



POLICY THRUST:

- Empathetic Governance
- Institutional Reforms
- Building Wealth
- Fostering Resilience
- Financing the New Direction

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

S.U.P.E.R GOVERNANCE

- S ecurity
- U nity
- P rosperity
- E quity
- R econciliation

KOGI STATE

2024 Referral Compendium

ADVANCING PROGRESS, SUSTAINING GROWTH



His Excellency
**Ahmed Usman
Ododo**
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
OF KOGI STATE



Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo reaffirmed his determination to pursue and expand a Kogi Agenda – a vision aimed at creating a stronger, united, secure, and prosperous Kogi State. From day one, he promised to act swiftly on people-centered initiatives and has matched words with action.

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HIS EXCELLENCY
AHMED USMAN ODODO
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, KOGI STATE



HIS EXCELLENCY
JOEL OYIBO SALIFU
DEPUTY GOVERNOR, KOGI STATE

State Executive Council Members

Of Kogi State

Jan. 2025



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Secretary to the Government of Kogi State



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Commissioner of Finance, Budget & Economic Planning



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Commissioner for Education



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Exco
Attendee



Hon. Bello Ali
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Dr. Elijah Adeiza Evinemi
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Comm. Duro Jerry Omodara (Rtd.)
State Security Adviser



Alhaji Yakubu Okala
State Auditor- General



Yakubu Adabenege Siyaka
Auditor General for Local Governments



Moses Okezie-Okafor, ESQ
Director-General, Research & Development



Sanni Abdullahi Ozomata, Ph.D
Technical Adviser to the Executive Governor of Kogi State



Rt Hon Alfa Momoh Rabi
Special Adviser to the Governor on Legislature



Hon. Barr. Ehimoni SJ Moni
Director General, Kogi State Bureau of Public Procurement.

A photograph of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, a man with glasses wearing a white traditional Nigerian shirt and a blue and gold patterned cap. He is looking down. In the background, the Nigerian flag and a circular emblem with a horse and the word 'EXECUTIVE' are visible.

SPECIAL

Inaugural Speech

of His Excellency

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo

Fellow Kogites, on this auspicious day, I stand before you on the solid foundation of unity which paved the way for the collective trust bestowed on me to lead our dear state at this time in our history.

I am humbled by the weight of expectation as I accept your mandate to build on the enviable achievements of my predecessors who have travelled this road before now.

I thank His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello, the father of modern Kogi State, for his unprecedented life-changing achievements in virtually all sectors of the economy, which have now formed the solid base for us to build on.

Your Excellency Sir, words alone are not sufficient to appreciate the pivotal role you played in the course of the transition that has today formally taken off.

As your Governor, I do not take for granted the euphoria that greeted our victory in the last governorship election.

I pray for God's guidance in delivering enviable performance that matches the huge expectation of the people of Kogi State who voted overwhelmingly for us and our great party, the All Progressives Congress.

This, for me, would be a fitting appreciation to the good people of our state and to His Excellency, my mentor and leader who, along with his team, worked so hard to make today a reality.

I won't forget to specifically acknowledge His Excellencies, Captain Idris Wada and Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, who have made invaluable contributions to the efforts leading to this significant event.

History will remain kind to the two respected former Governors for their respective roles in shaping the affairs of our state.

Today, we remember, most profoundly, our great leader and father, His Excellency, Late Prince Abubakar Audu, who left indelible marks all over the nooks and crannies of our state in terms of infrastructure and human capital development.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, May I request that we observe a moment of silence

in honour of late Prince Abubakar Audu.

May his soul continue to rest in peace. (Ameen).

In my life, four women stood out for their contributions and prayers towards the realization of today's epochal event. My wife, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ohunene has been the Chief Organizer of the home front who has given me so much peace and support. I thank you my dear wife. Let me also acknowledge my mother, Hajia Habibat Sanni Ahmed for her role in shaping my character. Special recognition to my grandmother, late Hajia Salamat Audu, who principally raised me and taught me the virtues of hardwork, honesty, humility and respect for the young and old. Mama, you are remembered for moulding me into the character I am today.

One of the greatest blessings of my life was to be blessed with another mother, late Hajia Hauwau Bello, the late mother of my mentor and leader, His Excellency Alh. Yahaya Bello. Mama was highly supportive and she took me as a son. She prayed for me and it would have been a thing of joy if she is here today to witness the manifestation of her prayers. Mama, I will not disappoint you.

Your Excellencies, when the race for the Governorship election in Kogi State was looking like rising tides in turbulent waters, there was only one man to look up to in the country: His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr. President Sir, we all witnessed, firsthand, your unflinching commitment to a peaceful, free, fair and credible election in Nigeria despite your loyalty to our great party, the All Progressives Congress (APC).

We are grateful for your intervention in ensuring that the Governorship election in Kogi State did not descend into a war of attrition by promoters of various political interests in the state.

Let me assure you, Your Excellency, that the government and people of Kogi State will remain loyal to your leadership and stay with you, come rain, come shine, in your efforts to transform Nigeria under the Renewed Hope

A United Vision for Kogi State

I am humbled to lead our state and build on the solid foundation laid by Governor Yahaya Bello and past leaders. Together, we will focus on unity, equity, economic growth, and improving lives through jobs, education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

I thank His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the leadership of our great Party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) led by our National Chairman, His Excellency, Alhaji Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and the good

people of Kogi State for their trust.

Let's unite to achieve the Kogi of our dreams.

Thank you, and God bless Kogi State.

Agenda of your administration.

Your Excellency, under my leadership, I want to restate that Kogi State shall be one of the sub-national hubs of pilot projects for key drivers of the Federal Government's programmes in food security, poverty eradication, job creation, access to capital, inclusion, rule of law, the fight against corruption and overall economic growth, which would have local adaptation to the realities of Kogi State.

Special appreciation to our Vice President, His Excellency Senator Kashim Shettima GCON for his steadfast support throughout the duration of the electioneering. Your abiding confidence in the All Progressives Congress to sustain the development in Kogi State was beautifully rewarded on November 11, 2023. Thank you sir. To the mother of the nation, our amiable First Lady, Her Excellency Senator Oluremi Tinubu, we will not disappoint you. Your support was an inestimable value in our success. I also want to commend our First Lady, Hajia Rashida Bello for leading the women folk to give us a resounding victory.

At this point, let me commend the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC), particularly the National Working Committee under our ever capable National Chairman, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, and the state chapter of our party, ably led by Alhaji Abdullahi Bello, for their doggedness and unwavering commitment to ensuring that our party emerged victorious in the November 11 Governorship election.

The APC Governorship Campaign Council, led by His Excellency, Governor Dapo Abiodun with support from my elder brother Governors: Your Excellencies, Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazak; Governor Babajide Sanwoolu, Governor Uba Sani, Governor Muhammed Umar Bago, Governor Hyacinth Alia and Governor Abdullahi Sule, all of who worked closely with the State Campaign Council under the Honourable Minister of Steel Development, Prince Shuaib Abubakar Audu, and all members of the various campaign committees, including the various support groups, within and outside the state, to make our party victorious.

Let me also commend the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security

agencies and other critical stakeholders in the electoral process for ensuring a peaceful, free, fair and transparent election in Kogi State.

To all the young men and women and the elderly who thronged all campaign venues and traversed the nooks and crannies of our state to campaign for us; the hundreds of thousands of kogites from far and near who voted or mobilized eligible voters in our support; and those who did otherwise, this government is for all of you.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, despite the election storm that threatened to set brothers and sisters against one another, we are here today because we have chosen unity over disunity; greatness over petty grievances and peace over perilous acts of recriminations and worn-out dogmas of ethnic jingoism.

The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit and our common will to move forward towards greater achievements.

We must preserve the freedom of all our citizens who deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness and aspiration for any position in the state without fear of discrimination on the basis of tribal or religious inclination.

Kogi State cannot afford to revert to the fractured psyche riddled with scars of ethnicity that violated the age-long values and the very fabrics that bound our people together.

As a people, we must remain faithful and true to the ideals and dreams of our founding fathers.

The Kogi Agenda has prevailed and our state and people are better for it. Be assured that we shall deliver on our promise of a united, secure, progressive and prosperous Kogi State.

Our approach will be open, frank and rugged but I am confident that it will lead us eventually to progress and prosperity.

This is the time for us to commence the process towards achieving a charter of equity on power rotation in the state because it is now apparent that no single senatorial district in our state can go it alone without the cooperation and support of others who are

co-equals in the political configuration of the state.

Furthermore, our government shall hit the ground running with people-oriented programmes and projects delivered with utmost focus on the wellbeing of our people and we shall govern with transparency, probity and accountability at all times.

Our economy shall witness remarkable improvements, on the back of the solid foundation laid by the administration of my predecessor, as we further open up our state to investors willing to collaborate with us under a robust public-private partnership framework.

We are going to make Kogi State an attractive investment destination for local and foreign investors.

As we grapple with challenges of the past, we must reckon that it is indeed a new beginning and we must therefore work together to stem the tide of greed and irresponsibility in whatever guise, shape or form.

We must be prepared to make hard choices in our collective efforts to birth a new day in our state.

The unity and cooperation of everyone of us will greatly contribute to the peace and progress of our state.

In this new era, more homes shall be built, more jobs will be created, businesses will blossom, our farmlands will thrive.

Our health care system will witness massive improvement in scale and efficiency; our schools will be filled and our teachers will have more reasons to smile on their way to the classrooms; our youths will find more avenues to build skills for innovation and creative enterprises and the welfare of our women shall be the utmost priority of this administration.

Today, there are real challenges in the nation's economy, particularly as regards foreign exchange, unemployment and inflationary trends.

We must dig deep and roll up our sleeves to confront these challenges in the real sector as a sub-national government ready to make a difference.

This will require us to look at the low hanging fruits such as completing all the critical infrastructural projects of the immediate past administration that are dear to the wellbeing of our people and by tapping into existing opportunities for partnership with the Federal Government.

These will focus more on our areas of comparative advantage such as solid minerals and steel development, agriculture, marine and blue economy; tourism and creative economy, as well as information technology and digital economy, where our youth population with tremendous energy can be hugely mobilized to become key players in the value chain.

As a government, we are extremely optimistic and we have very high ambition which may not be met easily or in a short span of time.

But let me assure you that with guidance from God Almighty, support from our elders, the enterprise of the men and women who will serve in this administration, and with the full cooperation of you all, our expectations will be met.

Our team will be made up of individuals with ambitions greater than what you have seen before now.

Kogi State, which has been rated in the top 10 category under Governor Yahaya Bello by both local and international organisations, as far as growth indicators are concerned, will perform even better because the leadership will be more inventive, our workers will be more productive across sectors and the productive capacity will remain undiminished under the new administration.

It is always more tedious to prepare the land. It is energy sapping to cultivate the land. GYB has prepared the land, cultivated the land and planted seeds. It is our responsibility to water the seeds into fruition and plant new ones for a bumper harvest. Kogi can only get better. We have trained our mentality and will up our determination to make Kogi State greater.

We must all be prepared to begin from where the immediate past administration stopped.

A lot needs to be done to keep our communities safe and secure, help our young people find jobs, keep families in business, keep pupils in school and our teachers looking forward to the next school day, connect our farmers to markets even as

we sustain food sufficiency in all parts of the state, get corporate organizations into partnerships that work for our communities and help our pensioners to live dignified and fulfilled lives.

Our administration will be aggressive, deliberate and strategic in making our business environment attractive. Kogi has all it takes to fulfill Nigeria's dream of becoming the industrial hub of the global south. We are one of the most endowed states in Nigeria with abundant mineral resources and many gifts of nature. Kogi is where two of Africa's biggest rivers, Niger and Benue, form a Confluence. The huge water bodies can serve in the areas of transportation, agriculture and tourism. We have all it takes with the many rivers and dams in the state to produce food all year round with an all seasons farming. We must produce what we eat, eat what we produce and produce what others eat. Aside the very valuable mineral resources our state is blessed with, we have no excuse not to be the food basket of Africa with the robust agricultural platforms already put in place by my leader and predecessor, His Excellency Alh. Yahaya Bello, CON.

I therefore call on the global investment community to see Kogi as the destination of choice. Our environment is safe for investment and our policies are friendly. We will protect the investors and the interest of our people. Kogi is the place to be. For the past few years, we have been working on how to launch our Confluence and our State on the world tourism map. In the next couple of months, we are hopeful that the world will make Kogi their tourism destination of choice. As your Governor, I will be at the forefront of our investment drive and we shall put in

place, a Diaspora Investment Platform to make every Kogite around the world our investment Ambassador. It is economically imperative to build an economy that is basically driven by the private sector.

Fellow Kogites, I promise to govern with the fear of God and to be just, fair and equitable in all my dealings with all men and women irrespective of tribe, religion or political affiliation.

It is a big challenge to take over from a hugely successful administration. But the Governor himself has prepared us mentally, administratively and politically for the task ahead. We won't fail the people of Kogi State.

Our government will be transparent, accountable and we shall reward honesty, hard work and courage while promoting tolerance, loyalty and fairness.

To the opposition political parties in the state, I invite you to work with us to build an even greater state, based on mutual respect and in the overall interest of our good people.

Fellow Kogites, I promise you all, I will not be an ethnic Governor, I will be the Governor of Kogi State.

Let it be said by our children's children that once upon a time when our collective resolve to remain a united and indivisible state was tested, we refused to let this journey end; that we did not turn back, nor did we falter. And with eyes fixed on the horizon and by God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of unity in our diversity to deliver a better future and the best of our days that are ahead to future generations of Kogites.

My brothers and sisters, come, join hands with me as we hit the ground running to deliver the Kogi of our dreams.

Thank you. God bless you.

God bless Kogi State and God Bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

ACTION FOR KOGI'S FUTURE

TOGETHER,
WE RISE AS
ONE KOGI



Fellow Kogites, join me as we embark on this journey to deliver the Kogi of our dreams—united, secure and prosperous. Together, we will build a brighter future for our children and generations to come.

- 1 Unity and Inclusivity:** Emphasize collective resolve to remain united, irrespective of tribe, religion, or political affiliation.
- 2 Economic Development:** Leverage Kogi's resources, including agriculture, solid minerals, and tourism, to attract local and foreign investments.
- 3 Infrastructure and Welfare:** Prioritize job creation, improved healthcare, accessible education, and enhanced teacher and farmer support.
- 4 Governance and Accountability:** Commit to transparency, fairness, and rewarding hard work while fostering collaboration across political divides.
- 5 Call to Action:** Urge all Kogites, including opposition parties, to join efforts in achieving a prosperous and progressive state.



Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's governance blueprint is anchored on ten people-centred thematic areas designed to build an inclusive, secure and prosperous Kogi State.

With primary focus on education and healthcare, the administration seeks to develop human capital and local content capacities to strengthen the wealth potential and general wellbeing of citizens. Strategic investments in infrastructure, mining and agriculture are intended to stimulate economic growth underpinned by the States abundant natural resources, enhance food security and attract direct local and foreign investment.

The government also prioritizes job creation through vocational training, entrepreneurship and MSME support initiatives, while advancing security and social justice reforms and institutions to uphold law and order. Intentional transparency, social equity and environmental protection actions underscore the commitment to accountable governance. Special attention is given to youth, women and persons with special needs for inclusivity and to make sure no one is left behind. This is in pursuit of the Governor's determination to recruit the participation of everyone in Kogi state's development journey.

The Editorial

CONSOLIDATION AND CONTINUITY:

THE QUIET REINVENTION OF KOGI STATE UNDER THE UNASSUMING ACHIEVER, GOVERNOR AHMED USMAN ODODO

By | Moses Okezie-Okafor, ESQ.
Editor-in-chief



(Director-General, Research and Development, Kogi State and Chief Editor, Kogi State Referral Compendium & Allied Publications)

In an era of increasing disillusionment with leadership characterised by visible fatigue on the face of citizens with unkept promises, the Kogi State under Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, FCA, is quietly, almost counterintuitively, crafting a counter-narrative. It is the story of a subnational government that is not waiting for the federation to do any of its work - from security to social welfare - but is instead working itself into functionality, dignity and relevance.

At the heart of this remarkable reinvention stands a man who intentionally subsumes his rightful stature as a Governor beneath the service credo of a Chief Servant. Ahmed Usman Ododo leads by a simple but powerful philosophy - S.U.P.E.R Governance which is way more than an acronym. It is an ideological compass with which he centres his administration's focus on what matters most to his people.

There is no doubt that Security, Unity, Prosperity, Equity and Reconciliation (S.U.P.E.R) represents the heartcry of every citizen in today's Nigeria. Ododo and his administration have heard that cry and have adopted this formula as their action points. It is a formula as moral as it is strategic and as practical as it is aspirational. Let us break it down.

Security: The Non-Negotiable Need

Like President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR at the federal level, Governor Ododo inherited a complex security terrain. Before his esteemed predecessor, former Governor Yahaya Bello, came to office in 2016 it was shaped by years of bandit incursions, kidnapping, terrorism, communal conflicts and porous borders. After the Bello years, it was a territory fiercely reclaimed from criminal elements battling relentlessly to return. Upon Governor Ododo fell the life and death duty of keeping them out.

One year after he assumed office, Kogi remains a beacon of relative peace and stability in the embattled middle belt of Nigeria. Under his stewardship strategic investments in surveillance, community policing and security infrastructure continue apace. Ododo is not just reducing crime but also restoring investor confidence. The recent unveiling of state-of-the-art mining equipment and acquisition of 15 mining licenses is not only an economic feat - it is a declaration that peace is being institutionalised by tackling systemic causes such as illegal mining in a way humane manner that still leaves artisanal miners with an option to still ply their trade within a legal framework

Unity: Cultivating A Rare Commodity

Nigeria's Achilles' heel is often its inability to weld its ethnic and regional components into a shared national purpose. Kogi, in its middle-

belt reality, is a microcosm of Nigeria's diversity - and its tensions. Governor Ododo has been intentional about unity from inception. As Governor, he is deliberately pursuing it through sundry peacemaking initiatives like inclusive governance, intercommunal dialogue, Interfaith relations, balanced appointments and shared development. No wonder his state is proving that diversity, when anchored in equity and justice, can be a multiplier force for much good.

Prosperity: Beyond Dependency on Federal Allocations

Kogi is no longer content to be a monthly recipient of federal allocations. It is building wealth - strategically. From agricultural revitalisation inspired by best practices from across the world to unlocking its vast mineral wealth through Government equity and public-private partnerships, Kogi is positioning itself as Nigeria's next engine of subnational growth. The resuscitation of technical education and entrepreneurship training across its specialised schools underpins a bold new goal - not just job creation, but entrepreneurship and employment creation.

Equity: The Way of Empathetic Governance: blessed with the high aptitude.

Empathy is now a policy tool in Kogi State under a Governor blessed the high aptitude to understand and share the feelings of another. Whether it is attention to Persons Living With

Special Needs (PLSNs), the elevation of women into strategic leadership roles, or educational and vocational scholarship schemes for youth, equity is not merely being preached - it is being practiced. Every budget line, policy document and implementation plan is being interrogated for how it expands fairness.

Reconciliation: Healing Through Inclusion

In a political climate where historical and recent grievances tend to fester into violent conflict, the Ododo administration is sowing reconciliation. Traditional institutions are being re-empowered as agents of peace. Post-election fractures are being repaired with civility, not conquest. And within government itself, a new decorum of collaboration is emerging across party lines and institutional hierarchies.

Institutional Reform and Financing the New Direction

Behind the scenes, what enables this vision is perhaps even more revolutionary: institutional reforms that prioritise accountability, digitisation, and fiscal prudence. Through reforms in tax administration and a commitment to open government principles, Kogi is financing its own transformation without mortgaging its future. The creation of a functional budgeting system tied to measurable outputs is changing the DNA of governance.

