



GOV OKPEBHOLO READS RIOT ACT TO CRIMINALS, VOWS TO CHASE THEM OUT OF EDO STATE

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has announced that criminals will have no hiding place in Edo State under his administration.

The Governor made the bold declaration while commissioning over 300 motorbikes for distribution across the State's three senatorial districts to enhance security operations.

The commissioning, which took place at the Government House in Benin City, attracted

top security and government stakeholders, including the Edo State Commissioner of Police, CP Monday Agbonika; Commander of the 4 Brigade Nigerian Army, Brig. Gen. Ebenezer Oduyebo; and the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Alhaji Gani Audu, among others.

Governor Okpebholo, said the motorbikes are specifically designed to support security agencies in accessing hard-to-reach terrains, particularly

forest areas where criminal elements often seek refuge. According to the Governor, "We promised our people during the campaign that we would fight insecurity and restore peace to every part of Edo State. Today, we are fulfilling that promise. These bikes will be deployed across the senatorial districts and will help security agencies reach areas where vehicles cannot go."

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HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

55

His Excellency

**SEN. MONDAY
OKPEBHOLO**

Executive Governor, Edo State





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ABOUT THE NEW EDUCATIONAL POLICY IN EDO STATE



GRADUATION CEREMONY GUILDINES

NO NURSERY AND PRIMARY GRADUATION PARTY

Graduation ceremonies are restricted to pupils who have completed Basic Education (Primary 1-JSS 3) and Senior Secondary 3



TEXTBOOKS REUSE POLICY

Younger siblings may use approved textbooks previously purchased by their older siblings.

All approved textbooks will remain in use for a minimum of four years before review by the Ministry of Education.



MADATORY ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS TRAINING

FOR JSS 3 STUDENTS

Compulsory entrepreneurship training for every JSS 3 student. Upon graduation will be issued two certificates:

The Basic Education Certificate (BECE), and A Skill Acquisition Certificate in their chosen trade Subject.



GOV OKPEBHOLO READS RIOT ACT TO CRIMINALS, VOWS TO CHASE THEM OUT ...CONT'D



He added: “Let me be clear, criminals must leave Edo State. These motorbikes, along with other security technologies we are deploying, will make it very difficult for them to operate. We are not just equipping the system. We are maintaining it. These bikes will be properly serviced and supported to ensure continuous use.”

Commissioner of Police, CP Monday Agbonika, hailed the initiative as a “new dawn” in Edo’s security efforts, especially in tackling forest-based crimes like kidnapping. Agbonika said: “This is a great day in our fight against crime. With these motorbikes, we can now go deep into the forests where criminals hide. The days of impunity are over.”

He called on residents across the state to support security agencies by sharing credible information to aid crime prevention and investigation.

In a related development, Governor Okpebholo also commissioned heavy-duty equipment, including bulldozers, low-bed trucks, and tractors to enhance the operational capacity of the Edo State Waste Management Board.

The move is aimed at ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for Edo residents.

While addressing stakeholders at the commissioning, the Governor criticized the past administration’s practice of renting equipment monthly at exorbitant costs.

He said: “The previous administration spent over N50 million monthly to rent caterpillars for waste management. That is not sustainable. These machines were not rented, they were purchased with Edo people’s money for Edo people’s use.”

The Governor emphasized that his administration is committed to long-term investments that deliver value to the people rather than enriching consultants and contractors.

Managing Director of the Edo State Waste Management Board, Lucky Enehita-Inegbenah, commended the Governor for the strategic investment, describing it as a major leap forward in environmental sanitation.

He said: “With these new machines, we now have the capacity and capability to clean Edo more effectively. This is a sign that the Governor truly cares about the welfare of the people.”

Governor Okpebholo's twin interventions in the security and environmental sectors mark a significant step in his administration’s resolve to build a safer, cleaner, and more efficient Edo State.

As security agencies prepare to roll out their operations with renewed strength and the waste management board boosts its response capacity, the Governor reaffirmed his commitment to practical leadership and results-driven governance.

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

GOV OKPEBHOLO RESCUES OVER 10 ACCIDENT VICTIMS ON BENIN-AUCHI HIGHWAY



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, on Saturday, August 30, 2025, displayed uncommon compassion and leadership when he personally intervened to rescue victims of a ghastly motor accident along the Benin–Auchi Road after the bypass.

The governor, who was en route to Irrua in Esan Central Local Government Area with his entourage, encountered a heavy gridlock after the bypass and immediately alighted to assess the situation.

On arrival at the accident scene, he met several victims in critical condition, many bleeding profusely, while bystanders stood helplessly, recording videos instead of offering assistance.

Moved by the dire state of the victims, Governor Okpebholo ordered two of his security Hilux vehicles to be converted into an emergency transport vehicle.

He personally supervised as over injured passengers, including a woman with severe injuries, were lifted one after another into the waiting vehicle and rushed to the hospital for urgent treatment.

Eyewitnesses recounted that the accident was caused by the driver of a white Toyota Venza, with registration number ABUJA, GWA 50 AW, who drove against traffic, resulting in a collision involving four vehicles; three commercial mini buses loaded with passengers and the Venza. The impact left scores injured and caused a major traffic standstill.

The governor remained at the accident scene until he was assured that the victims were safely conveyed to a medical facility under the escort of another security vehicle, before continuing his journey to Irrua.

His swift action drew applause from motorists, residents, and sympathizers, many of whom hailed him as a humane and God-fearing leader who places the sanctity of life above all else.

“Before the governor arrived, people were only taking pictures and videos. But he came, took charge, and ensured the victims were rescued. This is the kind of leader we need; one who leads with compassion and action,” an eyewitness remarked.



ABANDONED OBA MARKET IN BENIN ROARS BACK TO LIFE, AS GOV OKPEBHOLO SETS COMPLETION DATE FOR JUNE NEXT YEAR



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has reaffirmed his resolve to deliver on his campaign promises as he inspected the ongoing reconstruction and remodeling of the historic Oba Market in Benin City, which was destroyed by fire nearly a decade ago.

The Governor, accompanied by senior members of his administration, was received with cheers by jubilant traders who had long endured unfulfilled promises of market reconstruction during the previous administration.

For many of them, the inspection marked a moment of restored hope that their livelihoods would soon be revived.

Speaking to traders and market women after the inspection, Governor Okpebholo emphasized that the reconstruction was being executed under the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which has made resources available for States to drive critical development projects.

He assured traders that the new market would not only restore their businesses but elevate the marketplace into a modern commercial hub.

"This market has remained in ruins for the past ten years," the Governor recalled. "During my campaign, I promised the people that if elected, I would rebuild the Oba Market. Today, I am fulfilling that promise. It is important that leaders keep their word."

"This reconstruction is being powered by the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President, and we are committed to ensuring that Edo people enjoy the dividends of democracy."

Governor Okpebholo disclosed that the remodeled market will be designed to function like a modern shopping mall, complete with restaurants, a crèche, a sick bay, and a mini fire station to forestall future tragedies.

"We will not displace the original occupants of this market," he added. "Rather, we are building a better environment for them to thrive. The money being spent belongs to Edo people, and it is only right that it serves their welfare."

He further assured that the project would be completed ahead of schedule, stressing that his administration would hold the contractors accountable for timely delivery.

"The contractors have assured us of completion next year, but we will push them to deliver even earlier". The Governor said.



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GOV OKPEBHOLO DECRIES DEPLORABLE STATE OF DOCTORS' RESIDENCE, APPROVES IMMEDIATE RENOVATION

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



PHOTO CAPTION

2nd Left: the Permanent Secretary, Directorate of Human Resources Office of the Head of Service, Mrs. B.J Igbinoaro; 3rd Left: the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Stanley Ehiarimwian; 4th Left: the President, Association of Resident Doctors, Dr. Peter Evbuomwan; 5th Left: the Head of Service, Edo State, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa; Middle: the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. Andrew Iyamu; 4th Right: the Director of Establishments Labour and Productivity, Victor Okenini Esq and other ARD members during an on the spot inspection of the Doctor's Residence in Benin City.

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has approved the immediate renovation of the Doctors' Residence at Ezoti following concerns raised over its deplorable state.

This development was disclosed during an on-site inspection of the residence led by the Head of Service, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa, in company of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. Andrew Iyamu, the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomole who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Stanley Ehiarimwian and members of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), Edo State Chapter.

