

THE MEGA

(Making Edo Great Again)

MANIFESTO

...embracing the future today



GODWIN NOGHEGHASE OBASEKI
THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF EDO STATE

Foreword

In my quest for the office of Governor of Edo State, I stated in my 2016 Manifesto and the Policy Document on Edo State Development Roadmap and Work plan that my mission is to achieve prosperity for our people. Because the pursuit of happiness and working for the common good is an all-inclusive process, the urging “let’s go further, together!” has been the redolent mantra which has foregrounded our journey.

I have faith in the principles of democracy and share the values of my Party, the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) to build a qualitatively better society based on commonwealth, human rights and social justice under the rule of law. As a political party founded on justice, equity and fair play, PDP’s Social Contract is the Covenant with the people of Nigeria. I identify fully with its commitment to democracy and good governance, freedom, human rights and human dignity; justice, equity, popular participation, inclusiveness and the rule of law. Its respect for integrity, transparency and accountability in the conduct of public affairs and sustainable development through the creation of an enabling environment for a private sector-led economic development endears it to me.

As I seek the renewal of my mandate under the Umbrella, the need to march into a future of economic foresight sharpened by a willingness to do the necessary things that will bring us into a new age of rapid development, presses harder. It is a pact with destiny, the embracing of the future by our progressive actions in today’s world set for the fourth Industrial Revolution. I reaffirm my willingness, and desire, to serve for four more years, using my knowledge and wealth of experience for the progress and development of our dear state. Our people remain our strength, because there cannot be any meaningful development without their inclusion and active participation.

Six major plinths have held the pillars of my governance model:

1. Economic Revolution
2. Infrastructural development
3. Institutional Reforms
4. Social Welfare Enhancement
5. Environmental Sustainability, and
6. Arts, Culture and Tourism.

This time around, the commitment and focus of my team and I is a 12-point Agenda crystallised into a MEGA Manifesto as our blueprint for Making Edo Great Again. It is a development-oriented programme of progress for Edo State with an eye on the future, and focuses on these key areas:

1. **Social Sector (Education, Healthcare System, Pension and Social Security, Housing, Lands and Surveys)**
2. **Critical Infrastructure and Energy**
3. **Economy and Industrialisation, Trade and Investment**
4. **Environment and Public Utilities**
5. **Peace and Security**
6. **Agriculture and Natural Resources**
7. **Public Service, Public Finance and Public Revenue**
8. **Women, Children, Youth and Sports**
9. **Law, Judiciary and Legal Reforms**
10. **Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs**
11. **Arts and Culture**
12. **Transport**

My Vision and Mission statements:

- Vision: “A modern and progressive Edo State where every citizen is empowered with opportunity to live life in its fullness”
- Mission: “To achieve economic prosperity for Edo State”

THE MEGA MANIFESTO

- This MEGA Manifesto, therefore, is my public declaration of policy for the progress and sustainable development of Edo State.
- I am confident that my re-election for a second-term as the Executive Governor of Edo State from 2020 to 2024 will consolidate the transformation of the State through policies, projects and initiatives aimed at making Edo State an investment hub. This policy document is my present declaration to consolidate the foundation of my first term as Governor from 2016 to 2020 in providing leadership and vision for engagement and consensus building in planning, executing and evaluating state development initiatives and their outcomes.

- We would ultimately create a system that would, at the end of eight years, imbue a strong, indelible Governance Culture that will stand the test of time and make our people proud of their state once more.
- In the last four years, we developed a fast-track approach in transforming Edo State through a robust template anchored on critical focus areas that outlined how we would make the lives of our people better and more fulfilling.