Sectoral Progress: From Vision to Impact

In education, all levels of learning from our three universities to thousands of primary schools continue to enjoy close attention to curricular and extracurricular facilities. In healthcare, key tertiary, secondary and primary health centres are being simultaneously revitalised and equipped - while the Kogi State Health Insurance Scheme and other interventions provide citizens with free, affordable and quality medical attention.

In agriculture, mechanisation clusters and access to finance for farmers is ongoing. Aggressive cultivation of nearly 10,000 hectares of staple crops by Government yielded results, with Kogi dropping from the most food-inflated state in Nigeria to the least within Q2 and Q4, 2024. This is true progress with an eye in alleviating the suffering of the masses.

Infrastructure and utilities - roads, bridges, water schemes and energy (regular and alternative) - are sprouting across the three senatorial districts, vastly extending the efforts of the Bello years. Ododo's youth and women empowerment programmes have expanded access and inclusivity for those demographics, with special care to inclusion of persons living with special needs.

Perhaps the most underreported shift, however, is the climate-conscious orientation of the administration. Environmental policies are no longer an afterthought. From green farming techniques to clean energy adoption, the administration is quietly sowing seeds for a resilient future. Ododo's Kogi has cued heavily into ACREsAL - a World Bank project tackling pressing issues of land degradation and climate change in the 19 states of Northern Nigeria - by making counterpart funding obligations a prompt priority and executing projects to the highest standards.

All that OAU Needs Now is Your Patience and Participation

Rome was not built in a day. Governor Ododo's governance model is not built on noise. It does not seek applause before results. Instead, it insists on process, discipline, and system-building. It is an administration designed not merely to survive electoral cycles, but to birth a culture. This culture demands patience from citizens, yes, but also participation. For no reform can succeed in a society where stock cynicism poisons the sweet waters and sours social support systems.

A Governance Template for the Future Nigeria

If Nigeria must be rebuilt, it will be rebuilt from below - by subnationals who refuse to inherit dysfunction as destiny. Kogi State, under His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, FCA and the Advanced New Direction Administration, is fast becoming an outlier among those subnationals. It is not perfect. It is still work in progress aplenty, but it is intentional. And in a country where sincerity of purpose is often mistaken for weakness, Governor Ododo's chief servanthood is steadily redefining leadership itself. That, perhaps, is the most radical development of all.

This editorial is part of the Kogi State Referral Compendium 2024, curated by the Office of Research and Development to document and celebrate the continuing transformational leadership and good governance under His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo.

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Introduction

Advanced New Direction Administration

Ahmed Usman Ododo was inaugurated as the 5th Executive Governor of Kogi State on 27th January 2024. His swearing-in ushered in a new government christened the Advanced New Direction Administration built on a promise of consolidation and continuity of the foundations laid by the previous government, with a leadership thrust centred on full accountability and

transparency to drive better development outcomes for Kogi State. It will be recalled that the primary election of the All Progressives Congress (APC) on the 15th of April, 2024 produced Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo as the Party flag-bearer and the successor to the outgoing governor, His Excellency Alhaji Yahaya Bello.

Subsequently, on the 19th of November, 2024 having emerged the winner of Kogi

gubernatorial election he became the Governor-Elect, and with his inauguration as mentioned earlier, the 5th Executive Governor of Kogi State. Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is a product of the New Direction Political Family in Kogi State founded by his predecessor, and before he became the Governor, His Excellency had served meritoriously as the Auditor-General of Local Governments throughout

the administration's lifespan. As a result, he comes monumentally well-equipped to deliver on the promise of consolidating and continuing its legacy of pursuing the emergence of a modern Kogi State

Governor Ododo

is committed to building a united, secure, and prosperous Kogi State through transparency, bold leadership, and people-focused initiatives

**MAO:**

Your Excellency, welcome and congratulations on your inauguration as the Executive Governor of Kogi State. How would you describe the significance of today for you personally and for Kogi State?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Thank you. Today is a momentous day. Personally, I stand deeply humbled by the weight of the trust reposed in me by the good people of Kogi State. It marks the beginning of a new chapter built on the solid foundation of unity and a continuation of the progress charted by my predecessor. For our state, it is the reaffirmation of our determination to pursue unity, peace and progress over division and disunity.

MAO:

You acknowledged the achievements of your predecessor, His Excellency, Yahaya Bello, while delivering your Inaugural Address at the Muhammadu Buhari Square today. How do you intend to build on what he has done?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Governor Yahaya Bello is the father of modern Kogi State. Undoubtedly. His unprecedented achievements across sectors - from infrastructure to security, healthcare, and education - have laid a strong base for us. My duty is to water the seeds he has planted, then consolidate on these gains and explore new frontiers of development through strategic investment, inclusive governance and innovation.

MAO:

You mentioned mentorship and transition. Can you share more about the role of Governor Bello in your emergence?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Words will not suffice to appreciate his pivotal role. He did not just support my candidacy - he prepared me administratively, mentally and politically for leadership. His guidance during the transition was exemplary and reassuring. His legacy will endure.

MAO:

You made some emotional acknowledgments in your speech, especially to the women in your life. Could you reflect on that?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Absolutely. My wife, Hajia Sefinat, is the peace and strength of our home. My mother, Hajia Habibat, helped shape my discipline. My late grandmother, Hajia Salamat Audu, raised me and instilled in me the virtues I hold dear. And my late mother-figure, Hajia Hauwau Bello, treated me as her son. These women shaped me. I carry their prayers and lessons into office.

MAO:

Your Excellency, President Tinubu was central in ensuring the Kogi elections were peaceful. What's your administration's posture toward the federal government?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

We are grateful to Mr. President for his commitment to peaceful, free and fair elections. Under my leadership, Kogi State will be a strategic partner for his Renewed Hope Agenda and a sub-national hub for key federal initiatives - especially in food security, poverty alleviation, job creation and the digital economy. We will be His Excellency's most ardent supporters and foot-soldiers.

MAO:

What can the people of Kogi expect in terms of governance style and immediate focus areas?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Our approach will be frank, open and rugged. We are hitting the ground running with people-oriented programmes. Key areas include security,

education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure and digital innovation. We shall govern with transparency, probity and accountability. The people can expect empathy as we intend to walk in their shoes right in their environments in order to serve them better.

MAO:

There's always the question of power rotation in Kogi. You touched on this in your address. Could you elaborate?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Indeed. It's time to institutionalize equity. No senatorial district can go it alone. We must work toward a charter of equity that reflects our interdependence and the reality that every Kogite deserves a fair shot, regardless of origin or faith.

MAO:

You've spoken of a private-sector driven economy. What are your strategies for investment attraction?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

We are creating a safe, investor-friendly environment. Kogi is blessed with solid minerals and a huge store of natural resources, rich agriculture, a strategic location and the confluence of Rivers Niger and Benue. We are setting up a Diaspora Investment Platform and will aggressively market our state as a prime destination for public-private partnerships. We will go out and find the investors and they will also come here and find us.

MAO:

What message do you have for those who did not vote for you or supported the opposition?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

I am Governor for all. Those who supported us, and those who didn't, are all stakeholders. The election is over. It is time to unite. We will never allow worn-out ethnic dogmas to divide us again. We move forward as one.

MAO:

Any last words to the people of Kogi State?

GOVERNOR ODODO:

I urge all Kogites to join hands with me. Let's deliver the Kogi of our dreams – a united, secure, prosperous and progressive state. Let it be said by our children that we chose unity over disunity and worked together to build a better future. God has blessed Kogi State, insha Allah, under my leadership, Kogites will take full advantage of their blessings.

MAO:

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. We are rooting for you and we wish you a successful tenure.

GOVERNOR ODODO:

Thank you. God bless you.

End.

A Concept Interview by the Kogi State Office of Research and Development



As Kogi State embarks on this transformative journey under Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's leadership, the promise of a stronger, more united, and progressive state shines brighter than ever. With unwavering commitment to accountability, innovation, and people-centered governance, the Advanced New Direction Administration is poised to overcome challenges and chart a course toward sustainable development and shared prosperity for every citizen.

VICTORY

WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Governor Ododo's emergence was not without the peculiar challenges of electioneering in Nigeria. Despite the transparency of the processes that produced him and the subsequent credibility of the elections of 19th November, 2023, there were legal challenges which set hurdles in his path to exercising his mandate, mainly by the opposition parties. However, his victory was affirmed with finality by the Supreme Court on the 23rd of August, 2024. It was a judgment welcomed with widespread jubilation by his people across the length and breadth of Kogi State - as even the first few months had shown his mettle as an action Governor determined to work for those who voted him into office.

The Advanced New Direction administration of Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo's vision is focused on 10 key thematic areas, which outline the sectors and policies where his government aims to make impactful improvements. These areas include strategic initiatives in governance, education, healthcare, infrastructure development, Agriculture, Job Creation & economic diversification, security, Social Welfare and more.

All of these thematic areas are embedded in the 32 years State Development Plan, categorized under three major development pillars:

1. Fostering Prosperity
2. Building Resilience
3. Financing the Direction

Alhaji Ahmed Ododo is committed to accountability and transparency as a means of sustaining governance achievements and

fostering public trust. He aims to achieve this through the efficient use of resources, open budgeting, responsible public procurement, and improved service delivery for the people of Kogi State. These key focus areas form the foundation of his strategy to create a progressive, development-driven government. Each area will tackle specific challenges while building on previous successes.

This Compendium of achievements shows the significant efforts of the government of Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo in laying a strong foundation for consolidation and continuity, particularly governance reforms, infrastructure development, healthcare, agriculture, social welfare and security. The administration's focus on full accountability and transparency has manifested in policies that have improved public oversight of government actions, reduced corruption, and encouraged greater citizen participation in State affairs.

Despite the challenges faced especially in terms of economic fluctuations, the administration has remained committed to its core values by ensuring that leadership is accountable and transparent. The administration's achievements in the thematic areas reflect steady progress towards its long-term goals, setting a strong precedent for future years.

Election Victory

Date: 19th November 2023

Governor Ododo's leadership journey began with a decisive victory in the 19th November 2023 gubernatorial election. Despite the transparency of the process, his mandate faced legal challenges from opposition parties, further testing his resolve and commitment to the people of Kogi State.

Supreme Court Affirmation: 23rd August 2024

On 23rd August 2024, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment affirming Governor Ododo's victory. This verdict brought closure to the electoral disputes, sparking widespread jubilation and reinforcing the people's faith in his leadership and vision for the state.

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Under the Advanced New Direction Administration, my vision is anchored on fostering prosperity, building resilience, and financing our collective future. These pillars guide our strategic focus on governance, education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, job creation, security, and social welfare.

H I S E X C E L L E N C Y
AHMED USMAN ODODO
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR KOGI STATE

Ododo

Leadership Style

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State brings a multifunctional leadership style to the table.

He blends the strengths of various leadership approaches with a decisive lean toward the transformational and charismatic styles. His ability to articulate a compelling vision and connect with people at their level has earned him widespread trust and loyalty, enabling him to drive accelerated progress across Kogi State, especially in human capital development, infrastructure expansion and economic growth.

Governor Ododo seamlessly shifts between styles with effortless adaptability - democratic when engaging all stakeholders, autocratic when decisiveness is needed to confront challenges, especially insecurity and ethnic/religious divisiveness. He is however at his best with servant-leadership born of his commitment to empower his people right down to the grassroots. This situational awareness ensures

effective governance that is customized to the demands of each segment of his society. His Excellency's mastery of the norms and nuances of leadership, has positioned Kogi State for accelerated and sustainable advancement.



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Advanced

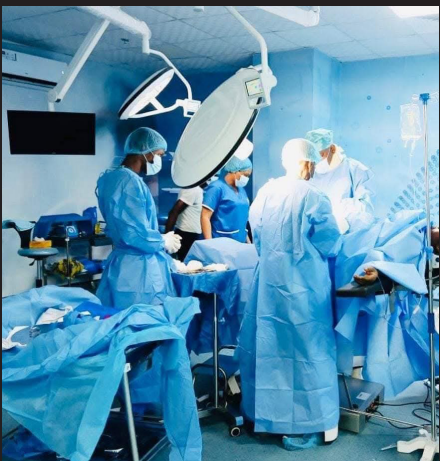
New Direction Reform Matrix





1. Education Reform

- » Objective: To prioritize quality and affordable education through improved infrastructure, teacher training and access to learning materials, to build human capital and a skilled workforce.
- » Focus Areas: Revamping school infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum development, expanding access to vocational and technical education, and digital learning initiatives.
- » Expected Outcome: An education system that equips students with skills for the 21st century and produces a skilled workforce for the state's economy.



2. Healthcare Delivery and Social Services

- » Objective: To improve health care by access to quality and affordable services, improve medical infrastructure and ensure a healthy and productive populace.

- » Focus Areas: Upgrading primary health centers, expanding health insurance schemes, increasing healthcare worker training, and providing better facilities for maternal health and emergency care.
- » Expected Outcome: Improved healthcare indicators, including lower infant and maternal mortality rates, and increased access to affordable healthcare.



3. Infrastructure Development

- » Objective: To invest in civil infrastructure such as roads, bridges, power supply and water resources to stimulate economic growth and attract foreign and domestic investments.
- » Focus Areas: Roads, bridges, energy projects, water supply, and rural electrification.
- » Expected Outcome: Better connectivity within the state, improved access to basic services, and a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.



4. Agricultural Development and Food Security

- » Objective: To promote industrial scale agro venture and provide farmers with credit, inputs, and markets for increased agricultural productivity, food security and job creation.
- » Focus Areas: Investment in mechanized farming, agro-processing, improved access to finance for farmers, and expanded irrigation systems.
- » Expected Outcome: Increased agricultural productivity, reduced food imports, and enhanced income for rural communities.





- » 5. Job Creation & Economic Diversification
- » Objective: To encourage domestic and foreign investments, entrepreneurship and new venture creation and rapid development of MSMEs for accelerated economic growth.
- » Focus Areas: Agriculture value chain enhancement, small and medium enterprise (SME) support, industrialization initiatives, and public-private partnerships (PPP).
- » Expected Outcome: Reduced unemployment, economic growth in multiple sectors, and increased self-reliance for the state.



- » 6. Security, Law and Social Justice
- » Objective: To improve the architecture for security and social justice by constantly strengthening the law and other measures to ensure the rule of law and security of lives/property for enhanced economic growth and development.

- » Focus Areas: Modernizing the state's law enforcement infrastructure, community policing initiatives, intelligence sharing, and collaboration with federal agencies.
- » Expected Outcome: A reduction in crime rates, enhanced public safety, and a more secure environment for economic activities.



- » 7. Transparency, Accountability, and Anti-Corruption
- » Objective: To promote public trust in government by efficient use of resources, open budgeting, public procurement and anti corruption practices.
- » Focus Areas: Strengthening the financial management system, independent audits of public expenditures, and promoting whistleblower policies.
- » Expected Outcome: A government that manages resources efficiently, ensuring public funds are used to benefit citizens, and corruption is minimized.



- » 8. Social Welfare
- » Objective: To address multidimensional poverty, social inequality & unemployment by ensuring more equitable distribution of resources and improved quality of life for all.
- » Focus Areas: Poverty alleviation programs, health insurance expansion, housing and shelter programs, support for persons with disabilities, employment and skills development.
- » Expected Outcome: An improved livelihood for the citizens of Kogi State with sustained economy and business resilience.





- » 9. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
- » Objective: To ensure a healthy and productive environment by promoting sustainable development practices and to conserve some for posterity.
- » Focus Areas: Reforestation, waste management systems, climate change adaptation strategies, and promoting renewable energy.
- » Expected Outcome: A greener Kogi State with enhanced resilience to environmental challenges, including flooding and erosion.



- » 10. Youth, Women and Special Needs
- » Objective: To invest in programmes that protects and empower children, youth and

women and people with special needs through education, skills training and economic opportunities helping them to live with dignity and contribute to overall development.

- » Focus Areas: Entrepreneurial development, vocational training, access to credit, and leadership initiatives.
- » Expected Outcome: A more inclusive economy where youth, women and PLWDS are active participants in driving growth and development.

These 10 thematic areas reflect a broad, integrated approach that addresses both the immediate needs and long-term aspirations of Kogi State, laying the foundation for sustainable growth and development.



Chapter 1:

Governance and Institutional Reform

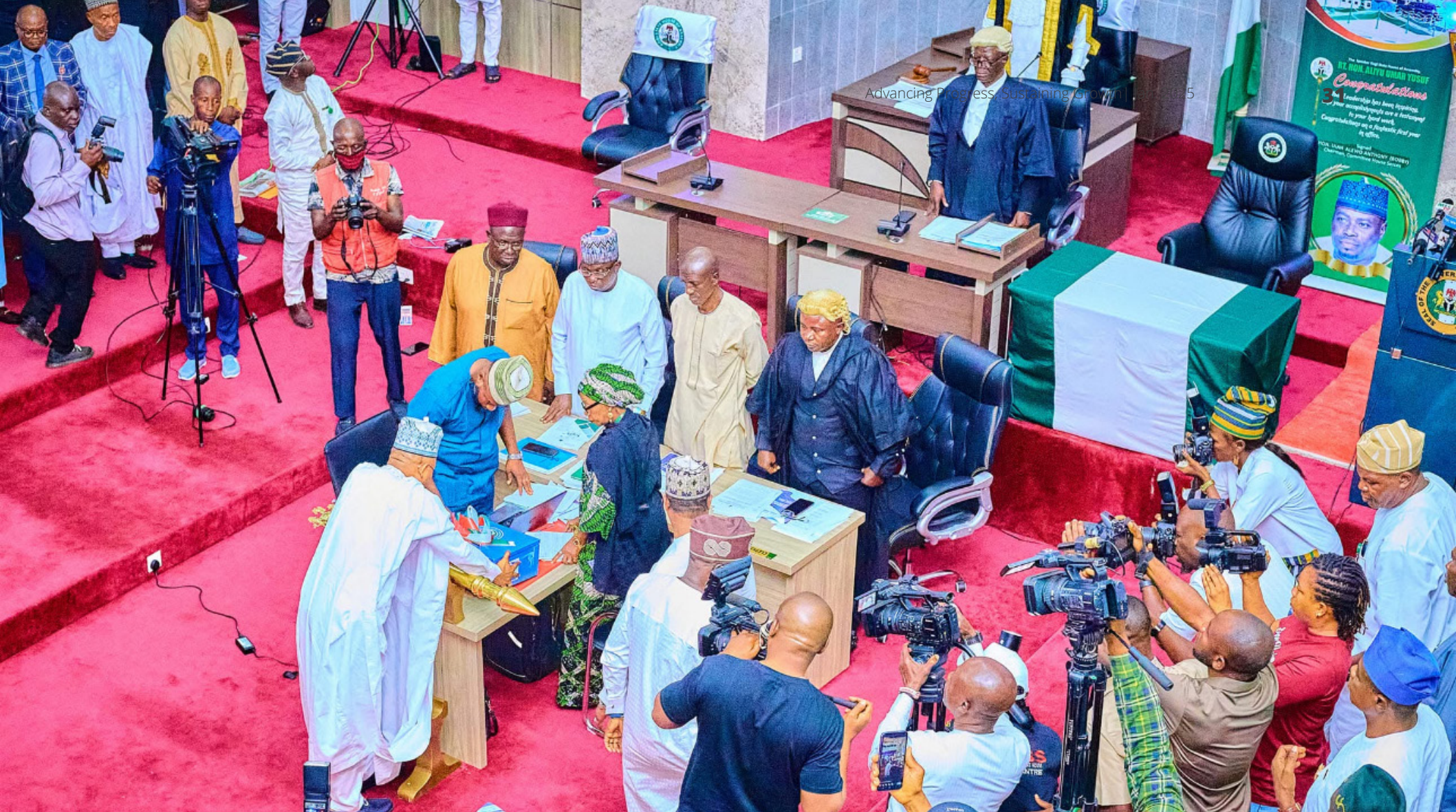
Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office has demonstrated a resolute commitment to governance and institutional reforms, with a focus on fostering transparency, accountability, and efficient public service delivery. Recognizing the significance of robust governance structures as a catalyst for sustainable development, the administration has initiated and implemented an array of measures aimed at strengthening

governance frameworks, reforming public administration, and tackling corruption. These efforts reflect a clear vision for a responsive and inclusive government that prioritizes the welfare of its citizens.

