



OKPEBHOLLO, IDAHOSA, APC LEADERS CELEBRATE APPEAL COURT VICTORY IN BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has said the regular defeat of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has given the people continuous cause for celebration.

The State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa, party leaders, youths, market women and other party stalwarts, joined the Governor on a motorcade around Benin City to celebrate the Appeal Court judgment which gave

victory to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

According to the Governor, God will continue to give Edo people victory as He is in charge of affairs of the State.

"The PDP is making us celebrate in the State. We have defeated them in the governorship election, Tribunal and now at the Appeal Court. We will still defeat them at the Supreme Court. We will continue to

defeat them," he said.

The Governor commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his interest in the State, noting that Edo is enjoying development and growth.

According to him, "2027 is a done deal in Edo and Edo people will surely cast their votes for the President come 2027 and nobody can stop Edo people's voice, not even the PDP.

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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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IDAHO SA INAUGURATES, MONITORS ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION EXERCISE, URGES RESIDENTS TO TAKE OWNERSHIP

By Godspower Eguasa



The Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa has officially flagged-off the reintroduced monthly Environmental Sanitation exercise, which he also monitored, and urged residents in the State to take responsibility in ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment, as contribution to the well-being of everyone.

Rt. Hon. Idahosa gave the charge at the Oba Ovonrame Square in Benin City, during the flag-off of the sanitation exercise in the State, which held on Saturday, 31st May, 2025. Harping on the need and benefits of imbibing a healthy culture among residents of the State, he noted that Edo is set to be positioned as one of the cleanest States in the Country.

The Deputy Governor said, "It is with deep sense of duty and responsibility that I stand before you today, the 31st of May, 2025, to officially flag off the reintroduce monthly environmental sanitation exercise. This initiative is scheduled to be held from 7:00 am to 10 am, on the last Saturday of every month. This exercise must not be seen as a mere routine but a clarion call; it is a civic responsibility for every one of us to take ownership of our environment, to cherish the land that we call our home, and work together for a cleaner, healthier, and sustainable Edo State that guarantees a healthy living.

"As we gather here today, let us reflect on the significance of this initiative. Our environment is not just a backdrop of our lives, but the very foundation of our health, a legacy we leave behind for the next generation. A clean environment is not a luxury, but a necessity for well-being. It is our collective duty to ensure that cleanliness becomes a way of life in our dear State.

"The reintroduced monthly exercise goes beyond cleaning our State and environment. However, it is about building a culture of environmental stewardship".

Rt. Hon. Idahosa solicited the cooperation of Edo residents, especially traditional and religious leaders, warned against indiscriminate actions and flaunting of Government rules that are geared towards building a cleaner and healthier Edo for the benefit of residents in the State. In his words, "We must instill in our people the values of responsibility, discipline and respect for nature. To this end, I wish to emphasize that the Government will not hesitate to take decisive action against individuals or groups that flaunt the rules of this sanitation exercise. Everyone is expected to remain at home during the stipulated hours and participate actively in the cleaning their surroundings.



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OKPEBHOLO, IDAHOSA, APC LEADERS CELEBRATE APPEAL COURT VICTORY... CONT'D

"All the money they have stolen in Edo State was taken to court to buy judges and judgment but they failed as judges refused to be bought and they ensured they did the right thing.

"Those who wanted to steal the people's mandate are crying that their mandate has been stolen. They are following their masters like Alhaji Atiku Abubakar and Mr Peter Obi who are leading them to form a coalition which will not stand.

"The time of PDP is over in Edo State, and under my watch, Edo people will continue to enjoy practical governance and development.

"The State is experiencing development and growth. The first flyover is under construction at Ikpoba-Hill in Ikpoba-Okah Local Government Area. The second and third is under way," he added.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor.



IDAHOSA INAUGURATES, MONITORS ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION EXERCISE ... CONT'D

I particularly urge our youths to take ownership in leading this initiative. As leaders of tomorrow, your voice and actions can ignite a meaningful change in our communities. I also call on traditional and religious institutions across the State to help in sensitizing residents on the importance of this exercise."

The General Manager of the Edo State Waste Management Agency, Mr. Lucky Inegbenehi, commended the strides of the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo and his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa in prioritizing the well-being of Edo residents. He appealed for the cooperation of residents, noting that the sanitation exercise will help eliminate diseases from the State.

In the words of Mr. Inegbenehi, "Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Edo State, who is the Chairman of the Environmental Sanitation, may God continue to bless you for your unwavering support. I am highly grateful. Thank you to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Edo State, for prioritizing environmental sustainability. May God continue to uplift you.

"To the good people of Edo State, please let's adopt this new law. This is all about the protection of our health and our community. Health is wealth, and if we are able to sustain it, I assure you that malaria would be a thing of the past, cholera and so on would all be a thing of the past. Please let's adopt this new law, let's do this together; together it is possible."

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Jude Ekpu, commended the Deputy Governor for his commitment towards

the flag-off of the sanitation exercise and noted that he was optimistic that Edo would rank among the top cleanest States in Nigeria.

"The Journey has just begun, and Edo has to be one of the cleanest States, if not the cleanest State in Nigeria. Of course, Mr. Governor has supported us with equipment, and all we need is to ensure that Edo State is the cleanest State in Nigeria. So, we don't have any cause to fail. Mr. Governor is very passionate about it, and we are here to carry out his wishes, and we will do just that", Ekpu concluded.



GOV OKPEBHOLO: I DON'T INTERFERE WITH LG FUNDS IN EDO STATE

...Presents 17 2025 Model of SUVs to Council Chairman



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, said his administration does not interfere with local government funds, a decision he said will enable the third tier of government to bring development to the grass roots.

He noted that Edo State was taken backwards by the previous administration of Godwin Obaseki but today, the narrative has changed and chairmen are now recognized by his administration and new SUVs have been given to them to aid effective service delivery.

"I want to thank God for making today possible as chairmen now have the privilege to drive brand new vehicles in the State. New things are beginning to happen in Edo State under the watch of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"Edo will experience more development even as we compete with Lagos, Abuja, and other States of the Federation. The vehicles commissioned today are not for the private use of the local government chairmen but for the development of the people at the grass roots. I will monitor you to ensure the right thing is done.

"I know how much you are receiving in the councils, and we will measure your success rate if it is commensurate with what you are receiving. My administration has not interfered with your funds and resources," he said.

The Commissioner for Local Government, Community and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Lucky Esegbe commended the Governor for not interfering with local government funds.

He noted that the freedom given to the chairmen has resulted in positive developments across the 18 Local Government Areas of Edo State.

"This is the first time in the history of the State that 2025 models of SUV vehicles are purchased for local government chairmen. These brand new vehicles presented to local government chairmen are to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

"The 18 local government chairmen are developing the State as blocks of classrooms, healthcare centers, roads are being built along other infrastructural development in the council areas," he said.

Governor Okpebholo was accompanied by his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa and other top government officials to commission the vehicles at the State Secretariat in Benin City, the Edo State capital.

Signed:
Fred Itua,
The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor.



GOV OKPEBHOLO: NO GOING BACK ON ANTI-CULTISM, ANTI-KIDNAPPING WAR IN EDO



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has renewed the commitment of his administration to the fight against cultism, no matter the level of intimidation and threats.

Addressing youths who were on a peaceful rally to the Government House, Governor Okpebholo assured that the blood of every Edo son and daughter matters much to his administration and so he has resolved to protect every resident against cultism.

He said if his life was not protected as a youth, he would not have become the governor of the state, and so it is incumbent on his administration to ensure no more life is lost to cultism.

"We must save our land. Cultism must stop in Edo State because if I was killed by cultists as a youth, I would not have become the governor of Edo State today.

"Every Edo blood matters to us as an administration, and no matter the intimidation, they will not stop me as the fight against cultism is total. We must continue to fight until we stop cultism in Edo State.

"Edo must be safe for us. Otherwise, investors will be afraid to come and invest in the State because they would feel it is not safe for them and their investments. The way to attract investors is to stop cult killings and send bad people away from the State," he stated.

The Governor justified the demolition of a building linked to a cultist, saying proper procedures were followed.

"Why is my administration not just demolishing buildings anyhow across the State? We are resolute against this fight. I am not afraid of them, neither is my administration nor Edo people. Together, we will stop the cult killings.

"I thank you all for taking this stand and supporting our determination to stop cultism in Edo State. These cultists are our enemies and want to kill the dreams of the State. They should continue in their threats. They will not stop us as we will do all that is needed to be done to ensure cultism becomes a thing of the past in the State," he declared.

Chairman, National Youths Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Edo State Chapter, Comrade Moses Aguinade Joseph, said Edo youths are standing with the governor on whatever measures he has decided to take to ensure the State is free from cultism.



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EDO STATE GOVT ONBOARDS OVER 800 RECRUITS INTO CIVIL/PUBLIC SERVICE

By Violet Osatohammwen Obamwonyi

... repay the Governor's goodwill with dedication - HOS



The Edo State Government has conducted a one-day onboarding programme for over 800 newly employed cleaners on Salary Grade Level One, who were officially absorbed into the State's Civil and Public Service.

During the Onboarding, which held at the Government House, Benin City, the Edo State Head of Service, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa, Esq., reaffirmed the commitments of the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, to the advancement and welfare of the State's Civil and Public servants.

He appreciated the Governor for his unwavering dedication to job creation, prompt payment of salaries, transparent recruitment processes and other reforms aimed at revitalizing the Service.

Dr. Okungbowa stated, "The Governor is deeply concerned about the welfare of Civil and Public servants. He has declared it unacceptable for anyone working for the State Government to earn as little as ₦15,000 or ₦20,000. Currently, no cleaner in Edo State earns below the minimum wage of ₦75,000. We are committed to building a disciplined and dignified service."

The onboarding programme, he noted, was designed to acquaint the newly recruited personnel with the Public Service Regulations and standards. He urged the new staff to carry out their responsibilities diligently, uphold discipline, and take pride in their roles, which are essential to the effective functioning of the government system.

"We are building a disciplined service, and we cannot afford lapses. Wherever you are posted, demonstrate your gratitude to His Excellency by showing commitment and integrity. Lateness and unauthorized absences will not be tolerated. We must repay the Governor's goodwill with dedication, passion, and adherence to the rules," the HOS admonished.

The programme featured lectures from seasoned facilitators including a retired permanent secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr. George Igberaese, who delivered a presentation on Civil/Public Service standards and expectations; the Permanent Secretary of Pensions Bureau, Mr. Washington Abbe Osaro, provided an overview of the State Contributory Pension Scheme; and the Permanent Secretary of the Directorate of Corporate Change, Communication and Performance Management, Dr. (Mrs.) Joy Iyen Akhigbe, delivered a session on Change Management and Personal Development, covering dress code, work ethics, and interpersonal skills.

A retired permanent secretary of the Office of the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Deborah Enakhimion Esq., delivered a lecture titled "Overview of Civil Service Rules, Regulations, Policies, and Practices". She emphasized the importance of punctuality, modesty in appearance, confidentiality, and ethical conduct, reminding the workers of their pivotal role as the first personnel to commence daily operations and advised that they uphold the principle of integrity and professionalism.



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GOV OKPEBHOLO: NO GOING BACK ON ANTI-CULTISM, ANTI-KIDNAPPING ... CONT'D

He noted that youths in the state embarked on a peaceful rally against cultism because they are all fed up with the negativity that cultism brings to the Heartbeat of the Nation.

"We are all tired of cult killings in Edo State and support the governor in the fight against cultism and drug abuse in the State. We are in solidarity with you on the campaign your administration has embarked on against cultism and drug-related issues in the State," he said.

Comrade Joseph said the peaceful rally was the fallout of a meeting held last week among students and youth leaders of the three Senatorial Districts.

"We came out with a communique and part of the resolutions in the communique is this peaceful rally. Students and youth leaders across the State stand strongly against cultism and drugs and we support your actions and plans to curb this negative acts. If the resolutions of our communique are implemented, meaningful results will be achieved," he concluded.

A youth leader and human rights activist, Comrade Precious Oruche who was part of the advocacy visit, said youths in the State are tired of innocent lives being lost to cultism and commended the governor for the swift actions he has taken to halt the trend since he assumed office.

