

# The Executive

...AN NGF MONTHLY PUBLICATION

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NIGERIA  
GOVERNORS'  
FORUM

SUMMARY

BUMPER  
EDITION



## A STRONGER NGF BECKONS

Also Inside ▶

A post  
insurgency  
Yobe



Gov. Alia  
champions  
innovation

Ondo: A  
State on  
the move

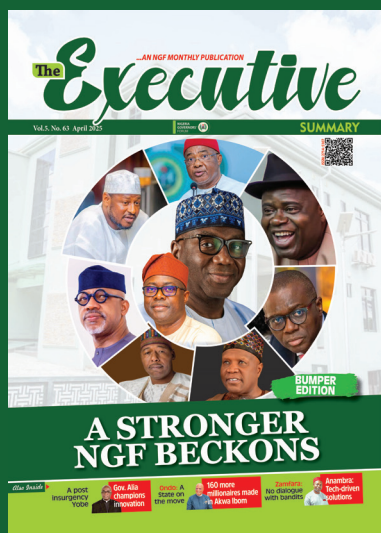


160 more  
millionaires made  
in Akwa Ibom

Zamfara:  
No dialogue  
with bandits



Anambra:  
Tech-driven  
solutions



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### THE TEAM

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This edition of the Executive Summary is a child of necessity, mirroring a seething tapestry of innovative engagements, firm leadership, and adroit managerial footing. After months of not having documented activities of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, a bumper edition became imperative, due to the numerous accomplishments of the 36 governors and complementary activities of their spouses.

Flip through the pages and you will find some of the most remarkable deliverables all brought by your governor or a governor in your states' neighbourhood.

Over time, governors have responded to the yearnings and aspirations of their people at the subnational level, through the provision of basic infrastructure and even more deliberately, responded to the demand for technological advancement, equipment, impetus and knowhow.

Anambra State governor, Prof. Charles Soludo, embraces technology so sincerely that he has made it a culture in his state. Governor Soludo has provided his government with tech-driven solutions propelled with e-government paraphernalia.

On his part, Governor Hyacinth Iormem Alia of Benue State, concentrates on what Benue people are best at, championing innovation with the inaugural Made-in-Benue exhibition where, last week, along with the Minister of Trade, showcased a wide variety of made in Benue goods.

These are just a tip of the iceberg. Rolling out the accomplishments of governors in technology is better left to the reader to do after going through this special edition of the Executive Summary.

There, the reader can find the numerous innovation hubs established in different parts of the country, including Abia, Akwa Ibom, Kaduna, Ogun, Lagos, Oyo, Bayelsa states, among many others, by Governors. Outside the innovation hubs, governors like Nwifuru of Ebonyi State, proudly the only governor whose children still remain in Nigerian schools while the lads of less fortunate poor are sent abroad to mix with the best in the world.

There are states where wealth distribution has become the norm rather than the exception. In Akwa Ibom State under the Governor Umo Eno administration, more than a hundred and sixty people have been made millionaires by the government.

Many more have been empowered in different dimensions, some even beyond their wildest dreams. The tale of the lady who, despite protocol inhibitions, painstakingly sought the governor's attention and eventually was blessed by the state to start her business after meeting Governor Umo Eno, is now legendary.

The cover story for this edition revolves around the statutes of limitation of the NGF. These are the six core mandate areas of the organisation. It is aptly captured in the opening address and laid bare for all to see. As a policy hub, the NGF derives its legitimacy from its convening power by providing a platform where all the thirty-six governors discuss issues of mutual interests and those issues are restricted only to the development of the subnational territories, excluding politics.

The union of the governors can rally them round any political matter collectively or individually when a resolution of any unconventional inconvenience arises, but centrally insulates the Forum from that conversation.

In other words, because the Forum is an agglomeration of politicians of various political ideological divides, the tendency of the Forum dabbling into knotty political matters is pregnant enough and most often better avoided.

Still, inside this edition which technically passes for a coffee table book of the NGF, there is a smooth and swift transition from tech to business to infrastructure and to security where the Governor of Zamfara State declared very sternly that there will be no peace for the wicked and no talks with bandits in Zamfara State. And without doubt, in Zamfara, joy is coming.

But before berthing on security this issue of the Executive Summary contains issues of food security where the nineteen northern governors expended N450bn to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable in society and provide succour.

Furthermore, as a commitment in that direction is the transportation revolution on the Plateau where the benefits of palliatives are noticeable in the state.

Lastly but not the least is the series of successes in the health sector where governors have been recognised by the World Bank and other donor agencies for their performance in the Primary Healthcare Challenge.

To leave this unmentioned is, to say the least sacrilegious as the feat of the NGF in the area of public health, immunisation, nutrition and advocacy is unrivalled. So is the Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum, which has led the way in fighting Gender Based Violence, cancer, the menace of out-of-school children, and many more social vices in the country, under the able leadership of Her Excellency Ambassador Professor Olufolake AbdulRazaq.

You may also want to know the expertise invested in the running of the Forum's secretariat going forward. The Director General of the NGF, Dr Abdullateef Shittu's profile is also inside.

All these and more are in the Executive Summary this month. Beyond being a keepsake, this edition of the Executive Summary is a must read as well.

Please read on...



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# Nigeria Governors' Forum: Firm On It's Core Mandate

The Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, has demonstrably entered a new governance phase by standing firm, leveraging its foundational mandates and deploying more clarity in communicating to its critical stakeholders guided by its chairman, H.E, Mallam AbdulRasaq AbdulRahman. LOUIS ACHI reports.

Disruptions sweep the planet. Significantly, in periods of disruption, organisations and states live or die by their ability to envision new order, manage, and adapt to change. For the Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, disruption, progressive change, diversity management, and fidelity to foundational principles remain unquestioned, central and dominant governance themes.

Although last year, leading up to the first quarter of 2025, covered by this special report provided a tapestry of challenges as well as impactful governance positives, today in Nigeria and its federating entities, civilization remains a work in notable progress.

But mature, pragmatic, inclusive and imaginative leadership that resonates with remarkable governance and managerial nous mirrored both at the chairmanship and NGF Secretariat levels, respectively, speak to the triumph of reasoned, circumspect guidance over whimsical control.

The NGF is an umbrella agglomeration of subnational governments promoting unified policy positions and collaborating with relevant stakeholders in pursuit of sustainable socioeconomic growth and the well-being of the people. It plays the role of a neutral policy body, skirting prickly partisan conflicts and needless posturing.

The organisation's foundational essence was rather tested recently on the heels of a presidential intervention in one of

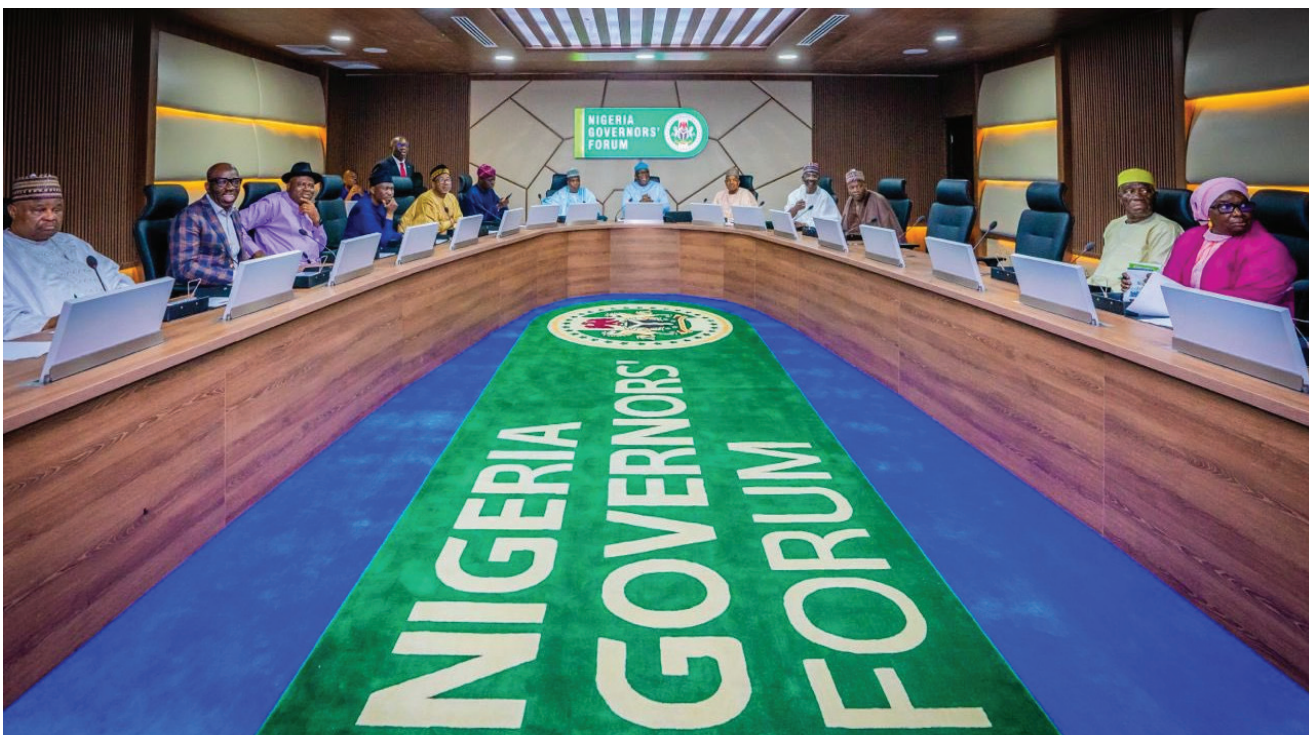
the member states. But guided by its Chairman, H.E Mallam AbdulRasaq AbdulRahman's firm guidance, the governors' forum delivered with notable clarity, the organisation's position and put to rest any niggling doubts about its mission. H.E, Mallam AbdulRahman is also the executive governor of Kwara State.

The Director-General of NGF, Dr. Abdulateef Shittu, who heads the Forum Secretariat and executes the chairman's directives captured the essence of the body's neutrality in core political matters when he stated: "In whatever language it is written, taking positions on contentious partisan issues would mean a poor sense of history just a few years after the Forum survived a fundamental division following political differences among its members."

Shittu appropriately clarified that nevertheless, "the Forum is reputed for its bold positions on governance and general policy matters of profound consequences, such as wages, taxes, education, and universal healthcare, among others."

He insightfully canvassed the understanding of the public and the media, confident that appropriate platforms and crisis management mechanisms would take care of any such evolving issues.

For more clarity, the six core mandate areas of the NGF are Agriculture, Education, the Economy, Healthcare, Infrastructure/policy and Security. The Forum does not engage



H.E Mallam AbdulRasaq AbdulRahman, Chairman NGF and Governor of Kwara State

directly in politics but benefits from the experiences of its members through subterranean engagement towards fostering peace in any given situation.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat is the technical and administrative arm of the Forum. It oversees the daily operations of the Forum and provides direction to their discourse through evidence-based policy advocacy. As a policy hub, the Secretariat also provides assistance through research, policy advocacy and technical training support to States to improve their capacity



Dr. Abdulateef Shittu  
Director General of the NGF



H.E Seyi Makinde, Vice Chairman of the NGF and Governor of Oyo State

to better manage their economies.

As a technical and policy hub comprising governors elected on different platforms, the NGF deliberately steers clear of taking positions that may alienate members with varying political interests. The NGF Chairman remains remarkab

It could be recalled that on May 23, 2023, Governor AbdulRazaq AbdulRahman emerged Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF). Also, his Oyo State counterpart, His Excellency, Governor Seyi Makinde, became the Vice-Chairman of the forum.

The position was unveiled in a communique signed by the then outgoing chairman of the forum (NGF), Aminu Tambuwal at the end of the 7th emergency meeting of the state governors held on Tuesday night, May 23, 2023, in Abuja.

A new dispensation often suggests new-fangled, possibly high-octane, brash ways of executing relevant mandates. But the inauguration of unassuming Mallam AbdulRasaq AbdulRahman as NGF Chairman introduced a phase of quiet, focused, mandate-driven journey for the organization.

These have found expression in several governance-related and managerial engagements and innovations as the NGF leverages its core mandates and innovates.

It could also be recalled that the NGF had on May 20, 2024, announced the appointment of Dr. Abdulateef Shittu as its acting Director General with immediate effect. Shittu's appointment followed the retirement of Asishana Okauru. Before his appointment, Shittu had meritoriously served as the Executive Director, Strategy and Research at the

NGF Secretariat.

Remarkable confidence was expressed by the Forum's Chairman that the new Director General, a consummate technocrat, would circumspectly drive the Forum's strategic initiatives forward.

"As Director General, Abdulateef Shittu will lead the NGF with a clear focus on enhancing intergovernmental collaboration, fostering innovative solutions to everyday challenges, and ensuring the effective implementation of policies that promote sustainable development across all states.

"The NGF remains steadfast in its commitment to its mission and objectives, and we are confident that Dr. Abdulateef Shittu will provide the continuity and stability needed during this period," the Forum Chairman stated in a formal statement that announced Shittu's assumption of office.

Dr. Shittu has not disappointed. One of his transformative initiatives endorsed by the Chairman is the creation of Datamatics, a cutting-edge department in the NGF Secretariat devoted to providing accurate, real-time data to policymakers, analysts, and the public. Given that sound governance is built on specific facts, he has repositioned the NGF as a trusted source of economic and governance-related information.

Data governance within the NGF Secretariat involves establishing frameworks, policies, and processes to ensure data is managed and protected effectively, encompassing data quality, security, privacy, and compliance.

A robust data governance framework helps the organization to - streamline and scale data governance processes, maintain policy and regulatory compliance, empower users with self-service tools for data access and analytics, ensure data can be governed, transformed, and delivered across various applications and deployments.

Datamatics serves as a central hub for critical data on state economies, revenue generation, public spending, and development indices - ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability. With accessible, verifiable data, policymakers, researchers, and investors can make informed decisions that drive sustainable development.

Potential applications of the new innovation, Datamatics, includes - policy development, resource allocation, public service delivery, and digital transformation. Cut to the bone, the Datamatics innovation cements the NGF's reputation as a thought leader in governance while reinforcing trust in public institutions.

This new vibrancy at the Nigeria Governor's Forum has inevitably permeated its core mandate areas and birthed a new trajectory.



## From Policy to Practice: NGSF Leading Nigeria's Subnational Women's Economic Empowerment Revolution

In her stirring address at the Joint United Nations High-Level Meeting on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, Her Excellency Olufolake Abdulrazaq, Chairperson of the Nigeria Governors' Spouses' Forum (NGSF), recalled the historic 1995 Beijing commitment and set a bold agenda for transforming women's lives across Nigeria. Her call for comprehensive policy reforms—to cascade the National Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Policy to the subnational level—has galvanized governors' spouses nationwide to become strategic agents of change.

The National Women's Economic Empowerment Policy and Action Plan (2023–2028) serves as Nigeria's roadmap to close entrenched gender gaps in economic participation. By focusing on increasing women's financial inclusion, expanding access to capital and markets, and bolstering skills and entrepreneurship, the policy acknowledges that sustainable economic growth is achievable only when women are fully integrated into every sector of the economy.

Women's economic empowerment (WEE) is recognized as a critical driver of national development, economic growth, and social equity. The Federal Government of Nigeria developed the WEE Policy to address systemic barriers hindering women's participation. Yet, for this transformative framework to make a real impact, it must be effectively implemented at the subnational level—a challenge that the Nigeria Governors' Spouses' Forum (NGSF) has enthusiastically embraced.

By leveraging their unique influence, governors' spouses have championed several strategic initiatives. They have pushed for



HE. Olufolake Abdulrazaq, Chairperson NSGF



HE. Chioma Uzodimma

the domestication of key laws—including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Child Rights Act in over 30 states—thereby fortifying the legal framework supporting women's economic empowerment. Recognizing that economic empowerment begins with health, the Forum has partnered with UNICEF and UNAIDS to advocate for expanded maternity leave policies—now adopted in eight states—and to enhance maternal healthcare systems. These health-focused initiatives improve outcomes and ensure that women remain active contributors to the workforce.

Moreover, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women, governors' spouses have spearheaded campaigns to eliminate harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. Their community-based interventions and social norms transformation programs create an enabling environment where women can pursue economic opportunities without fear or discrimination. Through the "Nigeria Governors Wives Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence" initiative, the Forum has also facilitated the establishment of Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) and conducted capacity-building programs to improve state-level responses to SGBV. These measures provide survivors with the comprehensive support needed to participate fully in economic life.

Partnerships with UN agencies—including UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, and UNAIDS—have enhanced the advocacy impact through collective action. These collaborations underpin efforts to enhance accountability in law enforcement and governance, deepen grassroots mobilization, and promote gender-responsive governance at every level.

Her Excellency Olufolake Abdulrazaq's impassioned call at the UN High-Level Meeting resonated as a blueprint for transformative change. The collaborative efforts of the Nigeria Governors' Spouses' Forum, aligned with the National WEE Policy, are redefining the economic landscape for women across Nigeria.

As Nigeria moves forward, the message is clear: when women are empowered, the entire nation prospers.



By cascading these policy interventions to the subnational level, governors' spouses are ensuring that every Nigerian woman—whether in urban centers or rural communities—has the opportunity to thrive. This collective commitment to strategic advocacy, robust partnerships, and sustained policy implementation sets Nigeria on a path toward a more inclusive and prosperous future.





## Photos: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GIRL CHILD EDUCATION IN NIGERIA



The panelists



Some of the female participants, including NYSC members at the occasion



Her Excellency, Amb. Olufolake AbdulRazaq, NGSF Chairperson



The audience



NGSF Chairperson, Former Minister of Women Affairs and NGF DG



Listeners



Her Excellency, Amb. Olufolake AbdulRazaq decorating one of the participants





# Launch Of The HPV Vaccination Drive In Kwara State

**T**his year's Children's Day was epoch-making as it marked the launch of the second phase of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination against cervical cancer in 21 states across the country.

Cervical cancer, a devastating consequence of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the third most common cancer and the second most frequent cause of cancer deaths among women aged between 15 and 44 years in Nigeria.

With the highest burden of this cancer globally, the Government of Nigeria through the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) with support from key partners launched the HPV Vaccination drive, which is the largest roll-out of the single-dose vaccine in the African Region.

The first phase of the HPV vaccine drive was carried out in 15 states (Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, Osun, and Taraba) and the Federal Capital Territory across the country in October 2023.

Anchored on the 'Greening Our Future' Initiative, the First Lady of Kwara State, Her Excellency, Amb. Prof. Olufolake AbdulRazaq launched the roll-out of the HPV vaccine to girls aged 9-14 years old. The launch took place at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth School in the state capital, Ilorin on the 27th May 2024 alongside the planting of trees and establishment of the Queen Elizabeth School Garden.

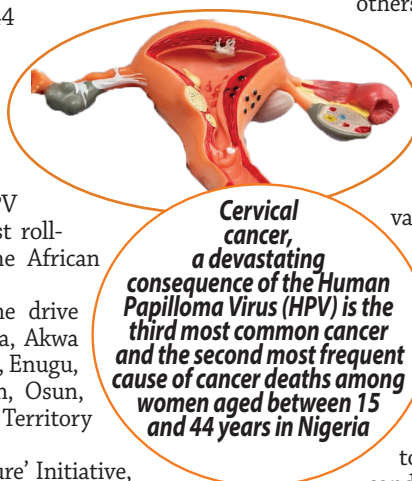
The event had in attendance female students of selected secondary schools in the state as well as delegations from the key stakeholder

organizations including the Traditional Leaders, NPHCDA led by Mr Sheu Hassan, GAVI led by Hajia Binta Ismail, UNICEF – Dr. Eduardo Celades, World Health Organization – Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo, Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat – Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab and Dr. Joseph Oteri, Jon Snow International – Dr. Olawale Durosini-Etti among others.

In her opening remarks, Her Excellency, Amb. Prof. Olufolake AbdulRazaq emphasized the importance of the HPV vaccine in cervical cancer prevention. She further assured the public of the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and debunked the myths and misconceptions surrounding the vaccine use. She also seized the opportunity to call for community support and involvement in the vaccination drive especially among the traditional and religious leaders to follow suit and educate their subjects and audience to promote acceptability of the vaccine and reduce the risk of cervical cancer among the Kwaran Women.

A symbolic vaccination of schoolgirls to commence the state-wide activity was conducted by the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr Amina Ahmed El-Imam.

The launching event not only successfully raised awareness about the HPV Vaccine but the collective effort of the Stakeholders is set to ensure that by administering this safe and effective vaccine against HPV infection, Kwara State is raising a generation of cervical cancer-free women by protecting her adolescent girls.





# Celebrating Exceptional Leadership in Primary Healthcare: Highlights from the 2024 Primary Healthcare Leadership Challenge Gala and Award Night

On December 12, 2024, Nigeria celebrated excellence in primary healthcare delivery at the prestigious Primary Healthcare Leadership Challenge (PHCLC) Gala and Award Night. Held in commemoration of World Universal Health Coverage Day, the event brought together approximately 400 attendees, including Executive Governors, the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Honourable Commissioners of Health, Executive Secretaries of State Primary Healthcare Boards and State Health Insurance Agencies, representatives from various MDAs, ALGON, country ambassadors to Nigeria, and representatives from key development partners such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), UNICEF, Aliko Dangote Foundation, WHO, UNFPA, the World Bank, and the private sector.

The PHCLC is a collaborative initiative designed to incentivize and recognize exceptional leadership in the delivery of primary healthcare (PHC) services across Nigeria. Implemented by the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) in partnership with UNICEF and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,

the challenge encourages states to enhance PHC systems, ensuring equitable access to essential health services for all Nigerians.

This initiative was established to fast-track the implementation of the Seattle Declaration, a commitment signed by all state governors at the National Economic Council meeting in November 2019. The Seattle Declaration aims to elevate primary healthcare on the political agenda, promote accountability, and drive measurable improvements in health outcomes. By fostering competition and collaboration among states, the PHCLC creates a platform for innovation and sustained commitment to improving healthcare delivery. The challenge focuses on key areas crucial to primary healthcare improvements, including leadership and governance, financing, quality service delivery, use of evidence, sustainability and outcomes.



Left – Jigawa State Governor, Umar Namadi receiving an award during the Primary Health Care Leadership Challenge.



Ogun State Commissioner for Health Dr. Tomi Coker. Middle - Kwara State Commissioner of Health Dr. Amina Ahmed El-Imam and other Commissioners at the Primary Health Care Challenge



3rd left - Kwara State Commissioner of Health Dr. Amina Ahmed El-Imam together with Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Mohammed Ali Pate (Middle) and Director General, Nigeria Governors' Forum, Abdulateef Shittu presenting the North Central Zonal Champion award to the Kwara State's commissioner during the Leadership award dinner.



R-L: Kwara State Governor and Nigeria Governors' Forum Chairman, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq and Deputy Governor, Akwa-Ibom State, Akon Eyakenyi and the deputy of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe during the PHC Leadership award challenge at the Presidential Villa



Babajide Sanwo-Olu (middle), Executive Governor of Lagos State receiving the award as the South-West Runner-up of the Primary Health Care Leadership Challenge hosted at the Presidential Villa in December



3rd right - Governor Gombe State, Alh. Mohammed Inuwa Yahaya and the Commissioner of Health, Gombe State Dr. Habu Dahiru (Middle) receiving an award during the PHC Leadership Challenge.



3rd Left: Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare of Federal Republic of Nigeria; Mohammed Ali Pate; Middle - Executive Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency Prof Charles Soludo; Second right - Kwara State Governor and Nigeria Governors' Forum Chairman, His Excellency AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Far Right - His Excellency Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Executive Governor of Lagos State during the presentation of the award of the overall National Champion of the Primary Healthcare Challenge to His Excellency Prof Charles Soludo.

A total of 14 awards were presented at the 2024 PHCLC Gala/Awards Night, recognizing outstanding achievements in primary healthcare leadership. Anambra State emerged as both the overall best-performing state and the best-performing state in its zone, receiving a total of \$1.2 million. Other zonal winners, each awarded \$500,000, included Kwara State (North-Central), Kaduna State (North-West), Yobe State (North-East), Osun State (South-West), and Rivers State (South-South). Additionally, the first runners-up in each zone—Lagos State (South-West), Delta State (South-South), Abia State (South-East), Jigawa State (North-West), Gombe State (North-East), and the Federal Capital Territory (North-Central) were each awarded \$400,000. A special PHC Innovation Award was presented to Gombe State for its pioneering biometric program aimed at tackling absenteeism, ghost workers, excessive wage bills, and the lack of reliable employee data across state and LGA establishments, including health facilities. Since its introduction, this initiative has saved the state over N2.3 billion while significantly increasing attendance and productivity among health workers.

The PHCLC Gala and Award Night was more than just a celebration—it was a call to action. Governors, health commissioners, and development partners reiterated their commitment to scaling up investments in PHC to achieve universal health coverage in Nigeria. The event emphasized the need for continuous collaboration, increased domestic financing, and evidence-based policymaking to strengthen health systems nationwide.

As Nigeria moves forward, the PHCLC remains a vital platform for driving healthy competition among states, fostering accountability, and recognizing transformative leadership in healthcare. The achievements of this year's winners serve as a model for other states, inspiring a collective push towards a resilient and sustainable PHC system that delivers quality healthcare to all Nigerians. With each edition of the PHCLC, the vision of a healthier Nigeria becomes clearer. As states continue to rise to the challenge, the ultimate beneficiaries remain the millions of Nigerians who rely on an efficient and well-resourced primary healthcare system.



# Financing Nutrition Commodities within Primary Health Care



Nutrition commodities play a significant role in combating malnutrition through both preventive and curative methods. Financing these essential commodities is high on the political agenda in Nigeria, with both federal and state governments leading this course. In July 2024, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMoHSW) and the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP) in collaboration with the Nigeria Governors' Forum, UNICEF and Results for Development organized a two-day workshop focused on enhancing sustainable financing for nutrition commodities in Nigeria.

The workshop convened key stakeholders across eleven (11) states – Anambra, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Niger, Osun and Plateau – as well as partners involved in the nutrition commodities value chain in Nigeria to assess the current financing landscape for nutrition commodities, develop sustainable and innovative financing options for nutrition commodities and harnessing UNICEF's Child Nutrition Fund (CNF) as an alternative

funding mechanism.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr Ahmad Abdulwahab, Senior Technical Advisor - Nigeria Governors' Forum, where he appreciated states and partners for their support and called on nutrition commodities financing to be prioritized by all stakeholders. Further goodwill messages delivered by the Director of Nutrition - Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning Kwara State, The Office of the Vice President, UNICEF, World Bank, Nutrition International, Alive and Thrive, CS-SUNN, Helen Keller International, and R4D who jointly called on all relevant stakeholders to focus on strengthening existing structures and aim to improve sustainable financing as an investment into the human capital of the nation.

The workshop featured presentation by the Director of Nutrition, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Mrs Ladidi Bako-Aiyegbusi, mni on the vision for sustainable commodities financing, outlining the aims of the ministry in establishing a robust financial framework to support the production, distribution and utilization of nutrition commodities. She emphasized on the commitment of the ministry to distributing Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS), Intermittent Presumptive Treatment (IPTp) for Malaria in pregnancy, Vitamin A Supplementation, Ready-to-Use Therapeutic





Foods (RUTF) and Small Quantity Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (SQ-LNS) for treatment and prevention of malnutrition.

State teams presented on the process of quantification, procurement, logistics, budgeting and financing nutrition commodities to facilitate understanding of the current financing situation, its gaps and opportunities. The analysis revealed substantial gaps in procurement, unmet needs in commodity procurement, low government contribution and high dependency on partners. In addressing these challenges, recommendations were made on government prioritizing funding for nutrition commodities with the annual planning and budgeting process, integration of nutrition commodities into the existing health products and medicine supply chain, harnessing data and evidence-based advocacy in improving visibility of nutrition commodities as well as leveraging funding from non-health nutrition sensitive MDAs in financing nutrition commodities.

The workshop also explored the UNICEF Child Nutrition Fund (CNF), a matching fund for nutrition commodities which provides participating states with a \$1: \$1 match for essential



nutrition commodities, including: Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS), Balanced Energy Protein (BEP), Small Quantity Lipid Based Nutrient Supplement (SQ-LNS), Vitamin A, and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). With a minimum investment of N100 million to qualify, states can double the investment in

nutrition commodities. Notably, Nigeria is one of the first countries to utilize the CNF, with the FG supplying 3 million bottles of MMS in 2024 through this fund. The FG has also committed to invest \$30 million into the matched funding for procurement of nutrition commodities in the coming years.



# Adeleke: Birthing Transformational Projects

Osun State has long been a battleground for political and developmental debates, but one thing is becoming increasingly clear, **Governor Ademola Adeleke** is making his mark in record time. Dubbed "Osun State Mr. Project," Adeleke has embarked on an aggressive developmental stride that has transformed various sectors, from infrastructure to healthcare and technology. His administration has achieved feats that many would struggle to accomplish in an entire tenure.



Gov Adeleke

## Revolutionizing Infrastructure: Roads, Bridges, and Electricity

Infrastructure remains a critical foundation for development, and Governor Adeleke has taken this challenge head-on. His administration has facilitated the construction of 20 kilometers of roads across the state, ensuring smoother connectivity for residents and businesses. Some key roads benefiting from this intervention include:

- Dualization of Osogbo-Ikirun Road (10.5 km) with street lights
- Iresi Township Road (3,000 meters)
- Oja Oba-FBMA Road in Osogbo (1,200 meters)
- Ansaruldeen Central Mosque Junction to Hospital Road, Iwo (1,550 meters)

Aside from roads, the governor has taken strategic steps to rehabilitate critical bridges and culverts that were in a state of disrepair. A prime example is the broken bridge at Bokusoro/Adeke in Iwo, which had previously led to multiple accidents and loss of life due to erosion. His administration has also focused on rural electrification, ensuring communities that have been left in the dark for decades now have access to electricity.

With the provision of transformers and electrical materials, communities such as Oke Arula, Ofatedo, Sekona, Idi Igba, Oke Awere-Musa, and Okini have been connected to the national grid. These electricity projects, facilitated in collaboration with the House of Representatives member Bamidele Salam, have finally brought light to areas that had suffered years of neglect.

## Water Supply: Addressing a

## Fundamental Need

Access to clean and potable water has been a persistent issue for many Osun residents. Governor Adeleke's administration tackled this by providing boreholes in each of the 333 wards in the state. This initiative is not only improving hygiene and sanitation but also reducing the burden of water scarcity that previously plagued rural communities.



*As Osun residents continue to witness these remarkable transformations, one thing is certain: Governor Ademola Adeleke is living up to his name as Osun State's Mr. Project.*

## Boosting Healthcare: Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach

In a state where access to quality healthcare has been a challenge, Governor Adeleke introduced the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach, a program that has provided free medical services to thousands. With 18,000 beneficiaries across the nine federal constituencies, this initiative has been a game-changer.

The outreach program has offered free surgeries for cataracts, hernia, and other medical conditions while also addressing common ailments like hypertension, diabetes, and tuberculosis. Moreover, the enrollment of 3,000 Osun indigenes in the Osun Health Insurance Scheme (OHIS) is ensuring that more people have access to affordable healthcare.

## Addressing Financial Commitments: Salary and Pension Payments

One of the most pressing concerns inherited by Adeleke's administration was the backlog of unpaid salaries and pensions. In a bold move, he ensured the payment of salary and pension arrears dating back to January 2016. This gesture not only relieved workers and retirees of their financial burdens but also demonstrated Adeleke's commitment to the welfare of Osun citizens.

## Osun on the Tech Map: Innovation and Digital Transformation

Governor Adeleke is not just focusing on

physical infrastructure; he is also pushing Osun into the digital age. His administration has launched the Osun Tech Revolution, introducing policies that position the state as a leader in innovation. Some of the key initiatives include:

- New Tech Innovation Policy and ICT Policy
- Domestication of Nigeria's Startup Act
- Osun Google Mapping Project, which aims to improve digital navigation and tourism in the state

Furthermore, over N260 million was invested in ICT and classroom facilities in Egbedore Local Government Area, marking a significant step towards modernized education.

## Community Development and Social Interventions

Recognizing the importance of grassroots development, Adeleke's administration disbursed N518 million to 40 communities for infrastructural projects. This approach has empowered local communities to address their specific developmental needs, ranging from school renovations to market upgrades.

Additionally, the Osun State Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA), under the state's "Osun Cares" program, has facilitated the construction of newly built and fully furnished health centers in Iwo, ensuring that thousands of residents now have access to quality healthcare services within their localities.

## Emergency and Critical Road Repairs

Adeleke's government has also undertaken emergency road interventions, fixing critical sections that had deteriorated due to years of neglect. Key interventions include:

- Spot patching of Lameco-Station Road
- Oke Fia – Dele Yes Sir Road repair
- Rehabilitation of failed sections in Owode and Oke Onitea

Moreover, the construction of culverts in areas such as Shasha (Uni Osun Road), Adeke Iwo, and Gbogan (Owoope/Oke Ola Ajegunle) has addressed long-standing flooding and erosion challenges.

## A Vision for Sustained Growth

Governor Adeleke's administration has been marked by bold, people-centered projects that have improved the quality of life for Osun residents. His approach is not just about quick fixes but establishing a framework for long-term development.

From road construction to healthcare, electricity provision, digital innovation, and rural development, Adeleke's leadership is proving that governance can be both proactive and effective. His administration's successes signal a promising trajectory for Osun State.

As Osun residents continue to witness these remarkable transformations, one thing is certain: Governor Ademola Adeleke is living up to his name as Osun State's Mr. Project.



# Gov. Fubara

## Demystifying Governance with Projects' Harvest

In navigating through the leadership path followed by **Governor Siminalayi Fubara** in today's Rivers State, it is appropriate to begin by drawing strength from the most genial African wisecrack that says, "When preparing the roasted yam of the blind, one is expected to do so whistling."

That is an absolute fact of wisdom and an apparent point of truth. Of course, it is to explicitly enact a sense of transparency and accountability before the impaired and exude the integrity of the one providing service of assisting the blind with such crucial tasks. That allegory is exemplified in dispensing public trust as bequeathed in the mandate by the people, and so, must be done with all sense of responsibility.

