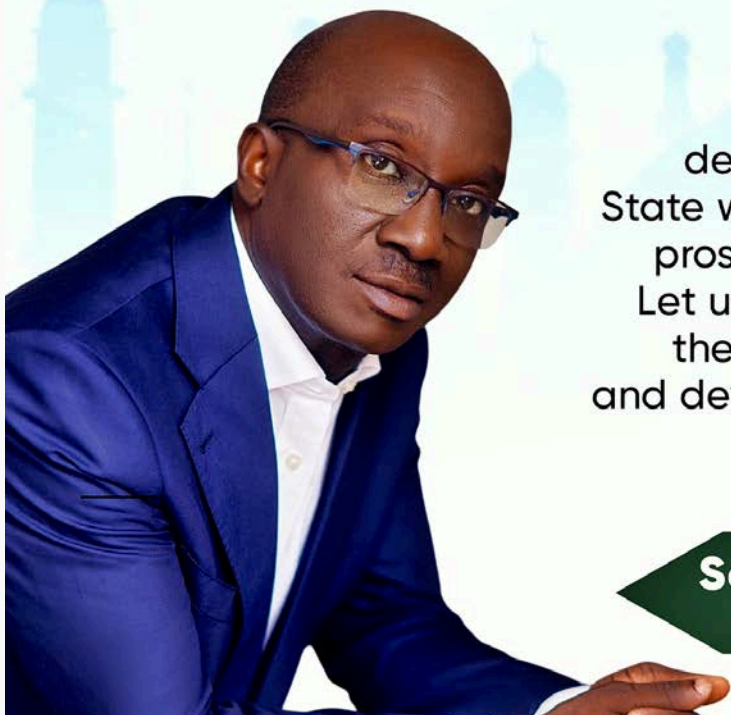
- Diphtheria is a contagious bacteria infection that affects the nose and throat. It is vaccine-preventable.
- Symptoms include fever, sore throat, difficulty in breathing and swallowing, swollen neck, running nose, thick white/grey patch around the throat.
- Spread through close contact with infected persons and objects, sneeze and coughs and wounds.
- Prevention by vaccination, regular hand washing, avoid close contact with sick people.

#Anewedoising
#stopdiphtheria
#Denguefever

PICTURES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



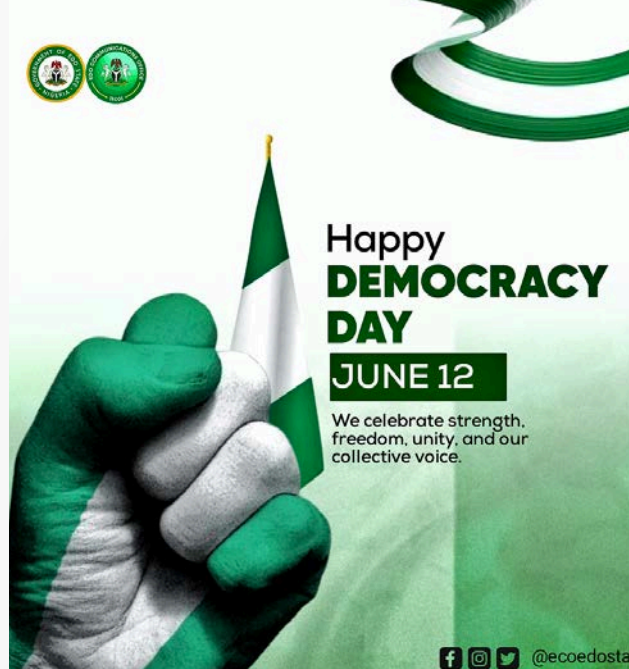
PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE IN VISUALS



"As we commemorate Eid al-Adha, let us be reminded of the spirit of sacrifice exemplified by Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham). This significant occasion calls for us to deepen our faith, uphold the virtues of peaceful coexistence, and extend a hand of fellowship to our neighbors, irrespective of their religious beliefs."

My administration remains dedicated to creating an Edo State where peace, progress, and prosperity are accessible to all. Let us use this period to pray for the continued peace, security, and development of our state and nation."

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
Governor, Edo State



Happy DEMOCRACY DAY
JUNE 12

We celebrate strength, freedom, unity, and our collective voice.

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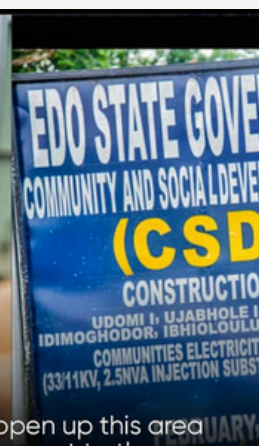
To all our Muslim brothers and Sisters. May the grace of this Eid fill your homes with profound peace, boundless joy, and renewed hope for a thriving Edo State. Wishing you and your loved ones a truly blessed celebration.