Dr. Okungbowa, speaking on behalf of the Governor, described the approval as a reflection of Senator Okpebholo's leadership style, which prioritizes practical governance and workers' welfare, adding that the Governor's swift instruction underscored his passion for strengthening the health sector under his SHINE Agenda, noting that within just 24 hours, the inspection team was already on ground to commence follow-up action.

Further commending the Governor's prompt decision-making, he noted that the approval to renovate the residence underscored the current administration's commitment to relieving workers of unnecessary burdens in line with the SHINE agenda.

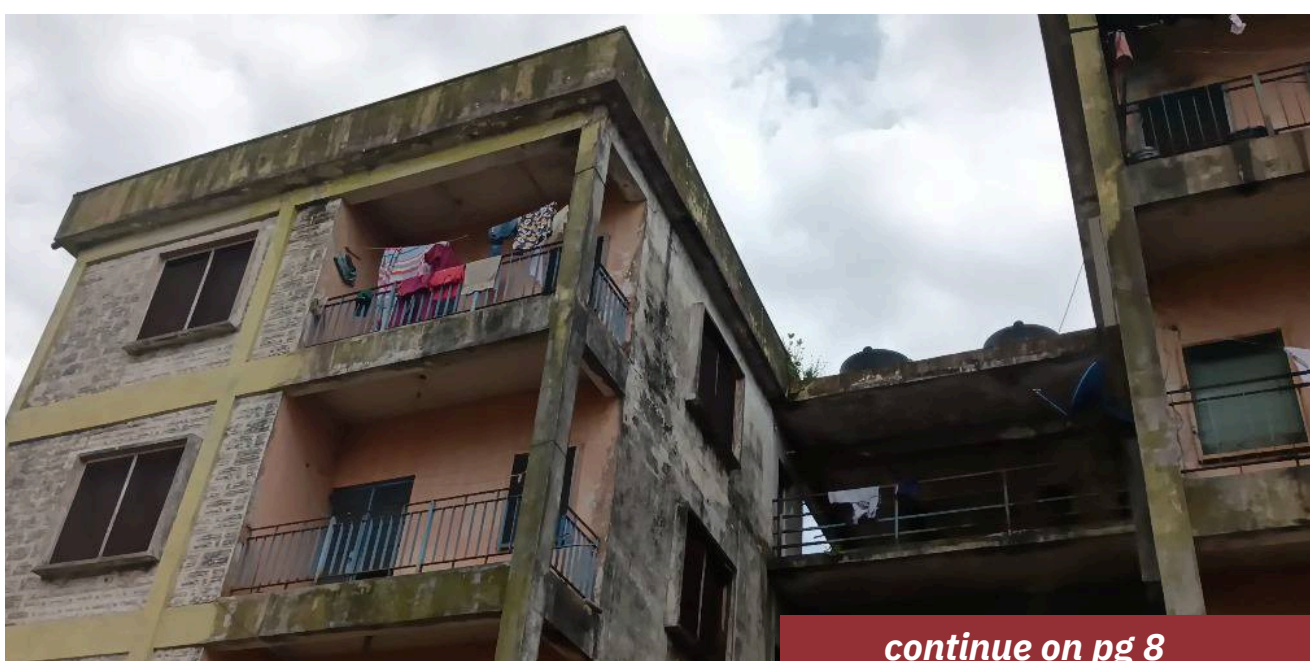
According to him, "We reiterated some of the challenges you are facing to the Governor and he straight away agreed that we should speak to the Public Building Agency to get work started here immediately.

"Joy has come. What we see here is truly deplorable, but Governor Okpebholo has taken

responsibility to fix it. In his usual manner of demonstrating practical governance, he has graciously approved immediate renovation of the Doctors' Residence as part of his commitment to the welfare of Health Workers. The urgency with which he has directed this intervention is commendable and a source of joy to us all.

"This is because of the kind of person he is, a Governor who does not want his workers to be weighed down. Whatever he can do, he does it straight away without delay. He is a man who delivers practical governance, and he is demonstrating that once again with this approval".

The Head of Service also revealed the State Government's plans to reschedule payment of outstanding arrears dating back 2024 to be disbursed in tranches, assuring the Medical Community that the State Government recognizes the critical role they play in governance and service delivery.



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ABANDONED OBA MARKET IN BENIN ROARS BACK TO LIFE, AS GOV OKPEBHOLO SETS COMPLETION DATE ...CONT'D

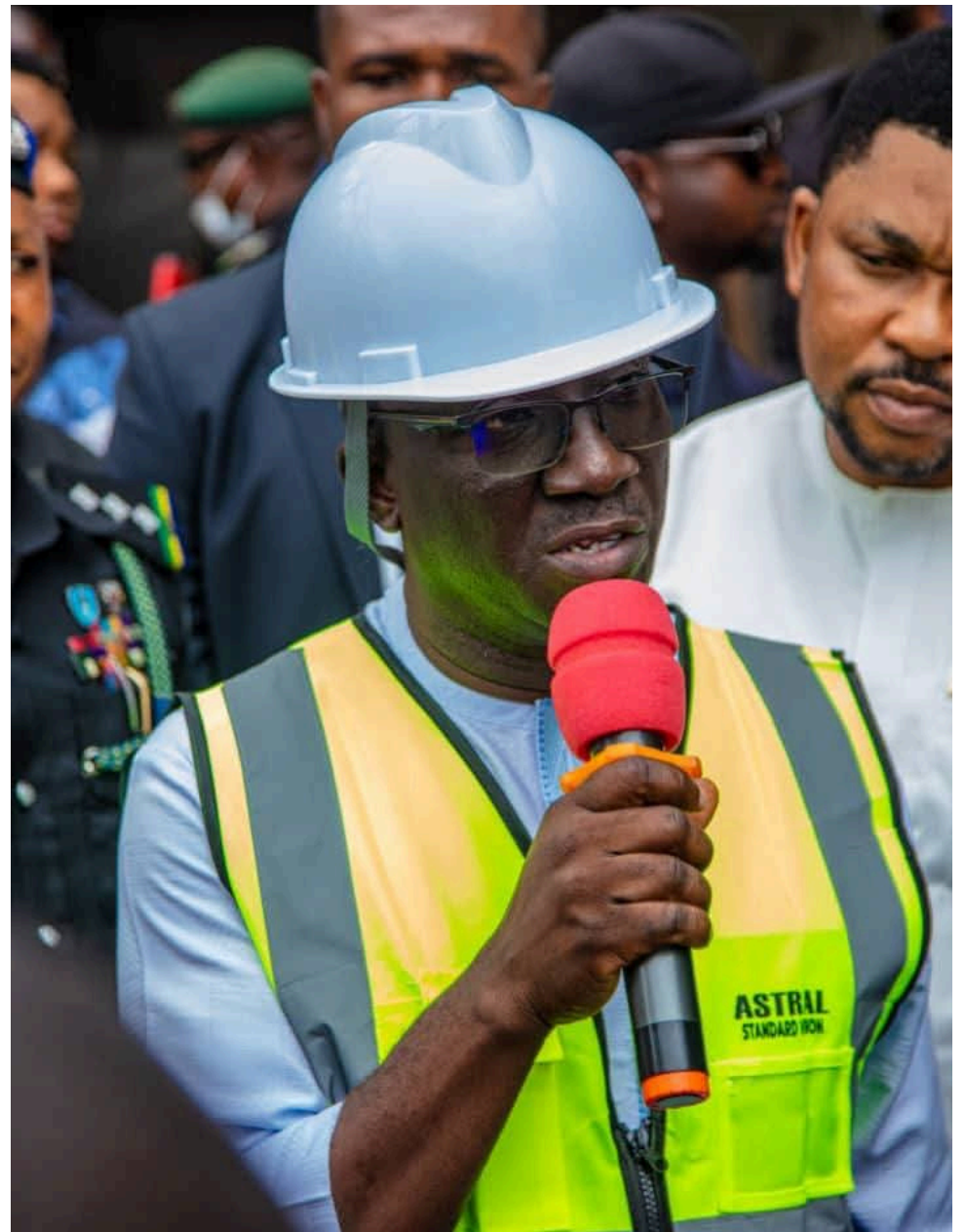
The Project Manager for the Oba Market Reconstruction, Mr. Aneru Izuagbe expressed appreciation to the Governor for the confidence reposed in his team.

He explained that the remodeling will transform the once-devastated market into a modern commercial complex befitting of Edo's capital city.

According to him, the ground floor will accommodate 450 open stalls, representing one-tenth of the section affected by the fire. The upper floors will host three- and six-meter lock-up shops for electronics, fashion, and other categories of traders. To enhance safety and welfare, the new design incorporates a mini fire station, sick bay, crèche, and other modern facilities.