The 12-POINT MEGA AGENDA: OUR COMMITMENT AND FOCUS

1. Social Sector

Education:

- Ensure that the EdoBEST policy continues to concentrate on training and retraining of teachers in equipping them for effective learning management systems, which addresses the needs of our children from early childhood up to the Junior Secondary School level.
- Continuously provide and maintain existing facilities for enhanced teaching and learning in our educational institutions.
- Continuously encourage science and technology education, including information and communication technology and entrepreneurship, to continue to provide the enabling environment for cutting-edge innovations and technology.
- Build more technical colleges, and develop and promote technical vocational education to create skills for the emerging Edo State trade and industry.
- Continuously encourage private sector investment in education at all levels, and the standards for enhanced quality will be maintained by government's policy.

Healthcare System:

We will:

- provide world-class medical services infrastructure to make Edo state a medical tourism destination
- continuously improve and expand access to basic primary healthcare
- consolidate on quality and affordable healthcare for all Edo citizens through Edo State Health Insurance Scheme (EHIS)

Pension and Social Security:

We will embark on:

- Continuous alleviation of the plight of pensioners through prompt payment of pension, retirement benefits and gratuities

- Sustenance of the existing prompt data capturing of retirees into the pension group
- Strengthening the existing contributory pension scheme and guaranteeing quick/immediate payment after disengagement from the Edo state civil service
- Promoting and sustaining the social welfare of our retirees through social intervention as senior citizens of the state
- Sustaining the on-going special interventions to support the vulnerable groups; people with physical disabilities and special needs in the society

Housing, Lands and Survey:

- Development of industrial park, logistic park, housing estate, leisure centres across the three (3) Senatorial districts of Edo state
- Development of affordable modern housing and increasing access to financing and promoting a residential mortgage market in Edo state
- Sustaining and improving the on-going digitalisation in the use of land (EDO'GIS)
- Proper mapping and survey of community lands to forestall conflicts between communities.

2. Critical Infrastructure and Energy:

- In line with the vision to ensure sustainability of our priced hard infrastructure assets, we would empower the Edo State Facility Management Agency, which was recently set up, to maintain the facilities and ensure that they retain their structural integrity for a long time to come.
- Facilitate industrialisation through strategic infrastructure of the Benin port, Gelegele sea port and industrial park.
- Massive and continuous improving of the network of urban and rural roads across the state.
- Creating access to clean and safe water supply (as demonstrated in the Uromi water project)
- Provide access to electricity as seen in the on-going 55MW Ossiommo power project and the 450MW Edo Azura Power Plant.
- Improve Edo citizens' access to basic infrastructure services— water, sanitation, power, education and healthcare.

3 Economy and Industrialisation, Trade and Investment:

- Focus on providing support for the development and growth of local industries.

- Continue to vigorously promote micro, small and medium-scale enterprise through low-priced loans and financing.
- Provide special focus on the ICT sector and aggressively marketing Edo as an outsourcing destination.
- Deepen relations with development partners, portfolio investors and long-term investors for the overall transformation of the state.
- Attract mass investments in electricity and alternative energy solutions

4 Environment and Public Utilities:

- Intensify awareness and sensitisation of Edo citizens on environmental pollution and clean environment for everyone.
- Tackle flooding and erosion across the state through legislation and executive order.
- Beautify and remodel our environment and public space
- Develop and build capacity in waste management and facilitate alternative sources of energy and recycling of waste.
- Conserve public utilities, create amusement parks across the 19 local governments of the state.

5 Peace and Security:

- Continue to foster culture of peace by promoting and creating convivial milieux that accommodate our religious, ethnic and cultural preferences/diversity
- Continue to tackle insecurity in all rural and urban areas through community watch/policing.
- Continuously Safeguard lives and properties through upgrade and effective fire service delivery.
- Sustain and improve Edo State Security Trust Fund to keep up and respond to current security challenges.
- Guarantee the continuous protection of the vulnerable (women, children, senior citizens and the physically challenged)
- Boost citizens' confidence by clamping down on extortion and harassment by law enforcement agents and members of the state-sponsored security agencies
- Sustain and expand **Wabaizigan**, with a state-wide Central Closed-Circuit Television Unit (CCTV) installed to ensure a more robust approach to policing.

