

MY PACT WITH THE PEOPLE OF EDO STATE

OLUMIDE
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MY DEAR EDO PEOPLE, HOW UNA DEY?

Two and a half decades after the return to democratic rule in Nigeria, the expectations that motivated generations of patriotic men and women to sacrifice their lives and freedoms in the decades-long fight against military rule have not been met here at home in Edo State and indeed Nigeria.

Instead, we have been subjected to two and a half decades of failed promises by the same people. With each new day, we are forced to witness the continuous degradation of our society and the ongoing decline in the quality of life of our people. Our politics has become an arena of mediocrity, petty ambitions, and ego contests that serve no purpose beyond the selfish empowerment of a privileged few. This is not how it is supposed to be.

Democracy was supposed to be the rising tide that lifted all boats. Its promise was that if we established for ourselves a government of the people, for the people and by the people, we could build a fair and just

society where no one is above the law and where determination, hard work, and diligence could take you anywhere regardless of your family's financial status, your background, or your place in society's hierarchy.

I have spent most of my career as a lawyer fighting for justice and the rule of law, helping businesses thrive, promoting good causes, and advocating for better leadership in several ways. But now, I am stepping into the political arena because I believe that we need real change. We need a leadership that is people-centric, people-focused and people-impacting; not one that runs on the self-interest or the political power struggles of a few.

I am running to be the Governor of Edo State because I am convinced that just as our society has been marred over time by the actions of individuals who prioritised their personal ambitions over the collective good, we can make it better by making excellent choices and focusing on the right priorities. I am committed to leading our State better by making



excellent choices and focusing on the right priorities. I am committed to leading our State so that we can work together to address these challenges and prioritise the interests of our people over personal ambitions.

You deserve leaders who put your welfare, needs and aspirations first. However, we have all witnessed successive governments that seem more interested in playing political games than genuinely serving the people. This is why the unemployment rate in our State is so high that a "Papa Nosa" would find it difficult to stay gainfully employed and cater for his family. This is also why inflation, and the increasing cost of living make it nearly impossible for a "Mama Odianose" to afford basic food items for her family.

This is also the reason why the standard of education continues to fall, and an "Oshioke" who spent 7 years studying a 4-year course at the university has been unable to get a job that compensates for the time and efforts she spent in school. This should not be so!

In this 21st century, when the wonders of technology and the magic of innovation are transforming lives, creating wealth and changing the fortunes of nations, it is a tragic failure of leadership that we still must contend with ordinary problems and grapple with challenges that others have since overcome.

Now is the time to take our destiny into our hands. We are called in this generation to reject those leaders who

ask us to settle for more of the same, who ask us to be patient while our bellies ache from the pain of hunger and our children's dreams are cut short by the promise of a better tomorrow that never comes.

Societies don't change until a critical mass of people decide to change. Governments do not get better until we act to put in power those who reflect the best of us and have the will and capacity to make the difficult choices that guarantee a better life for all.

If you elect me as your Governor, every decision that I make in government must answer one of three questions:

- **Does it improve the quality of life of our people?**
- **Does it make our State a more attractive location for investment and commerce?**
- **Does it dramatically improve the ability of government to be a force for good?**

In a time of scarce resources, when years of careless spending and waste have caught up with us here at home and across the country, a government under my leadership will not spend one kobo of your money unless we are confident that doing so will make your life better. We will set ambitious targets and meet them, but I will not make promises that I cannot keep. As your Governor, above all else, I will tell you the truth every time, and

together, we will end the politics of deception and governance through propaganda and lies.

Please make no mistake about it:

we are in difficult times. Indeed, it has taken me time to come up with this document because I had to traverse the length and breadth of our State in order to see first-hand and also hear directly from you the challenges confronting our people. Having now travelled to all the 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the last couple of months visiting well over 60 towns and villages (moving from Igueben to Iguobazuwa, from Ikpeshi to Iruokpen, and from Agenebode to Abudu and several others), this document represents what I have seen on the field and the outcome of my consultations and engagements with you.

We face significant challenges, but nothing that cannot be overcome through hard work, honesty, empathy, dedication to duty and a commitment to fiscal responsibility. Fixing the many challenges that I have seen will require us to make hard decisions to reposition our beloved State and rebuild the foundations of our prosperity.

In the ensuing pages, I have set out my pact with you that will serve as a roadmap for my administration. I have thought long and hard about the words written

in these pages and you will see that the commitments made here are designed collectively to achieve four principal outcomes -

- improve the quality of life of all our people;
- reduce the cost of governance and make government more efficient;
- create the conditions necessary for private investment and commerce to thrive and to create productive jobs; and
- protect the most vulnerable of our citizens and put the people first in all that we do.

I therefore invite you to join me in this solemn task. **Your votes for the Labour Party on 21st September 2024 will ignite this transformative journey!**

As your Governor, I will work with you to ensure that the future of Edo State and all her people is better than our today, and with God on our side, we will surely succeed.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Your Guy,



OLUMIDE OSAIGBOVO AKPATA



EDO STATE'S CURRENT SITUATION

LET US TALK ABOUT WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.

THE TRUTH IS THAT EVERYWHERE DON SPOIL, AND THE MATA DON CAST.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) tells us that 1.4 million people in Edo State live in multidimensional poverty.*

What does that mean?

It means that too many of us are struggling not just with low income but also with a lack of access to essential services like healthcare, education, and clean water. It is not just about money; it is also about dignity and quality of life

What about jobs?

Again, most recently published NBS data* shows that half of our people are not employed, and that most of those who are employed are not earning enough to support their families. This is a sad reality and something that we must address urgently.

How about basic infrastructure?

In the last 12 months alone, I have travelled by road, at least 4 times, to each of the 18 LGAs of Edo State, visiting our people to hear and understand their challenges, dialogue on solutions and seek their support. Throughout these road trips, wetin my eye see, my mouth no fit talk. From Benin to Ekpoma, Igarra to Sabongida-Ora, Urhonigbe to Sakponba and even intra-city roads in towns like Uromi, our road infrastructure has completely collapsed. The current state of infrastructural decay in and around Edo State has stifled our economic growth and development, and made movement within, or through the State, a nightmare for residents and visitors.

The sustenance and businesses of most Edo families depend on whether these roads are motorable, particularly those that lead from farms to the markets, those that transport operators use to commute around the State and those that general users ply to get to their various businesses, schools and places of work. Our roads and related infrastructure should be in top shape.

Edo people deserve better!

How is the electricity supply in your area? Una get light?