"We are not just rebuilding Oba Market; we are remodeling it into a mall-like structure that provides safety, convenience, and functionality for traders and buyers alike," Izuagbe explained. "The project is expected to last for 251 days, with completion scheduled for June 2026. However, our team is working assiduously to beat the timeline and deliver ahead of schedule."

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



GOV OKPEBHOLO DECRIES DEPLORABLE STATE OF DOCTORS' RESIDENCE, APPROVES ...CONT'D

"We appreciate the role you play in governance and we understand the challenges you face. It is our responsibility to convey these concerns to His Excellency, as we have done today and I can assure you that the Governor is ready to do what needs to be done to ensure you are happy working". He stated.

Also speaking, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. Andrew Iyamu, condemned the condition of the Ezoti residence, describing it as unfit for habitation.

"It is appalling that Medical Doctors have had to live in such a place. But now that Governor Okpebholo has spoken, there will be a turnaround. This residence will be renovated and restored to a habitable standard, so our doctors can live and work with dignity". He said.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of his colleagues, the President of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), Edo State Chapter, Dr. Peter Evbuomwan, thanked the Governor for his swift intervention.

"At least now the government is fully aware of the state of this building and has promised urgent action. With the assurances given, we are optimistic that the place will be renovated and made habitable again in no time. We thank His Excellency, the Head of Service and the entire team for this show of commitment". He said.



OKPEBHOLO ENGINEERS BOLD REFORMS, RESTORES ACCESSIBILITY TO JUSTICE IN EDO STATE JUDICIARY



The Edo State Government has announced reforms in the justice sector under the leadership of Governor Monday Okpebholo, aimed at making justice more accessible, efficient, and fair for all citizens.

Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Dr. Samson Raphael Osagie, who midwives these bold reforms, said Governor Okpebholo has, within nine months of assuming office, repositioned the Ministry of Justice as the bedrock of peace, order, and good governance.

According to him, “The vision of Governor Monday Okpebholo is clear: to build a secure and developed state through justice. That is why he has given full direction and backing to the Ministry to ensure justice becomes the lived reality of every Edo person.”

He explained that the Department of Public Prosecutions is currently handling over 2,000 active criminal cases, including murder, robbery, kidnapping, arson, and sexual violence. Dozens of convictions have already been secured and upheld by higher courts, demonstrating the diligence and efficiency of Edo prosecutors.

He further emphasised that the administration of Governor Okpebholo has streamlined the process of rendering legal opinions and initiating prosecutions.

Through the Police Duty Solicitors Scheme, suspects now enjoy immediate access to legal representation at the point of arrest, ensuring fairness and respect for human rights.

On the civil front, the state has successfully defended hundreds of cases, secured multiple judgments, and mediated sensitive land disputes, saving citizens years of litigation.

Highlighting recent legislative interventions, Osagie pointed to the extension of retirement age for magistrates, the establishment of new regulatory agencies, amendments to property protection laws, and the development of a new healthcare regulation framework.

He added that the Citizens’ Mediation Centre and the Department of Citizens’ Rights have been strengthened to empower ordinary Edo citizens to resolve disputes, including domestic violence and workplace conflict, without prolonged court processes.

On correctional reforms, he said Governor Okpebholo has directed a bold initiative to decongest custodial centres, with particular focus on inmates held for years over bailable offences. “This is not just a legal reform; it is a humane intervention that restores dignity and gives people a second chance at life”. He said.

He also revealed that the Ministry is undergoing institutional strengthening through retraining of state counsels at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy, establishment of a dedicated appeals office, and plans for a fully digitised law library and e-case management system.

He concluded: “What Governor Okpebholo is doing is restoring justice as the heartbeat of governance. By ensuring criminals are swiftly prosecuted, by defending citizens’ rights in civil cases, by reforming our laws, by mediating disputes before they escalate, and by giving voice to the vulnerable, the administration of Governor Okpebholo is sending a clear message that justice in Edo State is for all, not just the privileged few.”

The Edo State Government reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining these reforms, assuring citizens that justice delivery will continue to be prioritised as a driver of peace, security, and sustainable development.

Signed:

Fred Itua,

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

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



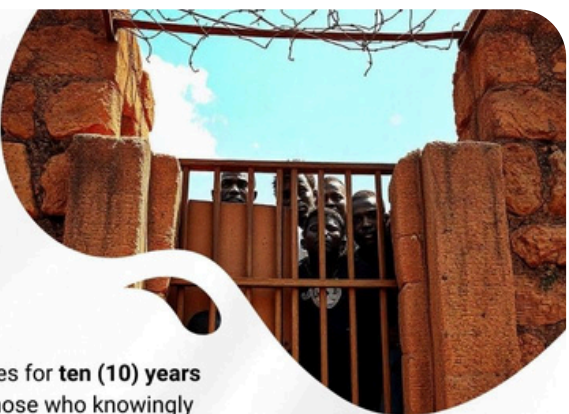
The Law took effect from **24th
of January, 2025** and confers
stiffer penalties for anyone
found guilty of secret cult
related offences in the State

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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OKPEBHOLO AT 55: GOVERNOR MARKS BIRTHDAY WITH THANKSGIVING, DECLARES VICTORIES AGAINST CULTISM, KIDNAPPING, AND CRIME



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to confronting and defeating the twin scourges of cultism and kidnapping, which have long plagued the state. Speaking at a special thanksgiving service held at the Government House Chapel to mark his 55th birthday, Governor Okpebholo declared that his government is winning the war against these criminal vices.

Represented at the thanksgiving by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Fred Itua, the Governor recalled that just 48 hours after his inauguration in November 2024, he was confronted with the grim reality of cult-related violence that claimed the lives of over 20 young people in Edo State. At the time, he was away on an official assignment in Akure, Ondo State.

"News of that tragedy reached me in Ondo barely two days after I assumed office. Right there, I vowed to fight cultism, kidnapping, and other criminal activities to a standstill. Nine months on, by God's grace and with the support of Edo people, we are winning that war," he declared.

Governor Okpebholo stressed that his administration came at a time of turbulence and uncertainty in the state but has since provided stability, restoring confidence among the citizenry. "This is a government that makes promises and keeps them. Whether it is security, roads, schools, or healthcare, we are delivering for the people of Edo State". He added.

The thanksgiving service drew government functionaries, advisers, religious leaders, and associates, who used the occasion to extol the Governor's leadership and developmental strides.

Special Adviser on Electronic Media, Mr. Paul Ezenwa, congratulated the Governor on his birthday and underscored the significance of his leadership style. "Many doubted him before he assumed office, but for those of us who believed in him, he has not disappointed. Edo people should continue to support him with prayers as he drives the state forward". Ezenwa said.

Similarly, the Special Adviser on Health, Dr. Andrew Iyamu, lauded the Governor for demonstrating wisdom in appointing credible men and women to key positions. He noted that despite not having any personal connection to the Governor, he was appointed strictly on merit, reflecting Okpebholo's inclusive and performance-driven leadership.

"In nine months, roads, schools, flyovers, and other infrastructure are springing up across the three senatorial districts. The Governor is on a rescue mission to put smiles on the faces of Edo people and to reverse years of retrogression". Dr. Iyamu observed.

For his part, the Special Adviser on Media and Communication Strategy, Mr. Godswill Inegbe, described Governor Okpebholo as a humble leader whose Christian faith shapes his service. "He is not ashamed to be identified as a born-again Christian, and that moral compass is reflected in his work for Edo people". Enegebe remarked.



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OKPEBHOLO AT 55: GOVERNOR MARKS BIRTHDAY WITH THANKSGIVING, DECLARES VICTORIES AGAINST CULTISM,... CONT'D



Clergy present at the thanksgiving also lent their voices in appreciation of the Governor's efforts. Reverend Ezele Frank commended Okpebholo's courage in tackling cultism head-on, a menace which, he noted, previous administrations avoided or addressed half-heartedly.

"This is the first time any Governor will stick out his neck to confront cultism directly. His determination is saving lives, healing communities, and uniting our people". Rev. Frank stated, adding that the Governor is a detribalised Nigerian who appoints based on competence rather than ethnic affiliation.

Apostle Sule Farade, Special Adviser on Religion and Chaplain of the Government House Chapel, described the Governor's emergence as divinely ordained. "Governor Okpebholo is God-sent to bring peace and development to Edo State. His reign will fulfill God's plan for our land". He said.