6 Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Sustain and expand the aggressive agriculture and agribusiness development programme that has provided over 150,000 jobs for Edo citizens
- Replace crude oil with oil palm and make Edo State an oil palm hub in the country and beyond
- Further explore our vast forest and solid mineral resources.

7 Public Service, Public Finance and Public Revenue:

- Improve public service delivery through continuous civil service reform.
- Increase commitment to revenue drive and judicious utilisation of tax payers' money
- Pursue professionalism through training and retraining of our civil service

8 Women, Youth and Sports:

- Continue to encourage the participation of women and youth in governance by increasing the number of appointments made to women and youth in government.
- Improve access to microfinance for women and youth
- Encourage girl learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines
- Continue to engage the youth in meaningful and productive ventures.
- Unwavering commitment to restoring Edo State as No 1 state in sports in Nigeria.
- To promote State-private sector partnership to open sports academies for persons with disabilities
- To improve the sporting competitiveness of our youth through the completely-rebuilt Dr Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium and the 20 other mini stadia across the state
- Develop sports infrastructure across the state and promote sporting activities at community level.
- To set up the Edo Youth Centre to cater to the needs of our teenagers and youths and stimulate investment in youth development.

9 Law, Judiciary and Legal reforms:

- Continue to strengthen the Criminal Justice System with initiatives targeted at promoting a workable system for the interpretation of the law, determination of disputes and punishment of offenders
- Continue to give priority to the welfare and well-being of our judges/judiciary to facilitate and enhance speedy dispensation/delivery of justice
- Continue to create conducive work environment for judges and judicial workers

- Continue to support the strengthening and implementation of the law for crimes against women and girl-child including domestic violence and other legal commitment for social justice.

10 Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs:

- Continue to promote cordial relationship between government and traditional institution
- Continue to support traditional councils and empower them to carry out their functions in the formulation of general proposal by way of advice to the government, and assisting in the maintenance of law and order.
- Harmonise the activities of the traditional councils to support preservation of our heritage.
- Support and assist traditional institutions in promoting local traditional festivals so as to revive the culture of our people.
- Build on the cooperation and support we have enjoyed from our religious and faith-based organisations in the past four years for continued pace and prosperity for Edo people

11 Arts and Culture:

- Continue to promote the development of arts and crafts and raise our artists and craftsmen to international recognition
- Conserve cultural heritage sites, reintroduce culture clubs to public schools and advance plans for the development of the Benin Royal museum
- Attract and support investors in the development of culture and tourism for the benefit of host communities

12 Transport Sector:

- Action on the Benin Central Bus Terminus would be expedited and the accompanying paraphernalia installed to make for a truly modern transportation network.
- The centrally channelled traffic would ensure that traffic management is well coordinated, even as other forms of transportation are explored for their workability in the state
- Comprehensive overhauling and revamping of the Edo transport system
- Remodelling and repositioning of the Edo state transport service for efficient service delivery
- Building of travel plaza in strategic locations within the state.

Post-Covid-19 Economy

- We would be running a post-Covid-19 economy after the elections. This would task our resolve to restart the economy even as we push for economic stimulus package to resuscitate businesses, sustain livelihoods and hold the economy together.
- In essence, our focus would be on supporting businesses with low interest loan facilities; strengthening the productive sector by prioritising the Edo Production Hub Initiative and pursuing more impactful policies in the agricultural sector.
- The reforms in the Edo State College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Edo State College of Education would be sustained, even as we source for more partners to pull in resources to groom our youth for global competitiveness.
- We will increase investment in the healthcare system while ensuring the state-wide roll out of a responsive and well-managed Health Insurance Scheme.

SOME KEY TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

Specifically, in the past four years, some of our key targets and achievements include:

1. Job Creation: *in this administration the goal was to Create 200,000 new jobs.*

- We established the Edo State Skills Development Agency (also known EdoJobs), to drive this goal.

