



INSECURITY: GOV OKPEBHOLO SETS UP SPECIAL ANTI-KIDNAPPING, ANTI-CULTISM SQUAD

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has approved the establishment of a Special Security Squad aimed at flushing out kidnappers and cultists terrorizing the State in a bid to address the rising wave of insecurity.

The new operation, titled "Operation Flush Out Kidnappers and Cultists", is a strategic initiative by the Office of the Principal Security Officer (PSO) to the Governor and will be coordinated jointly by the

PSO and the Chief Security Officer (CSO) at the Government House.

For years, Edo State has grappled with worsening security challenges, especially in the form of rampant cultism and targeted kidnappings. The most affected areas have included Benin City, Ekpoma, Auchi, and their environs, with reports of daylight abductions, cult-related killings, and extortion by criminal gangs.

This state of insecurity had led

to the exodus of investors, disrupted local economies, and left residents living in fear.

Since assuming office, Governor Okpebholo has made security a top priority. One of his earliest declarations was the intention to offer amnesty and reintegration to repentant cultists, encouraging them to turn a new leaf and contribute to society.

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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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SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT IS VICTORY FOR EDO PEOPLE OVER BAD GOVERNANCE - OHONBAMU



Edo State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon Paul Ohonbamu has described the Judgement of the Supreme Court as Victory for Edo people from the shackles of bad governance.

The Commissioner who disclosed this in Abuja, shortly after the supreme court dismissed the Petition Challenging the Edo Governorship election, noted that with this outcome of the election as declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Edo people have now been vindicated that they voted for a visionary leader who has been destined to make Edo rise again.

"Today, Edo people celebrate a significant victory for our state from the hands of those who are more concerned about their personal interests and watch the people suffer untold hardship.

"We celebrate a significant victory as our elected Governor,

Senator Monday Okpebholo emerges triumphant from the Supreme Court to give selfless service to his people.

"This milestone no doubt is a testament to the trust in the leadership qualities of the Governor who has demonstrated his resolve to make Edo State one of the foremost leading states in the country in all ramifications". Hon Ohonbamu added.

According to him, "With this verdict by the Apex Court, let us unite in supporting our elected Governor, as the government continues to work tirelessly for the good of our state.

"The Governor is on a mission to prove a point, that Edo has Risen. Together, we can build a brighter future and overcome the challenges of the past.

"This is a clarion call on everybody to rally behind our Governor and work collaboratively to drive progress and prosperity for all with the Project 'SHINE' agenda.



RELIEF, AS GOV OKPEBHOLO REVIVES MORIBUND WATER SCHEME IN EDO STATE

UGBOHA WATER PROJECT SIGNALS FRESH ERA IN INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL, PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has launched a comprehensive overhaul of the state’s urban water infrastructure, beginning with the revitalization of the long-abandoned Ugboha Water Supply Scheme in Edo Central in a bid to address the challenge of water scarcity in the State.

The revival of the Ugboha Water Supply Scheme marks the first step in a statewide intervention targeting critical water supply systems across the three senatorial districts.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Edo State Urban Water Corporation, Hon. Uyi Ekhosuehi, revealed that when he assumed office just over two months ago, his first assignment was a needs assessment of Ugboha, a community that had been without water due to a complete breakdown of the dam and treatment plant, following years of neglect, vandalism, and poor implementation.

“What we found was disturbing,” he said. “The dam was down, and the treatment plant had stopped functioning. Worse still, substandard materials were used in the original project , particularly the improper mix of ductile iron and PVC pipes, which caused extensive leakages and system failure.”

He noted that the Governor, recognizing the urgency, swiftly approved the procurement of durable and appropriate replacement pipes.

“The governor graciously gave the green light for new pipes, saying that Ugboha cannot be the host community of this project and still lack water. That prompt decision is what brought us to this stage”. Ekhosuehi said.

He remarked that the new pipes had been delivered, and excavation work for their installation was already underway, a visible sign of the administration’s swift response and action-oriented governance.

Hon. Ekhosuehi also disclosed that beyond just restoring supply, the administration is also planning to increase the system’s output capacity. He revealed that the Ugboha River has the potential to produce 30 million liters of water per day, compared to the current output of just 3 million liters, further underscoring the strategic importance of the project.

The local community has welcomed the development with open arms. Speaking on behalf of residents, Elder Abanokha Stephen, Chairman of the Ugboha Water Consumers Association, commended the administration’s responsiveness and transparency.

“When this project was first executed, we had water briefly. But due to poor-quality pipes, the system failed. We've cried out many times. Now, for the first time in years, we are seeing government action”. He said.



INSECURITY: GOV OKPEBHOLO SETS UP SPECIAL ANTI-KIDNAPPING, ...CONT'D



To facilitate the operation’s mobility and effectiveness, the request notes that vehicles and motorcycles will be deployed for patrol and tactical operations.

This initiative is not without precedence. In 2016, a similar civilian anti-cult group was launched in Ekpoma, which significantly reduced cult violence and kidnappings in the area.

Recalling this success, the current administration believes that replicating such civilian-driven operations across the State will yield measurable and sustained security improvements.

Speaking after granting the approval, Governor Okpebholo reiterated his administration’s zero-tolerance stance on violent crimes.

“We will not allow criminality to dictate the future of our State. Edo State must be safe again for our children, for investors, and for those in the diaspora who want to come home and contribute”. He stated.

This initiative yielded early success as some former cult members embraced the call and joined community policing and civic education programs.

However, the continued activities of hardened criminals have necessitated a more robust response. According to a formal memo, dated July 11, 2025, the new operation will collaborate with the Nigeria Police and other sister security agencies to dislodge deadly cultists and kidnapping syndicates operating across the 18 local government areas.

The squad will consist of a carefully profiled and recruited team of able-bodied men, including repentant cultists, hunters, and vigilantes. These recruits will form local squads within each LGA, ensuring community involvement and swift operational response to security threats.

Security agencies have now been placed on red alert across the State. The Governor has directed the PSO and CSO to ensure full implementation of the operation, noting that accountability, professionalism, and community engagement must remain at the heart of the new initiative.

As “Operation Flush Out Kidnappers and Cultists” takes off, hopes are high that Edo State is entering a new chapter in its quest for peace and security, one where citizens, security forces and community leaders work hand in hand to reclaim the streets from the grip of criminal elements.

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

RELIEF, AS GOV OKPEBHOLO REVIVES MORIBUND WATER ... CONT'D



Elder Stephen expressed hope that the restored Ugboha water scheme would not only benefit Ugboha town but eventually extend across the larger Esan region, improving access to portable water for thousands of residents.

The inspection team was met with jubilation at the community market square, where women, youths, and elders gathered in large numbers to express their gratitude. The community’s excitement and participation underscored the deep significance of the project to their daily lives.

The Ugboha initiative reflects Governor Okpebholo’s broader commitment to restoring basic public utilities across the state, with a governance model rooted in responsive leadership, strategic planning, and the delivery of tangible results.

As more communities across Edo brace for similar interventions, the administration has signaled that it is not only focused on high-profile infrastructure but is equally committed to the vital, often overlooked systems that improve quality of life at the grassroots.

GOV OKPEBHOLO MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI



His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State, on behalf of the government and the people of Edo State, mourns the demise of former President Muhammadu Buhari, who passed away in a private hospital in London, England.

In a statement released by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Fred Itua, Governor Okpebholo described the late former President as a true patriot, a disciplined leader, and a man of unwavering integrity who dedicated his life to the service of Nigeria.

"It is with a heavy heart that we received the news of the passing of former President Muhammadu Buhari," Mr. Itua quoted the Governor as saying.