The thanksgiving service concluded with prayers for the Governor's continued health, wisdom, and strength, as well as for peace and prosperity in Edo State.

As Governor Okpebholo marked his 55th year, the message from the pulpit and the pews alike is clear: Edo is witnessing a renaissance of leadership marked by courage, compassion, and the fulfilment of promises.



EDO @34: GOV OKPEBHOLO CELEBRATES FOUNDING FATHERS, CALLS FOR UNITY



As Edo State marks its 34th anniversary, His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo, has congratulated all Edo people, both at home and in the diaspora.

The Governor described the indomitable spirit of the people of Edo State as unique and irreplaceable.

In a press statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Fred Itua, Governor Okpebholo, reflected on the journey of the State since its creation on August 27, 1991.

He paid tribute to the founding fathers and past leaders whose vision and sacrifices have laid the groundwork for the progress the State has achieved.

"Today, we celebrate 34 years of our existence as a state," Governor Okpebholo said. "This is not just a celebration of a date, but a moment to reflect on our journey, acknowledge our achievements, and recommit ourselves to the vision of a prosperous and developed Edo State".

The Governor highlighted the significant strides made in various sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development.

He noted that while there have been challenges, the state has consistently moved forward, driven by the collective determination of its people.

"As we look back at the past 34 years, we have every reason to be proud". He added.

"From the ancient kingdom of Benin, a legacy of art, culture, and governance has been passed down through generations. We have built on this foundation, and today, Edo State stands as a beacon of progress and potential".

Governor Okpebholo used the occasion to call for greater unity among all residents, irrespective of their ethnic or political affiliations. He emphasized that the future of the state depends on the ability of its people to work together towards common goals.

"The task of building the Edo of our dreams is a collective responsibility," he stated. "I call on every Edo son and daughter to join hands with my administration in our ongoing efforts to transform our state. Let us put aside our differences and focus on what unites us: our shared desire for a better and more prosperous Edo State".

The Governor reiterated his administration's commitment to delivering on its promises, particularly in the areas of job creation, improved security, and sustainable development. He assured the people that his government would remain transparent, accountable, and dedicated to serving their best interests.

"As we celebrate this 34th anniversary, let us renew our hope and commitment to a brighter future. I am confident that with God on our side and with our collective effort, we will take Edo State to even greater heights". The Governor concluded.

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

SALARIES HAVE BEEN REGULAR UNDER GOV OKPEBHOLO'S LEADERSHIP - HOS

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



PHOTO CAPTION

L-R: the Permanent Secretary of the Edo State Civil Service Commission, Mr. Peter Osagie; the Business Manager of First Bank of Nigeria, Mrs. Josephine Darlington-Ogie; the Edo State Head of Service, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa; the Relationship Manager of FBN, Mr. Ogebor Eferobosa Daniel; the Director of Civil Service Matters (CSM), Mrs. Bamaayi Osedebamwen; the Director of Shared Services, Office of the Head of Service, Mr. Edwin Edionnweme during the engagement between the HOS and the delegates of FBN in Benin City.

The Edo State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa, has commended the State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo for ensuring the regular and timely payment of workers' salaries, including the 13th-month wage of December, 2024, describing it as a major relief for Civil and Public servants in the State.

Dr. Okungbowa who gave the commendation while playing host to delegates of First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) in his office at the Government House in Benin City, highlighted the State Governor's commitment to workers' welfare, particularly in the face of post-transition challenges.

According to him, "Our people are burdened with a lot of commitments given the economic downturn in the Country, but salaries have been regular. Many of the things we did not hope would immediately happen because of the turbulent transition, have all been delivered. We thank His Excellency for all he has done for us, specifically the 13th-month salary and the consistent payment of salaries as and when due. This has given us relative comfort".

The HOS welcomed the proposal by First Bank of Nigeria to provide loan facilities to Civil and Public Servants in the State, assuring the delegates that Government would continue to create a fair and competitive environment for reputable institutions like theirs to provide financial services to Edo workers.

He further commended FBN's products and stressed the responsibility of Government to protect workers from financial embarrassment, noting that while banks are free to offer competitive loan products, the State Government will continue to enforce limits to ensure workers do not become over-indebted.

"First Bank is a reputable institution. The oldest in Nigeria and its reputation is not in doubt. We are ready to give you the platform to engage with our workers, but ultimately, the decision lies with

them. Our responsibility is to create an enabling environment for financial institutions that approach the Service. I have always believed it is better to have many options than just a few. This way, Civil and Public servants can choose and it also compels the players in the space to raise their standards". The HOS concluded.

Earlier in her remark, the Business Manager of First Bank, Mrs. Josephine Darlington-Ogie who described the relationship between the Bank and the State Government as cordial and mutually beneficial, stated that the visit was aimed at strengthening the partnership between the bank and the Civil Service, in view of expanding opportunities for workers to access financial products that ease economic pressures.

According to her, "FBN is leveraging workplace banking to provide seamless financial solutions for Edo Civil servants with products designed to address the realities of the current economy".

Mrs. Darlington-Ogie further explained that FBN offers financing options tied directly to salaries to ensure repayments are stress-free and without risk of embarrassment. She emphasized that such facilities are intended to help workers fund tangible projects, meet unexpected expenses and prepare for long-term needs such as home ownership before retirement.

"We have products that are tailored to alleviate the financial burden on staff occasioned by the dwindling economy and its impact on the time value of money. These include mortgage financing, personal loans, auto loans and asset financing. All are structured in such a way that deductions are made directly from salaries without exceeding agreed limits". She said.

GOV OKPEBHOLO MOURNS ARASE'S DEMISE, DESCRIBES EX-IGP AS REFORMER, DEDICATED POLICE OFFICER



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, on behalf of the people of Edo State, mourns the death of a revered son of the soil, former Inspector-General of Police, Dr. Solomon Ehigiator Arase, who passed away this weekend.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Fred Itua, Governor Okpebholo described the late IGP as a patriotic Nigerian and an illustrious Edo son whose contributions to the country's security architecture were immeasurable.

"We have lost a great mind, a dedicated public servant, and an exceptional leader," the statement read. "Dr. Arase was a man of integrity and honor who served our nation with distinction, rising to the pinnacle of his career through sheer hard work and dedication."

The Governor highlighted Arase's distinguished career in the Nigeria Police Force, noting that his tenure as the 18th Inspector-General of Police was marked by significant reforms and commitment to professionalism and community policing.

"His legacy of service will be remembered for generations. He was a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration to many young police officers and aspiring leaders". The statement added.

The Governor extends his deepest sympathies to the Arase family and the entire Nigeria Police Force. "While we mourn his passing, we take solace in the fact that he lived a life of purpose, impacting positively on all who came in contact with him".

Governor Okpebholo prayed for the peaceful repose of the soul of the departed and for the Almighty God to grant his family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

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

INSTALLATION OF BEAMS COMMENCES AT THE RAMAT PARK FLYOVER

By Olotu Henrietta



PHOTO CAPTION

Installation of beams at the Ramat Park Flyover bridge.

Barely months after the Executive Governor of the State, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, flagged off the construction of the iconic Ramat Park Flyover Bridge, the project has reached an appreciable level as installation of beams has commenced.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Engr. Dr. John Obanor led Ministry officials on an inspection tour of the Project to ensure the contractor is meeting with standards.

Engr. Dr. Obanor commended the Governor for his commitment to the project noting that the launching of beams marks a significant milestone in the Project.

"The installation of beams preceeds every other process that has to do with the finishing work. Being the first beam they are launching and as part of our routine follow up, I have to be here to see it done while they continue with other processes. We're also here to see the modalities and also monitor the environment ourselves so that when we get feedbacks from the people we'll be in the know on what to do next".

The Deputy Project Manager of the construction company (CCECC), Wang Junpeng assured that the company is committed to meeting standard and deadline set by the Government.

This significant milestone represents the pre-finishing of paving the way for decking, surfacing and other finishing work that will bring the project to completion which is expected to ease traffic connection to the Ramat Park area and boost interconnectivity across major routes in Benin City.

The Permanent Secretary also embarked on inspection tours of key Project sites in Edo Central Senatorial District to evaluate ongoing works and to ensure that the contractors utilize the August dry spell to achieve significant level of construction.