2. Investments in Agriculture: *We had promised to develop 250,000 hectares of farmland across the state*

- Through the Edo Agriprenuer Programme, we partnered the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) to support agricultural development.
- We have also set up a farm mechanisation hub through a Private Public Partnership (PPP), which provides for tractors and other farm implements for farmers across the state.

3. Industry and Infrastructure: (Roads, Schools, Hospitals, Housing): *Our mission was to extend roads; address flooding and evolve efficient traffic management solutions*

- We have completed over 800 roads which stretch for about 2000km, with at least a road project in each of the 192 wards in the state. The Ministry of Infrastructure has constructed about 400 roads, while the Edo State Employment and

Expenditure for Result (SEEFOR) PLUS and other partners have constructed 400 roads.

- We have developed extensive broadband infrastructure into our road infrastructure and transportation network to build a more virile and mobile business and learning environment.
- With the support of the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), we have ongoing flood control and gulley erosion projects management across the State, including Ekehuan, Auchi, Ibore, Upper Adesuwa, GRA, among others.
- The first phase of the Emotan Gardens, a 1,451-unit housing project has been completed and delivered to homeowners.
- We are in the process of redeveloping the Ikpoba River Valley project not only to generate electricity but also as a source of water supply for industrial and domestic users.
- We have revamped the Edo State Traffic Management Agency (EDSTMA).

4. *Revival of Moribund Industries:* *Our mission was to restructure and resolve all outstanding debt obligations in State-owned enterprise; attract private capital and commission industries by past governments.*

- The Edo Fertilizer and Chemical Company Limited in Auchi is now functional. The company was revamped in partnership with WACOT Plc. We are in talks with relevant agencies in clearing debt obligations with Bendel Brewery, Edo Line and other State-owned Enterprise.

5. *Investments in new Industries:* *We intended to support and ensure the conclusion of all ongoing investment initiatives in the State including the Ossiomo Industrial Park, the Atlantique Marine and Engineering Services Ltd (AMES) Dry Cargo Port and all other similar initiatives, while focusing on developing new, large and embedded electricity generation and alternative energy solutions*

- The first phase of the 55MW CCTEC-Ossiomo electricity project has been completed. We are now making progress on the next phase of the project. The transmission and distribution infrastructure for the plant includes a 33KM 33KV line; 8KM 11KV mini grid around Ologbo, 2 X 15MVA Injection Substation located at the Edo State Government Secretariat on Sapele Road and 10KM 11KV mini grid around GRA/Ring Road, Benin City.

- The Edo Production Centre, along Sapele Road, Benin City, is in operation and remains one of our success stories in liberating small and medium enterprising in the state.
- The Benin Enterprise Park, a key legacy venture, is well in progress, as the developers, Amaya Capital, have continued engagement with investors to set up shop at the facility.
- The proposed Dry Cargo Port to be constructed by Atlanque Marine Engineering Services (AMES) is also on course. The investor is in talks with relevant government agencies to secure the necessary approvals for the port.

6. Women and Youth Empowerment: *We proposed to invest in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and support at least 20,000 entrepreneurs over 4 years to stimulate the economy*

- We renovated the Government Science and Technical College (GSTC); employed 104 TVET teachers and rolled out an extensive skills development programme through EdoJOBS across the state to train our youths. In my first term, 40% of appointees are women and we appointed the highest number of female Permanent Secretaries in Edo State's history.
- We set up the Edo Innovation Hub and other MSME and entrepreneurship programmes, which have helped us in exceeding our 20,000 entrepreneurs and 50,000 additional jobs goals.