One of the administration's hallmark achievements is the considerable progress made in enhancing fiscal transparency and accountability. Through prudent fiscal management, the state's domestic debt was

significantly reduced from over N121 billion in December 2023 to approximately N38 billion by June 2024. This fiscal prudence has not only improved the financial standing of the state but also allowed for the strategic allocation of resources to critical developmental projects. Such achievements underscore the administration's commitment to financial discipline and responsible governance.

To amplify transparency further, the Ododo's administration has adopted



the Open Government Partnership (OGP); a modern financial system that streamlines budget processes and enhances public financial management. The OGP provides a global platform where citizens and governments collaborate to address development and governance issues, ensuring that citizens are involved throughout the process from planning to implementation. This partnership aims to bring significant reforms in governance, making the government more accountable to its people.

The two-year action plan focuses on four key areas: Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Service Delivery, and Extractive Transparency

By aligning budget allocations with developmental priorities and disclosing financial records periodically, the administration has bolstered public confidence in governance. These efforts have cultivated an environment of trust and accountability, ensuring that government resources are judiciously utilized for the benefit of the populace.

The civil service, being the engine of effective governance, has also undergone substantial reforms under Governor Ododo's leadership. Recognizing the need to motivate the workforce and enhance productivity, the administration has consistently ensured the prompt payment of salaries to state and local government workers. This unwavering commitment has not only improved the morale of civil servants but also fostered trust and strengthened public service delivery.

To further optimize the civil service, the administration has embraced digital transformation by introducing automated systems for personnel management and payroll processing. This modernization has significantly reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks, eliminated redundancies, and enhanced accountability. The digitization of administrative processes represents a critical step toward a more efficient and responsive public service.

Combating corruption remains a cornerstone of Governor Ododo's governance agenda. By integrating anti-corruption measures into governance structures, the administration has ensured the proper management of public resources. A notable achievement in

this area is the deployment of technology-driven solutions for tax collection, which have minimized revenue leakages and increased the state's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) from N1.3 billion to N2 billion monthly. This remarkable growth has provided the government with additional resources to fund developmental initiatives, reinforcing the administration's commitment to financial accountability and transparency.

In addition to improving revenue collection, the administration has reformed procurement processes by introducing public tenders and independent audits. These reforms ensure that contracts are awarded based on merit and value for money, reducing corruption and promoting fair competition. The result is enhanced infrastructure and better-quality services for the people of Kogi State, demonstrating the tangible benefits of transparent governance.

Recognizing the importance of grassroots governance, Governor Ododo has strategically appointed Local Government Area Supervisors (LSAs) and Ward Supervisory Assistants (WSAs). These appointments are pivotal in decentralizing governance and ensuring that state policies are effectively implemented at the

community level. By empowering local leaders and fostering inclusivity, the administration has improved service delivery and strengthened the connection between the government and the people.

The LSAs and WSAs serve as critical intermediaries, facilitating communication between the government and local communities, monitoring the implementation of projects, and addressing local challenges. This decentralized governance structure has enhanced responsiveness and accountability, ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives reach the grassroots.

Governor Ododo's administration has also prioritized the integration of technology into governance, recognizing its potential to enhance efficiency and transparency. The deployment of digital platforms for tax collection, personnel management, and public service delivery has streamlined operations and provided real-time data for informed decision-making. These technological advancements have not only improved service delivery but also established a foundation for sustainable governance practices.

In the security sector, technology has been leveraged to address criminal activities and enhance public safety. The administration has deployed surveillance systems, emergency response tools, and digital reporting

mechanisms, significantly boosting law enforcement capabilities. Coupled with initiatives such as the establishment of quick response squads and neighborhood watch groups, these efforts have resulted in a substantial reduction in crime rates, positioning Kogi State as one of the safest in the region.

The administration's focus on economic and infrastructure development has yielded significant results. Prioritizing road construction and rehabilitation, the government has enhanced connectivity and facilitated economic activities across the state. Improved transportation networks have boosted trade, increased access to markets, and created new economic opportunities for local communities.

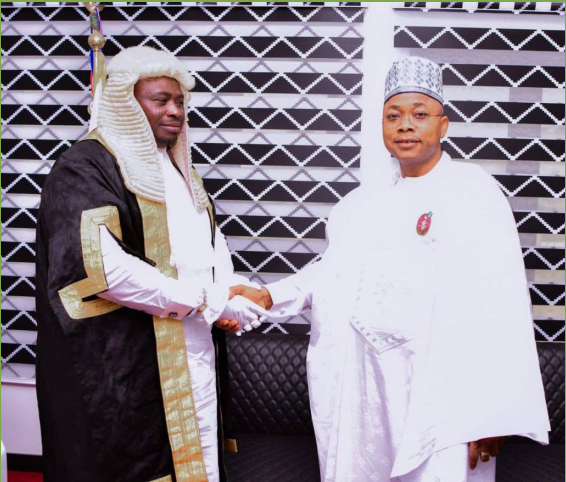
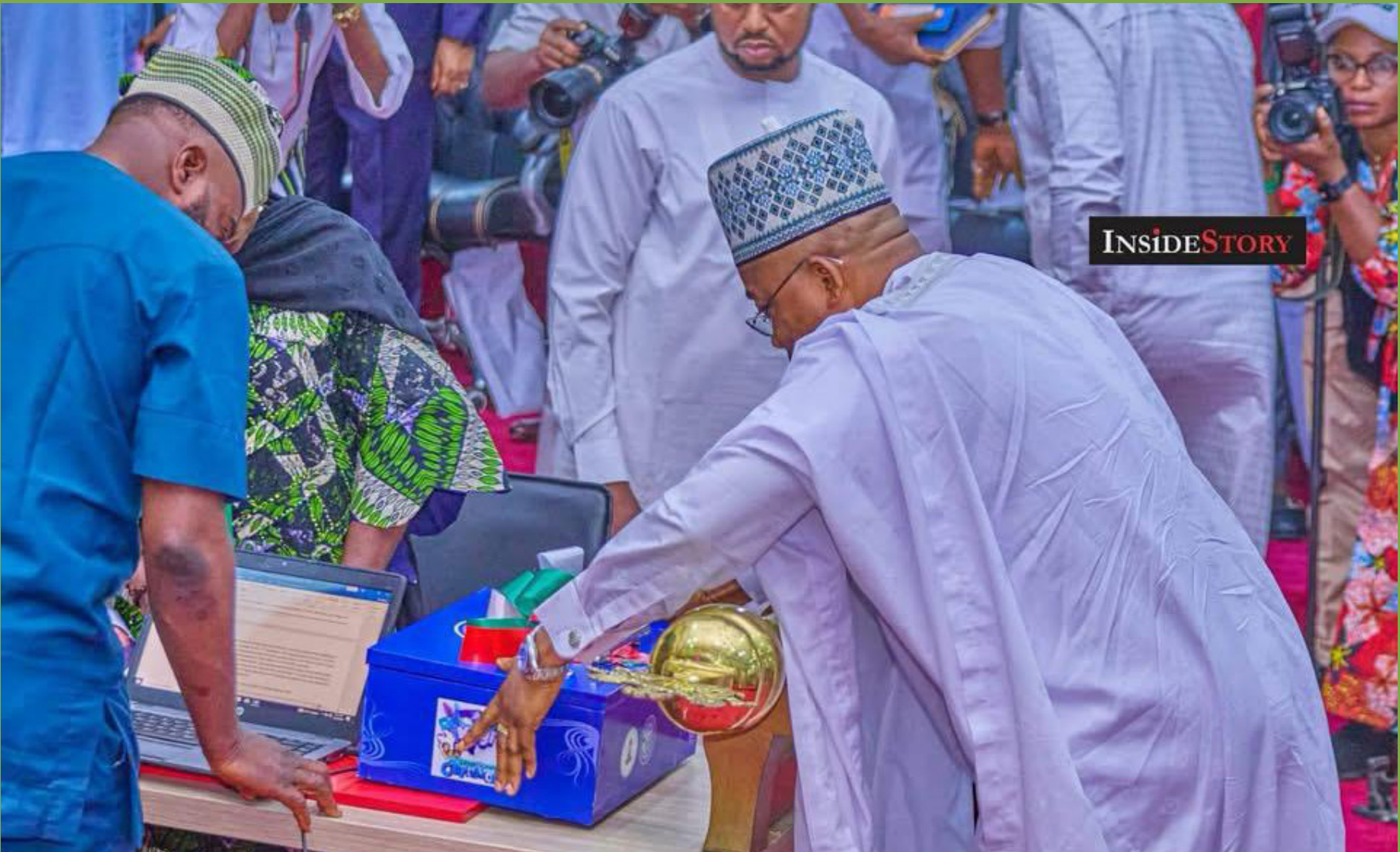
To sustain these developmental efforts, the administration has placed a strong emphasis on fiscal responsibility. By adhering to rigorous budgeting processes and the Treasury Single Account (TSA) system, the government has ensured efficient resource allocation and minimized waste. These measures have enabled the state to channel resources toward priority areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, further enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

Governor Ododo's administration has also prioritized grassroots development

by empowering local communities and ensuring inclusivity in development planning. Through strategic appointments and targeted programs, the government has strengthened local governance structures, creating a participatory environment where development initiatives are tailored to the unique needs of each community. This approach has fostered equity and sustainability in the implementation of developmental projects.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office has been characterized by truly transformative governance and institutional reforms. By prioritizing transparency, reforming public administration, combating corruption, and promoting grassroots engagement, the administration has laid a robust foundation for sustainable development in Kogi State. These achievements reflect the governor's vision of a transparent, accountable, and inclusive government committed to improving the welfare of its people. With a strategic and people-centered approach, the Ododo administration is poised to achieve even greater milestones in governance and institutional efficiency.

In just one year, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has redefined governance in Kogi State with groundbreaking reforms. From reducing domestic debt from ₦121 billion to ₦38 billion through fiscal discipline, to boosting internally generated revenue from ₦1.3 billion to ₦2 billion monthly, the administration's achievements speak volumes.







Chapter 2:

Education and Human Capital Development

Education has long been heralded as the bedrock of societal transformation. Across generations, it has stood as a powerful tool for cultivating informed citizens, driving innovation, and empowering communities to achieve sustainable development. In Kogi State, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration has taken bold strides to consolidate and expand the achievements of his predecessor, embedding education

as a central pillar in his Advance New Direction agenda.

His approach to education is deeply rooted in the principles of consolidation and continuity, ensuring that the successes of past interventions are preserved while innovative solutions are implemented to address lingering challenges. His administration recognizes that a society can only evolve when its people are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mindset

necessary for progress.

Building on the efforts of his predecessor, Governor Yahaya Bello, Governor Ododo's administration sought to strengthen Kogi State's education infrastructure. Investments in building and renovating schools, improving teacher welfare, and providing educational materials to ensure a more conducive learning environment for students are top priorities. The administration also prioritized technical

and vocational education, aligning with the state's vision of fostering a skilled workforce capable of driving economic growth. Programs such as the periodic monitoring and inspection of schools have also helped in the attitudinal change of schoolteachers and improved dedication to work which has transformed the educational experience of students and prepared them for the demands of a globalized economy.

As education evolves globally, the Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration is adapting to meet new challenges and opportunities. Realizing the present economic bite, policies have been implemented to rejig the Kogi State Scholarship Board which is saddled with the responsibility of scholarships, grants and bursary awards to the indigenes of Kogi State to motivate students to pursue higher education, especially in fields critical to the state's development.

Governor Ododo's administration views education not just as a sector, but as a transformative force that cuts across all facets

of society. Education is pivotal to achieving the administration's 10 thematic areas of focus, ranging from economic diversification to social welfare. By investing in education, the state is nurturing a generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will drive sustainable development in Kogi State.

The administration's strategy of consolidation and continuity ensures that the gains of the past are not lost, while forward-thinking policies pave the way for a brighter future. By linking education reforms to the state's broader vision for growth, Governor Ododo has underscored the role of education as the cornerstone of societal transformation.

In his first year as the Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has demonstrated a deep commitment to transforming the education sector through strategic investments and impactful policies. His administration's efforts have not only addressed critical gaps in access to education but have also laid the foundation for sustainable development across the state.

1. On Commitment to Free Basic Education:

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration approved the payment of the 2024/2025 WAEC fees for 18,734 Students in Public Secondary Schools in the State. This payment is in line with the policy of free examination fee for pupils in public schools' enacted by the State Government. The policy stipulates that fees for some internal and external internal and external examination for pupils in public primary schools are the responsibility of the government underscoring Governor Ododo's dedication to equitable access to education for all Kogi children. This initiative reflects a commitment to ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder any child's right to quality education and thus make life easier for their parents and guardians.

2. Support for Higher Education:

Recognizing the financial challenges faced





by students in tertiary institutions, the administration approved a bursary fund of N315 million for 8,750 Kogi indigenes. This move alleviates the economic burdens on families, fostering a culture of higher education and skill development among the youth and underlines the State Government commitment to making sure that all the students of the State in Higher Institutions across the country feel the impact of the Government. The administration also re-enacted a policy for the Establishment of the Kogi State Scholarship Board which is saddled with the responsibility of overseeing the disbursement of these bursary awards to the citizens.

3. **Infrastructure Development at Kogi State University, Kabba:**

In line with his policy on investments in educational infrastructure, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo approved a monumental N8 billion investment for

the construction of critical infrastructure at the Kogi State University (KSU), Kabba. This includes a Senate building, a Faculty of Science, and modern male and female hostels. The University has also seen the construction of internal roads, university library and gates at an advanced stage by the administration. These facilities are pivotal in elevating the university to a hub of academic excellence and attracting top-tier talent to the institution.

4. **Skills Acquisition and Vocational Training:**

In partnership with the Nigeria-Korea Friendship Institute in Lokoja, the administration enrolled 250 youths in skills acquisition programs. Documentation has since begun and the institute will equip them with technical expertise and enhance their employability. This initiative bridges the gap between education and workforce readiness, contributing to Kogi's human capital development.

5. **Promotion of Renewable Energy Education:**

The launch of the Barefoot Renewable Energy Academy at the Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH), Osara, is a bold step toward integrating sustainable development into education. This academy positions Kogi State as a leader in renewable energy innovation, preparing students to tackle future energy challenges while driving environmental sustainability.

6. **Advancing Education in the State**

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo in a bid to advance education and healthcare in Kogi state signed a bill converting the state-of-the-art Reference Hospital, Okene into the Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH) Teaching Hospital. The move aligns with the National Universities Commission's

approval of a full-time Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program, among other medical courses, at the university. This move is regarded as a solid foundation on which the program begins. With this development, CUSTECH will have cutting-edge medical technology to train outstanding healthcare professionals for Kogi State and beyond, while the facility could also take care of complex health challenges. With the bill now passed into law, CUSTECH is poised to effectively commence its MBBS program.

7. These achievements signal a new era of progress and inclusivity in Kogi State's education sector. By prioritizing free education, enhancing education infrastructure, and promoting technical and vocational skills, Governor Ododo's administration is fostering a generation of empowered, skilled, and self-reliant individuals. These policies are not just investments in education but in the socio-economic future of Kogi State, ensuring that its citizens are prepared to contribute meaningfully to state and

national development. Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's education reforms, in their scope and ambition, are a testament to his administration's vision of a prosperous, knowledge-driven Kogi State.

8. In a bid to further explore opportunities in education, Kogi State participated in the National Reading Framework Dissemination for Improved Literacy Across Nigeria

Its objective is to disseminate the NRF and its Implementation Guidelines to education stakeholders in Nigeria. The Federal Ministry of Education, in partnership with USAID LEARN to Read, hosted the meeting in hopes of improving reading standards across the country.

Kogis participation in this National gathering highlights the commitment of His Excellency Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo to enhancing education for all citizens as knowledge shared are turned into implementable actions.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo

also presented a N5Million Naira complimentary scholarship award to Miss Favour Oluwatimilehin Adebayo, in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement which led her to securing prestigious European Union ERASMUS+Scholarship to study in Poland.

It is also worthy to note, that under the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has granted Full Institutional Accreditation for Kogi State Polytechnic Lokoja, and for 18 due programmes presented by the institution.

In the same vein, the NBTE has also granted the Polytechnic approval to mount 8 new programmes.

This 100 percent quality assurance success recorded for the 27 programmes was a consolidation of the resounding accreditation success in 2022 when all the 30 programmes presented to NBTE were fully accredited.

