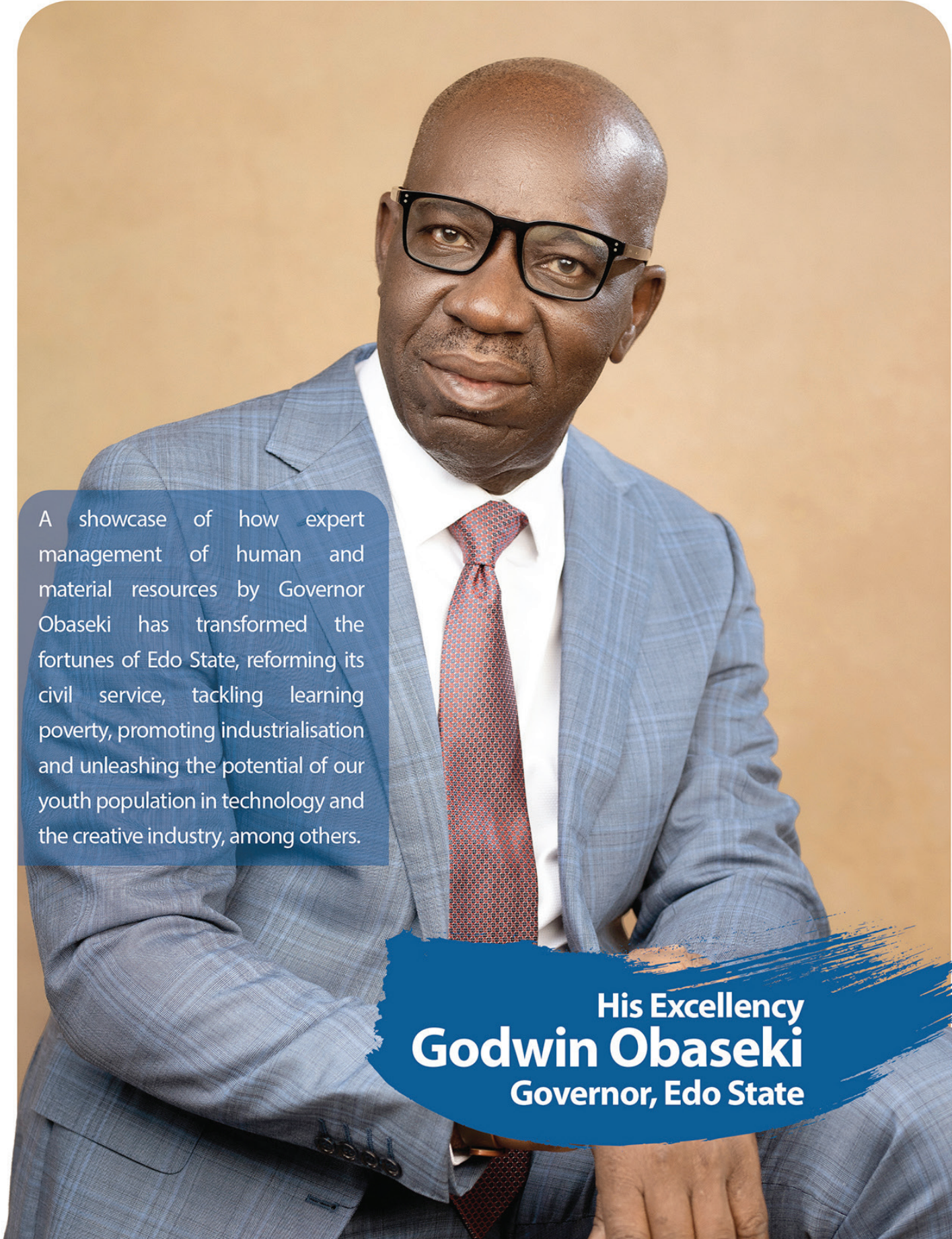


Vanguard

GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR 2021

A portrait of Godwin Obaseki, Governor of Edo State, wearing a blue checkered suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is wearing black-rimmed glasses and has a serious expression. The background is a solid light brown color.

A showcase of how expert management of human and material resources by Governor Obaseki has transformed the fortunes of Edo State, reforming its civil service, tackling learning poverty, promoting industrialisation and unleashing the potential of our youth population in technology and the creative industry, among others.

His Excellency
Godwin Obaseki
Governor, Edo State





OBASEKI, EDO'S TRAILBLAZER GOVERNOR

Since the past six years that Godwin Obaseki has been Governor of Edo State, the state has been transformed into a thriving industrial hub, breaking barriers that had hitherto stifled growth and development.

Governor Obaseki assumed office in 2016 with a manifesto focused on the Edo State Development Roadmap with a mission to achieve prosperity for the people of the state.

Deploying a rare knack for managing people and resources, the governor has made remarkable impact in education, healthcare, security, institutional transformation, infrastructure upgrade, and environmental regeneration, among others.

For his efforts, Edo State has topped charts on development, ranking as 2nd best-performing state in 2019 World Bank's portfolio performance award, with the most recent being the recognition of the governor as the 2021 Vanguard Governor of the Year.

The Godwin Obaseki-led administration works with a vision of making Edo a modern and progressive state where every citizen is empowered with the opportunity to live life in its fullness.

This has guided him and his team in designing and implementing intentional programmes and projects in the state.

With the slogan in his current tenure: Making Edo Great Again (MEGA), Edo is striving to become the most economically sustainable sub-national in Africa.

Edo State under Governor Obaseki works with a bold systemic approach to development captured in Six Thematic Pillars:

Economic Revolution

The economic goal of the Godwin Obaseki administration is guided by the Edo 30-Year Development Plan which leads its economic growth by exploring unique advantages in agriculture, manufacturing, knowledge economy, among others.

This is seen in the Edo State Oil Palm Programme (a multi-million-dollar public-private partnership); estab-



HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. GODWIN OBASEKI
GOVERNOR, EDO STATE

lishment of bus and trailer terminals located at the heart of the state connecting areas and the ongoing Benin River Port which will be vital in aiding both local and international trade. Edo State has proven to be the best place for public-private partnerships that work; a proof is the Edo Modular Refinery which has shown great success.

Infrastructural development

Infrastructural development in Edo is built on the framework of the ongoing Edo State Master and Regional Plan which guides the development of its built environment. Thousands of kilometres of roads and bridges have been constructed and public-private partnerships in its power sector has resulted in the Azura Power Plant (Largest Power Investment in Africa worth over \$1B), and Ossio-mo Power Plant (powers the government-owned buildings and street lights). Edo is continuously positioning its infrastructural stock to accommodate cross-cutting industrial activities. Access to water, especially in rural areas, affordable housing schemes and introduction of the EDOGIS, a body responsible for land administration, have made Edo State an ideal place to live and work. Edo boasts to be the most connected state in Nigeria with fibre-optic cables (in partnership with MainOne) distributed across thousands of kilometres in the state.

DEPLOYING A RARE
KNACK FOR MANAGING
PEOPLE AND RESOURCES,
THE GOVERNOR HAS
MADE REMARKABLE
IMPACT IN EDUCATION,
HEALTHCARE, SECURITY,
INSTITUTIONAL
TRANSFORMATION,
INFRASTRUCTURE
UPGRADE, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
REGENERATION, AMONG
OTHERS



L-R: Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki; Secretary to the State Government, Osarodion Ogie Esq, and Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Comrade Philip Shaibu, during a strategy session.

Institutional Reforms

Governor Obaseki views institutional reform as key for sustainable development in any society and as such has taken the bold step in reforming the Public/Civil Service in the state. This process has aided the revamp of infrastructure of administrative buildings, redefining of existing processes and introduction of technology for efficiency; remodelling organizational structures & reskilling, and influencing corporate culture to aid quality service delivery to the people of Edo state.

This move has boosted the confidence and attracted skilled young people into the Public/Civil Service.

Social Welfare Enhancement

The welfare improvement of Edo people remains a major priority for Godwin Obaseki's administration and is seen in his policies. The EDOBEST programme, an innovative reform in the education sector has equipped teachers with digital tools, aided synergy in curriculum, enabled administrative accountability and ease of teaching across schools in Edo State. The success of the programme has seen other states in the country and indeed other nations come to understudy the process and adopt the scheme.

Edo State Health Improvement Programme is another novel initiative by Governor Obaseki's administration that aids the affordable and decentralized healthcare system in the state. It is executed through the Edo Health Insurance Scheme. Edo Primary Healthcare Development Agency is the anchor for the state's grassroots healthcare service delivery in the state. The system is firmly supported by the Edo Health Education drive which has seen the establishment of the Edo State College of Nursing Sciences serving to equip the health sector with capable manpower.

In youth development, EdoJobs has been lauded for the

creation of 300,000 jobs in the last 5 years, systematically tackling unemployment.