"Before you came in as governor of Edo State, cultism was a ritual and we are here to support any measure taken by your administration to stop the dastardly acts across the State.

"We noticed that some persons are condemning the move your administration has taken to stop cultism in Edo State. We are behind you and will support your actions. We will be ready to stand with you when you call for our support. We appeal to the Commissioner of Police not to punish innocent citizens, but they should do their investigation well," she concluded.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor.



EDO STATE GOVT ONBOARDS OVER 800 RECRUITS CONT'D



The recruits were also sensitized on the benefits and procedures of enrolling in the State's Health Insurance Scheme, aimed at reducing out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

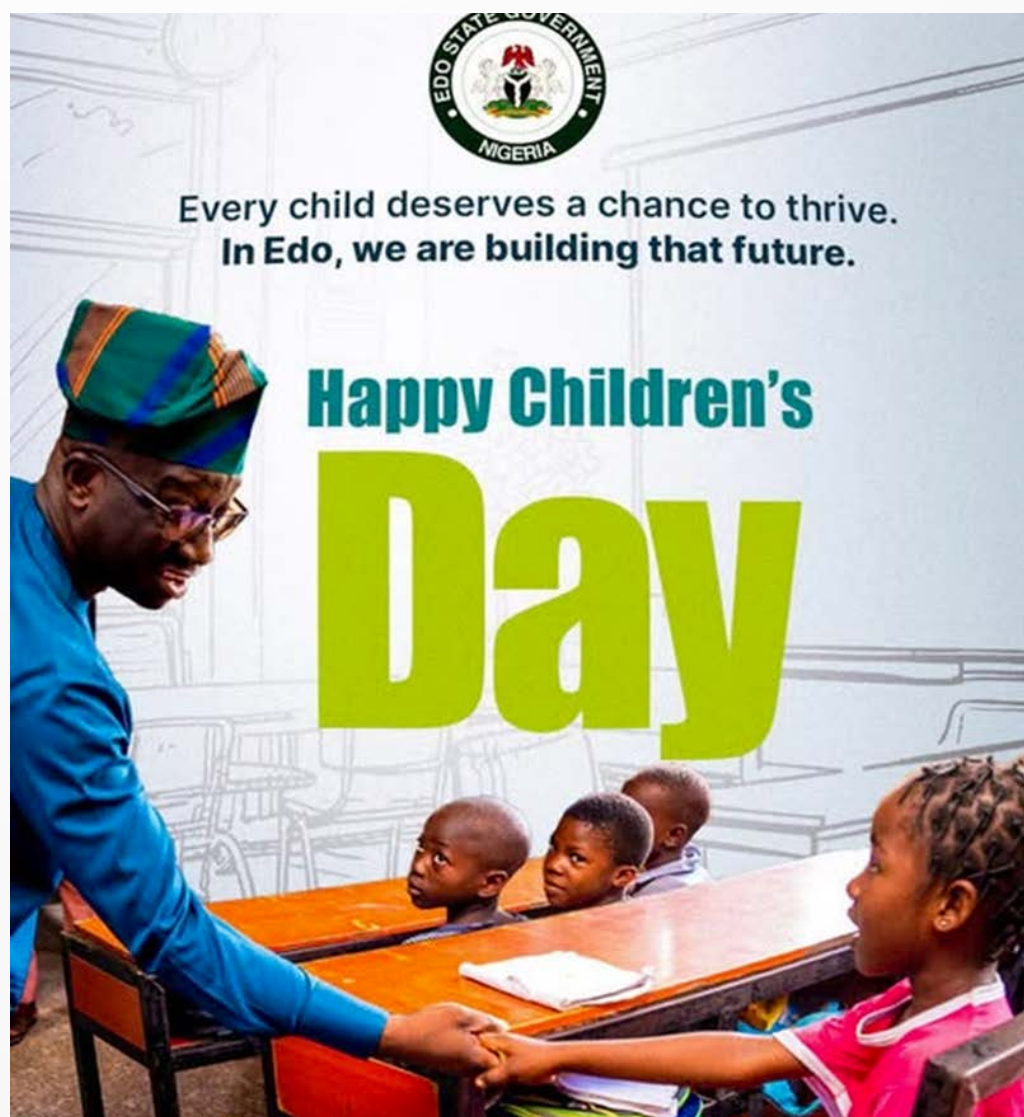
In the closing remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Directorate of Human Resource Management, Mrs. B. J. Igbinobaro, appreciated the Governor for his approval of the onboarding exercise. She congratulated the new employees and stressed the importance of adhering to the rules.

Mrs. Igbinobaro asserted, "Knowledge is vital. Ignorance of the Rules is not an acceptable excuse. You have been properly informed about the expectations and responsibilities that come with your role in the Service. Respect yourselves and your positions. Take pride in your duties; those who are faithful in small responsibilities will be entrusted with greater ones."

Delivering the vote of thanks on behalf of the new recruits, Maureen Ojiegbe, who is currently posted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, appreciated the Governor. She pledged unwavering loyalty of the new staff to uphold the values of the Service and to contribute to maintaining a clean and orderly environment.

The event was attended by top government functionaries, including the Permanent Secretary, General Services, Office of the Head of Service, Barr. Mrs. Priscilla Aziegbemhin; the Director of Training and Manpower Development, Mrs. Kate Nosa; amongst others.

CHILDREN'S DAY: GOV OKPEBHOLO URGES PARENTS, GUARDIANS TO DISSUADE THEIR CHILDREN FROM JOINING CULT GROUPS



His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo, extends warm felicitations to all children in Edo State and across Nigeria on the occasion of Children's Day. The Governor, in a statement, urged parents and guardians to dissuade their children from joining cult groups.

Governor Okpebholo recognizes Children's Day as a significant opportunity to celebrate the boundless potential, innocence, and vibrant spirit of our young ones, who are the true leaders of tomorrow. He reaffirms his administration's unwavering commitment to ensuring their well-being, providing them with quality education, and creating an environment where they can thrive and realize their full potential.

In his message, Governor Okpebholo emphasized: "Our children are our most precious assets. Their dreams are the blueprints for a brighter future for Edo State. As an administration, we are fully dedicated to investing in their development, protecting their rights, and nurturing their talents."

He highlighted key initiatives and commitments of his administration aimed at improving the lives of Edo children, including:

- * **Investment in Education:** The Governor reiterated his commitment to upgrading school infrastructure and providing conducive learning environments, as

demonstrated by the declaration of a state of emergency in public schools and ongoing reconstruction and renovation efforts across the state.

- * **Protection of Children's Rights:** Governor Okpebholo stressed the importance of safeguarding children from all forms of abuse and exploitation, noting the state's efforts to enforce laws that protect children and ensure their access to education.

- * **Youth Development:** The administration remains committed to creating opportunities that empower young people and prepare them to be productive citizens while also tackling issues that hinder their progress, such as cultism and violence.

"We believe that every child deserves a fair chance at success, irrespective of their background," Governor Okpebholo stated. "We will continue to work tirelessly to provide them with the necessary tools and support to excel in their academic pursuits, develop their skills, and contribute meaningfully to society."

The Governor urged parents, guardians, teachers, and all stakeholders to continue to play their crucial roles in guiding and mentoring children, instilling in them sound values, and encouraging them to pursue their aspirations. He concluded by calling on all Edo children to embrace education, dream big, and strive for excellence, assuring them of his administration's continuous support in their journey towards a successful future.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor.



GOV OKPEBHOLO URGES NIGERIANS TO JOIN FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY, HUNGER



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has called on Nigerians to collaborate with government at all levels to fight against poverty and hunger.

The governor made the call at the New Festival Hall in Government House, Benin City, during the distribution of 13,000 10KG bags of rice donated by the Aliko Dangote Foundation to the vulnerable in the State.

Governor Okpebholo said the fight against poverty and hunger is a collective responsibility of all Nigerians, noting that through partnerships, the government will build a more resilient, secure, and prosperous future for all.

Represented by his deputy, Hon. Dennis Idahosa, the governor, said: "I express my heartfelt gratitude to the donor and his Foundation for this notable act of generosity and compassion. This donation is a testament to the Foundation's commitment to alleviating poverty and promoting food security as well as supporting the most vulnerable members of the society.

"The initiative is to distribute one million bags of rice to the 774 Local Government Areas across the country, and the move is a laudable demonstration.

"Edo State Government has aligned with President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, which prioritizes food security for the nation.

"We have launched the Back to Farm project, which is aimed at cultivating 3,000 hectares of land across the three Senatorial Districts of Edo State.

"This effort underscores our administration's commitment to achieving food sufficiency and enhancing agricultural productivity across the State.

"I use this opportunity to call on well meaning Nigerians to emulate Aliko Dangote's generosity as the fight against poverty and hunger is a collective responsibility and together through partnerships like this, we will build a more resilient, secure and prosperous future for all.

"As we commence the distribution of rice to the vulnerable across the State, I assure you that the process will be transparent, equitable, and will be carried out with utmost integrity.

"We will ensure that these items reach the vulnerable and communities that they are intended for," he added.

The leader of the market women in Edo State, Pastor Josephine Ebhaguejezele, thanked the Governor Okpebholo led administration for all it has been doing for market women and vulnerable people in the State.

She noted that since the governor came on board, he has empowered youths, women, and the vulnerable across the three Senatorial Districts of Edo State.

She added that the previous administration had the same opportunities but preferred to store the items in warehouses and shared

them with political allies, friends, and family members forgetting the vulnerable people in the State.

In their separate goodwill messages, Mrs. Margerrette Ogun, Mrs Patience Agharia, Princess Judith Oshodin all commended the governor for running a transparent administration and remembering the people through laudable programmes like this.

They assured him of the support and collaboration of Edo people to ensure that he fulfills his electioneering promises to the people, adding that they will all support the second term ambition of President Bola Tinubu come 2027.

Guests at the occasion included the Head of Service, Dr Anthony Okungbowa; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Gani Audu, among others.

Signed:

Owaen Fred Itua ,

The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor. Chief Press Secretary to Edo State Governor



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION: OKPEBHOLO PLEDGES ENHANCED WELFARE, EDUCATION STANDARDS

By Gloria Osemudiamhen

The Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo has reaffirmed his administration's commitments to enhancing the welfare and learning experiences of children in the State.

Sen. Okpebholo made the pledge during his address at the Children's Day celebration, which held at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium in Benin City, stating he would improve on the welfare and educational experiences of school children and teachers across the State. According to him, "Today, we celebrate your energy, your dreams, and your hope. As your Governor, I want you to know that we are working every day to make your schools better and safer, and we have hired new teachers so that you can have the care and support you deserve in the classroom."

The Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, who was represented by the wife of the Secretary to the State Government, Bar. Nimata Umar Ikhilor, expressed delight in celebrating alongside the children. She highlighted the significance of the day, emphasizing its importance in recognizing and honouring the well-being and development of children in the State.

Mrs. Anani said, "Today, being the 27th day of May, is celebrated as International Children's Day. I stand before you with immense joy and pride on the occasion of Children's Day. This day is more than a day on the calendar; it is a day of celebrating hope, resilience, and promise. "The theme for this year's Children's Day is 'Stand up, Speak up, Building a Bullying-Free Generation.' It is a powerful call, a reminder that your voice has value, and your feelings have weight, and that your experiences matter."

She emphasized the crucial role children play in the society and urged relevant stakeholders to develop and implement policies that prioritize their welfare and protect their rights. She said, "It is the commitment of this Government that every child feels safe, not just in school but at home. We urge you, parents, as mothers and caregivers, and as well as teachers, to work alongside these children and government in helping to draft policies and build systems for our children and to help serve as advocates and defenders of their rights. I ask that you care deeply about their dreams and well-being."

The Edo State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Paddy Iyamu, urged students and school unions nationwide to reject bullying and cult-related activities.

The ceremony featured various activities including marchpast by students, choreographic displays, amongst others.



EDO STATE GOVT SETS TO CONDUCT MDAS' Q1 PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



The Edo State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to assessing the performance of ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) in the State, as part of the year 2025 first quarter performance appraisal exercise.

The Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa made the disclosure during a pre-appraisal exercise organized by the Directorate of Corporate Change, Communication, and Performance Management in the Office of the Head of Service. He emphasized that underperformance among MDAs would not be tolerated, highlighting the necessity of aligning achievements with set targets. In his words, "We need to know exactly where we are and the level of effort required to meet our overarching goals as a government."

Dr. Okungbowa commended the Permanent Secretary of the Directorate, Dr. (Mrs.) Joy Iyen Akhigbe, for her diligence in compiling comprehensive performance reports across MDAs and assured her of continued support.

He stressed the urgency of identifying and addressing gaps in service delivery as pathways to addressing concerns about the low performance recorded in the first quarter of the year.

He stressed the urgency of identifying and addressing gaps in service delivery as pathways to addressing concerns about the low performance recorded in the first quarter of the year. The HOS expressed concern over some MDAs which were yet to respond to the call for the submission of their performance report. He stressed the urgency in evaluating the entire reports across MDAs so as to identify and address gaps in service delivery, with a view to strengthening and correcting identified lapses in the State Service.

Dr. Akhigbe noted that the appraisal serves as a vital tool through which the Government engages with its agencies. She explained that the reports were assessed based on criteria such as budget utilization, revenue generation, staff management and above all qualitative service delivery. The evaluation report was presented in an analytical and user-friendly format, which enables data-driven decision-making.

"We are poised to carry out the 2025 first-quarter appraisal to identify both strong and weak areas; the challenges being faced, and what measures are required to address them."

"There is a need to determine whether we are merely running a race or actually counting milestones," Dr. Akhigbe concluded.

Present at the session were the Permanent Secretary of the Directorate of Human Resources Management, Mrs. B. J. IgbinoBaro; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Bernard Aigbe; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Efe Iserhienrhien, the Secretary to the Edo State Board of Internal Revenue, Mrs. S. A. Abu; amongst others.



EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE IS HINGED ON EFFECTIVE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS – EDO HOS

By Violet Osatohammwen Obamwonyi

The Edo State Head of Service, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa Esq., has reiterated the pivotal role of the Civil and Public Service, asserting that effective governance is fundamentally dependent on the performance and quality of services delivered by civil and public institutions in a state.

Dr. Okungbowa made the assertion at a breakfast meeting held in his office, at the Government House with management staff, permanent secretaries, and heads of parastatals under his office. He stressed the need for a strategic rather than transactional approach to public service, saying that for Nigeria to progress, both the civil service and judiciary must be strengthened through deliberate investment. He charged public servants to support His Excellency, Sen. Monday Okpebholo in achieving his mandate of good governance.

According to him, “Our service must move beyond routine transactions and embrace a strategic mindset. We have set clear goals for ourselves. It is essential to evaluate our performances, measure the impact of our projects, programmes and policies, identify our achievements and areas for improvement. Governance can only be considered effective when public institutions deliver quality service to the people. It behooves on us as a service to redouble our efforts on making sure the Governor succeeds. Strengthening the public service is not optional, it is a duty we all share.”

Encouraging active participation, Dr. Okungbowa urged civil servants to engage in meaningful dialogue and offer constructive ideas to advance the Service. He emphasized the importance of developing the intellectual property resources in the Service, while clearly outlining the training initiatives made available by the State Government through the John Odigie Oyejun Public Service Academy. He called on all civil and public servants to take full ownership of the State-owned academy.

In his words, “You must contribute ideas that will move the service forward. We cannot get to where we are aiming to until we know where we are coming from. The quality of service we deliver is a direct reflection of the quality of intellectual input; as they say, garbage in, garbage out. Training is critical to our growth as a service. A better service depends on better input.”

Dr. Okungbowa disclosed that the Civil Service of the Federation would begin ranking civil services across the Country with key performance indicators including leadership style, communication, innovation, involvement in public policy, crisis and risk management and staff development. “To perform well in this national ranking, we must be intentional about everything we do. We can no longer afford to operate as though our efforts do not matter. We must strive to make a meaningful impact,” he concluded.



OKPEBHOLO'S ADHERENCE TO STRICT PENALTIES ON CULTISM, RELATED CRIMES, RESTORING PEACE - OHONBAMU

By Wisdom Agbonta



The Edo State Commissioner for Communications and Information, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu has asserted that the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo's strict adherence to the fact penalties for kidnapping, ritual killings, cultism and other related crimes have contributed greatly in restoring peace and sanity to the State.

Hon. Ohonbamu made the assertion during a press briefing at the Ministry's Conference Room in Benin City. According to him, the State's new law imposing strict penalties on cultism has been effective in curbing the menace of cult-related crimes in the State. He noted that residents are now more cautious when admitting tenants; asking questions to verify their backgrounds.

He emphasised that the law makes a critical distinction between confirmation and conviction, noting that no individual has been wrongly accused or convicted without sufficient evidences. He stated, "Upon confirmation that the person is

linked to the offence, his property will be confiscated or demolished. Upon conviction, the person will be prosecuted. Okpebholo does not want criminals, kidnappers, cultists in the State; he wants decency. He is planning, aiming to turn the State into a paradise, bringing investors."

The Commissioner acknowledged the Governor's initiatives that have enhanced the effectiveness of security agencies, citing strategic measures implemented to bolster their operations to include the provision of 100 Hilux vans and 1000 power bikes for security operatives and the successful recovery of about 5,000 illegal fire arms in the State.

Addressing the question as to what the Government Is doing to mitigate flooding in the State, the Commissioner assured that the Governor is proactively tackling flooding, describing the Governor as purposeful and forward thinking. He concluded that the Governor is committed to collaborations that would engender meaningful development in the State.



FIRST LADY'S OFFICE LEADS MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



Towards promoting menstrual hygiene awareness and to dispel stigma surrounding menstruation, the Coordinator, Office of the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani has visited Imaguero College along Benin-Sapele Road in Benin City, to sensitize pupils on the significance of maintaining proper menstrual hygiene practices.

Mrs. Anani's visit was part of activities marking the World Menstrual Hygiene Day, and aimed at educating young girls on how to manage their menstruation with dignity and confidence.

In the address of Mrs. Anani as delivered by the wife of the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Nimata Umar Ikhilor, she highlighted the significance of menstrual hygiene in promoting the health and well-being of women and girls with the admonition that girls should prioritize their menstrual health and hygiene, considering its crucial role in their overall development.

While encouraging pupils to break the silence surrounding menstruation and support one another in managing their menstrual cycles, Mrs. Anani reiterated her

commitment to advancing the very important course. According to her, "Menstrual health is not just a personal issue; it is a fundamental aspect of human rights, dignity and public health. Effective menstrual hygiene practices help prevent infections and other health issues, while ensuring that menstruation is managed with dignity and confidence.

"Menstrual hygiene is essential for the health, well-being and empowerment of women and girls. As the Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady in Edo State, I am deeply committed to promoting menstrual hygiene and supporting the overall well-being of all women and girls in our State."

Mrs. Anani urged pupils to embrace menstruation with pride; tackling stereotypes and myths confidently. She called on stakeholders to join forces in promoting menstrual awareness and sensitization, fostering a supportive environment for girls and women to manage their menstrual health with dignity and confidence. She said, "Together, let us break the silence, dispel the myths and eliminate the taboos surrounding menstruation. Let's normalize our monthly cycles and speak of them without shame. Let us remember without the menstrual cycle, life itself cannot begin. So let us embrace the red flow with pride.

"I call on every one; parents, teachers, community leaders, policy makers and every member of the society to join hands in promoting menstrual hygiene education and awareness. Together, we can make menstruation a normal part of life by 2030, free of fear or shame"



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FIRST LADY'S OFFICE LEADS MENSTRUAL HYGIENE ... CON'TD

The representative of Edo South Senatorial District in the State Secondary Education Board, Hon. Charity Osifo, encouraged the students to embrace womanhood with confidence. She emphasized that it involves understanding and managing the physical and emotional changes associated with menstruation, promoting a positive and empowered approach to feminine health. According to her, "prioritizing hygiene boosts confidence, morale, well-being and empowers women to unlock their full potential as well as radiate confidence and charisma".

The event featured sensitization lectures by medical professionals, interactive sessions with pupils, and the distribution of sanitary pads. The activities provided practical and valuable information on menstrual health and hygiene practices. The pupils actively participated, demonstrating their newfound understanding.

The pupils appreciated the gesture of providing sanitary pads and for the awareness during the programme, describing them as great empowerment, which have boosted their confidence.



RESPITE UNDERWAY AS OKPEBHOLO UNDERTAKES REHABILITATION OF AUCHI-SASARO-IBILLO ROAD - OSHIONOGUE

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe

The Akoko-Edo Local Government Council Chairman, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue has lauded the stance of the Edo State Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Distinguished Sen. Monday Okpebholo for measures in place to address the failed portions of the deplorable Auchi-Sasaro-Ibillo Federal Government Road to ease the harrowing experiences of motorists and commuters.

Rt. Oshionogue explained that as a government, his administration had begun work on the failed portions of the road, starting with the Sasaro axis, which he noted would cover Aiyetoro-Uneme Nekua-Ekpesa and Ibillo. He stated that procrastination does not help any government but proactiveness to engender the desired development for the people, commending the Okpebholo-led administration for its proactive and responsive disposition to envision the needed change for Edo people in his demonstration of practical governance across the State.

The Council Boss called on all and sundry irrespective of political ties, to support the policies and programmes of the State Government in its quest to change the narratives of the State. He maintained that his administration's policies and programmes are in tandem with the SHINE agenda of Mr. Governor.



EDO STATE GOVT TRAINS HRM OFFICERS TO BOOST ADMINISTRATIVE COMPETENCE

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



In its continued effort to promote professionalism within the Edo State Public Sector, the State Government through the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA) has trained over 150 administrative officers as human resource managers (HRM), spanning Grade Levels 08 to 12.

The training which aimed at familiarising participants with the operational regulations and best practices for effectively managing human and material resources in the Public Service, focused on improving service delivery and institutional development within the Service.

The three-day training, held from the 21st to 23rd May, 2025, featured a key lecture titled "Communication in the Service: Writing for Effective Service Delivery" by the Director General of JOOPSA, Mrs. Gina Otamere. In her presentation, she emphasised the critical role of administrative officers, urging them to exercise caution and professionalism in the discharge of their duties, considering their direct impact on human lives.

Mrs. Otamere advised participants to be attentive to non-verbal cues during official interactions, stressing the importance of cultural sensitivity, tone, and thoughtful communication. She introduced participants to the various official channels and hierarchies of communication within the Service, and underscored the necessity of applying the seven 'Cs' of communication especially when drafting memos and minutes.

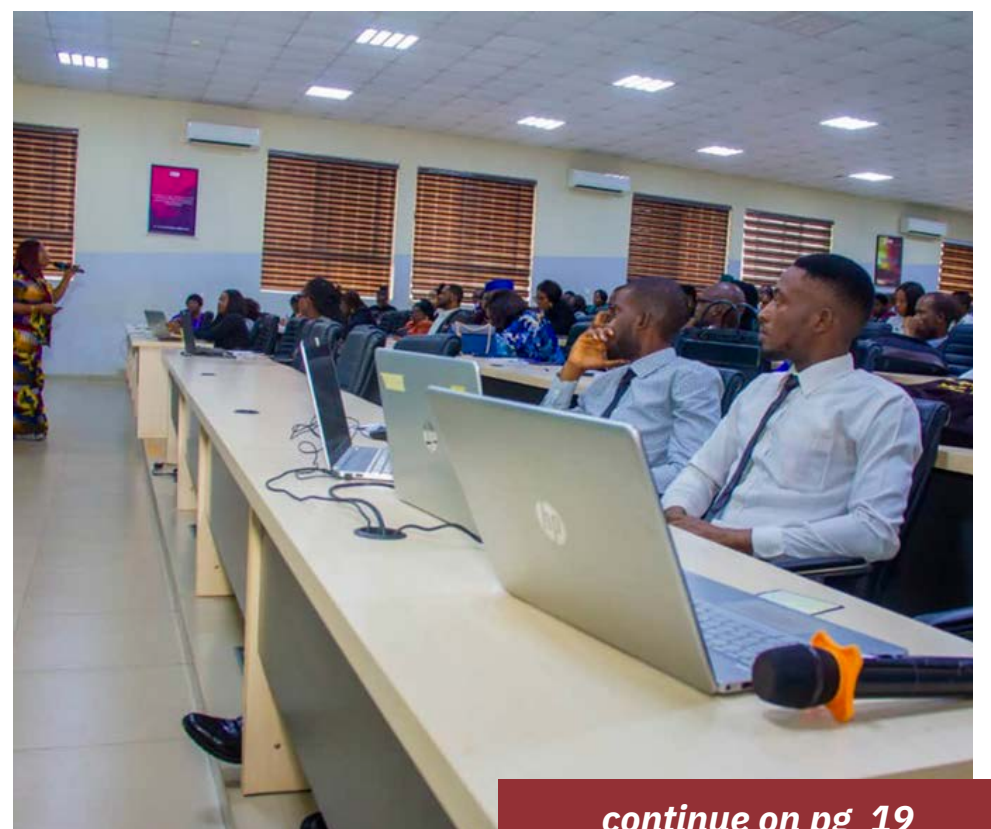
According to Otamere, "As administrative officers, your communication must be accurate, clear, and purposeful. We do not write for aesthetics; there is no need for elevated vocabulary whose meanings are ambiguous. Write effectively so your audience can understand what you mean and create a record for posterity because where there is no communication, there is no service."