"His Excellency was a man of immense character, whose commitment to combating corruption and ensuring national security left an indelible mark on our nation's history. He served Nigeria with uncommon zeal and selflessness, and his legacy of probity and patriotism will forever be remembered."

Governor Okpebholo highlighted former President Buhari's

significant contributions to Nigeria's development, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, and the fight against insurgency.

"Even after leaving office, President Buhari remained a respected elder statesman, offering invaluable counsel and guidance whenever called upon. His deep love for Nigeria was evident in every decision he made and every action he took."

The Governor extended his deepest condolences to the Buhari family, the government and people of Katsina State, and indeed, all Nigerians, during this period of immense grief.

He prayed for the repose of the soul of the departed leader and for strength and fortitude for his loved ones to bear this irreplaceable loss.

"May his soul rest in perfect peace," Governor Okpebholo concluded.

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

GOV OKPEBHOLO SUSPENDS COMMISSIONING OF EDOLINE BUSES IN HONOUR OF LATE FORMER PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI

In a mark of deep respect and national mourning, the Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has announced the suspension of the commissioning ceremony of 102 ultra-modern buses acquired for the newly rebranded Edoline Mass Transit Scheme.

Governor Okpebholo stated that proceeding with the flag-off of the public transportation initiative at this time, following the unfortunate passing of Nigeria’s former President, Muhammadu Buhari, would be insensitive and out of tune with the national mood.

"President Muhammadu Buhari was a towering figure in Nigeria’s democratic journey and governance history. As a people, we must reflect this period of national loss with appropriate solemnity. Therefore, we have decided to postpone the unveiling of the Edoline buses in honour of his memory". The Governor said.



The Governor extended his heartfelt condolences to the immediate family of the late President, the government and the people of Katsina State, and indeed all Nigerians who feel the weight of this monumental loss.

He further expressed regret over the inconveniences caused to invited guests, dignitaries, stakeholders, and members of the public who had looked forward to the event. He assured them that a new date for the commissioning will be communicated in due course.

Governor Okpebholo reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to providing reliable and people-centered public transportation and pledged that the Edoline initiative will soon be operational to ease intra-urban mobility for Edo residents.

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



EDO STATE GOVT EDUCATES YOUTHS ON DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE

By Wisdom Agbonta



Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, Prof. Omoregie encouraged stakeholders to join forces in creating a secure and nurturing environment that fosters students' overall well-being and success.

In a bid to equip attendees with necessary knowledge to identify substance abuse, the Director of Rehabilitation of the Ministry, Mr. Okoeguale Sylvester, did a presentation on the common signs and symptoms to look out for in children who are experimenting or struggling with drug and alcohol addictions.

The highlight of the event was the question-and-answer session, which provided participants the opportunity to gain clarity on issues related to substance abuse.

In commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Edo State Government through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, has hosted a sensitization event as part of its "Catch Them Young" Initiative; a proactive campaign designed to enlighten young people about the dangers of drug and substance abuse.

The year 2025 Commemoration themed "Break the Circle, Stop the Crime," was held at the main Auditorium of the University of Benin (UNIBEN), Ugbowo Main Campus in Edo State. In an address, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi Esq., represented by the Director of Finance of the Ministry, Mrs. Mary A. Izeghaigbe, noted that drug abuse has become one of the most pressing public health and security challenges in recent times.

According to Chief Idaomi, "Drug abuse impairs mental health, destroys academic and career ambitions, severs family ties, fuels criminal behaviour, and increases the likelihood of accidents and violence. For every addict, there is a family in pain; a dream derailed, and a community weakened."

Highlighting the Sen. Monday Okpebholo-led administration's unwavering dedication to Edo State residents' welfare, Chief Idaomi disclosed that the Governor has accorded top priority to tackling drug abuse, acknowledging its disastrous impact on individuals, families, and the broader society. She urged young people to make choices based on verified information that would shape their future and to be a generation that refused to be lost to drugs; instead chooses purpose, health, and greatness.

The Vice Chancellor of UNIBEN, Prof. Edoba Bright Omoregie, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Prof. Victor Ogie Igbineweka, while acknowledging the significance of the event and the University's responsibility to its students and its proactive approach to addressing the challenges they face, noted, "As an institution of higher learning, we recognize our role in shaping the lives of young adults and promoting a culture of health, wellness, and responsibility."

Present at the event was the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Ekehuan Campus, UNIBEN, Prof. Buniyamin Ayinde, the Representative of the Registrar, Mrs. Toski Omage-Umeh, the Dean of Students' Affairs, Prof. Fredrick Ekhaise, the Ag. Librarian, Tuoyo Meggison Esq., the Acting Bursar, Mr. Gabriel Osadolor, the Students' Union President, Comrade Agboola Israel Timilehin, amongst others.



EDO STATE GOVT LEADS AUTISM AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, ADVOCATES INCLUSIVITY

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Edo State Government through its Office of the First Lady, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has led an autism awareness and sensitization campaign aimed at dispelling misconceptions and fostering inclusivity for individuals with autism in the State.

At the event themed; “Advancing Neurodiversity and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” held at the New Festival Hall, the Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, reiterated the State Government's commitment to supporting individuals with autism through funding, policy initiatives, amongst others. She called for a society that promotes inclusivity and provides a comfortable environment for concerned individuals to thrive.

According to Mrs. Anani, "His Excellency, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, Governor of Edo State has pledged to increase funding and policy support to strengthen diagnostic, therapeutic and educational services for children and adults on the spectrum. Neurodiversity is a beautiful testament to human uniqueness and every individual deserves the opportunity to excel. Many individuals with autism face discrimination in accessing quality education, healthcare, employment and social acceptance. It is essential that we work together to create a society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive".

Mrs. Anani urged stakeholders to join efforts in raising awareness about autism and providing meaningful support to affected individuals, saying, "I urge all Edo residents to join me in embracing neurodiversity and promoting a society that values diversity and inclusivity. Let's raise awareness about autism and promote education that supports individuals with autism. Let's provide individuals with autism with the necessary resources and care to reach their full potentials".

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomole, while advocating inclusion for autistic individuals, dispelled common myths about autism, emphasizing that it is neither a disease nor a spiritual issue. In his words, "Autism is not a disease. It is not

caused by bad parenting. It is not a spiritual curse. It is a neurodevelopmental condition and people with autism have the capacity to live fulfilling and productive lives when given the chance. We must challenge stigma wherever we see it, in our communities, in our workplaces and even within ourselves. Let us promote acceptance, not pity. Inclusion, not tolerance."

Dr. Oshiomole expanding on the Campaign's scope, noted that it's not just about awareness, but also, about providing meaningful support and creating inclusive environments. He stated, "It is about changing attitudes, promoting inclusion and building support systems that allow every child, irrespective of where they fall on the spectrum, to thrive, to dream, and to live a life of dignity and purpose".

During an interactive session with some parents, they commended the Sen. Okpebholo-led Government for the initiative, expressing gratitude and urging its sustainability. The Programme featured musical and drama performances, poetry recitations, and art exhibitions from special needs children of Salem Montessori Special Needs School, Project Charilove, amongst others. It also included discussions on speech therapy, occupational therapy, autism nutrition, among others. Highlight of the event was an auction of the students' artworks testifying to their unique abilities.



PROBE: EDO STATE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON OBASEKI'S TENURE



"We are just about eight months in office, but by the time we are two years in office, Edo people will know they have a Governor who is ready to work for the interest of the people."

Governor Okpebholo thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu who stood his ground and ensured the right thing was done.

Governor Okpebholo assured Edo people that his administration would open the books to check the dealings of the previous administration, led by Governor Godwin Obaseki.