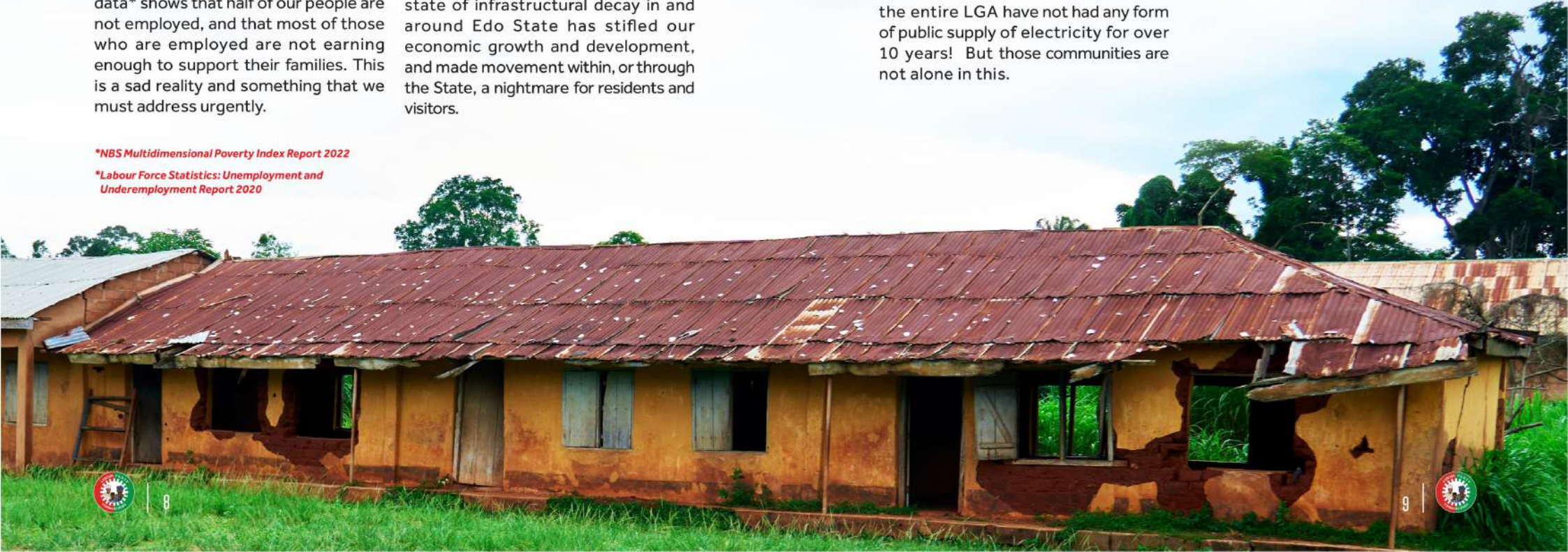
It is unacceptable that something as essential as electricity remains unavailable to our people. When I visited Abudu and Urhonigbe in Orhionmwon LGA (a local government that sits on the largest inland gas deposits in Nigeria), I was painfully reminded that both towns and indeed the entire LGA have not had any form of public supply of electricity for over 10 years! But those communities are not alone in this.

Across the entire State, the barber, the hairdresser, the tailor, the pepper-grinder, shop owners, schools, hospitals, etc. all rely on their own personal generators to sustain their businesses and other activities. With the high cost of fuel in Nigeria, this is simply not sustainable. There is no doubt that efficient and reliable electricity supply will improve the standard of living, create jobs and reduce the cost of doing business within Edo State. That is where we should be headed as a State.

The problems are numerous and cut across almost all aspects of our existence as a people and as a State. But let us not focus only on the problems. Let me tell you about my vision for Edo State and my plans to make things better.

*NBS Multidimensional Poverty Index Report 2022

*Labour Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report 2020





OUR VISION FOR EDO STATE

Let us talk about the incredible potential that we have in Edo State. We are blessed with very fertile land, abundant natural resources, and a rich cultural heritage. Most importantly, we have a vibrant and hardworking population.

Our vision is clear: we want to create and grow a healthy, stable, sustainable, and inclusive economy that benefits everyone. Imagine an Edo State where we all feel safe; where moving from one part of the State to another by road is not a nightmare; where our farmers have access to the resources that they need to grow their crops; where our fathers and mothers earn

enough to take care of their families and afford food for their homes at reduced prices; where our children not only get good education but can be gainfully employed after school; where our cultural heritage attracts tourists from all over the world; where our natural resources are harnessed and managed wisely to benefit the people; and where we have access to quality and affordable health care. As a boy growing up in the old Bendel State, I saw first-hand the growth and progress that we made as a State, the potential that we had and the enviable position that we occupied. My vision is to restore and improve the fortunes of our people. Edo State can be a leader in Nigeria's economic development, setting an example for other States to follow.

My approach will be people-oriented, ensuring that every policy and project we undertake directly benefits the residents of Edo State. This is not just a campaign; it's a mission. A mission to return Edo State to its rightful place as a beacon of good governance and economic prosperity. I want to build a State where everyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to thrive. I cannot do this alone; I need your support, your ideas, and your energy. We can make Edo State a shining example of what can be achieved when people work together for the good of all.

TACKLING THE CHALLENGES

One of the earliest lessons that I learnt from my now 84-year-old father was that in dealing with any task, it is important to set out a clear vision and then prioritise the steps and deliverables to achieving that vision. That lesson has stayed with me, and it resonates more now because Edo State currently faces numerous challenges across all sectors such that dealing with them without clear prioritisation would defeat the objective of building a prosperous State.

When I visited Igueben recently to engage our people there regarding my ambition and plans for Edo State, I asked three participants at the meeting to identify areas of government intervention that would have the most impact on their daily lives and businesses. As if choreographed, all three identified the same issues but in different words. In my engagement with traders and artisans

in Imoga, I conducted a similar poll and received the same feedback. Again, in Iguobazuwa, I met with groups of professionals, civil servants and youths at different times and their feedback to my question was the same as in Igueben, Imoga and the other communities that I visited.

Using this shared feedback from my engagements with the people and my knowledge and experience from traversing the State over time, my team and I have identified the common issues bothering our people and streamlined these into eight priority areas for my administration. While other aspects of governance will receive due attention, these eight areas will be our core focus areas because of their potential to accelerate development in the State and improve the overall well-being of our people.

8 PRIORITY AREAS





ADDRESSING PRIORITY AREA 1

ECONOMY AND JOB CREATION

By building a strong and inclusive economy, we can create jobs, improve public services, and give Papa, Mama and Pikin a fair shot at success. When the economy thrives and people have stable jobs and a secure income, they can focus on building better lives for themselves and their families. This, in turn, helps to reduce crime and insecurity.

Our strategy for economic development is multi-faceted. We will deploy this three-pronged strategy for rapid economic development: revenue growth and fiscal management; business-enabling environment; and industrialisation.