She urged the officers to avoid abrasive language despite familiarity with colleagues; to practice active listening and to offer constructive feedbacks framed with empathy. She advised,

"Start with praise, deliver your correction tactfully, and end on a positive note. Miscommunication or addressing correspondence to the wrong authority can constitute a breach of official protocol."

In the session on "Human Resource Processes, Procedures, and Practices," a former Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Deborah Enakhimion Esq., encouraged participants to humanise administration. She emphasised that the era of rigid bureaucracy was over; advocating instead for proactive engagement and periodic personnel audits.

Training participants on drafting standard establishment proposals, Mrs. Enakhimion stressed the importance of administrative officers as educators within their organisations, ensuring that all employees are informed of their rights and responsibilities.



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LAND LORDS IN EDO MONITOR YOUR TENANTS - OHONBAMU

The Edo State Government is resolute in the war against cultism, just as landlords have been advised to monitor their tenants to avoid the wrath of the law.

The Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon Paul Ohonbamu gave the advice during a Press Conference in Benin City.

According to the Commissioner, "any landlord whose building is discovered to be accommodating a cultist will face the wrath of the law.

"The state government has declared that cult-related activities would be aggressively tackled, with perpetrators and their enablers facing the full weight of the law.

"This firm stance justifies the demolition of buildings where crimes are committed, as part of efforts to eliminate criminal hideouts."

Ohonbamu therefore urged landlords to monitor their tenants closely and avoid harbouring individuals involved in cultism or any form of criminality.

While warning that property owners found complicit in such activities would face sanctions, Hon Ohonbamu also called on parents to instill moral discipline in their children.

The Commissioner said that no building has been demolished without credible evidence of criminal activity or direct confessions by those involved.



"Parents who ignore this warning or fail to correct the delinquent behaviour of their children would be seen as accomplices to crime.

"The state government has intensified its fight against crimes such as cultism, ritual killings, herdsman attacks, and illegal possession of firearms," the Commissioner added.

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY TAKES OVER DRIC'S REINS

By Peace Osemwegie

The newly inaugurated Commission for Persons with Disability has officially assumed control over the affairs of persons with disabilities (PWDs), which was domiciled with the Disability Rights Committee (DRIC).

The handover ceremony included a briefing on DRIC's activities and achievements, which were aimed at familiarizing the new Commission members with key stakeholders. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and Vice-Chairman of DRIC, Mrs. Joy I. Ihensekhien, while highlighting the Committee's journey and future expectations, emphasized the need for adequate representation.

Chairman of the State Commission, Mr. Theophilus Egbodion, assured adequate representation of the interests of PWDs in Edo State and proposed quarterly stakeholders' meetings. The State Coordinator of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC), Mrs. Uchenna Nwokedi, highlighted the need for cooperation with security officials to address parking violations and ramp access blockages in public buildings. She suggested that an urgent memo be raised to address the issues, particularly in the Secretariat Buildings in Benin City.

The Executive Director of the Network for the Advancement of People with Visible Disabilities (NAPVID), Barr. Melody Omosah emphasized the importance of dissolving DRIC and constituting a



new committee with broader representation. He stressed that PWDs should not only be beneficiaries but also active participants in decision-making processes. Other discussions on critical issues included ensuring broader representation in the new Commission with a female Board member; urgent repair of elevators in public buildings; sensitizing building engineers on constructing ramps in all public and official facilities.

The meeting climaxed with the assurance of advancing the rights and well-being of people with disabilities in Edo State.

EDO STATE GOVT TRAINS HRM OFFICERS TO BOOST ...CONT'D

In her words, "As the police of the system and watchdogs of the Service, be approachable and proactive. Excellence in administration means solving problems before they arise and acting within the framework of established rules. It is your duty to educate other staff members of your ministries departments and agencies (MDAs) of the rules of operations and engagements and you can do this by leading with example. Pay proper attention to your work. An error on your part can have serious implications on someone's career."

Mrs. Enakhimion encouraged periodic personnel budgeting to prevent over or under-establishment of positions and advocated for inclusive decision making guided by the Civil Service Rules and the Public Service Regulations. "It is our expectation that following this training, administrative officers will return to their various MDAs equipped to deliver improved and more efficient services to the people of Edo State," she concluded.

Participants expressed appreciation for the training. Faith Ebehiremen Aburime from the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning described the experience as enlightening, saying, so far, I have learnt a lot of what is expected of me as an admin officer; the rules and regulations governing our job and the significance of adhering to them as they do form the foundation of the Service."



Julius Emiasegen from the Edo City Transport Service Limited noted, "Since yesterday, the sessions have been very insightful and revealing. We have learnt quite a lot that will enhance our job performance. We are committed to cascading this knowledge to colleagues who could not attend."

Similarly, Patrick Ikpato from the Edo State Digital Governance and Data Management Agency reflected, "This training has been transformative. Questions I had, have been clarified. I have been exposed to a lot of things. Now I do greatly appreciate the importance of continuous learning and the pursuit of knowledge for effective service delivery."

AKOKO-EDO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IDENTIFIES WITH ETSAKO COMMUNITY ON CULTURAL DAY

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe

The Chairman of Akoko-Edo Local Government Council, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue has identified with the Etsako Community of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, Igarra on its Cultural Day celebration.

The Council Boss, who disclosed that the gesture was to foster unity among the Christians, said his administration is open to partnership to drive the needed change that would engender more prosperity among locals in line with the SHINE agenda of the Edo State Government under the leadership of Sen. Monday Okpebholo on practical governance.

Rt. Hon. Oshionogue called on Christians to pray fervently for his administration to be able to initiate more life-touching projects that would ultimately change the narratives of the Local Government Area (LGA), pointing out that his administration is determined to identify with any group, provided it would foster unity and more economic prosperity. He called on all and sundry to support his administration to thrive.

Earlier, the Parish Priest, Very Revd. Father Dr. Callistus Ikhane appreciated the Chairman for honouring the occasion. He promised that as a spiritual father, the Church owes the Chairman some level of prayers to succeed in his task of reshaping the LGA.



CHILDREN'S DAY COMMEMORATION: EDOHIC ENROLS 450 ORPHANS INTO HEALTH INSURANCE

By Portia Osayande

... offsets outstanding hospital bills of vulnerable children



In commemoration of year 2025 Children's Day, the Edo State Health Insurance Commission (EDOHIC) has carried out a coordinated outreach across the three senatorial districts of the State with the enrolment of 450 orphans into the Health Insurance Scheme (EDOHIS), delivery of healthcare support to orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages and government health facilities.

The initiative which is designed to promote inclusivity in access to healthcare, covered five registered orphanages and three public health centres across the three senatorial districts. It aligned with EDOHIC's mission to extend quality healthcare to all residents, especially those at the margins of society.

A major highlight of the outreach was the gesture of EDOHIC to offset outstanding hospital bills for several children whose families had struggled to cover treatment costs, demonstrating the Government's ongoing commitment to health equity. EDOHIC teams visited orphanages and healthcare facilities to carry out enrollments, settle medical expenses, and distribute relief items. In each location, the outreach received warm reception from caregivers, community members, and health workers, who appreciated the Commission's efforts in prioritising child health and wellbeing.

The Director General of EDOHIC, Mrs. Augusta Ikpea-Enaholo, who was represented at Edo Specialist Hospital in Edo South by the Acting Director of the Public Relations and Advocacy Department, Mrs. Omonigho O. Trinitas, emphasised the importance of inclusive healthcare. "Every child, regardless of background, deserves access to basic health services. This outreach reinforces our pledge to protect and support those who need it most," she stated.

Gift packages containing essential items and treats were distributed during the visits, bringing cheer to children at the health facilities and orphanages. The outreach concluded with renewed assurance from EDOHIC of its commitment to child-focused health interventions. Children's Day is marked annually on May 27 to promote child welfare and draw attention to the importance of safeguarding children's rights.



THE ESSENCE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY – HON OHONBAMU

Aichienede Akhabue Goodluck



The Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu has emphasized the need for Government at all levels to prioritize the welfare and transformation of the society for the greater good of the citizens.

Hon. Ohonbamu gave this remark at the Stakeholders Sensitization Workshop organized by the Ministry of Information and Communication with the theme, “Exposing the Programmes and Projects of Governor Monday Okpebholo’s administration”, held at the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub, Benin City.

According to the Commissioner, “We know that Government should not be there as an end in itself, it must be a means to an end, the essence of Government is to transform society”.

Hon. Ohonbamu while commending Governor Monday Okpebholo’s project SHINE vision to transform the State, asserted that the purpose of the stakeholders sensitization was to engage all critical stakeholders on the various infrastructural and developmental strides of Governor Monday Okpebholo since assumption of office and also to cross fertilize ideas on areas that the Government needs to improve upon.

At the panel session of the event moderated by Hon. Ohonbamu, the Commissioner for Education and panelist, Dr. Paddy Iyamu, ex-rayed the giant strides of Governor Okpebholo’s administration, particularly infrastructural development of schools across the State which hitherto where in a deplorable condition. He added that over 500 new teachers had been recruited, Vacation Centers had been created, as well as STEM laboratories, emphasizing the partnership with NELFUND, to provide accessible education to children in Edo State from Primary to Tertiary level.

Similarly, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon. Chief Olabisi Idahomi, who was also among the panelists stated that her Ministry has a mandate of empowering and protecting the rights of women, girls and vulnerable in the society and has been empowered by the State Government to eradicate all form of Gender Based Violence and abuse, through the Violence Against Person Prohibition, (VAAP)

Law, as well as the provision of Sexual Assault Rehabilitation Center, (SARC) and other rehabilitation facilities.

On his part, the Executive Secretary of the Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA), Hon. Jerry Idahosa, highlighted various proactive and pragmatic interventions of the current administration in providing disaster management measures and relief materials to communities affected by disaster and other environmental hazards.

In the same vein, the Functioning Permanent Secretary of the Edo State, Ministry of Works, Engr. John Obanor highlighted various road projects completed and those undergoing construction by the current administration.

Similarly, Prof. Felix Orhiakhi of the Department of Political Science, Federal University Otuoke, also commended Governor Okpebholo for fixing Federal Roads in the State, while advocating for collective dialogue among stakeholders in addressing the issue of cultism and insecurity.

In their separate responses, some of the stakeholders from the CSOs, Religious Organizations, Artisans, Youth Organization , Students, Persons with Disabilities, and Concerned Groups, commended Governor Monday Okpebholo’s developmental strides within a short period of time, while they sought government’s intervention in areas such as, multiple ticketing by some groups, out of school children, needs of Persons with disabilities, Cultism, amongst others.



EDO STATE GOVT PLEDGES CAPACITY BUILDING, WELFARE FOR CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

By Peace Osemwegie



The Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, has promised to address the concerns of members of the Edo State Children's Parliament within the shortest possible time.