Edo State Governor, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, on Friday, said his administration will set up a Commission of Inquiry to look into former governor Godwin Obaseki's records.

The Governor disclosed this while speaking to party leaders, youths, market women, civil servants, professional bodies and groups during a victory parade held on Friday, July 11th, 2025 in Government House, Benin City, Edo State.

Governor Okpebholo and his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Dannis Idahosa were received when they returned from Abuja after the Supreme Court judgement that affirmed the victory of the Governor, his Deputy and the All Progressive Congress (APC) at the September 21st, 2024 governorship elections.

Addressing the crowd, Governor Okpebholo thanked God for his victory at the Supreme Court. He said it is time to work and promised that in the next two years, Edo people will know that they have a Governor.

He noted that the Obaseki-led administration used consultants to run the affairs while he looted the treasury dry.

Governor Okpebholo revealed that his administration, while opening the books of EdoGIS, discovered that a consultant was hired and paid N6 billion and another additional N2 billion for "ordinary software."

He noted that his administration has developed its own software and has sent the consultant packing.

"I directed training of our own people who are now handling the job. We have sent the consultant away from the State, saving money to develop Edo State.

"Our Civil Servants are well trained. We have the best brains in the State, but Godwin Obaseki used consultants instead of utilizing the human resources in the State. We are saving money today as a Government because we are using the Civil Servants to do the jobs consultants were formerly doing.

"I will open the books to check the financial dealings and how Obaseki governed Edo State in the last eight years. A university in this State received N47 million under Obaseki's administration, while he paid consultant N51 million. This was not good enough. They wanted to continue with this act, but God helped us to push them out.

"Since I came into the office, I have not sacked anybody but rather continued with the Civil Servants I met in the office. The Head of Service during Obaseki's administration is still working with me. So also with a lot of Permanent Secretaries in the Civil Service". He noted.

He said his administration will set up a Commission of Inquiry and the books of the previous administration will be opened and officials of that administration will be interrogated on how they governed Edo people in the last eight years.



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PROBE: EDO STATE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ...CONT'D



"Edo was tired of transactional people and thieves, but now we will look into their records. I will take two years out of eight years, and Edo people will see the difference. We will set up a Commission of Inquiry to look into the books and dealings of the previous administration. We will open interrogation to check their records.

"They have finished fighting us, and now I am ready to fight back and ensure that all those that cheated Edo people in the last eight years are all brought to book". He said.

Governor Okpebholo told APC supporters that Asue Ighodalo and his party kept money for the election as well as for court cases.

"They were looking for judges to bribe or buy, but they could not find any. They kept money for elections as well as court cases, but God disappointed them. The people voted for me as their Governor, and the various courts affirmed the mandate. The Supreme Court judgment is final, as the five judges ruled in my favour".

Deputy Governor Dannis Idahosa, who was also excited at the Supreme Court ruling, commended the Governor for helping the party win the various stages of court cases, stating that it is now time to be focused and work for Edo people.

A former Deputy Governor, Comrade Philip Shaibu, thanked God for the victory of the Governor and the party at all levels. He said this is the time to work as Edo people will be grateful for voting for Senator Monday Okpebholo as their Governor.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

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

EDO STATE GOVT PARTNERS FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS ON ENHANCING TECHNICAL EDUCATION



As part of ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening collaborations and advancing the Edo State's Technical and Vocational Education in alignment with the State Government's agenda, the Executive Chairman of the Edo State Board for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Barrister Mrs. Onomen Briggs, has paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Ministry of Education in Abuja.

Mrs. Briggs disclosed that the initiative was in line with the Governor Monday Okpebholo's vision of ensuring quality education in the State and

commended the Governor's unwavering support and dedication to education, particularly in promoting skills development and empowering young people through vocational training. She added that the visit was part of plans aimed at reinforcing Edo State's commitment to working closely with Federal stakeholders in the Education Sector to drive sustainable progress in TVET.

During the meeting of Mrs. Briggs with Dr. Muyibat Adenike Olodo of the Department of Technology and Science Education at the Federal Ministry of Education, discussions were focused on fostering stronger synergy between the Edo State Government and the Federal Government's efforts to enhance the delivery of quality Vocational Education nationwide.

Dr. Olodo commended the Edo State Government for its proactive engagement and pledged the Federal Ministry's continued support for initiatives aimed at improving Technical Education outcomes.

The highpoint of Mrs. Briggs engagement with Dr. Olodo and her Team was the appraisal of the shared vision between Edo State and Federal governments, and the pledge that the engagement would ensure long-term success in building a skilled and productive workforce for the future.

EDO STATE GOVT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES

By Gloria Osemudiamhen

...EQUIPS WOMEN, OTHERS WITH AGRICULTURAL STARTER PACKS



protect the environment. Emphasizing the economic, financial and health implications of the “Garden in Every Home” Initiative, he stated, “Food is not just sustenance; it is medicine. A functional garden in every home, school and Health Facility, means improved access to fresh nutritious food, better child growth and development, enhanced management of non-communicable diseases, reduced food costs for families and above all, a healthier, more self-reliant population.

“The Federal Government, through its Food and Nutrition Policy Framework, has set a clear benchmark”.

The administration of Sen. Monday Okpebholo as Governor of Edo State has reaffirmed its commitment to agricultural development and food security through the initiative of empowering women, youths and children across the State.

The commitment of the Edo State Government was reiterated by the Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, during the Renewed Hope Initiative Agricultural Programme, which held at the New Festival Hall in Government House, Benin City. She clarified that the Programme is an initiative of the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu and that it is designed to promote food security and improve livelihoods in communities across the Country as part of a broader national agenda to strengthen the Agricultural Sector.

Mrs. Anani emphasizing the importance of agricultural empowerment for the demographics, supported its crucial role in achieving sustainable agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. She stated, “Today we would be empowering women, youths and young farmers club in agriculture. Through these segments, we aim to enhance food security and reduce poverty, promote sustainable agricultural practices, increase agricultural productivity and efficiency, and support entrepreneurship and job creation in agriculture”.

Encouraging the “Every Home a Garden Initiative”, Mrs. Anani announced plans to empower women, youths, and school children with seedlings for home gardens, with a monitoring exercise to track progress. She disclosed that the top three performers of the Initiative will receive grants, comprising ₦1 million for the first position, ₦500,000 for the second position, and ₦300,000 for the third position respectively.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomole added that the Campaign aims to promote health, sustainability, and dignity by using land to nourish families and

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Golden Ogbodu, revealed that the Government is boosting food security and economic growth through sustainable agriculture initiatives through the provision of tractors and the distribution of fertilizer to local farmers. He disclosed that the Government has plans to provide hectares of land to farmers’ cooperatives; deploy bulldozers and tractors to prepare the land and provide seeds, stems and fertilizers to grow crops.

Mr. Ogbodu added that tractors will be deployed for harvesting and off-takers will be provided to buy directly from local farmers, asserting that through the initiative, local farmers, particularly women would be economically empowered and food security will be guaranteed in the State.

The empowerment Programme included poultry and crop farming. Beneficiaries were drawn from the three senatorial districts of the State and equipped with essential resources, including day-old chicks, feed, feeding troughs, seedlings, knapsack sprayers, fertilizers, wheelbarrows and cash grants amongst others.



EDO STATE GOVT, COMMITTED TO DATA MANAGEMENT, DIGITAL GOVERNANCE - HOS

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



The Edo State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa has reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Sen. Monday Okpebholo-led administration to strengthen Data Management and Digital Governance within the State's administrative systems.