Unequivocally, that defines the philosophy behind the remarkable leadership style of Governor Siminalayi Fubara as he pilots the affairs of Rivers State. In that most fundamental approach, he has elected to explicitly demystify governance in the state by transparently showcasing every aspect of government with direct bearing on the people without any noise.

From the onset of his administration, Governor Fubara has been threading with utmost care and exuding a high level of prudence in managing the state's patrimony. Rather than waste the commonwealth on frivolities, he innovatively increased the earnings of the state from a paltry N15 billion to an upward increase of N27 billion. The positive outcome of that ingenuity is providing quality services to the people without borrowing. Thus, in every sector, Governor Fubara registers his indelible footprints, but more passionately in education, health, agriculture, road infrastructure, and human welfare.

While detractors are neck-deep in their treachery against him, he is busy working to elevate the people from the dungeon of induced underdevelopment and squalor—albeit silently. To show his pedigree as an accountant and crack technocrat, Governor Siminalayi Fubara, since taking the reins of office, has never sought a loan from any quarter, except for the N200 billion obtained to fund the Port Harcourt Dual Carriage Ring Road. The circumstances of that loan are a story for another day. Besides that, every other legacy



Gov Fubara

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project initiated by Governor Siminalayi Fubara is progressing without any form of debt burden, as the resources of the state are justifiably allocated for their smooth execution.

At several fora, this committed people-oriented governor has told Rivers people that all his projects and services are funded from internally generated revenue savings. This is even at the provocative sarcasm of detractors who claim that nothing is happening in the state in terms of development. But gradually, Governor Fubara has proven to them that Rivers' money is genuinely being applied to give the people the needed services and development they truly desire and deserve.

### Infrastructure: Laying the Foundation for Progress

This commitment is reflected in the N225.1 billion Trans-Kalabari road covering 12.5 kilometers and running on about 3 kilometers deck-on-pile with four long bridges covering over 1.3 kilometers. The project, flagged off in May 2024 by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, has already seen over 30% of the contractual cost paid as a mobilization fee, and work is intensifying daily toward its 32-month completion deadline.

Similarly, the Elele-Umudioga-Egbeda-Ubimini-Ikiri-Omoku road is another evidence of focused leadership. The 33.5-kilometer road is costing Rivers State N80.8 billion, with 40% mobilization fee paid to the contractor, CraneBurge Nigeria Limited. Work is already at an advanced stage. Even though the delivery date is scheduled for 24 months, the level of accelerated work may likely hasten completion.

In response to the request of the Etche people, Governor Fubara extended the 12.3-kilometer Egwi-Afara-Mba Road by another 10 kilometers to connect it to Imo State. Former Rivers State Governor, Sir Celestine Omehia, re-echoed Fubara's commitment to opening up the economic and agro belts of the state, such as Etche, describing the road as significant for food production and connectivity.

Further demonstrating his dedication to the Kalabari nation, the governor flagged off the 19.1-kilometer Buguma-Abalama-Tema-Degema-Abonnema Road project, worth N30.4 billion, awarded to Julius Berger Nigeria Plc. The government has already paid a 30% mobilization fee, amounting to N9.1 billion.

Several other road infrastructure projects were quietly awarded and commenced without the usual media jamboree, including the 11.8-kilometer Okehi-Umuola-Eberi road and the already commissioned 10.9-kilometer Aleto-Ebubu-Etoe road.



**N27 billion**

An innovatively increased earnings of the state through prudence management of the state's patrimony.

**N85k**

Minimum wage payment, reinforcing his policy that governance is about the people's welfare.

**N344 billion**

Amount spent so far for infrastructural development across the state since 2023 till date.

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### Urban Renewal and Security

Governor Fubara's strategic urban renewal program is glaring in Bori, the traditional headquarters of the Ogoni, where he commissioned 13.985 kilometers of internal roads to transform the suburban center into a metropolitan city. Additionally, he remodeled the Government Girls Secondary School, Ahoada, and provided new housing at the Nigerian Air Force Base in Port Harcourt.

To enhance security, he commissioned six security surveillance boats and three bungalows at the Nigerian Navy Ship Pathfinder, Rumuolumeni. The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla, praised Governor Fubara for his unwavering support in strengthening security in Rivers State.

### Human Welfare and Traditional Institutions

Governor Fubara took a giant leap to pay the state's workforce an N85,000 minimum wage, reinforcing his policy that governance is about the people's welfare. Additionally, he commissioned the fully furnished Palace of Eze Apará in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. The Obong of Calabar, His Eminence Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi-Otu V, lauded Fubara's respect for traditional institutions and urged him to remain focused.

Governor Siminalayi Fubara's leadership style is a lesson in quiet efficiency. In the face of calculated distractions and political maneuvering, he has remained steadfast in delivering people-oriented projects. Without borrowing, he has funded critical infrastructure, transformed urban centers, improved security, and prioritized human welfare—all from internally generated revenue.

Today, Rivers State stands as a testament to what good governance can achieve when resources are judiciously managed. Governor Fubara is not just building roads and bridges; he is constructing a legacy of integrity, service, and progress for generations to come.



# Bauchi Gov Inaugurates Construction Of 115km Rural Roads



Gov Bala Mohammed

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has flagged off the construction of 115 kilometres of roads across the state's three senatorial zones under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project designed to boost agricultural marketing and improve the residents' livelihoods.

Speaking at the occasion conducted separately in the benefiting communities, the governor said the momentous event marks a significant stride towards complementing the efforts of his administration on rural development and highlighted the strategic importance of the project, which he said aligns with the state's broader vision of improving rural access and agricultural marketing.

He said, "The RAAMP project is to be implemented over five years to provide sustainable access roads in rural areas, thereby facilitating agricultural activities and enhancing economic opportunities for the rural populace.

"The state is committed to the project, where a total sum of N2.4 billion had been provided as counterpart funding."

The governor, underscoring the extensive groundwork that had been laid for this initiative, mentioned, "The 115km roads awarded as 30.33km Charachara-Ragwam-Magwanshi-Lafiya Road, 25.80km Mainamaji-Badara-Kuka-Pali Road, 18.88km Akuyam-Gwaram-Hardawa Road, 15.00km Durum-Nahuta Road, and the 25.00km Garin Gami-Gadai-Madufa Road totalling over N23 billion.

"We have demonstrated our strong political will on the RAAMP project, and we have supported the institutional and legislative reforms needed by the project. In our first tenure, we accomplished the project preparation in accordance with the project development objective agreed with the Federal Government of Nigeria, The World Bank, the French Development Agency, and the 19 participating states."

Mohammed noted that the World Bank has duly procured the contract using international best practices, highlighting the broader impact of these projects.

The governor expressed his satisfaction that the initiative represents an unprecedented level of attention to rural infrastructure in Bauchi state.

He insisted that it was gratifying to note that this is the first time in the history of Bauchi State that rural areas are receiving such unprecedented attention in road construction, emphasizing the transformative potential of these roads for the state's rural economy.

"The inauguration of these roads is

more than just a step forward in infrastructure development; it is a promise kept, a vision realized, and a future secured for the rural communities of Bauchi State. With construction now underway, the state is set to witness a transformation that will enhance connectivity, boost agricultural productivity, and ultimately, improve the quality of life for its rural populace," he stated.

On his part, the Commissioner for Rural Development and Special Duties, Farouk Mustapha, echoed the governor's sentiments, framing the event as a fulfillment of the administration's campaign promises.

He said "This event is a fulfillment of campaign promises to provide access roads to the rural populace.

"Recalled the flag-off of the Liman-Katagum-Luda-Leka pilot road scheme in September 2023, where Governor Mohammed had promised to improve rural access roads.

"Today, true to the character of our amiable governor, we are witnessing the fulfillment of the promise in the flag-off of five rural roads across the state".

In a keynote address at the flag off of the road, the National Coordinator of RAAMP, Engr. Aminu Bodinga praised the Bauchi governor's efforts, noting the significance of these projects in improving the living standards of rural communities.

He said, "Let me commend the governor for his efforts toward rural transformation in Bauchi state by providing the needed rural transport infrastructure which in turn improves the living standards of our rural communities, reduces poverty, provides access to social amenities, and provides ease of transportation of agricultural produce.

"An additional 155 kilometres of rural roads are currently being prepared, bringing the total to nearly 300 kilometres by the end of 2024.

"As RAAMP prepares to roll out phase II of the project, Engr. Bodinga made a poignant request for continued support, saying, "As we prepare to roll out phase II before the end of 2024, I kindly request additional counterpart funds from His Excellency, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed. To whom much is given, much is equally expected."

## ... Flags Off Construction Of N18bn Road In Bauchi Community

Bauchi State governor, Bala Mohammed, has flagged off the construction of a 38km rural road in the Kirfi local government area in a major drive to open up and connect rural communities of the state for greater socio-economic development.

The road project, awarded at a cost of about N18 billion, aims to link Bara, Hashidu, Tubule, Garin Malam Julde, and Wanka rural communities, opening up new opportunities for economic growth, social interaction and access to basic services.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony yesterday in Bara, Governor Muhammad emphasized the importance of rural infrastructure in driving development and improving the lives of rural dwellers.

He noted that the project is part of his administration's commitment to addressing the infrastructure deficit in rural areas and promoting inclusive growth.

The governor expressed his delight at the project's potential to transform the lives of rural communities, saying, it will not only facilitate the movement of people and goods but also provide access to markets, schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services.

He commended the contractor, The Triacta Nigeria Limited for its commitment to delivering quality work and assured the communities that his administration would monitor the project's progress to ensure timely completion.

In his remarks, the emir of Bauchi, Rilwanu Adamu said that the project will have a positive impact on the local economy, with farmers and traders able to transport their goods more easily, and residents having better access to social services.





# Alia Commissions 33 New Tractors, Disburses N380 Million CFR Cheques To Beneficiaries

Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia has commissioned 33 new Tractors, and also disbursed N380,000,000 (\$250,000.00) cheques to community interest groups to undertake climate smart agricultural activities in the state, under the Community Revolving Fund (CRF) scheme of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) scheme.

Governor Alia, who has already paid One Billion Naira (N1,000,000,000) as counterpart fund for the ACReSAL programme, reaffirmed his administration's commitment towards providing the needed support for the programme to continue to thrive in Benue for the overall good of the people of the state.

He appreciated the relentless efforts of ACReSAL in safeguarding the environment, saying his government is proud to collaborate on a project of such consequence, designed to improve the lives of the people of Benue.

While he pronounced the immediate creation of ACReSAL as a new Agency of government in the state for the purpose of knowledge and skills transfer, the



governor said Benue like many other states in the country, share numerous challenges such as high poverty rates, a fragile environment, conflicts, degradation of natural resources, low agricultural productivity, climate-related risks, saying addressing such challenges require collective efforts.

"Addressing these multifaceted issues necessitates a concerted effort across various sectors. The ACReSAL project is specifically tailored to bolster institutions and implement activities that mitigate the environmental impacts of climate change. This includes supporting efforts aimed at landscape management, improving community livelihoods and resilience, and strengthening institutional frameworks."

He urged the beneficiaries of the Community Revolving Fund (CRF) to exercise diligence and prudence in managing the resources, assuring that the 33 tractors commissioned will benefit over 33,000 households in the state annually.

Earlier in her speech, the Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank Nigeria office, who also doubles as the Task team leader for the ACReSAL project, Dr. Joy Iganya Ajene, said the team were in the state to assess, support and look at the bottlenecks of the programme in Benue, stating that they discovered no bottlenecks, been an indication the programme has so far recorded great success in the state.

She commended the government of Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia and the ACReSAL team in the state for playing their respective roles, saying Benue stands to gain more from the programme, urging the government to continue to strengthen the needed institutions in



order to continue to gain more benefits.

Also in his remarks, the National Project Coordinator for the ACReSAL Project, Dr. Prince Abdulhamid Umar, appreciated Governor Hyacinth Alia and his government for supporting ACReSAL in the state as well as the World Bank for making funds available for the Community Revolving Funds (CRF) programme, expressing happiness with the success the programme has recorded so far in the state.

On his part, the Commissioner for Water Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Ugwu Odoh, appreciated the governor for his support for the project, informing him that the ministry has been very supportive of the ACReSAL team in the state, the reason they have recorded so much success with the programme.

In his welcome address, the State Project Coordinator, Benue ACReSAL, Builder Victor Ama, said the ACReSAL programme seeks to amongst other things, address the challenges of land degradation and climate change in Northern Nigeria on a multi-dimensional scale, increase agricultural production, reduce poverty and improve standard of living with financing from the World Bank.

According to Ama, the project became effective in June 2022 and will end in March

Makurdi-Naka Road.

The Polythene and Nylon Printing Factory aims to retain millions that would otherwise be spent on packaging materials imported from Lagos, why the BIPC Nails Ltd is designed to meet the industrial needs of the state.

The expansions of the Bread and Water factories are intended to meet increasing product demand, ensure availability, create employment opportunities, and boost the state's internally generated revenue.

Governor Alia, who was represented by the Commissioner for Industry, Trade and Investment, Hon. Alumo Orpin, emphasized that the factories are expected to reduce importation, create jobs, and enhance food security.

According to the Governor, "These projects will generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, increase our internally generated revenue (IGR), and position Benue State as a hub of industrial growth in Nigeria. Our state is poised for greatness, and these ventures mark the beginning of a new chapter in our journey toward the economic revolution."

"Our administration remains steadfast in our commitment to creating an environment where businesses can thrive. Through deliberate policies, we will continue to pursue initiatives that encourage investment, enhance infrastructure, and foster transparency in governance. This will uplift the living standards of our people and ensure sustainable economic growth," he added.

2028, and it covers 19 Northern States including the FCT, Abuja, disclosing that the Benue State Government under Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, has paid a counterpart fund of 1 Billion naira, as well as provided a conducive working environment for the team in the state.

He said the project is aimed at supporting community farmers in the state, being the mandate of the component "B" of the ACReSAL project which is aimed at enhancing the resilience of communities and to improve their livelihoods.

Aside from the commissioning of the 33 tractors, the sum of N380 Million (\$250,000.00) was disbursed to different Community Interest Groups (CIGs), to support community/farmer groups to undertake climate smart agriculture related activities in the targeted watersheds in Makurdi and Vandeikya LGAs.

The benefitting communities are Wurukum, North Bank, Adeke, Mbagbera, Branch Atser, Mbayongu as well as High-Level township communities.

## Gov. Alia commissions four factories, targets 700 jobs

Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, has commissioned four factories constructed by the Benue Investment and Property Company Limited (BIPC).

The new businesses include the BIPC Polythene and Nylon Printing Factory, the BIPC Water Expansion Factory, both located beside the company's headquarters, the BIPC Nails Ltd and BIPC Bread Expansion Factory along



Within the first hundred days of Governor Hope Uzodimma's administration, Imo State became a massive construction site. His primary focus was making the state capital, Owerri, easily accessible from all 27 local government areas and neighbouring states in the South East and South-South. Bulldozers worked day and night, through dry and rainy seasons, and soon, the difference was evident.

## INNER ROADS REHABILITATION

One of the first major achievements was the rehabilitation of inner roads in Owerri. Within 100 days, roads like Oparanozie, Edede, Inner World Bank roads leading to Port Harcourt Road and Assumpta Cathedral, Weathral Road to Toronto, and many others were revamped. By his first year in office, Uzodimma had proven his commitment to road construction, and the citizens acknowledged his efforts.

## STRATEGIC ROAD PROJECTS

Among his legacy projects is the dual carriageway Owerri-Orlu road, fitted with streetlights. The road's solid construction has made travel seamless, allowing commuters to traverse five local government areas within an hour. Another major project is the Owerri-Okigwe road, described by former Minister Prof. Chinedu Nebo as a "sheer miracle." Previously a four-hour nightmare, the road now allows travelers to reach Okigwe from Owerri in just 45 minutes, improving access to Ebonyi and Enugu states.

## OPENING IMO TO NEIGHBOURING STATES

To enhance connectivity, Uzodimma also commenced the dualization of the Owerri-Umuahia road, which runs through Mbaize and Okigwe Zone, linking Imo to Abia State. The Orlu-Mgbee-Akokwa-Uga road has further opened up business opportunities between Imo and Anambra. Notably, these are federal roads, but the governor prioritizes their development for the benefit of Imo residents and their neighbors.

## BOOSTING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS

Uzodimma facilitated access to key federal institutions by reconstructing the long-abandoned Naze-Ihiagwa-Nekede road. This development has benefited students and staff of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) and the Federal Polytechnic,



Gov Uzodimma

Nekede. In recognition of his efforts, FUTO recently honored him with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Management.

## AIRPORT REVAMP AND NIGHT LANDING FACILITIES

Understanding the economic impact of efficient transportation, Uzodimma tackled a four-decade-long issue at the Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport. After dualizing the road leading to the airport, he invested in night landing facilities, ensuring planes can now land and take off at night. This project, though a federal responsibility, was prioritized by Uzodimma for the state's economic development.

## A ROAD REVOLUTION RECOGNIZED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

By the end of his first tenure, Uzodimma had delivered no fewer than 100 solid roads. Former President Muhammadu Buhari, on his second visit to Imo, acknowledged this progress as a "road revolution." This infrastructural transformation played a pivotal role in Uzodimma's seamless re-election, as the impact of his work was visible and undeniable.

## HIGH-TECH FLYOVER AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Further cementing his vision, Uzodimma initiated the construction of Imo State's first high-tech flyover at Assumpta Avenue in Owerri. The flyover, soon to be operational, will significantly ease traffic congestion. Additionally, the International Conference Centre, now named after the late Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu, stands as a symbol of Imo's transformation. As Concorde Hotel undergoes a revival under Hilton Hotels, the state's

# Hope Uzodimma: Leading Infrastructure Revolution in Imo



infrastructure is aligning with its industrial and investment potential.

## BEYOND ROADS: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

While focusing on infrastructure, Uzodimma has also prioritized human capital development, social welfare, and urban renewal. Under the Skill-Up Imo Project, 40,000 youths have received training in digital technology, with many securing employment both locally and internationally. The state has expanded its educational offerings with three universities, a polytechnic, and a college of education, ensuring quality higher education options.

## HEALTH SECTOR IMPROVEMENTS

Healthcare is also receiving a major boost, with two tertiary teaching hospitals and numerous general hospitals undergoing construction or rehabilitation. These efforts will significantly enhance medical services across the state.

## UNINTERRUPTED ELECTRICITY AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Uzodimma is also tackling power supply challenges through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign partners, aiming to provide uninterrupted electricity across the state. His plan to dredge the Orashi River to the Atlantic Ocean is set to bolster economic activities in the South East. Additionally, the soon-to-be-commissioned Orashi Energy Free Trade Zone will attract investors and promote industrialization.

## A LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATION

With robust infrastructure, a revitalized economy, and significant social welfare advancements, Governor Hope Uzodimma's leadership is reshaping Imo State. His achievements in road construction, education, healthcare, and industrialization have set the state on a path to sustainable development. Given his commitment and vision, Uzodimma truly deserves recognition for his transformative leadership.



# Flood Prevention: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Flags-off Desilting of Drainages



## ...Lays Foundation for Construction of Waste Collection Centers

Gombe State Governor, Mahamadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has flagged-off the desilting of major storm drains within the Gombe metropolis to avert flooding and ensure the protection of lives, infrastructure and the prevention of the outbreak of diseases in the communities.

At the flag-off of the clearing exercise which held on Wednesday at Unguwa Uku community, Governor Inuwa Yahaya described the initiative as crucial to protecting and safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens especially as the rainy season fully sets in.

"As you are aware, Gombe metropolis and other parts of the state have in the past, experienced instances of flooding, leading to devastating losses of lives and property. Today, we officially declare the commencement of clearing of major water channels so as to ensure the free flow of water, safeguard the environment and prevent the outbreak of diseases within our communities".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya further observed that the main cause of flooding, especially within Gombe metropolis, was the inordinate disposal of waste in major storm drains, a practice he said, must be halted to conserve the environment for the wellbeing of the people.

He added that despite consistent efforts through relevant ministries, departments, and agencies to

enlighten and sensitize communities on the dangers of improper waste disposal, the state continues to face significant challenges hence it has become a policy of the present administration to clear all water channels at the beginning of every rainy season.

Governor Inuwa also explained that since 2019, his administration has been steadfast in its commitment to preventing erosion, deforestation, and desertification through extensive tree planting and the tackling of gully erosion sites across the state.

He said his administration has worked diligently to safeguard the livelihoods of the people through sustained collaborative efforts with partners like the defunct NEWMAP and ACREsAL which have allowed the state to make significant progress in environmental conservation and sustainability.

"In this year alone, we have made significant strides in our environmental conservation efforts, including erosion control projects, tree planting campaigns, as well as provision of financial support to boost climate resilience through the community revolving fund", he said.

"Today, we continue on this commitment to environmental conservation with the de-silting exercise, complemented by the construction of 21 waste collection centers under the ACREsAL Project, in addition to the 90 earlier built by GOSEPA under the SURWASH project", the Governor said.

In a related development, Governor Inuwa Yahaya laid foundation for the construction of waste collection centres across Gombe metropolis to ensure a more cleaner and healthier environment.

During the exercise, the Governor stressed that in line with his administration's environmental policy, the Gombe State Environmental Protection Agency (GOSEPA) will ensure the daily evacuation of household waste from these centres, thereby maintaining a cleaner and healthier environment.

He appealed to individuals and communities to desist from dumping solid municipal waste in the storm drainage system, stressing that citizens must learn from the flood disasters being witnessed in other parts of the country and take proactive steps to avoid similar occurrences here in Gombe.

The Governor used the occasion to reiterate his administration's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and the overall wellbeing of the people, maintaining that with the support of the people, a safer, prosperous and environmentally sustainable Gombe state is possible.

# ...Wins National Best Performing Governor in Health Care Delivery Award



Gov Inuwa Yahaya receives his award from Vice President Kashim Shettima

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has received a distinguished award for excellence in governance.

The award was presented to the Governor by Vice President Kashim Shettima on behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, during the 2024 Nigeria Excellence Awards in Public Service (NEAPS) at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

Inuwa Yahaya was honoured as the best performing Governor in Governance, Health Sector, in recognition of his significant contributions to healthcare development in the state.

He was earlier nominated for this prestigious award, along side other public servants by the Presidency through the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), in collaboration with a reputable outfit, Best Strategic Media (BSM).

Delivering the President's speech titled, "Honouring the Heartbeats of Public Service," Vice President Shettima, restated the Federal Government's determination "to creating an environment where merit is rewarded, and where every public servant feels valued and motivated to give their best".

This, he said, is not just about the awards ceremony, but about embedding a culture of recognition and reward in the ethos of the country's public service.

According to him, "reward and recognition are the very markers of every thriving institution, and indeed, nation," even as he noted that "the essence of any successful entity, whether a private enterprise or public institution, lies in its ability to honour those who work to uphold

its values and drive its progress.

The President showered praises on Governor Inuwa Yahaya and other Nigerian public servants, maintaining that their place must be remembered in order to motivate them to inspire others and make clear "that excellence is not an orphan".

Beyond a mere ceremony to recognise the unsung heroes who keep the wheels of government and society turning beyond expectations, President Tinubu said NEAPS also plays a crucial role of introducing "more role models to a nation in search of mentors and to tell the awardees that we see them, and the excellence with which they have served the nation.

In his welcome address, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume, explained that the process of selecting the distinguished honourees was based on empirical facts and figures that are verifiable.

The SGF assured that efforts would be made to ensure the initiative is maintained as a regular feature in order to motivate and encourage excellence in the country's public service.

He urged recipients of the awards not to relent in their efforts towards making Nigeria a more prosperous and progressive country.

Speaking to newsmen after the event, Governor Inuwa Yahaya dedicated the award to the people of Gombe State, and in particular, all the state's health care workers, urging them to see the honour as another opportunity to provide more effective and efficient service to the people.

While expressing gratitude to the presidency and the collaborating firm, BSM for recognizing his modest achievements in governance and health sector, Governor Inuwa emphasized that "We are inspired by this recognition to redouble our efforts in uplifting the lives of the people of Gombe state".





# Seyi Makinde: Engineering A New Oyo

When **Governor Seyi Makinde** took office in 2019, Oyo State stood at a crossroads. The people sought transformative leadership—one that would redefine governance through visible impact, bold reforms, and a commitment to the people's welfare. Five years later, Makinde has not just delivered on his promises but has significantly raised the bar for governance in Nigeria. From education and health to security, infrastructure, and the economy, his administration has overseen remarkable progress across various sectors. This feature chronicles his achievements from June 2019 to May 2024.

## Revolutionizing Education: A Future Secured

Education has been a cornerstone of Governor Makinde's administration. His bold policies have reshaped the learning landscape in Oyo State, making quality education accessible to all.

- **Infrastructure and Facilities:** The administration constructed 60 model schools across the state while executing extensive renovations under the Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) projects. This includes 339 newly built classrooms with modern toilet facilities, 443 renovated classrooms, and the installation of 90 boreholes to provide clean water.
- **Free Education Policy:** The cancellation of all school fees in public schools led to a remarkable 50% increase in enrollment. Over 100,000 copies of WAEC and NECO past questions were distributed to students, enhancing their academic preparedness.
- **Human Resource Development:** The recruitment of 5,000 secondary school teachers and 692 education officers was complemented by the hiring of 7,000 primary school teachers, 7,500 secondary school teachers, and 100 caregivers for special needs schools, ensuring improved student-to-teacher ratios.
- **Higher Education Transformation:** The administration secured sole ownership of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), provided a N500 million take-off grant for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Renewable Natural Resources in Iseyin, and increased subvention to tertiary institutions to 100%.



## Healthcare: Strengthening the Lifeline of the People

Governor Makinde's administration has aggressively tackled healthcare challenges, investing in infrastructure, personnel, and service delivery.

- **Primary Healthcare Overhaul:** The renovation of 209 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) has improved healthcare access, with an additional 51 PHCs slated for upgrades.
- **Medical Infrastructure Expansion:** Notable projects include the upgrade of Ring Road State Hospital and LAUTECH Teaching Hospital, the establishment of a neonatal ward at Adeoyo Maternity Teaching Hospital, and a Level 2 Newborn Unit at Jericho Specialist Hospital.
- **Health Workforce Enhancement:** The recruitment of 533 medical personnel, including doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists, has strengthened service delivery across the state.
- **Health Insurance and Emergency Response:** The Oyo State Health Insurance Scheme now boasts over 214,000 enrollees, a significant leap from the previous 45,000.



Gov Makinde

Additionally, 14 new ambulances, including three with ICU facilities, were procured to improve emergency response times.

## Security: A Safer Oyo for All

Understanding that development thrives in a secure environment, the Makinde-led administration has bolstered security through strategic investments and policies.

- **Equipping Security Agencies:** The government has provided over 300 operational vehicles to security agencies, including 105 vehicles to the Nigeria Police Force, 'Operation Burst,' DSS, and Amotekun Corps.
- **Enhanced Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering:** The establishment of a Forward Operation Base (FOB) along Kisi-Igboho-Igbeti and expansion of the State Security Control Room for City Watch (CCTV surveillance) have strengthened intelligence-led policing.
- **Community-Based Policing:** The establishment of Amotekun Corps with 2,000 personnel and the creation of Agro Rangers to mitigate farmer-herder conflicts have contributed to peace and stability in rural communities.

## Infrastructure and Road Network: Connecting Oyo for Growth

Governor Makinde's infrastructural drive has positioned Oyo State as an emerging economic hub with a modernized transport network.

- **Strategic Road Construction:** Over 500 kilometers of roads have been rehabilitated and newly constructed, including major routes such as:
  - o 76.7 km Iseyin-Fapote-Ogbomoso Road (Completed)
  - o 65 km Moniya-Ijaiye-Iseyin Road (Completed)
  - o 48 km Ido-Eruwa Road (Ongoing)
  - o 37.41 km Beere-Olorunsogo-Amuloko-Akanran-Dagbolu Road (Ongoing)
  - o 12.5 km Challenge-Odo Ona Elewe-Elebu-Apata Road (Completed)
- **Bridging Gaps in Urban Mobility:** The construction of a 65-meter flyover at General Gas and the development of interchanges at key junctions

have reduced traffic congestion.

## Economic Growth: Agribusiness and Industrial Development

Under Makinde's leadership, Oyo State has attracted over N35 billion in private-sector agribusiness investments.

- **Fasola Agribusiness Industrial Hub:** Nearing completion, this project is a game-changer in large-scale food production and processing.
- **Revamping Moribund Assets:** Facilities like the Pacesetter Quarry and Asphalt Plant, Ijaiye, have been brought back to life to support construction activities.
- **Youth Empowerment in Agribusiness:** Over 3,300 youths have been trained under the Youth Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Project (YEAP), while 100 women received startup support through the SEFAN/SWEAN initiative.
- **Financial Support for SMEs and Farmers:** The Sustainable Actions for Economic Recovery (SAFER) program has provided N500 million in low-interest loans to 2,085 traders and artisans and N1 billion to 3,525 smallholder farmers.
- **Public Transport Enhancement:** The introduction of the Omituntun Bus Service at subsidized rates serves over 20,000 commuters daily, easing the cost of transportation for residents.

## A Legacy of Impactful Leadership

Governor Seyi Makinde's administration has redefined governance in Oyo State. Through a clear vision, meticulous planning, and a commitment to people-centric policies, he has transformed the state into a model of progressive governance in Nigeria.

As his second term progresses, the challenge remains to sustain these gains and build on the foundation laid. But if the past five years are anything to go by, Oyo State's trajectory under Makinde's leadership remains one of promise, development, and prosperity.



As Bayelsa State marked the fifth anniversary of Governor Douye Diri's administration, as dignitaries from across the country converged in Yenagoa to celebrate the governor's strides in infrastructure, healthcare, and sports development. Among those present were former President Goodluck Jonathan, Minister of Health Prof. Mohammed Ali Pate, Adamawa State Governor Ahmadu Fintiri, Akwa Ibom State Governor Pastor Umo Eno, and several other distinguished guests. The event was a showcase of the governor's commitment to transforming Bayelsa through a series of projects.



A major highlight of the anniversary celebrations was the inauguration of the Zipline technology, a cutting-edge drone delivery system aimed at addressing healthcare challenges in the riverine state. Minister of Health and Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Pate, commended Governor Diri's visionary leadership, noting that the deployment of Zipline technology had revolutionized healthcare delivery in the state.

Governor Diri explained that the initiative was designed to ensure the timely delivery of pharmaceutical supplies, particularly to hard-to-reach communities. Through the use of drone technology, over 20,000 zero-dose children have been vaccinated, ensuring a healthier start to life for Bayelsans.

## A NEW ERA FOR SPORTS: DIRI FLAGS OFF BAYELSA STADIUM PROJECT



Former President Goodluck Jonathan took centre stage as he performed the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Olympic-standard 25,000-capacity stadium at Igbogene, Yenagoa. This project, a key part of Governor Diri's Prosperity Agenda, is expected to boost sports development, create economic opportunities, and elevate Bayelsa's profile on the national and international sporting stage.



# BAYELSA: Revolutionizing Healthcare with Zipline Technology

Jonathan lauded Diri's developmental strides and urged him to ensure the project met the highest standards. He also called on the federal government and private sector stakeholders to support sports development through funding and sponsorships.

"This is an iconic project that will develop the state. Please do not rest on your laurels as we want this stadium to meet the best standards," Jonathan said. "I am happy that you gave a target of 24 months, and I hope that by that time I will escort President Tinubu to Bayelsa to inaugurate it."

Governor Diri, in his remarks, emphasized that beyond sports, the stadium would generate employment and stimulate local businesses. He urged multinational companies, financial institutions, and oil firms to support the project in line with global best practices, citing examples of corporate sponsorship in major sporting arenas worldwide.

## EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE: FINTIRI COMMENDS DIRI'S ROAD AND HOUSING PROJECTS



Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa State, while inaugurating the new Commissioners' Quarters and a dual-carriage road in New Yenagoa City, praised Governor Diri's commitment to infrastructure development. He described Diri as a leader with a deep interest in the welfare of Bayelsans.

"Anyone who provides infrastructure does so for the greatest number of people," Fintiri said. "Senator Diri has etched his name as a governor doing wonders in Bayelsa State and has cultivated special friendships across the country."

Fintiri observed that Yenagoa had undergone significant transformation under Diri's leadership, with projects distributed fairly across the state despite the challenges posed by Bayelsa's difficult terrain. Governor Diri, in his response, expressed appreciation to the host communities for their peaceful cooperation, which ensured the smooth execution of the projects.

## AKWA IBOM'S UMO ENO INAUGURATES DUAL CARRIAGEWAY



Governor Pastor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State added to the series of project unveilings by inaugurating Road Two, a dual carriageway in the New Yenagoa City. The event followed the commissioning of a new legislators' quarters by Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas.

Governor Umo praised Diri's commitment to urban development, noting that executing projects in a marshy terrain like Bayelsa's required political will and strategic planning.

"It takes a daring governor and a committed government to accomplish what we are seeing here," Umo said. "If you continue to support your governor, you will encourage him to do more."

Governor Diri, in his remarks, reaffirmed that Bayelsa's unique terrain should be seen as a blessing rather than a curse. He reiterated his call for increased federal allocation to facilitate the state's development, urging the federal government and corporate organizations to invest in Bayelsa's growth.

"We have come a long way as brothers in this same terrain, which some see as a curse. But we like to prove that this terrain is not a curse. Rather, it is a blessing to our people and our region," Diri stated. "Give us our due allocation so that this place will develop alongside the other parts of Nigeria."

Governor Diri's fifth anniversary has been marked by a flurry of developmental projects that underscore his administration's dedication to transforming Bayelsa. From innovative healthcare solutions to world-class sports infrastructure and urban renewal projects, his Prosperity Agenda continues to shape the state's future.

With the support of key stakeholders, federal agencies, and the private sector, Bayelsa stands on the threshold of a new era—one where its natural challenges become stepping stones to greater achievements. As the celebrations wind down, one message remains clear: under Governor Douye Diri, Bayelsa's assured prosperity is not just a vision but a reality in progress.