Hon. Paul Ohonbamu
Commissioner for Information and Communication



THE REBIRTH OF EDO LINE

Safer travel ✓ Job creation ✓ Digital ticketing systems ✓
Courier revival ✓
The resurgence of Edo's logistical power ✓

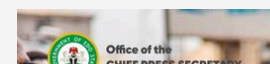


"This sub-station will surely open up this area and bring economic development to the people of these 6 Communities"

Sen. Monday Okpebholo
Governor, Edo State

Ministry of Information and Communication

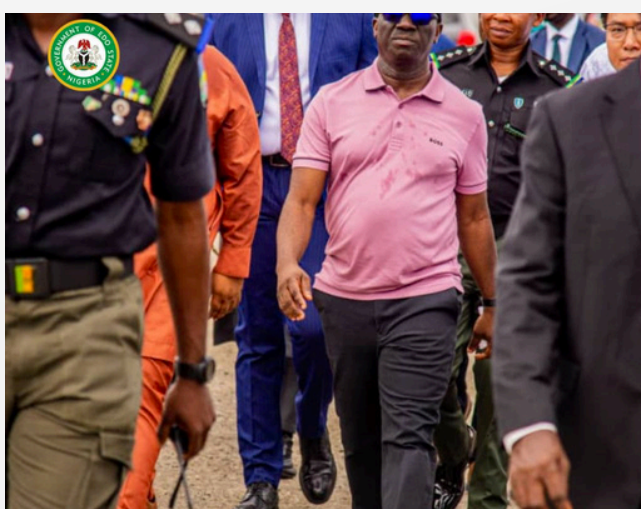
#Anewedohasrising
#Practicalgovernance



BENIN-IRUEKPEN FG ROAD

Until now, you can spend days on this road to get to Iruekpen, but today it will only take you 45 minutes because the road is now smooth and better.

- SEN. MONDAY OKPEBHOLO
Executive Governor Of Edo State



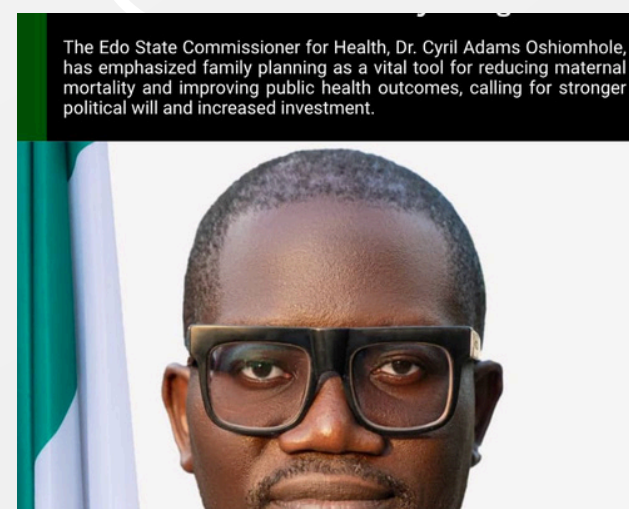
"Until now, you can spend days on this road to get to Iruekpen, but today it will only take you 45 minutes because the road is now smooth and better"

TRADERS

Gov. Okpebholo affirms N1 billion soft loan fund as fulfillment of campaign promise. He links the initiative to President Tinubu's national agenda, stressing it is time for progress in Edo State, with strong accountability mechanisms in place.



ECO NEWS



The Edo State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomhole, has emphasized family planning as a vital tool for reducing maternal mortality and improving public health outcomes, calling for stronger political will and increased investment.



ECO NEWS

PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE IN VISUALS

EDSG to focus on Women Empowerment – Chief Hon. Bisi Idahomi

The Edo State Commissioner for Women Affair, has announced that the government will prioritize the empowerment of widows to make them self-reliant. She also reaffirmed the state's commitment to protecting women from gender-based violence and related crimes.



ECO NEWS



Office of the
CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY

PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE

PHOTO NEWS

GOV OKPEBHOLO APPROVES RETURN OF SCHOOLS TO MISSIONARIES IN EDO

In a significant policy shift, Governor Monday Okpebholo has approved the return of schools to missionary organizations in Edo State. This landmark decision was announced following a meeting between the Governor and the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Auchi, Gabriel G. Dunia, on Monday in Government House, Benin City, Edo State capital.



Ministry of Information
and Communication

EDUCATION: GOV OKPEBHOLO PLANS NEW DEAL FOR AAU STUDENTS

The Edo State Government is partnering with Fujian Jiangxia University, China, to enhance collaboration in education, culture, and technology. Governor Okpebholo, highlighted the mutual benefits of knowledge exchange and Edo's rich cultural heritage.



ECO NEWS



"With the kick _off of disbursement of N1 billion interest-free loan to Edo traders,my administration has not only fulfilled a key campaign promise but also laid a robust foundation for inclusive economic growth, providing a brighter future for the people of Edo State"

Sen. Monday Okpebholo

The Executive Governor, Edo State

#RenewedDedication

#Anewedohasrisen

#Practicalgovernance

"Until now, you can spend days on this road to get to Irukekpen, but today it will only take you 45 minutes because the road is now smooth and better."

Sen. Monday Okpebholo

Governor, Edo State



Ministry of
Information and
Communication

#Anewedohasrisen
#Practicalgovernance



WE WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU

Via Our
Contacts
Below