Dr. Okungbowa gave the assurance while playing host to the Management Team of the Edo State Digital Governance and Data Management Agency (Edo DIDA), led by its Functioning Managing Director, Dr. (Mrs.) Ewere Sam-Urope, at the State Government House in Benin City. He reaffirmed the Governor's full support for the Agency's mission, and emphasized the critical role data plays in modern governance, noting that Public and Civil Service delivery has become increasingly scientific and data-driven, moving away from outdated transactional models to more strategic approaches.

The HOS stated, "Governance within the Civil and Public Service has become more strategic than ever before. If we are to make tangible progress, we must consistently reassess, reevaluate, and interrogate our operational frameworks, including our processes, timelines, action points, and deliverables." He cited insights from the recently concluded International Civil Service Conference, which was held in Abuja, warning that the Edo State Civil Service must embrace ongoing reforms or risk being left behind.

Dr. Okungbowa commended Dr. Sam-Urope and her team for their resilience and impactful contributions despite various challenges. In his words, "Edo DIDA plays a pivotal role in driving reforms across the Civil and Public Service landscape. It is imperative that we provide the necessary support and enabling environment to allow the Agency to thrive."

Highlighting Edo DIDA's digital initiatives, the HOS lauded the progress of the OneEdo Platform, which aims to consolidate all Government services in a single digital interface. He described

the platform as potentially transformative, stating that if fully adopted, the initiative will revolutionize service delivery across the State. He also lauded the Edo State Government (EDSG) Electronic Attendance System, noting its potentials to instill discipline and accountability by digitally monitoring staff attendance.

On training, Dr. Okungbowa stressed the need for post-training evaluations by ensuring that training outcomes align with strategic objectives. "Training must be prioritized and outcomes must be measurable. It is not enough to conduct trainings, we must ensure they contribute directly to our development goals as a service". He concluded.



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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION: GOV OKPEBHOLO CONNECTS ABANDONED COMMUNITIES TO NATIONAL GRID

...ADDRESSES ESTIMATED BILLING, VANDALISM OF POWER INFRASTRUCTURE, OTHERS



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo has launched an ambitious and far-reaching ‘Rural Electrification Programme’ designed to break the cycle of infrastructure neglect and power deprivation in Edo rural and semi-urban communities.

This bold initiative is already lighting up communities, revitalizing local economies, and reshaping the narrative of development across the state.

The programme, being spearheaded by the Edo State Electrification Agency (ESEA), represents a critical component of the Governor’s campaign promises to restore dignity to rural communities, stem rural-urban migration, and stimulate economic development at the grassroots level.

The State Government's mission is to deliver electricity across all strata of the State: urban, semi-urban, and rural through a blend of national grid access, independent power generation, and renewable energy sources, such as solar mini-grids.

At the heart of this transformation lies the Edo State Electricity Law, recently signed by Governor Okpebholo, which deregulates the State’s electricity sector and provides a legal framework for private-sector participation, investment, and localized energy solutions.

“Before now, Edo was limited by national regulations. With this new law, we have our own electricity commission, empowered to license, regulate, and attract investments in generation and distribution. This is not just reform. It is a revolution,” Hon. Egbadon Saturday, Director-General of Edo State Electrification Agency, stated.

Negotiations are in advanced stages with several independent power providers, one of which is poised to commence operations within months. These providers will generate and distribute electricity directly within Edo, reducing dependence on the overstretched National Grid and ensuring more reliable access for residents.

The electrification initiative is being rolled out rapidly across under-served communities. Several villages in Edo Central Senatorial District, including Ibore, Atuagbo, Ugbaro, and Ikilor, have been reconnected to the grid after decades of darkness. In the case of Ikilor, the village received electricity for the first time in its history, marking an emotional and historic milestone.

“The programme goes beyond infrastructure. It inspires hope, trust, and collective ownership.

In some villages, local residents have voluntarily cooked for contractors, supported their work, and celebrated the return of electricity as a communal victory. What was once dismissed as mere campaign rhetoric has become a living reality”.

Governor Okpebholo’s strategy is anchored not only on delivery but also on sustainability. The administration is actively engaging public-private partnerships to ensure the continuity of projects beyond the current government.

“We are building systems that outlast personalities. Private investors are part of the architecture to guarantee expansion and maintenance”. Egbadon explained.

To protect investments and infrastructure, the government is also intensifying efforts against vandalism, a recurring challenge, through widespread community sensitization, legal enforcement, and collaboration with local leaders and youth groups, the ESEA is promoting a culture of public ownership.

“This infrastructure belongs to the people. We are urging communities to protect what is theirs. Vandalism is sabotage against progress, and we are enforcing laws that will bring offenders to justice”. Egbadon said.

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EDO STATE GOVT, COMMITTED TO DATA MANAGEMENT, DIGITAL ...CONT'D



In her remarks, Dr. Sam-Urope stated that the visit aimed to update the HOS on the Agency’s achievements, future plans and challenges requiring strategic support. She announced that the OneEdo Platform is ready to be launched, following the successful onboarding of more services on the Platform and the recently held comprehensive stakeholders' meeting with representatives drawn from 18 ministries departments and agencies (MDAs).

According to her, the Platform is designed to enable citizens access Government services digitally to minimize the need for physical visits to MDAs. She disclosed plans to embark on MDAs’ ward round to

showcase the Platform’s capabilities and to encourage MDAs to leverage on its functionalities. She asserted that the Data Governance Portal, which was developed in collaboration with the Data Science Nigeria (DSN), is a vital tool for evidence-based policymaking.

Dr. Sam-Urope cited the Edo Business Connect Portal, which was developed in partnership with the Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO), as a one-stop shop for business registration, visibility and access to Government services as well as opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). She added that DSN recently facilitated capacity-building trainings for the Agency staff and data champions from various MDAs, to further enhance the State's digital competency.

She gave an update on Edo Voice; an upcoming automated citizen feedback platform, which is designed to allow residents to lodge complaints and receive prompt responses. According to her, the platform which adopts a “See Something, Say Something” approach, aims to foster transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance by ensuring citizens' voices are heard and their concerns addressed digitally and efficiently.

In attendance were the Director of Shared Services, Office of the Head of Service, Mr. Edwin Oaikhena Edionnweme, the Director of Strategy and Communication, Edo DIDA, Mr. Patrick Ikpato, the Director of Data and Analytics, Edo DIDA, Engr. Franklin Oghuma, amongst others.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION: GOV OKPEBHOLO CONNECTS ABANDONED COMMUNITIES ... CONT'D



The administration has also taken a firm stance on metering and billing transparency. In response to longstanding complaints over estimated billing, the State Government has mandated that no household will be connected to power without a meter. Through the National Mass Metering Programme and partnerships with local manufacturers, the delivery of meters is now capped at 10 working days post-payment.

“In every newly electrified village, full metering will be completed before the end of the month”. Egbadon affirmed.

This electrification drive is a central pillar in Governor Okpebholo’s broader vision of inclusive growth, where infrastructure serves the people, and development is felt across every ward and community, not just urban centers.

The Edo State Government calls on all citizens to embrace this transformation by protecting public infrastructure, supporting local development, and reporting acts of sabotage or non-compliance.

As Governor Okpebholo’s administration accelerates this electrification agenda, more communities will be reached, and more lives will be uplifted.

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

EYIF: EDO STATE GOVT EQUIPPING EDO YOUTHS WITH RELEVANT SKILLS, RESOURCES TO DRIVE POLICY CHANGE - ANANI

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo has called on youths in the State through the Edo Youth Impact Forum (EYIF), to harness innovation and entrepreneurship to drive policy change and pursue their aspirations, as pathway to fulfilling their dreams and achieving greatness.