# Days of Innovation, Restoration, Healing, Justice



Security is the bedrock of a thriving society, without it, welfare is a mere illusion. Governor Monday Okpebholo understood this fundamental truth from day one, stepping into office with an unshakable resolve to restore peace and prosperity to Edo State.

Taking the reins on November 12, 2024, Okpebholo, a seasoned legislator and now a transformational leader—unveiled his ambitious 5-point SHINE agenda: Security, Health, Infrastructure, Natural Resources & Agriculture, and Education. A hundred days later, his commitment to Edo’s resurgence is undeniable.

**SECURITY: Restoring Peace and Order**

Before Governor Okpebholo’s tenure, Edo State, particularly Benin City, was plagued by violence, with cult-related bloodshed at an all-time high. Determined to end this era of fear, he launched a full-scale crackdown on criminal syndicates. The result? For the first time in years, the Yuletide season passed without major cult-related killings.

His administration swiftly deployed a Special Tactical Team to Agenebode, leading to the successful rescue of kidnapped victims and the dismantling of notorious gangs. A similar operation in Uromi uprooted criminal networks, making the area safer.

To cement these gains, Governor Okpebholo championed the passage of the Secret Cult and Similar Activities (Prohibition) Bill, 2025, imposing harsher penalties on cultists and their enablers. He also reinforced security operations by procuring brand-new Toyota Hilux patrol vehicles and 1,000 high-performance motorcycles for rapid response in remote areas.

Additionally, he restructured the Edo State Security Corps, recovering over 5,000 illegal firearms and forming the Public Safety Response Team to support law enforcement.

**HEALTH: Advancing Medical Services**

Within his first week, Governor Okpebholo facilitated the establishment of the National Obstetrics Fistula Centre, the first of its kind in the South-South region, donating 25 hectares of land for the project.

Recognizing the burden of malaria, he secured a partnership with the Islamic Development Bank to launch the Malaria Elimination Project,



ensuring free malaria testing and treatment across government hospitals for two years.

His administration also onboarded 300 vulnerable persons into the State Equity Health Plan, digitized health insurance data, and launched a robust customer support system. Infrastructure upgrades followed swiftly: completion of the Oredo Primary Healthcare Centre, procurement of vital equipment for the Edo Specialist Hospital, and distribution of 18 ultrasound machines across all 18 local government areas.

Further, 220 laptops were distributed to primary healthcare centers for improved data management, alongside new vehicles for project monitoring.

**INFRASTRUCTURE: Building for the Future**

Understanding that infrastructure fuels economic growth, Okpebholo launched major projects, including:

- Construction of a flyover at Ramat Park, Benin City.
- Rehabilitation of failed sections of Upper Mission Road and Benin-Auchi Road.
- Construction of Ekpoma-Uromi-Ubiaja and Uromi-Onewa-Udomi-Ibhiolulu-Afuda-Idumoza-Eko-Uwaya-Ewora Roads.
- Revitalization of the Edo Transport Service with 100 new Hiace buses.
- Signing of a \$300 million agreement for a Condensate Refinery in Oredo LGA.
- Partnering with investors for a \$500 million 100MW Hydropower Project at Ikpoba and Ojirami Dams.
- Passage of the Edo State Electricity Regulatory Commission Law, enabling independent power generation.

His administration also modernized government facilities, upgraded ICT infrastructure, and restored the Edo Broadcasting Service after a decade-long shutdown.

**NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE: Feeding the Future**

To curb price manipulation, Okpebholo banned market unions from arbitrarily setting food prices. He also signed an Executive Order for the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA), promoting fair land use policies.

His administration boosted the Ministry of Agriculture’s budget from N5.9 billion to over N70 billion—an unprecedented 1,086% increase—laying the foundation for food security.

**Key initiatives include:**

- Distribution of 8,188 bags of fertilizer to 4,094 farmers.
- Raising 34,576 cocoa seedlings with Bass Cocoa Farms.
- Establishing a Model Facility Veterinary Hospital.
- Disbursing over N500 million to empower 1,797

farmers under the Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises in the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) project.

- Launching a Back-to-Farm Initiative to encourage large-scale farming.

**EDUCATION: Investing in Knowledge**

Governor Okpebholo’s reforms at Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, were game-changing. He increased the institution’s monthly subvention from N41 million to N500 million—a staggering 1,119.5% increase—and reinstated unjustly disengaged staff while recruiting new academic and non-academic personnel.

**Additional achievements include:**

- Recruiting 500 teachers for basic and post-basic schools.
- Renovating multiple schools, including Eweka Primary School and Irrua Girls’ Grammar School.
- Revamping all technical colleges.
- Securing accreditation for three programs at Edo State Polytechnic, Usen.
- Expanding classroom infrastructure through the Community Social Development Agency (CSDA).

**RESTORATION, HEALING & JUSTICE**

In line with his promise of justice and inclusivity, Okpebholo reinstated the statutory rights of His Royal Majesty, the Oba of Benin, and established the Edo State Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

His economic policies have increased Edo State’s Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) from N8 billion to over N10 billion—the first time in history that IGR has hit double digits.

Other landmark reforms include:

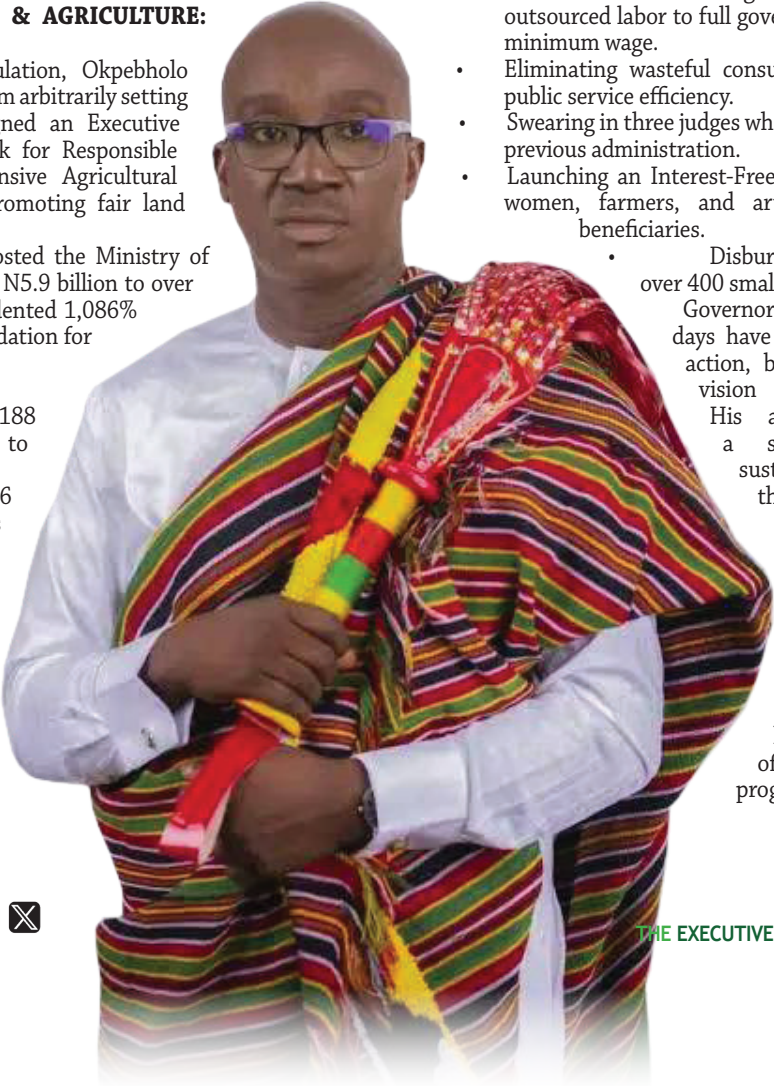
- Appointing 38 First-Class graduates under the Public Service Talent Development Programme.
- Implementing new public service rules (last updated 25 years ago).
- Transitioning 700 cleaners from outsourced labor to full government employment with minimum wage.
- Eliminating wasteful consultant contracts, restoring public service efficiency.
- Swearing in three judges who had been sidelined by the previous administration.
- Launching an Interest-Free Loan Scheme for market women, farmers, and artisans, with over 5,000 beneficiaries.

- Disbursing World Bank grants to over 400 small businesses.

Governor Okpebholo’s first 100 days have been marked by decisive action, bold reforms, and a clear vision for Edo State’s future. His administration has laid a strong foundation for sustained growth, proving that with commitment and competence, transformation is possible.

The journey has just begun, but if these first 100 days are anything to go by, the people of Edo State can look forward to a new era of prosperity, security, and progress.

His administration boosted the Ministry of Agriculture’s budget from N5.9 billion to over N70 billion—an unprecedented 1,086% increase—laying the foundation for food security





# Gov. Dikko Radda & His Developmental Strides in Katsina

Since assuming office, Governor **Dikko Umaru Radda**, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the development of Katsina State through his Building Your Future Strategic Policy. This visionary agenda is aimed at reshaping the state, ensuring the provision of essential physical and economic infrastructure, and improving the quality of life for its people. In just one year, Governor Radda has initiated and executed transformative projects across security, education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and social welfare, setting a new standard for governance in Katsina.

## Securing Katsina: A New Approach to Safety

Security has been at the forefront of Governor Radda's administration, given the state's struggle with banditry and insurgency. His government established the Ministry of Internal Security and Katsina State Community Watch Corps, recruiting 1,500 youths from eight frontline local governments. To strengthen their capacity, the administration approved and released N560 million for the purchase of security equipment. Additionally, N7.8 billion was spent on acquiring 10 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), 65 Hilux vehicles, 700 motorcycles, surveillance cameras, and other security gadgets to support security forces.

In a bid to alleviate the plight of terrorism victims, including security personnel, the governor allocated N20 million in financial assistance. Furthermore, a security containment order was enacted, and the government partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish Peace Hubs and Preventive Facilities, beginning with a pilot project in Jibia. A security advisory committee was also inaugurated to enhance the state's security architecture.

## Revolutionizing Education: A Future-Driven Investment

Governor Radda's administration has made historic investments in education, recognizing it as the foundation for long-term development. The construction of three pioneer modern schools across the state's three senatorial zones is



Gov Radda



set to redefine educational standards and create equal learning opportunities. Admission into these schools will be strictly on merit, ensuring fairness and excellence.

In a move to address manpower shortages in education, 7,325 teachers from the state's S-Power programme, part-time teachers, and volunteers were absorbed into the state's civil service after rigorous screening and examinations. To further expand access to quality education, the government, in collaboration with the World Bank's Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) project, commenced the construction of 150 junior and senior secondary schools across the 34 local government areas.

Each school will feature modern classrooms, laboratories for chemistry, physics, and biology, as well as stable water supply systems. Additionally, N1.5 billion was distributed among 15 secondary schools for renovation under the AGILE mega grant.

## Revamping Healthcare: A Commitment to Well-being

Governor Radda's administration conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of the healthcare sector, leading to critical reforms. His government inaugurated two dialysis centers and expanded the number of available dialysis beds from two to 16, enhancing medical service delivery for kidney patients.

To bolster human resources in healthcare, 94 additional health personnel were recruited, including medical doctors, nurses, midwives, lab scientists, and pharmacists. In a historic move, 41 Katsina indigenes were awarded foreign scholarships to study MBBS at a reputable university in Egypt, with the government disbursing N744 million for their tuition fees and upkeep.

Further investments in healthcare include the construction of a 12-bed kidney center at a cost of N680 million, procurement of 3,470 HIV testing kits and medical consumables, and an increase in residency allowances for medical professionals.

## Agriculture: A Path to Economic Prosperity

Recognizing agriculture as the backbone of Katsina's economy, Governor Radda launched a new extension service program, increasing the number of extension workers from 72 to 600. The establishment of the Katsina Irrigation Authority is set to revolutionize food production by ensuring sustainable water management, improving crop yields, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

The initiative will reduce reliance on rain-fed farming and introduce modern irrigation techniques, securing food sufficiency, and creating employment opportunities for thousands of Katsina's youth and farmers.

## Infrastructure and Social Support:

### A Legacy of Development

Governor Radda's administration has significantly invested in infrastructure and social services to enhance the living standards of the people. 40 new buses were procured for the Katsina State Transport Authority, with 15 allocated for inter-city services and 25 for inter-state operations.

In the water sector, previously stalled projects from the Aminu Bello Masari administration were completed. The Ajiwa Water Treatment Plant and Pumping Station were upgraded at N400 million, while N1.4 billion was spent on water treatment chemicals and diesel across nine water treatment plants. Plans are underway to transition to renewable energy for sustainable water management.

## Tackling Environmental Challenges:

### Flood and Erosion Control

To combat flooding, Governor Radda allocated N570 million for various flood and erosion control measures. The administration partnered with the World Bank through the Acresal Project to construct stormwater drainage management infrastructure, with the Katsina Metropolis Phase II progressing at a cost of N11.2 billion. Similarly, the Jibia Riverbank protection project and other flood control interventions are ongoing at N10.8 billion.

## A Bright Future for Katsina

With these far-reaching achievements in just one year, Governor Dikko Umaru Radda has solidified his reputation as a transformational leader. His strategic initiatives in security, education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development have redefined governance in Katsina State. Analysts argue that if his administration continues at this pace, he may well outperform his predecessors, leaving a lasting legacy of progress and prosperity for generations to come.

**N83.8b**  
Amount of money invested by Gov. Radda's administration to the State Community Watch Corps, recruiting 1,500 youths from eight frontline local governments and purchase of security equipment, 65 Hilux vehicles, 700 motorcycles, surveillance cameras, and other security gadgets to support security forces for the peace and safety of the citizens.



# Gov AbdulRazaq's Legacy: Building a Modern Kwara

Kwara State is witnessing a remarkable transformation under the leadership of Governor **AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq**. His administration has embarked on numerous landmark projects that are not only reshaping the state's infrastructure but also improving the lives of its citizens. From road networks and healthcare advancements to urban planning and rural development, AbdulRazaq's tenure is defined by visionary governance and an unwavering commitment to progress.



## Monumental Infrastructure Development

One of the most notable achievements of Governor AbdulRazaq is the completion of major infrastructural projects aimed at enhancing mobility, connectivity, and urban aesthetics. The commissioning of the Unity Flyover and the Gen. Tunde Idiagbon Flyover has significantly improved traffic flow in Ilorin, reducing congestion and travel time. In addition, the road leading to the flyover has been renamed Tafawa Balewa Road in honor of Nigeria's first Prime Minister, reinforcing the governor's commitment to preserving historical legacies.

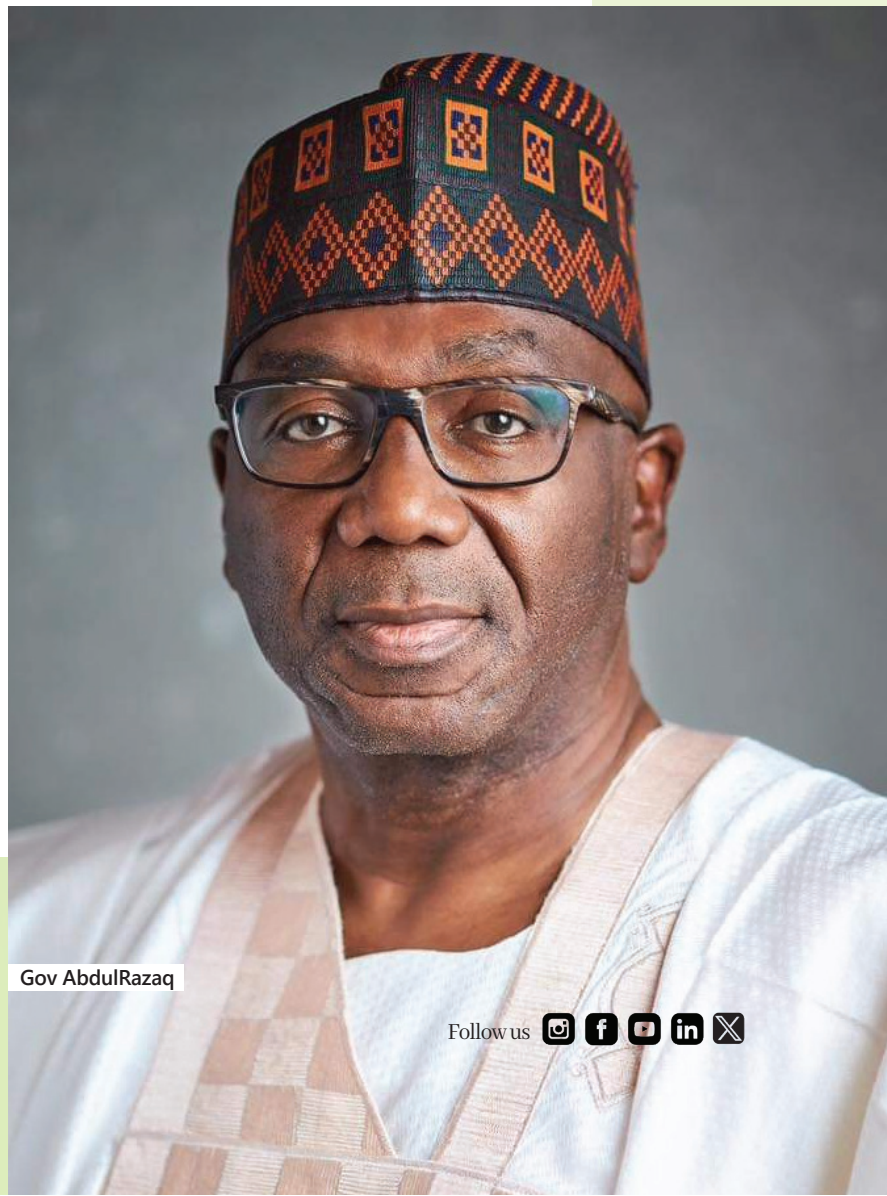
The governor has also overseen the rehabilitation of numerous roads, including the 4.7km Yebumot-Adeta Roundabout and Adeta-Oloje roads. These roads were named after distinguished Kwara elders, retired Major General Mohammed Abdullahi Adangba and Sheikh Yahya Murtadha Agodi, in recognition of their contributions to the state.



## Advancements in Healthcare

Healthcare has been a key focus of the AbdulRazaq administration. The governor has initiated and completed various projects aimed at improving medical services in the state. One of the most significant is the establishment of an ultramodern Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and an Executive Ward at the Kwara State Teaching Hospital. These facilities provide top-tier medical care to residents and mark a significant milestone in the state's healthcare sector.

Additionally, the governor has approved the renaming of the Civil Service Clinic after Nigeria's First Lady, Senator



Gov AbdulRazaq

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Oluremi Tinubu, who will inaugurate the groundbreaking ceremony. This reflects the administration's synergy with the federal government's healthcare initiatives and its commitment to strengthening medical infrastructure in Kwara State.



## Urban Planning and Smart City Development

A groundbreaking initiative of the AbdulRazaq administration is the unveiling of the Ilorin City Master Plan and the 20,000-hectare Ilorin Smart City project. This visionary project is designed to modernize urban living, address congestion, and enhance environmental sustainability. The Smart City will accommodate over 540,000 residents, integrating advanced urban planning techniques to create a habitable and eco-friendly environment.

Governor AbdulRazaq emphasized that the Ilorin City Master Plan is a long-term strategy aimed at guiding urban development for the next 40 years. This project underscores the administration's proactive approach to sustainable city planning and infrastructural expansion.



## Education and Technological Advancement

In a bid to enhance the quality of education in Kwara, Governor AbdulRazaq has flagged off the distribution of 16,000 textbooks across basic schools. His administration has successfully removed Kwara from the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) blacklist by clearing backlogs of counterpart funds, enabling the state to access federal education grants.

Additionally, the government has commissioned an ICT Centre at the Kwara State University of Education under the Renewed Hope Initiative of the First Lady's office. This aligns with the administration's digital transformation agenda, equipping students with technological skills for the modern world.



## Power and Community Development

In a major stride towards energy sustainability, the governor commissioned a 33KV power project at Kwara State Polytechnic. This initiative, dubbed the "Light-up Kwara Poly Project," benefits not only the institution but also neighbouring communities and government agencies.

The improved power supply enhances academic activities and boosts socio-economic development in the region.



## Agricultural and Rural Development

Recognizing the importance of agriculture to Kwara's economy, Governor AbdulRazaq has prioritized rural road construction under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP). With an investment of over N19.4 billion, his administration is constructing and upgrading 209.77 kilometers of rural roads to connect farming communities with urban markets. This initiative will enhance food security, reduce post-harvest losses, and stimulate economic activities in rural areas.

Furthermore, the governor has committed N4 billion in counterpart funds over the past five years to support RAAMP, ensuring that Kwara State benefits from the World Bank and French Development Agency's agricultural funding.



## Sports and Cultural Legacy

Governor AbdulRazaq's administration has also honored Kwara's rich sporting and cultural heritage by renaming key state facilities after legendary figures. The Kwara State Stadium Complex is now the Major-General George Agbazika Innih Stadium Complex, and its main bowl has been named after Rashidi Yekini, Nigeria's legendary footballer. Other sports facilities, including the Table Tennis Arena and the Indoor Sports Hall, have been renamed to honor past champions and contributors to sports development in the state.



As Governor AbdulRazaq marks his fifth year in office, his administration's accomplishments reflect a legacy of impactful governance, strategic planning, and people-centered policies. With ongoing projects spanning infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, and urban development, Kwara State is on a path of sustained progress and prosperity.

Governor AbdulRazaq's leadership has redefined governance in Kwara, transforming the state into a model of infrastructural innovation, economic growth, and inclusive development. As he continues to execute ambitious projects, the people of Kwara can look forward to an even brighter future under his stewardship.





# Gov Uba Sani Brings Kaduna Back on the Blocks

**K**aduna State has experienced a wave of transformation under the visionary leadership of Governor Uba Sani. His administration has made landmark achievements across multiple sectors, propelling Kaduna into a hub of economic growth, infrastructural development, and social progress. From security enhancements to massive road projects, education reforms, agricultural support, and healthcare improvements, Governor Sani's policies and initiatives have positively impacted millions of lives.

## SECURITY: STRENGTHENING LAW AND ORDER

Governor Sani has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to security, ensuring that Kaduna State remains a safe place for residents and investors. He strengthened partnerships with federal security forces and provided 150 operational vehicles and 500 motorcycles to security agencies and the Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS).

His administration also passed the Kaduna State Security Trust Fund Bill into law, providing a structured mechanism for financing security operations. The reopening of the Birnin Gwari and Kidandan markets—once deemed unsafe—stands as a testament to the effectiveness of these security measures and peace dialogue initiatives.

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH

Infrastructure development has been a cornerstone of Governor Sani's leadership. His administration embarked on the ambitious construction of 70 roads covering 770 kilometers across the three senatorial zones. Of these, 12 roads have been completed and commissioned, with another 12 set for completion by the second quarter of 2025. Beyond urban centers, the administration has extended socioeconomic infrastructure to all 23 local government areas, ensuring widespread development across the state.

## EDUCATION: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Recognizing that education is the bedrock of development, Governor Sani has overseen the construction of 62 new secondary schools (39 junior and 23 senior) across the three senatorial districts. His administration recruited 2,000 qualified teachers, built 2,326 new classrooms, and renovated 707 existing ones. Additionally, schools received 30,742 two-seater desks for students and 3,704 furniture sets for teachers. To improve sanitation and water supply in schools, 918 VIP cubicle toilets and 51 hand pump boreholes were installed. These efforts are significantly enhancing access to quality education in Kaduna State.

## AGRICULTURE: EMPOWERING FARMERS FOR FOOD SECURITY

Agriculture remains the backbone of Kaduna State's economy, and Governor Sani has taken bold steps to support smallholder farmers. His administration distributed essential inputs—seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, and equipment—to 41,693 farmers. In the largest free fertilizer distribution in the state's history, 500 trucks carrying 240,000 bags of fertilizer were provided to farmers. To boost mechanized farming, the government has invested in 12 heavy-duty tractors, promoting large-scale agricultural productivity and food security.

## SOCIAL WELFARE: CHAMPIONING FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Governor Sani's social welfare policies have prioritized financial inclusion and poverty alleviation. Through an executive order, his administration facilitated the opening of over two million bank accounts for vulnerable individuals in rural and urban areas. A credible social register was established to ensure targeted financial aid distribution. These pro-poor measures, coupled with access to credit, insurance, and digital payment options, have empowered residents and fostered economic resilience.

## HEALTHCARE: STRENGTHENING MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Kaduna State's healthcare sector has witnessed significant improvements under Governor Sani. The administration embarked on the reconstruction, remodeling, and equipping of 12 general hospitals across the three senatorial zones. Among these, the Dabo Lere Memorial Hospital in Saminaka, Lere LGA, and a new primary healthcare center in Tudun Biri, Igabi LGA, were commissioned. To enhance healthcare service delivery, essential drugs were distributed across all primary and secondary healthcare facilities, and modern medical equipment was supplied to 255 primary healthcare centers.



Gov Sani

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DRIVING INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

Governor Sani's economic policies have attracted substantial investments, bringing in \$503 million in funding and securing four Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in agriculture and manufacturing. His administration partnered with Qatar Charity for mass housing projects in Kaduna Economic City and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huawei Technologies to support the Kaduna Smart City Project. These initiatives aim to enhance security, transparency, city management, and economic opportunities. Massive investments in infrastructure have also stimulated local economies across all 23 LGAs.

Governor Sani has prioritized good governance by enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. His administration strengthened institutions to ensure effective service delivery and created platforms for public participation in governance. To bridge the skills gap and promote employment, the government constructed three Vocational and Technological Skills Acquisition Cities and upgraded Panteka Market as a centre for hands-on training and job creation.

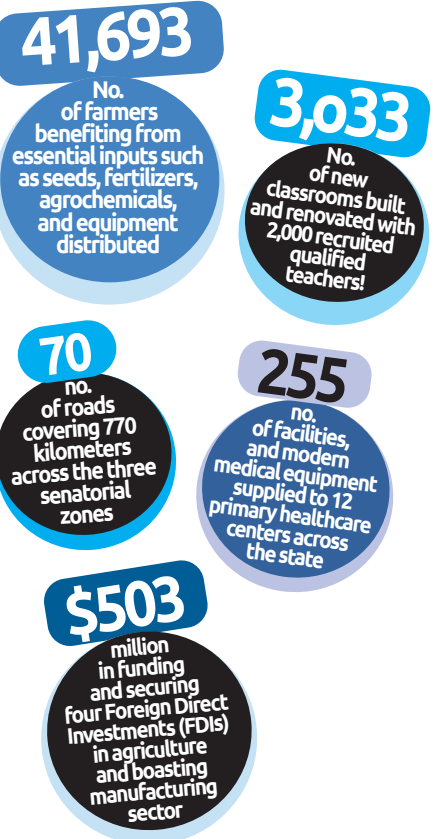
## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: REBUILDING & EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The administration has actively supported community development projects by constructing and renovating markets, hospitals, and other essential facilities. Additionally, relief materials have been provided to communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters, demonstrating the government's commitment to social stability and welfare.



## A LEGACY OF PROGRESS

Governor Uba Sani's leadership in 2024 has redefined governance in Kaduna State, setting the stage for sustained development and economic growth. His administration's strategic investments in security, infrastructure, education, agriculture, healthcare, and economic development have improved the lives of Kaduna residents and positioned the state as a beacon of progress in northern Nigeria. With a commitment to innovation and inclusive governance, Governor Sani continues to build a legacy of excellence, ensuring that Kaduna remains on the path to prosperity.







# Agbu Kefas: Steering Taraba To Prosperity

Governor Agbu Kefas is redefining leadership in Taraba State with a transformative agenda that prioritizes infrastructure, education, economic growth, and technological innovation. His administration has embarked on ambitious projects that are setting a new standard for governance, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to uplifting the lives of Tarabans. From revolutionary educational reforms to groundbreaking power solutions and international trade partnerships, Governor Kefas is steering the state towards unprecedented progress.



## Revolutionizing Education with the Taraba Student Identification System (TESIS)

Education is the bedrock of any thriving society, and Governor Kefas has made it a central pillar of his administration. One of his most groundbreaking initiatives is the launch of the Taraba State Student Identification System (TESIS)—a digital solution designed to modernize data management within the education sector. This initiative, which commenced with a pilot program at Nyanmusala Primary School in Jalingo, aims to streamline student records, improve accessibility, and enhance efficiency in administration.

By embracing digital transformation, TESIS provides a centralized database for student information, allowing the government to track educational progress more effectively. This initiative is complemented by Governor Kefas's Free Education Initiative, ensuring that quality education is accessible to every child in Taraba, regardless of background or financial status. His vision is clear: to equip Taraba's youth with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

## Powering Taraba: The Gembu 1500KVA Power Plant

A major highlight of Governor Kefas's tenure is the commissioning of

the twin 1500KVA power plant in Gembu, Sardauna Local Government Area. For years, the region suffered from chronic electricity shortages, hindering economic development and quality of life. By delivering on his campaign promise, Governor Kefas has brought relief to thousands of residents, ensuring a stable and reliable power supply.

The power plant, supported by six 300KVA stepdown transformers, guarantees equitable electricity distribution across the region. This milestone marks a significant leap towards industrialization, enabling businesses to flourish and boosting overall economic activity. Governor Kefas has reiterated his administration's commitment to rebuilding critical infrastructure, ensuring that every part of Taraba benefits from sustainable development.

## Building for the Future: Taraba's Economic Revolution through Technology

In a visionary move to modernize Taraba's economy, Governor Kefas has secured cutting-edge building technology equipment from Hydroform International, a leading South African firm. This strategic acquisition, valued at over R50 million (US\$2.74 million), is set to revolutionize construction processes in the state. The advanced technology will enhance efficiency, reduce construction costs, and facilitate the rapid development of durable infrastructure.

Governor Kefas's decision to invest in high-tech building solutions aligns with his broader goal of economic diversification. Beyond construction, this initiative fosters stronger business ties



between Taraba State and South Africa, paving the way for bilateral trade agreements that will unlock new economic opportunities. As Taraba integrates into the global economy, this partnership serves as a blueprint for international collaboration and sustainable growth.

## #MovingForward: A Commitment to Inclusive Growth

Governor Agbu Kefas's leadership is defined by action, innovation, and an unrelenting pursuit of progress. His administration's bold reforms and strategic investments are not only transforming Taraba but also setting the foundation for a brighter, more prosperous future.

Under his guidance, Taraba is experiencing an era of rapid advancement—one where education is prioritized, infrastructure is strengthened, and economic potential is fully realized. As the state continues its upward trajectory, one thing is certain: with Governor Kefas at the helm, Taraba is not just moving forward—it is rising.



# Oborevworì's Leadership: 19 Months of Impact

Since assuming office, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevworì, the Governor of Delta State, has approached governance with a determined commitment to his M.O.R.E. Agenda, fulfilling promises to an eager and expectant populace. Now, 19 months into his first term, his administration has made remarkable strides across multiple sectors, leaving an undeniable mark on the state's development.

Like a seasoned craftsman shaping his masterpiece, Governor Oborevworì has meticulously built on Delta's foundations, ensuring visible progress in infrastructure, security, education, health, and economic empowerment. His governance is defined by action, efficiency, and an unwavering dedication to the people of Delta State. Peace and Security: A Foundation for Development.

Understanding that sustainable development thrives in an atmosphere of peace, Governor Oborevworì promptly established the State Advisory and Peace-Building Council, a body of esteemed elders, tasked with addressing security concerns and fostering stability. This initiative, complemented by the Office of the Special Adviser on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, has significantly reduced security threats.

To further enhance security, the administration has:

- Supplied over 60 brand-new patrol vehicles to security agencies.
- Strengthened Operation Delta Sweep, ensuring its operational efficiency.
- Provided critical equipments and logistical support to law enforcement agencies.

## Public Service: A Commitment to Workforce Welfare

Governor Oborevworì's administration has prioritized the welfare of civil servants, setting an example in prompt salary payments and enhanced benefits. Notable achievements include:

- Paying N10,000 monthly palliatives to over 50,000 workers for three months.
- Sustaining and exceeding the minimum wage threshold, approving N77,500 instead of the proposed N70,000.
- Guaranteeing a N40 billion facility for local governments to clear retirement benefits owed to pensioners.
- Recruiting over 3,000 primary school teaching and non-teaching staff to revitalize education.
- Allocating N5 billion to settle promotion arrears for civil servants.

Additionally, permanent secretaries received brand-new official vehicles, reflecting the administration's respect for the civil service.

## Infrastructure: Roads, Bridges, and Connectivity

Understanding that good roads are the arteries of economic progress, the administration split the Ministry of Works into:

- Highways & Urban Roads
- Rural & Riverine Roads

These two arms have undertaken over 513 projects, covering:

- 1,500 kilometers of roads
- 950 kilometers of drainage systems

## Key projects include:

- Trans-Warri Road, featuring multiple culverts and bridges.
- Ughelli-Asaba dual carriageway for improved intercity connectivity.
- PTI Junction, DSC Roundabout, and Enerhen Junction flyovers, transforming traffic flow.
- Orere Bridge, a vital project linking communities.

Each local government area has been mandated to receive N2 billion for road projects, while N250 billion is earmarked for state-wide road infrastructure in the current budget.

## Education: Strengthening Learning Institutions

Governor Oborevworì's commitment to education is evident in:

- Establishing a Southern Delta State University campus in Orerokpe.
- Launching a College of Health Sciences at Ozoro.
- Recruiting 600 new staff to support educational institutions.
- Approving a 25-35% salary increase for tertiary education staff.
- Maintaining smooth operations in over 1,300 public primary and secondary schools.
- Disbursing over N1 billion in bursaries to 60,000 tertiary students over two academic sessions.

## Agriculture and Economic Empowerment

To boost food security and local enterprise, the government has:

- Provided fertilizers, feeds, and fingerlings to farmers.
- Offered cash grants and technical assistance to agripreneurs.
- Enabled 250,000 individuals through Delta CARES and MSME support programs.

- Disbursed financial aid to 2,000 small businesses for economic resilience.

## Health: Expanding Access to Quality Care

The administration has significantly improved healthcare by:

- Upgrading general hospitals with modern equipment.
- Funding Colleges of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Technology.
- Establishing a College of Health Technology in Ovrode.
- Constructing residential quarters for doctors and nurses, ensuring better working conditions.