Production Centres with 24hrs electricity have been established, aiding Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) boom in the state. Technology and Creative Hubs for reskilling and retooling young people in the state and linking them to job opportunities within and outside the country have also been a major credit to Governor Obaseki.

Edo welcomed the nation at the last National Sports Festival which showcased its world-class stadium and other sporting facilities. In driving grassroots sporting activities, Edo established 20 mini-stadia across local government areas in the state.

Environmental Sustainability

With the awareness of global warming, Godwin Obaseki's approach in addressing environmental challenges is seen in his 10-million-trees-in-10-years initiative which builds on institutionalizing tree-planting, and the Edo Water Storm Project, focused on tackling erosion challenges in the state.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

Edo State is known for its rich culture and is enhancing its arts, culture and tourism sector through institutional strengthening, establishment of the novel Edo Museum of West African Art (EMOWAA) and currently working with its royal institution and the Federal Government in canvassing for the return of stolen artefacts.

Godwin Obaseki and his team have set a pace for other sub-nationals in Africa and there is no doubt his leadership has engendered progress not only for Edo people but the nation as his approach gives insights to possibilities in socio-economic and political growth for any society.



14,000 Digital Teachers
Trained under EdoBEST Programme

EDUCATION SECTOR REFORMS

EdoBEST

Governor Godwin Obaseki's commitment to restoring education in Edo State back to its former glory and tackling learning poverty led to the launch of the Edo Basic Education Sector Transformation (EdoBEST) programme in April 2018.

EdoBEST leverages the transformative power of cutting-edge technology to deliver outstanding learning outcomes to school children across Edo State by better supporting their teachers.

Hinged on five critical pillars that encapsulate the goals of the reform, EdoBEST has equipped teachers with the tools and skills to execute a unique type of learning experience for children.

The programme has also bridged communication gaps between communities and schools, improved schools' infrastructure, strengthened the curriculum and improved learning outcomes among Edo State pupils.

For the impressive results

achieved with EdoBEST, Governor Obaseki was honoured with the 2019 Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) 'Best Performing Governor,' even as the state ranks as one of the top sub-nationals in the world tackling 'learning poverty'

Some of the achievements in strengthening the education system and improving its organisational capabilities include the digitization of school records, as the Edo State Basic Education Board (EdoSUBEB) created an online profile for every teacher and pupil in the primary school system, which has been extended to Junior Secondary Schools.

The state has restructured Local Government Education Authorities (LGEA) and appointed 18 Education Secretaries for the LGEAs.

Edo SUBEB has recruited Learning & Development Officers, Quality Assurance Officers and Social Mobilisation Officers to boost monitoring and evaluation. It has also introduced Basic Education Management Information System.

Data on EdoBEST

- Over 13,436 teachers and headteachers trained.
- Over 655 Education Managers and field staff trained on quality control
- Pupils record 70 percent fluency in reading
- 280,000 pupils and 25,000 progressive/junior secondary school students benefitting from scheme
- 230 schools across the state are being renovated
- 204 classrooms constructed
- 37,629 pupil desks and chairs distributed, and 32 fences constructed
- 11 million instructional materials distributed including exams materials, textbooks, posters, homework books, etc





Emotan Primary School, Oredo LGA, Edo State.

EDUCATION SECTOR REFORMS

Data-gathering in schools has become more efficient as e-profile of all pupils have been developed, complete with pictures and contact information as well as details of their parents/guardians. With system improvements, schools in the state are recording accelerated reading fluency of 70 per cent at par with that of high-income countries versus 25 per cent for other low-income countries within the first three years of implementation.

There is now enhanced communities' and civil society support for basic school improvement through a functional School-based Management Committees (SBMCs) to enhance community participation to improve basic education delivery in the state.

The EdoBEST@Home initiative was introduced amid the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the gains of the EdoBEST programme are not disrupted with the pandemic outbreak, leading to more impact and better engagement of parents/guardians in the learning process.

Tertiary Education

The Edo State Government has pursued a reformative policy for its tertiary



WITH SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, SCHOOLS IN THE STATE ARE RECORDING ACCELERATED READING FLUENCY OF 70 PER CENT; AT PAR WITH THAT OF HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES VERSUS 25 PER CENT FOR OTHER LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES WITHIN THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION



EDUCATION SECTOR REFORMS

educational institutions, with charges given to the schools' management to lift the institutions to international standards.

Governor Obaseki has restructured at least two institutions into a tripartite

campus structure. The Edo College of Education now has campuses in Abudu, Igubeen and Afuze while the Edo State College of Agriculture is to have campuses in Iguoriakhi, Agenebode and Uromi.

The Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma and the Edo University, Uzairue are being repositioned to become self-sustaining institutions, with a similar charge to the Edo State Polytechnic, Usen.



Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), Egor LGA, Edo State.



Administrative building of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Esan West LGA, Edo State.



Eveva Primary School, Okpella, Etsako East

CIVIL/PUBLIC SERVICE



Newly rebuilt Edo State Secretariat complex, Sapele Road, Benin City.

CIVIL/PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS

In the last five years, the Edo State Civil Service has undergone an unprecedented revamp, which has impacted greatly on the lives and productivity of the state's public workers.

Governor Obaseki pursued far-reaching institutional reforms that engender responsive and technology-driven service delivery and governance models, thereby tapping into the immense potential of technology to increase productivity of the state's workforce.

Salaries and Wages: N40,000 Minimum Wage

Governor Godwin on May 1, 2022, approved the implementation of N40,000 as new minimum wage and also inspected Edo Labour Complex, a sprawling facility housing all labour unions in the state.

Through prudent management of the state's resources, the governor ensures that all Edo workers and pensioners receive their salaries no later than the 26th of every month.

Pension Arrears and Contributory Pension Scheme

In the area of Pension and

Gratuities, the Obaseki-led government has expended N25bn in clearing the pension arrears of over 13,081 pensioners in the state between 2016 and 2020. The ugly scenarios of pensioners queuing up for endless hours at the Palm House Secretariat to receive their dues, with many dying in the process, have become a thing of the past.

Today, within two months of retirement, a worker in Edo State starts receiving his or her monthly pension payment while gratuity payment is also done in a seamless process.

The Edo state government has also implemented the Contributory Pension Scheme, as against the Derived Benefits Scheme. This ensures that civil servants are well-catered for after their active years in service.

The state has further initiated a Group Life Insurance policy for its civil servants and has paid a total sum of N469m to families of deceased civil servants, just as it has cleared all outstanding pension arrears of retirees.

Data on Civil Service Reforms

- N25bn pension arrears paid from 2016 to 2020
- N469m paid for Group Life Insurance
- Over 3000 new staff recruited into the civil and public service
- Only state to implement 40,000 minimum wage
- Promotions up to date as at 2022





Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (right) with Edo civil servants during a capacity building workshop at the John Odigie-Oyegun Public Service Academy in GRA, Benin City, Edo State.

CIVIL/PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS

Promotions

In line with his governance methods, His Excellency has engendered a merit-based system of promotion in the state's public service. Keeping the workforce fully energized and motivated, promotions are no longer given by virtue of cronyism and nepotism but by standard administrative metrics which guarantee productivity and transparency in the service.

Infrastructure

The Blocks 'C' and 'D' buildings at the State Secretariat Complex on Sapele Road, abandoned for over 45 years, have now been completely reconstructed to give befitting space to workers. This has boosted their efficiency in the service. Modern equipment has also been deployed to these offices to keep pace with 21st century development.

Edo-STEP

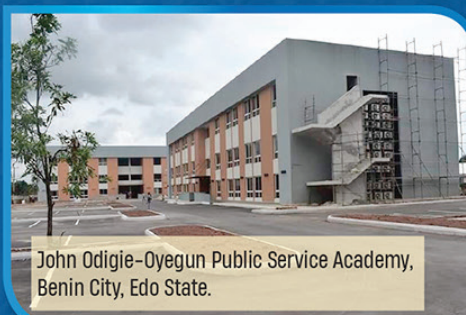
The governor's wholistic approach to engendering change in the civil and public service is captured under the Edo State Civil and Public Service Transformation and Enhancement Programme (EdoSTEP).

The programme is designed to improve efficiency and service delivery with sustainable reforms, modern and best practices in public service. It provides for an e-governance support

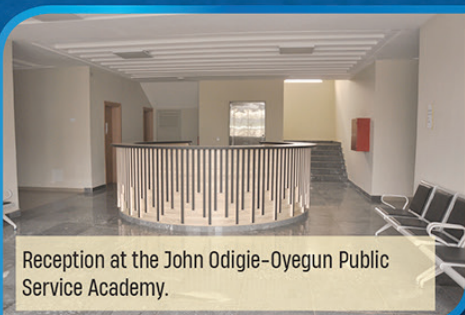
system that has ensured the digitization of government processes.