Revenue Growth and Fiscal Management

Our people are groaning under the burden of multiple taxes and levies. A few weeks ago, on Mission Road in Benin City, I was astounded to hear from a wheelbarrow pusher that he and others are made to pay levies to

government agents several times a day in order to carry on their business. In the same vein, every day at our motor parks, markets, street shops and other places, drivers, artisans, petty traders and other entrepreneurs across Edo State are required to pay all manner of taxes, levies, rates and collections as a means of raising internally generated revenue for the State.

Yet, the positive impacts of these taxes are not seen by the people. Our plan features a comprehensive strategy that improves our revenue streams and leverages Edo's comparative advantage and unique resources to generate revenue without imposing unnecessary additional financial burdens on our people.

We will:

- cut unnecessary public spending, plug leakages and track every Naira spent;
- seek debt relief and target cheaper financing options to refinance and restructure existing expensive loans;



- revamp our budgeting process to ensure funds are tied directly to projects with measurable, verifiable, and sustainable results;
- diversify revenue sources by attracting investments in tourism, the creative industry, agriculture, technology, and other sectors with the potential for massive job creation and high revenue generation;
- collaborate with the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and investors to exploit our natural resources in a profitable and sustainable manner; and
- monitor and adjust our plans, as required, based on performance and feedback.

Our goal is to use our resources wisely to improve lives and tackle poverty, with zero tolerance for corruption.



Enabling Business Environment

Edo State's business environment needs a major revamp to bolster its ease of doing business ranking which is currently 37 out of 37 in Nigeria.*

What does this mean? It means that as things stand today, Edo State is the worst place to do business in Nigeria. *Sadly, dis na one area wey Edo don carry last.*

In one of my previous roles within the Nigerian Bar Association, I collaborated with the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) on the ease of doing business in Nigeria. Our work and landmark interventions contributed to Nigeria's rise in the now-defunct World Bank Ease of Doing Business Rankings. My efforts in this regard earned me an award in 2023 from the Presidency for promoting ease of doing business in Nigeria.

To improve the business environment and attract more businesses to Edo State, we will:

- work with PEBEC and other stakeholders to continuously remove business hurdles within the State;
- ensure improved security and safety within the State to give comfort to investors;
- further reform our land tenure system to be more business friendly;
- actively promote Edo State's investment advantages to attract investors;
- support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with finance, technical assistance and market opportunities;
- boost vocational training and equip our people with the skills and tools needed for employment, job creation, and entrepreneurship; and
- ensure transparent public procurement and fight corruption.



Industrialisation:

To grow the economy and create jobs, we will be intentional about industrialisation.

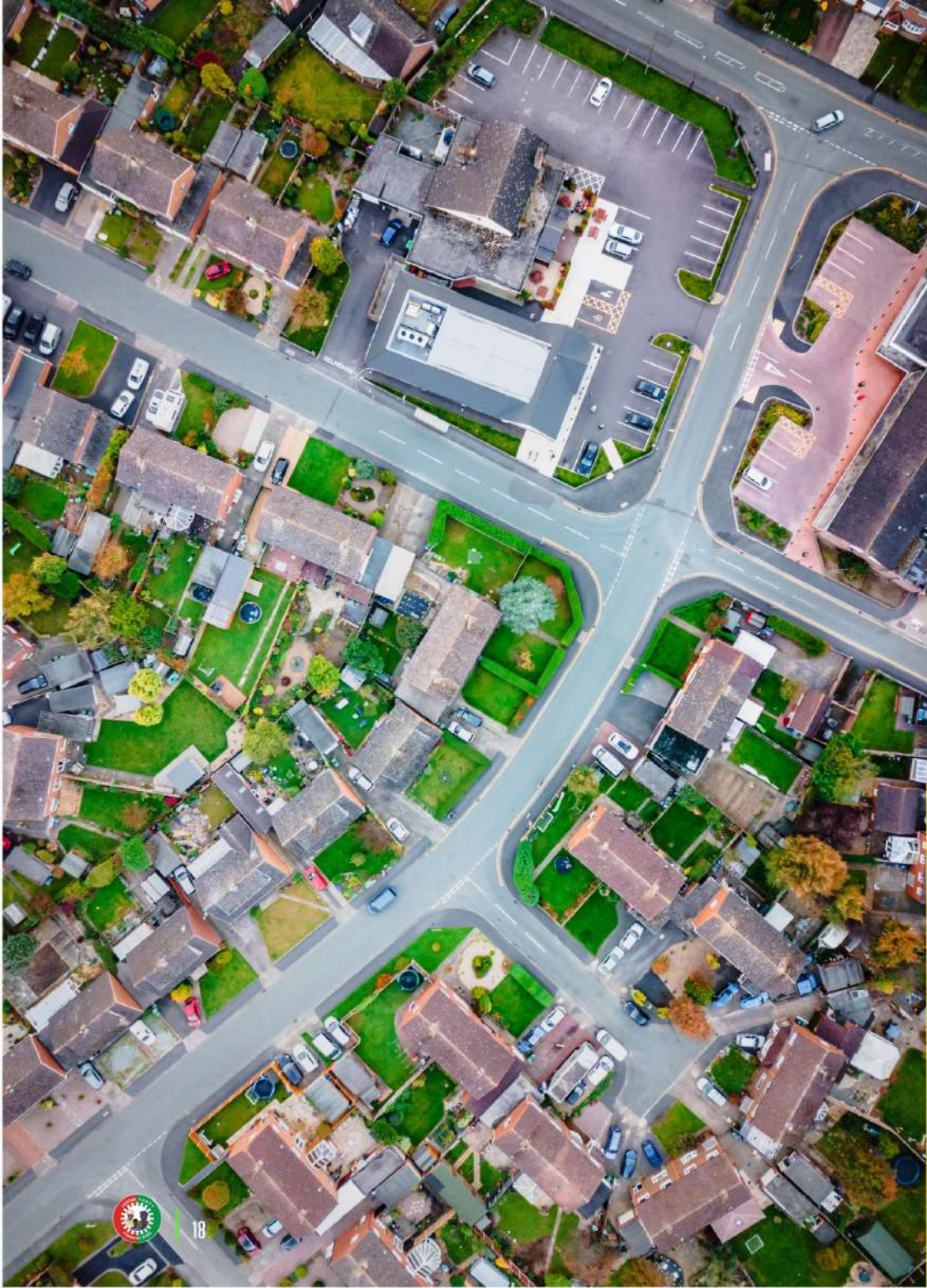
We will:

- leverage our unique resources and strategic location to create modern industrial zones for manufacturing and agro-processing while reviving/supporting existing ones;
- provide economic incentives and requisite government support to attract manufacturing enterprises and spur investment;