## Sports and Youth Development

Delta State continues to dominate national sports, with Governor Oborevworì's support sustaining:

- Victory at the National Youth Games (NYG) and National Sports Festival (NSF).
- Principal's Cup and Headmaster's Cup for grassroots football development.

## Judiciary: Strengthening Justice and Legal Infrastructure

In a move to modernize the judiciary, the administration has:

- Completed and inaugurated a state-of-the-art High Court Complex, equipped with:
  1. Six floors, six courtrooms, and multiple conference halls.
  2. E-filing and digital payment systems for legal processes.
  3. Dedicated lawyers' lounge, judges' lounge, and ceremonial hall.
- Provided 20 brand-new Toyota Prado Jeeps for judges.
- Initiated construction of judges' quarters to address housing challenges.

## Housing: Meeting the Needs of Deltans

Recognizing the housing deficit, the administration has begun:

- Constructing 50 housing units across three locations.
- Building eight duplexes to accommodate government commissioners.

## Economic Diversification: Harnessing Delta's Gas Reserves

To maximize the state's natural gas potential, the government has:

- Secured a deal with UTM LNG to harness gas reserves.
- Taken steps to reduce gas flaring and promote cleaner energy.
- Positioned Delta as a hub for sustainable energy development.

## A Vision for the Future

Governor Sheriff Oborevworì's leadership is not just about promises—it is about delivery. With over N630 billion allocated for capital projects in the current budget, the administration is laying the groundwork for accelerated, cost-efficient development.

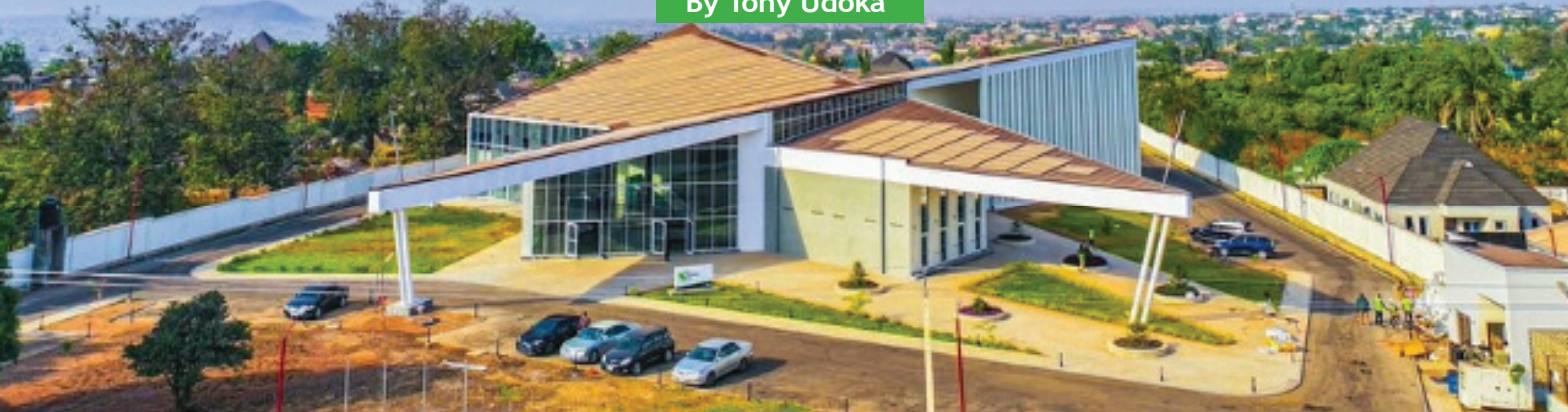
Delta State's trajectory under Oborevworì is one of transformation, stability, and growth. As the governor continues his journey, Deltans can rest assured that the foundation for an even greater future is already being built. The progress so far is just the beginning.





# Ilorin Innovation Hub: A Tech Revolution Creating 10,000 Jobs

By Tony Udoka



For decades, the narrative around economic growth in Nigeria has largely revolved around Lagos, Abuja, and a few other commercial powerhouses.

But a new wave of technological advancement is sweeping through Kwara State that promises to transform Ilorin into a major innovation and entrepreneurship hub in Africa.

Spearheaded by the Kwara State Government in partnership with IHS Nigeria, the Ilorin Innovation Hub is not just another government project but a strategic initiative designed to create over 10,000 direct and indirect jobs while positioning Kwara as a leader in the African digital economy.

Situated on over 13,000 square metres of land, the Ilorin Innovation Hub is a state-of-the-art facility that aims to drive digital skills development, artificial intelligence, agricultural technology, and energy innovation. With a seating capacity for over 1,000 users, this space is designed as an ecosystem to nurture creative talents, support startups, and fuel economic growth. It provides co-working spaces, incubation and accelerator programs, access to mentorship, and funding opportunities for young innovators.

During the kickoff programs for the hub, the Chief Executive Officer of IHS Nigeria, Mohamad Darwish, emphasized that the initiative is a testament to the shared commitment of the Kwara State Government and IHS Nigeria to

fostering local innovation.

He stated, “Unicorns are emerging globally, so the question to ask is why not from Ilorin? With state-of-the-art infrastructure, access to mentorship, and funding, this hub will serve as a launchpad for groundbreaking ideas that will shape the future of Nigeria’s digital economy.”

The Kwara State Government, under the leadership of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, has demonstrated a strong commitment to creating an enabling environment for digital businesses. The government has reduced the cost of right-of-way fees for fibre-optic installations, significantly improving internet accessibility and affordability in the state. As a result, Kwara now boasts a robust, low-cost, high-speed internet infrastructure, making it an attractive destination for technology-driven enterprises.

Dr. Mary Ayinde, Commissioner for Tertiary Education, represented the Kwara State Government at the event and she emphasized that the hub is a crucial step towards making the state a tech-driven economy.

“This is another giant stride of His Excellency, Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq. Kwara State is going places, and the world will soon hear of Kwara,” she declared.

The Ilorin Innovation Hub is not working in isolation. IHS Nigeria has partnered with leading innovation enablers, Co-Creation Hub (CcHub) and Future Africa, to oversee incubation programs and capacity-building initiatives. CcHub will design and implement sustainable models to support innovators and startups in the region, while Future Africa, led by Andela and Flutterwave co-founder Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, will help in scaling businesses for global competitiveness.

Aboyeji sees the hub as the seed for the next generation of billion-dollar businesses. “I recruited Kwara State as my top recruiting



ground for Andela, a company that builds and deploys talent all over the world. The billion-dollar businesses of the future will move up from here,” he asserted.

Beyond digital innovation, the Ilorin Innovation Hub is built with sustainability in mind. The facility will be powered by a solar energy system comprising 681 units of 5-kilowatt solar panels, generating approximately 584 megawatts of energy—enough to power 200 three-bedroom flats. Additionally, 600 kilowatt-hours of battery storage will ensure an uninterrupted power supply, projected to save over N2 billion in energy costs over time.

The cooling system, featuring 96 DS cooling units, will also be solar-powered, reinforcing the hub’s commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. Recognizing Nigeria’s infrastructure maintenance challenges, the project team has put in place a solid facility management strategy to ensure the hub remains in top condition for years to come.

For years, young Nigerians have been told to “learn a skill, start a business, and you’ll be fine.” But even the most talented graduates often find themselves trapped in endless job hunts, with opportunities concentrated in over-saturated markets like Lagos. The Ilorin Innovation Hub is looking to change that story.

With innovators like CcHub and Future Africa driving incubation initiatives, and the state government actively investing in digital infrastructure, Kwara State is making a bold statement: Ilorin is ready to compete on a global scale. The potential for the next Nigerian unicorn to emerge from this hub is real, and if the initiative fulfills its promises, the world may soon look to Ilorin as Africa’s next major tech destination.







## New Era for Agriculture: Mechanization and Food Security

Agriculture, the lifeblood of Plateau's economy, is receiving a significant boost. In a move that underscores his commitment to food security and economic growth, Governor Mutfwang recently commissioned 20 tractors for farming communities across the state. This initiative, part of the Plateau State Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes Project (ACReSAL), is aimed at mechanizing agriculture, increasing productivity, and reducing the burden on small-scale farmers.

During the commissioning ceremony at the New Government House in Rayfield, Jos, the Governor assured stakeholders that the tractors would be put to optimal use, benefiting the people and the state's economy. He further revealed plans to secure over 200 additional tractors through the Plateau Agricultural Development Programme. This strategic move will bolster agricultural output, ensuring not only food sufficiency but also positioning Plateau as a key food supplier in the region.

In addition, a large-scale cultivation initiative is already in motion under the Agricultural Services and Training Centre (ASTC). With over 900 hectares of farmland dedicated to displaced persons in Barkin Ladi, Mangu, and Riyom Local Government Areas, this project provides a means of livelihood for internally displaced persons (IDPs), allowing them to rebuild their lives through sustainable agricultural activities.



## Economic Empowerment Through the Community Revolving Fund

Beyond mechanization, Governor Mutfwang has demonstrated a commitment to empowering rural communities financially. A total of \$250,000 has been disbursed to ten communities as part of the Community Revolving Fund (CRF) initiative. Supported by the World Bank in collaboration with the Plateau State Government under ACReSAL, this fund serves as a financial backbone for grassroots economic activities.

Each beneficiary community—Guratop, Kerang, Zamko, Ampang West, Dinting, Jimin, Kaler, Plateau Club/Bingham, Pisha, Yashi, and Wereh—received \$25,000. This financial boost is structured as a revolving scheme, ensuring that funds are repaid and redistributed to other communities, creating a cycle of economic empowerment.

Governor Mutfwang emphasized that the initiative is designed to enhance financial independence and foster community-driven development. He urged recipients to invest wisely, ensuring that the funds generate long-term benefits for their respective communities.



Gov Mutfwang



## Infrastructure Renaissance: Transportation and Connectivity

A key hallmark of any thriving economy is a well-developed transport system. Governor Mutfwang's administration is keenly aware of this and has embarked on projects that will enhance mobility and commercial activities across Plateau.

One of the most ambitious projects is the revamp of the railway system within Jos. Although still in the early stages, efforts are being made to restore the rail lines, which will serve as a crucial means of transportation for both goods and people. Once completed, the project is expected to decongest road traffic, reduce transportation costs, and boost trade within the state.

Additionally, in collaboration with ValueJet, the government has successfully launched the Abuja-Jos flight route. This development is a game-changer, cutting down travel time between the nation's capital and Plateau State while enhancing business, tourism, and investment opportunities.

The recent inauguration of the Tin City Metro Buses further complements these efforts. Designed to provide affordable and efficient urban transportation, these buses will ease the daily commute for residents, ensuring that movement within Jos and its environs becomes seamless and cost-effective.



## Healthcare Revolution: Strengthening Primary Healthcare

Recognizing the dire need for improved healthcare services, Governor Mutfwang has initiated the

# Gov. Mutfwang: Solely Lifting Plateau's Soul

In the heart of Nigeria's Middle Belt, Plateau State is witnessing an unprecedented wave of transformation under the leadership of Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang. His administration, barely a year in office, has embarked on a series of ambitious, people-centered projects aimed at revitalizing key sectors, empowering communities, and lifting citizens out of poverty. From agriculture to healthcare, transportation to economic empowerment, Governor Mutfwang is scripting a new story for Plateau, one that resonates with hope, progress, and sustainable development.



renovation and upgrade of 82 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across Plateau's 17 Local Government Areas. Funded under the IMPACT Project, this initiative is a significant step towards achieving universal health coverage for the people of Plateau.

The upgrades will include perimeter fencing, construction of two-bedroom staff quarters, installation of motorized boreholes, and solar-powered electricity supply. This holistic approach ensures that healthcare facilities remain operational, especially in rural areas where medical services are often scarce.

While presenting cheques to contractors handling the project, Governor Mutfwang reaffirmed his administration's commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare for all. The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Cletus Bako Shurkuk, lauded the initiative, describing it as a transformative intervention that will significantly improve health outcomes across the state.



## Strategic Partnerships: World Bank and International Collaboration

Governor Mutfwang's administration has also prioritized strategic partnerships with international organizations to accelerate development. This commitment was highlighted during a recent visit by the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Dr. Ndiame Diop.

The Governor expressed delight at the strengthening relationship between Plateau State and the World Bank, emphasizing that continued collaboration would unlock more opportunities for infrastructural and human capital development. Dr. Diop, in turn, commended Governor

Mutfwang's visionary leadership and reaffirmed the World Bank's readiness to support transformative projects that will uplift Plateau's citizens.



## A People-Centred Vision for Plateau's Future

Governor Caleb Mutfwang's leadership is proving to be one of action, vision, and strategic transformation. From agriculture to transportation, healthcare to economic empowerment, his administration is laying the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous Plateau State.

The commissioning of tractors, the launch of the Abuja-Jos flights, the revamp of railway lines, the empowerment of rural communities, and the upgrade of primary healthcare facilities are not just standalone projects—they are interconnected pillars of a grand vision aimed at improving lives and fostering economic resilience.

As Plateau State continues on this trajectory of progress, one thing is clear: Governor Mutfwang's soul-lifting projects are ushering in a new era of hope, opportunity, and lasting development. The Plateau story is being rewritten, and its people are at the heart of this transformation.

**\$250,000** Amount disbursed to ten communities as part of the Community Revolving Fund (CRF) initiative. A supported from the World Bank.

**82** Renovation and upgrade Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across Plateau state.

**20** Tractors for farming communities across the state. As part of Agro-Climatic Resilience initiative of the Plateau State.



# Mai Mala Buni:

## Building A Stronger, Post-Insurgency Yobe State

Governor Mai Mala Buni is reshaping the narrative of Yobe State, steering it toward a future marked by economic growth, infrastructural transformation, and human capital development. Once a state synonymous with insurgency-induced setbacks, Yobe is now emerging as a beacon of resilience and progress. Under Buni's leadership, the state has witnessed remarkable strides in agriculture, road construction, healthcare, and education—all while maintaining a strong focus on security and stability.

### Revolutionizing Agriculture and Economic Growth

A major highlight of Governor Buni's administration is the drive to harness the state's agricultural potential. Recognizing the global demand for sesame seeds, Buni has invested in four modern sesame processing factories located in Machina, Nguru, Potiskum, and Damaturu. These factories, now fully completed and set for commissioning, are expected to significantly boost Yobe's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), attract investors, and create employment opportunities for thousands of residents.

Beyond sesame processing, the administration has taken giant strides in empowering farmers through the provision of modern farming equipment, fertilizers, and improved seedlings. Yobe's agriculture sector is gradually being repositioned as a driver of wealth creation and economic self-reliance.

### Infrastructure: Roads, Markets, and Connectivity

Buni's commitment to infrastructural development is evident in the state's robust road construction projects. Key road networks that were once impassable are now being completed or nearing completion. Some of the notable road projects include:

- Fika-Maluri Road (Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 ongoing)
- Kukuri-Chukuriwa-Dawasa Road (95% completed)
- Karasuwa-Galu-Gashu'a Road (Fully completed)
- Nguru-Balanguwa Road (75% completed)
- Balanguwa-Kumaganam Road (60% completed as part of the Trans-Saharan road network)

In addition, township road projects in Nguru, Jajimaji, Gashu'a, Potiskum, and Damaturu are either completed or in advanced stages. The aim is to open up Yobe's towns and rural areas, facilitating ease of movement, trade, and commerce.

Complementing these road projects are modern marketplaces designed to stimulate economic activities. The Potiskum Modern Market, Ngalda Market, and Yunusari Market are all at 90% completion, while the Geidam Modern Market is at 75%. The long-awaited Potiskum Truck Transit Park, which is crucial for logistics and trade, is also nearing completion at 90%.

### Healthcare Transformation: Strengthening Medical Infrastructure

The healthcare sector in Yobe State has undergone a significant facelift under Governor Buni. His administration has not only prioritized hospital rehabilitation but also ensured that medical equipment and supplies are available across the state.

Through a partnership with World Medical Relief, healthcare facilities in Yobe have received advanced medical equipment, including hospital beds, infusion pumps, surgical instruments, and ventilators. Additionally, the state has commissioned 140 primary healthcare centres, ensuring that residents, particularly in remote areas, have access to quality medical services.

Furthermore, the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Complex at the Yobe State University Teaching Hospital is nearing completion. This facility, once fully operational, will enhance maternal and paediatric healthcare services, reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in the state.

### Education: Rebuilding a Future for Yobe's Youth

Years of insurgency took a toll on Yobe's education sector, but Governor Buni has remained resolute in reversing this decline. His administration

declared a state of emergency on education, leading to:

- The recruitment of over 4,000 teachers and non-teaching staff
- The training of 26,000 teachers to improve education quality
- Construction and renovation of classrooms, ICT centres, and hostels
- Expansion of school feeding programs to encourage enrollment

Recognizing the importance of tertiary education, the administration has also provided scholarships to students both within Nigeria and abroad, ensuring that Yobe indigenes can compete on a global stage.

### Security and Post-Insurgency Stability

Yobe's progress wouldn't be incomplete without addressing the strides made in security. When Buni assumed office, several communities in Gujba and Gulani Local Government Areas were inaccessible due to insurgent activities. Today, through coordinated efforts with security agencies, local vigilante groups, and community engagement, peace has largely been restored. Residents have returned to their communities, businesses have reopened, and life is gradually returning to normal.

### Empowerment and Wealth Creation: Investing in Human Capital

To tackle unemployment and youth restiveness, the Buni administration established the Ministry of Wealth Creation, Empowerment, and Employment Generation. This initiative has provided thousands of youths with vocational training and startup equipment, enabling them to establish their businesses. Women and vulnerable groups have also benefited from empowerment programs, ensuring inclusive economic growth.

As Governor Mai Mala Buni continues his second term, his administration remains committed to building on these achievements. With a focus on industrialization, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic diversification, Yobe State is on a transformative path—one that signals a brighter, stronger, and more resilient future.

The road ahead is still long, but with a foundation this strong, Yobe State is undeniably rising from the shadows of its past and embracing a future of prosperity and progress.





# Gov. Lucky Aiyedatiwa's Ondo A State on The Move

A new era is unfolding in Ondo State, one marked by action, transformation, and a visible commitment to progress. At the heart of this change is Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, the 7th democratically elected governor of the state, who has wasted no time in getting down to work.

In just a few weeks, his leadership has already begun to reshape the state, bringing infrastructural development, economic empowerment, and a renewed sense of governance that directly impacts the people.

From the moment he took the oath of office, Governor Aiyedatiwa made it clear that his administration would be about visible change rather than empty promises. His swift appointments of key officials set the tone for an administration focused on efficiency and results. But beyond the politics of governance, his real impact is being felt on the streets, particularly in the area of road rehabilitation and infrastructure renewal.

Akure, the state capital, has become a hub of construction activity. For residents who had endured years of deteriorating roads, the sight of asphalt being laid and potholes being fixed is nothing short of a relief. The governor recently inspected a series of road rehabilitation projects, including Odopetu, Iloro-Owe Akala, and Odi-Olowo roads, all of which are in the final stages of completion. Residents came out in large numbers, not just to catch a glimpse of their governor but to express their appreciation for his swift action. For many, these roads had been in terrible condition for decades, causing hardship and limiting business activities. Now,

with smooth overlays of asphalt and proper drainage systems being put in place, there is a newfound optimism about the state's infrastructural direction.

Accompanied by the Special Adviser on Infrastructure, Lands, and Housing, Engr. Abiola Olawoye, and the Chairman of Akure South Local Government, Dr. Gbenga Fasua, the governor addressed the crowd and assured them that this was just the beginning. "This is just the fulfilment of one of the promises we made to our people across the state. I am in the Central Senatorial District, where about 20 kilometers of road construction is ongoing. Specifically, here in Akure South, this 2.3-kilometre road is a vital urban link that has been in a deplorable condition for close to 20 years," he said.

Governor Aiyedatiwa was keen to emphasize that the road projects were not limited to Akure alone. Across the three senatorial districts of Ondo State, a total of 60 kilometres of road construction and rehabilitation is currently in progress. "Some people ask, 'Why focus on Akure?' But the truth is, we are implementing a total of 60 kilometres of road projects—20 kilometres in each senatorial district. Work is ongoing in the North and South as well, and I will be visiting those areas soon," he assured. His proactive approach to infrastructure is a stark contrast to past administrations,

where projects often stalled due to bureaucracy and lack of political will.

Beyond infrastructure, Governor Aiyedatiwa is also proving that governance is about inclusivity and economic empowerment. His administration has placed a special focus on women, a demographic often sidelined in economic policies. During the 2025 International Women's Day celebration, the governor unveiled the Odatiwa Women Initiative's Grant, a financial empowerment scheme aimed at supporting 1,000 low-income women across the state. Held at the International Culture and Event Centre (The Dome) in Akure, the event served as a platform to highlight the administration's commitment to gender equality, employment, and economic inclusion.

Speaking at the event, the governor emphasized the importance of women's empowerment in driving economic and social progress. "The economic empowerment of women is a top priority for this administration. We believe that when women are supported, families flourish, communities grow, and society progresses. That is why we are rolling out initiatives like this grant to provide women with the financial backing needed

to expand their businesses and improve their economic status," he said.

The governor also acknowledged the contributions of women to the state's political landscape, particularly in the last gubernatorial election, where their support played a vital role in his victory. "The new dawn we all crave is here, and I want to thank all women in Ondo State for their loyalty and commitment. We will continue to prioritize matters affecting women and the girl-child, ensuring they have opportunities to reach their full potential," he added.

In practical terms, this means not just offering grants but also ensuring that women have representation in government. The governor reaffirmed his administration's commitment to women's inclusivity in governance, stating that his appointments at both state and local government levels would reflect this principle. "Our administration shall continue to uphold and improve on women inclusivity in the governance of Ondo State. We have already started reflecting this in the few appointments made so far in this new tenure and also in grassroots governance at the local government level," he noted.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Women Affairs, Dr. Seun Osamaye, described the initiative as a landmark step toward closing the gender gap in Ondo State. "This initiative



Gov Aiyedatiwa commissioning of one of the completed projects in the state

is timely and impactful, as it reflects the commitment of the Aiyedatiwa administration to ensuring that no woman is left behind. By empowering women, we are not just supporting individuals but also strengthening families, communities, and the entire state's economy," she said.

Governor Aiyedatiwa's leadership style has been characterized by accessibility, decisiveness, and a commitment to transparency. Unlike the usual political grandstanding that often precedes action, his approach

has been to get straight to work—inspecting projects firsthand, engaging directly with residents, and implementing policies that have immediate impact. The days of passive governance in Ondo State appear to be fading, replaced by a style that prioritizes action over words.

For the people of Ondo State, this newfound direction is a breath of fresh air. The skepticism that often accompanies a new administration is gradually giving way to cautious optimism. While challenges still remain—ranging from economic difficulties to security concerns—there is a sense that, for the first time in a long while, the government is truly listening and responding.

With road networks improving, economic empowerment schemes gaining momentum, and a leadership that appears genuinely invested in the people's welfare, Ondo State is experiencing the early days of what could be a significant turnaround. Governor Aiyedatiwa has set the pace, and all eyes are on the unfolding transformation of the Sunshine State. If his first few months in office are any indication of what's to come, then Ondo might just be on the path to becoming a model of governance in Nigeria.





# A Turning Point For Enugu State

...Governor reaffirms commitment to feeding 300,000 school children daily

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has lauded Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State, for his transformative leadership and substantial investments in education, primary healthcare, and infrastructure. According to UNICEF, these efforts represent a turning point in the state's development, setting new benchmarks for social progress.

This commendation came during the signing ceremony of the UNICEF/Enugu Government Multiyear 2025–2027 Workplan at the Government House, Enugu, where Governor Mbah reiterated his administration's commitment to providing daily nutrition for over 300,000 children enrolled in the Smart Green Schools initiative.

## UNICEF Applauds Mbah's Commitment to Human Development

Speaking at the event, the Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Enugu, Mrs. Juliet Chiluwe, praised Mbah's leadership, particularly his unwavering dedication to the welfare of women and children. She highlighted his administration's strides in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as well as the pioneering role Enugu has taken in smart school initiatives.

"You are the pioneer of smart schools here. Enugu is one of the states leading in terms of WASH masterplan implementation. Your investment in primary healthcare, upgrading the system to Level 2, is highly commendable. The Smart Green Schools initiative is further proof of your commitment to human capital development," Chiluwe stated.

Reflecting on her tenure in Enugu over the past three years, Chiluwe noted significant improvements in infrastructure, security, and social welfare. She acknowledged Mbah's deliberate policies aimed at boosting the state's economy and fostering long-term development, particularly in child and maternal welfare.

"The deliberate efforts towards infrastructure, economic growth, and welfare reforms indicate a strong commitment to long-term progress. Your focus on children's rights and women's welfare underscores the anticipated success of this collaboration with UNICEF," she added.



## Strengthening Partnership for Social Progress

The signing of the multiyear plan, Chiluwe noted, signifies UNICEF's renewed commitment to working with the Enugu State Government in fulfilling the rights of children and women. This initiative falls under the ongoing Country Programme of Cooperation (2023–2027), aimed at driving sustainable development through strategic interventions.

However, Chiluwe called for intensified collaboration among stakeholders, particularly at the local government level, to accelerate Enugu's progress towards attaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and effectively implementing the state's social protection policies to eradicate poverty.

In response, Governor Mbah expressed gratitude to UNICEF for its continuous partnership and support, reaffirming his administration's dedication to tackling pressing social challenges. He underscored the government's commitment to prioritizing the social services sector, evident in budgetary allocations over the past two cycles.

"Education received 33 percent of the budget allocation, and this has remained consistent in both the 2024 and 2025 budgets. The healthcare sector is also a priority, and we have structured plans to sustain these investments for at least five years to ensure lasting impact," Mbah stated.

Governor Mbah elaborated on the administration's ambitious healthcare reforms, which include the establishment of 260 Type-2 Primary Healthcare Centres—one in each electoral ward across the state. Many of these centers have already been completed and equipped with cutting-edge medical facilities.

"Our healthcare plans go beyond erecting buildings. We are ensuring full functionality with adequate staffing, ancillary

services, and round-the-clock electricity. We recognized a deficit in healthcare personnel when we assumed office, and in response, we approved the recruitment of 2,500 health workers," he added.

Highlighting the administration's focus on education, Mbah announced that the Smart Green Schools would commence operations in September 2025. The initiative will cater to over 300,000 children, providing not only quality education but also essential healthcare services and free daily balanced meals to enhance learning outcomes.

"Our commitment to education is holistic. Beyond smart classrooms, we are integrating health and nutrition into the system. Each child in our Smart Schools will receive daily nutritious meals to ensure their physical and cognitive development," the governor stated.

Governor Mbah also underscored his This initiative aims to relocate residents from urban slums, ensuring they have access to decent housing while simultaneously eliminating open defecation in the state.

"We are aggressively addressing urban development challenges. Our mass housing scheme is not just about building homes but about transforming lives. By relocating people from slum settlements, we are creating healthier environments and ending open defecation across the state," he affirmed. administration's ongoing efforts to improve living conditions in Enugu through the first phase of a 7,500-unit mass housing scheme.

Governor Peter Mbah's administration is driving a historic transformation in Enugu State, with a clear focus on education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare. His strategic collaborations with UNICEF and other development partners are setting the foundation for a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

As these initiatives take shape, Enugu is poised to become a model of progressive governance, where human capital development remains at the heart of policymaking.



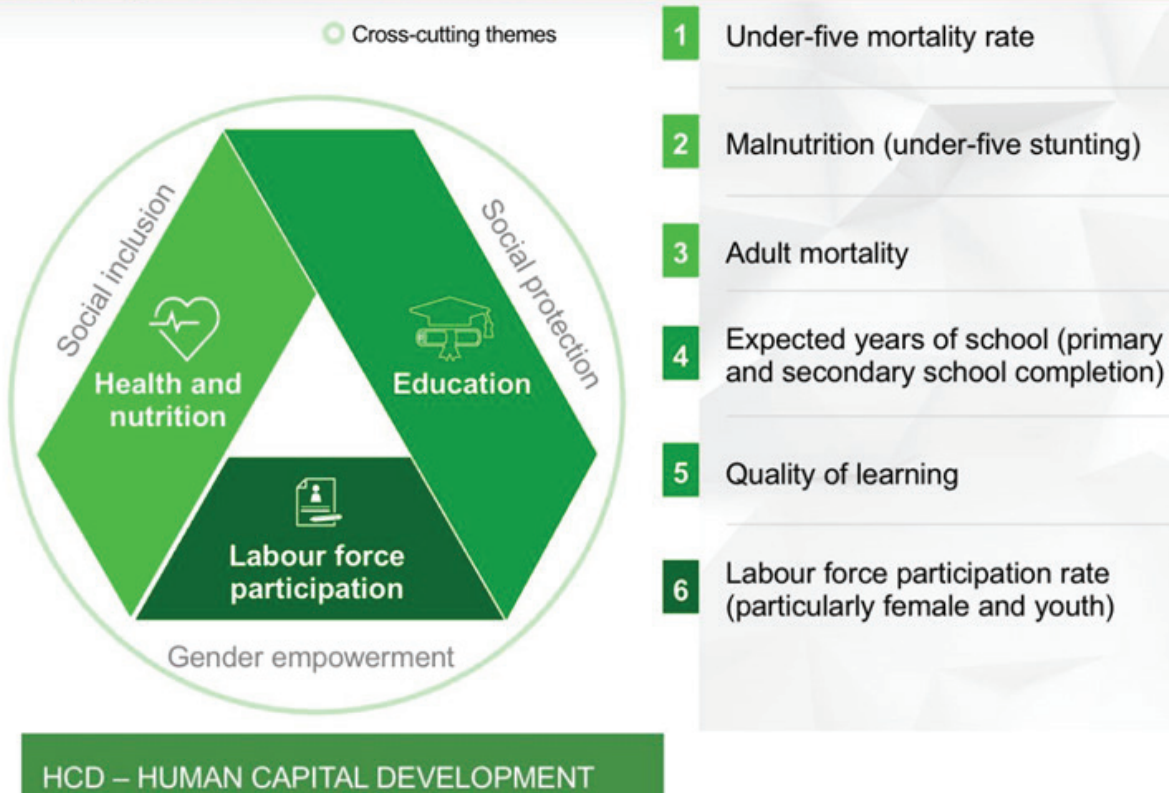
# The HCD JOURNEY

The National Economic Council (NEC) in 2018 initiated the National Human Capital Development Programme to address poverty and ensure sustainable economic growth which is critical to Human Capital Development (HCD). The HCD Programme is an effort to accelerate more and better-streamlined investments in people for equitable and economic growth in Nigeria.

In its first iteration, Nigeria's Human Capital Programme (HCD 1.0) set clear targets and commitments for investment priorities, accelerating investments in human capital, and expanding

stakeholder support to drive outcomes in Health, Education, and Labour Force participation in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The vision has set clear plans and targets across these three thematic areas with six critical outcome areas and sixteen high-impact Interventions. For example, the programme will support the States to launch free family planning programmes, recruit, and train health workers, improve child education, teacher development programmes and access to job market information, among others.

The CWG has selected 3 thematic areas and 6 outcomes to assess and track progress across HCD thematic areas



A preliminary list of interventions has been identified across HCD thematic areas for States to drive implementation

Health and Nutrition	Education	Labour force
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Operationalize the BHC PF<sup>1</sup></li> <li>2 Launch free family planning programs</li> <li>3 Launch effective financing mechanisms</li> <li>4 Operationalize the National Policy on Nutrition</li> <li>5 Recruit and train health workers including CHEWs<sup>2</sup></li> <li>6 Leverage private sector to fill capacity gaps in service delivery</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Roll out interventions for marginalized boys</li> <li>8 Roll out girls' education interventions</li> <li>9 Revamp NCE<sup>3</sup> and optimize the process of teachers' certification</li> <li>10 Improve teacher development and performance management</li> <li>11 Revise curriculum and methodology of teaching to a more directive style</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Improve management and strategic focus of TVET<sup>4</sup></li> <li>13 Improve access to job market information</li> <li>14 Implement legislative action e.g. local content, to increase hiring</li> <li>15 Assist SMEs financially by providing access to credit</li> <li>16 Assist SMEs technically</li> </ol>

1 Basic Healthcare Provision Fund; 2 Community Health Extension Workers; 3 National Certificate In Education; 4 Technical and Vocational Education and Training

SOURCE: Intervention prioritisation workshops

State Governors have championed the HCD agenda at the sub-national level, demonstrating strong political leadership and commitment to accelerate poverty eradication and improve the overall quality of life of their people. This has been demonstrated in the constitution of State HCD Councils, chaired by Deputy Governors, with Commissioners of key thematic areas as members, appointing a Focal Person to drive the technical objectives of the state priorities.

To sustain the momentum, the new Administration, through the National Economic Council (NEC) and the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), is inaugurating the Core Working Group (CWG) comprising of the NGF, Office of the Vice President, thematic Ministries, development partners and the private sector to accelerate the efforts of the next phase of the HCD programme – the HCD 2.0 (2024 - 2027). The CWG will continue to leverage the convening power of the NGF and NEC to promote human capital policy reforms, actions, and innovations that accelerate more and better investments at the sub-national level. We are reassessing and designing a comprehensive roadmap for the HCD programme going forward to ensure that the programme activities align with the overall HCD agenda.

In launching HCD 2.0, the CWG will redesign a

strategy aimed at improving implementations and the overall governance and funding structure to ensure programme sustainability and continuity independent of the political landscape. Ms. Rukaiya El-Rufai, the Special Adviser on National Economic Council (NEC) and Climate Change, will coordinate the HCD 2.0 efforts.

States are eager to recommit to HCD 2.0 and work with the CWG to ensure the roadmap is achieved through a co-development and co-creation process. In this phase of engagements and advocacy, States are expected to realize their State-specific HCD plans and targets, build their HCI and data strengths, access available funding and receive technical support that accelerates investment in their people. The CWG team will identify a few States and begin its advocacy visits for these engagements to reaffirm its commitment to ensuring proper implementation of Human Capital at the subnational level.