The John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy was established for capacity build-

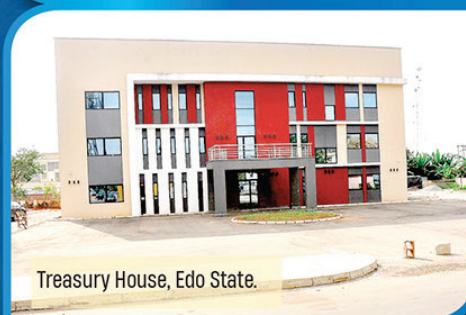
ing through year-long continuous professional training and retraining, inculcating a new ethos and work culture in civil servants to enhance the delivery of public services.



John Odigie-Oyegun Public Service Academy, Benin City, Edo State.



Reception at the John Odigie-Oyegun Public Service Academy.



Treasury House, Edo State.



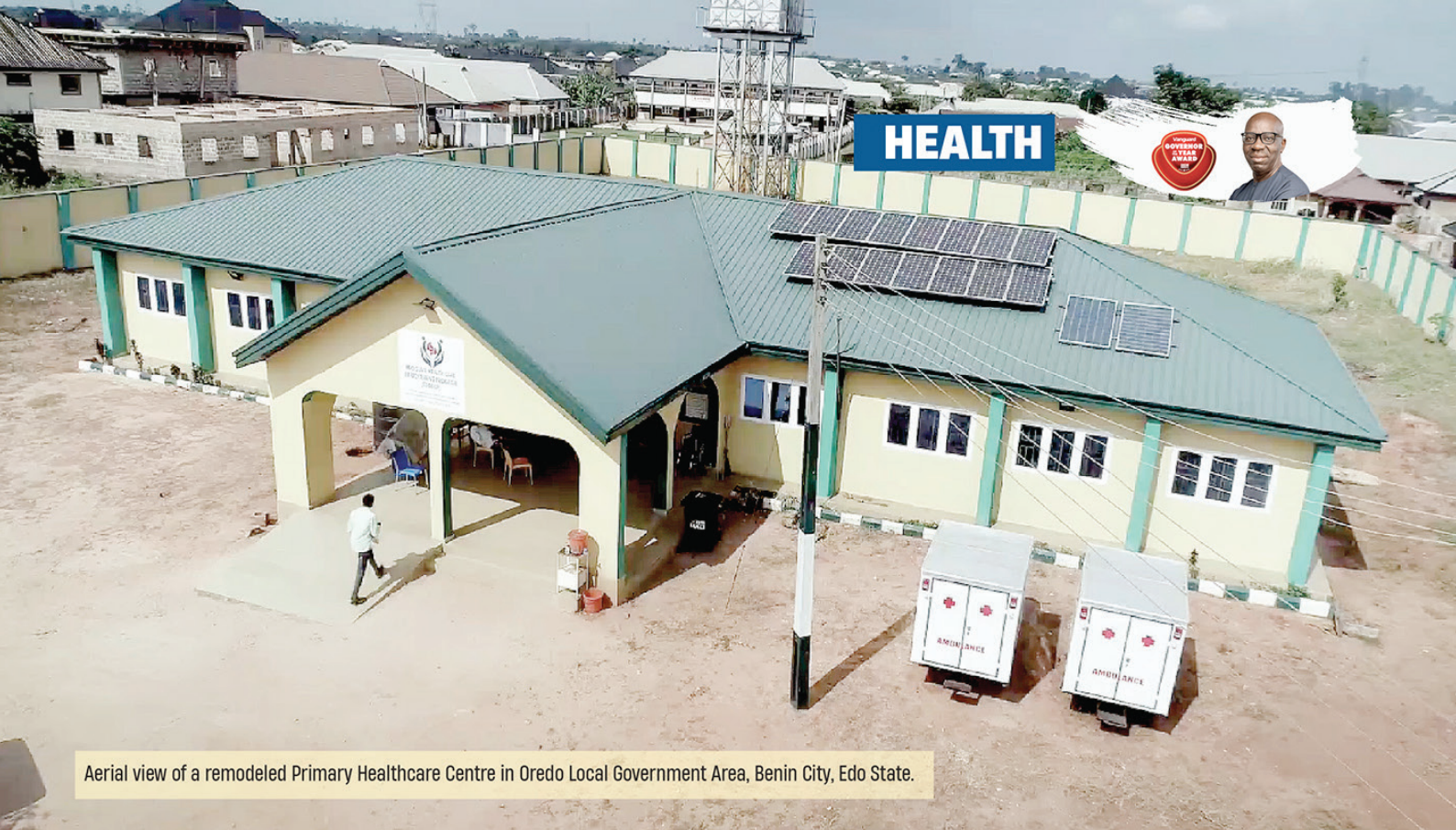
One of the Training Rooms at John Odigie-Oyegun Public Service Academy.



A cafeteria at John Odigie-Oyegun Public Service Academy.



Lobby of the Civic Centre, Edo State Secretariat



Aerial view of a remodeled Primary Healthcare Centre in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State.

HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS

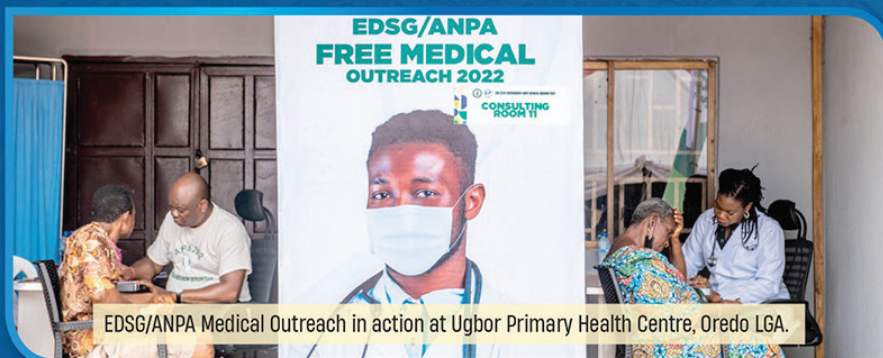
Governor Obaseki's expansive footprint in the health sector is one that is as transformational as it is groundbreaking. The reforms are anchored on a decentralized healthcare structure that brings affordable and quality healthcare services to the people regardless of where they reside in the state.

In the last six years, the Governor embarked on comprehensive healthcare reforms, touching all levels of healthcare delivery and tackling the age-old challenges in the sector such as the dearth of modern medical equipment, decaying health infrastructure, inadequate personnel and poor funding.

Governor Obaseki is rigorously pursuing the decentralization of the healthcare system, ensuring the expansion of healthcare services to more remote locations across the state, so that no matter how far people live from the city centres, they will be able to access quality and affordable healthcare.

The seismic shift is being witnessed in the repositioning of the healthcare system in Edo State with the upgrade of primary healthcare centres across the 18 local councils in the state, equipping them with world-class equipment and manpower to guarantee the delivery of efficient, affordable and quality healthcare services to Edo people.

The government's plan is to have at least one



EDSG/ANPA Medical Outreach in action at Ugbor Primary Health Centre, Oredo LGA.

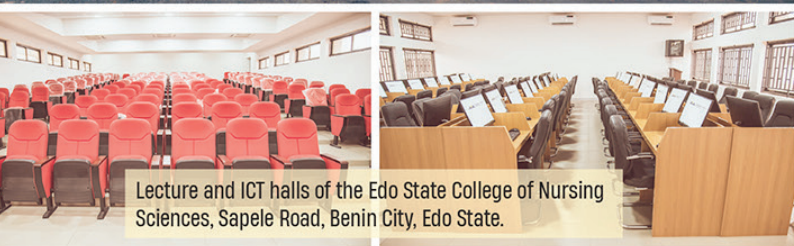
Data on Health

- 54 Primary Healthcare Centres constructed
- 5,000 benefited from Edo/ANPA medical outreach
- 500 surgical interventions at Edo Specialist Hospital (ESH)
- 300 surgical interventions at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH)
- 9 VVF surgeries done
- 2,500 free medicated eyeglasses distributed
- 35,129 enrolled in Health Insurance Scheme
- Over 500 units capacity bedspace for infectious diseases emergencies
- 18 ventilators procured to tackle cardiovascular emergencies





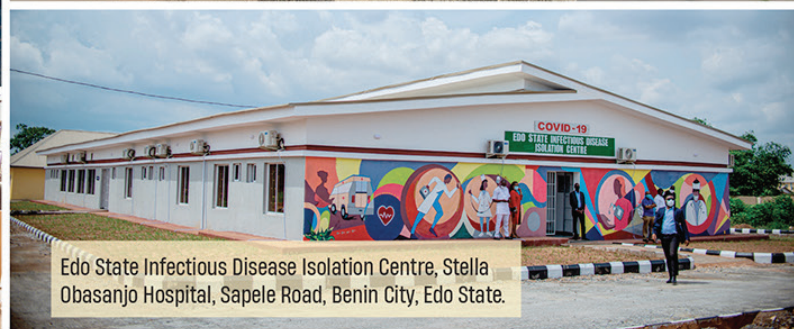
Edo State College of Nursing Sciences, Sapele Road, Benin City, Edo State.