The projects inspected are Irrua-Akho-Irrua-illeh-Ukhun Road, Irrua-Illeh-Usenu-Ukhun Road, finalization/ construction of single carriageway of Ekpoma-Irrua-Uromi-Ubiaja Road, Uromi-Onewa-Udomi-Ibhiolulu-Afuda-Idumoza-Eko Road, Ewatto-Udo Road, Idumu-Iyasele Road, Iduselu-Ewatto Road and Ohe-Uzea Road.

These roads are in various stages of earthwork, construction of drains, stonebase and asphalt laying.

EDSG PARTNERS ANEEJ, ROLAC TO SENSITIZE PERMANENT SECRETARIES, HODS ON FOIA

By Violet Osatohanmwon Obamwonyi



PHOTO CAPTION

The Head of Service, Edo State, Dr. Anthony Okungbowa delivering his open remark at the FOIA Sensitization Workshop held at JOOPSA in Benin City.

Edo State Government in collaboration with the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC), has organized a one-day sensitization workshop for Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The Workshop convened by the Directorate of Corporate Change, Communication and Performance Management, Office of the Head of Service, was held at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy in Benin City. At the event, the Edo State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Anthony Okungbowa, restated the State Government's readiness to implement the FOIA in line with recent judicial pronouncements, which affirmed its applications to State Public Institutions, adding that the FOIA is a veritable cornerstone of democratic governance.

In his words, "It empowers citizens to access information, fosters accountability, and strengthens the bond of trust between the Government and the people. This right to information is not merely a legal provision but is also a vital tool for ensuring that governance is inclusive, responsive and aligned with the aspirations of the people; the capacity of our people to access information from Government.

"The FOIA has been there since 2011 but before now, we had a Court of Appeal decision that ruled that we did not have an obligation; assuming it did not apply to us, but now the Supreme Court decision has come up to say it applies to us,

to all the States in the Federation. So, that is a new reality for us but the Government of Sen. Monday Okpebholo is always ready because it is a transparency-based Government, ready to ensure that the provisions of the FOIA are implemented. It enables the people to know what the Government is doing and we are very ready to share and get feedbacks from them as to how we can improve on our services to them. So, for us as a Government, this is a fantastic Law".

Reaffirming the State Government's commitment to inclusiveness, accountability and citizen participation, the HOS stated, "Edo State Government under the leadership of Sen. Okpebholo is resolute in its commitment to transparency and accountability. He recognizes that transparency is the bedrock of sustainable development and effective governance. By embracing this Law, we reaffirm our dedication to creating an environment where citizens are informed, engaged and empowered to contribute meaningfully to the development of our State".

Dr. Okungbowa appreciated ANEEJ and RoLAC for partnering with the State Government in promoting transparency. He noted that the workshop, which is the first in a series of planned engagements, is expected to strengthen the capacity of MDAs in Edo State to effectively implement the FOIA in line with the transparency agenda of Governor Okpebholo's administration.

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HON. OSHIONOGUE LAUDS EDSG MOVES TO GUARANTEE FOOD SECURITY THROUGH PROJECT 'SHINE' AGENDA.

By Okolo Jonathan Okhavhe



PHOTO CAPTION

2nd right, Akoko-Edo Local Government Council Chairman Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue, flanked by resource persons after the workshop.

The Akoko-Edo Local Government Council Chairman, Rt. Hon. Alabi Bliss Oshionogue, has lauded the Edo State Government under the leadership of Senator Monday Okpebholo, for activating the project 'SHINE' agenda, focusing on Security, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Natural Resources & Food Sufficiency, and Education, birthing this new Edo that has risen.

In furtherance of this, a two-day train-the-trainer workshop with the theme "Improving Food Security, Economic Stability, and Better Health for Edo Rise Again", has been organized by Edo State Government in collaboration with Pathfinder Consultancy Services.

Speaking at the workshop at Etsako West Local Government Council hall, the Council Chairman, Rt. Hon. Oshionogue, said agriculture is one critical area his administration is giving high priority attention to guarantee food sufficiency in line with the Edo State 'SHINE' agenda, while commending the Edo State Government for addressing the crucial needs of the Edo people through its policies and programs on agricultural initiatives like the return-to-farm initiative for food sufficiency and strengthening grassroots security with the new Edo State Security Corps. He appreciated the resource persons for organizing the workshop at the instance of the Governor, maintaining that the gesture would be all-encompassing.

On his part, the team lead and CEO/Project Director, Dr. Seidu Abubakar, explained that the two-day workshop would roll out several agricultural programs geared towards better health, economic stability, and food security, noting that it is a critical component of the 'SHINE agenda' mantra of the Edo State Government to better the lots of its citizens.

"This training is programmed to cover the three Senatorial Districts of Edo State, which are; Edo North; 21st-22nd of August 2025 at Etsako West Local Government Council Hall, Auchi Edo Central; 4th to 5th September at Ambrose Alli Hall, Ekpoma 2025; and Edo South; 25th - 29th of August 2025 at the National Youth Council Hall, Akpakpava Road, Benin City." He added.

EDSG PARTNERS ANEEJ, ROLAC TO SENSITIZE PERMANENT SECRETARIES, ...CONT'D

In his words, "This workshop serves as a platform to deepen our understanding, share knowledge, and strengthen our collective resolve to implement the FOIA effectively. On behalf of the Public Service of Edo State, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to ANEEJ and RoLAC for your unwavering commitment and partnership in organizing this impactful event. Your dedication to promoting transparency, accountability and good governance aligns seamlessly with the vision of the Governor Okpebholo's administration for a just and progressive society".

On her part, the Permanent Secretary, Directorate of Corporate Change, Communication and Performance Management, Office of the Head of Service, Dr. (Mrs.) Joy Akhigbe, emphasized the need for public institutions to carefully apply the Law, noting that while citizens have a right to access information, certain categories of documents remain exempted.

"Whenever a request is made, institutions must respond, even if the request cannot be granted. Communicating the reasons for refusal or referring applicants to the appropriate Agency is crucial. The most important thing is that no application should be ignored". She advised.

In his presentation titled "Overview of the Freedom of Information Act 2011," the Programme Manager of ANEEJ,

Mr. Innocent Edemhanria, stressed that FOIA is a citizen-driven Law designed to foster accountability at all levels of Government. He said, "The FOIA applies to Federal, State,

and Local Governments, and every institution must designate officers to facilitate access to information because the burden to prove denial lies on the public institution. FOIA, if properly implemented can change the Nation's story of woes, improve fiscal audits and entrench an era of good governance. So, all hands must be on deck, citizens must learn to take advantage of the Act, ask relevant questions and seek to hold public institutions accountable".



ANANI HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN AGRICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT, CALLS FOR STAKEHOLDER'S COLLABORATION

By Gloria Osemudiamhen



PHOTO CAPTION

Front Row (middle): The Provost, Edo College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi, Dr. Eghosa Esther Akangbe; 6th left: the representative from the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, Mr. Elabor Abdurashed; 5th Right: the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Joy Irenosen Ihensekhien; 3rd Right: the President, Women in Agriculture Network, Mrs. Debby Iserhienrhien and other stakeholders at the "This Season Initiative (Take Action)" Programme held at, ADP Agric Hub, Oko Ogba - Airport Road in Benin City.

The Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, has highlighted the significance of empowering women in agriculture, particularly livestock farming, for economic growth and food security. At the "This Season Initiative (Take Action)" programme organized by Women in Agriculture Network (WIAN), aimed at preparing women for the festive season and beyond, which held at the ADP Agricultural Hub, Oko Ogba, Airport Road, Benin City, Mrs. Anani, who was represented by the Provost, Edo State College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi, Dr. Eghosa Esther Akangbe, noted that the poultry-focused initiative would have a positive impact on the community and beyond, promoting sustainability through women's empowerment in agriculture.

According to her, "Empowering women in agricultural business enables them to achieve increased sustainability. Today we embark on this season's initiative with the theme "Take Action", focusing on equipping our women for the festive season and beyond. This focal point is livestock, particularly the poultry, a sector that holds immense potential for economic growth and food security. Poultry farming is strategic, giving its potential for economic growth and food security.

"We believe that by empowering women in this sector we can create a ripple effect that benefits our entire community and beyond. Let's empower women to take charge of their economic destiny, increase food security, improve food availability and accessibility. I urge all stakeholders to join hands with women to make this initiative a success and a reality."

She further commended Senator Monday Okpebholo's administration for increasing the Agriculture Budget from ₦5.9bn to ₦17bn, urging stakeholders to support a poultry farming initiative, emphasizing its potential to boost food security and empower women economically.