The Core Working Group will continue to leverage relationships, working closely with governments, development partners, the private sector, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders to achieve development goals that accelerate Human Capital in Nigeria.



# Governor Alia Champions Innovation at Inaugural Made-in-Benue Exhibition

**B**enue State has taken a significant step towards economic revitalization under the leadership of Governor Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormen Alia, with the hosting of the first-ever Made-in-Benue Products Exhibition at IBB Square, Makurdi.

The groundbreaking event served as a testament to the resourcefulness, creativity, and entrepreneurial potential of the Benue people, bringing to the fore the state's capacity to emerge as an industrial hub in Nigeria and beyond.

At the exhibition, which was graced by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Jumoke Oduwole, a diverse array of locally manufactured products was showcased, ranging from agro-based commodities to

technological innovations. Governor Alia reaffirmed his commitment to fostering local enterprise through improved access to funding, the creation of a business-friendly environment, and strategic investment in infrastructure.

"I remain committed to supporting local innovation through access to funding, creating a business-friendly environment, and investing in infrastructure," the governor assured participants and stakeholders present at the event.

The Made-in-Benue Products Exhibition was not merely a ceremonial event but a bold statement of intent by the Benue State government to reposition the state as a centre for industrialization. Governor Alia's administration has placed industrial development as the third agenda in its economic blueprint, aiming to transform the state into a self-sufficient economic powerhouse. However, he acknowledged the challenges inherited—moribund industries, policy inconsistencies, and infrastructural deficits that have long plagued the state's economic potential.

To combat these setbacks, Governor Alia's

administration has adopted a multi-pronged approach, including collaborations with the World Bank under the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) initiative. This program has provided financial and structural support to over 5,000 small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) across the state, helping to jumpstart businesses that suffered setbacks due to the pandemic and economic downturn.

Beyond financial assistance, the exhibition also provided a crucial platform for local producers and entrepreneurs to gain exposure, network with investors, and access larger markets. Governor Alia emphasized that patronizing locally made goods was vital to economic growth and self-sufficiency.

"Investing in local enterprises is not only an investment in economic prosperity but also a commitment to empowering communities, reducing unemployment, and fostering self-reliance," he noted.

Benita Shuluwa, the Director-General of the Bureau of Entrepreneurship & Wealth Creation, stressed that industrial expansion must be built on the foundation of innovation, invention, and entrepreneurship. She identified Benue's strategic advantage as the Food Basket of the Nation, emphasizing that the state possesses all the necessary resources to develop a thriving industrial sector spanning agriculture, renewable energy, technology, manufacturing, solid minerals, culture, and tourism.

She further highlighted the importance of synergy between government policies and private-sector innovation, stating that developing modern technologies, agricultural mechanization, renewable energy solutions, and efficient production techniques would be crucial in harnessing the state's full industrial potential.

A notable aspect of the exhibition was that most of the displayed products were manufactured using locally sourced raw materials, reinforcing the idea that Benue has the capacity to sustain a robust industrial ecosystem. Governor Alia's call for a paradigm shift—one that sees local products as not just alternatives but as the first choice for consumers and investors alike—resonates with the growing global movement towards self-reliant economies.

To encourage excellence and motivate entrepreneurs, the

state government awarded cash prizes ranging from N1 million to N5 million to over 30 outstanding exhibitors. This initiative serves as an incentive for local businesses to expand their operations, improve product quality, and scale up their market reach.

Governor Alia reiterated his administration's dedication to offering support to entrepreneurs through funding opportunities, business-friendly policies, and investment in infrastructure. His goal is to ensure that, with the right support, Benue entrepreneurs can compete favourably in national and international markets.

The Made-in-Benue Products Exhibition is not just a one-time event—it is the beginning of a transformative journey towards economic diversification and industrial sustainability. Governor Alia's vision of an industrialized Benue, where local products dominate markets and entrepreneurs thrive, is gradually becoming a reality. His government's proactive stance in supporting innovation, creating economic opportunities, and encouraging investment in local industries is setting Benue on the path to long-term economic prosperity.

As the world watches, Benue is making a bold statement: it is ready to take its place as a leader in Nigeria's industrial and entrepreneurial renaissance. The exhibition has proven that with the right policies, strategic partnerships, and unwavering support for local businesses, Benue State can rise as a model of economic independence and innovation in Nigeria.





# Sokoto's Rapid Metamorphosis Under Gov. Ahmad Aliyu

Sokoto State is experiencing an unprecedented wave of development, as Governor Ahmad Aliyu delivers on his campaign promises with over 186 completed capital projects in just 18 months. This remarkable achievement, unveiled by the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Sambo Danchadi, signals a new era of progress for the Seat of the Caliphate.

What sets this administration apart is the fact that these projects were executed without borrowing a single kobo from any financial institution, either domestically or internationally. The state government has strategically allocated resources to revamp critical sectors, including infrastructure, security, social welfare, and religious development, ensuring that the dividends of democracy reach every citizen.

## Transforming Infrastructure and Security

The Ahmad Aliyu administration has launched a bold urban renewal programme, resulting in the construction and asphaltting of over 150 township roads. These projects are improving intra-city connectivity, reducing travel time, and boosting economic activities across the state.

Additionally, the government is building 1,000 housing units in Gidan Salanke and Wajake on the outskirts of the state capital, alongside acquiring 137 housing units from the Federal Housing Authority in Kwannawa. These initiatives address the housing deficit and provide affordable accommodation for residents.

Security has also seen a major boost, with the procurement of over 140 rugged patrol vehicles to strengthen law enforcement operations. The establishment of a community guard corps has further enhanced intelligence gathering, leading to a significant reduction in criminal activities, particularly in the volatile eastern region bordering Zamfara State.

## Religious Commitment and Social Welfare

Recognizing the importance of religion in the lives of Sokoto's residents, the administration has prioritized the construction and renovation of mosques. These places of worship have been equipped with boreholes, solar power systems, and carpets, improving comfort for worshippers. In addition, a monthly cash allocation of N300,000 to N500,000 is being



provided to Jumaat mosques across the state, alongside financial support to Imams, Deputy Imams, and grassroots preachers.

The administration's commitment to social welfare is evident in its increased support for people with disabilities. Monthly allowances have been raised from N6,500 to N10,000, with the number of beneficiaries set to rise from 6,679 to 10,000 in the coming year. Additionally, the government has introduced subsidized public transportation, making mobility more affordable for citizens amid economic challenges.

## National and International Recognition

Governor Ahmad Aliyu's achievements have not gone unnoticed. He has earned praise from prominent figures, including former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who commissioned key projects during the governor's first-anniversary celebration. The United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Richard M. Mills Jr., lauded the governor's Nine-Point Smart Agenda and expressed willingness to collaborate in key sectors. Similarly, representatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have shown interest in partnering with the state government on religious and community development initiatives.

These accolades have translated into multiple awards, with the governor recently receiving the 2024 Urban and Housing-Friendly Governor Award. This recognition reaffirms his status as one of Nigeria's top-performing governors, credited with transforming Sokoto's landscape within a remarkably short period.

## Education and Healthcare: A Renewed Focus

Education has been a key priority, with Governor Aliyu allocating 25% of the 2025 budget to the sector—surpassing international benchmarks. This has facilitated the renovation of schools, provision of instructional materials, and the timely payment of external examination fees for students.

Healthcare has also witnessed substantial improvement, with moribund primary health centers being revived and new general hospitals under construction. Immunization programs and free maternity care have been reinforced to ensure that healthcare reaches the most vulnerable citizens.



Gov Aliyu

## A Governor on a Mission

Governor Ahmad Aliyu's leadership style is defined by an unwavering commitment to development, accountability, and people-centered governance. His administration's dedication to infrastructural expansion, security enhancement, and socio-economic empowerment continues to redefine the narrative of governance in Sokoto State.

Despite the challenges and opposition, the governor remains focused on his mission to build a prosperous Sokoto. With his dynamic approach, the next few years hold even greater promise for the state. If the current momentum is sustained, Sokoto is well on its way to becoming a model of modern development in Northern Nigeria.

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**150** Constructed township roads through urban renewal programme to improve intra-city connectivity and boosting economic activities across the state.

**N450k** Monthly financial support to Jumaat mosques for Imams, Deputy Imams, and grassroots preachers across the state.

**25%** Allocating 25% of the 2025 budget to Educational sector – surpassing international benchmarks.





# Pastor Umo Eno: Creating Millionaires, Empowering Entrepreneurs in Akwa Ibom

In a political era where performances are often in question, a new kind of leader has emerged—quiet yet intentional, pastoral yet pragmatic. Pastor Umo Bassey Eno, Governor of Akwa Ibom State, is not shouting from rooftops but building foundations beneath them.

Less than two years in office, he is already being hailed as “Governor of the Year” by ThisDay and Arise News. But beyond the accolades he is a man on a mission—transforming governance from showmanship into stewardship.

Pastor Eno came to power with a blueprint—the ARISE Agenda: Agriculture, Rural Development, Infrastructure, Security, and Education/Entrepreneurship. To the average ear, it sounds like yet another manifesto. But to the people of Akwa Ibom, it’s become a living, breathing movement of progress.

Under this visionary model, abandoned communities are being reconnected,



schools revitalized, peace strengthened, and economic potential unlocked. From riverine farmlands to inner-city hubs, the ARISE Agenda is no longer an aspiration—it’s active.

## Millionaires by Design, Not by Accident

One of the most revolutionary aspects of Pastor Eno’s administration is his approach to economic empowerment. While most politicians fixate on temporary palliatives, Eno is planting economic forests that will bear fruit for decades.

Through targeted entrepreneurial support, business mentorship, and access to startup capital, he is deliberately raising a new generation of millionaires—not just in cities, but in rural hamlets too.

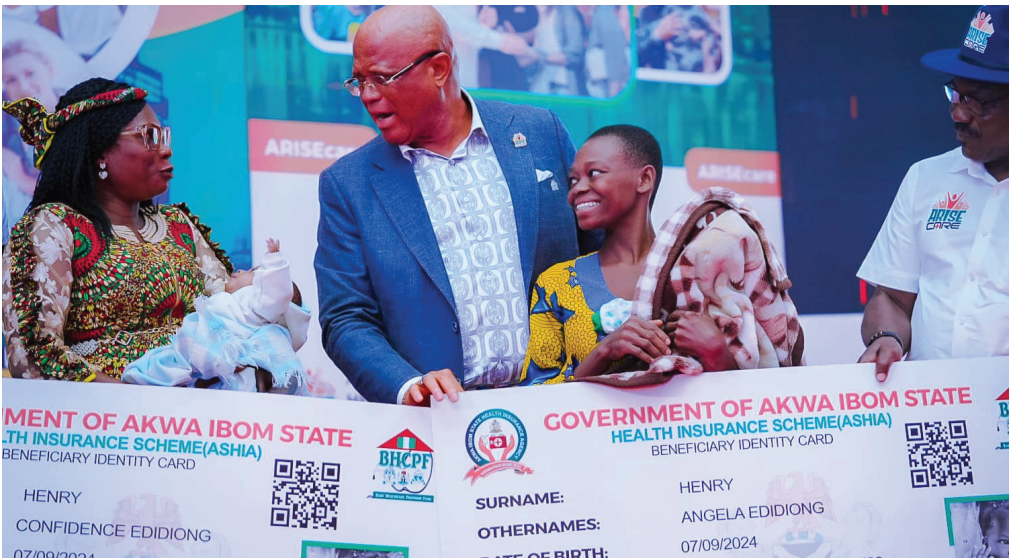
With initiatives like the Ibom-LED Tailoring and Shoe-Making Hub, the administration isn’t just training young people; it’s launching them. Small traders are scaling into full-blown enterprises. Market women are evolving into supermarket owners. Tech-savvy youths now run homegrown startups from digital incubators. From fish farming collectives to mobile fashion designers, a quiet capitalist revolution is underway.

And these are not handouts—they are hand-ups. Real investments in real people. The result? A ripple effect of prosperity, dignity, and self-sufficiency across the state.

## Roads, Revival, and the Right Priorities

Where others see roads as ribbon-cutting moments, Eno sees them as rivers of opportunity. He’s injected over N10 billion into reviving abandoned road projects across Akwa Ibom, making once-forgotten communities accessible again.

From farmers transporting their produce, to school children navigating previously impassable terrain, the impact of this infrastructure renaissance is



undeniable. It’s not stone and tar—it’s access. It’s economic inclusion. And it’s just the beginning.

## Fuel Subsidy Fallout: Turning Crisis into Compassion

When the Federal Government scrapped fuel subsidies, chaos ensued nationwide. But Akwa Ibom responded differently. With purposeful foresight, Pastor Eno committed over N5 billion to supplement federal palliatives. He didn’t just cushion the blow—he built a buffer.

He followed up with the creation of the Bulk Purchasing Agency—a bold economic intervention aimed at curbing artificial food scarcity and bringing prices back within reach of the common man. This is governance that anticipates, not reacts. Policy with a pulse.

## Education with Equity

Education, under Eno, is not a luxury—it’s a right. And he’s treating it as such.

Over 5,000 students in public tertiary institutions have received

bursaries. More touchingly, 106 physically challenged students—regardless of origin—have received education grants ranging from N250,000 to N300,000. It’s inclusion that goes beyond lip service.

In Akwa Ibom, no dream is too small, and no student is too disadvantaged to be overlooked. The governor is building a knowledge economy, and the first investment is in the minds of the marginalized.

True leadership is measured not just by groundbreaking ceremonies but by buried obligations. Eno has paid over N14 billion in outstanding gratuities to retirees at both state and local levels. These payments are more than cheques—they’re restored dignity, they’re justice delivered.

In a nation where pensioners are often left to die in queues, this single act speaks louder than a hundred policies.

## Sky-Bound Ambitions: Repositioning the Airport

The Victor Attah International Airport is now getting the attention it deserves. Under Pastor Eno’s



leadership, the dream of turning Akwa Ibom into a regional aviation hub is gaining thrust. With renewed investment and a clear roadmap, the airport is being positioned as a gateway for tourism, commerce, and global connectivity.

This is infrastructural foresight. It’s not for today alone—it’s for the next generation.

Pastor Eno governs with an unusual calm—what some might call pastoral grace. He listens more than he lectures. Delivers more than he declares. He doesn’t govern to impress the media; he governs to impact his people.

He shares credit, too. When he received the “Governor of the Year” award, he dedicated it to his deputy, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, to his predecessor, Udom Emmanuel, and to all the people whose shoulders bore the burden of statecraft before him.

In Pastor Umo Eno, we don’t just see a governor. We see a builder of people, a cultivator of dreams, and a shepherd of genuine progress. And yes—this is only the beginning.





# Oyebanji: Exceptional Leadership Rooted in Vision and Integrity

Governor Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji has demonstrated a leadership style that is purposeful, disciplined, and deeply rooted in the core values of Ekiti's identity as the Land of Honour and Integrity. Unlike many who personalize power, Oyebanji upholds governance as a collective responsibility, guided by determination, humility, and an unwavering commitment to service. His governance approach reflects the true essence of an Omoluabi leader—honorable, principled, and accountable.

## » A Legacy of Inclusivity and People-Oriented Governance

One of Oyebanji's defining leadership traits is his open-door policy and people-first approach. His administration thrives on inclusivity, allowing residents and stakeholders from all walks of life to contribute to policy-making. By ensuring that decisions align with the collective needs of Ekiti's people, the governor has fostered an atmosphere of transparency, trust, and mutual respect. His accessibility remains a pillar of his governance, ensuring that no citizen feels distant from the corridors of power.

## » Empowering Women and Strengthening Gender Representation

Governor Oyebanji's administration is a strong advocate for gender inclusion, ensuring that women are not just present in governance but hold influential positions. His deputy, Monisola Afuye, and the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) are both women, marking a shift towards balanced representation. Additionally, his wife, Dr. Olayemi Oyebanji, spearheads programs that

empower women, focusing on education, economic inclusion, and social welfare.

## » Sustainable Economic Growth and Prudent Financial Management

Despite operating within a framework of limited resources, Oyebanji has successfully managed Ekiti's finances with prudence and transparency. Unlike past administrations that struggled with financial mismanagement, his government has avoided accumulating burdensome debt while ensuring that funds are allocated to impactful developmental projects. His administration prioritizes grassroots economic empowerment, ensuring that economic policies translate to tangible benefits for everyday citizens.

## » Transforming Infrastructure and Expanding Development Across Ekiti

Under Oyebanji's leadership, infrastructural development is taking center stage. His administration is ensuring that developmental projects are evenly distributed across local governments and senatorial districts,



preventing the usual complaints of lopsided allocations. Roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and public utilities are being rehabilitated and expanded, reflecting a commitment to inclusive growth. Additionally, he has reinvigorated local government administration, empowering it to drive grassroots development tailored to community-specific needs.

## » Education, Healthcare, and Social Welfare as Pillars of Governance

Recognizing education as the bedrock of any progressive society, Oyebanji's administration has invested heavily in improving the quality of learning in Ekiti. Schools are being renovated, teacher welfare is prioritized, and students are benefiting from improved educational infrastructure. Similarly, the healthcare sector has witnessed upgrades, with hospitals and primary health centers receiving attention to enhance service delivery. His social welfare policies ensure that vulnerable groups, including retirees, people with

disabilities, and economically disadvantaged citizens, receive the necessary support from the government.

## » A Government Built on Trust, Accountability, and Lasting Legacy

Governor Oyebanji's governance style is defined by trust and accountability. His administration consistently communicates its plans, policies, and actions to the public, fostering transparency. The focus remains on leaving behind a legacy that future generations will cherish, much like the historical reign of revered leaders such as Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Adekunle Ajasin. Oyebanji is setting a standard of leadership that prioritizes service over self-interest, ensuring that Ekiti's future remains bright.

## » Looking Ahead: Sustaining Progress and Avoiding the Pitfalls of Power

While Governor Oyebanji has recorded significant achievements in two years, the true challenge lies in sustaining the momentum. As he continues to govern, it is crucial to remain vigilant against the distractions of flattery and political sycophancy. Praise singers often emerge in the wake of success, but Oyebanji must remain focused on delivering tangible results. With limited resources and increasing expectations, the path ahead demands continued prudence, vision, and unwavering dedication to the people of Ekiti.



# Dapo Abiodun: Spearheading the Rebirth of Ogun

He didn't saunter into office on a bed of roses. There were no red carpets or grand handovers. Instead, **Prince Dapo Abiodun** stepped into the storm—barehanded, unflinching, armed only with conviction, vision, and a stubborn resolve to reimagine Ogun State. No blueprints passed down. No love from the political Old Guard. Just a mind honed in the boardroom, a will shaped in adversity, and a calling to serve his people.

Five years down the line, even his fiercest detractors now whisper with reluctant admiration. The Gateway State has swung open, not just to possibility—but to prosperity.

Let's start where most fail: peace. While other regions simmer with unrest, Ogun under Abiodun has become an oasis of calm, a haven carved out by a governor who understands that progress cannot thrive amid chaos.

Rather than engage in political gladiator matches—even when poked and prodded by predecessors looking for brawls—Abiodun chose the higher road. That wasn't weakness. It was wisdom.

His style mirrors the ethos of true transformational leadership, as defined by James MacGregor Burns—a leader who lifts others to a higher plane of morality and purpose. His calm is contagious. His resolve, unshakable. Small wonder then, that Ogun now wears the crown of Nigeria's most peaceful state.

## Security Reinvented: From Crisis to Coordination

One telling moment came early in his administration: pastors of the RCCG kidnapped while he was away in Abuja. Despair rippled through the land. But Abiodun? He mobilized helicopters for aerial surveillance. Days later, the men of God walked free. Not a scratch on them.

That wasn't a fluke. It was a foretaste of what was to come.

The Ogun State Security Trust Fund became his answer to systemic vulnerabilities. He rallied stakeholders. He deployed over 100 patrol vans, motorcycles, walkie-talkies, surveillance drones, and partnered with Lagos and Oyo to tame the notorious Lagos-Ibadan Expressway corridor. Then came Amotekun, standing sentinel at flashpoints.

Security, under his leadership, became strategy—not sloganeering.

In the field, Abiodun ploughed deep—reviving agriculture, empowering youth, and replanting hope where neglect had taken root. Under the Anchor Borrowers Programme, Ogun youth became farmers of the future.

He birthed OGUNIPA and OGUNBEC, creating a fertile ground for investors and agripreneurs. Ogun now sits at the top tier of Nigeria's producers of rice, maize, and cassava, its silos fuller than ever, its farmers equipped, trained, and financially supported.

He didn't just support agriculture—he made it fashionable again. Dapo Abiodun has built a living, breathing, lifesaving system.

From four inherited ambulances to over 30 today, Ogun's emergency response network now reaches every federal constituency. Students have been inoculated against cervical cancer, ultrasound machines now hum in primary facilities, and two new molecular labs have fortified the state's response to pandemics.

He contained COVID-19 with a surgical precision, expanded 24-hour



ambulance services, and built a Clinical Skills Development Laboratory at the School of Midwifery in Abeokuta—a state-first.

He didn't talk reform. He lived it.

Long before fuel subsidy removal turned other states upside-down, Abiodun had already introduced CNG-powered buses, tricycles, and motorcycles. Where others reacted, he anticipated.

And while some governments still dream about food security, Ogun and Kebbi had already inked a rice production pact, years in the making.

Abiodun leads with foresight, not hindsight. A tech

evangelist at heart, he's made Ogun Nigeria's de facto ICT nerve centre—earning accolades like:

- Best State in ICT Penetration and Infrastructure Development
- Most Improved State in Security Infrastructure
- Best Governor in Education
- Governor of the Year (Sun Newspapers, 2023)
- Man of the Year (Silverbird TV & Daily Independent, 2023)

It's easy to miss the magic when a man doesn't make noise. But Dapo Abiodun's quiet genius is exactly what Ogun needed—a governor who doesn't tweet progress but builds it, brick by brick.

Whether in the boardroom or on the farm, in a tech hub or a hospital ward, his fingerprints are everywhere. Under his stewardship, Ogun is not just functioning; it's flourishing. And while

others are still making campaign promises, he's already shaping the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and millionaires.

The journey isn't over. But the map is clear, the engine is strong, and the driver—calm, deliberate, focused—is hell-bent on reaching a future that even the doubters will applaud.

So yes, Dapo Abiodun didn't just inherit Ogun. He reinvented it. And the best, as they say, is yet to come.





# Gov. Usman Ododo: Transforming Kogi Through Visionary Leadership



One year into his tenure as the Governor of Kogi State, **Ahmed Usman Ododo**, has demonstrated a commitment to progressive governance, prioritizing infrastructure development, security, agriculture, health, education, and economic growth. His administration has tackled longstanding challenges, continued vital projects from his predecessor, and introduced new initiatives that have reshaped the state's trajectory.

**Revitalizing Infrastructure**  
Governor Ododo's administration has made significant strides in infrastructure development, focusing on both new projects and the completion of inherited ones. Key road projects, such as the Nine-Kilometer Zone 8-Barrack-Zango Road and the 5.5-Kilometer Zone 8-Crusher Road, have been completed with street lighting installations to enhance visibility and nighttime aesthetics. These improvements mark a break from past administrations that left many projects abandoned, positioning Kogi as a state with modern, functional infrastructure.

**Enhancing Security for a Safer Kogi**  
Security has remained a top priority for the Ododo administration, leading to tangible improvements in the safety of lives and property across Kogi State.

Governor Ododo provided consistent support to security agencies and authorized the recruitment of 50 hunters in each local government area to enhance grassroots security. His swift intervention in the abduction of 20 students from Confluence University of Science and Technology resulted in their safe rescue, highlighting his proactive approach. Additionally, the establishment of a Forward Operation Base (FOB) in Bagana has restored peace to a once-troubled area, reviving commercial activities that were previously stalled due to security concerns.

**Agricultural Revolution: Boosting Food Production and Economic Growth**  
Agriculture remains a pillar of Ododo's economic agenda. His administration launched the Wet Season Farming Initiative in June 2024, investing over N7 billion in farm inputs and deploying more than 100

tractors across 7,000 hectares of farmland. This large-scale intervention has significantly boosted food production, improved food security, and positioned Kogi State as a vital contributor to Nigeria's agricultural output.

**Healthcare Advancements:  
Expanding Access to Quality Medical Services**  
The administration has prioritized healthcare by upgrading over 100 primary healthcare centers within the first year in office. Essential medical supplies have been provided to ensure efficient healthcare delivery across the state, improving access to medical services and enhancing the overall well-being of Kogi's residents. These efforts reflect a commitment to ensuring that no community is left behind in accessing quality healthcare.

**Transforming Education:  
Investing in the Future**  
Education has remained a focal point of the Ododo administration. Recognizing the financial burden on parents, the governor allocated N600 million for WAEC fees for over 18,000 senior secondary school students in public schools. He also earmarked N522 million for other crucial examinations, including Common Entrance and JAMB, effectively making primary and secondary education in Kogi State free. These interventions have reduced the number of out-of-school children and ensured that more young people have access to quality education.

**Prioritizing Workers' Welfare**  
Governor Ododo has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the welfare of civil servants. His administration approved a minimum wage of N72,500 for all categories of workers, surpassing the federal government's benchmark of N70,000. Pensioners, who had not received harmonization allowances for over two decades, were granted a N10,000 increase. These actions have restored confidence among workers and retirees, ensuring that their contributions to the state's growth are duly recognized and rewarded.



Gov Ododo

**Boosting Trade and Investment**  
Recognizing the importance of commerce in economic development, the Ododo administration approved plans for a multi-billion naira international market along Zone 8-Crusher road. This project, set for completion within two years, aims to stimulate trade, attract investors, and create job opportunities for thousands of Kogi residents.

**Community Engagement and Inclusive Governance**  
Governor Ododo's leadership style has emphasized inclusivity, ensuring that diverse voices are heard in governance. His administration marked its first anniversary with "The Kogi Dialogue," a town hall meeting bringing together stakeholders from different political backgrounds. This initiative underscored the governor's dedication to transparency, unity, and collective decision-making in steering Kogi State toward greater development.

**Strengthening Security with Technological Innovations**  
Ododo's administration has harnessed technology to bolster security operations. Surveillance systems and emergency response applications have been introduced to enhance monitoring and rapid response capabilities. The deployment of new security vehicles and the establishment of the Metropolitan Quick Response Squad have further strengthened law enforcement efforts, making Kogi increasingly inhospitable for criminal elements.

**A Strong Foundation for Sustainable Development**  
In just one year, Governor Ododo has laid a strong foundation for sustainable development, building on the legacy of his predecessor, Yahaya Bello, while carving his own path of excellence. His administration's approach to governance is anchored on accountability, inclusivity, and economic revitalization. As Kogi State continues to experience remarkable growth, it is evident that Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's leadership is not just about governance but about transformation. His unwavering commitment to progress ensures that Kogi remains a beacon of hope, stability, and prosperity in Nigeria's evolving political landscape.

#### SMART VIEW

**N7b** Investing so far in farm inputs and deploying more than 100 tractors across 7,000 hectares of farmland for large-scale food production.

**14.5km** Of key road projects have been completed with street lighting installations to enhance visibility and nighttime aesthetics across the state so far!

**N112m** Allocated for WAEC/ JAMB fees for over 18,000 senior secondary school students in public schools and other crucial examinations, including Common Entrance for primary and secondary education





# Adamawa Govt Inaugurates \$525,000 World Bank Intervention Programme for Farmers

Adamawa state Government has launched a \$525,000 World Banks intervention programme to farmers across the State.

Speaking at the event, Kaletapwa Farauta, Professor and Deputy Governor of Adamawa State, said the project was designed to reduce the vulnerability in communities and build resilience against the hardship realities faced against the backdrop of increasing adverse effect of climate change.

While representing Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, Farauta stated that the support has the potentials to establish a continued cycle of business activities that would ultimately create an economic safety net for communities and the State.

She reiterated Government support to the World Bank projects through ACREsAL to achieve results by close monitoring, evaluation and controlling its processes.

She however, urged Federal Government to desilting the river Benue to boost international water travels, irrigation and other economic activities.

Earlier, Aliyu Abdullahi, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food security, said that the Federal Government would be partnering Government of Adamawa State through ACREsAL to improve food security in the State.

Abdullahi explained that the projects cover 774 LGAs, where each Council would benefit based on its comparative and competitive advantages.

He noted that farmers would be supported with high yield crops for productivity, which reduces cost of production by using modern technology and ensure food produced is in line with nutritional contents desired.

Ibrahim China, ACREsAL State Coordinator, said the initiative would ensure sustainability in natural resources management.

According to him the initiative focused towards addressing future community climate change and deforestation.

Raji Isa, a beneficiary from Saminaka Co-operative Society, appreciated the gesture towards improving their livelihood in the State.



# Gov Fintiri's Shopping Complex: A Game-Changer for Economic Growth

Adamawa State is on the brink of an economic renaissance, driven by the progressive policies of Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri. At the heart of this transformation is the Jimeta Ultra-modern Shopping Complex, a N19.7 billion project designed to revolutionize commerce in the state. This ambitious initiative is more than just a market; it is a bold step towards modernizing Adamawa's economic landscape, fostering entrepreneurship, and enhancing the livelihoods of its people.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the Jimeta shopping complex marked a pivotal moment in Adamawa's economic trajectory. Governor Fintiri, while unveiling the project, emphasized that the initiative was not merely about erecting a structure but about crafting an enduring economic legacy. "The Jimeta Ultra-modern Shopping Complex is a landmark initiative which is not just about building a structure," he stated. "It is about creating a vibrant commercial hub, an environment that will attract investments, foster economic growth, and create jobs for our youth and our people in general."

To ensure timely completion and adherence to quality standards, the project has been divided into three LOTs, each awarded to reputable construction firms—LUBELL Nig. LTD (LOT 1), Madugu Commercial and Construction Company (LOT 2), and AMIAPP Nig. Ltd (LOT 3). With an 18-month completion timeline, the project aims to become a thriving business nerve centre that integrates modern retail spaces with state-of-the-art facilities.

The Shopping Complex is poised to become a game-changer for commerce in Adamawa. The facility will not only provide a structured and organized trading environment but also attract investors, wholesalers, and retail chains looking for a stable business location. In turn, this will generate significant revenue for the state, enhance trade efficiency, and reduce the challenges posed by informal markets, such as congestion and poor infrastructure.

For local entrepreneurs, the project presents a golden opportunity. With modern shop spaces, reliable utilities, and enhanced security, business owners will be able to operate in a more conducive and professional environment. This, in turn, will encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to flourish, enabling homegrown brands to compete effectively with larger corporations.

Moreover, the shopping complex will provide a structured platform for artisans, vendors, and service providers to expand their businesses. From fashion designers and electronics traders to food vendors and logistic companies, various economic players will benefit from the infrastructure and business-friendly environment the complex will offer.

One of the most significant impacts of the shopping complex will be its ability to create employment opportunities for Adamawa's growing youth population. The construction phase alone is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs, ranging from engineering and labor positions to supply chain and logistics roles. Upon completion, the market will require administrative staff, security personnel, maintenance workers, and service providers, thereby sustaining long-term employment opportunities.

Additionally, the structured retail environment will support entrepreneurship by providing young business-minded individuals with access to prime commercial space, fostering a culture of innovation and self-sufficiency. With the right business policies in place, the complex could also attract digital businesses and e-commerce players, integrating traditional retail with modern technology.

Governor Fintiri's vision extends beyond the shopping complex. The project is part of a broader strategy to modernize both urban and rural areas in Adamawa State.



# Gov Otti commissions Reconstructed Umuahia-Onuimo Bridge Road

The project begins from the Abia Tower of Peace on the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway and terminates at the Onuimo Bridge (the boundary between Abia and Imo).

In a speech at the ceremony, Mr Otti said that the project was initiated to fulfill his administration's promise to transform the entry points to the state.

"At the beginning of this administration, we made a commitment that we shall rebuild, remodel and improve the aesthetics of all the entrance points to Abia from our neighbouring states.

"Our goal is to change the old, unpleasant narrative, which gave the state a certain notoriety as a destination that announces itself through bad roads, heaps of garbage, foul air and other fatal signs of governance failure.

"We announced that in our time that, whoever is coming to our state will have an inviting experience. We promised that expansive and well-maintained road networks, good air quality and a good and tidy environment shall be the



hallmark of every entry point to Abia," he said.

Mr Otti also expressed his administration's resolve to institute a new governance philosophy that prioritises Abia's people and social status at the core of its undertakings.

He said the road was a federal road and thanked the Federal Government for giving the necessary approvals for the state government to fix it.

"We consider such roads critical economic enablers, supporting our domestic economy as well as improving the social condition of the citizens," Mr Otti said.

He urged Abia people to fulfill their civic obligations by paying taxes and statutory fees to enable the government to carry out more developmental projects in the state.

## ...Commissions Obiora Road, Aba

In line with his infrastructural development agenda aimed at boosting the economy of the State and enhancing both intra and inter-connectivity. His Excellency, the Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR has on Tuesday 3rd December Commissioned and opened for public use the newly constructed Obiora road in Aba with a double drainage system and solar-powered street lights. This project is another testimony of the Governor's commitment to fast-tracking development.

Speaking at the event, Governor Otti who commended the team for their exceptional work, emphasized that the project demonstrates the State's capacity to deliver World-class infrastructure without breaking the bank.

According to Governor Otti, the road constructed through the State's Direct Labour Agency, cost 25-30% of what similar projects by external contractors would require and added that his Administration is committed to infrastructural development as a catalyst for economic transformation.

In his words, "It is important to re-emphasize that the road we are standing on today was not done by contract but by Direct Labour Agency about a year and six months ago directly under the supervision of Ministry of Works".

"This road project will not just bring a boom in the level of economic opportunities around here, but will also improve the value of commercial and residential properties in this area and increasing access to capital for those who wish to access funds to inject into their individual enterprises".

He reaffirmed his Administration's dedication in delivering sustainable infrastructure across the State and disclosed that the next few months would witness an intensified focus on commissioning flagging off of numerous projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and fostering socio-economic growth across



the State's urban and rural areas.

Governor Otti who stressed his Administration's prudent Financial Management revealed that the State has significantly reduced its debt profile and remains one of the few States with zero indebtedness to contractors, attributing the achievement to disciplined governance and effective utilization of public resources.