The State Government's assurance was delivered by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon. Chief Bisi Idaomi, during a meeting with the Parliament in Benin City. She reassured the Parliament of Governor Monday Okpebholo's commitment to improving education standards and promising a facilitated official visit to the State Assembly within 30 days. She concluded that other concerns would be addressed accordingly.

On capacity building, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Joy Ihensekhien, recommended continuous training and orientations for the Parliament to equip it to function optimally in line with global standards.

The Speaker of the Children's Parliament, Hon. Omorogbe Jonathan, expressed gratitude for the meeting. He stated that the Parliament which was inaugurated in August 2022, had strayed from its purpose. Members highlighted challenges including inadequate platforms for showcasing their capabilities and poor school conditions, such as inadequate staffing, poor facilities, bullying, amongst others.

Hon. Omorogbe requested an official visit to the Edo State Assembly to observe law-making processes as part of orientation and experience for the Parliament. Stakeholders from the Child Protection Network (Edo State Chapter), appreciated the State Government's commitment to prioritising children's welfare, inclusion and education in Edo State.

In attendance were the 24 members of the Children's Parliament, representing the various constituencies in the State.



ANANI BAGS PINNACLE BUILDERS' AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE, DEDICATION

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



In recognition of her dedication to nurturing young minds and shaping the future of society, the Coordinator, Office of the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani has received an award of Excellence from the Pinnacle Builders.

The award ceremony, which held at the Bishop Kelly Pastoral Centre in Benin City, was part of the Pinnacle Builders Homes and Property's fourth anniversary celebrations. It featured quiz competition among secondary school pupils in the State.

Representing Mrs. Anani, the wife of the Secretary to the State Government, Hajia Nimata Umar Ikhilor, expressed gratitude to the Pinnacle Builders for their philanthropic efforts and commitment to giving back to the society. According to her, "I want to appreciate the Pinnacle Builders for this noble effort. They are not just about building structures, but also about building the future of our society; our children, the leaders of tomorrow. This is commendable and timely, especially since we are in the month of Children."

Mrs. Anani reiterated commitment to working together on initiatives that support children's educational advancement saying, "One thing you should know about Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani is that she has a strong passion for nurturing young minds and shaping the future of our society. With or without this award, she has been dedicated to promoting children's education, and this recognition will only spur her to continue supporting initiatives that advance the educational development of our children, within her capacity as Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady of Edo State."

The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor and awardee, Mr. Fred Odianosen Itua, emphasised the importance

of dedication and commitment in service delivery, encouraging all workers to adopt the valuable trait. According to him, "It's an honour and the good thing about the award is that no one lobbied for it. It was a pleasant surprise. It also shows that whatever you do in secret, someone is watching. So, if you are given an assignment as a public official, even when nobody is telling you what to do, just do your best, knowing full well that you will reap your rewards."

Similarly, the Chairman, Edo State Internal Revenue Service, Hon. Otunba Bankole Balogun, expressed appreciation to the Governor Okpebholo-led administration for its success in boosting revenue and advancing infrastructure development in the State. According to him, "Under the leadership of Sen. Okpebholo, this day has been able to achieve, attain and sustain increased levels of revenue and that is the reason why His Excellency, to this day has not borrowed a single penny to execute virtually all of the gargantuan projects that he has engaged in."

The Chief Executive Officer of the Firm, Bldr. Samson Areladia Obhokhan, emphasised the Firm's commitments to quality and client satisfaction, saying, "We are committed to providing exceptional services and innovative solutions. Our team of experienced professionals is passionate about helping clients find their perfect homes or investment opportunities."

Additional recipients of various awards included the Edo State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Paddy Emmanuel Iyamu; Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon; the Chairman of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Edo State Council, Dr. Festus Alenkhe, amongst others.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS EDO AGRICULTURAL AGENDA

By Okojie Francisca.

...as RMAFC Chairman Leads Delegation on Strategic Visit to Iguorhiakhi and Industrial Sites



In a strong show of Federal Government support for Edo State's Agricultural and industrial development agenda, a high-powered delegation from Abuja representing the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), a key Federal Parastatal, undertook a strategic visit to major Agricultural and industrial sites across the state.

The delegation led by the Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Mohammed Bello Shehu, underscored the Federal Government's commitment to aligning national fiscal and economic priorities with state-level developmental initiatives. The visit follows the launch of the 2025 farming season in March by the Executive Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo, who pledged to reposition Edo as a leading hub for agriculture and agro-industrial investment in Nigeria.

Upon arrival in Benin City, the RMAFC team was formally received by the Honourable Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Emmanuel Ehidiemen Okoebor, on behalf of the State Government. The presence of a Federal delegation of such calibre affirms the buy-in and strategic endorsement of Edo's developmental agenda by the Federal Government.

Accompanying the delegation during the field visits were the Honourable Commissioner for Mining, Hon. Andrew Ijegbai, and Mr. David O. Ogunbor, Head of Agricultural Services and Extension, Edo State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, reflecting the state's integrated approach to agriculture and resource-based industrialization.

The first stop during the visit was the Iguoriakhi Farm Settlement in Ovia South-West Local Government Area. The delegation engaged with local farmers, evaluating current practices, needs, and opportunities for improved Federal and State collaboration.

The next visit was to Wells Farms, located in Utesi Community, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, one of Edo flagship commercial farms covering over 2 square kilometres with a remarkable annual turnover of USD 8 million, inclusive of exports. The Managing Director of the establishment briefed the delegation on the farm's impact and scale, while

the Lead on Business and Exports raised concerns about policy constraints, such as the ban on inorganic fertilizers, which significantly affect agribusiness operations.

Responding, Dr. Mohammed Bello Shehu encouraged the farm's management to submit a detailed brief outlining challenges and areas where the Federal Government can intervene, particularly through policy adjustment and improved resource access.

The tour also included a visit to TIME Ceramics, a major industrial mining firm located in Utesi. Facilitated by Hon. Andrew Ijegbai, the engagement focused on Edo State's emerging industrial landscape, with conversations centered on how the Federal Government can support responsible mining, local content development, value chain expansion as well as Federal-State Partnership for Inclusive Growth.

The presence of the RMAFC Chairman and his team from Abuja highlighted a growing synergy between the Federal and Edo State Governments, as both tiers worked together to advance national economic diversification, food security, and inclusive prosperity. The visit not only signal confidence in the reforms being undertaken in Edo's agriculture and industrial sectors, but also strengthens the State's position as a viable partner in Nigeria's long-term development strategy.

The engagements in the state marked a critical step toward building a robust framework for Federal-State cooperation in strategic sectors.



EDO STATE FIRST LADY'S OFFICE INTERACTS WITH PUPILS, DRAWS ROADMAP FOR ENHANCED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



In commemoration of the 2025 Children's Day celebration, the Office of the Edo State First Lady, led by its Coordinator, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, has convened a stakeholders' forum comprising pupils from selected public schools, to interact and draw a roadmap for enhancing educational outcomes in the State.

During the session at the Government House in Benin City, Mrs. Anani, represented by the Wife of the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Nimata Umar Ikhilor, urged the pupils to cultivate a culture of learning. She emphasised the significance of education in shaping society and driving positive transformations. She encouraged pupils to share their newfound knowledge with their peers in their respective schools.

Mrs. Anani stated, "I am delighted to have you all here. I want to promise you that this interactive session is one that you will take valuable lessons from. I hope that you pay rapt attention to everything that will happen here and that you will take something back to your schools as leaders in your various capacities at various schools.

"The erosion of values in our society is quite pathetic. Before we got to a point where we decided to say education is a scam, we had gradually begun to view acquisition of wealth, material things, money, as more important to us than acquiring an education or building a reputation or building legacies. Money can never surpass education, no matter how you look at it.

The Edo state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomole emphasised the dangers of engaging in social vices such as cultism, pornography, amongst others and encouraged the pupils to prioritise education. According to him, "Please you have to shun

cultism, it is a very big issue in Nigeria. Cultism and drugs use; we have seen doctors, senior registrars, who died from drug use. Even in Abuja, drug has become a serious epidemic in our society. A lot of people want to feel cool by taking different drugs. You can be social without taking drug.

Mrs. Anani emphasised the importance of honesty and integrity, urging the students to uphold values and refrain from engaging in dishonourable activities, saying, "I urge everyone of you to take the path of honour, to take the path of hard work, to choose the path of excellence, to choose to be excellent at whatever it is that you are doing. And I want to believe, that is the one reason you were selected among many others, to be leaders among your peers; to be examples to your juniors.

"Please do not ever deviate from that path. Maintain this path. I know we're either Christians here or Muslims, or believe in one form of, you know, spirituality or divinity or the other. And the only one thing that our belief has taught us is to be honourable people. To remain honourable, to be honourable in everything we do. The way we speak to people, the way we deal with people.

"Even if you are entrusted with as little as 10 Naira, you apply honor to it. By the time you choose to tow the path of honour, look, you would never have to cross through the deserts of Libya to get to Italy. You would never have to join cultists to win cheap popularity. You would never have to sell your body; you would hold on to your honour. Even if for nothing else but because of the God that you serve.

Let us leave here today with a renewed decision to continue to tow the path of honour and the path of excellence. And I promise you, you will not just make money; you would have good reputation before God and before man."



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EDO STATE FIRST LADY'S OFFICE INTERACTS WITH PUPILS, DRAWS ROADMAP FOR ENHANCED...CONT'D

The Edo state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomole emphasised the dangers of engaging in social vices such as cultism, pornography, amongst others and encouraged the pupils to prioritise education. According to him, "Please you have to shun cultism, it is a very big issue in Nigeria. Cultism and drugs use; we have seen doctors, senior registrars, who died from drug use. Even in Abuja, drug has become a serious epidemic in our society. A lot of people want to feel cool by taking different drugs. You can be social without taking drug."

"Donald Trump, the President of America as a billionaire, does not take drug or alcohol. you don't need to take drug to become a billionaire or a doctor. They will tell you, when you are a cultist, you will have connections. They use those things to entice you; those are lies from the pit of hell. So, please do us a favour; ten, twenty years from today, I want you to remember this day that you will not be involved in any form of cultism, if you are well educated, I don't think you need to start crossing oceans. With education you can get degrees and Master, you can have scholarship; when you are smart, people will look for you. Let emphasise on values of doing the right thing even when nobody is there to watch you."

The meeting featured a lecture themed, "The Importance of Education in Shaping a Brighter Future" delivered by a lecturer from the University of Benin, Dr. Amen Ogbemudia. She emphasised the significance of education and discipline, among other key factors, saying, "Education is an adventure that never ends. You start learning from the day you were born, from the confines of your parents. You can only learn limited things from the four walls of your parents. Always learning, leads to new discoveries."

"Education is about knowledge and character. The future you want is what you build. The character and value that you have taken away from education today is what will be the architect of the building of your life in future. Learn what you need to learn as development will not come without education. School is not a scam. Money can never overcome education."

Pupils from Imaguero College, Western Boys High School, St. Maria Goretti, Ihogbe College, amongst others, expressed concerns about several challenges affecting their learning experiences. They advocated prompt intervention from the relevant authorities to address the identified issues, including the need to enhance their educational environment.



Other concerns included inadequate laboratory facilities and equipment, insufficient water supply, teacher shortages, lack of perimeter fencing for security, inadequate security measures, limited vocational training opportunities, insufficient computer laboratories, poor toilet facilities, lack of recreational equipment, among others.

Highpoint of the occasion was the administration of Oath of Non-membership of Cultism on the pupils' representatives by Dr. Oshiomole. The pupils pledged to abstain from cultism, drug abuse, and other social vices.

EDO RECORDS FIRST PILGRIM FATALITY IN MAKKAH

By Abdul-Kadir Abdullah

Edo State has unfortunately recorded its first fatality among pilgrims participating in the ongoing 2025 Hajj exercise in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

Mrs. Dazumi Adizatu, a 75-year-old female pilgrim from Jattu Uzairue, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State, passed away on Monday, May 26, 2025, at King Fahad General Hospital in Makkah after a brief illness.