The President of Women in Agriculture Network (WIAN), Mrs. Debby Iserhienrhien, in her remarks, stated that the Association's inaugural programme, centered on livestock and poultry production, aimed to empower women with a supplementary income-generating opportunity beyond their regular endeavours. In her words, "This is actually our maiden programme of the Women in Agriculture Network, and we think it necessary, that it is important that we put a handful of women together to actually harness the opportunity that is embedded in this season's initiative 2025, which is actually, the focal point.

It has to do with livestock, animal husbandry and special focus on poultry production, broiler production. It was actually born out of a side hustle for women to enable them to go into other things, especially like the popularly known backyard farming that allows women to engage in other things apart from their normal scheduled work.

"The Women in Agriculture Network think it necessary that putting up this programme can help build capacity, increase growth in our women and harness the potentials that are embedded in this season, especially during the festive season. We know that, with it, we can build capacity in our women and that can enhance growth and sustainability".

On her part, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Joy Irenosen Ihensekhien, praised Edo women farmers for contributing to food security and economic stability, acknowledging them as entrepreneurs and the backbone of the State's economy.

She further reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting the women with policies, resources and advocacy for economic empowerment and prosperity.

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ANANI HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN AGRICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT,...CONT'D

"The Ministry sees you, appreciates you, and is committed to championing your cause. This initiative is a powerful demonstration of what we can achieve when we align purpose with season. The festive period presents a golden window of opportunity.

By preparing now, by optimizing feed, enhancing animal health, understanding market dynamics and adopting best practice, you are not just farming, you are building wealth and securing the prosperity of your families and communities. This is the very essence of economic empowerment. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development stands in solidarity with you.

We are committed to advocating for policies that grant you greater access to land, credit facilities, modern farming inputs, and extension services. We will continue to collaborate with relevant agencies to ensure that the unique challenges you face are addressed and your phenomenal contributions are recognized and rewarded. I charge every one of you to absorb the knowledge shared here today". She added.

Also speaking, the State Coordinator, Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, Dr. Samuel Owoicho, represented by Mr. Elabor Abdulrasheed, commended Edo State women for

their leadership in the livestock sector, particularly in poultry farming, revealing their Office's plans to support women in agriculture with outputs, training, and services, with special consideration for poultry development, once fully operational.

A representative of the Poultry Association of Nigeria, Edo State Chapter, Mr. Gabriel Igbinosa, described Edo women's involvement in poultry farming as both timely and beneficial, urging women who have not yet started to seize the opportunity, while suggesting that even small-scale, backyard initiatives can be profitable. Mr. Igbinosa highlighted that poultry farming offers a steady source of protein and income, thereby supporting individuals, families, communities and the State.

The programme's highlight was an informative discussion on best practices in poultry farming, providing participants with valuable insights and opportunities to engage with experts and address their questions.

EDO STATE GOVT LAUDS AZURA-HEIFER'S PARTNERSHIP ON 2,500 POULTRY FACILITY

By Peace Osemwegie



The Edo State Government has commended the Azura-Heifer's collaboration in facilitating a 2,500 poultry facility that has just been handed over to Osaro Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society located at Ihovbor Community in Uhunwonde Local Government Area (LGA) of the State.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Sunday Osayande, represented by the Director of Animal Husbandry Department, Mr. Enodolomwanyi Otamere, appreciated the facilitators of the project, citing the project of 2,500 birds per day as complementary to the 10,000 birds per day by Amo processing plant already in existence at Obayantor Community in Ikpoba-Okha LGA.

Mr. Osayande appreciated the State Government, Heifer Intl, and Amo Farms for the partnership, which began in 2023 and contributed tremendously to the increment of the State's GDP, noting that the success of the project was a factor in the Azura-Heifer partnership.

He urged the host Community and the companies to work together to ensure a peaceful coexistence, assuring the new Management of the Ministry's support in terms of input or technical expertise.

According to the Chief Financial Officer of Azura Power West Africa Ltd, Mrs. Nonye Abuibaku, the Project was part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Azura and a reciprocated gesture to appreciate the Host Community for supporting their organization to thrive.

Inputs donated and funded by Azura include, a solar-powered borehole, 2,200 birds, amongst others.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kingsley Otasowie, a resident of Ihovbor Community commended the State Government and the facilitators of the project, saying that the initiative will foster development in the Community. This project marks a significant milestone in Edo State's agricultural development, and its success will likely inspire similar initiatives in the future. The partnership between Azura and Heifer International serves as a model for Public-private Partnerships in agricultural development.

EDO RALLIES STAKEHOLDERS FOR BOLD EDUCATION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

By Odigie Etinosa



PHOTO CAPTION

Commissioner for Education, Dr. Paddy Iyamu, addressing stakeholders at the Sir Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub.

The Edo State Ministry of Education has organized a high-level Stakeholders Engagement on Education Policy Implementation. This is in line with Governor Monday Okpebholo's SHINE agenda and significant efforts to enhance collaboration and implement effective reforms in the education sector.

The meeting took place at the Sir. Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub in Benin City.

This forum brought together heads of Ministry Department Agencies in the education ecosystem, school administrators, teachers, parents, policymakers, civil society groups, development partners, and various education unions to discuss strategies for the successful execution of the state's new education policy.

During the event, Commissioner for Education Dr. Paddy Iyamu emphasized that policies are only as effective as their implementation. He described the engagement as "a necessary platform to align the government's vision with stakeholders' expectations, ensuring that no child is left behind in Edo's education transformation journey."

The Commissioner provided detailed information on the new education policy, including a textbook reuse policy to reduce costs, restrictions on graduation ceremonies limited to only JSS 3 and SSS 3 students with modest celebrations, and compulsory entrepreneurship training for all JSS 3 students starting from the 2025/2026 academic session. These students will graduate with both the BECE and a Skills Acquisition Certificate.

Dr. Iyamu concluded by stating that "these reforms are aimed at cultivating disciplined, innovative students equipped with practical skills for the future, while the Edu Recycle Committee is saddled with the responsibility of getting used books from the rich and those who no longer need them due to the graduation of their wards to send to the poor in the rural areas."

One of the participants, Dr. Abdulwasiiu Oyakhire praised Governor Monday Okpebholo and the Ministry's open-door approach and pledged their collective commitment to sustaining reforms that prioritize access, equity, and quality in education.

The high point of the event was the sharing of an Action Plan that outlines responsibilities, signaling a new era of collaboration to advance Edo's education ecosystem.



EDO STATE GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO HEALTHCARE SERVICE DELIVERY

By Eghosa Emily



PHOTO CAPTION

L-R: Acting Director of Information Communication and Technology, Mr. Stephen Okojie Inegbedion; Public Relations Officer, Ereyimwen Benita; Director of Public Relations, EDOHIC, Omonigho Trinitas; the Medical Officer of Health, Egor Local Government Area, Dr. Gideon Iraoya; Chief Oviawe Erhun of Eguediaken; The Ogida of Evbogida, Chief Osaruyi Ogida; the Director of Data, Planning, Research and Statistics (DPRS), Dr. Owen Omoregbe during a Stakeholder's engagement held at Egor Local Government Area in Benin-City.

Edo State Government, through the Edo State Health Insurance Commission (EDOHIC), has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring essential healthcare services are accessible to the people of the State.

This commitment was reiterated during a five-day stakeholders' meeting held across the three senatorial districts of the State. The meeting aimed to pave the way for the revalidation of data of beneficiaries of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) program.

Addressing stakeholders, the Director-General of EDOHIC, Mrs. Augusta Ikpea-Enaholo, who was represented by the Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Omonigho Trinitas, emphasized the importance of active participation from partners at the Community, Facility, and leadership levels of Government, noting that the Basic Health Care Provision Fund validation exercise is crucial in ensuring resources are directed effectively, services reach those in need and the Health System continues to grow stronger.

"A key requirement for the revalidation exercise is the linking of beneficiaries' National Identity Numbers (NIN), which will build a more accountable, transparent and sustainable foundation for health financing in Edo State". She said.

Dr. Gideon Iraoya, Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for Egor Local Government Area, assured participants of EDOHIC's genuine commitment to the revalidation program, encouraging stakeholders to spread the message and mobilize their communities to participate in the exercise.

Community leaders, including the Ogida of Evbogida, Chief Osaruyi Ogida and Chief Oviawe Erhun of Eguediaken Community, lauded the Project and reassured the EDOHIC team of their support and mobilization efforts for the upcoming revalidation exercise.



PHOTO CAPTION

A cross section of participants.