1. Salaries and Pensions: *Our determination was to ensure that not only are salaries paid as and when due but we were to adjust our model from a minimum wage structure to a living wage structure where Civil Servants are not financially disadvantaged*

- We migrated workers to the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS)
- 13,081 pensioners received monthly pension payments from 2016 till date
- N4.3 billion was spent to clear pension backlog owed from previous administration from 1996.
- N25.04 billion was spent in total on pension payments from November 2016 till date
- N80.7 million was paid as premium for beneficiaries of the CPS
- 9,803 Edo State employees are beneficiaries of the CPS
- 3 times the gross annual salary are paid to the next of kin of CPS beneficiaries in the eventuality of death.
- 0 pensioners are being owed pensions today!

7. Healthcare: *The goal was to implement the Edo Health Improvement Programme (EdoHIP), through which Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across the State are to be revamped.*

- About 20 PHCs have been revamped, with the target of expanding to 57 centres in the state. Health workers have undergone trainings to make them more professional and humane in service delivery at the PHCs.
- The Edo State Health Insurance Scheme has been set up, to mobilise resources that would strengthen the state's healthcare system and ensure affordable, effective healthcare for our people.

COVID-19 Achievements

- We established an effective governance structure to combat the Covid-19 pandemic through 6 pillars: **Facility and Diagnostics; Logistics; Safety and Security; Manpower; Incident Management and Communication.**
- Emplaced an evidence-driven response to Covid-19 based on a combination of epidemiologic modelling (in conjunction with Tampere University, Finland and CDC, Atlanta), that is regularly updated, and with input from multi-sectorial technical experts.
- Provided toll-free helplines which enable quick-response to citizens' queries regarding Covid-19.
- Provided adequate testing centres for combating Covid-19 disease
- Set up and equipped with ICT hardware a total of 136 fixed posts, 81 mobile posts, and 10 border post locations in the State's 3 senatorial zones for Covid-19 screening. The screening target of 500,000 has so far been exceeded
- Increased molecular laboratory sites for testing for Covid-19. Two additional PCR, testing sites have been set up in the State.
- Isolation and holding centres were built and equipped at Stella Obasanjo Hospital - 300 beds; University of Benin Teaching Hospital - 42 beds; Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital - 30 beds; Ogbe Nursing Home (Annex of Central Hospital) - 11 beds; General Hospital, Auchu - 11 beds (not yet functional. The State procured ventilators (30); digital mobile X-Ray machines (2); oxygen concentrators (10) and infusion pumps (10), amongst other equipment.
- Entire public healthcare workforce (4,218 persons) in Edo State was trained on various aspects of the response to Covid-19.
- We distributed palliatives to a total of 340,000 homes in 3 phases.

8. Access to Education: *Our mission was to complete the renovation of school infrastructure already commenced and introduce a continuous maintenance culture to ensure the sustainability of the education infrastructures.*

- Through the Edo Basic Education Sector Transformation (EdoBEST) programme, we have trained over 12,000 primary school teachers on digital teaching skills, which have impacted over 200,000 pupils. We distributed over 12,000 tablets and trained over 11,000 School-Based Management Committee (SMBC) members. We have revamped over 230 primary schools across the state.
- The EdoBEST programme is being rolled out to Junior Secondary Schools in the state to sustain the gains made, while we continue to support our tertiary institutions such as the Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma, Edo University Iyamho, Edo State Polytechnic Usen, Edo State College of Education Abudu and Edo State College of Agriculture Iguoriakhi, etc.

9. Governance: *We planned to rebuild the Civil Service into a world-class work environment powered by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and devote resources to training and empowering our public and civil servants with modern management tools.*

- We have sustained reforms in governance by ensuring a transparent budgeting system through our signing up for the Open Government Partnership (OGP), while maintaining a transparent public procurement process.
- We have set up the Edo State Geographic Information System (EdoGIS) Agency, to digitalise land and hold assets, making it possible to easily process and acquire a Certificate-of-Occupancy (C-of-O).
- We have rebuilt blocks C & D of the Secretariat Complex and established the John Odigie-Oyegun Training Academy to ensure regular capacity-building for workers.