## Otti woos Chinese Manufacturing firm to invest in Abia

Alex Otti, governor of Abia state, has expressed his Administration's interest to partner Sinoma Materials Company Nigeria Limited, to establish a factory in Abia state.

Governor Otti, stated this during a business meeting with a delegation from Sinoma Materials Company Nigeria Limited, led by Zhang Hui, its chairman.

He said that the presence of Sinoma Materials Company Nigeria Limited in Abia state, would create job for the people of the state and contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the state.

According to Governor Otti, the company may consider setting up its factory around Osisioma axis of the state, as the area enjoys 24 hours power supply, provided by Geometric Power Limited.

Zhang Hui, chairman, Sinoma Company Nigeria Limited, leader of the delegation, said that the company is in the business of manufacturing one of the best building materials, used for ceiling and walls, including building cement factories and has built up to 4 cement factories for major cement producers in the country.

He said that the company's products are water and fire resistant and sought collaboration with the state government towards patronage and marketing.

Nwankwo Chukwudi Daniel, the country head of sales, SINOMA Materials Nigeria Limited, said that the company is also into manufacturing of fiber ceiling, which is an innovation from the company, used for wall partitioning.

He said that the company also has an arm called Sinoma Engineering, which is into construction of cement production plants, adding that the company has been in Nigeria for close to two decades and has come to collaborate with the state government for the purpose of establishing its presence in Abia.

"We want to collaborate with the state government, under Governor Alex Otti, the innovative governor of our time. We have come to partner with him in some areas.

"He has accepted us and asked us to go and do our feasibility studies for our discussion to go to the next stage", Daniel said.







**Governor Mutfwang**

# Revolutionizes Transportation in Plateau with Landmark Initiatives

In a bold and visionary move to ease transportation challenges following the federal government's fuel subsidy removal, Governor Caleb Mutfwang has introduced a groundbreaking initiative to transform mobility in Plateau State.

The launch of 15 state-of-the-art TinCity diesel buses for intra-city transport in Jos and 20 sleek Sienna buses for the Jos-Abuja route marks a significant milestone in the governor's commitment to improving the lives of residents.

This initiative goes beyond providing new buses, it is a symbol of progress, economic empowerment, and social transformation. By addressing the urgent need for reliable, affordable, and efficient transportation, Governor Mutfwang is ensuring that Plateau residents can commute with ease, comfort, and security.

The TinCity diesel buses, designed to accommodate 46 passengers per trip, are equipped with cutting-edge safety features, spacious interiors, and eco-friendly engines. These buses will redefine urban mobility in Jos, offering commuters a convenient and dignified alternative to overcrowded, unreliable transport options.

With an affordable fare of just N200 per drop, the initiative prioritizes accessibility for all, ensuring that transportation costs remain manageable for Plateau residents. Additionally, the introduction of digital travel cards, priced at N2000, streamlines fare collection, ushering in an era of

cashless and hassle-free commuting.

On the intercity front, the introduction of 20 Sienna buses for the Jos-Abuja route represents a major leap in connectivity. These buses not only provide a comfortable and efficient travel experience but also enhance economic integration between Plateau State and the nation's capital. Real-time tracking systems ensure passenger safety and reliability, while modern amenities elevate the standard of intercity travel.

At the commissioning ceremony in Jos, attended by government officials, stakeholders, and the public, Governor Mutfwang reaffirmed his administration's dedication to improving urban mobility. He emphasized that the TinCity Metro Urban Transportation Initiative is more than just a transportation project—it is a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and social development.

"These buses are not just vehicles; they are moving symbols of innovation and progress. With features such as Near Field Communication (NFC) and secure card payment



systems, we are aligning with global transportation advancements. The integration of video monitoring systems also ensures passenger safety, transparency, and accountability."

Beyond convenience, this initiative has a direct economic impact. The TinCity Metro Urban Transportation Initiative is expected to create between 500 to 1000 jobs, fostering economic empowerment and youth employment. Furthermore, the establishment of Plateau Express Logistics, a subsidiary of Plateau Express Services, enhances the state's logistics and delivery systems, boosting commerce, trade, and business operations.

"Leadership is not just about having a vision; it's about executing that vision for the benefit of the people. We are ushering Plateau State into a new era of digital transportation, economic progress, and environmental sustainability," Governor Mutfwang stated.

In a separate event, Deputy Governor Josephine Piyo unveiled the Sienna buses, further highlighting the government's commitment to modernizing the transportation sector. She emphasized that digital booking platforms and real-time tracking systems will enhance efficiency, security, and customer experience for commuters.

The affordability of these transportation services reflects the governor's inclusive governance approach, ensuring that every segment of society benefits from this transformation. By prioritizing cost-effective travel without compromising quality, Governor Mutfwang is reinforcing his commitment to a people-centered administration.

This initiative also signals a shift towards environmental responsibility. The cleaner-burning diesel engines in these buses reduce carbon emissions, supporting the global movement for sustainable urban mobility.

For the people of Plateau State, the unveiling of these modern transport systems represents hope, progress, and a brighter future. As they board these buses each day, they do so with renewed optimism—a testament to the governor's unwavering dedication to their welfare and advancement.

**The affordability of these transportation services reflects the governor's inclusive governance approach, ensuring that every segment of society benefits from this transformation**





**B**orno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has continued his mission of transforming the state, marking the first year of his second tenure with remarkable developmental strides. Staying true to his commitment to good governance and progress, Zulum has consolidated democratic gains by delivering 238 additional projects in this period.

Since assuming office, Zulum has successfully executed no fewer than 1,195 developmental projects, focusing on capital-intensive initiatives that directly impact the lives of the people. His first year of his second tenure alone saw the completion of 238 projects, comprising 220 capital projects and 18 capital-intensive programs and policies, many of which have already been completed.

#### Revolutionizing Education

Education remains a cornerstone of Zulum's administration, with 54 projects executed across 23

local government areas (LGAs). These include the establishment of 36 new mega and conventional senior/junior secondary and primary schools, a high Islamic college, and integrated Tsangaya schools. Many of these institutions were equipped with essential infrastructure such as administrative blocks, teachers' quarters, science and ICT laboratories, sporting facilities, and solar power systems.

Additionally, 88 science laboratories were set up in 22 schools to enhance STEM education, alongside the procurement of 58 vehicles for monitoring and evaluation purposes. To improve learning environments, 6,529 furniture sets were distributed to schools and education offices.

#### Advancing Services

Zulum has significantly bolstered healthcare services, delivering 19 projects across 10 LGAs spanning

#### Healthcare

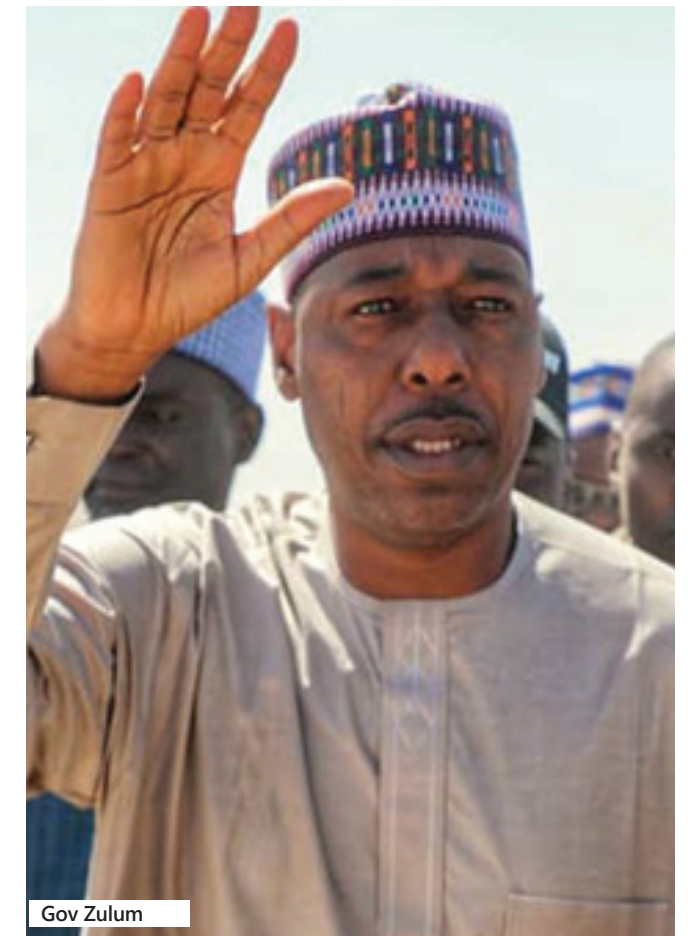
all three senatorial districts. These include six newly built primary healthcare centers (PHCs), a new general hospital, two new eye and dental hospitals, and additional classroom blocks at a nursing school. The administration also initiated the construction of two new colleges of nursing while rehabilitating three general hospitals to enhance service delivery.

Further, state-wide healthcare initiatives were launched, including installing solar power systems in 22 PHCs and a general hospital, supplying modern medical equipment, and providing essential drugs and consumables to health facilities. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to improve access to quality healthcare for residents across Borno State.

#### Infrastructure and Housing Development

The Works and Housing sector also received significant attention, with 20 projects implemented across six LGAs, reshaping urban and rural landscapes. A landmark achievement was the construction of Borno's second flyover and an underpass pedestrian bridge, with work on a third flyover currently in progress.

Additionally, 32.77km of urban and rural roads, including dual carriageways, drainage systems, and road networks, are under construction. To facilitate cost-effective direct labor projects, the



Gov Zulum

government procured a tracked paver and a bulldozer, ensuring the prudent use of resources.

In the housing sector, two separate residential estates were constructed, featuring 500 housing units and a 72-unit three-bedroom flat complex with integrated road networks. These homes cater to civil servants and residents, addressing the housing deficit in the state.

#### Enhancing Security Operations

Recognizing the critical role of security in post-insurgency recovery, Zulum's administration made substantial investments to support security agencies. The government procured 94 brand-new Hilux vehicles, 62 Toyota Land Cruiser (Samsara) patrol vehicles, and assorted security gadgets and equipment to reinforce security operations. Additionally, 300 new motorcycles were acquired to enhance mobility, while 49 security vehicles were repaired and upgraded.

A new office complex was also built, complete with support facilities for the Borno State Security Trust Fund. This initiative is designed to strengthen the state's security architecture and improve coordination among security agencies.

#### Sustaining Progress and Development

Zulum's leadership continues to drive Borno State towards progress, with a firm focus on infrastructural development, education, healthcare, housing, and security. His administration's approach—prioritizing capital-intensive projects and sustainable policies—has yielded tangible results, improving the living standards of residents.

With a clear vision for the future, Governor Zulum remains steadfast in his commitment to fostering development, stability, and prosperity across Borno State.



# Zulum Consolidates Fifth Year with 238 Projects







# THREE YEARS OF INNOVATION: Gov Soludo's Tech-Driven Solution in Anambra

As Governor Charles Chukwuma Soludo, CFR, marks three years in office, Anambra State stands at the forefront of a digital revolution. His tenure has redefined governance through strategic investments in technology, enhancing connectivity, efficiency, and economic growth. With a clear vision of a smart, tech-driven future, Soludo's administration has laid a foundation that is reshaping the state's digital landscape and positioning Anambra as a leading hub of innovation in Nigeria.

Recognizing the power of connectivity in economic transformation, Governor Soludo prioritized digital infrastructure from the outset. Under his leadership, Anambra became the first southeastern state to implement a zero Right-of-Way (RoW) policy, accelerating broadband expansion and ensuring that businesses, schools, and public institutions have access to high-speed internet.

To further democratize digital access, his administration launched free public Wi-Fi hotspots in key locations across the state, including:

- Jerome Udorji Secretariat Complex, Awka
- Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), Igbariam Campus
- Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka
- Federal Polytechnic, Oko
- Peter University, Achina/Onneh
- Strategic business and public hotspots across urban centers

This initiative has empowered students, entrepreneurs, and civil servants, fostering an environment where digital learning, e-commerce, and remote work can thrive.

Governor Soludo's commitment to a digital government is evident in his administration's adoption of e-governance tools to enhance transparency, efficiency, and professionalism. Some of the key milestones include:

- Digitization of ANSEC Meetings: The introduction of digital meetings for the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) has eliminated paperwork, improved confidentiality, and streamlined decision-making.
- Statewide Digital Domain (anambrastate.gov.ng): Ensuring a unified digital identity for all state Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), curbing fraud, and promoting professionalism.

- **Solution Lens Platform** (lens.anambrastate.gov.ng): A citizen-to-government engagement tool, bridging communication gaps and enhancing service delivery.

A tech-driven economy requires a digitally literate workforce. Governor Soludo has invested heavily in digital skills training to enhance productivity across government and civil society. His administration has:

- Trained civil servants on ICT tools for improved service delivery.
- Provided cybersecurity awareness training for civil society organizations.
- Distributed over 2,500 laptops to civil servants, local government officials, school principals, and teachers, fostering a culture of digital proficiency.

Anambra's digital transformation has not gone unnoticed. At the 11th National Council on Communication, Innovation, and Digital Economy (NCCIDE) in Kano, the state won four prestigious awards:

- Overall Winner – Best State in Digital Technology Development
  - 1st Position – Best State in Digital Infrastructure Technology Development
  - 1st Runner-up – e-Government Implementation
  - 1st Runner-up – Digital Technology Human Capital Development
- These accolades



reaffirm Anambra's growing reputation as a leader in Nigeria's digital economy.

Governor Soludo has forged key partnerships to bolster the state's tech landscape. Collaborations with institutions like the Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN) and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) have improved connectivity and set the stage for smart school initiatives. The establishment of a NITDA Digital Centre in Isuofia is another step towards enhancing digital education across the state.

## Securing the Digital Future: Cybersecurity and Data Protection

With a growing digital infrastructure comes the need for robust cybersecurity measures. Governor Soludo's administration has introduced:

- **Anambra Cloud** – A secure, centralized digital storage system for state assets, ensuring that Anambra's data remains within the state.
- **E-ID Card Platform** – Integrating digital identity with state services for seamless authentication and service access.
- **Advanced Cybersecurity Protocols** – Implementing security tools, incident response strategies, and automated disaster recovery systems to safeguard Anambra's digital infrastructure.

Governor Soludo's technology-driven agenda has positioned Anambra for long-term sustainable development. With ongoing initiatives such as:



- **Smart School programs** – Integrating digital tools into classrooms to enhance learning.
- **Land digitization through ANAMGIS** – Modernizing land administration for efficiency and transparency.
- **Expansion of digital services across multiple sectors** – Ensuring that governance, education, healthcare, and commerce are driven by technology.

As Anambra continues its digital transformation, the vision remains clear: leveraging technology for sustainable growth, improved governance, and a smarter, more prosperous state.

Governor Soludo's three years in office have redefined leadership in Anambra State. His unwavering commitment to a tech-driven economy has positioned the state as a model for digital governance in Nigeria. As his administration forges ahead, the foundation laid in these first three years promises a future where technology is not just a tool but a way of life in Anambra.

With a bold vision and relentless execution, Governor Soludo has not only embraced the digital age—he has ensured that Anambra leads it.



From the moment Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu stepped into the governor's seat in 2019, it was clear he wasn't here to simply manage Lagos—he came to transform it. Quiet in demeanour yet resolute in action, Sanwo-Olu assumed office not just as a political leader but as a visionary architect determined to reimagine the face of Africa's most populous city.

Even before the world knew what hit it, with the outbreak of COVID-19, Sanwo-Olu was already proving his mettle. When the virus landed in Nigeria through Lagos, the governor didn't flinch. He took charge as the Incident Commander, rallying health professionals, policymakers, emergency workers, and residents alike to mount a coordinated, humane, and effective response. It was a baptism by fire, but he emerged tempered and tested.

#### ***Crisis as a Catalyst for Capacity***

That pandemic-era leadership was no fluke—it revealed a man who understood crisis not as calamity, but as catalyst. Then came the #EndSARS protests. Again, Lagos found itself at the epicenter of national upheaval. Sanwo-Olu didn't shy away. He listened. He engaged. He helped facilitate reforms. And crucially, he began to lay long-term structures to keep the state's youth engaged, hopeful, and heard.

These early challenges were not stumbling blocks; they were stepping stones that defined his leadership style: consultative yet courageous, strategic yet deeply empathetic. They also gave Lagosians a glimpse of the transformation he envisioned—a smarter, stronger, more sustainable city for all.

The governor's masterplan is anchored on the THEMES Agenda: an acronym capturing his administration's development priorities—

# Sanwo-Olu's Unending Infrastructural Development in Lagos



Transportation and Traffic Management; Health and Environment; Education and Technology; Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy; Entertainment and Tourism; Security and Governance. Added to this are layers of social inclusion, gender equity, and youth empowerment.

Each letter is not just a policy aspiration but a living, breathing work-in-progress—a blueprint being methodically turned into bricks, mortar, steel, and change.

#### **Infrastructure as a Symphony of Progress**

Nowhere is this vision more tangible than in the field of infrastructure. Week after week, Lagosians witness a crescendo of commissioning ceremonies, ribbon cuttings,

and groundbreaking launches. But this is more than ceremony; it's substance. Last week's unveiling of two major road networks—spanning over 10 kilometres in total—sent a powerful message: Lagos is not slowing down.

The 4.7-kilometer stretch covering Akoka, Bariga, and Gbagada is a transformative corridor. Once plagued by potholes and gridlocks, these areas now gleam with freshly laid asphalt, complete with modern drainage systems. Roads like St. Finbarr's, Jagunmolu, Shogbamu, and Diya Street are now arteries pumping new life into the western mainland of Lagos.

These roads connect the University of Lagos to YabaTech and several residential communities,

slashing commute times, reducing vehicle wear and tear, and boosting morale. It's more than concrete—it's dignity restored, frustration dissolved, and hope renewed.

#### **Ikeja GRA: From Highbrow to High-Tech**

Across the city, in Ikeja GRA, another 6.134 kilometers of roads were unveiled. This is no ordinary facelift. Streets like Oba Dosumu, Oduduwa Way, Sobo Arobiodu, and Sasegbon now glisten with new surfacing, improved layouts, and robust flood control systems.

Ikeja GRA is a hub of diplomatic missions, corporate headquarters, and premium real estate. For years, however, it suffered from decaying infrastructure and seasonal flooding. With these new



upgrades, the community now mirrors the affluence it has always promised. Property values are rising, business activities are picking up, and even international investors are taking notice.

Sanwo-Olu isn't just upgrading roads—he's reinforcing Lagos as a destination for global capital and local confidence.

#### **Urban Renewal, Not Urban Replacement**

A striking feature of Sanwo-Olu's infrastructure agenda is his balanced approach. Rather than abandoning decaying areas, his administration has chosen to breathe new life into them. Rehabilitation is the name of the game. Long-forgotten roads are being resurfaced. Drainage systems are being unclogged and expanded. Sidewalks are being rebuilt for safety and accessibility.

This speaks to a deeply traditional, almost poetic philosophy: progress should not bulldoze heritage—it should honour and restore it. It's the old Yoruba adage come alive: "Àkí fi omi tú àbà fún ewé"—you don't throw away the bathwater with the medicinal leaves.

#### **Roads with Purpose, Projects with Vision**

But infrastructure in Lagos is not about aesthetics alone. Every new road, bridge, or culvert is designed with a clear objective: to ease mobility, protect the environment, and ignite commerce. Each project is a deliberate answer to a specific urban headache. In a city where traffic can stretch tempers and time, the benefits are immediate and life-altering.

Flood-prone zones have also found relief. Lagos, built on a watery terrain, is no stranger to seasonal floods. But now, with each new road comes a corresponding drainage overhaul. This twin approach—road and water management—ensures that one of Lagos' oldest

urban challenges is no longer a perennial curse.

#### **Beyond Roads: Building People and Partnerships**

Governor Sanwo-Olu knows that good governance is not just about brick-and-mortar. It's about building partnerships—with communities, with the private sector, and with federal authorities. In all of his projects, there is a call for public participation. Residents are urged to take ownership: maintain the roads, report damage, and keep drains clear.

This philosophy of shared responsibility is what turns infrastructure from mere development into a social contract. It's no longer just the government's road—it's our road.

#### **A Template for the Nation**

In many ways, Lagos is Nigeria's test lab. What works in Lagos often becomes a model for the nation. Governor Sanwo-Olu's infrastructure strategy offers a valuable playbook: blend vision with consultation, mix policy with performance, and never underestimate the power of civic pride.

From upgrading age-old roads to commissioning new ones, from tackling traffic congestion to taming floods, Lagos under Sanwo-Olu is scripting a new urban narrative—one rooted in intentionality, not improvisation.

Looking ahead, the administration remains committed to even grander infrastructure plans: more bridges, smarter traffic systems, and interconnected neighbourhoods that feel less like isolated islands and more like one unified metropolis.

His THEMES agenda continues to evolve, ensuring that infrastructure is never treated as an end in itself, but a means to improved health, better education, digital innovation, and economic prosperity.

In the final analysis, these roads—and the many more to come—are physical testaments to the Lagos Dream. They whisper of a city refusing to be held back by its chaos. They speak of a people on the move, literally and metaphorically.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu may not always shout from the rooftops, but his work speaks volumes. In the rhythm of poured concrete and the hum of new highways, Lagosians hear the sound of transformation. They see the glow of a city being reborn—one road, one bridge, one project at a time.

And if this is only the beginning, then Lagos, indeed, is in capable hands.



# Governor Bassey Otu: Progressive Visionary

As the golden sun rises over the lush landscapes of Cross River State, it casts its glow on a leader whose impact resonates across every corner of the region. His Excellency, Governor Bassey Edet Otu, stands as a symbol of hope, progress, and unwavering commitment to the people he serves. Today, as we celebrate his birthday, we honour not just his life but the profound transformation his leadership has brought to the state.

## Securing Cross River: A Commitment to Peace and Safety

Governor Otu's tenure has been marked by an unyielding dedication to security. Under his leadership, Cross River has remained a bastion of peace and stability, even in the face of external and internal threats. His administration's strategic partnerships with military commanders and the Nigerian Police have strengthened security measures, particularly in critical areas like Akpabuyo LGA.

Recognizing the dangers of cross-border insecurity, Governor Otu took swift action by advocating for the establishment of a federal military base following the Ambazonian raids. This decisive move reassured citizens and reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting lives and property. Through proactive strategies, he has not only reinforced security but also restored the people's confidence in their government.

## Revolutionizing Infrastructure for Growth

Infrastructure development remains a cornerstone of Governor Otu's vision for Cross River State. From the ambitious dualization of the NNPC-Tank Farm Road-Esuk Utan to the restoration of traffic lights in Calabar, his administration has embarked on projects that enhance connectivity and improve daily life.

One of the most transformative initiatives under his leadership is the Calabar-Obudu Railway Project—a game-changer that will redefine transportation, stimulate commerce, and boost tourism. Additionally, after 30 years of neglect, the long-awaited Odukpani Road Project has finally seen the light of day, a clear indication that Governor Otu is committed to



revitalizing abandoned projects for the benefit of the people.

## Empowering Minds: A New Dawn for Education

Education serves as the foundation of progress, and Governor Otu has prioritized reforms that enhance access and quality. His administration tackled the long-standing issue of ghost workers, ensuring efficiency in the education system. By introducing free WAEC registration for deserving students, he has removed financial barriers that often hinder academic advancement.

Moreover, the launch of the "Girls in STEM" initiative is equipping young women with the skills needed to excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Governor Otu's inclusive policies have also extended to special education, ensuring that children with disabilities receive the support they need to thrive. His vision is clear—no child in Cross River should be left behind.

## Agricultural Renaissance: Restoring Cross River's Economic Backbone

Agriculture remains the heartbeat of Cross River's economy, and Governor Otu's strategic interventions are ushering in a new era of prosperity. His administration's Cassava Value Chain Development Policy and the 50,000-hectare Rice Cultivation Project are designed to boost food security and generate employment.

In addition, the 12,000-hectare mechanized farming initiative empowers rural communities by providing them with modern farming tools and techniques. Through investments in agriculture, Governor Otu is ensuring that Cross River remains a leading force in Nigeria's food production while creating sustainable livelihoods for farmers across the state.

## Advancing Healthcare: A Government That Puts People First

Healthcare has received a significant boost under Governor Otu's leadership. The unveiling of the Jennifer Etuh Medical Facility, a state-of-the-art hospital, underscores his administration's commitment to providing quality healthcare services. Free medical outreaches and health insurance schemes for vulnerable populations further highlight his dedication to the well-being of Cross Riverians.

His administration's swift response to public health crises, such as the cholera outbreak in Ejah Community, showcases a government that prioritizes the health and safety of its people. By strengthening healthcare infrastructure and emergency response mechanisms, Governor Otu is laying the foundation for a healthier Cross River.

## Driving Economic Growth with Fiscal Responsibility

Governor Otu has demonstrated remarkable financial stewardship, guiding Cross River towards economic stability.



His administration's strategic reforms have led to a 43% increase in internally generated revenue, from N32.4 billion to N36 billion. The introduction of a revised N437 billion budget is another testament to his focus on development and prudent financial management.

Furthermore, his pro-business policies have earned him the title of "Most MSME-Friendly Governor in the South-South Region." By fostering a supportive environment for small and medium enterprises, he has positioned Cross River as a hub for entrepreneurship and economic growth.

## A Leader's Legacy: Building a Brighter Future

As Cross Riverians reflect on Governor Bassey Edet Otu's leadership, one thing is clear—his legacy will endure for generations. From revitalizing infrastructure to empowering youths and women, his administration has touched every facet of life in the state.

On this special day, as we celebrate his birthday, we also celebrate a governor whose vision, action, and compassion have reshaped Cross River. His Excellency, Bassey Edet Otu, is not just a leader; he is a beacon of hope, a catalyst for progress, and a true champion of the people.

Here's to many more years of transformative leadership and prosperity under his watch.



Lateef Shittu:

# Strengthening the NGF For More Meaningful Deliverables

By Tony Udoka

In just a few months as Director-General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), Abdulateef Shittu, has ignited a remarkable transformation. With his deep-rooted expertise in economics, human capital development, and strategic governance, Shittu is redefining the NGF's role, moving it beyond a convening body into a powerhouse for policy innovation, economic intelligence, and intergovernmental collaboration.

At a time when Nigeria is facing complex economic and governance challenges, Shittu has consolidated the NGF's position as a bridge between the federal and state governments, fostering unity among governors and ensuring the forum remains a driving force in national development.

His leadership is centred on consensus-building, ensuring that political differences do not hinder collective progress. Under his stewardship, the NGF is evolving from a routine administrative platform into an influential think-tank that is shaping governance at the sub-national level.

One of Shittu's most transformative initiatives is the creation of Datamatics, a cutting-edge department in the NGF Secretariat that is dedicated to providing accurate, real-time data to policymakers, analysts, and the public. Recognizing that sound governance is built on facts, not assumptions, he has repositioned the NGF as a trusted source of economic and governance-related information.

Datamatics will serve as a central hub for critical data on state economies, revenue generation, public spending, and development indices—ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability. With accessible, verifiable data, policymakers, researchers, and investors can make informed decisions that drive sustainable

development. This initiative cements the NGF's reputation as a thought leader in governance while reinforcing trust in public institutions.

Shittu's career, which spans nearly 30 years across the private and public sectors, exemplifies his ability to drive institutional reform. Beginning at the National Oil & Chemical Company (formerly Shell Oil Marketing), he quickly transitioned into key government roles, demonstrating a sharp acumen for public sector transformation.

As Deputy Director of Privatization and Commercialization at the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), he played a crucial role in shaping Nigeria's

economic reforms. His tenure as Special Assistant to the Minister of Transport and

**In an era where governance must be agile, informed, and impactful, Shittu is proving that leadership is not about holding a position. It is about forging a legacy**

Communication saw him spearhead the establishment of the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), a regulatory body that has since revolutionized the country's telecommunications landscape.

Beyond policy design, Shittu has proven himself a master institution builder. As the pioneer Director of Finance, Administration, and Corporate Services at the NCC, he laid the foundation for one of Nigeria's most successful regulatory agencies. His global engagements—from the Commonwealth Development and Economic Forum to the European Union Industrial Development Agency—further highlight his strategic leadership on an international scale.

A distinguished alumnus of Wittenberg University (Ohio, USA), the Giordano De A more Institute of

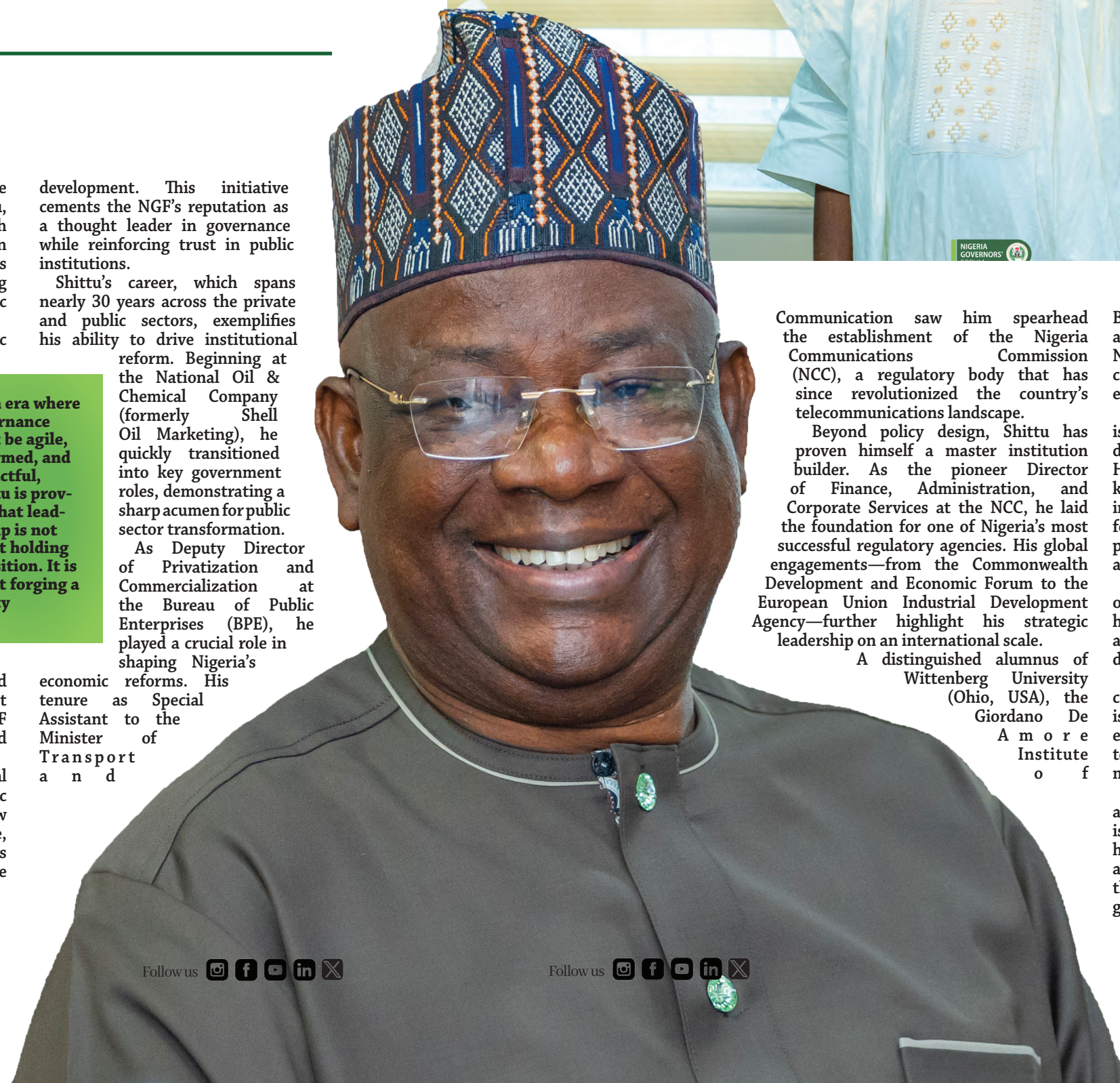
Banking and Finance (Milan, Italy), and Ahmadu Bello University (Zaria, Nigeria), Shittu's academic credentials complement his extensive professional experience.

As Acting Director-General, he is steering the NGF toward a more dynamic, solution-driven future. His leadership is defined by three key priorities: strengthening intergovernmental collaboration, fostering policy innovation, and promoting sustainable development across Nigeria's 36 states.

The NGF is no longer just an assembly of state leaders—it is evolving into the heartbeat of sub-national governance, a catalyst for reform, and a crucible for data-driven policymaking.

His commitment to transparency, collaboration, and economic foresight is redefining the Forum's influence, ensuring that it not only reacts to challenges but anticipates and mitigates them.

In an era where governance must be agile, informed, and impactful, Shittu is proving that leadership is not about holding a position—it is about forging a legacy. And with every step he takes, the NGF edges closer to becoming the gold standard of governance in Nigeria.





# How Nigeria Governors are tackling food insecurity with diverse initiatives

BY HALIMA S. AHMED



Food security is one of the pressing concerns in Nigeria, affecting millions due to a combination of factors such as climate change, conflict, and economic instability.

As Africa's most populous nation, Nigeria's agricultural potential remains underutilized, leading to significant challenges in providing sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for its citizens.

To address the challenge of food insecurity in Nigeria, the governors of 36 states of the federation have responded with unique strategies tailored to their specific agricultural strengths and vulnerabilities.

According to a document released by the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) state governments, in collaboration with federal authorities and international organizations, are making concerted efforts to combat hunger and improve agricultural productivity.

In the document released by Halimah Ahmed, Head of Publications, NGF, the governors believe that addressing these issues at the sub-national level in the entire region is crucial for the nation's development and stability. The initiatives according to the document is as stated below:.

In the North West states such as Kano, Jigawa, Zamfara, and Sokoto known for its vast expanse of arable land, have focused on bolstering the production of staple crops such as rice, millet, and sorghum.

Through the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Anchor Borrowers'

Programme, thousands of smallholder farmers in the region have received financial support and inputs to scale up their production.

"For instance, Kano State, often referred to as the "commercial nerve center of agriculture," the main policy thrust is to attain food security and raise the income level of residents of Kano State.