The programmes that were granted full accreditation status with effect from the



2024/2025 academic session are:

- 1. ND Mechatronics Engineering Technology
- 2. ND Computer Engineering Technology
- 3. HND Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology (Power and Machine Option)
- 4. HND Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology (Electronic and Telecommunication Option)
- 5. ND Agricultural and Bio-Environmental Engineering Technology
- 6. 6. ND Accountancy
- 7. HND Accountancy
- 8. ND Business Administration and Management
- 9. HND Business Administration and Management
- 10. ND Public Administration

- 11. HND Public Administration
- 12. HND Science Laboratory Technology (Microbiology Option)
- 13. HND Urban and Regional Planning
- 14. ND Library and Information Science
- 15. HND Library and Information Science
- 16. ND Horticultural Technology
- 17. ND Animal Health and Production Technology
- 18. ND Agricultural Technology
- 19. INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

The programmes that were granted approval for commencement after Resource Inspection Visitation are:

- 1. HND Civil Engineering Technology
- 2. HND Mechanical Engineering

Technology (Manufacturing Option)

- 3. HND Building Technology
- 4. HND Architectural Technology
- 5. HND Surveying and Geo-Informatics
- 6. ND Printing Technology
- 7. ND Fashion Design and Clothing Technology
- 8. ND Mass Communication

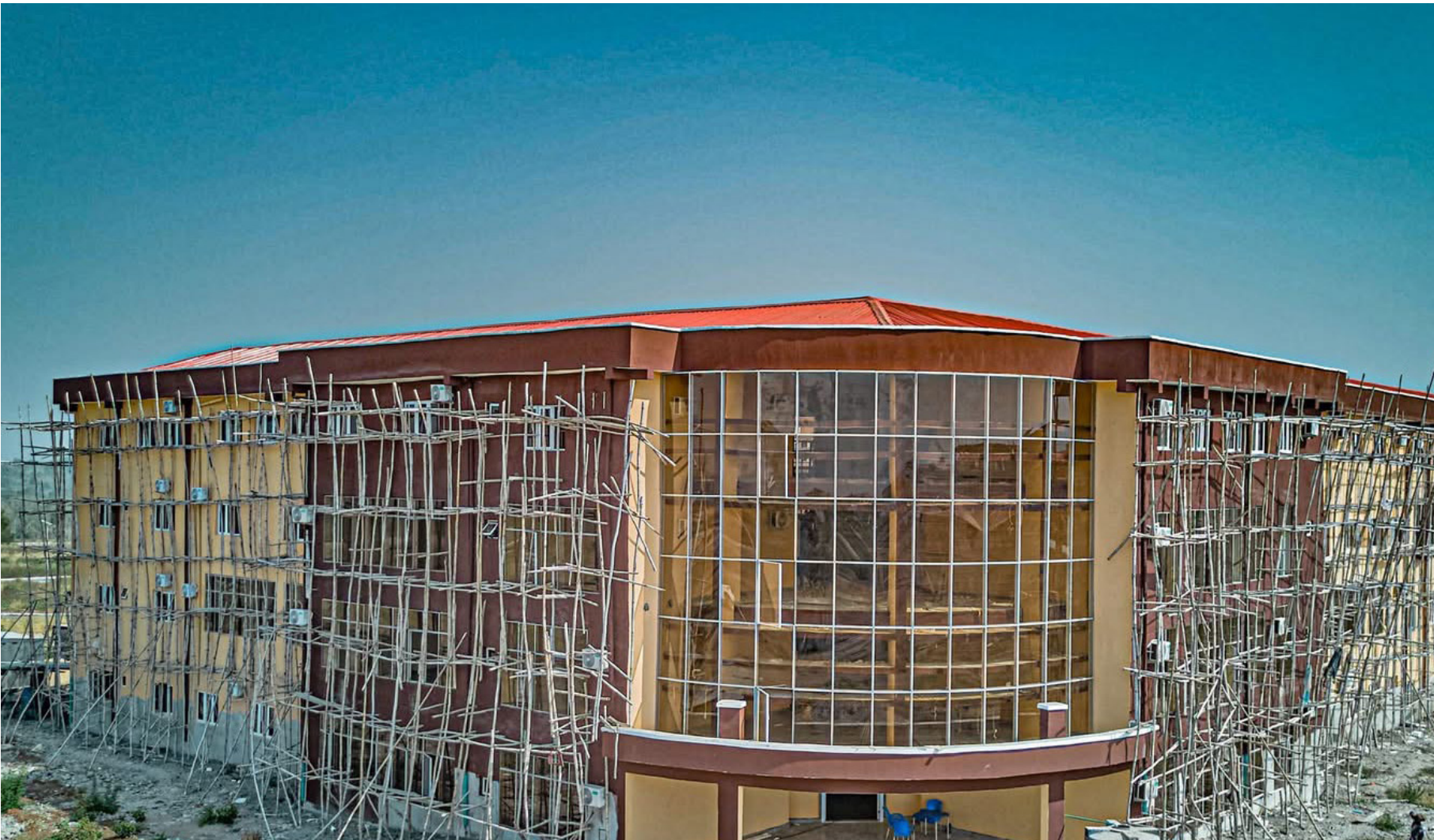
With this outcome, no programme in the Polytechnic has denied or interim accreditation status; adding that it was a reflection of the institution’s commitment to academic excellence and stability.

This success is attributed to His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo for his unwavering support and creating the enabling environment for the institution to thrive.

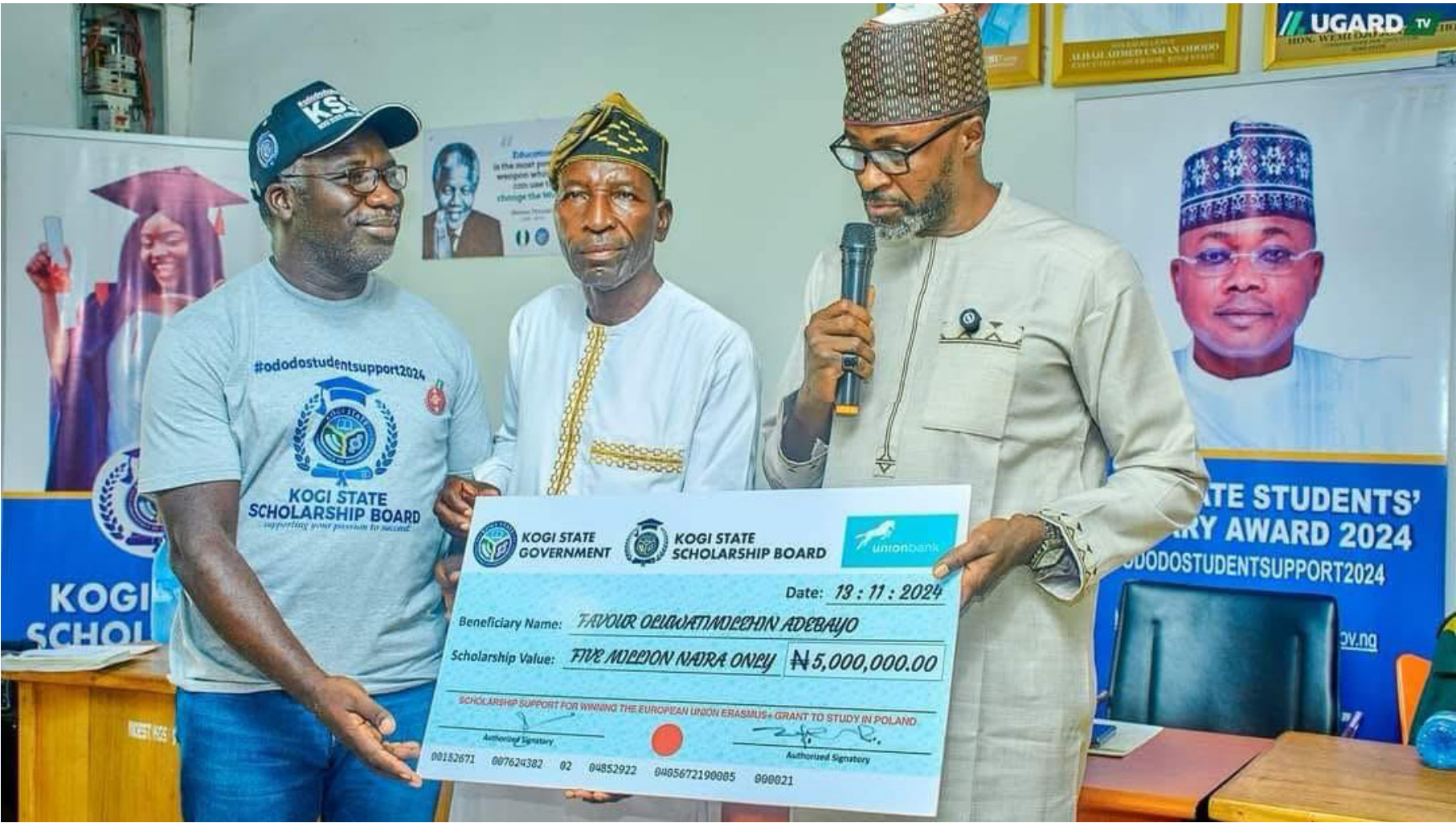
















Chapter 3:

Health Sector Reforms and Public Initiatives

Healthcare in Kogi State is evolving to address critical challenges and ensure better health outcomes for its citizens.

The sector faces common hurdles found in many regions of Nigeria, including infrastructure gaps, limited healthcare workforce, and accessibility issues, particularly in rural areas. However, under the

current administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, significant strides have been made to advance healthcare services across the state.

Governor Ododo's Consolidation and Continuity agenda focuses on building upon the progress

of the previous administration while introducing new initiatives to strengthen healthcare delivery.



This approach prioritizes the improvement of healthcare infrastructure, the expansion of The sector faces common hurdles found in many regions of Nigeria, including infrastructure gaps, limited healthcare workforce, and accessibility issues, particularly in rural areas. However, under the current administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, significant strides have been made to advance healthcare services across the state.

Governor Ododo's Consolidation and Continuity agenda focuses on building upon the progress of the previous administration while introducing new initiatives to strengthen healthcare delivery.

This approach prioritizes the improvement of healthcare infrastructure, the expansion of primary healthcare access, and the delivery of quality services across all levels of care, with an emphasis on preventive healthcare and maternal and child health services. Under his leadership, there is a strong emphasis on accountability and transparency in healthcare investments, ensuring that resources are effectively utilized. Key programs have been rolled out to improve healthcare accessibility in underserved communities, alongside capacity-building efforts for healthcare professionals to enhance their skills and effectiveness.

Governor Ododo's commitment to continuity in healthcare is evident in efforts to scale up existing initiatives, such as expanding medical facilities, ensuring adequate drug supplies, and ensuring that existing health workers are happy with 100% focus on their job for maximum productivity of healthcare delivery. By focusing on these foundational areas, the Ododo administration aims to create a sustainable healthcare system that supports the well-being of every resident of Kogi State, ensuring long-term health impacts for generations to come.

The year has witnessed significant advancements in the health

Sector under the Advanced New Direction Administration.

1. The Administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo approved a 50% subsidy on health insurance premium deductions for Civil servants in the State in the next one year. Despite the consistent 5% Employer Contribution of State Government to the Formal Sector Health Insurance Plan for Civil Servants in the State which has been implemented in the State to provide financial risk protection to civil servants and their dependents.

Furthermore, as contained in the MoU signed between the State Government and the Organized Labour in the State, His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo directed the Health Insurance Agency to continue the 1.75% Employee Premium deduction instead of 3.5% for the next one year in addition to the tax waiver earlier given on the new minimum wage addition to ensure the civil servants enjoy their new minimum wage and the prescribed health insurance plan. This is as against the 3.5% increase employee contribution expected when the State Government commences the implementation of the new minimum wage This is to allow civil servants remain committed in the discharge of their duty due to the enabling environment provided to them while the state ministry of health continues to improve on provision of quality healthcare service delivery to the people.	to healthcare excellence, Her Excellency the first lady of Kogi State, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo launched the STOP TB campaign in Kogi state. This is a campaign aimed at ending TB by 2030. In the same vein, His Excellency the chief servant of Kogi state Alh. Ahmed Usman Ododo humbly flagged off the distribution of 2 Toyota hilux vans and 42 motorcycles to the 21 LGAs for the Monitoring and Supervision of Tuberculosis and Leprosy	and Long-Term Success	30kva mikano Generators, 239 Public Address System for community sensitization in health, 4 Mobile X-ray machine, patient monitors, 250,000 pieces of apron and theatre scrub,
2. His Excellency Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo in the last one year also ensured all necessary support were placed on the table to take quality, accessible, available and affordable healthcare to the people of the state. This is reflected in the approval of Revitalization of 194 PHCs across the state by the Kogi State Government in collaboration with the Federal Government (NPHCDA/ BHCPF), World Bank (IMPACT), UNICEF amongst others	4. The State Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Nigeria Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative (NHSRII) has successfully developed the Health Sector Strategic Blueprint (HSSB) for 2023-2027, which has since been endorsed by the National Council on Health (NCH) and has also gotten the approval of the president for a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) as the guiding framework for health initiatives and outcomes. This approach aims to scale up health outcomes through the unified efforts of the President, the 36 State Governors, and Donor Partners, in reforming the health sector. SWAp now serves as a vital tool for delivering the HSSB and NHSRII and it is aimed to achieve the following in the State:	» Ownership, Visibility, and effective Communication within the health sector » Enhance Leadership Commitment and Vision for better healthcare. 5. With the tireless effort of the Governor to achieve an improved number of qualified health worker forces in other to address the gap in human resource for health, the State Ministry of Health has catapulted the efforts of the management, staff and students at the College of Health Sciences and Technology, Idah to recently amongst other new programs secured the approval/ accreditation of the National Board for Technical Education for: a. HND Environmental Health Technology. b. HND Health Information Management. These two recent accreditations put the institution as the third health sciences and technology college to achieve such in North central Nigeria.	8. In order to prevent malaria among the under-5 children across the state, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo started the implementation of the 2024 seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis which was supported by Malaria consortium worth over 1 billion naira. The medical equipment was supported by FMOH, Global fund through NACA and CHAI. This is a clear demonstration of His Excellency's commitment to quality, accessible and affordable healthcare delivery to the people of Kogi state.
3. In a collective effort to combat tuberculosis in Kogi State and her commitment	» Enhanced Resource Coordination and Efficiency » Strengthened Governance and Accountability » Empowerment of State-Level Health Systems » Universal Health Coverage	6. The Civil servants are to start enjoying 6 months maternity leave for women and 14 working days paternity leave for men. 7. The Governor also flagged-off distribution of medical equipment/consumables worth hundreds of millions of naira across health facilities in the state. These includes but not limited to; 30 Oxygen Concentrators, 30 UPS, 400 Pulse Oxymeters, 155 units of 50kg and 135 of 20kg Oxygen Cylinders, 102 flow meters, nasal cannulae, 4nos	9. His Excellency Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo also launched the Formal Sector Plan for the Civil Servants, the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) for the vulnerable persons in the state, and the Ten (10) years Strategic Plan of Kogi State Health Insurance Agency. This is in line with bringing healthcare to all Kogites by achieving Universal Health Coverage. 10. The Health Insurance Scheme under the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has also enrolled 167, 000 persons including People Living with Disabilities (PLWDS). This is an initiative introduced to achieve Universal Health Coverage in the State which allows residents of Kogi State to have access to quality and good health care services without suffering financial

1. hardship while going for those services. This move is to ensure that the people of Kogi State have access to good health service and live a quality life.

The administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has immunized about 77,495 children in rural communities across seven Local Government Areas of the state.

This was made known by the State Immunization Officer, Dr. Grace Ojofedo following the successful completion of the "Big-Catch-UP" Polio Immunization program in the state. This development will help to consolidate on the 10-year-old polio-free status of the State.

The exercise were carried out in communities that were not earlier properly captured in the last year immunization program. Implemented in 7 LGAs in the state, a total of 80608 vaccines were used and a total number of 77495 children were immunized. "

This exercise recorded 99% coverage rate but also suffered 5 percent wastage rate in the latest program carried out between January 6 – January 13, 2025.

UNICEF was applauded for its contribution to the program, the agency's supports is helping the state maintain the zero polio status, stressing that the state will not spare any efforts to consolidate on its Polio-free status.











More of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's Footprints in the Health Sector

- » Renovation of the state Ministry of Health office complex in Lokoja
- » Provision of Health Insurance Coverage for Civil Servants in Kogi State
- » Training of 700 workers on Maternal Infant and young child Nutrition (MICYN)
- » Provision of operational vehicles for Health Agencies (HMB and Kogi state Health Insurance Agency)
- » Flag off Distribution of Medical equipment and Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC), Media Parley on SMC
- » Mass Drug and Distribution of antimalarial drugs (SMC) to children 3-59months from June- October 2024 in the state with the support of Malaria Consortium
- » A hybrid power system of the national grid and adequate solar panels arrangement with High-capacity Lithium batteries. This provides 24hrs daily power source to supply state vaccine cold chain system. This makes Kogi one of the State in Nigeria to achieve the solarization of state's cold chain room.
- » Distribution of medical equipment consumables to Health facilities in the state (Secondary and Tertiary health facilities)
- » Prompt Payment of counterpart funds
- to various Health programs (Measles campaign, Human papilloma virus campaign etc)
- » Distribution of drugs for the prevention of River blindness in Kogi state.
- » Capacity building of over 400 primary health care officers on health systems digitalization and electronic data reporting for prompt and accurate data entry across the state.
- » Operational support to 239 BHCPF Primary Health Care centers across the state for effective PHC health care delivery.
- » Inspections of private hospitals and clinics, Registration of new private clinics and hospitals, Verification of equipment supplied to new ultra-modern hospital in kogi state and ethical clearance committee work on research work done in Kogi State.
- » Conducted training for LGA Rapid response Team, IPC focal persons in LGA and health facilities, LGA lab focal persons and Disease Surveillance and Notification Officers, LGA health promotion Officers/ Community mobilizers and Community informants.
- » Conducted bimonthly review meetings of LGA laboratory Committee, LGA Logistic Committee, LGA Social Mobilization Officers and data harmonization meeting for DSNOs.
- » Printing and distribution of Surveillance data tools to LGAs.
- » Production and distribution of State Specific IPC manual/guidelines.
- » Procurement and distribution of 239 public address system to the 239 wards in the State
- » Engagement of Third-Party Logistics to support sample collection and transportation for laboratory analysis.
- » Installation of 7.5 KVA inverter at the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC)
- » Supported Gender Based Violence (GBV) activities in the State:
- » Development of SEA/SH Action Plan, Stakeholders sensitization and Development/signing of MOU among stakeholders involved in GBV activities.
- » Routine supply of drugs and medical consumables to thirty-seven secondary health facilities and 239 primary health facilities
- » Free distribution of Oral Rehydration Salts and Multivitamins to Primary Health Care Development Agency during the Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health week.
- » The state through KSDMSMA successfully signed a memorandum of understanding with Seven Pharmaceutical Companies/ Distributors to ensure the provision of quality assured health Commodities.
- » Renovation of a mini-Warehouse to maintain the ideal storage condition for drugs on storage
- » Deworming of 640,000 children within the last one year
- » Provision and distribution of micronutrient powder to 320,000 children
- » Supplementation of Vitamin A to 720,000 children
- » Supplementation of Anti malarias to 200,000 pregnant women
- » Installation of two air conditioners to the Pharmaceutical Quality Control Laboratory (PQCL).
- » Installation of Two Air conditioner to the renovated mini-Warehouse
- » Monitoring and Evaluation visit to health facilities to ensure that the delivered drugs are reserved for the right patients and used rationally.
- » Donation of 4 Mobile Portable Digital X-Ray (PDX) Machine for Community screening of Tuberculosis, one to each senatorial zone and the fourth one in Lokoja metropolis.



Kogi State is setting new standards in healthcare under the visionary leadership of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo. Through bold initiatives and strategic planning, healthcare is becoming more accessible, affordable, and impactful for every resident.

Chapter 4:

Industrialization, Innovation, and Economic Development

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration has laid the groundwork for a transformative economic future in Kogi State.

Through strategic investments, fiscal reforms, and a focus on public-private partnerships, the Governor has sought to reshape the state's economic landscape, positioning it for long-term sustainable growth. Central to

this vision is the 32-Year Kogi State Development Plan (2024-2056), a comprehensive framework designed to diversify the economy and stimulate industrialization. This plan focuses on sectors with significant growth potential, such as agriculture,

solid minerals, infrastructure, and technology, all of which are poised to enhance Kogi's competitive edge both within Nigeria and internationally.



Kogi State under Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's leadership is redefining growth through strategic investments, fiscal discipline, and sustainable development. From the groundbreaking Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone in Ajaokuta to debt reduction and fostering public-private partnerships, the state is becoming a hub for innovation, agriculture, and commerce. With infrastructure upgrades, empowerment programs, and a focus on culture and tourism, Kogi is not just building an economy but a legacy of inclusive progress and global relevance.

One of the administration's standout achievements in the past year has been the establishment of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) in Ajaokuta. Spanning 254 hectares and strategically located near essential resources like water, gas, railways, and the proposed Adogo international cargo airport, the SAPZ is a major step in positioning Kogi as an agro-industrial hub. The zone is designed to process key agricultural products such as cassava, maize, rice, and palm oil, creating jobs, fostering value addition, and attracting both local and foreign investments. This initiative forms the heart of the state's long-term strategy to industrialize and diversify its agricultural base, with the SAPZ acting as a magnet for global investors seeking new opportunities in agro-processing.