Sen. Okpebholo made the call at the maiden EYIF, themed "Empowered Youth, Transformed Future," which held at the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub in Benin City. Represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Umar Musa Ikhilor, he reaffirmed the Government's dedication to youth empowerment through the SHINE Agenda, which focuses on human capacity building and education, amongst others. He disclosed that the programme is the first of several initiatives aimed at empowering youths and driving positive change.

According to the Governor, "As a government, we have a very strong inclination towards empowering our youth and ensuring that we give them the necessary tools and create the enabling environment for them to thrive, and this programme today is a testament to a key aspect of our SHINE Agenda, which is human capacity building and education. So practically, we are trying to empower our youths so that they go out there and make great things happen. This is going to be the beginning of several other initiatives to come. We believe that today is going to be a day for



birthing dreams; dreams that can change the world".

In an address, the Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, encouraged youths to unlock their potential and harness the power of innovation and entrepreneurship in driving success. In her words, "We encourage our youths to take ownership of their future by identifying potentials and chasing their dreams, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship".

Mrs. Anani reaffirmed the Edo State Government's commitment to providing Edo youths with essential support, including digital literacy, vocational training, and mentorship, in fostering their development. She also pledged the commitment of her Office, saying, "As the Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, I am committed to supporting and empowering our youths to become leaders and change makers in their communities. We recognize the importance of equipping our youths with relevant skills, knowledge, and resources to excel in their chosen fields. Our amiable Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, has done tremendously well, ensuring every Edo youth is adequately empowered".

She urged stakeholders to partner in supporting the youths and advised them to reject social vices and be positive role models for the State. In her words, "I encourage you all to shun all forms of vices; cultism, rape and internet fraud and promote a culture of peace and development".

The Team Lead of the EYIF 2025 Project and Special Adviser to the Governor on Investment, Mr. Kizito Okpebholo, expressed gratitude to the Governor, Sen. Okpebholo for conceptualizing the project, which according to him, has become a platform for empowering youths. He charged the winners of the "Hack the Future" initiative to make wise investments with the resources they have received.

The event featured an innovation and creativity session, insightful master classes, a thought-provoking panel discussion themed "From Hustle to Scale: Building Sustainable Youth-led Enterprises," and a sensational performance by John Ighodaro, also known as Johnny Drille. The highlight was the presentation of cash prizes of ₦2 million business grant to each of the top five winners of the "Hack the Future Challenge" pitch competition to fuel their entrepreneurial dreams



OKPEBHOLO GETS COMMENDATION FOR RECRUITING BEST HANDS INTO SERVICE

By Violet Osatohanmwun Obamwonyi



The Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo has again been lauded for his deliberate and strategic approach in appointing competent individuals into key leadership roles within the State Civil Service.

The commendation was given by the Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa while receiving an Award of Excellence presented by the Director General (DG), Directorate of Education Quality and Accountability (DEQA), Dr. Amen Ogbemudia, during a visit to his Office at the State Government House in Benin City.

Receiving the award, Dr. Okungbowa further commended the Governor for appointing Dr. Ogbemudia as the DG of the Directorate, noting that such decisions reflect the Governor’s ability to recognize talent and prioritize merit within the Service.

“I must commend the Governor for identifying you, knowing the quality that you bring and what the Service stands to gain from your leadership. Mr. Governor knows how to get the best hands into the Service. In your case, it was fixing a square peg into a square hole”. He said.

The Head of Service expressed gratitude to Dr. Ogbemudia and her Team for the gesture, describing the recognition as a call to greater responsibility. He commended the DG for her dedication and competence, emphasizing the significant value she brings to the system.

“I would like to appreciate the DG and members of her Team for this unique honour they have given me today. For me, this is a call for support. I want to promise that by the grace of God, I will do my best to ensure that you get all the support required to make a tremendous success out of this work. I have known you for a long time and I have no doubt in my mind about the quality you bring. The Civil Service will benefit immensely from your leadership and I believe you will achieve phenomenal success”. The Head of Service asserted.

On her part, Dr. Ogbemudia expressed deep appreciation for the support and trust placed on her by the Edo State Government, attributing the ongoing transformation in the Civil and Public Service to the Governor's visionary leadership. She stated that the decision to present the HOS an award was long overdue, as his contributions towards transforming the Service have not gone unnoticed.

“I truly appreciate our Governor for giving me the opportunity to serve. With the support of this Team, I am confident that the Directorate will witness a new era of innovation and impact. Today, I have the honour and privilege to recognize all that you have been doing and how far he

has contributed his own quota to the development of the Service. The decorum we see in the Service today is credited to your pursuit of excellence. You are a man of quality and where there is quality, there can be no room for mediocrity. I look forward to your support as the DG of the Directorate of Education Quality and Accountability.” She concluded.



EDO STATE GOVT MOURNS YOUNG FLOOD VICTIM, URGES FLOOD SAFETY, VIGILANCE

By Edeniye Abraham Osose



The Edo State Government has paid a condolence visit to the family of Master Nathan Spencer, a schoolboy who lost his life in a recent flood incident in the Uselu area of Egor Local Government.

Representing the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, the Commissioner for Education, Dr. Paddy Iyamu, with the Principal of Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA) and the Executives of Egor Local Government Council, described the loss as painful, noting that Nathan was a child with potentials. He said the tragedy affected not just the family but the entire State.

It was reported that the child was taken to a private school outside his area to sit for an examination, where he was exposed to the danger of flood. The Governor admonishing parents on their decisions, called for care and urged them to make decisions that prioritize safety, assuring that his Government will continue to improve on its responses.



The Executive Secretary of EdoSEMA, Hon. Jerry Idahosa, stressed the need for awareness and patience during rainfall. He pointed out that most floods in areas like Uselu are short-lived and little delays could equate maximum safety. He cautioned that poor waste

disposal continues to block drainage systems and worsen flooding. He said EdoSEMA is working with the Ministry of Environment and the Waste Management Board to educate the public on proper practices.

Hon. Idahosa said his presence at the visit was part of the Agency's response to emergencies and to support the bereaved family. He assured residents in the State of continued engagement to prevent future loss of life.

The Chairman of Egor Local Government Council, Hon. Dr. Ighodalo Kelvin Eguakun, urged residents to avoid moving through flooded areas during the rainy season. He said the Council was clearing drains and maintaining infrastructure but needed the understanding and support of residents. He advised parents and pupils to be cautious and to wait for floodwaters to subside before leaving home, especially during early morning hours.

Nathan's father, Mr. Paul Spencer, appreciated the Government for its support. He said the family was devastated by the loss but acknowledged the officials' presence and concern. The visit ended with prayers for the family. The State and Local governments pledged to stand by the family and to continue efforts to improve safety across the State.



EDO STATE GOVT COMMISSIONS A 5-MAN COMMITTEE ON RESOLVING DAGBALA MINING DISPUTES

By Grace Oakhiena



As part of the Edo State’s commitment to guaranteeing peace amongst business operators and their host communities, the Edo State Ministry of Mining has constituted a five-man committee to investigate and proffer practicable solutions towards resolving constant misunderstandings amongst mining companies, new investors, and host communities around Dagbala in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of the State.

is working tirelessly for the growth of the Community and that the Ministry is fair in its decisions. She urged clan heads and youth of the Dagbala Community to be peace makers and not to stir up problems that will hinder the growth of the Community. She concluded that the Edo State Government aims to create a conducive environment for mining activities, which will benefit the State and the local Community.

The Committee was constituted during a meeting which held at the Ministry of Mining Conference Room in Benin City and was presided over by the Commissioner for Mining, Hon. Andrew Ijebai. Stakeholders at the event included the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mining, Mrs. Omoruyi Ese, Directors of the Ministry, representatives of various mining companies in Dagbala and representatives of host communities.