Lecture and ICT halls of the Edo State College of Nursing Sciences, Sapele Road, Benin City, Edo State.



Edo Specialist Hospital, Ring Road, Oredo LGA.



Edo State Infectious Disease Isolation Centre, Stella Obasanjo Hospital, Sapele Road, Benin City, Edo State.

HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS

primary healthcare centre in every ward in Edo with well-trained staff and technology that tracks the quality of service rendered, with specialized healthcare facilities to take care of patients referred from the primary healthcare centres.

Currently, at least two primary healthcare centres in each local council in the state have been provided with solar-powered systems and potable water supply. Keeping up with medical advancements, the state's PHCs have been migrated to telemedicine infrastructure and practice to reduce physical presence in health institutions.

The government has embarked on a massive expansion of the Central Hospital in Benin City to conform to a 21st Century health care centre as part of efforts to consolidate the gains recorded in the primary health care system. With a section of the hospital currently merged with the Edo Specialist Hospital and other sections relocated to the Stella Obasanjo Hospital where massive construction work is also currently ongoing, secondary health care needs of Edo people will be adequately catered for.

The Stella Obasanjo Hospital, formerly a mother and child hospital, is being expanded to provide other services including oncology, cardiology, nephrology, physiotherapy, and rehabilitation therapy.

As part of a grand design for an improved health system, the Governor has made plans to construct a specialist hospital in each of the three senatorial districts of Edo State.

Edo under Obaseki has also redeployed and redistributed the Local Government Staff working in the Primary Healthcare Centres across the state to the Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency to achieve efficient and effective delivery of primary healthcare services in the PHCs, as the personnel are now better organized to attend to the needs of the people.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state government under the leadership of Governor Obaseki embarked on the systemic rebuilding of a more resilient system involving all relevant stakeholders in the state's healthcare system to respond to the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19.

As a response to the pandemic, the state government undertook an overhaul of the state health system, constructing over 300-bed capacity isolation centres spread across different health facilities in the state, with the Stella Obasanjo Hospital contributing over 42-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and 156-bed holding facility; UBTH with 48-bed ICU-equipped isolation centre, and others at the ISTH, Auchi General Hospital and Ogbe Nursing Home in GRA, Benin City.

The state acquired five PCR machines; 10,000 Viral Transport Medium (TVM); 28 ventilators, mobile x-ray machines, and oxygen concentrators, among others.

The Edo State College of Nursing Sciences, a model tertiary education institution to produce top-of-the-range health personnel in the state has now been revamped and reac-



HEALTH



An ultramodern laboratory at the Edo State College of Nursing Sciences, along Sapele Road, Benin City, Edo State.

HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS

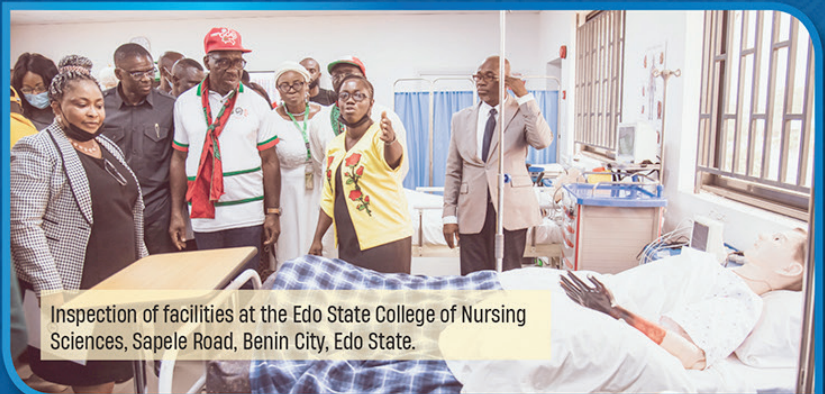
credited to offer 3-year nursing programmes by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN). This college used to be the Edo State School of Nursing and Midwifery, which was an eyesore when the governor took office.

The revamp process has seen the rebuilding of the school and its restructuring into a college specializing in nursing science. New lecture halls have been erected; offices have been remodeled; laboratories have been fitted with state-of-the-art equipment and a new management structure has taken foot.

The Edo State Health Insurance Scheme, an initiative by the state government to reduce out-of-pocket spending for health services has been transformed to become the financing engine of the state's healthcare system. The state through the Edo State Health Insurance Commission has, since August 2019 when the commission was established, enrolled over 35,129 persons into its Health Insurance Scheme.

In a renewed effort to ensure quality healthcare for citizens, the governor recently entered a partnership with Association of Nigeria Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) for a five-day free medical outreach for residents.

Over 5,000 Edo residents benefitted from the medical mission which includes free surgical interventions and treatments for heart, kidney, eye and other ailments. The programme is to be expanded to include telemedicine operations delivered through the support of the broadband internet connection and the e-medicine equipment in the PHCs across the state.



Inspection of facilities at the Edo State College of Nursing Sciences, Sapele Road, Benin City, Edo State.





SAFETY & SECURITY



Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (third left) taking delivery of an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) in Government House, GRA, Benin City, Edo State.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The surge in economic activities and investment in Edo State is not a mere happenstance. In the last five years of the Obaseki-led administration, there has been a boom of new players in the creative and entertainment industry, the retail and hospitality sectors, among others, all of which are testaments to the premium placed on security by the state government.

Since 2016 when he emerged as the state's helmsman, Obaseki has initiated bold and courageous reforms in security management, ensuring that the state is safe and investors who come to do business are secure and provided with the enabling environment to succeed.

Today, Edo is not only the darling of investors being the safest and most secure

states to live and do business, but now a model for other sub nationals in Africa on how governments can boost economic growth and development by strengthening security.

The governor in developing a robust security system took into cognizance the peculiar challenges faced by the people, evolving a public safety system that is anchored on citizen participation with a bottom-up structure, such that citizens are actively engaged in protecting and securing their immediate communities in collaboration with the government.

Working with other members of his team, the governor mobilized communities and security agencies in the state in activating a community policing model that involved local vigilantes, who collaborate with security agencies to provide intelligence. This development has in no small measures forestalled crime and criminality in major cities, towns and communities across the state.

As part of Governor Obaseki's vision of putting in place a world-class security architecture in Edo State, a Security Management Information



Operational vehicles for Edo State Security Vigilante Network



Patrol vehicles for state security initiative (Operation Wabaizigan)



Gun and speed boats for patrol on waterways and riverine communities in Edo State.



Newly trained PUWOF officers

SAFETY & SECURITY



A jetty and Marine Police Post, at Ologbo, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area (LGA), Edo State

SAFETY AND SECURITY

System to provide content and information data-base on security issues in and outside Edo State.

Besides setting up a comprehensive security architecture and network, including a well equipped network of local vigilantes, Obaseki has demonstrated unwavering commitment towards the welfare of Edo people by boosting security in the state through the deployment of crime-fighting technology. Today the Edo State Command and Control Centre is fully digitised, granting citizens direct access to government in times of distress.

In addition to several other projects to improve the state's security architecture, a Marine Police Base has been built in Gelegele, a riverine port and gateway to the state; armoured gun boats and speed boats have been procured and deployed to patrol and effectively deter criminal activities and illegal bunkering along the coastal areas and creeks at the southern

part of Edo State. Invariably, this intervention has curbed the criminal activities in their area of the Niger Delta.

To build the human capacity to drive the state's security architecture, Governor Obaseki is collaborating with the Nigerian Police Force to improve the training facilities at the Ogida Police Barrack Training School, ensuring the building a world-class facility that would help in the training of officials of the state's Vigilante Security Network, the state's Constabulary, members of the Public Work Volunteer (PUWOV) and other outfits.

The state-of-the-art facility which is nearly completed will house classrooms, hostels, halls, and drill facilities for the training of security operatives. The governor's idea is to be able to complement the Federal Security system with a force of not less than 10,000 men and women to guarantee peace, security and order in the state.

Data on Security

- N2 billion Security Trust Fund launched.
- 4 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) procured;
- 90 patrol vehicles & 50 patrol cars
- 2 fire trucks for emergency response
- 40 pick-up patrol vans,
- 3 modern and multipurpose ambulances were deployed to sustain security in the state.
- 5 special security checkpoints manned at all the entry and exit points in the state;
- Special Patrol Units (land and waterways);
- Integrated Electronic City Surveillance Unit,
- Establishment of a Special Force unit/anti-kidnapping squad, establishment of K-9-unit
- 5,000 Public Works Volunteers (PUWOV) workforce and a community police radio network.





Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (third left) and Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele (third right) during the launch of the N69bn Edo State Oil Palm Programme (ESOPP), in Benin City, Edo State

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REFORMS

The Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration is pursuing an aggressive agricultural development programme, with a focus on meeting the aspirations of all stakeholders in the value chain, from smallholder farmers to large, commercial farmers.

With a commitment to ensuring food security and preserving the state's forest assets, the governor deployed initiatives to promote mechanisation, infrastructural development and commercial plantation agriculture.

To mechanise agriculture in the state, the government established a Mechanisation Hub via Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement which led to the procurement of tractors and harvesters to boost agricultural production and reduce drudgery.

The state also procured three units of mobile grain dryers to reduce post-harvest losses, maintain grain viability and vigour during storage. The governor has also revived the Urhonigbe Rubber Estate.

Infrastructural Development

The state government is reconstructing the Edo State College of

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Iguoriakhi, including a 250-seater Lecture Theatre, 1,000 seat auditorium and a dual-carriage entrance.

There is also the ongoing construction work on the Edo Agricultural Development Hub, comprising administrative building (Ministry, ADP and Donor Project offices), state-of-the-art agricultural processing factory, farm mechanisation hub, pig and poultry production prototype buildings, and Produce/Soil Laboratory

An input warehouse is also being constructed to support agricultural production at the hub.

Edo State Oil Palm Programme (ESOPP)

In diversifying the state's economic base, one of the laudable achievements of the Obaseki-led administration is the Edo State Oil Palm Programme (ESOPP).

The governor is committed to de-risking investment in the oil palm sector with the development of an oil palm policy which creates access to unencumbered land; rejuvenating the sector as a catalyst for job creation, encouraging secondary and tertiary production which ultimately

Data on Agriculture

- Cultivated over 120,000 hectares of land, the largest oil palm plantations under cultivation in Nigeria.
- Attracted over \$500 million investment in the oil palm sector.
- Set to locally produce over 1,000,000MT of CPO by 2030
- Multiplication and distribution of 50,000 cashew seedlings to farmers in Edo State
- Multiplication of 10,000 improved cacao seedlings for distribution to farmers
- Attracted N5.1bn in rubber plantation





Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki inspecting a maize farm in Sobe, Owan West Local Government Area (LGA), Edo State.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REFORMS

promotes the incursion of industries such as pharmaceuticals; beauty and skin care; and agro-allied industries into the state.

In achieving this, the state is leveraging on its comparative advantage of being with-in the oil palm belt.

Major investors that have partnered with the Edo State Government on ESOPP include Saro Africa, ARPN, Agripalm, Fayus, Saturn, Farmforte, Barnsey, and Loquat.

Edo Agripreneur Programme

The Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration has expanded the state's agripreneur programme to cover piggery, poultry, cassava and oil palm production, in more locations.

Some notable initiatives of the Agripreneur programme include support to catfish production empowering over 150 youths in Uzea, Uteh, Uniben, Temboga, Irrua and Benin City; distribution of cheques to 23 farmers in Agbe-de cluster who made profit in rice production; multiplication and distribution of 50,000 cashew seedlings to farmers in Edo State.

Others are multiplication of 10,000 improved cacao seedlings by EDSG for distribution to farmers and empowerment scheme through innovative approach in which 20 beneficiaries were supported with mushroom enterprise in collaboration with Foare Global LCC.

Governor Godwin Obaseki, planting a tree at the Urhonigbe Rubber Plantation, Orhionmwon LGA





An aerial view of remodeled 20,000 capacity Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium along Stadium Road in Benin City.

WOMEN, YOUTH AND SPORTS

The Edo State Government under the leadership of Governor Obaseki is taking deliberate steps to engender inclusive and sustainable development, providing opportunities for women and youths to realize their fullest potential.

Obaseki is described as the most women-friendly governor and has more women occupying top positions in his government (over 40 percent) which affords the state the opportunity to leverage their creative thinking and innate potential to build a better and inclusive society.

The government has pushed for radical changes in the way society values women and vulnerable persons, by passing the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law as well as providing support and structures for rape victims in the state. Through the First Lady's office, the state has deepened advocacy against Gender-based Violence (GBV), through the establishment of a Sex Offenders Register and the Vivian Ogu Sexual Assault Referral Centre,

with Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki, chairing the state's Gender-Based Violence Management Committee.

Through Edojobs, the state has continued to train and empower more women and youths in the state, encouraging them to tap into the potential of digital technologies.

Over 5,000 women and 50,000 youths have benefitted from various training programmes on in-demand tech skills in fields such as Web Development Fundamentals, Data Analytics Fundamentals and Digital Marketing Fundamentals, among others.

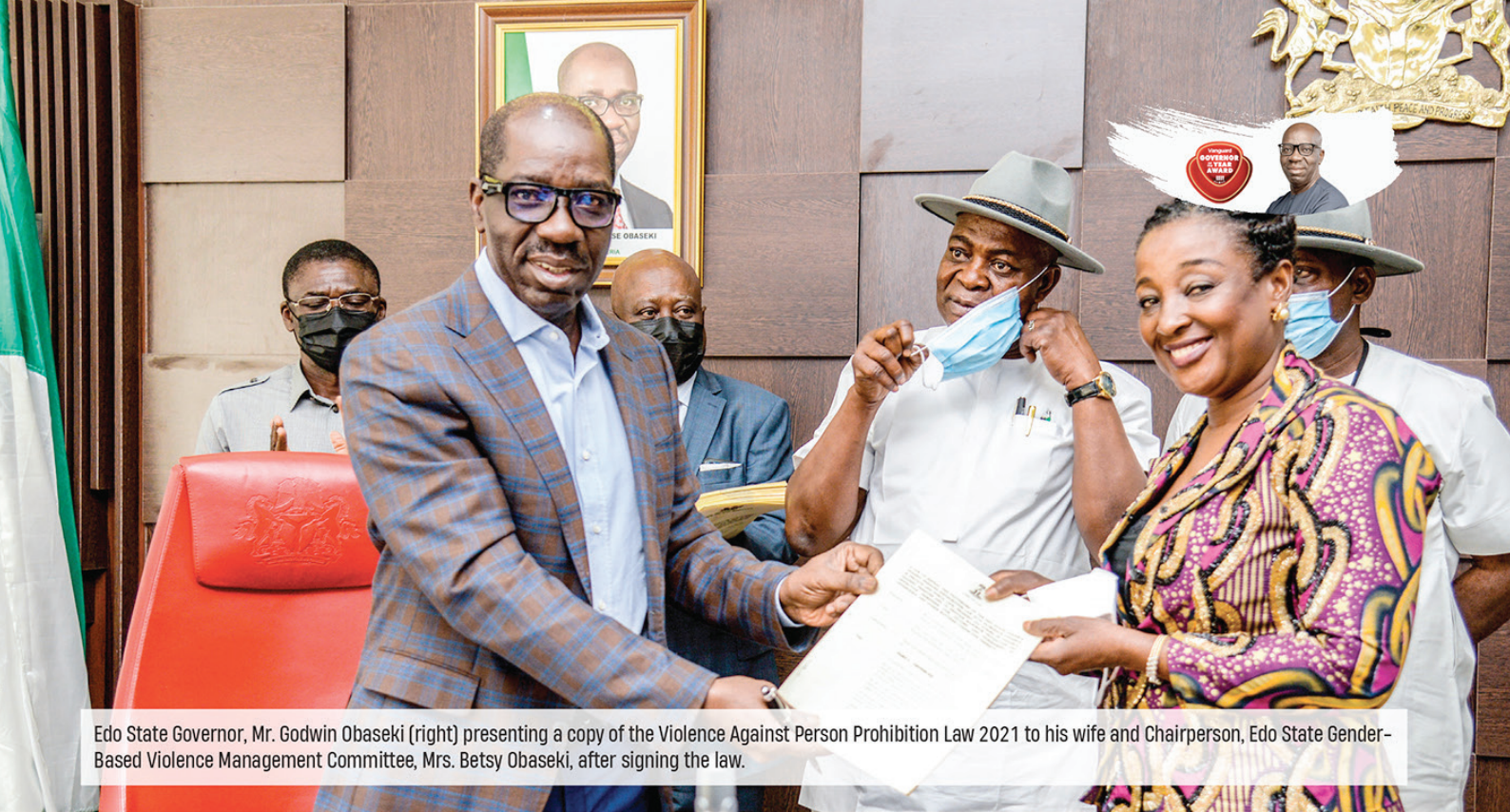
In the past six years of Godwin Obaseki's government, sports and youth development have continued to enjoy a new lease of life, with Edo State witnessing the re-birth of an industry that delivers massive social and economic dividends to the people.