The sad news was confirmed this morning, Tuesday, May 27, 2025, by the Chairman of the Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Musah Muhammad Uduimoh, in a WhatsApp voice note.

According to Mallam Uduimoh, Mrs. Adizatu was hospitalized on Sunday, May 25, 2025, after (Tawaaf) following a short illness and succumbed to her condition the following day.

In accordance with Islamic rites, Mrs. Adiketue was buried in Makkah on the evening of the same day she passed away. The chairman of the board has since contacted her family in Jattu Uzairue to inform them of the tragic development.



HON. PAUL OHONBAMU: A VOICE OF CREDIBILITY AND COURAGE IN EDO'S WAR AGAINST CRIME

By Rev. David Ugolor, Executive Director, Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)



In a country where insecurity remains one of the most pressing challenges, clear and courageous leadership at the state level has become more important than ever. In Edo State, one voice has stood out—not just for its boldness, but for its clarity, consistency, and credibility. That voice is Hon. Paul Ohonbamu, the Commissioner for Information and Communication.

Recently, at a press briefing in Benin City, Commissioner Ohonbamu addressed the issue of cultism and kidnapping head-on, offering both a clear warning and a path forward. His remarks left no room for doubt about the government's commitment to restoring safety and public trust.

"Any landlord whose building is discovered to be accommodating a cultist will face the wrath of the law," Ohonbamu declared.

"Cult-related activities will be aggressively tackled, with perpetrators and their enablers facing the full weight of the law."

This is not empty rhetoric. It reflects a government actively working to eliminate crime from the grassroots up. The decision to demolish buildings used as criminal hideouts has sparked discussion, but Ohonbamu clarified that no such action is taken without credible evidence or direct confessions.

His advice to landlords is simple but critical: monitor your tenants. The war against crime must be a collective effort—and

those who turn a blind eye to criminal activity in their properties risk being held accountable.

Beyond landlords, Ohonbamu sent a powerful message to parents:

"Parents who ignore this warning or fail to correct the delinquent behaviour of their children would be seen as accomplices to crime."

Such statements underscore the holistic approach the Edo State Government is taking: not just punishing crime, but challenging the cultural silence and neglect that allow it to grow.

This is the kind of leadership that bridges activism and governance—bringing together strong moral values and effective public policy. Hon. Ohonbamu, a long-respected voice for justice and human rights, has not abandoned his principles in government. Rather, he has amplified them.

It is also a moment to commend Governor Monday Okpebholo for making the strategic and forward-thinking decision to appoint him as Commissioner for Information. In Ohonbamu, the governor has chosen not just a communicator, but a truth-teller—a man deeply rooted in the people's struggles, and unafraid to speak with both urgency and compassion.

With Edo State intensifying its efforts to combat cultism, ritual killings, illegal firearms, and herdsmen attacks, having a steady, trusted voice like Ohonbamu's at the forefront is invaluable. His role is not just to inform, but to inspire collective responsibility and rebuild public confidence.

In times like these, when citizens are seeking assurance that their leaders are not only listening but acting—Commissioner Ohonbamu has become a voice we can believe in.

"Any landlord whose building is discovered to be accommodating a cultist will face the wrath of the law," Ohonbamu declared.

EDO HOS PLEDGES PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST CIPM'S MEMBERSHIP WITHIN SERVICE

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi

Towards advancing the intellectual capital within the Public Service, with a strong focus on enhancing the professionalism of administrative and human resource officers, the Edo State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa has assured the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) of increased membership by officers of the State Public Service.

Dr. Okungbowa gave the assurance during a courtesy visit by a delegation of the CIPM, in his office at the Government House, Benin City. While emphasizing the pivotal role of the Administrative Cadre in the Service, he underscored the need to equip the human resource personnel with globally aligned training and certifications. He asserted that the Service is the instrumentality through which the Government delivers quality governance to the people.

Congratulating the newly elected Edo Executives and Council representatives for emerging winners in the just concluded elections of CIPM, Dr. Okungbowa pledged the same level of support previously extended to their predecessors. According to him, "The Administrative Cadre is the heart and soul of the Civil Service. Everything revolves around administration and human resource management, because governance is ultimately about people. And as such, strengthening this Cadre is central to achieving the objectives of the government.

"If you succeed at strengthening it, then you would have succeeded in ensuring that government is proactive and productive and that government reflects the wishes and aspirations of the people."

He assured the CIPM delegation of the State Government's support in encouraging increased membership among the Civil and Public servants, noting that the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo remains passionate about repositioning the public sector for enhanced performance and productivity. He commended those who have gone out of their way to secure membership on their own, saying, "I was surprised to hear that our membership figures are still low. We will continue to drive awareness and encourage enrollment into the Institute to raise our professional standards.

"His Excellency, Sen. Monday Okpebholo is quite enthusiastic about ensuring that the Civil and Public Service are well positioned to deliver. For me I am dedicated to this course and I can assure you that the desire to have 100 new members would be achieved. We are also promising you will have an unprecedented number of Edo delegates at the CIPM upcoming 57th International Conference in October. We will be driving awareness within the Service; opening our staff eyes to see the benefit of becoming a member."

Dr. Okungbowa lauded the Institute's dedication to intellectual development and affirmed Edo State's willingness to partner with CIPM in furthering professionalism within the Civil Service. In his words, "Please extend our appreciation to the CIPM President and Chairman of Council. We are ready to partner and support you in



delivering your mandate. CIPM stands out among professional bodies for its credible membership process. I am a very proud member of CIPM. We will ensure we work with you to ensure your success is not just huge but phenomenal."



continue on pg 29

EDO STATE GOVT. SECURES AFFIRMATION OF CONVICTION FOR ARMED ROBBERY CONVICT AT THE SUPREME COURT

By Clementina Agweda

...as Attorney General vows to diligently prosecute criminals



In its determination to continue to combat crimes and criminality in Edo State, the Edo State government through the office of the Honourable Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, Edo State has secured the affirmation of a sentence of death imposed by both the Edo State High Court and court of appeal on one, Sunday Osakpolor by the Supreme Court.

In a judgment delivered today, the 23rd of May, 2025 by Hon Justice Mohammed Baba Idris on behalf of a panel of the Supreme Court, it was held that the Appeal by the appellant (Sunday Osakpolor) lacks merit while the concurrent judgment of the Edo State High Court and Court of appeal Benin convicting him for the offence of armed robbery was upheld.

At the Supreme Court, the appeal was argued by the Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Edo State, Dr. Samson Osagie, who argued that the lower courts were right in convicting the appellant on the basis of the direct evidences adduced by the prosecution and urged the court to dismiss the appeal and uphold the judgment of the lower courts, to which the apex agreed.

In a similar development, the Edo State Government acting through Oshirekun Otokurin, Esq, Assistant Director, Ministry of Justice, and Mrs Okonofua, Principal State Counsel, Edo State Ministry of Justice, secured the conviction of Taiwo Omorede and four others in Charge No. B/CD/163c/2023, who were charged with the offences of armed robbery, Conspiracy, assault occasioning harm and malicious damage, with the first, second and third defendants sentenced to death by hanging while the fourth and fifth defendants were convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment respectively.

Delivering judgement in the case, the presiding Judge, Hon Justice Imadegbello held that the evidence of the prosecution witnesses placed the Defendants right in the scene of the crimes and that the Defendants couldn't substantiate the alibi which they claimed.

These cases and many more that has been successfully prosecuted by the Edo State Government through the office of the Attorney General demonstrates the determination of the Edo State Government under Governor Monday Okpebholo to rid the state of all criminal elements and make the state safe for citizens and investors alike.

EDO HOS PLEDGES PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST CIPM'S MEMBERSHIP ...CONT'D

The President and Chairman of CIPM Governing Council, Mallam Ahmed Ladan Gobir, represented by Osahon Omole, an elected CIPM Council member, commended the HOS unwavering commitments to human capital development and ethical governance, reaffirming the State's dedication to building results-driven, digital and professional Service.

He expressed appreciation for the HOS' support to the Institute, revealing that the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation has recently issued a memo mandating that all administrative and human resource officers across the Civil and Public Service must be professionally certified by a recognised institute.

The Chairman who hinted that the visit coincided with the celebration of the World HR Day, observed annually on 20th May, extended a formal invite to the 57th International Conference and Exhibition, and requested sponsorship for the delegates.

Similarly, the Chairman of CIPM (Edo State Branch), Enobun Ogbemudia Peter lauded Dr. Okungbowa for his reform-driven leadership, which he said has elevated the visibility and integrity of the Edo's Civil and Public Service. He further revealed plans to establish CIPM study centers across the State while proposing the formation of local chapels to expand the Institute's reach.



EDO STATE GOVT, ESOPP GET RSPO'S COMMENDATIONS FOR OIL PALM DEVELOPMENT

By Tony Ogbebor



The Edo State Government and the Edo State Oil Palm Programme (ESOPP) have been commended by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) for the progress in sustainable Oil Palm development in the State.

The recommendation was delivered by a delegate from the RSPO, led by the Senior Manager of the RSPO Global IMO (Independent Smallholder Organization) Programme, Mr. Tri Budiono. He applauded the Edo State Government's commitments through ESOPP in championing sustainable oil palm development in line with the RSPO's principles and promoting sustainability, inclusiveness, and long-term impact.

Mr. Budiono stated that his visit included reviewing the RSPO Community Outreach Programme implemented in the State between year 2022 and 2024; evaluating the Programme's impact; identifying gaps; and exploring strategies to enhance its outcomes.

The General Manager, Edo State Oil Palm Programme Independent Implementation Office, Mr. Churchill Oboh, appreciated Mr. Budiono for his visit and stated that the accomplishments and progress made so far in sustainable Oil Palm development in Edo State are a clear testimonial of the State Government's determination and commitment to transforming the agricultural sector through strategic policies, partnerships, and support at every level.

During Mr. Budiono's engagement with the ESOPP Team, strategic plans and key operational guidelines were discussed; showcasing the depth and effectiveness of the Programme. The ESOPP Team provided insights into its impact in fostering responsible oil palm development whilst protecting community rights, ensuring environmental protection, and transparency. Potential areas for collaboration were discussed as well as efforts to implement the RSPO Jurisdictional Approach in Edo State as practiced in Ecuador and Serbia; with the goal to drive

institutions, and scaling up productivity across the State. Others are the initiatives of fostering agribusiness and improving the investment climate; thereby unlocking new opportunities along the agriculture value chain; attracting local and international partners.

He also emphasized the impact of the newly launched "Back to Farm" Campaign, describing it as an innovative grassroots initiative that is reigniting youth interest in agriculture. He asserted that through targeted support, training, and provision of inputs, the Campaign is effectively addressing rural unemployment while contributing meaningfully to food security across the State.

At the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Peter Osagie, represented by the Director of Agric Services, Mr. Dave Ogunbor, assured Mr. Budiono and the ESOPP Team of the Ministry's commitment to support the initiative of the RSPO and to promote sustainable agricultural practice in Edo State.

The Permanent Secretary reaffirmed the Edo State Government's commitment to deepening its collaboration with stakeholders like RSPO to sustain the momentum of positive change already underway in the State, to consolidate progress, and to scale up sustainable practices across the sector.

Mr. Budiono appreciated the Ministry of Agriculture and the ESOPP Team for the warm reception. He acknowledged the significant progress made and the existing structures that support and promote sustainable agriculture in the State. He assured that in light of the developments, there would be more opportunities for collaboration between RSPO and the Edo State Government.



EDOSEMA CONDUCTS RAPID ASSESSMENT OF RAINSTORM DISASTER IN IKPOBA-OKHA

By Edeniye Abraham Osose

Following a devastating rainstorm that brought down a large tree, which eventually destroyed residential buildings on Osarodion Street in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area of Edo State, the Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA), has responded by conducting an on-the-spot assessment to evaluate the extent of damage with a view to providing succor for the affected residents.

The EdoSEMA Team led by the Executive Secretary, Hon. Jerry Idahosa, during the assessment, expressed gratitude to God that no life was lost in the incident. He assured the victims that the Edo State Government is fully aware of their plight and sympathizes with them. He emphasized that assistance will soon be provided to cushion the impact of the disaster on their lives and properties.