The Committee was tasked with the responsibilities of creating a seamless process for farmers, investors and miners with regards to allocation of space for gold mining, registration of farmers for appropriate evaluation of their crops and proffering a workable plan to better ease the interactions of farmers and miners in the area.

According to Hon. Ijebai, the Committee's composition of odd number allows for fair decision-making through voting. The Committee’s membership included two from the Ministry of Mining, two from Makana Makana Company and one from the Community indigenes to ensure Government’s oversight and policy implementation on the one hand; bringing industry expertise and perspectives; as well as providing local insights and representation of Community interests; on the other hand.



The Permanent Secretary reiterated the need for all parties to work with the vision of the State Government as the Ministry

GOV OKPEBHOLO APPROVES ₦1 BILLION ANNUAL BURSARY FOR EDO STUDENTS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS



The Executive Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has approved the sum of ₦1 billion as bursary support for students of Edo State origin in tertiary institutions across the country.

Governor Okpebholo, during a town hall meeting with young people in Edo State recently, pledged to look into a passionate request made by various youth leaders.

The youths, had requested for the introduction of bursaries to assist Edo indigenes pursuing higher education in various institutions nationwide.

The approval of the bursary initiative by Governor Okpebholo, barely eight months in office, is expected to become an annual program designed to ease the financial burden on students and their families.

According to Governor Okpebholo, eligibility for the bursary will be based on proper verification through the applicant's Local Government of Origin to ensure that only genuine indigenes of the State benefit from the scheme.

Governor Okpebholo emphasized that the initiative aligns with his administration's broader vision to enhance access to quality education, encourage academic excellence, and support the aspirations of Edo youths to contribute meaningfully to the development of the State and the nation.

Further details on application procedures and timelines will be made available by the various relevant government agencies.

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

GOVERNOR OKPEBHOLO, IMPACTING LIVES POSITIVELY ACROSS EDO STATE - OHONBAMU



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo is rewriting the narrative in the state with the positive impact on the lives of the people and on going renovations of schools across the state.

The Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon Paul Ohonbamu who disclosed this in a statement in Benin City said Edo people are now feeling the impact of governance as contractors are busy working across the local governments in the state.

According to him, this new wave of positive change across the state will improve the learning environment of students who had to cope with the dilapidated buildings in the past.

"We have been getting feedback that the state has become a construction site and they are proud of what they see.

"Due to this visible development, they now align themselves to the Project SHINE agenda.

Even the youths are encouraged with the recently organized Edo Youth Impact Forum where several of the youths who excelled in their calling were gifted two

million naira each by the State Government.

"This goes to show that Governor Monday Okpebholo is covering the entire field and spectrum". The Commissioner noted.

Hon Ohonbamu further stated that Governor Okpebholo is determined to provide visible, verifiable and community driven projects that directly impact the lives of the people.

While assuring Edo people of improved service delivery by the State Government, the Commissioner said there are landmark projects ongoing across the communities in the state.

"The State Government is providing functional boreholes for improved access to potable water and installations of solar-powered electricity in communities across the state.

"There are road constructions going on within the various communities, improved healthcare delivery system, security of lives and property, agricultural incentives and several meaningful developmental strides". He added.

EDO STATE GOVT CANVASSES MORE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES WITH FMITI

By Gloria Osemudiamhen

... AS EDO GRADUATES FIRST 50 FEMALE CNG CONVERTERS IN NIGERIA



we can have more initiatives like this in the State especially for the girl child and women. It will help them with a sense of purpose".

In a remark, the Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, Sen. John Owan Enoh, represented by his Senior Special Adviser on Strategic Communications, Mrs. Ifeoma Williams, reaffirmed his commitment to women empowerment saying, "Women empowerment is something that is very dear to Sen. John, particularly in this renaissance of Nigeria's industrialization".

The Director General of the National Automotive Design and Development

The Edo State Government, through the Office of the First Lady, led by Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, has solicited for more programmes on women empowerment from the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), towards the socio-economic and political emancipation of women in the State.

Mrs. Anani made the case on behalf of the Edo State Government while playing hosts to representatives of the FMITI in her office at the State Government House, Benin City. The FMITI's visit precedes the forthcoming graduation ceremony of the 50 females, who have been trained as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) converters in the State.

Appreciating the FMITI's visit to the State, Mrs. Anani described Edo as a land rich in culture and heritage, stating, "Edo is a beautiful and vibrant land, deeply rooted in its culture and heritage. It is a land full of opportunities. Under the leadership of the Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, a new era has begun, bringing fresh possibilities and progress." She commended the initiative of empowering women through mechanics training and sought more collaborations on supporting women and the girl child, to enhance their economic empowerment and development.

According to Mrs. Anani, "It is highly commendable bringing women into the space that is male-dominated.

We are promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as well as, indirectly having women work on the vehicles. Because we are empowering them, we are making them multimillionaires. We are giving them, and they are giving back to the society. They are also contributing to our GDP.

"It is really important. We are removing the girls from the streets and bringing them into more productive things. It is a good thing, I really commend you. I would really appreciate if

Council, Mr. Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin, commending Mrs. Anani's collaboration, noted that the initiative was part of their broader efforts to encourage the adoption of energy transition technologies. According to him, "This is the first one we are doing; the first time in Nigeria. Edo is unique when it comes to mechanics. Edo happens to be one of the states with the highest number of female mechanics in the whole of Nigeria and happens to be leading when it comes to CNG. Even when CNG was not popular in other areas, Edo was already using CNG.

"We are having our first all-female training right here in Edo, and we are very grateful for the support we have received from you and from your office. We are talking of new CNG as well as electric vehicles. So, for us to encourage our people to start looking at energy transition, moving to new energy vehicle, which is electric.

"We have already secured a space in Benin City and we have discussed with UNIBEN, they are providing a space for us, where we are going to build a charging station for electric vehicles. By the time we start, it will encourage everyone to start using electric vehicles. We are ready for collaboration. Whatever we can do, we will do to support the State. And we want you also to support us so that we can succeed on our mandate".



EDO STATE GOVT COMPENSATES RAINSTORM VICTIM WITH ₦2M

By Edeniye Abrahm Osose



The Edo State Government in fulfillment of its commitment to the well-being of its citizens has fulfilled its promise with the presentation of the sum of N2 million as support to Mr. Felix Jude Iredia, a victim of the severe rainstorm which struck Benin City on 20th February, 2025.

During a brief presentation ceremony on Thursday, 3rd July, 2025, at the Edo State Emergency Management Agency (EdoSEMA) office, under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Hon. Jerry Idahosa, a cheque of ₦2 million was handed over to Mr. Iredia as a token to ameliorate his plight, resulting from the rainstorm.

The effect of the rainstorm which caused the collapse of a billboard tower near the Mobil Filling Station along the Ekenwan-Siluko Interlink Road, was the complete destruction of Mr. Iredia’s vehicle, although no life was lost.

In the distress, he contacted EdoSEMA, which promptly conducted an on-the-spot assessment, and the findings recommended immediate support; a commitment now fulfilled.

Speaking to journalists at the presentation, Hon. Jerry Idahosa said, "We are here to fulfil one of Governor Okpebholo’s core promises, which is prioritising the welfare of every Edo citizen. This ₦2 million compensation is a gesture to cushion the devastating

impact Mr. Iredia suffered as a result of the February rainstorm. It is our sincere hope that such a tragic incident never occurs again."

Mr. Iredia expressed gratitude, saying, "This support has restored hope to my life and that of my family. On that day, my car was destroyed beyond recognition, leaving me devastated. However, the prompt response from EdoSEMA

and this generous intervention from the Governor has restored my hope. I sincerely thank Governor Okpebholo for this timely intervention".