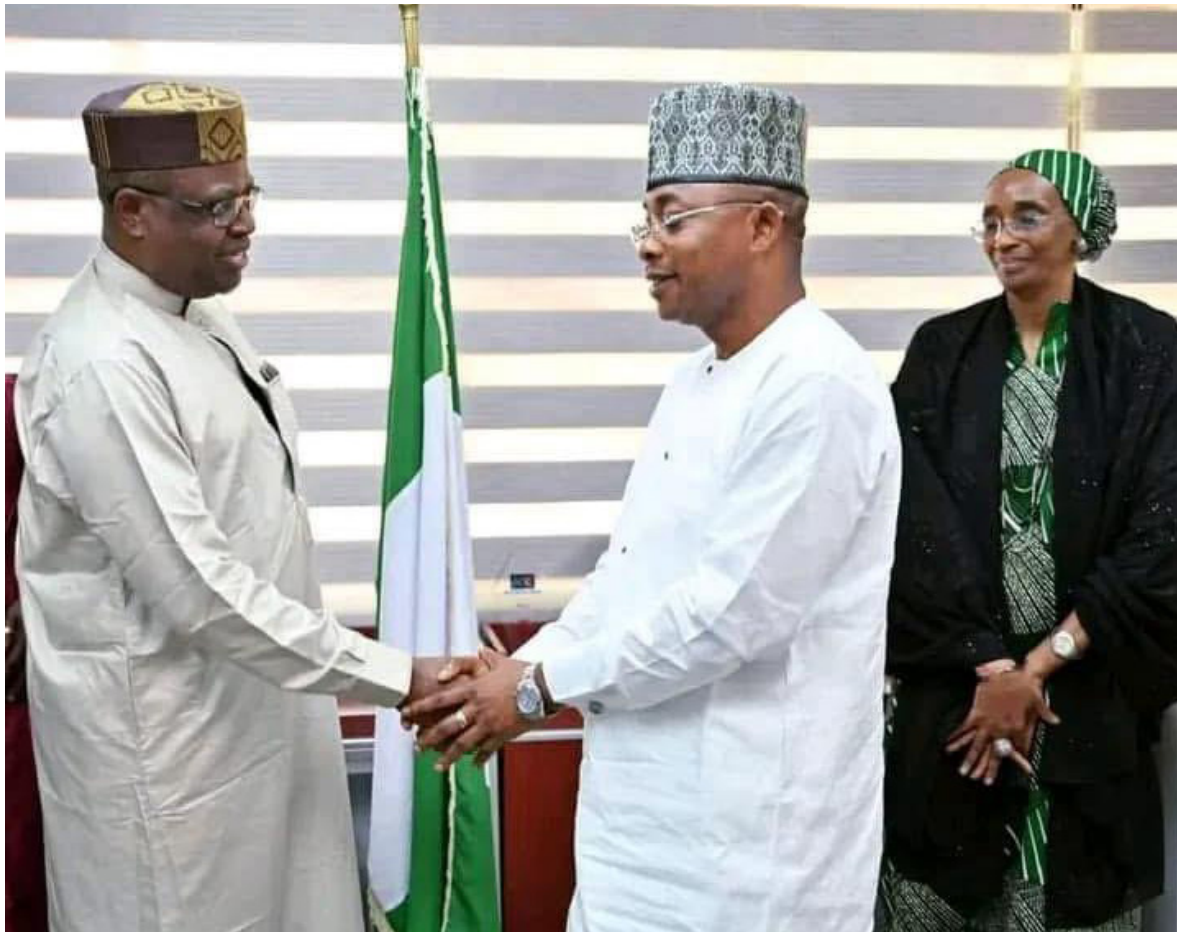
At the same time, Governor Ododo's administration has taken bold steps to improve Kogi State's fiscal health and create an attractive environment for business. The reduction of the state's domestic debt from N121 billion to N35 billion is evidence to the administration's commitment to fiscal discipline. This major achievement has not only improved the state's financial standing but has also garnered a positive outlook from international credit rating agencies like Fitch. The administration's focus on debt reduction has provided the state with the flexibility to invest in key development projects, ensuring long-term economic stability. Complementing these efforts are reforms aimed at simplifying Kogi's tax regime and reducing bureaucratic red tape, creating a business-friendly climate that encourages both domestic and international investment.

Central to the Governor's economic strategy is the emphasis on public-private partnerships (PPPs). The administration has recognized that no single entity can achieve the scale of growth required to transform Kogi State, and thus, it has worked diligently to foster collaborations with the private sector. These partnerships have been instrumental in advancing several infrastructural and industrial projects across the state. Key among these initiatives are the dualization of the Zone 8-Zango-GYB Junction Road and the upgrade of the Adogo Airstrip into an international cargo airport. These infrastructural projects are crucial to improving Kogi's logistical capabilities, thereby facilitating trade, boosting industrial activity, and attracting new investment.

Also, the Kogi State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nigeria Export-Import (NEXIM) Bank to foster the development of export-related industries in the state. This strategic agreement was formalized at NEXIM Bank's Head Office in Abuja on Monday, signaling a critical step toward economic diversification and industrial advancement for Kogi State.

Governor Ododo has also placed significant emphasis on fostering dialogue between key stakeholders in the economic and development sectors. The Strategic Leadership Summit on Investment and Economic Growth, co-hosted by the Kogi State Investment Promotion Agency (KOSIPA) and the SABER framework, provided a platform for discussing emerging markets and innovative approaches to investment. The summit's outcomes have had a lasting impact on the state's investment framework, leading to actionable recommendations aimed at improving the investment climate and promoting economic growth. As a result, Kogi is poised to attract more investors and create an environment where businesses can thrive.

Infrastructure development remains a cornerstone of the administration's economic strategy. Beyond the ongoing upgrades to roads and air transport infrastructure, Governor Ododo has prioritized the improvement of environmental sustainability through initiatives such as gully erosion control projects. These efforts aim to safeguard critical infrastructure from environmental degradation, ensuring that the state's growth is sustainable and resilient. Furthermore, the state's investment in



modernizing educational facilities, as well as its push to enhance the quality of education and training programs, are seen as essential to developing a skilled workforce capable of supporting the state's industrial ambitions.

The administration has also made significant strides in agricultural development, with initiatives like the "One Man, One Tree" campaign and the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project. These programs have not only increased agricultural output but have also created employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas. The development of the SAPZ, alongside these initiatives, is intended to ensure that Kogi's agricultural sector not only meets local demand but becomes a key player in global markets, increasing its export capacity and fostering job creation in agro-processing industries.

The focus on solid minerals and natural resource utilization has also been a key component of the administration's diversification strategy. With Kogi being rich in solid minerals, Governor Ododo has initiated reforms aimed at regulating the sector, attracting international investments, and ensuring the responsible extraction of these valuable resources. This effort is central to creating a diversified economy that leverages Kogi's vast natural resources, while minimizing the environmental impact associated with mining activities.

Kogi's strategic location as a gateway to both northern and southern Nigeria has been another crucial advantage leveraged by the administration. Investments in transportation infrastructure, such as the expansion of road networks and the ongoing development of the Adogo International Cargo Airport, are positioning Kogi as a critical hub for regional trade and logistics. These projects, combined with strategic partnerships with neighboring states and federal agencies, are expected

to increase the state's role in inter-regional commerce and boost its economic significance within the larger national context.

Under Governor Ododo's leadership, Kogi State has also seen significant improvements in governance, particularly with respect to fiscal management and transparency. The digitalization of investment processes, along with the simplification of business registration and tax collection, has greatly improved the ease of doing business in the state. By reducing corruption and improving service delivery, the administration has ensured that Kogi State is seen as an attractive and reliable destination for investors. This commitment to good governance has been further reinforced by initiatives aimed at increasing public participation in decision-making, with regular town hall meetings and digital feedback systems providing citizens with opportunities to engage with the government.

The administration's focus on sustainable development has also been reflected in its alignment with the global Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). Governor Ododo has championed policies that promote environmental sustainability, such as renewable energy projects and the "One Man, One Tree" initiative, which aims to combat deforestation and protect the environment. At the same time, the administration has remained committed to improving social outcomes, such as poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, and access to quality education and healthcare.

By pursuing an inclusive approach to development, Governor Ododo has ensured that Kogi's growth benefits all segments of society, particularly the youth and women. Various empowerment programs have been launched to increase their participation in the economy, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to succeed in the modern workforce. These initiatives, combined with the state's investments in education and training, ensure that Kogi's economic transformation will be both inclusive and sustainable.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office has marked the beginning of a new era for Kogi State, one characterized by strategic investments, sound fiscal policies, and a focus on public-private partnerships. Through the implementation of the 32-Year Development Plan and a series of targeted initiatives, the administration is laying the foundation for an industrialized and diversified economy. With continued investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and solid minerals, as well as a commitment to good governance and sustainability, Kogi State is on track to become a key player in Nigeria's economic future, with the potential to attract significant investments and create lasting opportunities for its citizens.



Fitch Ratings

KOGI STATE CREDIT RATING

Fitch Ratings, July 2024

Rating Summary

Long-Term IDR	B -
Outlook	Positive
National Rating (NGA)	AA-(nga)
Standalone Credit Profile	b

Kogi's standalone credit profile (SCP) of 'b' highlights a stable fiscal balance amid overall national economic pressures.

OUTLOOK

NEGATIVEPOSITIVE

WHAT'S DRIVING THE RATING?

- Revenue reliance on federal allocations
- Oil price exposure
- Debt trajectory
- Governance improvements

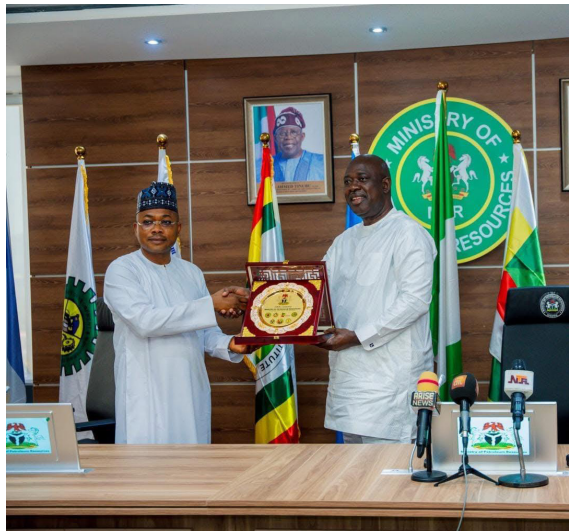
Policy Brief

Budget of Consolidation and Continuity for Inclusive Growth

The Kogi State 2024 budget, approved at N258,278,501,339.00, represents a 30.71% increase over the 2023 revised budget. It includes a significant allocation for capital expenditure (N112.5 billion) and recurrent expenditure (N145.7 billion). The budget prioritizes good governance, infrastructure development, education, healthcare, agriculture, security, and women's empowerment. Kogi State's 2023 and 2024 budgets reveals a strategic intensification of public investment across all sectors, with particularly notable increases in the economic sector (from ₦68.65bn to ₦80.5bn) and social services (from ₦49.36bn to ₦58.2bn), reflecting the administration's commitment to infrastructure, education, health, and economic diversification. The significant jump in allocations to law and justice (from ₦5.99bn to ₦10.1bn) also signals a renewed focus on institutional reform, security and justice delivery. Overall, the shift tells a story of forward-looking governance aimed at consolidating gains, deepening impact, and significantly accelerating the momentum of development across the Confluence State.

Editorial Team









Chapter 5:

Kogi State Ministry of Rural and Energy Development

DRIVING TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS

The Kogi State Ministry of Rural and Energy Development is a strategic organ of the State Government tasked with the critical responsibility of driving rural transformation. The Ministry focuses on providing essential amenities to rural communities, including the provision of electricity, potable water, access roads to farmlands, and the enhancement of other social infrastructure necessary to improve the quality of life in underserved areas.

At the helm of the Ministry is Engr. Mohammed Abdulmutalib, a distinguished electrical engineer and former senior officer at the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). His wealth of experience, technical expertise, and unrelenting commitment to service delivery have brought renewed energy and innovation to the Ministry. Under his leadership, the Ministry has witnessed significant reforms and recorded remarkable achievements in advancing rural development in Kogi State.

• **RAAMP AND THE AGRICULTURAL IMPERATIVE**

One of the Ministry's flagship initiatives is the construction of rural access roads under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP), a collaborative programme between the Kogi State Government and the World Bank. The focus of RAAMP is to open up the rural economy by providing farmers with access to all-season roads that link them to urban markets and agro-processing zones.

Agriculture remains the bedrock of Nigeria's economy, and the rural regions are the heart of this sector. Yet, for years, rural communities have grappled with the absence of good roads, leading to high post-harvest losses, limited market access, and suppressed rural incomes. These infrastructural challenges have also stifled the availability of modern amenities such as telecommunications and internet services, essential for driving digital inclusion and economic diversification.

• **THE NEW DIRECTION LEGACY AND ODODO'S CONTINUITY**

In 2016, under the leadership of former Governor Yahaya Bello, a community-based approach to development was adopted. The Bello administration conducted extensive consultations with local communities to identify their most pressing needs, which laid the groundwork for the state's "New Direction Blueprint." This strategic plan prioritized rural infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, potable water, and quality roads. The result was a visible improvement in the welfare of rural communities across Kogi State.

Building upon this legacy, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has shown commendable political will and continuity by prioritizing rural infrastructure as a critical aspect of his administration's development agenda. Since assuming office, he has directed significant attention toward the rehabilitation and construction of rural roads across the 21 local government areas of the state, with particular focus on communities in Kabba, Yagba West, Yagba East, Lokoja, and Omala, among others.

To reinforce the government's resolve, Governor Ododo has ensured full commitment to the state's counterpart funding requirement under the RAAMP initiative. This investment is not only a testament to the Governor's dedication to rural development but also a catalyst for unlocking the state's agricultural and economic potential.

• **RURAL MARKET UPGRADES: STIMULATING TRADE AT THE GRASSROOTS**

Recognizing that rural roads alone are not enough to transform agricultural productivity, the Ododo administration has also embarked on an ambitious plan to revamp key rural markets across the state. Under Kogi RAAMP, three major markets—Ajaka Market in Kogi East, Aku Market in Kogi Central, and Aiyegunle Market in Kogi West—have been identified for comprehensive redevelopment.

Each of these markets is earmarked to receive investments of not less than ₦1 billion. This intervention will include the construction of modern stalls, storage facilities, parking lots, water supply systems, and waste disposal mechanisms. These upgrades are designed to promote agribusiness, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve the hygiene and efficiency of trade activities in rural markets.

KEY ROAD PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

As part of the first phase of implementation under the Ministry of Rural and Energy Development, several rural road projects have been approved and are currently ongoing. These roads are intended to bridge the infrastructure gap and boost agricultural logistics. Some of the major projects include:

In order to ensure that farmers do not only have access to their farms, the government also embark on the construction of rural markets for sales of their commodities. These include:

- Construction of Ajaka – Abocho Road (Kogi East)
- Rehabilitation of Egbe – Odo Ere – Ponyan Road (Kogi West)
- Reconstruction of Zango – Apata – Okene Road (Kogi Central)
- Rehabilitation of Omala – Abejukolo – Ogodu Road

Construction of feeder roads linking rural farm clusters to market centres in Dekina and Ankpa LGAs

These projects are carefully selected based on the volume of agricultural activities, population density, and the socio-economic potential of the areas they serve. Once completed, they are expected to open up new economic corridors and stimulate growth across various sectors of the rural economy.

• **A FUTURE ANCHORED IN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The efforts of the Kogi State Ministry of Rural and Energy Development under Engr. Abdulmutalib's leadership, with the full support of Governor Ododo, represent a clear shift toward inclusive development. The focus on rural areas reflects a genuine understanding that for Nigeria to grow equitably, the grassroots must not be left behind.

From market modernization and road construction to community-driven planning and strategic partnerships, Kogi State is setting a commendable pace in rural development. With agriculture at the core of its economic agenda, and the empowerment of rural communities as a strategic goal, the state is poised to become a model for others in driving sustainable and inclusive growth.

The journey may be far from over, but the roadmap is clear, and the foundation is strong. The Ministry of Rural and Energy Development continues to shine as a beacon of hope and progress for rural dwellers across Kogi State.

The implementation of these projects is already in full swing and almost completed, with several contractors mobilized to site. This rapid execution is a proof to Governor Ododo's unwavering commitment to infrastructural development and his administration's resolve to bridge the rural-urban divide in Kogi State.

By enhancing road networks and market infrastructure, Kogi State is laying the foundation for a more prosperous and economically vibrant future. As these projects unfold, rural communities will witness significant improvements in trade, agriculture, and overall living standards. The ultimate goal is to ensure that no community is left behind in the journey toward sustainable development and economic empowerment.

	PACKAGE 2				LOT
1.	KG/Rural/188	Eganyi -FFN Road	16.03	AJAOKUTA	1
2.	KG/Rural/102	Emmco Road to Umuaga	1.33	OKENE	
3.	KG/Rural/193	Aku-Uruku Odoba-Farm Road	2.41	ADAVI	
4.	KG/Rural/151	Upogoro-Checkpoint Road	2.62	OKENE	
5.	KG/Rural/202	Ikoyi-Iyara Road	1.5	IJUMU	2
6.	KG/Rural/72	Aririgbon-Arorami junction Road (gbede road)	3.5	IJUMU	
7.	KG/Rural/173	Igori-Ehse Bunu Junctionn Road	7.5	KABBA BUNU	
8.	KG/Rural/172	Eshe Bunu Junction-Aherin Bunu-Ape Road	4.1	KABBA BUNU	
9.	KG/Rural/170	Ayegunle-Olumode-Daji Farm Road 1	4.5	KABBA BUNU	
10.	KG/Rural/16	Ajekelaga-Ajeguna-Abocho Road	3	DEKINA	3
11.	KG/Rural/11	Odu Ogboyaga-Odu Ogegele Road	2.68	DEKINA	
12.	KG/Rural/15	Olubojo-Ojogba-Abocho Road.	9.36	DEKINA	
13.	KG/Rural/7	Ebeje Owalah-Ebeje Abolika-Ebeje-Erabo	6.73	DEKINA	
14.	KG/Rural/60	Ibado Akpacha-Ojiaji Ogodu Road	18.95	OMALA	4
15	KG/Rural/144	Efekpe-Ogolale Road	0.87	OLAMABORO	
16.	KG/Rural/146	Alah-Agala-Agoh Road.	3	OLAMABORO	
17.	KG/Rural/166	Ejule-Okabo Road	4	OFU	5
18.	KG/Rural/183	Ayikpele-Okochobe-Etutobo-Ufugu	6.64	IGALAMELA	
19.	KG/Rural/178	Adumu Junction-Adumu Farm Road	2.63	IDAH	
		TOTAL	106.36		

- **RURAL ELECTRIFICATION: POWERING RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN KOGI STATE**

One of the most vital catalysts for rural transformation is the presence of reliable electricity. Access to power changes the socio-economic dynamics of rural communities—it fosters productivity, enhances security, promotes health and education, and improves the overall quality of life. In recognition of this fact, the Kogi State Ministry of Rural and Energy Development has been unwavering in its commitment to extending power supply to even the remotest parts of the state. Under the leadership of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Ministry is leading a comprehensive effort to eliminate energy poverty and ensure every community parts ways with darkness.

The Ministry, under the supervision of seasoned technocrats and engineers, has rolled out several rural electrification projects that are directly impacting lives and businesses. One of the major highlights of these interventions is the successful installation of vital power infrastructure in multiple communities. Notably, the Ministry procured and installed a 500kVA, 33/0.415kV transformer, complete with 30 spans of high-tension lines, two uprisers, and low-tension reticulation at Oziokutu community. Similarly, a 500kVA, 33/0.415kV transformer with 11 spans of HT lines and associated LT infrastructure was installed at Iruvuchebe along Old Lagos Road in Okene, Okene Local Government Area.

To address power challenges in the state capital and enhance energy availability for critical government institutions, the Ododo-led administration extended the 33kV CBN feeder line across Lokoja metropolis. As part of this effort, the Ministry installed a series of transformers including one 500kVA, one 300kVA, two 200kVA, and two 100kVA units—all operating at 33/0.415kV. Additionally, a new 33kV line was extended to power communities around the State Assembly complex, alongside the installation of a hybrid transformer at the Kogi State Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Kogi), comprising a 200kVA/33/0.415kVA transformer backed by a 15kVA solar-inverter system.