- position Edo State as the preferred destination for business process outsourcing units of large corporations;
- generally promote a gig economy (short-term employment, freelance and contractual jobs etc.); and
- partner with the FGN on the full optimisation of our mining and extractive



*2023 Nigeria Subnational Ease of Doing Business Report: <https://pebec.gov.ng/our-reports/>



ADDRESSING PRIORITY AREA 2

ROADS AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

My 47-year-old cousin, **Osaro**, is a commercial bus driver at the Agip Motor Park on Sapele Road in Benin from where he conveys passengers from Benin to Warri daily. His wife, **Isoken**, and their four children depend entirely on his earnings from his transportation business for their sustenance and upkeep. Until about 8 years ago, Osaro could make the Benin to Warri trip three times a day and was able to put food on the table and meet his other obligations as the breadwinner of his home. Today, Osaro can barely make one trip on that route, not because he has become old and weak but because the roads have

fallen into disrepair, become almost impassable, causing delays, extended loss of manhours and turning simple journeys into frustrating ordeals.

Edo State currently has the worst roads in Southern Nigeria and probably the entire nation. From Benin to Ologbo, Auchi to Iruokpen and even within Benin City, our roads have deteriorated. From farms to markets, schools to workplaces, these roads are the veins of our community. The poor state of our infrastructure has become a major barrier to our economic growth and good living.



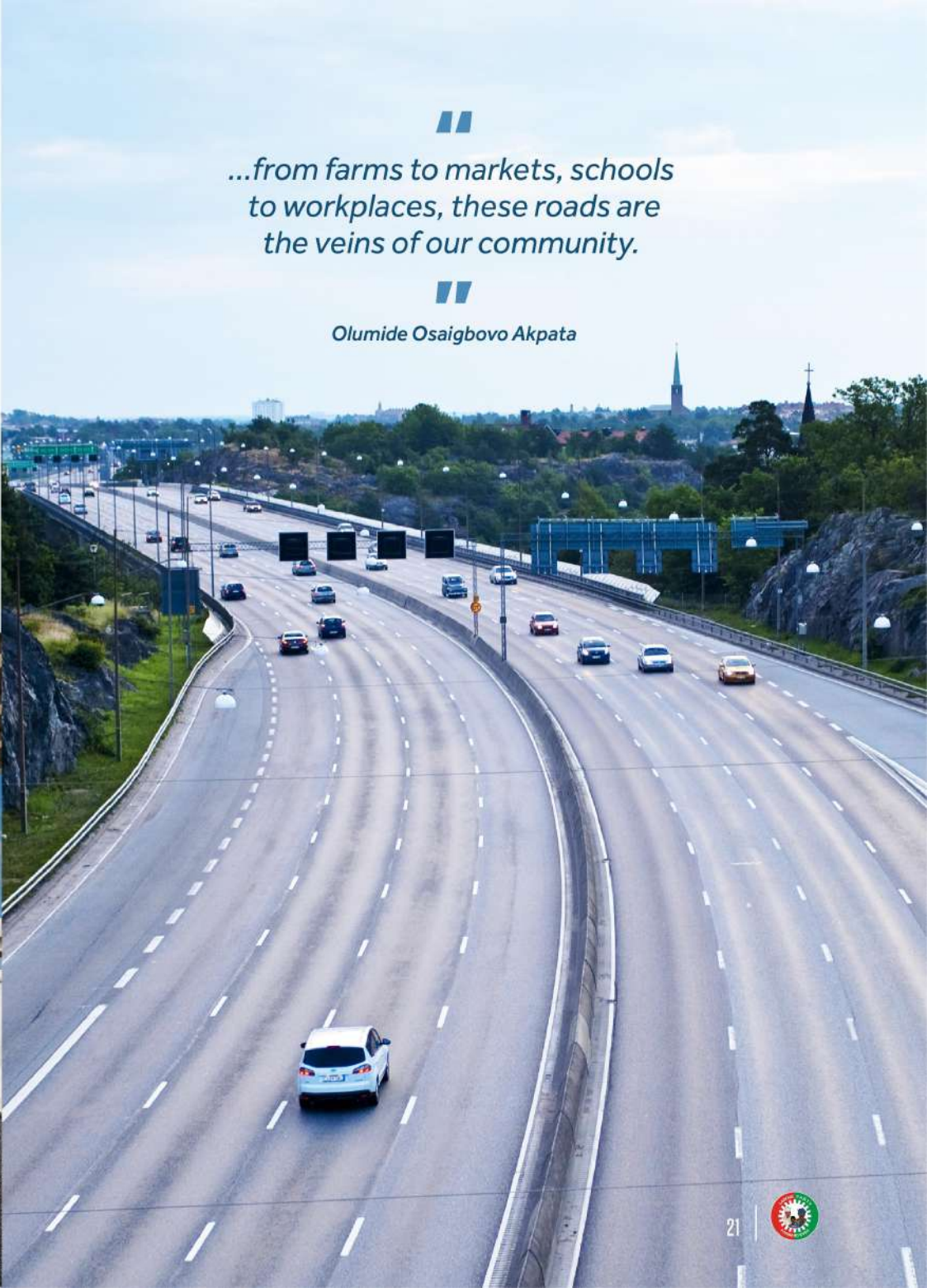
When elected, my team and I will:

- launch a road masterplan to upgrade, within 18 months, selected key roads that can help unlock economic prosperity in all three senatorial zones;
- partner with the FGN to rehabilitate federal roads, using successful models that have been operated elsewhere;
- develop alternative routes to ease the burden on major federal roads;
- ensure transparency and fairness in road construction, avoiding inflated costs and poor-quality work;
- support local governments in maintaining feeder roads crucial for moving produce from farm to market;
- include maintenance plans in all road projects and strengthen the relevant ministry for their regular upkeep;
- build flyovers and bridges in the major cities to ease traffic and improve safety;
- enhance urban roads with traffic lights, street lighting, cycle and pedestrian lanes; and
- assess and complete all ongoing road construction projects at handover in order to avoid waste of State resources as a result of project abandonment.

Our commitment is to build new roads and restore those that once served us well and to make sure that our infrastructure supports our future. I know the difference that good roads can make, and I am determined to bring our roads to their required state.

“
...from farms to markets, schools to workplaces, these roads are the veins of our community.

”
Olumide Osaigbovo Akpata





ADDRESSING PRIORITY AREA 3

ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ACCESS

Converting Edo State into an economic or industrial hub, supporting production, or generally engendering economic development would not be possible without reliable electricity supply to drive operations and keep systems running. In the same way, our markets, schools, hospitals and MSMEs cannot operate optimally without dependable electricity supply. Efficient and steady electricity supply will also improve the standard of living, create jobs and reduce the cost of doing business within the State. Thus, addressing the electricity needs of Edo State in a sustainable manner is central to our agenda.