EDSG COMMISSIONS PUBLIC TOILETS FOR RESIDENTS IN BUFFER ZONE AND FEDERAL HOUSING AUTHORITY SHOPPING COMPLEX (FHA)

By Evbo-Imade Osarumwense



PHOTO CAPTION

7th Right: Managing Director, ESDPC, Barr. Folarin Okungbowa flanked by residents of the Housing Estate and some members of Staff of the Corporation after the Commissioning of the Facility in Benin City.

In a significant move to improve sanitation and living conditions, the Edo State Government, through the Edo State Development and Property Corporation (EDPDC), has officially commissioned new public toilets for residents of the Federal Housing Authority Shopping Complex (FHA) and Oregbeni buffer zone in Benin City.

The Managing Director of the Corporation, Barrister Osarenren Folarin Okogbuwa, who addressed residents and Community members at the event, highlighted the State Government's commitment to fulfilling its promises and providing essential amenities to its citizens.

Barr. Okungbowa noted that the new facilities were built to address the long-standing problem of inadequate sanitation and to provide residents with easy access to proper toilet facilities.

According to the MD, "the Edo State Governor, has magnanimously seen the need for you, the people, to have your public toilet hence the construction of the FHA Housing Shopping Complex toilet for all of you in this buffer zone and complex".

He acknowledged the difficulties residents have faced in the past, including having to travel long distances to access water and toilet facilities.

The new facilities, according to him, are a testament to the State Government's dedication to improving the welfare of

its people. The project also includes a borehole to ensure a continuous supply of water, further easing the burden on residents.

Barrister Okogbuwa appealed to the Community to take ownership of the new facilities and ensure their proper maintenance. Adding that, "When you maintain it, it gives us, the government, the motivation to do more, the Government is not happy when it provides these things and they are not well-maintained."

The Managing Director pointed out that the facility is divided into sections, with a dedicated area for females, another for males and a separate urinal.

Highpoint of the ceremony was the official commissioning of the toilet facilities by Barr. Florin Okungbowa, Managing Director ESDPC

On behalf of the residents, Chief Emeka Lewis who expressed gratitude to Edo State Government for the project, assured the MD of their readiness to maintain the facilities.

EDO SET TO BENEFIT FROM FOA, GEF BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Peace Osemwegie



PHOTO CAPTION

Representatives of Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Community Heads, NGOs and other stakeholders during a Stakeholders' Workshop at Randekhi Royal Hotel in Benin City.

The Edo State Government through the Edo State Forestry Commission, has pledged its commitment to collaborating on the implementation of a biodiversity project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which is aimed at enhancing the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of lowland forest mosaic landscapes, of which Edo and Ogun states are priorities.

During a stakeholders' workshop at Randekhi Royal Hotel in Benin City, the Chairman of the Forestry Commission, Hon. Dr. Valentine Asuen expressed the Commission's support for the project, appreciating the Edo State Government for making the State an attractive destination for such initiatives.

As part of the Commission's contribution to the project, he pledged rigorous community engagement and the provision of technical assistance to participating communities in Edo State.

On his part, the National Project Coordinator, Lawrence Osazee, emphasizing the crucial need for the project, cited forest degradation and biodiversity loss as detrimental to health and the ecosystem. He noted that engagements will be continuous across various stakeholders to ensure that there is a strengthened collaboration among Government Agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and local communities to ensure the project gets necessary support.

The Project Technical Advisor, Prof. Segun Oladoyin,

highlighted the project's objectives to include protecting globally significant biodiversity and strengthening sustainable livelihoods for local communities, noting that the objectives will be achieved through four components which included Integrated Landscape Policy, Planning and Management, Implementation of Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration in priority landscape, Implementation of Sustainable Practice and Livelihood in connecting productive areas and Knowledge Management Monitoring and Education.

Meanwhile, the State Project Coordinator, Mrs. Esther Uwoghiren, highlighted the project's benefits to Edo State to include conservation and restoration of the Okomu and the Gele-Gele Forest reserves, as well as promoting sustainable livelihoods for host communities.

In his closing remark, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, Mr. Jude Ekpu, urged stakeholders, particularly community leaders, to offer their full cooperation, stating that collective efforts would yield beneficial results for everyone in the long run.

Other stakeholders at the event were the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Okumu National Service, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Central Bank of Nigeria, various communities, among others.

ARC. FASHANU RESTATES EDOFEWMA'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING RESIDENTS FROM FLOOD AND EROSION THREATS

By Winifred Inarumen

Determined to keep Edo's Capital safe from the menace of flooding, the Chief Executive Officer of the Edo State Flood, Erosion and Watershed Management Agency (EdoFEWMA), Arc. Emmanuel Fashanu has embarked on inspection tours of key project sites across Benin City to evaluate ongoing works and ensure contractors are meeting both standards and timelines.

The inspection, carried out by the Agency's technical team, covered strategic flood control points, including the Gapiona Pond 7 desilting exercise, desilting works stretching from Ring Road to NNPC MEGA Filling Station along Sapele Road, the Earth Pond at Win Rose off PZ Road, among others.

Speaking during the tour, Arc. Fashanu emphasized the importance of contractors expediting desilting operations to capitalize on the August dry spell, noting that the swift and quality execution of these projects will significantly reduce the suffering of residents during the rains.

"We are determined to ensure that all works are carried out with speed and precision. Contractors must seize this window to deliver quality outcomes that will stand the test of time". He said.

Reaffirming the Agency's mandate, Arc. Fashanu assured residents that EdoFEWMA remains committed to protecting lives and properties from the twin menace of flooding and erosion, adding that the efforts align with the vision of Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, to build a safe and resilient Edo for all.



PHOTO CAPTION
Ongoing desilting exercise at Gapiona in Benin City



PHOTO CAPTION
3rd Left: the Chief Executive Officer of the Edo State Flood, Erosion and Watershed Management Agency (EdoFEWMA), Arc. Emmanuel Fashanu during the inspection tour of the desilting exercises being carried out in Project sites across Benin-City.

"The Governor has given me a directive to rid Edo State of flooding, which is the primary reason I am here today. His commitment to the well-being of our people is evident in his approval of additional desilting and maintenance works, aimed at preventing the hardships and losses caused by flooding". He noted.

Satisfied with the progress recorded at the sites visited, the CEO emphasised that residents have a vital role in sustaining EdoFEWMA's flood control initiatives, underscoring the importance of proper waste disposal as a key support to Government interventions, while noting that this would help maintain cleaner, more effective flood control infrastructure and ultimately ensure a safer Edo State.

EDO'S EDUCATION REFORMS: CURBING EXPLOITATION, RESTORING HOPE

By Omoruyi Patricia Osayomore



In Edo State over the past few years, countless families have been weighed down by financial challenges, making it increasingly difficult to meet even the most basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. Added to this burden are the rising school-related expenses that parents must struggle to cover in order to secure their children's education.

Not long ago, tuition fees for children in Basic Schools were relatively affordable. The main charges parents faced were term tuition, examination fees and payments for essential instructional materials. In recent years, many school owners have gradually transformed their institutions into profit-driven ventures. In pursuit of more revenue, they began introducing non-academic activities and making them compulsory, leaving parents with no choice but to pay exorbitant fees.

One of the most troubling examples is the imposition of mandatory graduation ceremonies, not only for pupils completing primary school but even for children in nursery and pre-nursery classes. Parents, already struggling with limited financial means, have been forced to toil daily just to meet these unnecessary expenses, often with heavy hearts and strained pockets.

Thankfully, relief has surfaced through the timely intervention of the God-sent Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo. With the welfare of citizens placed at the forefront of his administration, the Governor has taken firm and decisive action to abolish the long-standing practice of compelling parents to pay exorbitant fees under the guise of graduation ceremonies. For years, such events have placed unnecessary financial strain on families and often overshadowed the true purpose of schooling.

Through his new policy, the Governor has redirected attention to what truly matters, the academic development and progress of children as they complete each stage of their education. By curbing extravagant, non-essential celebrations, he has reaffirmed that education should be a platform for learning, growth, and preparation for the future, not a channel for exploitation. Under this directive, only students who have completed Junior Secondary School 3 (JSS 3) and Senior Secondary School 3 (SSS 3) are permitted to hold graduation ceremonies, and even then, such events must remain modest and focused on the academic achievements of the students.

In addition, the people-oriented Governor has introduced a forward-thinking policy that encourages families to reuse textbooks, particularly among younger siblings. The initiative is aimed at reducing the financial burden on parents who often struggle with the recurring cost of purchasing new books every academic session.