10. Revenue Generation: *We planned to ensure a pocket friendly tax regime in our drive for Internally Generated Revenues (IGR).*

- We introduced the Edo Revenue Administration System (ERAS), which has revolutionised the tax collection and management.

11. Security (Law, Order and Justice): *We aimed to strengthen the Criminal Justice System to expedite the interpretation of laws, determination of disputes, restitution for victims and punishment of offenders.*

- We established the Public Works Volunteers (PUWOV) scheme with 3000 trained and kitted workforce and a community police radio network. We also built new High Court complex, Industrial Court, Chief Judge’s residence and Judges’ Quarters.
- We also set up the Edo State Security Architecture (Operation Wabaizigan), with N2 billion as seed fund invested.

12. Restore socio-cultural values: *Our goal was to restore Edo State as the Number One State in sports in Nigeria, while also developing the market for trade in art and craft in Edo State.*

- The Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium has been transformed into a world-class sports arena.
- We won the hosting rights for the National Sports Festival (NSF), while we successfully hosted the National Festival for Arts and Culture (NAFEST), with improved visibility in Nigeria’s cultural scene.
- With investment in the upgrade of facilities at the Benin Airport, which include night landing equipment, the State has attracted new airlines, including Aero Contractors, Max-Air, which now fly to Benin, boosting tourism.

EDO PROJECT 2050: Embracing the Future Today

- The challenge of embracing the future today in the next 30 years from 2020 to 2050 is the background to my vision of Edo Project 2050. The past four years of my administration have witnessed foundational and fundamental reforms which we have undertaken, and the next four years from 2020 to 2024 will be committed to the continuity of these policies and programmes.
- My vision for Edo Project 2050 is to identify priority areas, set specific targets, and define strategies and policy measures required for the implementation of Short, Medium and Long-term Plans. With my career in Investment Banking, I will be able to outline the strategies required to ensure availability of resources and capacities and citizenship participation in the Edo Project 2050.

- The Edo Project 2050 has its own agenda, with aspirations, goals and priority areas. It is all about what the future holds for Edo State and the people. We have to embrace the future today for the progress and collective prosperity of our people. The need to envision a long-term 30 year plan is for sustainable economic growth and development, driven by Edo people who will become major players in our national economy.

THE MEGA MOVEMENT

- Making Edo Great Again is a mass movement of campaign for popular participation of the Edo people for development. We recognise that there are groups of people in the society with differing views on subjects of importance to all citizens. The MEGA Movement supports tolerance for the expression of different points of view. Therefore, this is a clarion call to all groups, unions and associations – students and youth organisations, business associations, labour unions, market associations, community groups, etc – in Edo State to join us in Making Edo Great Again.
- We acknowledge the contributions of the Edos in the Diaspora Organisation Worldwide to the development of our state. I urge Edo citizens in Diaspora to continually support our government and the MEGA movement to fully participate in the process of promoting democracy and good governance. We will welcome Edos in Diaspora as a partner with respect to development of policies organisation and implementation of social and economic programmes.
- The MEGA Manifesto is a bond between us, a unity and harmony necessary for the progress and development of Edo State, and the key to **working together to go further, together.**

OUR PEOPLE, OUR STRENGTH

- Edo people remain cardinal to achieving the above programmes and aspirations. Edo citizens continue to occupy number one priority in our developmental agenda. We continue to count on the unflinching support, invaluable contributions and constructive criticisms of Edo people, both at home and in Diaspora.