As a corporate lawyer, I have been involved in the power sector for over two decades. I was part of the team that advised the FGN on the unbundling and corporatisation of the defunct National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), as a precursor to the privatisation of the Nigerian power sector. I also worked extensively on the development of the Azura 461 MW power plant at Ihovbor community of Edo State which currently supplies about 10% of the entire power on the national grid. This close involvement at both the Federal and State levels gives me a decent first-hand appreciation of some of the challenges with access to electricity within the State and how they can be addressed.

Our promise to you is to improve electricity supply across homes, businesses and industries, including our schools, markets, hospitals and other critical user points.

To achieve this, we will:

- create a conducive environment for the private sector to invest in power generation and distribution in the State, particularly mini-grids, embedded generation and other off-grid power projects;
- promote the renewable energy potentials of Edo State such as biomass, solar, hydro and wind and attract private sector investment into that space. I have already started identifying some interested investors and partners in this space

- and will work with them to develop our power market;
- provide the support needed to mobilise capital from multilateral development banks, local/foreign private sector investors and other development partners, and provide relevant State support, for those seeking to establish power projects within the State;
- collaborate with the Benin Electricity Distribution Company to improve power supply in our cities, towns, and other coverage areas in the State; and
- rehabilitate and restore full operation of all streetlights on the metropolitan roads to enhance security and ease of movement at night.





ADDRESSING PRIORITY AREA 4

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Hunger and food insecurity have become constant companions of many residents of Edo State. This is the case even though agriculture remains the backbone of Edo State's economy, employing over 60% of our workforce and contributing significantly to our gross domestic product.

To unlock Edo State's immense agricultural potential, manage food inflation, work towards food security, and improve the livelihood of farmers, our government will ignite an agricultural revolution, play an active role in key facets of the sector, and implement game-changing reforms that will catalyse productivity, commercialisation, and private investments in the sector.

In particular, we will:

- become offtakers of agricultural produce in order to inject immediate liquidity into the sector and encourage large scale commercial farming and storage;
- establish strategic grain reserves operated by community-based food banks or schemes;
- attract investments for the establishment of a number of agro-processing plants in each senatorial district to offtake and process major agricultural products in order to add value to the local economy;
- boost commercially viable export value chains spanning oil palm, cassava, rubber, and cashew;





- set-up an agri-focused security outfit to patrol and supervise farms to enable farmers peacefully undertake their activities;
- incentivise investments in agri-business parks and cottage industries, and generally co-invest with the private sector in agriculture so as to catalyse rapid growth in the sector, create jobs and ensure food security;
- facilitate loans and access to credit for farmers and agripreneurs;
- ensure access to high-quality seeds, fertiliser, and agro-chemical inputs;
- improve access to affordable machinery hire services and processing equipment for farmers;
- establish quality certification, grading, and traceability systems for major food and cash crops;
- develop and upgrade storage facilities to prevent post-harvest losses;
- establish vocational training academies focused on agro-processing and allied services;
- link industries to farms for sourcing raw materials and outsourcing early-stage processing; and
- support local governments in maintaining feeder roads crucial for moving produce from farm to market.

Our approach to the agriculture sector will not only boost food production and tackle food insecurity but will also provide quality jobs in the sector for our people.



EDUCATION

Education is a matter that is very dear to my heart. I received all my formal education in public schools in Nigeria, and I am always proud to say that I can measure up and compete favourably with my peers around the world. This competitiveness is my aspiration for every Edo child.

Growing up, I saw how a good education opens doors. Today, we are missing that chance, and our children are not getting the education needed to prepare them for global competition in the 21st century. With about 24% of Edo children out of school and many schools in very poor shape, my heart bleeds for our children. There is a serious crisis that we cannot ignore.

My plan for education is simple but revolutionary:

- **Invest in Education:** we will significantly increase our budget for education and raise specific funds to support learning and capacity building.
- **Upgrade Schools:** we will upgrade all schools to meet global standards in order to give our children the best chance and environment to succeed.

- **Model Schools and Skill Incubators:** we aim to build top-notch mega schools (with capacity for at least 1,000 students across primary and secondary levels) in each of the LGAs. We will also establish incubators across the State where our children can acquire extra-curricular but critical skills in diverse areas such as sports, technology and the creative arts.
- **Modernise Learning and Curricula:** we will overhaul the curricula of our schools to include modern subjects that offer practical and useful knowledge for excelling in today's globally competitive system. We will also equip schools with technology and environmentally sustainable facilities to prepare our students for a digital and eco-friendly world.



- **Teacher Recruitment:** we will implement a standardised process for recruiting teachers to ensure that only the best train our children. We will also overhaul our teacher training programme to produce well-equipped teachers with contemporary skills for the school system.
- **Teacher Welfare:** we will offer competitive remuneration, provide continuous training, and create opportunities (study leaves, grants and scholarships) for professional advancement for our teachers.
- **Skills Acquisition and Vocational Training:** we will create multiple channels for knowledge and skills acquisition for our teeming youth population by reviving and properly equipping the moribund technical colleges around the State. We will also establish new sector-specific training centres to serve as feeder institutions for businesses and industries. These colleges and centres will equally offer retraining and upskilling opportunities for our adult population.
- **Foster Education in Technology:** with a view to making Edo State a leading tech hub in Africa, we will set up a world-class institution for Innovation and Technology in Akoko-Edo. This institution will partner with top international organisations and tech pioneers, drive innovation and excellence, revolutionise our future and elevate Edo State as a beacon of technological progress.



HEALTHCARE

As someone who grew up watching my father dedicate his life to medical practice serving our community, I know for a fact that the state of our healthcare system is deeply concerning and unacceptable. Poor access, substandard services, and exorbitant costs are jeopardising the health and well-being of our people. About 15 years ago, I had life-threatening health challenges that required me to undergo series of intense treatments and multiple surgeries. Unfortunately, most of the hospitals that I consulted were neither equipped nor fully resourced to deal with my

health challenges. I was fortunate to leverage my employer's health insurance to seek better medical care. Indeed, the fact that I am alive today is by the Grace of God and with the help of medical professionals.

Sadly, majority of Edo State residents in similar circumstances are not as fortunate as I was and, in fact, are currently unable to access quality health care. On account of my background, experience and other factors, the health sector is one that I am

● **Education for Persons Living with Disabilities ("PWDs"):**

our government will be for all, including the weak and vulnerable amongst us. For PWDs, we will work closely with the PWD Commission - which we intend to fully operationalise to:

- (a) establish special schools for PWDs where we will pay adequate attention to their special educational needs and ensure that they get the support structures and advanced learning aids required to receive the most appropriate education; and
- (b) encourage inclusivity in all our schools by ensuring that the schools are fully equipped to also admit PWDs so as to mainstream and fully integrate the PWDs into the school system and society.