"For Agriculture, the administration of Gov. Abba Yusuf is working round the clock to transform all farming practice and build a practical Agric-Value-Chain to the benefit of all."

Some the efforts include the development of Kano master plans for irrigation, Livestock, poultry, small ruminant, and fisheries, as well as the distribution of agricultural inputs such as improved seeds of rice, Maize, Sorghum to subsistence farmers across 44 local governments.

Also was the rehabilitation of Tertiary Irrigation Canals, with 3,288 farmers as beneficiaries at the cost of N292 Million.

The Kano state government also facilitated the introduction of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone programme (SAPZ) by African Development Bank worth \$130 Million to promote the production of Rice, tomato, groundnut and Sesame seed.

Other includes rice production initiatives by expanding irrigation systems. "With water resources from the Tiga and Challawa dams, farmers can cultivate rice during both the rainy and dry seasons."

In Zamfara State Gov. Dauda Lawal administration has invested in mechanized farming and fertilizer distribution to boost yield while





### Road Map for food security in Nigeria

addressing post-harvest losses.

In Jigawa, Gov. Umar Namadi has been committed to his 12 point agenda on with agriculture is a mainstay.

“Central to these agenda, is the Rice millionaire project, the wheat project, and special Agro-processing zones all these are well orchestrated to accelerate Agricultural Transformation.”

The state has also partnered the Federal Government on the Spin project.

Also to address the recurring conflicts between herders and farmers threatening food production in the North West, the federal government has introduced peacebuilding programs and grazing reserves aimed at reducing tensions and protecting farmland.

The North-East including Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, ravaged by a decade-long insurgency, has also struggled to maintain food production levels, as millions of farmers have been displaced and farmlands destroyed.

The Borno State government, alongside international organizations like the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), has initiated several programs to restore farming activities in safe areas.

“The FAO’s “Green Shoots” project, for example, provides displaced farmers with seeds, tools, and training to rebuild their agricultural livelihoods.

“Additionally, Yobe State has invested in climate-smart agriculture, introducing drought-resistant crops like cowpeas and millet to adapt to changing weather patterns.”

The North-Central region, comprising states like Benue, Niger, Kwara, Kogi and Nasarawa which remain the agricultural heartland of Nigeria are implementing key agricultural initiative.

Nasarawa State is making bold strides to transform its agricultural sector into a key economic driver.

“The state government, committed to revitalising agriculture, has led efforts to attract international investment and modernise farming practices – with a focus on bolstering support for farmers, upgrading

infrastructure and enhancing security to foster substantial agricultural growth.

“Kwara State is investing in processing plants for cashew and cassava and has initiated a large-scale industrial park covering over 300,000 hectares. Also, 20 hectares of seed cotton and ginnery is farmed.

“All these according to the document are to boost the agricultural production of the state, as these are all designed to enhance the livelihoods of its citizens.

“The state government has focused on improving storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, which have plagued farmers for years.

“Through public-private partnerships, Benue and Niger have built modern silos and cold storage facilities, allowing farmers to store crops for extended periods.

“This initiative has been supported by the CBN and the World Bank’s Agricultural Transformation Agenda, aimed at increasing Nigeria’s food self-sufficiency.

“Despite these successes, flooding along the River Benue remains a constant threat to food production in the region. To mitigate this, state governments have begun dredging efforts and building levees to protect farmland from rising water levels.”

The document also revealed that in the South-West, states like Oyo, Ogun, and Ekiti are turning to technology to improve agricultural productivity.

It noted that Oyo State government, in partnership with private tech firms, has introduced drone technology for precision farming, allowing farmers to monitor crop health, detect pests, and optimize irrigation.

In Ogun State, Gov. Dapo Abiodun recently flagged off the harvest of the 200-hectare rice farm at Magboro in Obafemi Owode LGA of the state. In just three months, the farm cluster yielded 1,400 tonnes of rice.

Projected to bring in N1bn in revenue every three months, the project will now be scaled up to guarantee revenue in the region of N10bn-N25billion.

The World Bank-assisted project meant to ensure the increased



participation of the private sector in the economic development of Gateway State is the brainchild of the Ogun State Economic Transformation Project.

Farmers were sensitised and aggregated into ten groups that constituted the rice cluster, and the government supported them with 65 per cent of the cost of land preparation or mechanisation, while they contributed the rest.

On the other hand, has focused on agribusiness, encouraging youth participation in agriculture through programs like the “Youth in Agribusiness” initiative.

This scheme provides training in modern farming techniques, access to finance, and links to markets, aiming to reduce unemployment and improve food production.

The trainees who were mostly graduates, were trained on horticulture, cassava processing, poultry value chain.

Additionally, the South-West states have invested heavily in processing plants to reduce dependency on food imports. Oyo State recently launched a cassava processing plant, which is expected to boost local cassava production and provide job opportunities.

For the South-South, a region characterized by its vast river systems and coastal areas, the governors have embraced aquaculture as a key strategy to combat food insecurity.

With dwindling fish stocks in the wild, states like Rivers, Bayelsa, and Cross River have invested in fish farming as an alternative to traditional fishing methods, while Ebonyi State promises massive initiatives, in food storage facilities, which is a key component towards sustainable agricultural development of the State.

Cross River State has also focused on expanding oil palm and cocoa production, partnering with international companies to improve yields and ensure sustainable practices.

However, the region faces unique challenges from climate change, including rising sea levels and coastal erosion, which threaten farmlands and fisheries.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Hon. Johnson Andiambey Ebokpo led a joint team on monitoring of the enumeration exercise for Oil Palm farmers in the State.

The Senator Bassey Edet Otu-led administration initiated the Cross River State Oil Palm Development Initiative (CRODI) and procured 3.5 million improved sprouted Oil Palm nuts from the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR), to distribute to farmers in a bid to boost the Oil Palm subsector of the State.

To address this, the South-South states are working with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop climate adaptation strategies.

These include building flood barriers, introducing salt-tolerant crops, and promoting mangrove restoration to protect coastal ecosystems.

In the South-East, agriculture is experiencing a renaissance, with states like Anambra, Imo, and Abia investing heavily in poultry and cassava farming. Imo State has launched a “Cassava Revolution” program, which provides farmers with improved cassava varieties and access to processing equipment, aimed at increasing output and reducing post-harvest waste.

While their Enugu counterpart is putting all hands on deck to ensure full provision of food storage facilities which is in tandem with the agricultural policies of the state government. Some special agro processing zones will have silos, the produce city, as well as the warehouses under the ministry of agriculture.

Few months ago, Gov. Chukwuma Soludo officially launched this year’s distribution of 1,040,000 economic trees’ seedlings at the Achebe Stadium, Onisha South LGA in Anambra. These seedlings are for the following plants: oil palm, African breadfruit, bitter kola, kola-nut and pawpaw.

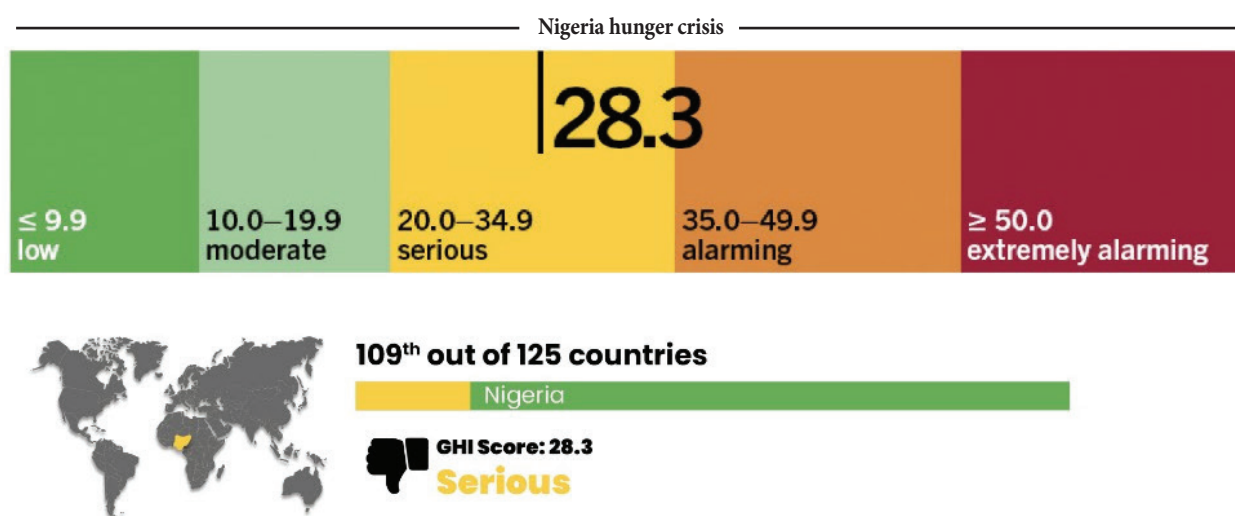
Anambra’s model is to distribute these resilient and well-researched seedlings to households who will not only use the produce from these seedlings to feed their households but would contribute to Anambra’s food production ecosystem by selling their surplus produce. These households would, in effect, increase the food production capacity of Anambra by the aggregation of their excess produce on market days.

Also, Soludo entered into a partnership with Anambra farmers called the Farm to feed for aggressive farming to encourage youth to farm and the elders in the state for food security. Anambra is also happy to be in the Spin program which is a federal government program.

Moreover, the South-East states are working to improve road infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of goods to markets. Better roads mean quicker access to consumers and reduced spoilage of perishable goods, helping farmers earn more and boost food security.

While Nigeria’s six geopolitical zones face unique challenges, from conflict and climate change to infrastructure deficits, each region has developed tailored approaches to combat food insecurity.

As these initiatives continue to evolve, they offer hope that Nigeria can build a more resilient agricultural sector, capable of feeding its growing population and reducing dependence on food imports.



Source: The Global Hunger Index (GHI)





**T**he Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, announced plans to recruit over 774,000 Girl Child Education Volunteers' Advocates (GICEVA) annually across Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas.

This initiative aims to improve access and quality of education nationwide.

Governor AbdulRazaq made this announcement during the second day of the International Conference on Girl-Child Education, themed "Girl Child Empowerment through Quality Education."

He emphasized the NGF's commitment to education financing, with a focus on making girl child education a priority, especially at the basic education level.

The conference was part of the NGF's Education Community of Practice (ECP) framework, which is designed to address educational challenges.

Presentations included strategies such as the DOTS framework and the review of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act 2004, focusing on data-driven education quality and subnational government roles.

The NGF, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education, development partners,



and Civil Society Organizations, aims to implement the Federal Government's Education Roadmap.

This collaboration seeks to address inequity in education and promote inclusive skills development through national and subnational partnerships.

Governor AbdulRazaq praised the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, for her keynote address on empowering Girl Child Education Ambassadors.

He explained that the NGF will engage GICEVA volunteers annually in partnership with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), focusing on school enrolment drives, foundational literacy and numeracy, and teacher capacity training.

The NGF also launched its Education Expenditure and Institutional Review report (2021-2023), reiterating its commitment to increasing education funding, with a vision to meet the international benchmark of allocating at least 15% of the annual budget to education.

The NGF aims to scale up quality education through improved infrastructure, instructional materials, and digital literacy skills acquisition.

**“**  
**The NGF aims to scale up quality education through improved infrastructure, instructional materials, and digital literacy skills acquisition**





# SABER

## State Action On Business Enabling Reforms Annual Implementation Report And Performance Review

On the 1st of May 2024, the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) was contracted by the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF) SABER Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) as a Project Management Firm for the SABER Technical Assistance (TA) component. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the engagement was to deliver a comprehensive set of capacity building activities to States on the Eligibility Criteria (EC) (Annual Budget & Audited Financial Statements) and Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) 1, 2, 3, and 7 to support them to achieve associated Disbursement Linked Results (DLRs).

Although NGF-SABER contract took effect from May 2024, it had been supporting States across its assigned DLIs since the beginning of quarter two (April to date), delivering demand driven technical assistance i.e., desk reviews of relevant state publications such as executive orders, legislations, regulations and guidelines as well as holding virtual national and bilateral sensitization/technical review or walkthrough sessions with state officials from relevant MDAs.

In addition, the NGF also provided complimentary support to the PCU including reviewing the program annual Verification Protocol (VP) to inform required restructuring as well as technical input to executive briefings, and national sensitisation sessions in ensuing clear understanding of the program and the VP.

This report covers activities carried out by the NGF in implementing the SABER TA programme in FY2024 (April to December). The broad spectrum of NGF-SABER TA activities is as listed below:

1. Development and dissemination of Toolkits (checklists, templates, guidance notes, sample legislations, manuals, case studies, reference links, etc.).
2. Delivery of customised Just-in-Time (JIT) support to States.
3. Virtual technical workshops and Physical Walkthrough sessions
4. Program support activities including national sensitisation sessions and joint EC/DLI progress monitoring with partners.

Delivery of technical assistance and other support activities to States by the NGF, leveraged virtual technology platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams except for activities requiring a more hands-on approach such as technical walkthrough sessions, were held physically at the NGF Secretariat with strict adherence to health, safety, and environmental protocols.

Overall, the NGF delivered the following outputs between April – December 2024:

### 6 Toolkits developed and disseminated to ease reform domestication of FRILIA principles:

Stakeholder Engagement (including Communications Strategy and Investment Approval Process), Grievance Redress Mechanism, Community Needs Assessment and Development, Environmental Social Risk Management, Valuation and compensation, and Land access, easement and involuntary resettlement. 10 knowledge guides and templates, rapid assessment checklists etc covering SABER EC (annual budget/BIR) and DLIs (1, 2, 3 and 7) were developed/updated and disseminated to states accordingly.

### 7 Technical Workshops (including practical walkthroughs and virtual learning sessions) across SABER EC (Annual Budget and BIR), DLIs 1, 2, 3, and 7 were organised as listed below.

- Technical Workshop on FRILIA Implementation held from 15th to 17th April 2024 with Borno, Edo, Ekiti, Imo, Kebbi, Nasarawa, Niger, Oyo, Plateau and Zamfara State in attendance. The workshop covered FRILIA principles, the business case for the framework, scenario analysis, legal and institutional framework, toolkits and an implementation plan.
- Virtual Walkthrough Session on the Preparation of NCoA compliant FY2024 Q1 Budget Implementation Reports (BIR) focused on providing guidance to States on incorporating budget revisions or supplementary budgets to the NGF BIR Template held on 15th April 2024.
- 2 Virtual walkthrough sessions on 2025-2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and FY2025 annual budget and updated NCoA Budget Template - (Capital Expenditure Programme Segment Coding template) held on 5th and 30th September 2024 respectively as part of preparations for the physical walk-



through sessions for all States in Q4.

- 2 Virtual Learning Sessions on DLI 3 - PPP Fiscal Commitment and Contingent Liability (FCCL) Management Framework and PPP Disclosure Framework held on the 9th and 30th October 2024 respectively, providing guidance to States on developing their draft frameworks in line with FY2024 SABER VP requirements and best practice.
- Technical Walkthrough Session on Domestication of the National Chart of Account (NCoA) for FY2025 States annual budgets (batch A, B & C) held in Abuja from 18th November to 13th December with a total of 25 States participating.
- 4 National sensitization workshops covering DLIs 1, 2, 3 and 7 organised in collaboration with the FMFBNP-PCU, PEDEC Secretariat and the World Bank (between Q2 and Q3) aimed at enhancing the knowledge and understanding of state officials on key requirements for achieving disbursement linked results (DLRs) for FY2024 as detailed in the VP.

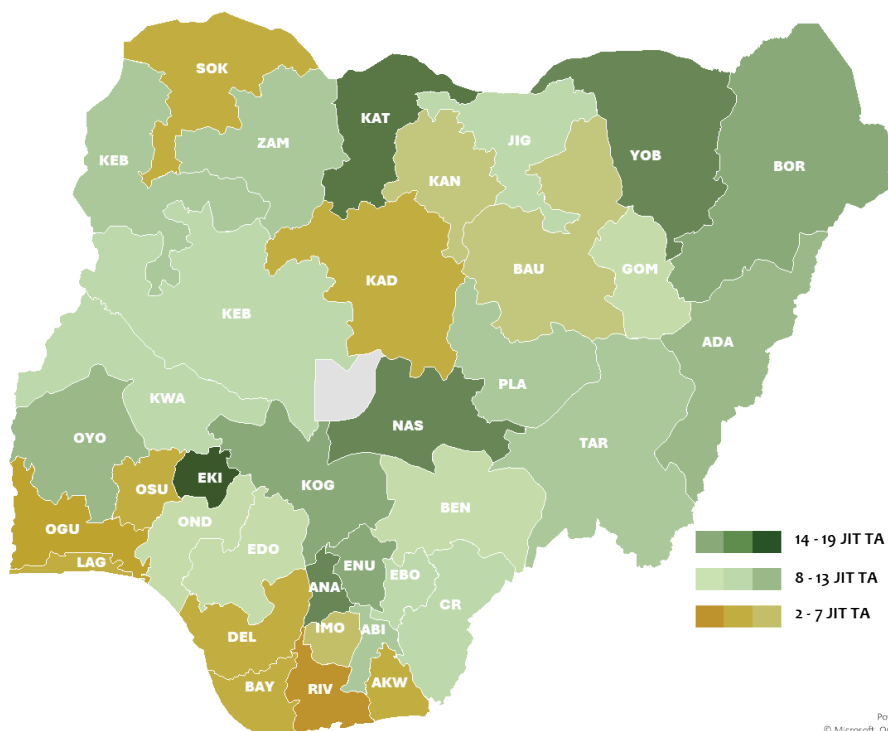
**Support activities were also conducted in collaboration with FMF-PCU, World Bank (WB), other implementing partners and agencies to ensure success of the SABER programme's objectives and sustainability. Highlights include:**

- Delivery of technical inputs to the program verification protocol covering Eligibility Criteria (EC) (Annual Budget & Audited Financial Statements) and Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) 1.1, 1.2, 2, 3, and 7. This was to inform

programme restructuring with consequential adjustments to make select EC and DLIs clearer and achievable.

- Participated in the Interim Support Mission (ISM), conducted by the WB and FMF on 24th June 2024. The NGF provided update on programme progress, States' performance on technical assistance, emerging trends in the reform environment and matters arising.
- Held series of meetings with the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) with the aim of agreeing on a mutual support framework for deepening the reform on RoW and increasing fiber optic deployment across States.
- Delivered 3 Executive Briefings at the NGF meetings held 1st May 26th June 2024 and 27th November 2024, highlighting programme progress, State performance leveraging technical assistance FY2022 Prior Results, and matter arising requiring executive action.
- Delivered technical inputs to the design of test programmes for FY2023 SABER Annual Performance Assessment (APA) at the IVA onboarding sessions organised by the FMFBNP- PCU and World bank – SABER Team, which held from 9th – 11th December 2024.

## SABER TA – Cumulative Performance Dashboard (April – December)




Powered by Bing  
© Microsoft, OpenStreetMap



# 371

JIT Support Delivered to all States including Virtual Bilateral Engagements, Desk Reviews of State Publications/Documents (BIRs/AFS/DLIs 1, 2, 3 & 7)

## Breakdown of TA

16 

Toolkits including knowledge Resources & templates Developed & Disseminated to all States to Support Reforms Implementation – DLIs 1, 2, 3 & 7

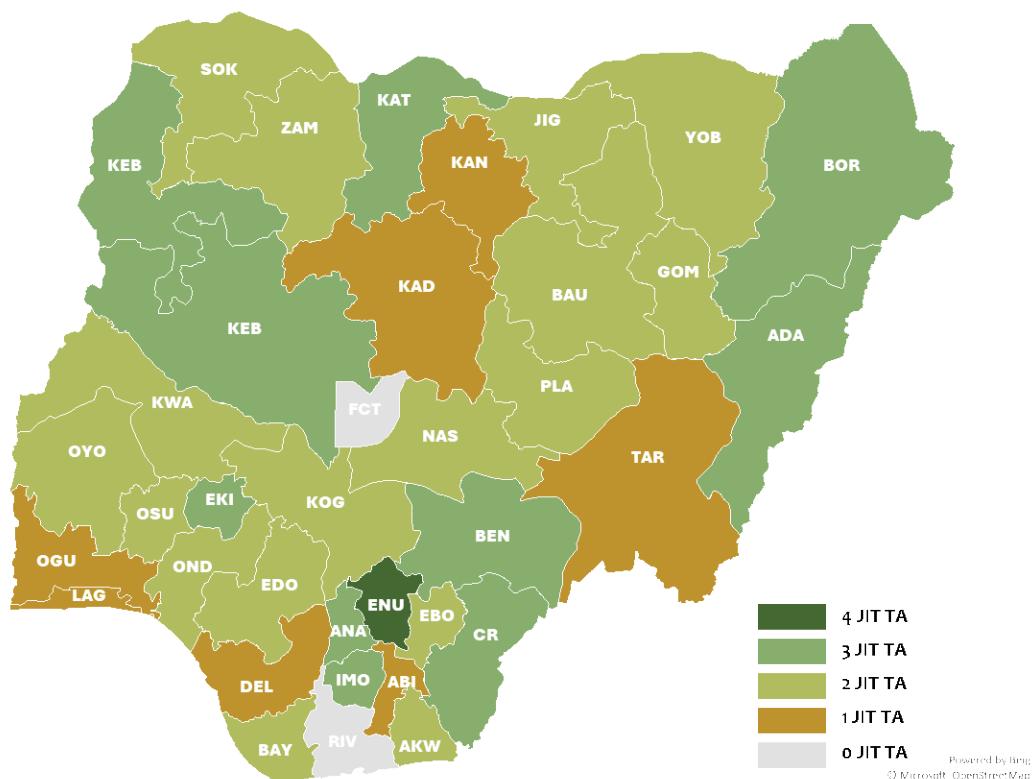
7 

Technical Workshop/Learning Sessions on EC (Annual Budget & BIR) DLI 1.2 (FRILIA) and DLI 3 (FCCL Management & Disclosure Framework)

4 

Virtual National Sensitization Workshops on – DLIs 1, 2, 3 & 7 organised in Collaboration with FMFBNP-PCU, PEDEC & World Bank

## SABER TA – Quarterly Performance Dashboard (April – June)





# 75

JIT Support Delivered to all States (excluding Rivers) involving Virtual Bilateral Engagements and Desk Reviews of State Publications/Documents (BIRs/AFS/DLIs 2 & 7)

## Breakdown of TA

22

States Provided with TA (desk reviews) on SABER EC- FY2023 AFS  
(6 States cleared for publication)

1

Technical Workshop on DLI 1.2 (FRILIA Implementation) organised in Abuja with 10 States participating.

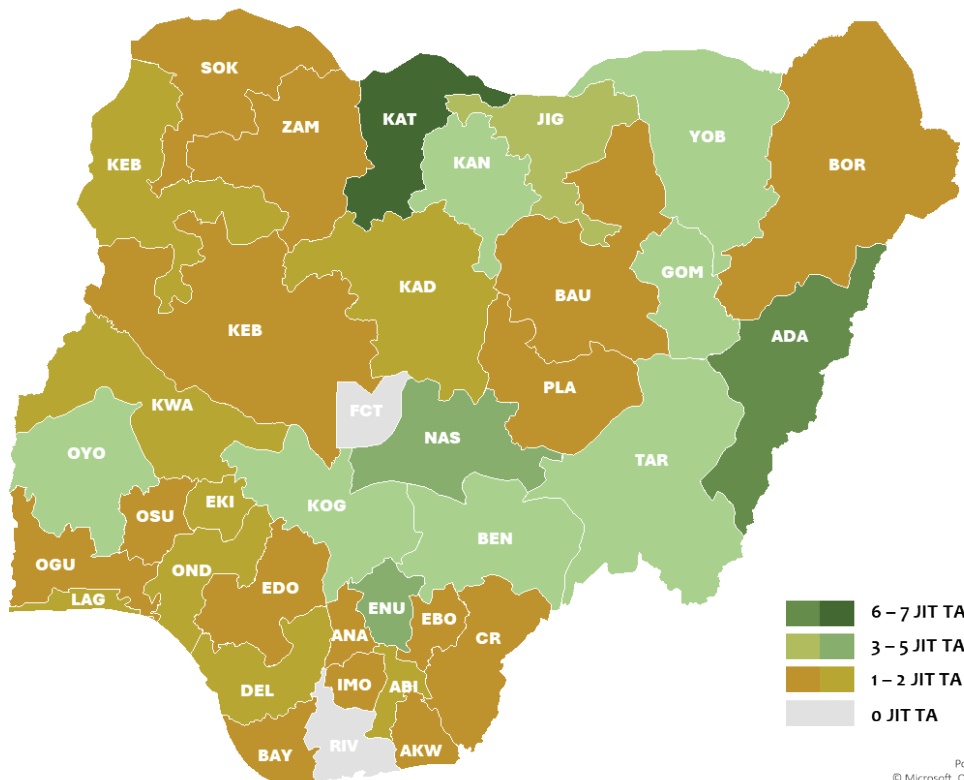
15

Bilateral Technical Review Sessions conducted (virtually) with States - DLI 2

1

Virtual National Sensitization Workshop on PPP – DLI 3

## SABER TA – Quarterly Performance Dashboard (July– September)



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# 85

JIT Support Delivered to all States (excluding Rivers) including Virtual Bilateral Engagements and Desk Reviews of State Publications/Documents (BIRs/AFS/DLIs 1.2, 2, 3 & 7)

## Breakdown of TA

12 

States Provided with TA (desk reviews) on SABER EC- FY2023 AFS (All 12 States cleared for publication)

3 

Toolkits Developed & Disseminated to States on FRILIA Implementation – DLI 1.2

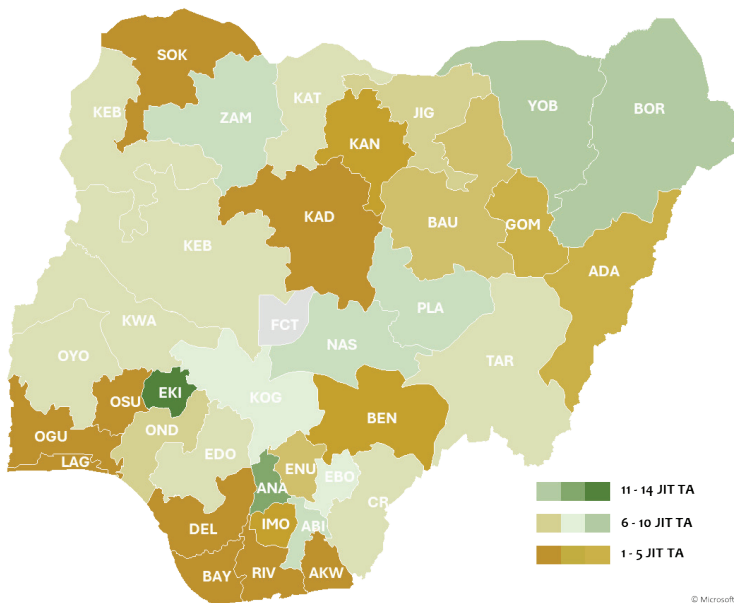
2 

Virtual Walkthrough Sessions on 2025-2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), & FY2025 annual budget (updated NCoA Budget Template)

3 

Virtual National Sensitization Workshop on DLIs 1, 2 & 7

## VI. SABER TA – Quarterly Performance Dashboard (October – December)




# 211

JIT Support Delivered to all States including Virtual Bilateral Engagements and Desk Reviews of State Publications/Documents (Annual Budgets/BIRs/AFS/DLIs 1.1 1.2, 2, 3 & 7)

## Breakdown of TA

2 

Virtual Technical Workshops on DLI 3 (FCCL Management & PPP Disclosure Framework)

3 

Additional Toolkits Developed & Disseminated to States on FRILIA Implementation – DLI 1.2

1 

Physical Walkthrough Session on SABER EC: preparation NCoA Compliant FY2025 State Annual Budget (Batches A, B & C)



# NGFS Launches Pick- Out-Of-School children Initiative



**T**he Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat (NGFS), in collaboration with the Federal Government, has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing the country's growing number of out-of-school children. The program, titled 'Picking Out-of-School Children from the Street,' is designed to enhance access to education nationwide and provide a sustainable future for vulnerable children.

Speaking at the unveiling of the 'Girl Child Education Ambassador' event held at the Banquet Hall of the State House, Abuja, Minister of Women Affairs, Mrs. Uju Kennedy, reaffirmed the government's commitment to tackling the issue.

"The Federal Government is set to begin picking out-of-school children from the streets, ensuring they receive the education they deserve," she announced.

Kennedy also called on relevant stakeholders and well-meaning Nigerians to collaborate in empowering underprivileged women, recognizing that their support is crucial in sustaining this initiative.

Dayo Benjamin-Olaniyi, Mandate Secretary of Women Affairs, highlighted the theme of the event, 'Empowering the Future: Girl Child Education for a Brighter Tomorrow,' stressing the transformative power of education. "Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal transformation, and for the girl child, it holds the key to unlocking a brighter future," she noted.

She further emphasized that quality education enables girls to break free from poverty, inequality, and social injustice, positioning them as agents of change within

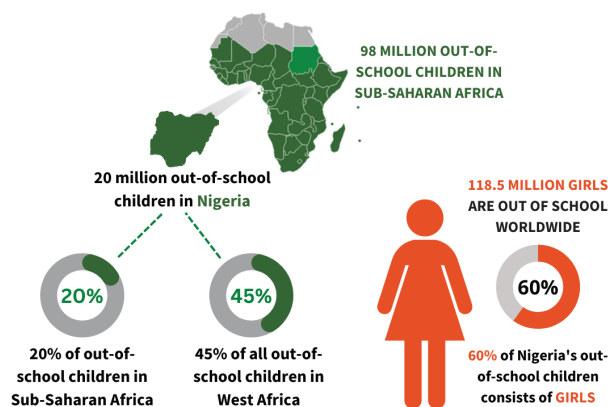
their communities. "Educated girls are more likely to secure better-paying jobs, lifting themselves and their families out of poverty," Benjamin-Olaniyi added.

Addressing the broader implications of gender equality, she explained that education plays a pivotal role in bridging societal gaps, dismantling harmful stereotypes, and creating equal opportunities. "Education empowers girls to make informed decisions about their health, reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, while also building confidence and fostering leadership," she said.

Furthermore, she underscored the far-reaching impact of educated girls on national development, noting their contributions to economic growth, innovation, and social progress.

**“**  
**Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal transformation, and for the girl child, it holds the key to unlocking a brighter future**

## Out-of-School Children In Nigeria FACTS AND FIGURES AS OF JANUARY 2023



Sources : UNESCO | Malala Fund

Infographics by ICIR



## Governor Abba Yusuf

# The Vanguard of a New Kano

In the ancient city of Kano, where tradition walks hand-in-hand with ambition—a quiet revolution is reshaping the landscape. Since stepping into office, Governor **Abba Kabir Yusuf** has transformed rhetoric into reality, delivering a cascade of people-centred achievements that span infrastructure, education, healthcare, economy, and innovation. His mission is bold, his methods deliberate, and his results, unmistakable.



Let's walk through the heart of a transformation—100 strides that define his rising legacy.

The Yusuf administration inherited half-dug roads and long-forgotten flyovers. But instead of pointing fingers, he picked up the shovel. Abandoned road projects in Kano metropolis are now complete. Township roads across local governments have sprung up like arteries, bringing life to overlooked communities. Over 500 km of rural roads have been rehabilitated, while bridges, walkways, terminals, and even the Kano airport road have been reimaged to ease movement and modernize the urban feel. Streetlights now shine across Kano, powered by the sun, guiding the city into the future—efficient and green.

### A School System Reawakened

Kano's classrooms are no longer crumbling relics. Governor Yusuf has recruited 10,000 qualified teachers and launched a full-scale education revival. Free textbooks are back in the hands of eager students, and school feeding programs are putting both meals and motivation on the table. With new classrooms rising and old ones restored, overcrowding is falling away. Technical education is being prioritized. Scholarships, inclusive schools for children with disabilities, and e-learning platforms speak to a system being built not just for now—but for what's next. Out-of-school children? Reduced by 30% in just one year.

### Health is Wealth—And It's Now Free for Many

From hospitals to health posts, Yusuf has placed healthcare at the heart of governance. Every general hospital in Kano is undergoing renovation. Thousands of new healthcare workers have joined the system. Maternal and child care is now free. In rural zones, new primary health centres are springing up. Modern equipment fills hospital wards. Mobile clinics reach the farthest communities. Cancer screening centres, community insurance schemes, immunization campaigns—it's a full-spectrum overhaul aimed at dignity, access, and wellness.

Governor Yusuf knows that real progress



happens when people can earn and eat. So, he's opened doors wide. Kano's historic textile industry is back in the frame. Industrial parks are rising. More than 50,000 small businesses have received direct support. There's mechanized farming, irrigation programs, subsidized fertilizer, and fresh energy in export markets.

Over 100,000 new jobs have been created for youth, while a new microfinance bank offers lifelines to traders and artisans. Where others offered handouts, Yusuf offers opportunity.

Desertification, pollution, and urban decay? Not under this watch. One million trees have been planted across the state. Hadejia-Nguru wetlands restored, and recycling programs introduced. Parks now dot the urban space, while boreholes ensure clean water access. Illegal sand mining is being fought off. Even Gidan Zoo got a facelift. With solar energy projects and a push for green spaces, Yusuf is greening the state for the generations to come.

No fortress can stand without safety—and Yusuf gets it. Community policing has been strengthened with local recruitment. Patrol vehicles and security tech are now part of the daily arsenal. Border outposts have been built. A robust intelligence network and rural conflict resolution programs are in play. Drug-addicted youths are getting help, not just handcuffs. Traditional leaders are now security stakeholders. The result? Crime is down, and hope is up.

### Welfare, Dignity, and Human Touch

Kano is no longer a city that leaves its poor behind. From monthly stipends for vulnerable citizens to rehabilitation for almajirai, Yusuf's government is wrapping the vulnerable in a blanket of support. Widows, orphans, persons with disabilities—no one is left out. New housing for low-income families, free

transport for seniors and students, family courts for women, and food distribution during festive periods have reshaped what government care can look like.