In Kogi West Senatorial District, a strategic intervention to boost electricity reliability was initiated through the complete rehabilitation and procurement of a 33kV line spanning 375 meters. This also included the replacement of faulty components, relocation of bush paths, thorough line tracing, and vegetation control—ensuring better electricity transmission and reduced system losses across the region.

- **A BOLD VISION: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KOGI STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (KSERC)**

Perhaps the most ambitious and forward-thinking initiative in the power sector by Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration is the creation of the Kogi State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC). This bold step was in response to the decentralization of the electricity sector in Nigeria, which allows State Governments to take charge of electricity generation, distribution, and regulation within their territories. In August 2024, the Kogi State Government formally notified the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) of its intention to commence the transfer of regulatory responsibilities to the state level.

Recognizing the state's preparedness and political will, the NERC, on September 12th, 2024, issued a formal order enabling the transition to a state-managed electricity market.

To operationalize this historic development, the State Government appointed the Chairman of the KSERC on October 30th, 2024. Subsequently, on December 23rd, 2024, Commissioners and a Secretary were appointed to steer the affairs of the new commission. By February 4th, 2025, key staff were also engaged using a lean and efficient organogram structure to begin the Commission's daily operations.

The Commission has since hit the ground running. On February 20th, the KSERC team embarked on a benchmarking visit to the Enugu Electricity Distribution Commission to study best practices in regulatory operations. Following this, on March 4th, 2025, the Commission met with the management of Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), led by Barrister Ibuwo Ukwu. The meeting was aimed at introducing the Acting MD/CEO of the newly formed Kogi Electricity Distribution Limited (KEDL), exploring areas of cooperation, and strengthening Kogi State's emerging electricity market.

- **TOWARDS AN INDEPENDENT ELECTRICITY MARKET IN KOGI STATE**

In preparation for full market operations, the Commission held a major stakeholder engagement session on March 10th, 2025. This forum brought together key players in the power sector, community representatives, and regulatory experts to discuss expectations and roles in the evolving electricity landscape of Kogi State.

A defining moment came on March 12th, 2025, when the Kogi State Electricity Market was officially handed over to the KSERC. A six-month interim license (from March 12th to September 12th, 2025) was issued to KEDL, which will act as the sub-national distribution company, pending full regulatory approval and operational consolidation.

To ensure the effective enforcement of electricity laws, a high-level meeting was held between KSERC and the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Kogi State. A key resolution from this meeting was the urgent need to criminalize energy theft and vandalism—through the establishment of a mobile court system that will fast-track the prosecution of offenders and deter future sabotage.

In conclusion, Kogi State's efforts in rural electrification are not just about lighting up communities—they are about powering prosperity, driving development, and fostering equity. From physical infrastructure development to strategic institutional reforms, the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo is laying the groundwork for a more inclusive, functional, and self-sustaining energy sector.

With the Ministry of Rural and Energy Development leading transformative on-ground projects, and the KSERC shaping a structured regulatory environment, Kogi State is setting a pace for others to follow in sub-national energy governance. The journey to universal electricity access may be long, but the roadmap is clear—and the future is bright.



CROSS SECTION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF
POWER SUPPLY EQUIPMENT ACROSS THE STATE.



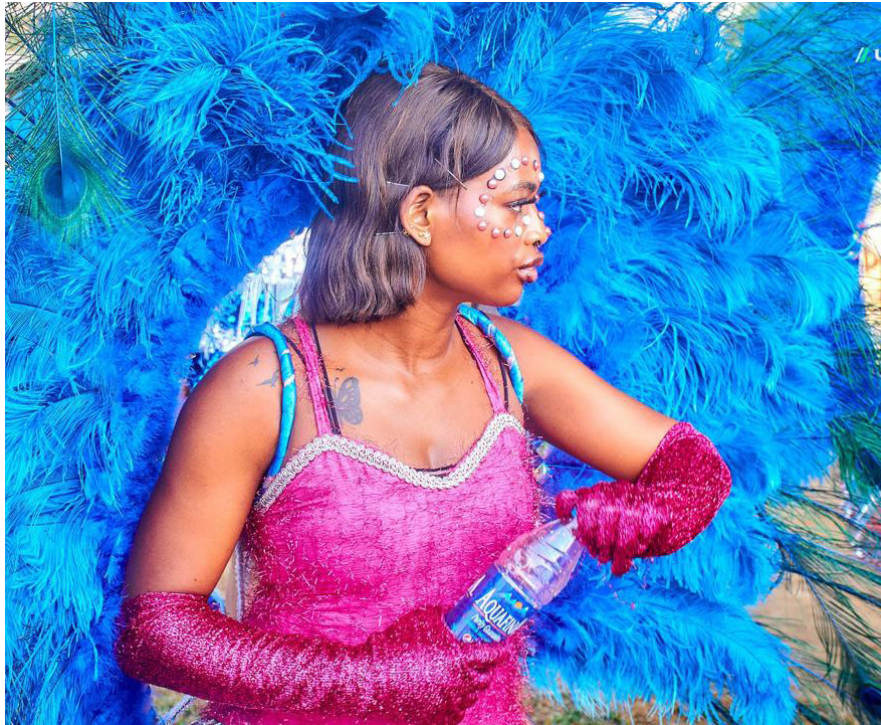
Chapter 6:

Culture & Tourism

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration in Kogi State has made significant strides in the areas of culture and tourism, recognizing their potential as critical drivers of economic growth and development. These efforts are strategically aligned with the state's rich cultural heritage and abundant natural attractions, ensuring that Kogi State becomes a hub for cultural preservation, domestic tourism, and international attraction.

Based on this, His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, approved the request for the

unveiling of the Kogi International Carnival Logo and was commensurate with the state creation anniversary on the 27th of August, 2024. With the total of ₦29,000,000 (Twenty-Nine Million) released under this premise. The program was a huge success, which projected a good image of the state in the sphere of Culture. This culminated to the hosting of a seven-day International Carnival in December 2024, which was graced by some great Kogites in diaspora and some other dignitaries and recorded a huge success.











Chapter 7:

Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is evidence of visionary leadership and a key indicator of a government's commitment to improving the lives of its people.

For Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, the past 1-year has been a demonstration of how purposeful governance can transform the socio-economic landscape of Kogi

State. Through bold initiatives and strategic investments, the Advanced New Direction Administration has set a new standard for infrastructural growth, bridging long-standing

gaps while creating a pathway for sustainable progress.



captures the essence of a government that sees development not as a privilege but as a right for all citizens. Through these projects, Governor Ododo has laid a foundation that will not only transform the state today but also secure a brighter future for generations to come. The political will and determination displayed in this sector underscore his unwavering resolve to make Kogi State a model of modern governance and development in Nigeria.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office is marked by a strong commitment to infrastructure development, emphasizing sustainable growth and the enhancement of public service delivery. The administration has undertaken a range of initiatives designed to improve transportation, urban aesthetics, water supply, and sanitation, thereby significantly impacting the quality of life for the people of Kogi State.

Major Infrastructural Projects Across the State

The administration has achieved remarkable progress in road construction and rehabilitation, ensuring better connectivity and economic integration within the state. Key accomplishments

include:

- » Rehabilitation of the Zone 8-Barracks-Zango-Zariagi Road, enhancing transportation efficiency.
- » Ongoing road projects in Egbe, Idah, Abejukolo, Aiyetoro, Felele-Agbaja, Oguma, Anyigba, and Mopa.
- » The Zone 8-Crusher Road Project, which is expected to stimulate economic activities upon completion.
- » Construction of an 8.5-kilometer road connecting Ogaminana, Obagende, and Okato with a spur to Oziokutu, improving local accessibility.
- » Dualization of the Zone 8-Zango-GYB Junction Road, alleviating traffic congestion.
- » Rehabilitation of the Omala Township Road, enhancing intra-town connectivity.
- » Over 500 kilometers of roads have been constructed or rehabilitated, with contracts awarded for an additional 300 kilometers.
- » Major road reconstructions in Mopa, Egbe, Yagba West, and Ijumu.
- » Strategic rural road initiatives such as:
 - » 19.55-kilometer Obajana-Uro-Aku Road (RAAMP).
 - » 16-kilometer Oguma-Seriya Road.
 - » 9-kilometer Zone 8 Roundabout-GYB Junction Dual Carriageway.

Kogi State, often referred to as the confluence of opportunities, holds immense potential as a gateway for commerce, industry, and development. Yet, this potential has long been hindered by infrastructural deficits that stifled connectivity, economic growth, and the well-being of the people. Governor Ododo's leadership has taken a decisive turn, tackling these challenges head-on with an ambitious agenda for infrastructure development. Under his administration, roads have been rehabilitated, urban centers revitalized, and essential services expanded, marking a significant departure from the stagnation of the past.

The achievements of the past year reflect a clear understanding that infrastructure is not merely about building structures; it is about empowering communities, attracting investments, and improving the quality of life for all citizens. From the bustling streets of Lokoja to the rural heartlands of Yagba, Ankpa, and Okene, Governor Ododo's projects are touching lives in profound ways. By focusing on transportation, urban renewal, water supply, and sanitation, the administration is ensuring that development is inclusive and reaches even the most remote corners of the state.

These strides in infrastructure symbolize the governor's dedication to delivering on campaign promises and solidifying the trust of the people. The administration's efforts have reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, accountability, and progress, leaving no room for doubt that Kogi State is on a new trajectory of development. Each road constructed, each urban renewal project completed, and each water facility commissioned sends a strong message: Kogi State is open for business and poised for greatness under Governor Ododo's leadership.

The administration's achievements in infrastructure over the past year showcases a blend of strategic vision and tireless execution. It

- » 6-kilometer Zone 8 Roundabout-Crusher Dual Carriageway.
- » 8.8-kilometer Ogaminana Obangede-Okaito Road.
- » Also, the administration has commenced the upgrade of the Adogo Airstrip into an international cargo airport, which is poised to facilitate trade, job creation, and logistical advancements across Kogi State.

Urban Renewal Projects Across State Cities

Governor Ododo has championed urban renewal initiatives, aimed at transforming the state's cities into hubs of economic activity and modernity. These projects include the installation of solar-powered streetlights in major cities, which have improved urban aesthetics and enhanced public safety. Efforts to rehabilitate administrative and broadcasting infrastructure, such as the Office of the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State and Radio Kogi, further underscore the administration's commitment to a vibrant urban environment.

Water and Sanitation Initiatives to Improve Quality of Life

In addressing water scarcity and sanitation challenges across the State, the administration has made significant strides, including:

- » Rehabilitation of the Old Lokoja Water Works to improve water distribution to residents.
- » Construction of new water treatment plants in Lokoja and major towns.
- » Restoration of water supply schemes and provision of boreholes and hand-pump facilities for rural communities, ensuring access to safe drinking water.

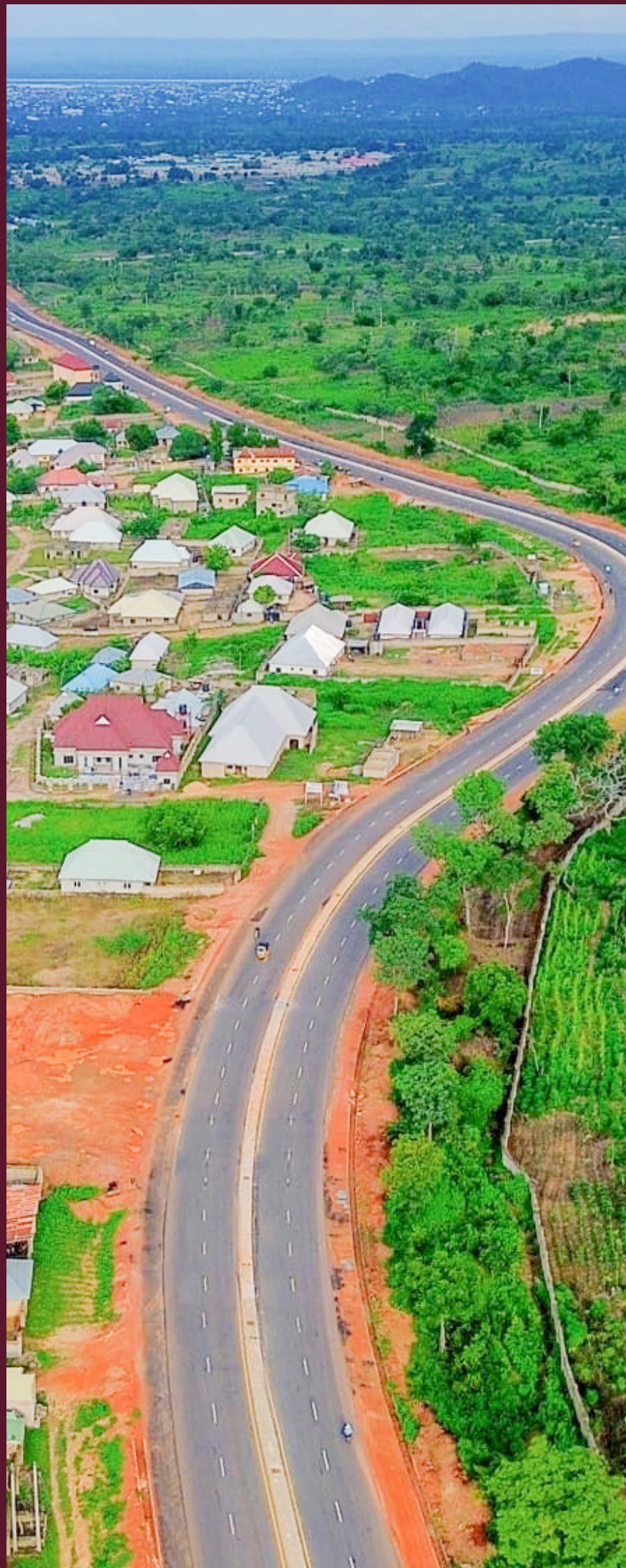
These initiatives are pivotal in improving public health and fostering environmental sustainability across the state.

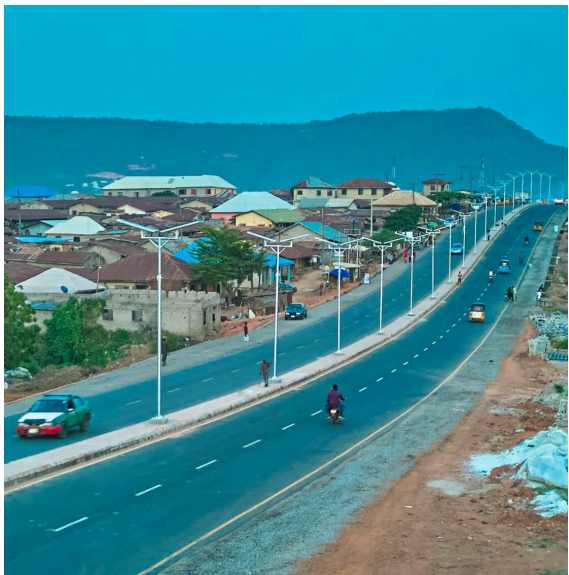
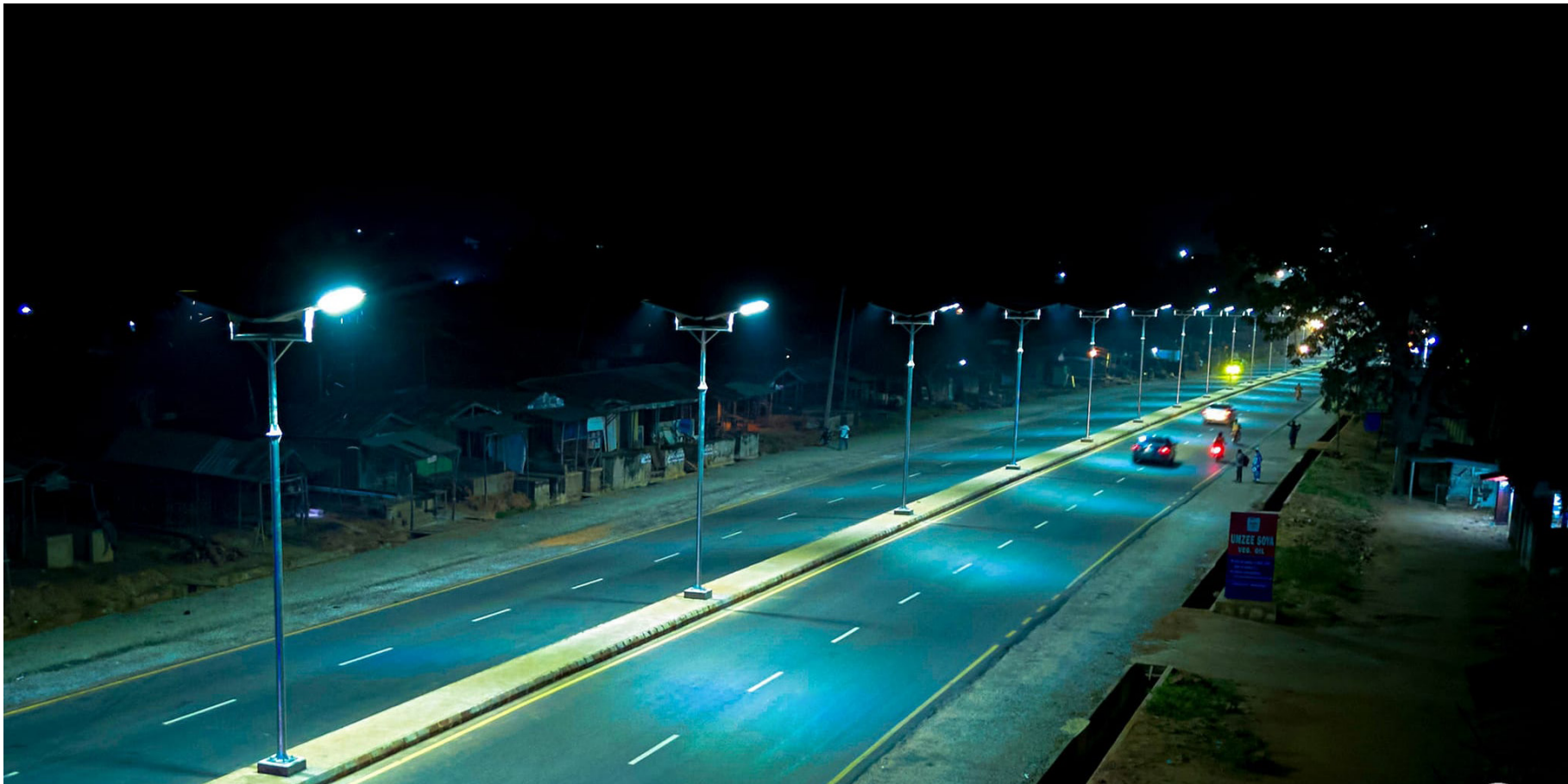
Energy Development

Electricity infrastructure has remained a key focus of Governor Ododo's administration. In addition to road construction and rehabilitation, the administration has invested in rural electrification and energy projects to complement development. Highlights include:

- » The completion of a 33KV power transmission line and the upgrade of electricity distribution infrastructure.
- » Expansion of rural electrification to over 100 communities and the deployment of solar-powered mini-grids in off-grid areas.
- » These measures have significantly improved connectivity and facilitate economic activities, particularly in remote areas.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's efforts in energy development reflect his dedication to enhance power supply within the state and to present residence with a more efficient and effective energy supply service. A bill to transfer regulatory oversight of the electricity market in Kogi State to a proposed Kogi State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) is before the state assembly.





BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER









Vast arable land and
large water body of the
Confluence State



Chapter 8:

Agriculture and Rural Development

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration has, within its first year, demonstrated an unwavering commitment to agriculture and rural development in Kogi State.



has encouraged collaboration among farmers, enabling them to share resources and best practices. By making improved seedlings available, the administration has also enhanced the quality and yield of crops, ensuring that farmers can compete favorably in both local and national markets. Mechanization has played a vital role in the success of this program. For decades, farming in Kogi State has been characterized by traditional methods, which are labor-intensive and yield low outputs. The administration's provision of modern farming equipment, such as tractors, has revolutionized the way farming is conducted. Farmers can now cultivate larger areas of land more efficiently, reducing the physical strain associated with manual labor. Mechanization has not only improved productivity but has also attracted younger individuals to farming, addressing the aging population of farmers in the state.

Beyond providing inputs and mechanized tools, the administration has prioritized the need for farmers to have access to lucrative markets. Many farmers in Kogi State have previously faced difficulties in selling their produce, often due to inadequate transportation infrastructure,

Through innovative policies, strategic investments, and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the rural population, the administration has laid the groundwork for sustainable economic growth and development. These achievements are evident in transformative initiatives that have boosted food security, improved farmer productivity, and enhanced rural infrastructure. The emphasis on integrating agricultural reforms with rural development strategies has not only revitalized the state's economy but also significantly uplifted the standard of living for its people.

Agriculture has always been a central pillar of Kogi State's economy, employing a significant portion of the population. However, the sector has historically faced challenges such as low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, limited mechanization, and poor access to markets. Governor Ododo's administration has tackled these issues head-on with comprehensive interventions that have energized the sector. One of the administration's flagship programs is the 2024 Wet Season Farming Initiative. Recognizing the need for increased agricultural output and food security, the government invested over N7 billion in this initiative. This program provided critical inputs such as over 100 tractors, fertilizers, herbicides, and improved seedlings to nearly 10,000 farmers. The beneficiaries, organized into 76 clusters across the state, collectively cultivated 7,324 hectares of farmland. The major crops targeted under this program included rice, maize, and cassava, which are staple foods and key economic crops in Kogi State.

This initiative has been transformative. It has not only increased agricultural productivity but has also created opportunities for rural households to improve their livelihoods. The focus on cluster farming

poor storage facilities, and exploitative market practices. Governor Ododo's administration has taken deliberate steps to address these challenges by strengthening agricultural value chains. Value chain improvement involves enhancing every stage of agricultural production, from planting to harvesting, processing, and marketing. The government has invested in better storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, ensuring that farmers can preserve their produce for longer periods without fear of spoilage. Additionally, efforts have been made to establish linkages between farmers and buyers, eliminating middlemen who often take a significant share of the profits. These measures have increased farmers' incomes and make agriculture a more viable and attractive livelihood option. Logistics infrastructure has also received attention. With improved roads and transport networks, farmers now have better access to urban markets where demand and prices are higher. This improvement in market access has created a ripple effect, boosted rural economies and encouraged more investments in agriculture.

To boost the State's agricultural development, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State inaugurated a Steering and Technical Committee to oversee the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) Project. This initiative aims to enhance productivity, resilience and improve commercialization in livestock farming. This program focuses on three value chains: Sheep and Goat, Cattle, and Poultry farming, which will significantly boost the fortunes of livestock farmers in Kogi State.

With an innovative cost-saving mechanism, the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo saved over 20 billion naira by refurbishing approximately 200 abandoned tractors, restoring them to near-new condition for the 2024 wet season farming. This innovative



cost-saving measure prompted by prevailing economic situation urged him to refurbish the disused tractors, which were initially procured by his predecessor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, but left abandoned in various farm settlements. This initiative has then helped to save about over 20 billion which would have been spent on purchasing new ones along with procurement processes, shipment, and clearing. So far, over 2 billion naira was expended to refurbish 140 tractors.

While agriculture remains a focal point, Governor Ododo understands that its growth is intricately tied to the development of rural infrastructure. Most farmers in Kogi State live in rural areas, where inadequate infrastructure has historically hindered their productivity and quality of life. The administration's efforts in rural electrification and road development have been instrumental in addressing these issues. The construction of rural roads has been a top priority. In collaboration with the World Bank and other development partners, the administration flagged off the construction of the 20-kilometer Obajana-Uro-Aku rural road under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP). This project is a game-changer for farmers and rural communities. By providing better connectivity,

the road reduces transportation costs and time, enabling farmers to transport their produce to markets more efficiently. Improved roads also attract other forms of economic activity, such as small businesses, thereby fostering rural economic growth.

Rural electrification has been another area of focus. Many rural communities in Kogi State have long struggled with a lack of access to reliable electricity, which limits their economic opportunities and quality of life. Governor Ododo's administration has initiated projects to extend electricity to these underserved areas. Reliable power is essential for the agricultural sector, as it enables the use of irrigation systems, processing equipment, and cold storage facilities. It also creates opportunities for small-scale businesses such as milling and packaging enterprises, which add value to agricultural produce and generate additional income for rural families.

One of the hallmarks of Governor Ododo's administration is its integrated approach to development. The government recognizes that agriculture, rural infrastructure, and economic growth are interdependent. As such, its policies and programs are designed to address these sectors holistically. For

example, the administration's efforts to boost agricultural productivity are closely linked to its investments in rural roads and electrification. Farmers who have access to better roads and reliable electricity are more likely to adopt modern farming techniques and invest in value-added processing. Similarly, the government's focus on market access is supported by its improvements in logistics and storage facilities. This integration ensures that the benefits of each intervention are amplified, creating a sustainable cycle of growth and development. Governor Ododo's administration has also placed a strong emphasis on community involvement. By engaging with local leaders, farmer associations, and other stakeholders, the government has ensured that its policies are tailored to the specific needs and aspirations of the people. This participatory approach has not only enhanced the effectiveness of the government's programs but has also fostered a sense of ownership and accountability among the beneficiaries.

The combined effects of these initiatives have been profound. Thousands of farmers have benefited from the government's interventions, with many reporting significant increases in their yields and incomes. The availability of modern equipment and improved infrastructure has reduced the drudgery of farming and made it a more attractive profession, particularly for young people. Rural communities have also experienced a noticeable improvement in their living standards. Better roads and electrification have not only enhanced economic opportunities but have also improved access to essential services such as education and healthcare. By addressing the root causes of rural poverty, Governor Ododo's administration is laying the foundation for long-term prosperity and resilience. In addition to these tangible benefits, the administration's achievements have had a symbolic impact. They have demonstrated that good governance and strategic investments can bring about meaningful change, inspiring confidence among the people of Kogi State and attracting further investments from both the public and private sectors.

As Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration looks to the future, the

progress achieved in its first year serves as a solid foundation for continued development. Plans are underway to expand the Wet Season Farming Initiative to include more farmers and crops, further enhancing food security and economic diversification. The government also aims to deepen its investments in rural electrification and road infrastructure, ensuring that no community is left behind. Moreover, the administration is exploring opportunities to integrate technology into agriculture, such as digital platforms for market access and smart farming techniques. These innovations have the potential to revolutionize the sector and position Kogi State as a leader in agricultural modernization.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office has been marked by bold and visionary leadership in agriculture and rural development. Through targeted interventions, strategic investments, and an integrated approach to development, the administration has transformed challenges into opportunities, creating a more prosperous and equitable Kogi State. These achievements are not just milestones but stepping-stones towards a brighter future for the people of Kogi State.





As one of the major thematic areas of the Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration, his indelible mark has also been made in the following areas in the sector.

Key Highlights of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo in Kogi State Agricultural Intervention 2024 Wet Season

1.

Kogi State Government supported 7,324 direct beneficiaries and 36,620 indirect beneficiary farmers for the 2024 wet season cropping
2.

5,124 direct beneficiary farmers were supported for rice production
3.

1,200 direct beneficiary farmers were supported for cassava production
4.

1,000 beneficiary farmers were supported for maize production
5.

Each farmer was supported to produce 1 hectare of the identified crop based on agro-ecology and comparative advantage for production.
6.

6. Agro-inputs namely improved seeds, fertilizers and herbicides were provided for farmers free of charge.
7.

Tractorization of farms was done for farmers free of charge including transport to and from farm clusters, fueling, repairs and maintenance.
8.

The ministry supplied 15,372 bags of improved rice seeds;15,000 bags of granulated NPK 20:10:10; 50,000 sachets of soluble NPK and Urea fertilizers; 6,418 bags of granulated Urea; 72,000 bundles of cassava stems and 43,944 litres of assorted herbicides to produce rice, cassava and maize.
9.

The Ministry collaborated with the Kogi State Chapter of All Farmers Association of Nigeria and its commodity officials for rice, cassava and maize on planning and implementation of the special intervention which was very successful.
10.

Training of 50 youth farmers on climate-smart agriculture on various enterprises is on-going in Abeokuta, Ogun State. Through the Livestock Productivity and Resilience support Project (L-PRES);
11.

15 No solar powered borehole was drilled and installed to serve agro-pastoralists settlement and livestock markets.
12.

An E-extension and Advisory service center was established and commissioned at the Kogi ADP headquarters to support their existing extension system.
13.

500 women and youth poultry entrepreneurs were empowered with production, marketing and processing inputs. This has boosted poultry production in the State.

14. 30 No fodder choppers and 2100kg fodder seeds were distributed to 300 livestock farmers.

Collaboration with the Federal Government

The Federal government agricultural support to Kogi State through collaboration has also delivered massive results. These include:

- » Federal Ministry of Agriculture provided agro-inputs to poultry, fishery and crops farmers in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning as palliative.
- » Training of agricultural extension workers by the Federal Department of Agricultural Extension.
- » Supply of 25 trucks of fertilizers to Kogi State for the 2024 wet season cropping
- » Supply of agro-inputs to about 1,000 farmers for the 2024 dry season cropping activities.

In a groundbreaking move to energize its rural communities, the Kogi State Government has launched an ambitious initiative to provide electricity to underserved areas. The initiative, aimed at boosting the rural economy and enhancing social well-being, gained momentum during a high-level roundtable event held at Rockview Hotel, Abuja.

The event, convened by the Kogi State Government in collaboration with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and other key stakeholders, marked a pivotal step toward bridging the energy access gap in the State.

At the meeting, the Kogi State Commissioner for Rural and Energy Development highlighted that “The impact of electricity on rural communities cannot be overstated,” the commissioner noted. “With enhanced energy access, we can transform livelihoods, stimulate local industries, and foster sustainable growth.”

Mr. Abba Aliyu, Managing Director/CEO of the REA, commended Governor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo for prioritizing energy

development, emphasizing the agency’s dedication to providing renewable energy solutions. He revealed that Kogi State is well-positioned to benefit from ongoing interventions aimed at electrifying rural areas.

Engr. Doris Uboh, Executive Director of the Rural Electrification Fund, also lauded the collaboration. She shared that the fund has already attracted over ₦5 billion in private investments, generating over 26,000 jobs across the country.

Kogi State’s Chief Economic Adviser, Mr. Aliyu Salami, spotlighted the state’s renewable energy potential, citing abundant resources such as solar, hydropower, biomass, and wind. “With consistent sunlight and the convergence of Rivers Niger and Benue, Kogi is uniquely suited for diverse renewable energy projects,” he said.

Mr. Salami, stressed the need to energize agricultural hubs, noting that in 2024 alone, the state exported cashew worth over \$50 million. “Investing in energy infrastructure will unlock untapped economic opportunities,” he urged.

In his address to the stakeholders, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo emphasized his administration’s resolve to close the energy gap and improve living standards.

“Kogi State faces an energy shortfall that hinders growth and development. With only 50 MW from the national grid serving approximately 5 million residents, the need for transformative action is clear,” the governor stated.

He highlighted the wide-ranging benefits of rural electrification, from boosting local industries to improving education, healthcare, and clean water systems. “Electricity is the foundation for innovation and economic growth,” he declared.

Governor Ododo also assured stakeholders of the state’s commitment to safeguarding energy infrastructure, unveiling plans for a new security framework to protect investments.

The governor announced several strategic initiatives, including the enactment of the Kogi State Electricity Act, the establishment of a State Electricity Regulatory Commission, and the creation of a comprehensive rural electrification investment brochure to attract investors.

Dr. Folashade Arike Ayoade, Secretary to the Government of Kogi State, closed the event by thanking stakeholders for their dedication to achieving steady, clean energy in Kogi State.

The Road Ahead

Kogi State’s electrification drive signals a transformative era for its rural communities, promising economic growth, job creation, and improved quality of life. With strategic partnerships and innovative policies, the state is well on its way to becoming a beacon of sustainable development in Nigeria.











LIVE

Governance in Action

Ododo approves funds for WAEC, JAMB, other examinations

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Kogi governor Usman Ododo

KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT

Kogi Governor Approves N8 Billion for Infrastructural Projects at New Kogi University, Kabba

KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT

Inside Look: The Reasons Behind Kogi Governor's Unusual Move to Appoint 717 Ward Special Assistants

PUNCH

Kogi varsity gets NUC approval for six new courses

6th September 2024



KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Ododo Revolutionizes Kogi State's Infrastructure: Approves Eight Township Roads Across Three Senatorial Districts

Bv Abah Benjamin Eneioh

Prince Abubakar University Te



kogi state government approves major road rehabilitation and reconstruction projects

By Moses Okezie-Okafor, kogipedia

June 15, 2024

His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State, has approved a comprehensive

KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT

Improved Civil Servants Welfare: Governor Ododo Commended

By James Sani

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has been praised for his dedication to the welfare of civil servants in the state.

KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT

Kogi Govt Signs Contracts for Erosion Control in Etahi, Omigbo, Ankpa Erosion Sites

PUNCH

Kogi gov approves December salary payment

14th December 2024



SN	LGA	FARM CLUSTER/LOCATION	NO OF HECTARES	CONTACT PERSON
1	Ajaokuta	Geregu	500	Mr Ali Abdulahi Shaibu
2		Eganyi	100	Ahmed Ohinoyi
3		Emiworo	32	Prince Sheidu Nda Abu
4		Jimgbe	25	Kashim James Musa
5		Kporoka 1/Elaite	34	Samson Ichoja
6		Kporoka 2/Elaite	24	Abraham Ekpo
7		Emiworo Fugerole	85	Alhaji Salifu Abdullahi
8		Ero	19	Aminu Ichaba
9	Bassa	Emi-Adama	125	Aishat Idris
10		Odogbo/Emi-Akpamu	225	Mohammed Emeje
11		Mozum Sabongari	113	Mohammed Emeje
12		Odogbo-Mozum	106	Mohammed Emeje
13		Shintaku	87	Esther Audu
14	Igalamela/ Odolu	Oforachi	50	Ojodale Okpanachi
15		Alade	95	Ojodale Okpanachi
16		Egabada	50	Ojodale Okpanachi
17	Ofu	Allo	70	Jonathan Musa
18	Okene	Opoboro/Okuhaobamyi	45	Sadiq Sunday
19		Ageva	10	Sadiq Sunday
20	Adavi	Osara Ngada/FCE	55	Alhaji Ahmed Adobanyi
21	Kogi	Kotonkarfe	95	Mrs Comfort Azubike
22		Kpokpozi	45	Hajia Sefiya Yahaya

23		Ozi	50	Rukayat Lanre Ahmed
24		Girinya	50	Abdulkadir Aminu
25	Lokoja	Owara	77	Danladi Abdulazeez M.
26		Asawa	75	Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta
27		Sanawa	52	Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta
28		Kakanda	75	Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta
29		Kupa	130	Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta
30		Budon	324	Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta
31	Ibaji	Ane Ifonu-Ibaji	20	Japhet Omale
32		Odogwu	490	Monday Ojomah
33		Odeke	285	Monday Ojomah
34		Unale	150	Sunday Onate
35		Onyedega	150	Monday Ojomah
36		Echeno	190	Jerry Nwuchiola
37	Kabba-Bunu	Egbeda	90	Kehinde Ikubaiyeje
38		Okebukun	7	Bello Charles Oladeji
39		Ogbagba	30	Patrick Obafemi
40		OdoApe	51	Bello Charles Oladeji
41	Ijumu	Egbeda Egga	100	Patrick Obafemi
42	Ogori Magongo	Eke Fadama	30	Oyebode Christopher
43	Yagba East	Ejuku	95	Ayoola Elizabeth
44	Yagba West	Ejiba	433	Meek Olugbemi
45	Idah	Ugwoda	123	Monday Ojomah
46		Otokolomojo	57	Abdullahi Salifu
	Sub-Total		1,524	

47	Adavi	Mack farm, Osara	76	Abdulrazak Musa
48		Osara Atami	40	Abdulrazak Musa
49		Osara Idotinawu	34	Abdulrazak Musa
50		Uro	59	Abdulrazak Musa
51		Zango Daji	20	Agada Paul
52	Ajaokuta	Emiworo	29	Abdullahi Salifu
53		Ero	300	Aminu Isah Ichaba Obaje Mathias Richard Oguche Edmond Ekele Abubakar Balogun
54		Kporoko 1/Elaite	41	Abdullahi Salifu
55	Dekina	Odu Ikaka	10	Yunisa Yusuf Okala
56	Lokoja	Sanawa	30	Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta
57	Mopamuro	Ijagbe	49	Bamidele Funsho
58	Ofu	Ogbulu	46	Alhaji Idris Hausa
59	Okene	Ageva	30	Mohammed Abdulkadir
60		Opogoro/Okuhaobamyi	85	Sadiq Sunday
61	Omala	Efiwo	50	Arome Alfa
62	Yagba West	Akata	91	Mrs Ebu Shittu
	Sub-Total		1,000	
63	Adavi	Aku/Irapana	127	Alhaji Ahmed Adobanyi
64		Osara Ngada/FCE	51	Alhaji Ahmed Adobanyi
65		Osara Atami	10	Abdulrazak Isa
66		Zango Daji	26	Idris Shaibu Okumo
67	Ajaokuta	Kporoko II/Elaite	25	Victor Akubo

68	Ankpa	Aloko/Acharane	65	Mallam Oketa
69		Emekutu	68	Chief Alhassan
70		Inye/Ogodu	60	David Achimi
71		Ojapata	89	Alhaji Omale Achenyo
72	Dekina	Abocho Ojogba	10	LG chairman Dekina
73		Emakoji	110	Peter Akogu
74		Ochaja	10	Chief Yahaya Musa Ibrahim
75	Mopamuro	Orokere	52	Bamidele Funsho
76	Ofu	Ogbulu	20	Lawal Usman
77	OgoriMagongo	Eke Akonogbolo	32	Oyebode Christopher
78		Magongo	15	Oyebode Christopher
79	Okehi	Abobo Ori-Ogodo	17	Abdulrazak Isa
		Abobo Trailer park 2	54	Abdulrazak Isa
80		Isuwen	20	Abdulrazak Isa
81		Trailer Park	93	Abdulrazak Isa
82	Okene	Ageva/Ere	60	Sadiq Sunday
83		Oguda	45	Sadiq Sunday
84		Okar	21	Sadiq Sunday
85		Opogoro/Okuhaobamyi	60	Sadiq Sunday
86	Olamaboro	Egoro	20	Richard Oguche
87		Ofante/Ogbodo	40	Francis Sani
88		Ubalu	20	Richard Oguche
	Sub-Total		1,200	
	Grand Total		7,324	

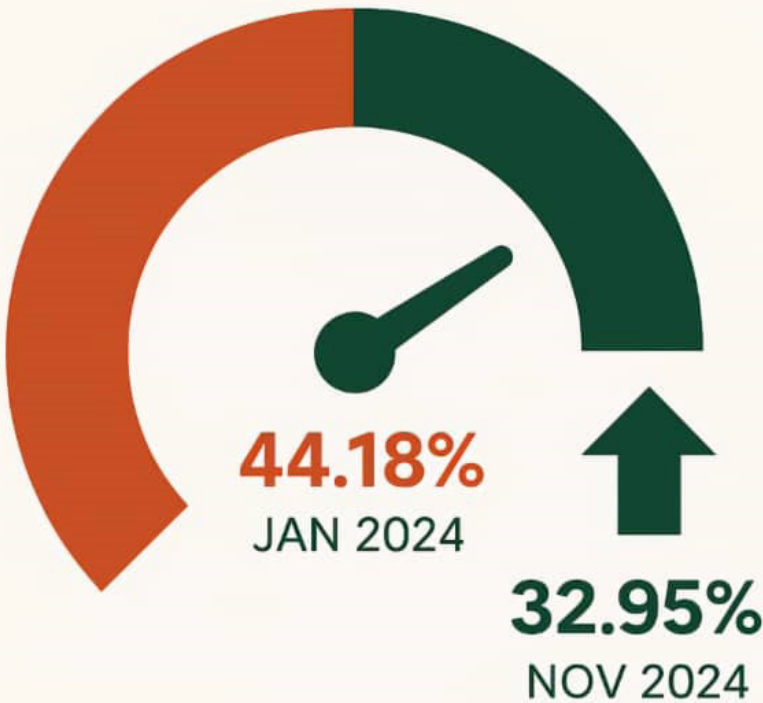


FOOD SUFFICIENCY:

GOVERNOR ODODO FLAGS OFF WET SEASON FARMING, DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS IN AJAOKUTA.