The relief to Mr. Iredia is another testament to EdoSEMA’s proactive disaster response, and it reinforces the Governor Okpebholo-led administration’s dedication to ensuring that no citizen is left behind in times of need.



EDSG ADVOCATES SKILLS ACQUISITION AS PANACEA FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



The Edo State Government through the Office of the First Lady, led by its Coordinator, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, has emphasized the importance of skills acquisition as a rapid pathway to economic empowerment, stating its significance to include fostering self-reliance, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

Mrs. Anani made the assertion while addressing the Miss Edo International representatives at the Government House in Benin City, where the Managing Director of the Edo State Skills and Development Agency (Edo Jobs), Hon. Kerimu Shehu Kelly was recognised as a major stakeholder.

“Skills acquisition is very important to me. Beyond your education, you also need to have a skill. It is another way of empowering yourselves and I always say that to become a millionaire, you have to become an entrepreneur. Millionaires are not found in government spaces. Look at all the millionaires, they are entrepreneurs, not politicians. They are bringing money into our society and contributing to our GDP”. Mrs. Anani said.

The Coordinator further explained how societal needs create opportunities for entrepreneurship and productivity, which enable individuals to create their own jobs and

contribute to their community through innovative solutions.

"There is a need in society and you have to find a solution to it. People have birthday parties every day, so there is a need for catering. People want to dress nicely, so there is a need for fashion designers, people want to look good, so there is a need for beauticians. Makeup has become a big business that many people are now aware of. Not everyone can have a white-collar job, but you can still be productive and give back to society". She continued.

Mrs. Anani reaffirmed her commitment to collaborating with the Miss Edo International on its pet projects and advised that the initiatives should prioritize giving back to the society.

On her part, the Organizer of Miss Edo International, Miss Debby Benson, expressed gratitude to Mrs. Anani for her leadership skills, collaboration and for the opportunity to learn new skills through the Edo Jobs programme, which, according to her, has been a valuable experience. She disclosed her plans on giving back to the society by opening her own business and training other ladies.

STATE LAWMAKERS VISIT EDOFEWMA, EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCED FLOOD, EROSION CONTROL

By Winifred Inarumen



The Chief Executive Officer of the Edo State Flood, Erosion and Watershed Management Agency (EdoFEWMA) and Project Coordinator of Edo NEWMAP-EIB, Hon. Ahmed Musa Momoh, together with the Agency’s Management Team, recently received members of the Edo State House of Assembly Committee on Environmental Sustainability and Transport during a working visit to the Agency’s office.

During the meeting held at the Agency’s conference room, Hon. Momoh provided an overview of ongoing flood and erosion control efforts across the state. He highlighted various projects and desilting operations currently being undertaken by the Government through EdoFEWMA, including works at the Federal High Court along Benin-Auchi Road, Oba Market Road to Obakhavhaye Junction, Gapiona and Urora Ponds, as well as over 50 additional locations. He emphasized the government’s commitment to significantly reducing the incidence of flooding and gully erosion across the state, with particular focus on high-risk areas such as Jettu-Ibie Road and Auchi Water Tanker Road in Edo North, Gapiona in Edo South, and Uhiele off Opoji Road in Ekpoma, Edo Central, among others.

According to Hon. Momoh, “the Agency is ready to work, but all we need is the backing of the government at all levels in the State”.

In response, the Chairman, Committee on Environment, Sustainability and Transport Hon. Okaka Eric Allison, acknowledged the extensive responsibility placed on EdoFEWMA and pledged the Committee’s support.

Commending Hon. Momoh’s leadership, Hon. Okaka urged the Agency to maintain momentum and ensure efficient use of available resources. He reaffirmed the administration’s commitment, under the leadership of Governor Monday Okpebholo, to safeguarding lives and properties through strategic flood and erosion control measures.

He also cautioned against project delays, emphasizing that contracts must be delivered on schedule to prevent cost overruns. “Even when funding is delayed, work should continue.

The government of Senator Monday Okpebholo is committed to meeting its obligations and will not leave contractors unpaid”. He assured. He further advised that only capable and financially stable companies should be engaged for project execution to ensure progress regardless of funding timelines.

Also speaking, Hon. Aiguoabarueghian Charity, a member of the Committee, reaffirmed the Committee’s commitment to supporting EdoFEWMA and pledged to advocate for the Agency in order to enhance its capacity to deliver improved services to the people of Edo State.

The administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo remains firmly committed to tackling the challenges of flooding and erosion across Edo State. However, achieving sustainable progress

requires the active cooperation of residents, particularly by refraining from practices that undermine the integrity and effectiveness of the State’s flood management infrastructure.



EDO STATE GOVT PARTNERS GIZ ON STRATEGIES AIMED AT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

By Wisdom Agbonta



As part of commitment aimed at enhancing human capital development and creating sustainable employment opportunities for residents, the Edo State Government under the administration of the Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, through its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, has held a strategic meeting with representatives of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) to finalize the Integrated Employment Strategy (IES) 2024 – 2028.

The IES is designed to address the employment needs of residents in the State through five strategic pillars, including Infrastructure and Urban Development; Education, Skills, and TVET; Technology and Innovation; Investment and Economic Development; and Health and Social Protection.

During a stakeholders' engagement, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Chief Bisi Idaomi Esq., underscored the significance of the partnership with GIZ, assuring the Edo State Government's commitment to providing social protection and empowerment programmes for women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and widows.

According to Chief Idaomi, the Edo State Government's partnership with GIZ aims to identify gaps in skills development, support women's economic empowerment through child care services, GBV response systems and equitable pay initiatives; development and expansion of public work programmes for unemployed and vulnerable populations in the State.

The engagement afforded the Commissioner with her team and the representatives of GIZ to share insights and give recommendations, which will inform the development of a sustainable strategy focused on promoting women's empowerment in the State.



EDO SUBEB GUIDES EDUCATION SECRETARIES ON STRENGTHENING QUALITY EDUCATION OUTCOMES

By Ebuankpe Joy



The Executive Chairman of the Edo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Hon. Ebanehita Sonia Omonzane, has convened a meeting with all Acting Education Secretaries (AESs) from the eighteen Local Government Areas for a comprehensive review of staff conduct, regulatory compliance and service delivery in the Basic Education Sector, as part of the Board's commitment to enhancing quality education standards in the State.

In an opening address, Hon. Omonzane underscored the critical roles of discipline, transparency and professionalism in the development of learners and the corresponding impact on the reputation of the Edo State's education system.

"We must lead by example. The conduct of school personnel directly impacts teaching quality and community trust". She said.

On her part, The Director of Shared Services, Mrs. Blessing Amadasun, presented data on recurring infractions ranging from unauthorized absences and habitual lateness to abscondment and unapproved leave, with a reminder that such breaches of the Public Service Rules carry serious consequences.

Meanwhile, The Director of Legal Services, Mrs. Justina Odubel, cautioned against illegal fee collections in schools and addressed recent reports of Gender-Based Violence, reiterating SUBEB's stance of zero-tolerance for any form of human rights violation.

The Board Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Ada Oluku called for rigorous record-keeping and adherence to established procedures, stating that accurate documentation and accountability are non-negotiable. She highlighted how transparent processes foster fairness and curb malpractices.

The Director of Quality Assurance, Mr. Goodluck Edowandangbon, outlined the duties of Quality Assurance

Officers, urging school heads to maintain up-to-date logs on attendance, student performance and infrastructure. While the Director of Special Programmes, Mrs. Eunice Onuabagbe, appealed for intensified community outreach to boost enrollment of children with special needs and announced that Edo State currently operates twelve dedicated special schools.

Other Departmental Heads including Planning, Research and Statistics, Procurement, Social Mobilization and Physical Project Planning each took turns to explain their functions and how collaboration with AESs can drive SUBEB's mandate forward.