● **Reviving AAU and other tertiary institutions:**

we will revive our iconic Ambrose Alli University and the State-owned polytechnics to bring them back to their pride of place as tertiary institutions in Nigeria - including through adequate government funding, upgrading existing facilities, developing necessary infrastructures and providing appropriate research centres and laboratories to ensure the schools' overall growth and improve the quality of learning.

● **Driving academic synergy:**

we will actively create and encourage synergy amongst the various tertiary institutions within the State (whether federal, state, or private), to share resources and provide the skillset needed to service our economy and drive development.

We recognise that achieving the task here can be challenging and so we will collaborate with stakeholders like faith-based institutions, corporate bodies, alumni groups, diaspora communities, and organised professionals who have the capacity to adopt and/or properly manage or supervise the management of our schools. With your support, we can transform our education system and build a brighter future for our children.



extremely passionate about, and dedicated to ensuring that our government gives paramount attention in order to progressively achieve the goal of affordable, quality healthcare for all Edo residents.

To achieve this objective, we will:

- ensure that there is at least one fully equipped; properly staffed; and functional primary healthcare centre (PHC) in each of the 192 wards in Edo State. A “Mama Odianose” would not need to travel several kilometres to treat malaria or to access basic health services;
- attract, employ and adequately motivate skilled healthcare personnel in the State through incentives and improved working conditions;
- embark on aggressive training and retraining of healthcare personnel; provide modern diagnostics, surgical theatres and intensive care units for enhanced service delivery;
- provide first response and emergency/ ambulance services across the State;
- ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines, vaccines, and consumables through properly supervised logistics management;
- expand the Edo Health Insurance Scheme so as to progressively achieve universal health coverage including free coverage for persons living with disabilities;
- we will work closely with the Persons Living with Disabilities Commission (which we intend to fully operationalise) to ensure that our health institutions are configured in such a way that Persons Living with Disabilities have full and easy access to healthcare;

- ensure that the Edo Health Insurance Scheme comprehensively covers vulnerable groups like pregnant women, under-5 children and the elderly;
- collaborate with Edo doctors and medical professionals in diaspora to provide telemedicine consultations and other services to our people;
- pay special attention to infant and maternal healthcare to reduce infant and maternal mortality; and
- attract additional private investments into healthcare and build strong partnerships with local and international organisations focusing on the healthcare sector.



SECURITY OF LIVES AND PROPERTY

Reflecting on the good days when safety and security in Edo State were a given, it is disheartening to see how far we have strayed. At a time, families could walk freely, businesses thrived without fear, and our communities were vibrant and peaceful. But now, issues like cultism, kidnapping, and robbery have shaken the very foundation of our society. It is a painful reality that we must confront, not with despair but with determination.

In the face of these challenges, my administration will be unwavering in its commitment to maintaining safety and security. We will draw from the strength of our past when security was a shared responsibility, and everyone felt protected. We will not just be implementing policies, we will be reigniting the spirit of community and vigilance that once defined us.

With zero-tolerance for cultism and introduction of reforms to strengthen our security networks, we will work tirelessly to make Edo a State where every **Papa, Mama, Pikin** and **our visitors feel safe again.**

Here is how we will do it:

Security Funding:

We will dedicate funds to enhance existing security infrastructure, work with the private sector to boost the Edo State Security Trust Fund, as well as support and empower the Nigeria Police and other security agencies.

Improving Welfare:

We will invest in the welfare of our security personnel, providing them with the modern tools required to tackle crime effectively.

Inter-agency coordination:

We will promote inter-agency collaboration and coordination in preventing, detecting and fighting crimes.

Reforming Security Networks:

We will strengthen and depoliticise the Edo State Security Network, ensuring they are well-equipped and stationed in every locality to tackle crimes and support Nigerian security agencies.

Zero Tolerance for Cultism:

We will fully empower the anti-cultism taskforce to tackle the issue of cultism head-on. We will also provide an opportunity for renunciation, reformation and reintegration.

Community Involvement:

We will introduce community policing and involve citizens in crime prevention and detection, because safety starts with us.

Youth Employment:

By accelerating job creation through various programmes, we will provide young people with opportunities and reduce crime.

Security infrastructure:

We will fast-track the provision of key infrastructure like roads, streetlights, CCTVs, and other technological tools required to prevent, detect and fight crime.



OTHER ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

My 84-year-old father was born in Benin, and he tells me that he grew up to meet potable water in most homes at the time and that this had been the case for at least ten years before his birth. It is sad that we have gotten to a situation where this generation not only lack the critical infrastructure required for their daily lives, but do not even know what it means to have potable water at home.

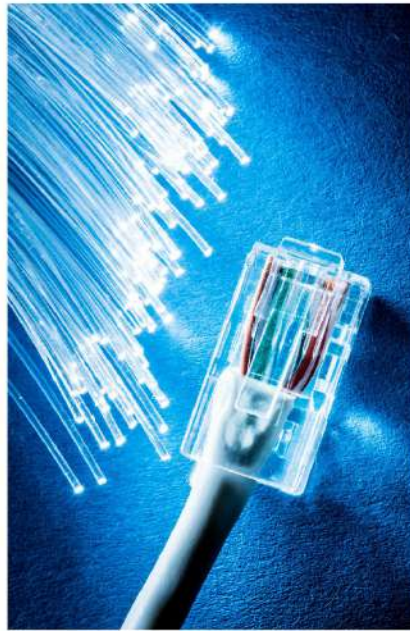
Despite rising population and the potential net-positive effects of having essential infrastructure in place, present and previous governments of Edo State have fallen into the unfortunate cycle of pursuing white elephant and whitewashing projects at the expense of basic infrastructure required for our daily lives and existence.

Infrastructure deficiencies in the form of inadequate water supply, weak digital connectivity, poor structures to mitigate devastating effects of erosion and several other challenges continue to undermine the well-being and quality of life of Edo people in both rural and urban areas. These challenges also affect our ability to attract new

businesses and residents. We will deal aggressively with these, and other essential infrastructure needs of Edo people.

Digital Technology Infrastructure

In today's world where most aspects of our lives and businesses depend largely on internet connectivity, digital infrastructure required to support access to quality internet service is essential. We will partner with telecommunication companies, internet service providers,



as well as foreign and local investors to deepen internet penetration in our communities and expand broadband services to new locations in order to enable our people take advantage of the opportunities that abound in the digital economy from within their localities. Infrastructure deficiencies in the form of inadequate water supply, weak digital connectivity, poor structures to mitigate devastating effects of erosion and several other challenges continue to undermine the well-being and quality of life of Edo people in both rural and urban areas. These challenges also affect our ability to attract new businesses and residents. We will deal aggressively with these, and other essential infrastructure needs of Edo people.