Gone are the days of opaque bureaucracy. With e-governance platforms and anti-corruption bodies in motion, public finance is being cleaned up. Salaries and pensions come on time. Town halls are now monthly fixtures. Meritocracy is not just promised—it's practiced. Dormant agencies are revived, red tape slashed, and the doors of government are swinging open to the people it serves.

Yusuf is reviving the soul of Kano. Historical sites like the Gidan Makama Museum have been restored, the Durbar festival given new global flair, and local creatives are finding platforms to shine. The Emir's palace gleams anew, ancient walls stand restored, and arts festivals are bringing in new energy. Kano is being positioned as a top-tier cultural and tourist destination—not just in Nigeria, but across West Africa.

### Digital Kano, Innovative Kano

In an age of apps and algorithms, Yusuf is ushering Kano into the 21st century. A state-owned ICT hub has been launched. Laptops distributed to students. Youth are being trained in AI and software development. Broadband is expanding statewide. Tech startups are being nurtured. Digital literacy for women, solar-powered ICT centres in rural areas, and an automated revenue system are all part of this intelligent reinvention of government.

These aren't just 100 achievements—they're 100 promises kept, 100 lives improved, 100 steps into a future where government truly works for the people. In Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, Kano hasn't just found a leader—it has found a builder of hope, a restorer of pride, and a shepherd of change. And with this pace, it's clear: the best is yet to come.



# Governor Sule: Rewriting Nasarawa's Economic Future from the Grassroots



In the quiet corridors of Nigeria's North-Central region, a transformation is stirring, not with fanfare or noise, but with tar, concrete, and a vision anchored in empathy. Governor Abdullahi A. Sule, the soft-spoken engineer at the helm of Nasarawa State, is not just governing. He is reimagining governance from the ground up, threading economic revival through the rural heartland of his state like a loom weaver crafting legacy into fabric.

Governor Sule didn't stumble into power. His path to the Nasarawa Government House was paved with decades of diligence, grit, and a deeply internalized ethic of responsibility. With roots in both the private and public sectors, the governor has approached

his tenure not as a political trophy, but as a stewardship of faith, duty, and progress. And while many in public office measure their success in ceremonies and signatures, Sule measures his in kilometres and community smiles.

## Building Roads, Bridging Economies

Since 2019, Sule has taken a scalpel to Nasarawa's infrastructure deficits, stitching together over 100 rural roads that now serve as the economic arteries of the state. For a state where the majority of the population lives in rural settings, this is not just road construction—it's economic liberation.

From the strategic 15.5km Alphet Sisinbaki-Kwara road, cutting through rugged terrains and unlocking forgotten communities, to the 41.9km Nunku-Agyaga-Rinze stretch bringing life to agrarian belts, these roads have changed the rhythm of rural life. Markets are swelling, farms are thriving, and children who once walked hours in red dust now ride comfortably to school. The governor's logic is simple but profound: where roads go, development follows.

## The Lafia-Shendam Leap

Nowhere is this logic more visible than in the dualisation of the Lafia-Shendam road. Once a winding bottleneck of economic delay, it is now a symbol of modern Nasarawa—smooth, swift, and open. During its recent commissioning, an elderly trader known as Mama Terry broke into spontaneous prayer, her voice laced with both disbelief and relief. "This road," she said, "has turned us from forgotten people into Nigerians again."

But it's not just

sentiment. The economic uptick has been measurable. Transport fares have dropped, local produce moves quicker to market, and real estate along the corridor has seen value spikes. What was once a trail of hardship is now a highway of hope.

## Strategic Spending, Visionary Returns

Critics might point to budgetary constraints, but Governor Sule is proving that prudence plus vision equals results. At a recent State Executive Council meeting, over N30 billion was earmarked for urban and rural renewal—an audacious move in times when many states struggle to pay salaries.

Part of this includes a 15km road from Garaku-Gurku-Dari in Kokona LGA, constructed at over N3.6 billion. Far from a vanity project, it connects an agricultural hinterland directly to larger markets, reducing post-harvest loss and expanding profit margins for rural farmers. It's fiscal boldness with an economic conscience.

## Health, Education, and Agriculture—The Other Triumvirate

Sule's grassroots philosophy isn't just tarmac-deep. In health, he's upgraded dozens of primary health centres, especially in underserved rural wards. In education, schools are being renovated and equipped, teachers retrained, and digital tools introduced to bridge learning gaps.



Governor Sule has woven a web of infrastructure that touches every part of Nasarawa like roots beneath fertile soil

agriculture—a lifeblood for Nasarawa—his administration has pumped resources into irrigation schemes, subsidised inputs, and built farm access roads that slash transportation time. These moves are not just administrative; they are economically strategic. Empowered farmers are now producers, not just survivors.

## Akwanga to

## Umaisha: One State, One Network

The story is similar across the state. Akwanga township roads (1.7km) now ease inner-city traffic, while the 48.7km Toto-Umaisha rehabilitation has brought a new dawn to that axis. The c, the 21km Gitata-Panda revamp—all tell the same tale: rural communities are no longer living on the fringes of development.

More importantly, these projects are deliberately spread across all 13 LGAs. This is not development by favouritism; it is development by design. Governor Sule has woven a web of infrastructure that touches every part of Nasarawa like roots beneath fertile soil.

## Not Just Infrastructure—A Cultural Shift

Governor Sule's leadership has shifted more than roads and buildings. It has shifted mindsets. Local communities now see governance as a participatory process. The roads are theirs. The schools are theirs. The clinics are theirs. And because they feel ownership, they protect them. That's sustainability, not in documents, but in practice.

Nasarawa was once a state where rural dwellers felt like afterthoughts in Nigeria's development conversation. But with bulldozers rolling through sleepy hamlets and tar lines stretching like black veins

across the landscape, a new chapter is being written—one of dignity, access, and prosperity.

There's still work to be done—no honest leader will say otherwise. But there's a blueprint now, sketched in concrete and coloured by community testimonies.

## The Road Ahead

Governor Sule's focus on grassroots development is not just good governance—it's smart economics. As roads reduce transportation costs and increase connectivity, they create market linkages, reduce food spoilage, and improve healthcare access. This is development that touches the pulse of everyday life.

More so, his administration is planting seeds that will outlive him: communities empowered by connectivity, economies rebuilt from the soil up, and a state that no longer looks up to the skies for salvation, but inward—towards its people, its land, and its own potential.

Governor Sule's tenure in Nasarawa is writing something different: a story of grassroots resurrection. He is not just building roads; he is building trust, livelihoods, and hope.

And if Maya Angelou was right—that people never forget how you made them feel—then Nasarawa's rural dwellers will remember Governor Sule not just as a builder, but as the man who remembered them first.



# 2024: How Northern Governors Committed N45bn to Poverty Alleviation

BY TONY UDOKA

Despite the economic challenges posed by rising inflation, northern governors have intensified efforts to combat poverty in their respective states. In the first half of 2024, 15 northern states collectively spent N45 billion on various poverty alleviation initiatives, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the welfare of their citizens.

This investment came at a time when inflation in Nigeria reached 33.88% as at October 2024, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The increasing cost of living however hit many Nigerians hard, particularly in the North, where poverty rates have historically been higher than in other regions.

Understanding the urgency of the situation, the proactive governors of the North rolled out targeted programs aimed at empowering communities, creating employment opportunities, and providing essential social services. From direct cash transfers to agricultural subsidies, vocational training, and infrastructure development, these initiatives are designed to lift millions out of poverty.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey conducted by the NBS in 2022 underscores the need for such interventions. The report revealed that 86 million out of Nigeria's 133 million poor people reside in the North. Some of the most affected states include: Sokoto: 91% of residents classified as poor, **Jigawa: 83.3%, Zamfara: 82.7%, Yobe: 81.7%, Bauchi: 81.3%, Kebbi: 79.1%, Katsina: 77.5% and Gombe: 77.4%.**

Faced with these daunting statistics, governors have responded with bold financial commitments to address poverty head-on.

From January to June 2024, 15 states in the North allocated significant funds to poverty reduction efforts. A breakdown of the spending reveals the scale of their commitment: Yobe: N16 billion, Kogi: N14 billion, Jigawa: N6 billion, Plateau: N3.6 billion, Borno: N3.2 billion, Gombe: N1.8 billion, Bauchi: N850 million, Adamawa: N839 million, Kwara: N583 million, Niger: N280 million, Nasarawa: N94 million, Kebbi: N54 million, Katsina: N16



H.E Muhammed Inuwa Yahaya  
Gombe State Governor and Chairman, Governors Forum



H.E Umar Namadi  
Governor, Jigawa State



H.E Mai Mala Buni  
Governor, Yobe State



Sen. Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed  
Governor, Katsina State



H.E Nasir Idris  
Governor, Kebbi State



H.E Mal. Dikko Umaru Radda  
Governor, Katsina State



H.E Nasir Idris  
Governor, Zamfara State



million, Kaduna: N13 million and Zamfara: N1.3 million.

These funds have been strategically deployed to support small businesses, provide social safety nets, and enhance agricultural productivity, among other initiatives.

Governors have recognized that poverty alleviation goes beyond cash disbursement—it requires long-term solutions that empower individuals and communities. In response, several states have launched programs focused on:

- **Agriculture:** Given the North's vast arable land, many states have invested in mechanized farming, subsidized fertilizers, and provided low-interest loans to farmers. This is expected to increase food production, create jobs, and stabilize food prices.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Several states have established grants and training programs for small businesses and startups. This has particularly benefited women and young people, ensuring they have access to capital and skills development.
- **Education and Vocational Training:** To address unemployment and equip residents with marketable skills, northern states have expanded vocational training centers, focusing on ICT, craftsmanship, and technical

skills that align with modern industries.

## • Social Welfare Programs:

Some states have introduced conditional cash transfers and free healthcare services for the most vulnerable populations, ensuring that financial hardships do not hinder access to basic necessities.

In addition to their internally generated funds, northern states have attracted over N325 billion in grants and aid from international financial institutions. These funds have been channeled into infrastructure development, health services, and economic empowerment projects to complement poverty alleviation efforts.

Despite economic constraints, the strategic allocation of resources by northern governors highlights a firm commitment to reducing poverty and fostering economic resilience. With continued investment in sustainable initiatives, the North is on a promising path toward economic transformation.

Faced with these daunting statistics, governors have responded with bold financial commitments to address poverty head-on



**Right** - Abdulateef Shittu (DG NGF) signing on behalf of NGF CHAIRMAN  
**Middle**- Mustapha Abdullahi DG CEO, ECN.  
**Left**- Signing (on behalf of the chairman Dr.Song Hai liang )



# Governors sign MOU with China on establishing State Energy Planning Implementation units

China energy commission pledge full implementation of the Mou

In an apparent move to boost state energy planning within the states, the Nigeria governors yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Energy China.

Energy China is a major Chinese company known for renewable energy and gas production in China.

Speaking on behalf of the chairman of the Governors forum, the governor of Gombe state, Alhaji Inuwa Yahaya Governor of Gombe State and Chairman Northern Governors' Forum said that the MOU and the ensuing relationship between the organisations will signal a critical step in strengthening the institutional framework for sub-national energy governance through fostering energy security, efficiency, and economic development across the States.

According to the Gombe state governor, "It is crucial to acknowledge the transformative journey that Nigeria is embarking upon in the area of access to sustainable electricity which includes renewable energy, particularly in the wake of the recently passed Electricity Act of 2023.

"This groundbreaking legislation marked a pivotal moment for our energy landscape, introducing innovative structures that aim to boost investments and enhance the reliability of power supply across the country. Since the passing of the Electricity Act, we have witnessed a surge of innovations and reforms aimed at revamping our energy sector.

"We are moving towards more decentralized energy solutions, encouraging the integration of renewable energy solutions that can provide sustainable and affordable electricity to our communities."

The chairman of the northern states governors said that "The Act has also laid the

groundwork for improving regulatory frameworks, enabling private sector investments, and fostering public-private partnerships, a vital component for the successful implementation of our renewable energy goals."

However, he said, "we must acknowledge that these advances come with their own set of challenges. Shortfalls in infrastructure, financing, and regulatory hurdles continue to impede progress. We must address these issues collaboratively.

"By fostering partnerships between the government, private investors, and international stakeholders, we can develop innovative financing models, improve capacity building, and enhance grid infrastructure to accommodate renewable energy sources effectively.

"In this context, I want to highlight some of the ongoing reforms within states in Nigeria as they pursue ambitious but worthwhile and achievable energy initiatives. States are crafting tailored policies that align with national objectives while addressing local needs. They are also establishing frameworks and instituting regulatory bodies to drive the electricity markets within their localities. These reforms are crucial as they leverage our unique resources and provide flexibility to implement localized solar solutions.

"The synergy between state and federal initiatives will be key to driving effective change and achieving our collective renewable energy targets. The NGF has a vibrant Power Desk which has played and continues to play a coordinating role in the efforts of the States as they strive to

Energy Masterplan and national development goals.

According to the Minister, "The scope of this MoU includes: Deployment of renewable energy infrastructure (solar, wind, hydro), and Establishment of a Nigeria-China Renewable Energy Research Centre to drive innovation, technology transfer, and capacity-building.

"This initiative will not only improve energy access, especially in off-grid communities, but also support job creation, investment, and our climate commitments.

To the Governors' Forum, I commend your proactive involvement. Your citizens will benefit directly from this long-term vision.

"The Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology stands fully behind this initiative and will ensure its swift and transparent implementation.

"Together, we are building a cleaner, smarter, and more resilient energy future for Nigeria," the minister said.

The chairman of the China Energy commission, Dr.Song Liang pledged full implementation of the Mou and ensure full cooperation between Nigeria and China.

He further said that there is the need to prioritise the development the energy sector as well support sharing of intelligence on issues relating to renew energy

promotion

He promised to Improve energy storage in all sector including green energy., promising to turn Nigeria China relationship to a new phase of cooperation.

Likewise, the Director General of the governor forum, Dr. Abdulateef Shittu said that "Since the passing of the Electricity Act, the NGF has been playing a pivotal role supporting and coordinating the efforts of States in their implementation of the Act.

"In addition, the NGF has established a robust Power Desk which is saddled with the critical role of coordinating the efforts of the States as they strive to implement the Electricity Act. The NGF Secretariat also facilitated the establishment of a Forum of Commissioners of Power and Energy, a platform for all the 36 States energy actors. This platform is designed to institute a community of best practices in the energy ecosystem as a means of advancing our journey to universal energy access.

"The NGF offers a one-stop platform in providing support to the States as they grapple with the enormous responsibility placed on their shoulders by the Electricity Act. We have opened up strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders and donor organisations in the energy space all in our bid to develop and sustain the growth of electricity in the country.

"There is no doubt that this relationship with the China Energy International Group and Energy Commission of Nigeria will further a robust development in the acceleration of energy access in the country and we assure you that the NGF would





# Governor Nasir Idris: The Promise Keeper of Kebbi

**Governor Nasir Idris** has embraced leadership in Kebbi State with quiet resolve and clear intent. Less than two years since taking office, he has boldly declared that over 70% of his campaign promises have already been fulfilled, a claim backed not just by words, but by the steady march of progress across the state.

In Birnin Kebbi, the capital city hums with the rhythm of renewal. Roads are being tarred, health centres upgraded, and public schools given a new lease on life. These aren't cosmetic changes; they're structural shifts aimed at redefining how the capital serves its people. While skyscrapers may not yet rise on the horizon, the groundwork for long-term development is firmly in place. Governor Idris isn't merely changing the face of Kebbi—he's reshaping its future, one deliberate step at a time.

## Teachers First: A Radical Shift in Education Policy

If governance were graded by the treatment of teachers, then Kebbi would now be a model state. Idris has extended the retirement age of teachers to 65—or 40 years of service—giving seasoned educators more years to shape young minds. In an era where the teaching profession struggles with low morale, this singular act is both a morale booster and a retention strategy.

But the reforms don't stop there. Over 2,000 new teachers have been hired, salaries have been raised, and for the first time in decades, the teaching profession in Kebbi is being accorded the dignity it deserves. It's a clear signal: in



the New Kebbi, teachers are no longer forgotten foot soldiers; they are honored generals in the war against ignorance.

## Four Mega Schools, One Vision

The governor's boldest educational stride is the construction of four mega schools—one for each emirate council. These are not just buildings; they are monuments to possibility. With cutting-edge classrooms, modern labs, and tech-equipped learning environments, they stand as blueprints of the future. In them, Kebbi's children, especially the rural and underserved—are being offered not just

education, but a launchpad into a competitive world.

## A Champion for the Girl Child

Governor Idris isn't just building structures—he's breaking barriers. In a state where cultural traditions can sometimes stifle educational access for girls, the administration has taken deliberate steps to flip the script. Increased female school enrolment, massive investment in girl-child education, and symbolic gestures, like the N50 million donation to Command Science Secondary School, Girls, Goru, reveal a leadership intent on rewriting the narrative.

And for many parents, the government's payment of WAEC and NECO fees has lifted a crushing burden, making dreams of education no longer a luxury, but a reachable right.

## Tertiary Education: Restoring Glory, One Step at a Time

Governor Idris isn't only focused on primary and secondary education. He has turned his gaze upwards—towards the towers of tertiary institutions. For the first time in over 30 years, the Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero (KSUSTA) held a convocation. It wasn't just a ceremony—it was a statement of revival. The state also constituted governing boards across its tertiary institutions, restoring governance where there had been gaps for too long.

Students, too, are reaping the benefits of this renaissance. With N2 billion paid for tuition and registration of Kebbi indigenes in Nigerian universities, and N723 million allocated to those studying in countries like India, Cyprus, and Egypt, the administration has effectively told the youth: your education is not

just your business—it's the state's business.

## Youth Inclusion: Politics with a Pulse

In a rare act of generational empowerment, Idris has appointed a significant number of APC youth into key political positions. In doing so, he's not merely offering a seat at the table, he's handing them the pen to shape Kebbi's tomorrow.

The governor's allies in the APC have taken notice. During a recent visit, a delegation led by Muhammad Dan-Sadi openly praised Idris for his rapid and meaningful strides. "Surely, we chose the candidate who will not let us down," he said, a sentiment that echoes across local government areas.

## Beyond Talk, A Culture of Delivery

Governor Idris' governance style is rooted in a philosophy of delivery over drama. Whether it's infrastructure upgrades, educational overhauls, or youth empowerment, his administration has displayed an uncanny knack for getting things done quietly but impactfully.

He's not one for endless ribbon-cutting ceremonies or headline-chasing speeches. Instead, he builds, repairs, restructures, and rethinks—leaving behind a trail of progress that speaks for itself.

Governance is a marathon, not a sprint. But as the first quarter of Governor Idris' term draws to a close, the scoreboard already reads promising. With over 70% of his campaign pledges in motion or completed, there's a quiet confidence that the remaining years of his tenure could redefine Kebbi's trajectory.

The farmer has sown, and the shoots are already breaking ground. Now, all eyes are on the harvest to come.





# Zamfara: No Dialogue with Bandits – Gov Lawal

- Prioritises Urban Renewal, Education, Empowerment



Governor Dauda Lawal of Zamfara State has reaffirmed his administration's firm stance against negotiating with bandits, emphasizing that his government remains fully committed to an all-out offensive against criminal elements within the state. A statement from the governor's spokesperson, Sulaiman Idris, clarified that recent remarks by Lawal in an interview with the BBC Hausa service had been deliberately misrepresented by certain media outlets seeking to mislead the public. Idris stressed that the governor's position has always been clear and unwavering: no responsible

government negotiates with killers from a position of weakness. He explained that banditry has been a longstanding concern for the people of Zamfara, the North-West, and the country as a whole for decades, which is why, in his campaign manifesto ahead of the 2023 general elections, Governor Lawal made security his top priority, promising decisive action to address the issue. Idris continued by saying that Governor Lawal has been vindicated, as his stance on banditry reflects a promise that has been kept from the start of his tenure. His administration has prioritized security, taking a firm position against negotiating with bandits, describing such efforts as a futile pursuit.

Zamfara, long haunted by banditry and violence, has seen significant improvements under Governor Lawal's strategic approach to security. His administration has established the

Community Protection Guards (CPGs), strengthened intelligence-gathering with civilian JTF across all local government areas, repaired patrol vehicles, and set up a Security Trust Fund. Political thuggery, a problem in previous administrations, has also been addressed directly. As a result, the state has seen calmer nights, safer roads, and a public that is beginning to breathe a sigh of relief.

## Urban Renewal: Revitalizing Gusau and Beyond

In Gusau, the state capital, change is not just felt—it's seen. Roads that once turned to rivers during the rains are now being reconstructed. The Bello Barau Roundabout has become a beacon of civic progress. Drainages have been fixed, culverts laid, and over 200 Zamfara youths have found employment in the process. The launch of the Zamfara Youth Sanitation Programme (ZAYOSAP), which employs 1,500 youths to maintain the city's cleanliness, is both a public health and economic intervention.

Renovation of the long-neglected JB Yakubu Secretariat is also underway, offering government workers a dignified environment to serve the people. Infrastructure, once a symbol of neglect, is being revived as a powerful sign of the state's awakening.

## Education: From Emergency to Empowerment

Governor Lawal declared a state of emergency in education—and he meant it. For three years, Zamfara students were unable to sit for NECO and WAEC exams due to unpaid debts. Today, thanks to Lawal's negotiations and a N3.4 billion settlement, Zamfara students are writing their exams again, their futures no longer in limbo.

His administration has approved the renovation and furnishing of over 200 schools across all 14 LGAs, constructed new classrooms in the School of Health Technology, Tsafe, and revived school feeding in 10 senior boarding schools. But perhaps most transformative is the AGILE programme—a partnership with the World Bank to empower adolescent girls through education, with N150 billion released as counterpart funding. Conditional cash transfers will ensure girls not only enrol but remain in school, lighting the path for a more equitable Zamfara.

Prioritises Urban Renewal, Education, Empowerment In his first 100 days, Governor Lawal launched a Special Modified Medical Outreach, offering free surgeries and health screenings. For many, it was the first encounter with quality healthcare. From VVF repairs to cataract surgeries, these interventions have reached every LGA. Hospitals are being renovated and restocked, and water access in medical facilities—like the solar-powered borehole in Bakura General Hospital—has returned dignity to healthcare delivery.

## Energy, Environment, and Engagement

In the environmental space, Lawal's government launched the ACRoSAL programme, bringing solar-powered boreholes and five new earth dams to underserved communities. These projects will provide clean water for drinking and agriculture, addressing both public health

and youth unemployment.

Zamfara is also reconnecting to the national grid. After inheriting a N1.2 billion electricity debt, Lawal negotiated with KAEDCO to restore power to government agencies. Lights are slowly coming back on—in offices and in homes.

Meanwhile, partnerships once lost to administrative neglect are being rekindled. Agreements have been signed with UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Melinda Gates Foundation, renewed trust, rebuilt brick by brick.

There's a quiet revolution happening in Zamfara. From constructing boreholes at orphanages to renovating public offices, every action under Lawal's leadership points to a deliberate, people-centred agenda. He has even cleared years of unpaid ground rent on government lodges in Abuja and Kaduna, reestablishing fiscal responsibility at the highest levels.







# How Farmer Bago is Cultivating a New Capital for Niger State

In the heart of Nigeria, where red earth meets emerald fields, a revolution is unfolding, not with noise, but with purpose. And at the helm of this silent renaissance is Niger State Governor, ‘Farmer’ **Mohammed Umaru Bago**, a man who wears his agricultural roots with pride and his mandate with mission.

A son of Minna by loyalty, a farmer by vocation, and a politician by public will, Bago’s political story has always been nourished by the people. From his years in banking to his 12-year run as a Federal Legislator, his journey to the Government House was paved by the trust of Nigerlites, and he knows it. Now in office, he’s turning gratitude into grit.

Never one to ignore his agrarian calling, Governor Bago is tilling the ground of opportunity. His visit to the African Development Bank and the French Embassy were strategic positioning. With a focus on agriculture, green energy, and rural development, Niger State is fast becoming a beacon for impact investors.

And in a rare gesture of true federalism, the Governor has ensured full financial disbursement to all 25 Local Government Areas because, as he insists, “development must begin where the people live.”

As a seal of kinship, the Emir of Minna recently presented Governor Bago with a symbolic gift: Kolanuts and a Hoe.

It wasn’t just a cultural token but a message: Keep on cultivating, keep on digging and keep on leading.

And if the signs are anything to go by, Farmer Governor Bago intends to do just that, one seed, one street, one state at a time.

In Niger State, the story of education has too often been one of neglect—crumbling classrooms, unpaid examination fees, and children with dreams deferred by poverty and bureaucracy. But Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago is rewriting that narrative, one decisive action at a time.

Stepping into office, he met a system burdened by years of financial mismanagement, especially in the area of national exams. For too long, students in public schools watched their peers elsewhere move on while their own results were withheld, hostage to debts they didn’t create.

But Bago, ever the farmer governor, knows the power of planting today for tomorrow’s harvest. He’s rolled out a N30 million monthly repayment plan with national examination bodies: WAEC, NECO, NABTEB, clearing the backlog with the

infrastructure of education. Dilapidated classrooms are being targeted for renovation. Teacher recruitment and retraining are being prioritized, with plans to strengthen School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs) to put communities back at the heart of their local schools.

In rural areas where children still walk miles to access basic education, new satellite schools are being proposed, complete with digital teaching aids powered by solar energy, a nod to Bago’s green economy vision.

For Governor Bago, education isn’t just a policy, it’s a legacy in the making.

## Urban Renewal and Rural Revival

Minna’s facelift is only the beginning. A tour to CCECC-China’s renowned construction giant—signaled Bago’s seriousness about delivering a capital city that reflects the pride of its people. But even as urban ambitions rise, the Governor hasn’t lost sight of Niger’s rural lifeblood.

Suleja, the bustling satellite city near Abuja, is being reimagined.

Government lands are being recovered, traffic gridlock is being eased, and the relocation of Madalla market has already improved commuter experiences. Ask any road user—they’ll tell you Thursday traffic has become a thing of the past.

Security remains the heartbeat of Governor Bago’s leadership blueprint—an unshakable priority in a region where peace isn’t taken for granted. From the get-go, he’s made it clear: there can be no development without safety, no growth where fear walks freely.

His approach is both hands-on and forward-thinking. Rather than waiting on Abuja,

Governor Bago has rolled up his sleeves, launching state-level interventions to tackle banditry, cattle rustling, and other forms of rural and urban insecurity that have plagued parts of Niger State for years. But he hasn’t stopped at homegrown solutions.

With boots planted firmly on Niger soil and eyes fixed on the Federal skyline, the Governor has actively courted synergy with national security forces. Within his first few weeks in office, he visited all the major Service Chiefs in Abuja—building relationships, requesting support, and leaving no doubt that Niger’s fight for peace is not one he intends to fight alone.

What we’re seeing is a governor who doesn’t just want to secure Niger—he wants to future-proof it. His goal? A state where investors feel safe, farmers can tend their land without fear, children can walk to school with smiles instead of shadows, and every Nigerlite sleeps with both eyes closed.



quiet determination of someone who understands that a delayed result is a delayed destiny.

It’s more than just paying bills but about restoring trust. Trust between students and the system. Trust between parents and their leaders. Trust that if you work hard in school, your effort will not be in vain.

Beyond exam debts, the Governor is now focused on rebuilding the physical and emotional







# Governor Francis Nwifuru:

## Builder of Peace, Architect of Progress

Ebonyi State has found in **Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru** a man whose promises echo in bricks, books, and bridges. With less than a year in office, Nwifuru has already drawn praise from across the political spectrum—not merely for the volume of his achievements, but for the vision behind them. In the words of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), “Every project of Governor Nwifuru is a signature—etched with purpose, poised to place Ebonyi on the global map.”

**T**hat ringing endorsement came during the 2024 Press Week, when NUJ Chairman, Comrade Nwafor Samson, led journalists on a tour of some of the Governor’s most ambitious undertakings. What they found was not rhetoric, but resolve.

### Universities Rising, Minds Awakening

At the Oferekpe axis, the shell of what will become Nigeria’s premier ICT University is already taking shape. Not far off in Ezza, the proposed University of Aeronautic Engineering is underway—bold, unconventional, and visionary. These are not mere academic hubs, but blueprints for Ebonyi’s future, where youth can be trained in high-demand global skills without leaving home.

“These universities will do more than educate,” Nwafor remarked. “They will create jobs, spark innovation, and give Ebonyi a new face in the knowledge economy.”

### Housing with Heart, Infrastructure with Intent

Governor Nwifuru’s human-centred governance is perhaps most evident in his housing initiatives. In Izzo and Amaze, housing units are being constructed for victims displaced by communal crises—offering not just shelter, but dignity. Though concerns were raised about delays in the Amaze section, the message from the NUJ was clear: contractors must not mistake the governor’s compassion for weakness. “Deliver, and do it right,” was the chorus.

Road infrastructure, too, has seen unprecedented expansion. From the cities to the most rural hinterlands, Ebonyi is being laced with arteries of progress. Over 54 kilometers of internal roads and 600 kilometers of rural roads are either complete or actively underway—an ambitious stride toward integration and accessibility.

And then there’s the Vanco Flyover—towering, sweeping, and modern. It isn’t just a bridge; it’s a symbol. Of where the state is headed. Upward.

### Empowerment, Not Empty Promises

Governor Nwifuru has earned accolades not just for building structures, but for building people. In a bold move that turned heads nationally, he disbursed N1 billion to empower hawkers and petty traders scattered across Nigeria. Each beneficiary received N2 million—a life-changing sum for those living on the economic margins. But he didn’t stop there.

Civil servants—the quiet engines of government—have received both material recognition and moral support. December brought them N100,000 each in Christmas cheer, along with a permanent N20,000 top-up to their monthly salaries. And perhaps most impressively, Governor Nwifuru wiped the state’s pension slate clean—paying retirees from 1996 all the way to 2023. That kind of generational justice is rare in today’s Nigeria.

Where politics once divided, Nwifuru’s leadership is stitching the fabric of unity. Former RMAFC Chairman, Chief Elias Mbam, praised the Governor’s all-embracing governance style, which has blurred partisan lines and brought calm to once fractious waters.

“Ebonyi is now a place where all feel seen,” Mbam said. “At state functions, you’ll see leaders from different parties breaking kola together. The bitterness of politics has given way to the sweetness of service.”

This inclusiveness has not only fostered peace but has unlocked collaboration. With every party at the table, progress has become a shared burden—and a shared pride.

### Revolution in Health and Education

In the health sector, Governor Nwifuru has employed over 200 healthcare workers, equipped 13 general hospitals, provided ambulances, and even gifted official vehicles to doctors. These aren’t token gestures—they’re systemic fixes aimed at ensuring that healthcare isn’t a privilege, but a right.

In education, he slashed tuition fees at Ebonyi State University, raised staff salaries, and kicked off the construction of 39 model secondary schools—three in each of the 13 local government areas. Beyond this, 1,000 Ebonyi graduates have received scholarships to pursue postgraduate degrees overseas. The message is clear: the future will be led by educated minds.

Governor Nwifuru hasn’t just reopened the conversation on industrialization—he’s reopened the factories. The once-dormant fertilizer chemical plant is back in business. The state’s hatchery company is operational again. And the pipe production company is already filling orders—proving that with political will, production is not a relic but a reality.

Yet, for all the achievements, Governor Nwifuru is being urged not to rest on his laurels. Both NUJ and Chief Mbam stress the need for rigorous monitoring. Projects must be completed, not just initiated. Quality must be ensured, not assumed. Good intentions must be met with excellent execution.

And if his first year is anything to go by, the Governor is listening.

In Francis Nwifuru, Ebonyi State has found a man who governs not from the clouds, but from the ground—close to his people, in touch with their needs, and obsessed with their progress. If the journey of a thousand miles begins with a step, then Nwifuru has already paved half the road.





# CONDOLENCES

## NGF Expresses Deep Condolences To Akwa Ibom, Borno, Jigawa & Niger States



**T**he Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), under the leadership of its Chairman, His Excellency AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, Governor of Kwara State, extends its deepest condolences to the governments and people of Akwa Ibom, Jigawa, Niger, and Borno States over the recent tragedies that have cast a shadow of sorrow across these regions.

The NGF mourns with His Excellency, Governor Umar Namadi of Jigawa State, following the heartbreaking loss of his beloved mother, Hajiya Maryam Namadi, and, in an even more devastating turn, the tragic passing of his son, Abdulwahab Namadi, in a fatal road accident—both occurring within 24 hours.

The weight of such profound grief is unimaginable, and we stand in solidarity with Governor Namadi and his family, offering our prayers for divine strength, comfort, and healing in this time of immense sorrow.

The Forum also extends its heartfelt sympathies to His Excellency, Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State, over the painful loss of his beloved wife, Pastor Patience Umo Eno.

The devastating news of the First Lady's passing on September 26, 2024, after a period of illness left the entire nation in deep mourning. Her life of service, compassion, and dedication to humanity remains a lasting legacy, and we pray that Almighty God grants her soul eternal rest while strengthening the Governor, his family, and the people of Akwa Ibom State to bear this irreparable

loss.

Our hearts also go out to the government and people of Niger State, who recently suffered a devastating tanker explosion at Dikko Junction along the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway. The explosion claimed over 50 lives and left many others injured, serving as a painful reminder of the urgent need for stricter safety regulations in the handling and transportation of flammable materials.

The NGF shares in the grief of the bereaved families and prays for the swift recovery of those injured.

In Borno State, the recent devastating floods have caused untold hardship, displacing families, destroying homes, and tragically claiming lives.

The NGF stands in unwavering solidarity with His Excellency, Governor Babagana Zulum, and the people of Borno State, recognizing their resilience in the face of such adversity. The Forum will continue to advocate for policies that mitigate the impact of natural disasters and strengthen disaster response mechanisms across the country.

In these difficult times, we offer our prayers for peace, comfort, and healing to all who have suffered losses. May Almighty Allah grant eternal rest to the departed souls and give their families the strength to bear these painful losses.

Nigeria stands strong in the face of adversity, and together, we shall emerge more united, resilient, and prepared for the challenges ahead.

*Signed:*

**H.E. AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, CON**  
*Executive Governor, Kwara State & Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum*





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