Hon. Idahosa advised residents to be proactive about safety during storm seasons. He specifically cautioned that aged trees especially those over 100 years old and located close to residential buildings, pose serious risks and should be safely removed to prevent avoidable damage.

He reiterated the importance of using the EdoSEMA's emergency toll-free line, '739', or contacting the Agency directly via 08070419855 or 08140848899 concerning



emergencies. He assured the public that the Agency remains fully prepared to respond swiftly to salvage disaster situations.

Victims of the rainstorm, including Mr. Oni Ajayi and Mrs. Phenomena Oyemina, narrated their ordeal and appealed to the Government and other relevant bodies for urgent support, describing the hardship brought upon them by the incident as too much for them to bear.



EDO STATE NEWMAP-EIB UNVEILS CLIMATE RESILIENCE ROADMAP

By Winifred Inarumen

...Showcases 6-Month Work Plan Ahead of June Launch

...Targets Erosion Control, Sustainable Land Use, Climate Adaptation



In a proactive move to address the critical challenges of erosion and land degradation, the Edo State European Investment Bank (EIB)-Assisted Nigeria Climate Adaptation – Erosion and Watershed Project (Edo NEWMAP-EIB), has unveiled its strategic six-month work plan ahead of its official launch slated to hold from June 21, 2025. The initiative aims to tackle severe gully erosion and land degradation across 23 Nigerian states.

Funded by a €175 million loan from the European Investment Bank, the NEWMAP-EIB project represents the continuation and expansion of the earlier World Bank-supported Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP). While the previous project laid a strong foundation in erosion control and watershed rehabilitation, the current phase aims to deliver even greater results through strategic investment, improved institutional coordination, and community-driven solutions.

Addressing the participants at the inaugural meeting, the Permanent Secretary of Edo State Ministry of Environment and Sustainability and Chairman Technical Steering Committee of the Edo State NEWMAP-EIB Project, Mr. Jude Ebodaghe Ekpu, underscored the need to build upon and exceed the achievements of the previous project. He also emphasised that, given the limited financial resources available relative to the magnitude of environmental challenges facing the state, every resource must be utilised with the utmost prudence and efficiency.

“This project must yield outcomes that fully justify the investment,” Mr. Ekpu stated. “Our objective is to position Edo State as a benchmark for climate adaptation initiatives across Nigeria. Prudent and efficient management of funds will be critical to earning the trust required to attract similar opportunities in the future.”

Also speaking at the event, Hon. Ahmed Musa Momoh, State Project Coordinator and Chief Executive Officer of the Edo State Flood, Erosion, and Watershed Management Agency (EdoFEWMA), highlighted that only 10% of the European Investment Bank (EIB) funds will be accessible to participating states during the initial six-month period. He outlined key logistical and administrative prerequisites for the project’s commencement, including the successful recruitment of qualified personnel, provision of office space, procurement of project vehicles, and the timely disbursement of counterpart funding by the state government.

“Timely disbursement and preparedness at the state level are essential to unlocking and efficiently utilising the EIB funds,” he emphasised. Momoh further confirmed that the Edo State Government has already released ₦500 million as part of its counterpart contribution and expressed optimism that additional funding will be made available soon.

Providing a detailed breakdown of the 6-month work plan, Mr. Emmanuel Ekomoezor, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the project, outlined key timelines, performance indicators, and strategies for measuring impact. The discussions also addressed loan repayment mechanisms and the frameworks established to ensure project accountability.

The event brought together key stakeholders—including members of the project’s Steering and Technical Committees—to review and align on implementation priorities. This milestone marks the beginning of a renewed climate adaptation initiative designed to strengthen Edo State’s environmental resilience and promote sustainable land management across vulnerable sub-watershed areas.

The session concluded with robust feedback from attendees, who offered suggestions to improve implementation efficiency and ensure project sustainability. As Edo State approaches the official launch of this significant project, stakeholders remain confident that the NEWMAP-EIB initiative will not only effectively address erosion but also establish a benchmark for integrated environmental management and climate resilience across Nigeria.



REPRIEVE, AS GOV OKPEBHOLO COMMENCES REMEDIAL WORKS ON AUCHI-IGARRA-IBILLO FEDERAL ROAD



Edo state governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has approved the total rehabilitation of over forty five failed portions on the Auchi-Igarra-Ibillo Federal road, as part of moves to revive economic activities in towns and villages within Akoko Edo Local Government Area of the State.

The latest approval is coming, just as the State Government has completed the construction of the Ikiran-Oke Ikakhumoh road, also in Akoko Edo Local Government.

The Auchi-Igara-Ibillo road is one of the many deplorable Federal roads in Edo State being rehabilitated by Governor Monday Okpebholo-led administration.

The road connecting many communities in Akoko Edo Local Government to the rest of the State also serves as a link between Kogi and Ondo States. It serves as a major route for vehicles plying Lagos from Abuja.

Residents of the Area known for quarry business, as well as processing of Cassava, decried the difficulty they face in transporting their goods to the markets.

A commercial driver plying the area explained that the deplorable condition of the road has resulted in fewer drivers plying the route and has increased the cost of transporting goods from Akoko Edo.

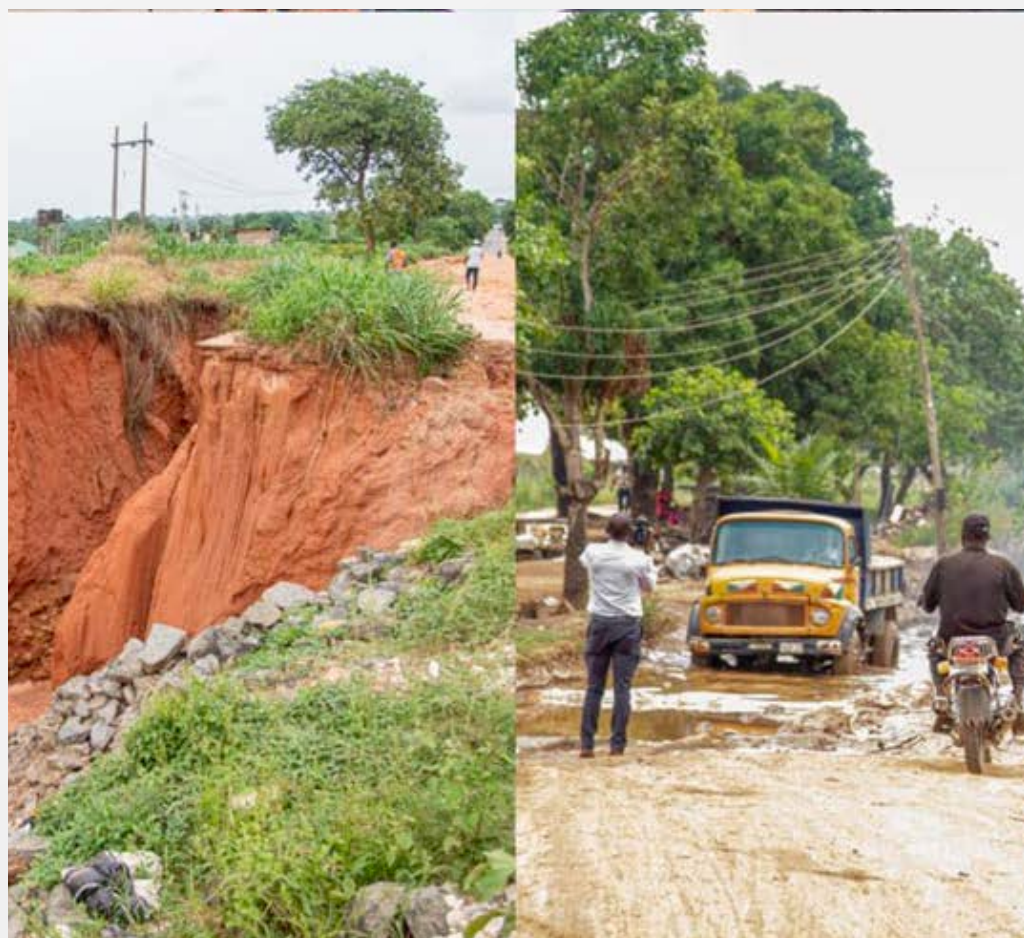
On his part, the contractor handling the project, Mr. Bajwa Hammed, after a preliminary tour of the road, assured Akoko Edo people that all failed sections will be completely rehabilitated to meet maximum standard.

"There are a lot of points that have failed on this road, which need to be done quickly for the safe passage of the people and vehicles. I know the standard the governor wants, and we will deliver on it."

Signed:

Fred Itua,

The Chief Press Secretary to the Edo State Governor.



WE ARE DETERMINED TO SERVE YOU BETTER – UDUIMOH TELLS EDO PILGRIMS IN MECCA

By Abdullah Abdul-Kadir

The Chairman Edo State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mallam Muhammad Musa Uduimoh has told Edo State pilgrims that the Board is determined to serve them better while in the Holy land for this year's pilgrimage.

According to Abdullateef Muhammad of Subtle Media Network who is a member of the NAHCON National Media Team in the 2025 Hajj exercise currently in Saudi Arabia, revealed that Chairman Uduimoh has revealed that the welfare and general care of Edo pilgrims is the responsibility of the Board. Uduimoh therefore advised Edo pilgrims who are currently in Makkah to remain calm, focused and cooperate with the Board and the leadership of the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

"Whenever you encounter any challenge as you are in Makkah, don't hesitate to draw our attention to it. But one thing is certain, we are determined to serve you better than ever." Chairman Uduimoh said.

Edo pilgrims commended the Chairman for proper handling and care for them while in Madinah and in Makkah, noting that the Chairman has proven capacity and experience in his assignment.

Some of the pilgrims however, complained that their Madinah accommodation was better because it was closer to Haram than that of the Makkah which is farer.



Ohonbamu also disclosed that Council approved a 100-bed capacity hospital at Uwessan which will service the nursing school being constructed at Udomi, Uwessan in Esan Central Local Government.

" Finally, EXCO approved the contract for the construction of Uhie Road, off Sapele Road and also the purchase of furniture and electronics for various MDAs which have already been renovated", the Commissioner added.

HON. OMONZANE HOLDS MAIDEN MEETING WITH SUBEB MEMBERS, DIRECTORS

By Ebuaneke Joy

The functioning Chairman of the Edo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Hon. Ebanehita Sonia Omonzane, has held the maiden meeting with the members and the directors of the Board in her office in Benin City.

According to Hon. Omonzane, the meeting was convened to formally interact and familiarize with the Board's leadership, and to be acquainted with the ongoing activities and internal operations of the Board.

Hon. Omonzane emphasized the importance of teamwork and collaboration in achieving the goals and objectives of the Board. She urged all members of staff to remain focused and be committed to their duties, stressing that the success of the Board depends on a collective effort.

She affirmed her resolve to lead by example, highlighting the importance of discipline and punctuality at the workplace, saying dedication to duty and a culture of professionalism will be central to her administration's approach in transforming the Basic Education Sector of Edo State.



The meeting sets the tone for a renewed drive toward efficiency, accountability, and improved service delivery under Hon. Omonzane's leadership in Edo SUBEB.

EDOSEMA SHOWCASES MILESTONES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AT STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP

By Edeniye Abraham Osose



As part of its preparedness campaign, EdoSEMA is enhancing public awareness and emergency reporting through its toll-free hotline, '739'. Community sensitisation drives are being intensified to ensure that residents are familiar with emergency protocols and can respond swiftly to crises.

The Agency is also engaging market leaders to enforce fire safety protocols and improve response mechanisms in commercial hubs. In areas prone to flooding, such as Ekeke-Erah, EdoSEMA is investing in flood-resistant drainage systems and improved healthcare access.

Through robust partnerships with traditional rulers, local governments and civil society organisations, EdoSEMA continues to foster community-led resilience. One of such initiatives was a recent flood preparedness sensitisation campaign in Illushi, in Esan South-East

The Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA) has highlighted its achievements in disaster preparedness and emergency responses during the Stakeholders' Sensitisation Workshop, themed, "Exposing the Programmes and Projects of Governor Monday Okpebholo's Administration," organised by the Edo State Ministry of Information and Communications.