Erosion and Flood Control

In my travels around the State, I have become acutely aware of the devastating effects of erosion and flooding on our communities. To address this, we will actively source funding for, invest in, and partner with ecological and social impact organisations to develop, the infrastructure required to protect our environment from the severe threat from erosion and flooding. We will also embark on public enlightenment campaigns on proper waste disposal and other human activities that affect the flow of water through natural or designated channels. We will equally put in place a comprehensive remediation strategy with measurable goals and action plans to address flooding and related challenges.



Water Resources

Water is life, but the scarcity of potable water across the State has remained a major failure undermining the standard of living and economic development of our people.

While the water issue seems to have received some attention, most of the water schemes have not been implemented with the vision and political will required to see them to completion. This has resulted in Edo State residents across all parts of the State resorting to drilling individual or private boreholes, purchasing water at exorbitant rates, or having to travel long distances to fetch water from limited, and oftentimes unhygienic, sources.

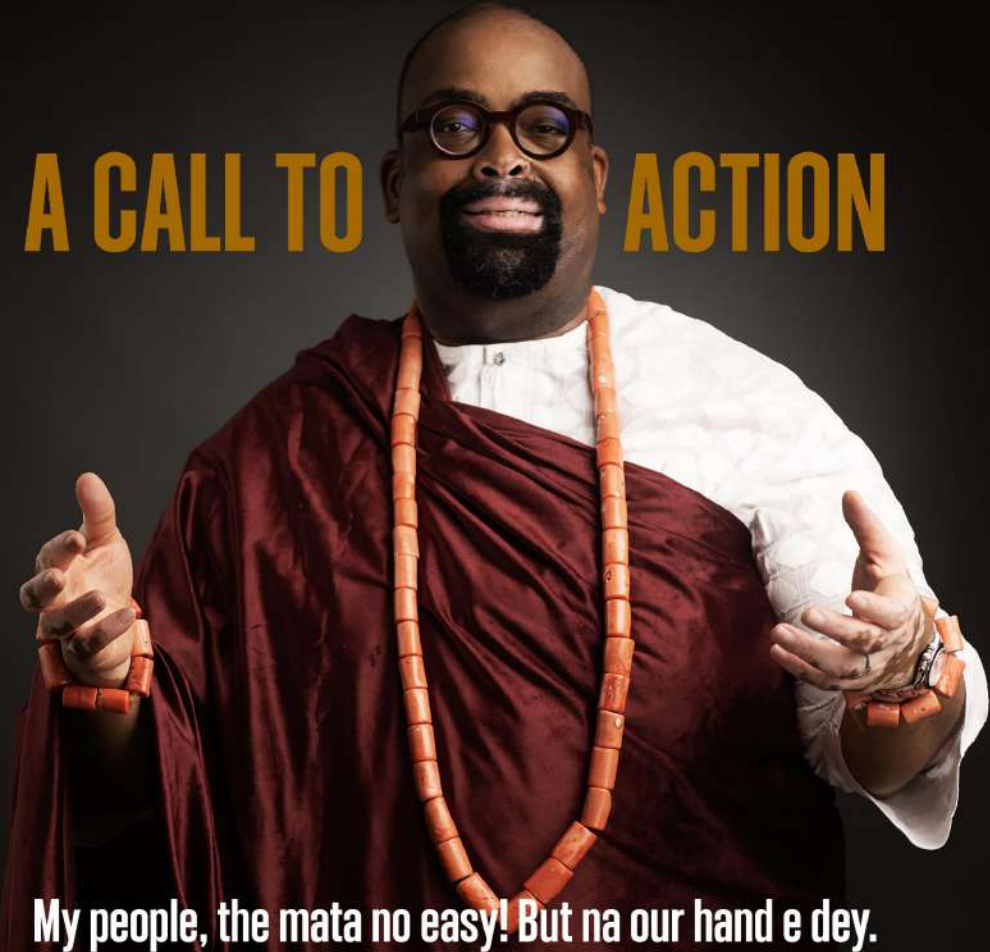
When elected, my team and I will:

- revamp and/or develop public water utilities across all senatorial zones in the State;

- aggressively pursue the completion of all viable government water projects in the State including working with the FGN and donor agencies, where necessary;
- ensure the reticulation of existing water channels, lay pipelines and construct water pumping stations across several communities to ensure that water is channelled into homes and other facilities where it is needed;
- install boreholes for communities that cannot be beneficiaries of dammed water projects and where underground water is the only solution; and
- reform, empower and properly fund the Ministry of Water Resources and associated agencies to fully deliver on their mandate of providing accessible, uninterrupted and affordable water supply across the State.



A CALL TO ACTION



My people, the mata no easy! But na our hand e dey.

Together, we can build a State that we can all be proud of. A State where every child no mata who im papa bi has access to quality education; where our streets are safe; where quality jobs abound; and where our economy is thriving. I cannot do it alone, I need your support.

I am committed to serving you with integrity, transparency, and dedication. I believe in the potential of Edo State and in the strength and resilience of our people. Let us work together to create the Edo State that we deserve. Join me in this mission to put Edo people first, to bring prosperity and development to our State, and to build a brighter future for all.

Your support and mandate will enable us to make this vision a reality.

Once again, I invite you to join me in this solemn task. Your votes for the Labour Party on 21st September 2024 will ignite this transformative journey! As your Governor, I will work with you to ensure that the future of Edo State and all her people is better than our today.

Indeed, Edo people must to mata, and with God on our side, Edo will be OK!

May God bless our Edo State.



THE TEAM

On this journey, I am fortunate to team up with my friend and a visionary, Alhaji Prince Yusuf Asamah Kadiri, SAN as my running mate.

Let me share a little information about myself and my running mate so that you know who we are and why we are passionate about this mission.



LABOUR PARTY





**OLUMIDE
OSAIGBOVO
AKPATA**

I am Olumide Osaigbovo Akpata. I am a lawyer by profession and now a politician. Until recently, I served as the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). Before that, I was a Senior Partner at Templars, one of Africa's top law firms, where I headed the Corporate and Commercial Practice.

I was born on October 7, 1972, in Berlin, Germany, to Dr. Henry Omorogieva Akpata and Late Mrs. Patience Osamagioghomwenwi Akpata (née Obasohan). My parents were students at the time, and I grew up in a family that valued education and hard work. My father, Dr. Akpata, is a medical doctor, and my mother was a nutritionist and dietitian. We moved back to Nigeria in the mid-70s and settled in Warri, old Bendel State where both my parents initially worked at the Government General Hospital.