The state has developed and supported numerous activities and programmes to engage youths and women very early in life, to get them interested in sports and participate actively

Data on Women, Youth and Sports

- 5,000 women trained
- Over 50,000 youths trained on ICT
- Over 6,000 Libya returnees rehabilitated and reintegrated into society
- Edo is off the list of top five originating states for human trafficking victims
- 20,000 capacity Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium reconstructed
- 20 mini stadia constructed across the state





Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (right) presenting a copy of the Violence Against Person Prohibition Law 2021 to his wife and Chairperson, Edo State Gender-Based Violence Management Committee, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki, after signing the law.

WOMEN, YOUTH AND SPORTS

in different sporting activities.

The revamp of the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium is a perfect example of the government's unprecedented investment in sports. The world class Stadium hosts an Olympic-standard swimming pool, new four-in-one tennis court and spectators' stands, a two-storey secretariat building, a squash court, weightlifting and Para-powerlifting halls, which is attached to the main bowl, and a suspended gymnasium hall for weightlifting, kickboxing and boxing, among other facilities.

Aside from the total revamp of the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, the state has built mini-stadia across the state to further broaden the scope of sports development in the state.

Edo also established the Edo Sports Commission to drive the administration's sports development plan and encourage private sector participation.

Another win for sports under Governor Obaseki is the recognition of the 10-kilometer annual long-distance running, the Okpekpe Race by the International Association of Athletics Federation, IAAF, as a Silver Label status event. It is the first in the country and continent, till date.



Unveiling of Coach Wemimo Matthew as the Team Coach of Edo Queens.



OVER 5,000 WOMEN AND 50,000 YOUTHS HAVE BENEFITTED FROM VARIOUS TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON IN-DEMAND TECH SKILLS IN FIELDS SUCH AS WEB DEVELOPMENT FUNDAMENTALS, DATA ANALYTICS FUNDAMENTALS AND DIGITAL MARKETING FUNDAMENTALS, AMONG OTHERS.



Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (3rd from left), with victims of human trafficking, in Benin City, Edo State capital.

WOMEN, YOUTH AND SPORTS

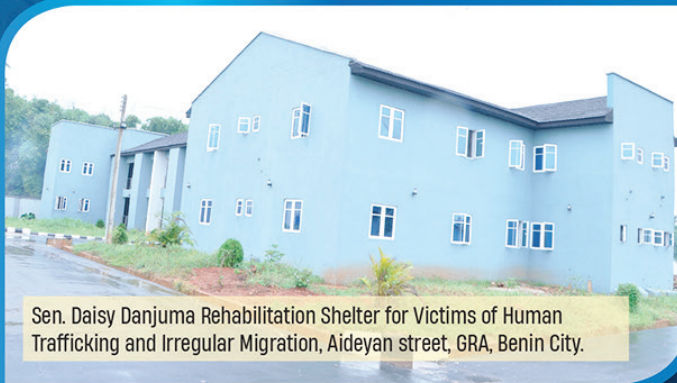
Governor Obaseki's reintegration and rehabilitation programme for victims of human trafficking and illegal migration has led to the return of many Edo youths, who were stranded in Libya, European countries and other parts of Africa.

Over 6,000 returnees have been received by the state government. On arriv-

al, the returnees were provided with initial accommodation before reintegrating with their families, while others found solace in the entrepreneurship and farm initiatives of the state government.

To set the ground work for this and working in collaboration with the Oba of Benin palace, the governor set up the Edo

State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT) enabled by the Edo State Trafficking in persons Prohibition Law (2018), which provides an effective and comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of human trafficking and related offenses in Edo State.



Sen. Daisy Danjuma Rehabilitation Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration, Aideyan street, GRA, Benin City.



Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki (left) advocating for vulnerable persons.



Edo State Governor (middle) with graduands of a skills acquisition programme for victims of human trafficking in Benin City, Edo State.



Bayelsa Queens, crowned winners of 2021 Betsy Obaseki Women Football Tournament.



Governor Godwin Obaseki (middle), with other officials of the State Government at the handing over of the Edo State High Court Complex to the judiciary in Benin City.

LAW, JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS

Determined to ensuring the supremacy of the rule of law and maintaining order in the state, the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led government has prioritised reforms in the judiciary.

The newly built blocks of the State High Court Complex are landmark projects that transformed the state's judiciary, even as residential quarters comprising units of condominiums for the state's high court judges have been completed. This is in fulfilment of Obaseki's earlier promise to provide decent and comfortable housing for senior judiciary workers.

The Industrial Court Complex in Benin City, the first of such in the South-South geopolitical region, has been completed and furnished. It has since commenced operation, saving lawyers and litigants in the state the inconvenience of travelling out of the state for legal cases relating to industrial disputes.

The state has also recruited stenographers to ease the administration of justice, with the new recruits ensuring that records are electronically kept by the courts in the state.

The state government has also set up the Small Claims Court, which ensures that business disputes are heard and settled speedily, promoting trade and investment in the state.

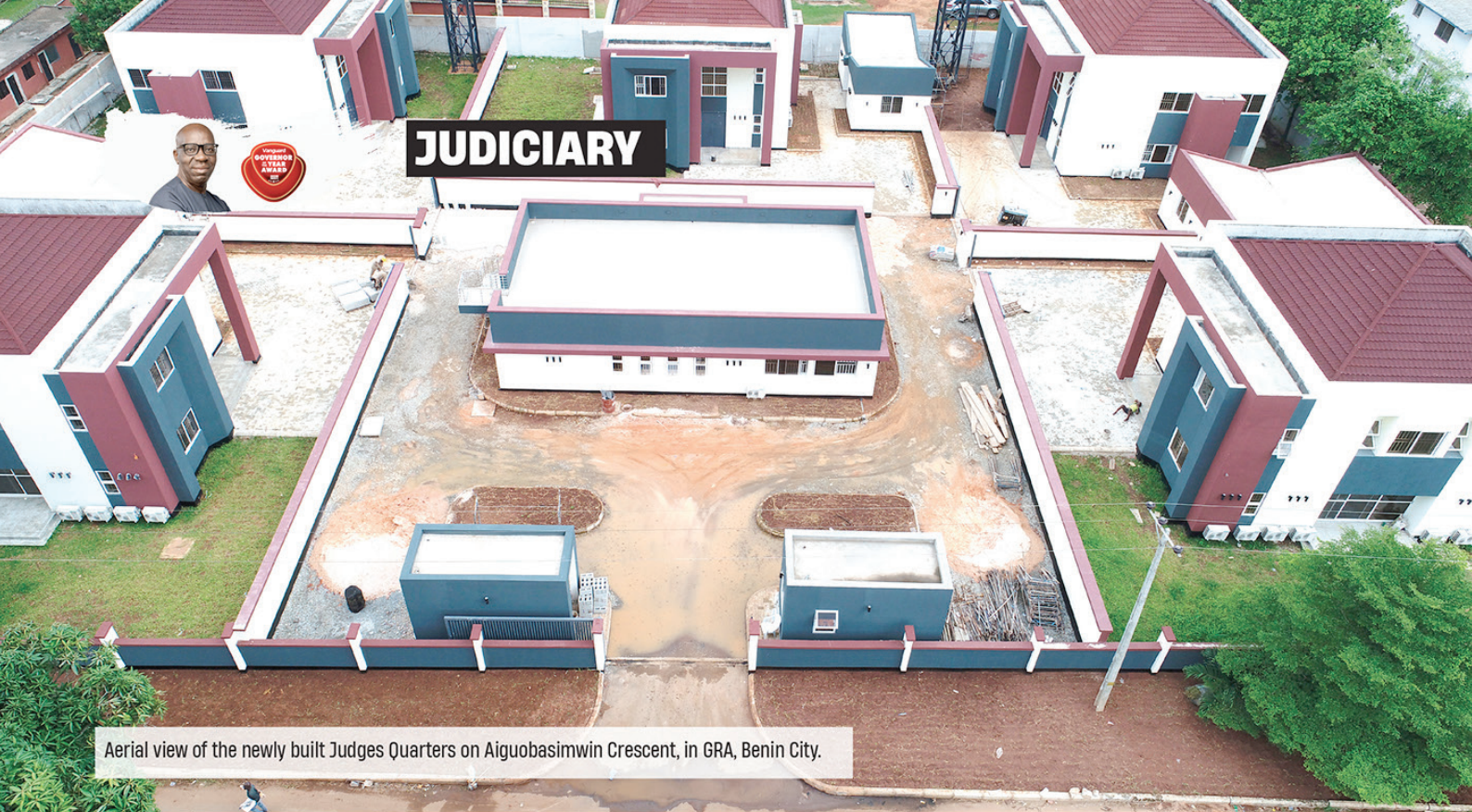


New High Court buildings, High Court Road, Benin City, Edo State.