During an interactive session, the Representative of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) clarified that the Union's official meetings hold four times annually and not during instructional hours, dispelling misconceptions about unauthorized teacher absences.

Highpoint of the engagement was the Board Chairman's directives which included the submission of a weekly visitation plan covering at least ten schools, during holidays by the AES, adding that, two teachers must remain on duty daily at every school.

She further stated that, secretaries must partner with community leaders to safeguard school property, while cautioning that AESs should only recommend candidates for the position of a Head-Teacher, as the final appointments rest solely with the appropriate authorities.

The meeting was attended by Board members including Pastor (Mrs.) Angela Okpamen (Edo South), Chief Christopher Abuya (Edo Central), Chief Idris Aminu (Edo North), and Directors of the Board's Departments. The engagement reaffirmed the Board's commitment to promoting discipline, compliance and quality assurance in the Basic Education Sector of the State.

AKOKO-EDO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN INAUGURATES PHC TASKFORCE

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe



In compliance with the Edo State Government's directives geared towards fostering quality HealthCare across Local Government Areas (LGAs) as enshrined in the practical governance of the SHINE Agenda of the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, the Akoko-Edo Local Government Council Chairman, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue, has inaugurated the Primary Health Care (PHC) Health Committee Taskforce to improve on the HealthCare service delivery system across the ten wards of the LGA.

Welcoming stakeholders to the inauguration ceremony, Rt. Hon. Oshionogue disclosed that the initiative aims to reposition the PHC system in the LGA to enhance Health Sector and address most health-related challenges at the grassroots. He revealed his administration's readiness to make health care delivery affordable, available and accessible, especially to the underserved and vulnerable people in the area.

The Council Boss disclosed that the LGA operates a robust health system with about forty functional PHCs strategically located across its ten political wards, saddled with the responsibility of delivering critical duties such as watchdogs, provision of accountability among others in collaboration with the Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency as well as the Local Government's frontline Health workers.

Rt. Hon. Oshionogue added that his administration had embarked on a full-scale renovation of three of its Primary Healthcare Centres, which were at different stages of completion as part of efforts aimed at improving infrastructure, functionality and quality health care delivery,

saying that the gesture would be replicated in all other facilities.

He promised to show commitment and assist the Committee deliver on its mandate and tasked the Committee on the highest level of integrity and professionalism.

The Chairman commended the stance of Edo State Government on quality leadership, support and revitalization agenda, pointing out that the initiative would engender new standards in PHC operations and outcomes.

Assuring of their determination to work in continuous collaboration with the Council Boss in fostering a more robust health care delivery system in the LGA, the leader of the Akoko-Edo Legislative Arm, Rt. Hon. Nicholas Akoseli Imashimi, appreciated Edo State Government for the laudable initiative. The Health Educator, Mr. Ajakaiye Jackson, added that the State Government's Initiative would eliminate all bottlenecks associated with immunization resistance in the LGA.

Highpoint of the ceremony was the official inauguration of the Committee. Its membership included Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue (Chairman), Dr. Abu Agbokhade Gift (Secretary) and members including, Rt. Hon. Tope Jacob, Rt. Hon. Nicholas Akoseli Imashimi, Rt. Hon. Hope Monday Afolabi, Rt. Hon. Pendo Eshovo, Rt. Hon. Thompson Samuel, Hon. Utuogbai Elizabeth, Hon. Ojo Pius Momoh, Mrs. Obende Philomina, Mrs. Sarah Adebayo, Mrs. Amunega Victoria, among others.



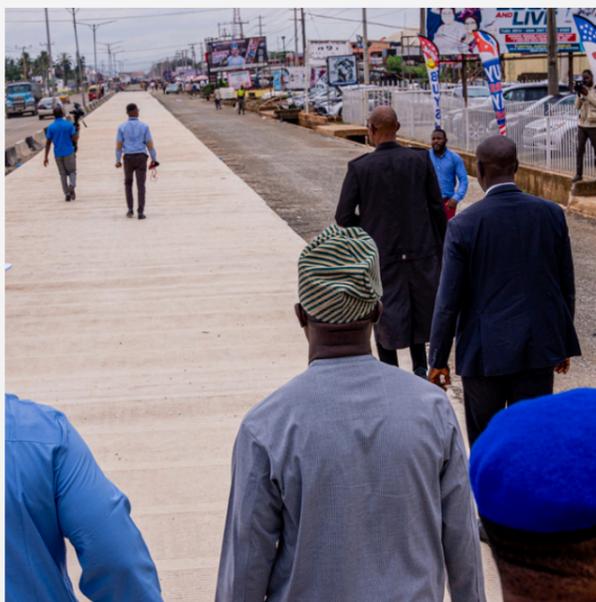
Ministry of Information and Communication

FACTS ABOUT DIPHTHERIA AND DENGUE FEVER

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

#Anewedoisrising
#stopdiphtheria
#Denguefever

PICTURES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE IN VISUALS

GOVERNOR
Okpebholo

His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo, extends profound gratitude to the judiciary for its courage and fidelity to justice, and to the great people of Edo State for their unflinching support, patience, and faith in democracy. He renews his vow to lead with humility, compassion, and accountability.



" You remember during my campaign to this community, I promised that I was coming to fix this road . It is about seven months into our administration now. We are here to officially flag-



"This victory is a clarion call on everybody to rally behind one Governor and work collaboratively to drive progress



" The approval of 1 billion naria annual bursary for Edo students in tertiary institutions aligns with my administration's broader vision to enhance access to quality education, encourage academic excellence, and support the aspirations of Edo youths to contribute meaningfully to the development of the State and the nation"

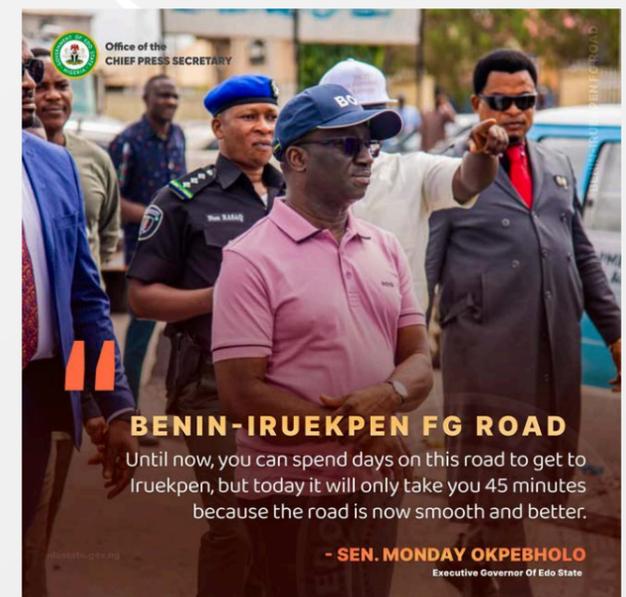


" I argue all Edo residents to join me in embracing Neuro diversity and promote a society that values diversity and



GOVERNOR OKPEBHOLO COMMISSIONS KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN SOKOTO STATE

On Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025, Senator Monday Okpebholo, the Executive Governor of Edo State, commissioned key infrastructure projects in Sokoto State, Seat of the Caliphate. Some of the projects commissioned by Governor Okpebholo were Tamaje Water Scheme and the Mabera Township Roads. The projects' commissioning were part of activities marking the second year anniversary of the administration of His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Aliyu of Sokoto State.



BENIN-IRUEKPEN FG ROAD

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

- SEN. MONDAY OKPEBHOLO
Executive Governor Of Edo State



WE WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU

Via Our
Contacts
Below