I started my educational journey at Nana Primary School, Warri, then moved on to the Federal Government College, Warri and later King's College in Lagos. For my university education, I attended the University of Benin (UNIBEN), where I studied Law. It was at UNIBEN that my passion for Edo State developed into a desire to ensure that we preserve this jewel of a State. After completing my law programme, I proceeded to the Nigerian Law School in Lagos and was called to the Nigerian Bar on December 15, 1993. Thereafter, I participated in the National Youth Service Corps scheme and served in Kano State.

After NYSC, I joined the law firm of Dr. Mudiaga Odje & Co. in Warri, where I honed my legal skills under the mentorship of the late Dr. Mudiaga Odje, SAN, OFR. In 1996, I moved to Lagos to join Templars, a law firm founded by my cousin, Oghogho Akpata. Over the years, I worked my way up to become a Senior Partner, helping to grow Templars into a leading pan-African law firm with offices in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and Accra.

During my time at Templars, I was involved in several landmark transactions that shaped Nigeria's economic landscape. For instance, I advised the Bureau of Public Enterprises on restructuring the National Electric Power Authority, which led to the creation of several successor companies and the partial privatisation of the power sector. I also played a key role in the development and financing of the Azura Power West Africa Limited's \$1 billion greenfield independent power plant in Edo State, a project that I am particularly proud of, for its impact on my home state - our State.

In addition to my law practice, in July 2020, I was elected as the 30th President of the NBA after a keenly contested election making me the first non-Senior Advocate of Nigeria to occupy that exalted office in over 30 years. Till date, I remain the first and only non-litigator to have led the NBA as its President. This role allowed me to champion the cause of justice and the rule of law in

Nigeria. Under my leadership, the NBA regained its stature as a defender of democracy and human rights and the voice of the people. I introduced innovations that improved the welfare of lawyers and strengthened the legal profession in Nigeria.

In addition to piloting the affairs of the NBA, I significantly contributed to the legal profession and the system of administration of justice in Nigeria through my membership of various statutory bodies. Specifically, I served in various capacities in the following statutory bodies:

- Vice Chairman of the Council of Legal Education;
- Member of the National Judicial Council;
- Member of the Body of Benchers; and member of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Council, etc.

Beyond my active engagement as a lawyer, I have committed myself to contributing in other ways to the socio-economic development of my dear Edo State, and to Nigeria in general. For example, I served for many years as the Corporate Legal Advisor to His Royal Majesty, Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo Oba Ewuare II CFR, as well as the Secretary of the Benin Red Book Launch Committee.

I have served, in a non-executive capacity, on the boards of several private and public companies in Nigeria including serving as the Chairman of the Board of Allah Lakes PLC, a publicly traded company listed on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), which is currently engaged in cultivating an oil palm project in the Ologbo community of Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, Edo State.

I previously held the position of General Secretary of the Kings' College Old Boys Association ("KCOBA"). I am also an active member of University of Benin Alumni Association Worldwide ("UBAA") and was privileged to deliver the 46th / 47th Convocation Lecture of UNIBEN. I regularly contribute my expertise as a member of several think tanks, such as the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) and the United Nations Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (UN-NHF), where I am a pioneer member.

I enjoy spending quality moments with friends and family, as well as attending social gatherings. I am an avid traveller and find inspiration in reading biographies of distinguished personalities. I am an active member of several groups and social clubs, including the Benin Club 1931, Unuedo Renaissance Group, the Metropolitan Club, the Ikoyi Club 1938, and the Capital Club. I am a devoted family man, married, a devout Christian and a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God for over 20 years.



**ALHAJI PRINCE
YUSUF ASAMAH
KADIRI SAN**



Alhaji Prince Yusuf Asamah Kadiri is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). He is a renowned multiple award-winning commercial and disputes lawyer of international repute, an international arbitrator and mediator, an insolvency and corporate rescue practitioner, a philanthropist, a human capital development and community development enthusiast, and a leadership mentor, amongst others.

He is a Prince of the Ikelebe Royal Dynasty of Auchi Sacred Kingdom, born on 16th April 1969 to Alhaji Prince Z. O. Kadiri, a renowned educationist and community development leader (of the Kadiri Royal Family), and Hajia Princess F. M. Kadiri, also a renowned educationist and grassroots women mentor (née Prince DMJ Momoh of the Momoh Royal Family). Prince Asamah Kadiri is the Yerima of the Auchi Sacred Kingdom, duly turbaned by His Royal Highness, Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, Ikelebe III, the Otaru of Auchi Sacred Kingdom, on the 14th May 2021.

Asamah had his primary school education at Esigie Demonstration School Abudu (in Orhionmwon LGA in Edo State) and then finished at Uchi Primary School Auchi (in the then Etsako LGA in Edo State) with a Primary School Leaving Certificate. He started his secondary school education at Iyereku Grammar School Iyereku in South Ibie, and then continued at Ikpeshi Grammar School in Akoko-Edo LGA, and later finished at

Auchi Comprehensive High School Auchi (in the then Etsako LGA) with the WAEC West African School Certificate. He thereafter attended the Federal School of Arts and Science Sokoto, in Sokoto State where he obtained the GCE Advanced ("A") Levels.

At the higher educational levels, Asamah holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Degree from the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria; and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1995, after completing the Nigerian Law School programme. In furtherance of his appetite for higher educational and professional development and achievements, he has earned further postgraduate degrees from several renowned international institutions.

He attended the Boston University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, where he obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M) in International Business Law. He also holds an advanced Practice Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (DiplICarb) from Keeble College, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom (in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom).

In addition, he is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb.), United Kingdom (with specialisation in International Commercial Arbitration). He is also an accredited Commercial Mediator of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR),

United Kingdom; a Fellow of the Business Rescue and Insolvency Practitioners' Association of Nigeria (FBR - BRIPAN), an affiliate of INSOL International; a Capital Market Consultant accredited by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); a Member of the Chartered Institute of Directors (M.CIoD); a Cross-Border Insolvency and Corporate Rescue practitioner; as well as a renowned Business Ethics and Regulatory Compliance Advisor.

Asamah is a consummate commercial lawyer with extensive law practice experience spanning about three decades in diverse aspects of domestic and international commercial law. He was elevated to the prestigious rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) in 2020, the highest rank of distinction for a litigator in the legal profession.

Asamah is a devoted family man, married to Dr Maymunah Yusuf Kadiri (a Medical Doctor and Consultant Neuropsychiatrist and Psychotherapist), and they are blessed with children.





#EdoWillBeOk

ONE PARTY
ONE VISION





LABOUR PARTY

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