The Workshop which held at the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub in Benin City, convened representatives from ministries, departments and agencies, non-governmental organisations, religious institutions, market associations, student bodies, amongst other stakeholders. The event served as a platform for EdoSEMA to unveil its alignment with the Sen. Okpebholo-led administration's vision of responsive and practical governance in the State.

EdoSEMA's scorecard as presented by its Executive Secretary, Hon. Jerry Idahosa, spotlighted several key interventions across the State. Notably, the catastrophic Ekeke-Erah dam collapse in Owan East Local Government Area (LGA), which devastated farmlands, markets and infrastructure, the Agency swiftly deployed relief materials, including food, mosquito nets and hygiene kits, to affected communities. The Agency also announced ongoing plans to address longer-term impacts such as water purification and related health concerns.

In response to the Jattu Market fire outbreak in Etsako West LGA, EdoSEMA provided financial assistance to 14 traders, who lost their businesses to the inferno, enabling them to restart their livelihoods. Similarly, in the communal clash between Madoti and Gbelebu communities in Ovia South-West LGA, food supplies and financial support were distributed to support reconstruction efforts and restore community peace and stability.

EdoSEMA's efforts extend beyond reactive relief. The Agency has visited 15, out of the 18 LGAs in the State to assess high-risk zones and recommend preventive measures tailored to circumvent or ameliorate local vulnerabilities. The field assessments support the broader objectives of the Project SHINE agenda of the Sen. Okpebholo's administration, which is designed to strengthen grassroots governance through education and civic engagement.

LGA, which covered early warning systems and evacuation procedures.

Despite challenges such as limited resources and public awareness gaps, EdoSEMA remains committed to innovation and collaboration. Plans are in motion to enhance training for emergency responders, leverage data-driven planning tools, and foster public-private partnerships to bolster disaster management systems.

Sen. Okpebholo's administration through EdoSEMA, is reshaping emergency management in Edo State with a 'people-first' approach, integrated policy coordination and deep community involvement. Edo State is steadily positioning itself as a sub-national model for effective, inclusive and sustainable disaster resilience in Nigeria.



EDO STATE GOVT PARTNERS WOMEN IN MINING ON SUSTAINABLE MINING PRACTICES

By Grace Oakhiena



The Edo State Government through its Ministry of Mining in collaboration with the Edo State Chapter of Women in Mining has organized a one-day seminar themed, “Environmental Hazards in Mining Sites and Health Management for Miners” in the Ministry’s Conference Hall in Benin City.

The Seminar which was attended by diverse groups and key stakeholders from the Mining Sector, featured speakers including the Commissioner for Mining, Hon. Andrew Ijegbai; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Omoruyi Ese Martina; Mr. Owen Chinonso from the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals; Geologist Toyin Adegboyega from the Edo State Government; permanent secretaries from line-ministries, amongst others.

Hon. Ijegbai appreciated the initiative of the Women in Mining to reduce mining risks and prioritize miners’ health. He pledged the State Government's support for the women in the industry to prioritize their participation and interests. He concluded that the event served as a platform for stakeholders to discuss critical issues affecting the industry and to explore ways to promote safer and more sustainable mining practices in Edo State

Mrs. Omoruyi, while emphasizing the importance of collaboration and synergy among women in mining to establish their presence and to showcase their capabilities, appreciated the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, for taking steps to enhance safe practices in mining activities. She listed the efforts to include granting the Ministry increased control over mining sites and approving funds for safety kits to serve as practical examples for miners. She asserted that such initiatives underscored the Government’s commitment to reducing risks in the Mining Sector of the State.

The National Financial Secretary of Women in Mining, Chief Mrs. Omo Amadasun, advocated the need for sand quarry owners to prioritize miner’s safety over profits. She emphasized the importance of regular health checkup for workers due to their exposure to environmental hazards such as dust and noise pollution. She called for proper site assessments to prevent accidents such as cave-ins that have resulted

in fatalities. She urged the Ministry and other relevant authorities to implement more regulations to monitor mining sites effectively and to protect miners from harm.

The resource persons delivered lectures on environmental hazards in mining sites, risk management, and the implementation of safety measures. They stressed the importance of sustainable practices in ensuring the long-term viability of the mining industry in the State.

The Permanent Secretary Transformation from the office of the Head of Service, Dr. Mrs. Joy Iyen Akhigbe, raised critical questions regarding mining safety measures. She asked about the types of preventive measures in place to protect miners from hazards and sound; particularly when using earmuffs and receiving urgent safety messages. She also questioned how the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals implements laws governing mining and miners, amongst others.

Dr. Akhigbe commended the Women in Mining for collaborating with the Ministry and expressed optimism that the Seminar would yield better information to improve mining processes and improve safety measures. She appreciated the efforts of the Ministry in generating income, opening new grounds, and exploring new potentials for the State.

The Seminar concluded with a closing remark from the Edo State Coordinator of Women in Mining, Mrs. Nomamidobo Jennifer, who appreciated the Ministry for its support and commitment to advancing the vision of women in mining.



EDO STATE GOVT INAUGURATES TASKFORCE TO CHECK ILLEGAL MINING

By Grace Oakhiena



its unwavering support to the Ministry since he assumed office, and solicited continued supports for the Ministry, as well as the progress of the State.

The Permanent Secretary added that the Taskforce's core duty is to make things right in the Edo State Mining Sector, generate revenue for the Government, and protect the environment for the Edo people. She urged miners to do their businesses rightly, and for the Taskforce to correct all illegalities in the Mining Sector without deteriorating it further.

Mr. Kelly Okungbowa admonished the Taskforce to act rightly, set good precedence, and be transparent in its operations. He assured them that the Commissioner would do everything possible to ensure success of the project.

The Edo State Government through its Ministry of Mining has constituted a taskforce on illegal mining, as part of its commitments towards the mitigation and eventual eradication of illegal mining activities in the State.

The Taskforce was inaugurated in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Solid Mineral Development at the Ministry of Mining's Conference Hall in Benin City. It was presided over by the Commissioner for Mining, Hon. Andrew Ijegbai and had in attendance the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Ese Martina Omoruyi; the Zonal Mines Officer of the Federal Ministry of Solid Mineral Development, represented by Mr. Onimisi; the Deputy Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Mr. Richard Akin; Mr. Kelly Okungbowa, amongst other relevant stakeholders.

Hon. Ijegbai in his remarks, appreciated the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, for approving the Ministry's request for a task force to curb illegal activities in the Mining Sector. He reiterated that the Governor wants to encourage people to do business in the State and will always push for it to be done the right way because only when businesses follow legal procedures, would everyone enjoy the full benefits.

He urged the Taskforce to work within the provisions of the law, stressing the need for them to be exemplary and to carry out their duties with dignity and not give-in to bribery. He explained that the major reason for collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Solid Mineral Development to constitute the Taskforce is to curb illegality in the Mining Sector and not create loopholes for illegal miners to operate in the State.

The Commissioner took the opportunity to urge miners in the State to come for the ongoing verification as the process was for their benefit, asserting that the documentation will make the process of identifying illegal miners in the State easily, to fish them out for prosecution. He appreciated the NSCDC for

The Chairman of the Taskforce, Okpamen Bello in his acceptance speech, expressed gratitude to the Governor, Sen. Okpebholo and the Commissioner, Hon. Ijegbai for the opportunity to work for the people of Edo State. He cautioned miners to desist from any form of illegality, as according to him, the Taskforce would not be partial in enforcing the law against illegal operations.

The inauguration of the Taskforce marks a significant step towards promoting legal mining practices, generating revenue for the Government, and protecting the environment.





Ministry of Information and Communication

STEP BY STEP BREAKDOWN OF

STATE ANTI-CULTISM LAW 2025

- This law replaces the former 2018 enactment and introduces tougher penalties, aimed at rooting out cultism not just from tertiary institutions, but from communities, traditional structures, public offices, and the hospitality industry.
- The law recognizes that cults often change names and tactics and thus defines cultism broadly to cover any group that operates in secrecy or promotes violence.
- The punishment for being a member of such a group, armed or not, is life imprisonment or a minimum of twenty-one years in jail.
- The law also criminalizes any form of sponsorship or support. Those who fund, shelter, or in any way assist cult groups face the same level of punishment as active members.
- The private sector is not left out. Property owners who allow cult meetings on their premises, knowingly or unknowingly, face a minimum of ten years imprisonment and possible demolition of the property.
 - Hotels, bars, and nightclubs have been placed under tighter regulatory control.
 - Establishments that permit cult-related meetings or violent gatherings face up to twenty years in prison and risk forfeiture or demolition of the premises.
 - Law now mandates that all hospitality businesses register with the Ministry of Art Culture and Tourism within a three-month grace period.
- Failure to register will attract monthly fines starting from N100,000
 - All hotels and guest houses must now submit a monthly guest list to the appropriate authorities
 - Brandishing dangerous weapons with the intent to intimidate attracts a ten-year sentence.
 - Possession or conspiracy to procure such weapons near schools or public institutions is punishable with a minimum of five years.
 - Where cult clashes result in injury, a twenty-one-year sentence applies; if a person is killed, the offender faces a capital punishment.

Enforcement agencies have been directed to begin immediate implementation.

- Awareness campaigns are ongoing to educate the public on the provisions of the Law

#StepbyStep
#Anewedohasrising

PICTURES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE IN VISUALS



Edo State Government





Benin-Ekpoma-Auchi highway



New bus terminal in FCT



New ICC in Abuja



Construction of coastal highway



Congratulations

To the Workaholic President

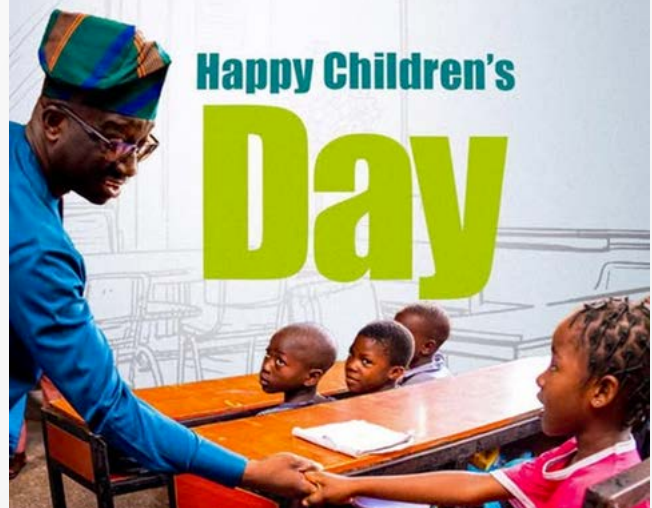
I extend my warm congratulations to His Excellency, **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, on the occasion of his second year in office. Our Renewed Hope agenda continues to steer Nigeria towards progress and development. We in Edo State remain committed to partnering with the Federal Government to build a more prosperous and secure nation for all Nigerians. May your leadership continue to bring positive transformation to our beloved country.





Every child deserves a chance to thrive.
In Edo, we are building that future.

Happy Children's Day



Edo State Govt trains HRM Officers to boost Administrative Competence

Mrs. Gina Otamere urged Edo admin officers to embrace clear, purposeful communication, stressing its vital role in service delivery and professionalism in public service.



The essence of Government is to transform Society - Hon Ohonbamu

Commissioner Paul Ohonbamu urged all levels of government to prioritize citizens' welfare at a stakeholders' workshop showcasing Gov. Okpebholo's programmes and projects in Benin City.



Edo State Govt pledges capacity building, welfare for Children's Parliament

Hon. Bisi Idaomi, reaffirms Gov. Okpebholo's commitment to education and promises a State Assembly visit within 30 days to address key concerns.



REPRIEVE, AS GOV OKPEBHOLO COMMENCES REMEDIAL WORKS ON AUCHI-IGARRA-IBILLO FEDERAL ROAD

Senator Monday Okpebholo has approved rehabilitation of 45 failed spots on the Auchi-Igarra-Ibillo Road to boost economic activity in Akoko Edo LGA.



Happy CHILDREN'S DAY

f @ecoedostate



WE WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU

Via Our
Contacts
Below