CONCLUSION

- My Social Contract with Edo people is to deliver good governance in a manner that dignifies and liberates the Edo person. We have done that in the last four years, placing the state at the forefront of novelty and innovation in governance. The reforms we commenced four years ago must be sustained if we must truly liberate our people. This is why I present myself for re-election so that I will continue and consolidate what we started.
- In accomplishment of the six thematic pillars, our government team prepared the **Edo State Development Roadmap and Work plan** for its implementation. With this, we have entered a new generation that is committed to Making Edo Great Again. Behold old things have passed away.
- Our strength in Edo State is being able to bring our people together to provide the platform for citizen participation and government accountability. My experience in politics, governance and business is such that I prefer working and delivering infrastructural projects without prior fanfare. Hence, I have been tagged the “Wake and See Governor.”
- As I seek re-election for a second term as the Executive Governor of Edo State on the platform of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), I present the MEGA manifesto in Making Edo Great Again. I passionately ask for your commitment in Making Edo Great Again through your support and votes.

THE PROFILE OF GODWIN NOGHEGHASE OBASEKI

His Excellency, Godwin Nogheghase Obaseki is currently serving as the Executive Governor of Edo State. Before he was elected and sworn in as the Governor on 12 November 2016, he was the Chairman of Edo State Economic and Strategy Team that was inaugurated in March 2009 by his predecessor.

He was born on 1 July 1957, in Benin City, Edo State to the family of Late Pa Roland Obaseki and Gbinigie of Owina Street, Ogbelaka Quarters, Benin City. He attended St. Matthew Primary

School and Eghosa Grammar School in Benin City. He was admitted to study as an undergraduate at the University of Ibadan where he earned the degree of Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Classics.

After the completion of the compulsory one year National Youth Service Scheme in Jos, Plateau State, he pursued his postgraduate education in the United States, and attended Columbia University and Pace University in New York where he obtained the MBA in Finance and International Business.

He began his career as a stockbroker in 1983 with Capital Trust Brokers Limited, Lagos and later transferred his services to the International Merchant Bank. In 1988, he moved to AVC Funds, Lagos where he served as a Project Manager. He returned to New York and worked as a Principal of Equatorial Finance Company, a Financial Advisory firm where he focused on Africa and provided Structured Trade finance for Africa-related transactions. In 1992, he served as the founding Secretary of a US-based Africa Chamber of Commerce and also a Director of Junior Achievement of Nigeria – the local affiliate of international Not for Profit Organisation.

In 1995, Godwin Obaseki established Afrinvest West Africa Limited, formerly Securities Transactions and Trust Company Limited (SecTrust). Today, Afrinvest is one of the most reputable investment banking and management firms in Nigeria.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Stock Brokers, and has served as executive board member of several private companies in Nigeria. In October 2019, he received the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) award as the Best Performing Governor of the Year 2019. He was honoured with the 2019 Governor of the Year award by two national newspapers, *Daily Independent* and the *NewsDirect* and also received the Silverbird Group's 2019 Extraordinary Personality award. He sees these and other awards as a call to continue to “prioritise the welfare of the Edo people.” In his words, “We are transforming the nature and structure of our state, using the basic

principles of governance, of accountability and transparency, to optimise our God-given resources. Our response is that the people we are working for know what we are doing.”

Godwin Obaseki has served his fatherland in many capacities. He was on the Presidential Committee on the Reform of the Nigerian Pension System, which facilitated the introduction of the contributory pension scheme and other novel pension reforms. He served on the Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission Committee on the Reactivation of the Nigerian Bond Market and the review of the investment and Securities Act.

Between 2006 and 2009, Godwin Obaseki served as a member of the Nigerian Stock exchange Council. Since 2009 when he served as Chairman of the Edo State Economic and Strategy Team and as the Executive Governor of the state since 2016, he has pioneered a number of policy reforms which have led to the restructuring of the State’s public finance, secured funding for infrastructure and improved the business environment for investment in power, agriculture and other critical sectors. In 2018, his government established the Edo State Investment Promotion Office to facilitate investments and stakeholders engagements so as to improve the business environment in the state.

Godwin Obaseki is married to Mrs Betsy Bene Obaseki, a financial expert who holds a BSc and an MSc in Accounting from the University of Lagos.