Data on Judiciary Reforms

- Condominium complex for judges
- Small Claims court constructed and operational
- Industrial Court constructed and operational
- New High Court constructed
- 300 Stenographers employed and trained
- Reconstruction of court rooms and offices
- Prompt payment of salaries and emoluments





JUDICIARY

Aerial view of the newly built Judges Quarters on Aiguobasimwin Crescent, in GRA, Benin City.

LAW, JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS



National Industrial Court, Benin constructed by Edo State Government.



National Industrial Court, Benin constructed by Edo State Government.



Interior of National Industrial Court, Benin constructed by Edo State Government.



Edo Modular Refinery
Ologbo, Ikpoba Okha LGA.

ENERGY SECTOR

Governor Obaseki proved his dexterity as an investment guru with the manner in which he has courted investors and attracted landmark projects in providing solutions that continue to elude erstwhile governments both at state and national levels, reinforcing Edo State's position as a pace-setting subnational.

The governor recognised that diversification of the nation's economy and industrialisation will only be a pipe-dream if challenges bedevilling the energy and power sectors are not frontally tackled.

Driven by a vision to make the state self-sustaining in power supply, he entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Osiomo Power Company.

Today, courtesy of the 95MW state-backed Osiomo Power Company, government offices and hospitals, as well as streetlights in Benin metropolis; Emotan Gardens Estate, Edo Tech Park, Edo Creative Hub, among others, all

enjoy 22-24 hours of stable electricity supply daily. Nothing close to this feat can be found anywhere else in Nigeria. The power is being extended to the Edo Enterprise and Industrial Park to spur industrialisation.

While the nation continues to grapple under the economic and financial burden of non-functional refineries, within six years of his administration, Obaseki's private sector initiative has midwived the construction of two refineries in Edo State; the 6,000 barrels per day (bpd) Edo Modular Refinery, and the first integrated energy park in Nigeria – Duport Energy Park with 2,500bpd modular refinery, a CNG gas processing plant, 10 megawatts power plant, and a data house.

The construction of the power plant and the refineries in Edo has changed the narrative in their respective sectors in Nigeria, and has provided jobs for and up-skilled thousands of Edo youths.

Data on Energy

- 95MW Osiomo Power Plant operational
- 6000bpd Edo Modular Refinery completed
- 2,500bpd Modular Refinery by Duport Midstream Limited ongoing
- 200km of streetlight across Benin metropolis operational
- 22-24 hours power supply to govt offices, streetlights





ENERGY

Aerial view of the Ossimo Power Plant in Ologbo, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, Edo State.

ENERGY SECTOR



L-R: Governor Godwin Obaseki, Managing Director, Ossimo Power Company, Dr. Uwa Igiehon discussing with two consultants at the Ossimo Power plant in Ologbo, Ikpoba Okha LGA, Edo State



Generators at the Ossimo Power plant in Ologbo, Ikpoba Okha LGA, Edo State





*Construction of underground drainage system
Egor, LGA.*



ENVIRONMENT

Since the inception of the Obaseki-led administration, concerted efforts have been made to protect the environment and engender environmental sustainability.

The government is implementing a coherent plan to balance environmental sustainability with livelihoods and strategically reclaim its expansive forest lands, in partnership with private stakeholders. The state has embarked on a reforestation programme to have ten million trees planted in Edo State, over the next decade.

So far, the government has restored 218 hectares of forest land across the state, in furtherance of efforts to boost the state's green economy.

Also, as part of the Edo State Oil Palm Programme, investors are mandated to restore 20% of total land area allocated to them for plantation agriculture.

The state has sent the Edo State Parks and Garden Agency Bill and Edo State Forestry Commission Bill to the Edo State House of Assembly for consideration, to ensure the efficient management and preservation of the state's for-

est assets, and a more serene and healthier environment through the maintenance of functional parks and gardens, as well as planting of trees.

Edo is currently addressing gully erosion issues in Gapiona, Oshiobgie-Auchi, and Iguosa by executing remediation measures through the Nigeria Erosion Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP). Other areas that received government attention include Ekehuan, Ogiso, Urora, Fugar-Agenebode, Ewu, Emu, Ibore, Emu-Ohordua and Queen Ede gullies in Benin City. This is aimed at preventing further erosion and destruction of public and private infrastructure and potential agricultural land.

As a part of the programme, Edo NEWMAP has constructed over 40km of secondary drains across the state to check flooding. This excludes over 400km constructed by other ministries and agencies; over 14kms of primary stormwater culverts, drains and over 4km of earth storm water channels. This is more than what has been done by any other government in the history of the state.

Data on Environment

- 10 million trees to be planted for forest regeneration
- Restored over 218 hectares of forest land
- 40km of secondary drains constructed by NEWMAP
- 400km of secondary draining constructed by other MDAs
- 14km of primary water culverts constructed
- 4km of earth stormwater channels





ROADS

Irhue-Oke-Uhiere Road off, Benin-Ekpoma Expressway, Uhumwode Local Government Area of Edo State.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

As a government committed to building a total society, the Obaseki-led government keenly focused on building infrastructure to drive development. It is against this backdrop that it committed a huge bulk of its resources to developing road infrastructure to enhance access to rural areas, open up new towns and consolidate on its urban renewal vision.

The state has built over 600 roads, which stretch for 4000km under government's various Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs), including the Ministry of Roads and Bridges; the Edo State Employment and Expenditure for Result (SEEFOR) Plus.

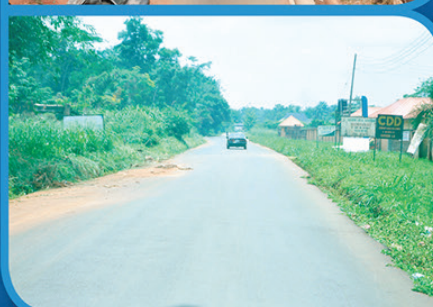
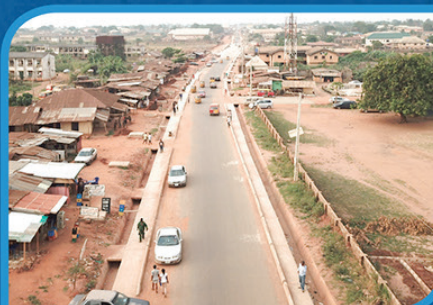
Some of these include the dualisation of Ekehuan Road and construction of Irhiri-Aruogba-Obazagbon-Oghoghe Road; Ugbor Amagba Road; St. Saviour Road; Benin-Abraka Road with spurs; rehabilitation of Benin-Iguobuzuwa-Ogbese Road.

In Edo North, the roads include Agbe-de-Awain Road and Afokpella-Ogriga-Okugbe road with Awuyemi Spur. We are rehabilitating Secretariat Road, Igarra; Imeke Township Road, Jattu and Bank Road, Agenebode, among several others.

In Edo Central, some of the projects include rehabilitation of old Agbor Road-Ugbegun; Ekpon-Ubiaja Road; Angle 80-Illushi; Ewohimi Uselu Junction-Okaigben; Opoji-Ugbegun Road; Akia Roundabout and the reconstruction of Erewele Street and Eguare-Irrua.

Data on Road Infrastructure

- 600 roads constructed
- 4,000km of roads across three senatorial districts
- 400km of secondary drainage constructed
- 14km of primary water culverts constructed
- 100 bridges constructed





Completed 100-unit Emotan Gardens (Phase I), Upper Sokponba, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, Edo State.

URBAN AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

Governor Obaseki understands that shelter is a basic necessity and has since assumption of office embarked on far-reaching programmes and reforms to guarantee the provision of decent and affordable housing to Edo residents.

In recognition of the need for adequate and affordable modern housing within Edo State, the government entered a joint venture agreement with Mixta Africa for the construction of the 1,800-unit Housing Project known as Emotan Gardens.

The project is sited on a 70-hectare land area and features 2 and 3-bedroom flats, villas, bungalows and terrace homes. The Housing Estate includes a heritage park to showcase the rich culture of Edo People. The project is targeted at helping civil servants have access to quality and affordable housing. In fact, the first unit was allocated to a teacher.

The first phase of the completed 100 units in the estate has been commissioned and occupied by allottees.

Catering to the taste of the high-class, the state launched the over-subscribed Golf Mews, a 70-unit

luxury apartment building in the heart of Government Reserved Area (GRA). It is the first of a set of luxury real estate being promoted by the state government. It will be delivered in January, 2023.