Beyond easing economic pressure, the policy also fosters stability in the learning process by ensuring students across different levels study from consistent materials. It further instills values of responsibility and resourcefulness in students, as they learn to properly care for their books for future use. According to the guidelines, each set of approved textbooks will remain in use for a minimum of four years before the Ministry of Education conducts a review or considers any updates.

Through these measures, His Excellency, Senator Okpebholo has rekindled renewed hope across different categories of earners ranging from wage and salary workers to small and medium-scale business owners. By addressing the longstanding financial pressures associated with schooling, he has restored dignity to the educational system. This approach ensures that schools are preserved as true centers of knowledge and character development, rather than being perceived as avenues for financial exploitation of parents and guardians.

EDO STATE GOVT EMPOWERS 100 RESIDENTS WITH DIGITAL SKILLS

By Edebor Esther



PHOTO CAPTION

Front row: Middle: The Managing Director of ICTA, Mr. Eghosa Urhoghide with some Edo State Government officials, facilitators from PIP Community and participants at the training in Benin City.

Edo State digital drive has received a significant boost as 100 residents graduated from a training programme in Data Analysis with Power BI, which was organized by the Edo State Information Communications Technology Agency (ICTA) in partnership with Sidol Solutions Nigeria Limited and the PIP Community at the ICTA Head Office in Benin City.

According to the Managing Director of ICTA, Mr. Eghosa Urhoghide, the initiative forms part of Governor Monday Okpebholo's broader agenda to equip indigenes with in-demand technological skills and prepare them for opportunities in the global digital economy. He appreciated the Governor's vision and reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to digital empowerment in the State.

In his words, "We have a Governor who is tech-inclined and who understands the value of ICT. The purpose of these trainings is to equip Edo people with in-demand digital skills. At ICTA, this is part of our mandate. That is why we are committed to ensuring that our citizens are equipped with the right skills to thrive in today's digital world. We have children, youths, and older individuals who participated in this training. That is because inclusivity is essential to the State's digital vision. The graduation events, where trainees showcased their projects, not only highlight the success of the initiatives but also serve as motivation for the Agency to sustain and expand its efforts".

Mr. Urhoghide asserted that the success of the event clearly demonstrates how partnerships can positively impact the lives of people. "We are grateful to PIP Community and Sidol Solutions for joining hands with us to ensure the success of this initiative. We will continue to align with the Governor's mandate to drive digital empowerment for everyone in Edo State. Over time, with more partnerships, we intend to expand into other platforms and digital skills". He concluded.

The Permanent Secretary, Directorate of Corporate Change, Communication and Performance Management, Office of the Head of Service, Mrs. Joy Akigbe, noted that the State Government is not merely regulating the Digital Sector but actively facilitating technological growth. She added that the administration is building capacity across various sectors while

equipping citizens with the insights necessary to succeed in a technology-driven world.

Similarly, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Johnathan Ukpebor, underscored the training as timely and rewarding. According to him, "We are in the era of technology, hence, it is necessary to equip our people with the skills required to thrive in today's world".

Participants described the training as an eye-opener, submitting that the knowledge acquired would have a lasting impact on their career trajectories. Many expressed gratitude to the Edo State Government and the Partners for providing the life-changing opportunity for them.

The ceremony climaxed with the hackathon, which formed the final stage of the training. Winners and runners-up were rewarded with cash prizes, underscoring the State Government's commitment to fostering innovation and creativity among its people.



PHOTO CAPTION

Left: The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Jonathan Ukpebor issuing Certificate to one of the Participants at the training in Benin City.



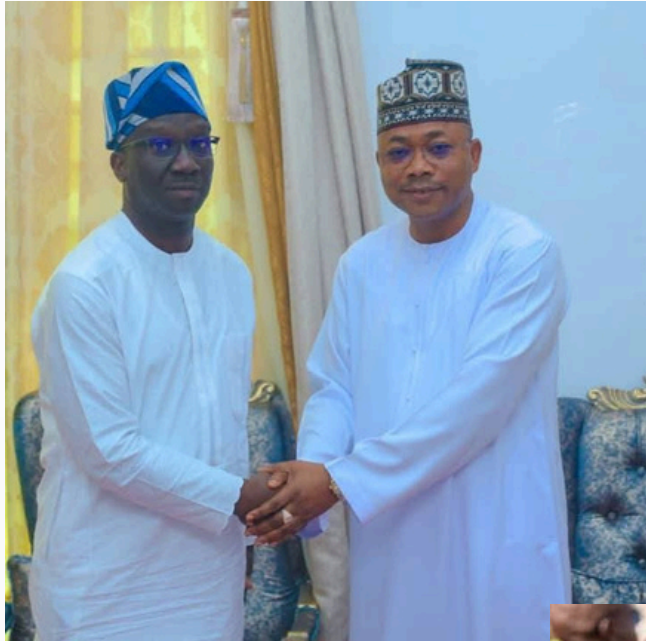
Ministry of Information and Communication

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



Auchi Residents Hail Edo Govt For Taking CofO Services To Edo North

Edo State Government launches EDOGIS office in Auchi, bringing C of O services closer to Edo North residents. The move, celebrated by a diverse group of stakeholders, marks a new era of land administration accessibility and efficiency for the region.



EDO GOVT BANS NURSERY, PRIMARY GRADUATION PARTIES

Under the new guidelines, only pupils completing Basic Education (Primary 1-JSS 3) and Senior Secondary 3 will be allowed modest graduation ceremonies, while prom parties have been outlawed.

GOV OKPEBHOLO IS FOCUSED ON THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "SHINE" AGENDA- OHONBAMU



Edo State Commissioner for Information, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu, says Governor Monday Okpebholo remains focused on delivering the five-point SHINE Agenda despite criticisms. He highlighted progress in security, healthcare, roads, transport, agriculture, and education, noting projects like the Ramat Park Flyover, revival of Edo Line, and renovation of schools. While congratulating the Governor on his birthday.

INSTALLATION OF BEAMS COMMENCES AT THE RAMAT PARK FLYOVER

The Edo State Government says the Ramat Park Flyover has reached a major milestone with beam installation now underway. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, Engr. Dr. John Obanor, who inspected the project, praised Governor Okpebholo's commitment and assured close monitoring to ensure standards are met.



ECO NEWS

EDSG strengthens fight against GBV with Stakeholders Engagement

Edo Govt., in collaboration with UNICEF and WRAHP, holds advocacy session on laws and policies to strengthen response to Sexual & Gender-Based Violence, Violence Against Children, and FGM.



Arc. Fashanu restates EdoFEWMA's commitment to protecting residents from flood and erosion threats

The CEO of EdoFEWMA, Arc. Emmanuel Fashanu, has led inspection tours of key flood control sites in Benin City, urging contractors to fast-track desilting works during the August dry spell.



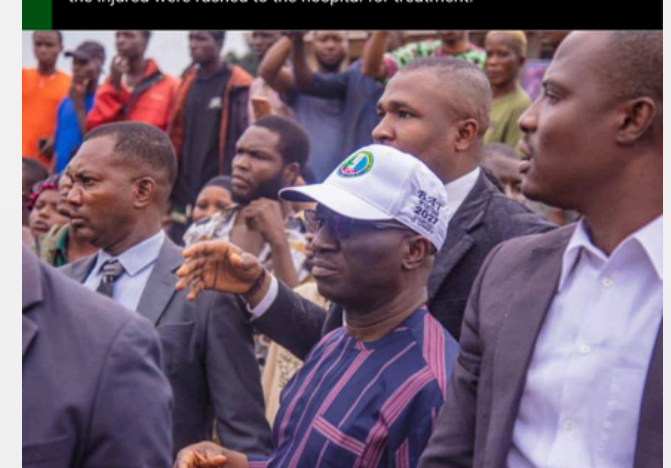
Anani Highlights Significance of Women Agricultural Empowerment, Calls for Stakeholder's Collaboration

Edo First Lady's Office has emphasized women's empowerment in poultry farming as key to food security, commending the Okpebholo administration for raising the agriculture budget from ₦5.9bn to ₦17bn.



Gov Okpebholo Rescues Over 10 Accident Victims on Benin-Auchi Highway

Edo State Governor, Sen. Monday Okpebholo, on Saturday personally rescued victims of a ghastly accident along the Benin-Auchi Road, converting his security vehicles into emergency transport and ensuring the injured were rushed to the hospital for treatment.





WE WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU

Via Our
Contacts
Below