A recurring menace in Edo before the coming of Governor Obaseki was the issue of land grabbing by touts and non-state actors. The activities of these miscreants posed a serious threat to development in the state, impeding the activities of land owners, property developers and investors Edo and stifling the development of the real estate sector.

The governor immediately set to work banning the activities of the Community Development Associations (CDAs) so as to check land-grabbing, extortion and abuse of due process.

The state also established the Edo Geographic Information System (EDO-GIS) responsible for land administration, management, registrations, geo-mapping and surveys in the state.

EDO-GIS has successfully installed a Continuous Operating Reference Station (CORS) to upgrade surveying, mapping and GPS applications in the State.



Data on Urban and Physical Planning

- N3bn generated by EdoGIS
- 10,000 Certificates of Occupancy (C-of-O) issued
- 70-unit of luxury apartment under construction
- 100-units first phase of affordable housing estate delivered



ARTS & CULTURE

R-L: Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Comrade Philip Shaibu, Governor Godwin Obaseki and Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, during an exhibition at the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) 2019, which held in Edo State

ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR

In line with his Making Edo Great Again (MEGA) agenda, Governor Obaseki has emphasized that arts and culture remain a major thrust of his administration, leading to the pursuit of plans to strategically position Edo as a cultural hub. This is anchored on the fact that arts and culture is an integral part to what defines the identity and the greatness of Edo people.

During his first term, in 2018, the governor organized the Edo Festival for Arts and Culture (EdoFEST) where he pushed for the repatriation of artefacts that were stolen from the Benin Kingdom and displayed in notable museums across the world.

Also, in 2019, the state hosted the 9-day National Festival for Sports and Culture (NAFEST), which many aptly described as bringing culture home. Significantly, the NAFEST stage was one of the last major events where Nigerians had the opportunity to be thrilled by the late Edo-born highlife maestro, Prof. Victor Uwaifo with his evergreen songs and energetic rhythm.

Even the Covid-19 with its crippling effect on socio-economic systems across

the world could not deter the vision of His Excellency, who in 2021, built the Sir Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub, immortalising the Edo music legend. The centre provides talented Edo youths the opportunities to express their creativity. The facility serves as the melting pot of the state's nascent entertainment and creative industry. It is accessible to the public at a highly discounted price, and features a sound stage for film and TV production, a mini-studio for photography and content creation. Thousands of Edo youths are receiving training to leverage opportunities in the state's cultural sector. The state is partnering with Rok studios to produce 50 movies in 2022.

Cultural festivals are also being revived just as tourist sites are being rejuvenated to attract tourists from across the world.

Post Covid-19, the governor unveiled plans to build a cultural district and the Edo Museum of West Africa Arts (EMOWAA) to host cultural works that would strengthen the connection between the rich cultural heritage of Edo people to present and future generations.

Data on Arts and Culture

- State advocacy on return of stolen artefacts led to impending repatriation of 7,000 Benin bronzes from German museums
- Hosted record 30 Nigerian states for 2019 NAFEST
- 50 movies and TV series being produced in the state in 2022
- 1,267 youths trained for jobs in the creative industry





Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (middle) during a Facebook Developers programme at the Edo Innovates Hub in Benin City, Edo State.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

The Edo State Skills Development Agency also known as EdoJobs is Governor Godwin Obaseki's brain-child to midwife economic revolution in the state tapping from the energy and drive of its youth population. The governor kickstarted his administration by collecting the data of unemployed youths in the state through EdoJobs.

Today, the agency is tasked with multi-functional roles, helping in coordinating a cross-section of projects that are focused on engaging youths, building their capacity to drive productivity and providing needed support for economic growth by leveraging multilateral partnerships with local and international agencies. This has led to the creation of not less than 300,000 direct and indirect jobs in the state.

EdoJobs is responsible for managing Edo Innovates Hub, a tech-focused co-working space and support ecosystem that trains youths on in-demand tech skills; the Edo production hub, an industrial complex serving cottage industries; the Edo Tech Park, an elite software engineering train-

ing school run in partnership with Decagon.

Other projects managed by the agency is the EdoCARES project, through which government is supporting small businesses with grants; GIZ SKYE programme, which engages youths in productive activities; Edo Creative Hub, focused on grooming a virile ecosystem to support the state's creative industry and the Edo Food and Agriculture Cluster, to encourage and support youths in agricultural venture.

The agency leverages partnerships with Microsoft, Amazon, Siemens, Google, LinkedIn, Oxfam, Facebook, the World Bank, Udacity, Konga, International Migrants Organisation (IOM), among others, in engaging youths and boosting productivity in the state.

The agency operates job centres across the three senatorial districts in the state, promoting capacity building, technology innovation, vocational training and technical education, digital literacy, e-commerce and youth development.

Data on EdoJobs

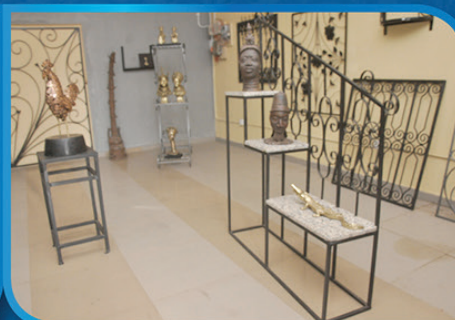
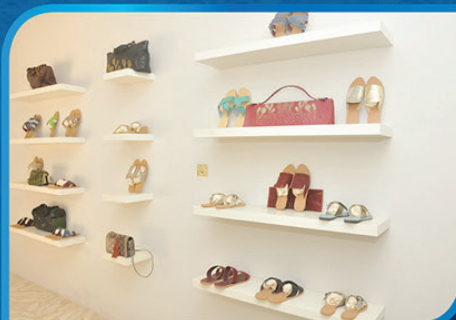
- 33,309 trained at Edo Innovates Hub
- 12,215 benefited from job matching initiatives
- 2,405 trained at the Edo Food and Agriculture Cluster (EdoFAC)
- 264 entrepreneurs supported at the Edo Production Centre
- 1,267 creatives benefiting from partnerships at the Edo Creative Hub
- Over N25 million raised by start-ups at various centres
- 15,000 youths undergoing training at Edo Tech Park





Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki (third right); Managing Director, MainOne, Funke Opeke, during a tour of Edo Production Centre in Benin City, Edo State.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY





The newly built Benin Central Bus Terminal (BCT) in Obakhavbaye, Benin City.

TRANSPORT SECTOR REFORMS

The Governor Obaseki-led administration has left no stone unturned in its commitment to reinvent the state's transport system. The government, in the past six years, has taken pragmatic steps and pursued nuanced reforms in the sector towards ensuring a modern and efficient transport system in Edo, given the strategic location of the state as a transit location.

Like a workman ready with his tools, Obaseki on assumption of office immediately set to work, rallying stakeholders, including academia, investors, transporters, and government agencies, among others to develop the state's transport master plan, outlining a workable blueprint to reposition the transport sector.

The governor also embarked on the construction of a 700-capacity Benin Central Park, at the Obakhavbaye axis of Ring Road, to bring a new lease of life to the city's transport scene, providing be-spoke transport experience to travelers commuting to and from Benin City.

The project has now been completed with ultra-modern facilities to ensure an efficient city commute service. Four more of such bus terminals are being developed across different locations in the state.

As part of the transport master plan, the government is redesigning roads within the Benin metropolis to have bus

stops and traffic lights, taking advantage of its transit stop to benefit from its positioning in the country's transport ecosystem.

The state has secured the approval of the Federal Ministry of Aviation to construct an airport in Edo North Senatorial District to open up the area and rev up economic activities in the state.

The state is vigorously pursuing plans of making the state a transport hub, by building bus transit parks in Aviele, Ehor, Oluku and Okpella, to ease human and vehicular traffic in the state.

The Edo State Traffic Management Agency (EDSTMA) has been overhauled and the officers re-orientated with a view to making the agency have a human face and at the same time, ensure free flow of traffic.

Recently, mobile courts were inaugurated in the state to summarily try recalcitrant drivers and this has made the traffic situation in the state better. Community service, in addition to the prevailing ones, has been introduced as a new form of sanctioning or punishment for errant driver-offenders.

A dedicated office building to house the Training and Management Development Centre has been established with state-of-the-art facilities to strengthen the state's traffic control and management within the Benin metropolis.

Data on Transport Sector

- 700-unit capacity central bus terminal operational
- Two transit parks being constructed
- 250 officers recruited into Edo State Traffic Management Agency (EDSTMA)
- 70 new luxury buses purchased for Edo City Transport Service (ECTS)



Inside view of the newly built Benin Central Bus Terminal (BCT)



Instrument Landing Equipment for night landing operations installed by Edo State government at the Benin Airport





Vanguard

Governor of the year

2021