FOOD INFLATION IN KOGI STATE



Kogi's food inflation rate decreased significantly.

From Top to Bottom - Ododo's Common Sense Approach to Beating Food Inflation

Data by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that Kogi State experienced what some would call a 'magical shift' in its food inflation rates in 2024. In January 2024, Kogi recorded the highest year-on-year food inflation rate in Nigeria at 44.18%, surpassing all other states. However, by November 2024, Kogi's food inflation rate had decreased to 32.95%, making it the second-lowest in the country, just behind Kwara State at 31.39%. The drastic improvement was thanks to targeted agricultural interventions by the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo. The government invested over #7 billion, deployed 100+ tractors, directly cultivated over 7,000 hectares of farmland and heavily supported smallholder farmers with inputs and training. In just a matter of months, these efforts improved food production, stabilized market access and curbed inflationary pressure. The turnaround rapidly reversed food inflation and enhanced food security - illustrating how the incumbent in Kogi State deploys strategic policy and pointed investment to solve hard problems cheaply.

Editorial Team



Chapter 9:

Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's leadership in Kogi State has brought transformative advancements in social welfare and poverty alleviation.

Through innovative programs and targeted initiatives, his administration has made significant strides in grassroots development, economic empowerment, and healthcare access. These achievements highlight a governance model focused on inclusivity, sustainability, and improved living standards for all.

A cornerstone of Governor Ododo's accomplishments is the expansion of the NG-CARES and KG-CARES programs, designed to reduce poverty and enhance service delivery across Kogi State. Under his leadership, 170 micro-projects have been launched, impacting nearly 200,000 individuals. These projects, rooted in community-driven development plans, have provided essential services and strengthened economic resilience, particularly in rural areas. By focusing on self-reliance and access to resources, the NG-CARES initiative has become a vital tool in combating poverty and fostering long-term economic stability.

In the realm of technological advancement, the administration has introduced artificial intelligence (AI) training for cash transfer beneficiaries through the KG-CARES Cash Transfer Unit. This forward-thinking program equips participants with skills to engage in emerging digital economies, ensuring they remain competitive in a rapidly evolving job market. Digital literacy and AI training have not only bridged technological gaps but also created new avenues for economic participation among previously underserved populations.

The Kogi State Community and Social Development Agency (KSCSDA) has played a pivotal role in implementing grassroots projects under Governor Ododo's tenure. By emphasizing local participation and adherence to quality standards, KSCSDA has successfully executed community-based plans focused on poverty alleviation and infrastructure improvement. These projects have directly benefited rural communities, provided essential amenities and fostering a sense of ownership among local populations.

Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has further amplified the impact of state-level social intervention programs. Initiatives such as the Formal Sector Health Insurance Plan and the Basic

Healthcare Provision Fund have provided financial protection against healthcare costs, particularly for vulnerable groups. These programs align with the administration's broader commitment to ensuring universal healthcare access and financial risk protection for the most disadvantaged.

The Ododo Youth Empowerment and Skill Acquisition (OYESA) program is another testament to the administration's dedication to addressing unemployment and promoting grassroots empowerment. Through comprehensive vocational training and entrepreneurship support, OYESA equips youths with skills in trades such as solar energy installation, catering, and graphic design. Participants receive starter packs to establish their ventures, creating pathways to economic independence and reducing reliance on government jobs. This initiative has significantly contributed to the state's economic diversification by fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.

Governor Ododo's administration has also prioritized health and social welfare improvements through the "Access to Care Program." This program has enrolled over 32,000 individuals in the formal sector and an additional 41,587 under the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund. Complementary initiatives like Bello Care continue to subsidize healthcare for vulnerable populations, ensuring financial security against medical costs. By upgrading Primary Health Centers across the state, the administration has enhanced service delivery in rural areas, reflecting its commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

A key feature of Governor Ododo's governance strategy is the empowerment of vulnerable populations. Collaborative efforts with development partners have ensured widespread access to resources and training for women, youth, and persons living with disabilities (PLWDs). These programs bridge social and economic gaps, empowering marginalized groups to achieve self-reliance and contribute meaningfully to the state's development.

For immediate poverty relief, the administration has focused on comprehensive training for sustainable livelihoods. Programs like NG-CARES and OYESA offer long-term solutions by equipping beneficiaries with marketable skills and

providing the tools needed to start businesses. These initiatives prepare the workforce for both local and global economic demands, laying the groundwork for sustained economic growth and self-sufficiency.

Recognizing the transformative power of technology, Governor Ododo has integrated digital inclusion into his administration's initiatives. AI and digital literacy training for cash transfer beneficiaries ensure that even rural citizens are not left behind in the global shift toward a technology-driven economy. This focus on technological empowerment reflects the administration's commitment to preparing Kogi State for future challenges and opportunities.

The administration's commitment to community participation in development projects has been instrumental in driving sustainable progress. Through KSCSDA, projects developed in consultation with local communities address specific needs, ensuring alignment with grassroots priorities. These initiatives have improved infrastructure and service delivery, directly benefitted rural populations and fostering a sense of collective responsibility for development outcomes.

Governor Ododo's poverty alleviation efforts extend to economic inclusion, with direct support for smallholder farmers, women entrepreneurs, and youth. Programs providing grants, affordable loans, and training in agricultural value chains have enabled beneficiaries to sustainably improve their livelihoods while contributing to the state's broader economic goals. These measures not only reduce poverty but also enhance food security and promote rural economic stability.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office stands as a transformative period for Kogi State. His administration's achievements in social welfare and poverty alleviation reflect a deep commitment to improving lives and fostering inclusive growth. By addressing unemployment, enhancing healthcare access, and promoting technological and economic inclusion, Governor Ododo has set a benchmark for purposeful and impactful governance. These initiatives not only uplift the most vulnerable but also position Kogi State as a model for sustainable development and equity-driven leadership.















Policy Brief

Establishment of Kogi State Electricity Regulatory Framework

Background:

In line with Nigeria's amended Electricity Act 2023 empowering sub-national electricity markets, the Kogi State Government under Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo initiated comprehensive reforms to establish state-led regulation and administration of electricity supply within the state's territory.

Objectives:

- To create a legal and institutional framework for the Kogi State Electricity Market.
- To transfer regulatory oversight of intrastate electricity generation, transmission, and distribution to the State Government.
- To promote investment in renewable and off-grid electricity solutions.
- To improve efficiency, consumer protection, and service delivery in the electricity sector.

Key Actions Undertaken

(June 2024 - January 27, 2025):

1. Enactment of Enabling Law

In June 2024, His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, assented to a bill establishing:

- The Kogi State Electricity Market, and
- The Kogi State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC).

The law provides for:

- Licensing of electricity market participants,
- Regulation of tariffs and service quality,
- Development of both grid and off-grid electricity projects within the State.

2. Transfer of Regulatory Oversight

- In September 2024, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) formally transferred regulatory oversight of Kogi State's intrastate electricity market to KSERC. This transfer was in compliance with constitutional provisions and federal guidelines enabling state-level electricity regulation.

As part of this process, NERC issued a directive requiring the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) to incorporate a dedicated subsidiary (AEDC SubCo) to serve as the licensed distribution entity within Kogi State.

3. Institutional Capacity Building and Stakeholder Consultations

- Throughout the fourth quarter of 2024, KSERC commenced the development of operational regulations, licensing procedures, and tariff methodologies
- Preliminary stakeholder engagements were held with:
 - Distribution and generation companies,
 - Consumer advocacy groups,
 - Prospective investors.

These consultations focused on ensuring transparency, fairness and readiness for the eventual commencement of KSERC's full regulatory functions.

4. Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthening of regulatory governance in the electricity sector.
- Attracting of investments into power generation and distribution infrastructure
- Improvement of electricity infrastructure, reliability and affordability.
- Enhanced consumer protections within the State.

Conclusion:

The Government of Kogi State remains resolutely committed to ensuring that the State's electricity sector evolves into one of the most efficient, transparent, and investor-friendly markets in Nigeria and across the globe. As these foundational reforms take root, His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, has affirmed that the Administration will continue working throughout 2025 and beyond to strengthen regulatory capacity, expand generation and distribution infrastructure, and secure reliable, affordable power for all citizens and businesses across Kogi State. This determination reflects the vision of positioning Kogi as a model for sub-national electricity market development in Nigeria.



Chapter 10: **Security, Law and Justice Reforms**

Security remains a pivotal thematic area under Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's Advanced New Direction Administration.



fend off security threats from across the borders of each local Government Area in the State. They administration equipped them with essential gear, including ballistic vests, combat boots, and modern security gadgets. This initiative not only empowers local communities to take an active role in their own security but also serves as a valuable complement to the efforts of conventional security forces.

The actions of the governor to address mobility challenges and enhance operational efficiency has seen the distribution of over 250 operational vehicles and hundreds of motorcycles to both local hunters and Vigilantes. This logistical boost enables swift deployment, even in hard-to-reach areas, reducing delays in tackling incidents. The conventional forces (Army, Navy, Police, Civil Defence) were also equipped with Hilux vans to help in swift response to threats and combat attacks. In the same vein, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo in his commitment to partnering with security agencies to tackle crime donated a vehicle and 5 motorcycles to the Zonal security adviser for Idah Federal Constituency in other to discharge his duties effectively. This underscores his administration's unwavering stance against criminal elements in all parts of the State.

In a bold move to ensure urban security, the administration established the Metropolitan Quick Response (MQR) a rapid response unit designed to reduce response times to security incidents. This initiative has enhanced public confidence, particularly in the metropolitan areas, where swift intervention is crucial.

The State also embarked on clearance Operations all through the State to detonate and fend off banditries who found their way into the state because of the Military clearance operations in the North-East. The efforts of the Vigilantes and local hunters who were involved in the policing process have helped to clear out these elements. The continuous synergistic arrangements amongst the fighting force (Army, Navy, Police, Civil Defence) have also helped to stabilize security in the State. This was further strengthened as the State distributed Hilux vans for the security apparatus in the state to enhance their operations.

The previous administration of Kogi State, under the leadership of Governor Yahaya Bello, made remarkable strides in enhancing security across the state. Recognizing the critical importance of security for sustainable development, the administration deployed a robust approach to tackle insecurity, which had plagued the state for years. Through a combination of political will, innovative policies, and collaboration with security agencies, Kogi State witnessed a significant reduction in criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, and communal clashes.

Some of the key achievements include the establishment of operational bases for security agencies, the deployment of technology to track security threats (KIWI), fostering inter-agency collaboration and recruiting police constabularies for intelligence gathering. Notable initiatives like the establishment of the Kogi State Vigilante Service provided localized and grassroots support to law enforcement efforts, leading to improved intelligence gathering and swift response to threats. As a result, Kogi State transitioned from being a

hotbed of insecurity to one of the safest states in Nigeria.

Building on this legacy, the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has prioritized the consolidation and advancement of these security achievements. Since taking office on January 27, 2024, Governor Ododo has underscored his commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all citizens as a foundation for economic growth and development. His administration has continued to strengthen partnerships with security agencies and community stakeholders to sustain peace and order across the state. The last one year has witnessed some key achievements by the Advanced New Direction Administration in the Security sector.

As part of strengthening Kogi State's security network, the administration has reinforced grassroots security by recruiting about 1,000 local hunters across the 21 Local Government Area in the State. These individuals, with extensive knowledge of the terrain and communities played a critical role in surveillance and intelligence gathering to



KOGI STATE GOVERNOR INAUGURATES FOB, ENSURES LASTING PEACE IN BORDER COMMUNITIES.

In a bid to nip insecurity in the bud in the State, the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has commissioned a Forward Operation Base Abejukolo in Omala Local Government Area. This was established to put an end to incessant strike and killings of community members by unknown gunmen in Agojeju-Odo and Bagana which has defied a lasting solution. This highlights the commitment of his administration to addressing the security challenge that has bedeviled that community.

With his resolve of zero tolerance for criminality and determination to restore peace and stability to that region, a Joint Taskforce Patrol Unit was also stationed in Bagana to make sure of a sustained security presence in the area. These facilities served as strategic outposts for security personnels to address the continuous threat and attacks on Omala communities. This has played a significant role in restoring peace in the community, its strategic location has also helped security forces to respond swiftly to emergencies which reduced reaction times and helped minimize the potential for loss of life and property.

Through the existing synergy between the State and the Nigerian Navy, patrol boats and gun boats have been deployed to secure water ways, while the State Government also provided about 20 motorbikes for

ease and access to remote terrains within the community. Houses have also been renovated for Strategic planning on operational deployment to ensure that peace is permanently restored to that area and her economic activities be brought back to live.

This initiative is a significant step by the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo in breaking the cycle of violence and insecurity that has plagued Omala for a long while.

With a deep understanding of the implications of unemployment and the linkage it has with insecurity, the State Government, in a move to curb this menace launched the Ododo Youth Empowerment and Skill Acquisition (OYESA) program. This initiative is in partnership with the Nigeria-Korea Friendship Institute, Lokoja which will equip 250 young individuals from across the state with valuable vocational skills in various programmes offered by the institute. These categories of youth will be empowered with various skills that will enhance their capacity to be self-employed to contribute positively to society. Its multiplier effect is to discourage youths from picking up social vices or being used as instrument for causing insecurity in the State.

Governor Ododo's approach reflects a deep understanding of security as both a

fundamental right and a prerequisite for development. His administration's actions are not only a consolidation of previous gains but a forward-looking strategy that integrates innovation, community partnership, and resource optimization to ensure Kogi State remains secure, stable, and prepared to confront emerging threats. This strategic focus on security highlights Governor Ododo's commitment to continuity in governance while adapting to evolving challenges, solidifying Kogi's position as a beacon of peace and safety in Nigeria.

In the same vein, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has initiated several reforms in the judiciary, focusing on transparency, accessibility, and efficiency within the judiciary system. This is a positive reflection of optimism for the judiciary's future exemplifying the governor's governance style, particularly his respect for judicial autonomy.

In Strengthening the Judiciary, Governor Usman Ahmed Ododo has emphasized improving judicial infrastructure and supporting the legal system to ensure effective service delivery. This includes appointing experienced legal professionals, such as Barrister Muzi Yinus Abdullahi as the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, to spearhead legal reforms and uphold the rule of law.

In a bid to ensure effective delivery of services in the judiciary, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo recently appointed and sworn in 10 new judicial officers in Kogi State with operational vehicles for each of the judges. This includes four High Court judges and one judge for the Customary Court of Appeal. This approach emphasized the critical role of the judiciary in ensuring justice and equity is served fairly and without bias and has been positioned as a reassurance to the public that judiciary being the last hope of a common man is being prioritized and the reforms are seen as addressing capacity gaps and strengthening of the judicial institutions of the State.

To enhance seamless administration of justice in the State, the Office of the Attorney General, held a 3 Day Technical Session between the 6th – 8th of May, 2024 where a four-year strategic plan was developed. This strategic plan created a framework that includes various modalities to help in monitoring and evaluating

the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan of the Ministry of Justice.

Introduction of two (2) Directorates in the Ministry of Justice

On assumption of office, two important directorates were introduced in the Ministry of Justice.

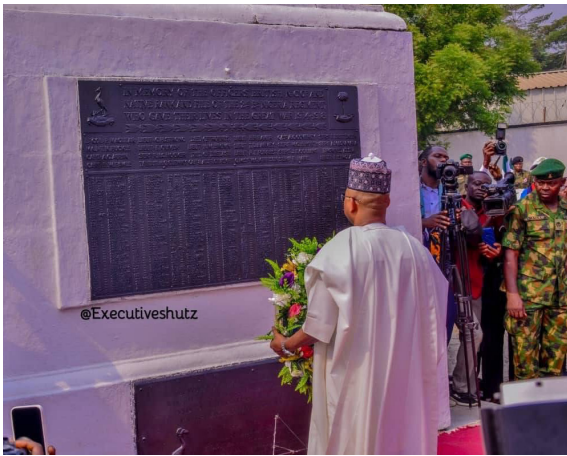
These directorates are:

Directorate of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was introduced to provide and promote efficient, speedy and cost effective conflict resolution mechanism outside the court room. It aims to reduce case backlogs, improve access to justice and offer quick solutions. It also aims to develop ADR policies, ensure standards and provide specialized trainings for mediators and arbitrators, fostering a culture of peaceful dispute settlement.

Directorate of Gender-Based Violence was introduced to handle Gender Based Violence cases which are prevalence currently in the State. So far, the directorate has collected and analyzed GBV data, formulated policies and promote public awareness through newspapers publications, radios, community outreach, sensitization and prioritizing survivor’s support in line with international obligations on gender justice.

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of the State has assented to not less than 13 Executive Bills passed by the Kogi State House of Assembly. These laws includes the following

- Kogi State Mineral Resources Development Agency Law, 2024
- Supplementary Appropriation Law,2024
- Local Government Service Commission Law,2024
- Kogi State Electricity Law,2024
- The Kogi State Anti-Corruption Agency Law, 2024
- Kogi State Scholarship Board Law,2024
- Kogi State Information Technology Development Agency Law, 2024
- Kogi State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency Law,2024
- Kogi State HIV and AIDS (Anti-



- Discrimination) Law, 2024
 - Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Law,2024
 - The Kogi State Anti-corruption Agency (Amendment) Law, 2024
 - Kogi Free Examination Registration Fee Law,2024
- The Ministry has also enjoyed some capacity building workshops like
- 6th Annual Criminal Law Review Conference organized by the Rule of Law Development Foundation dated 18th -22nd November, 2024.

- A 3-Day Workshop on Promoting Legislative Drafting Technique for Effective Policy Formulation and Law Making Dated 3rd-5th December.
- A 3-Day Course on Alternative Dispute Resolution, Dispute Management and Negotiation Skills Course Organized by Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies dated 29th- 31st October 2024
- Some law officers to the Nigeria Bar Association Annual Conference, 2024 which held in Lagos sometimes in August, 2024

Cases handled by the Ministry from January 2024 till date

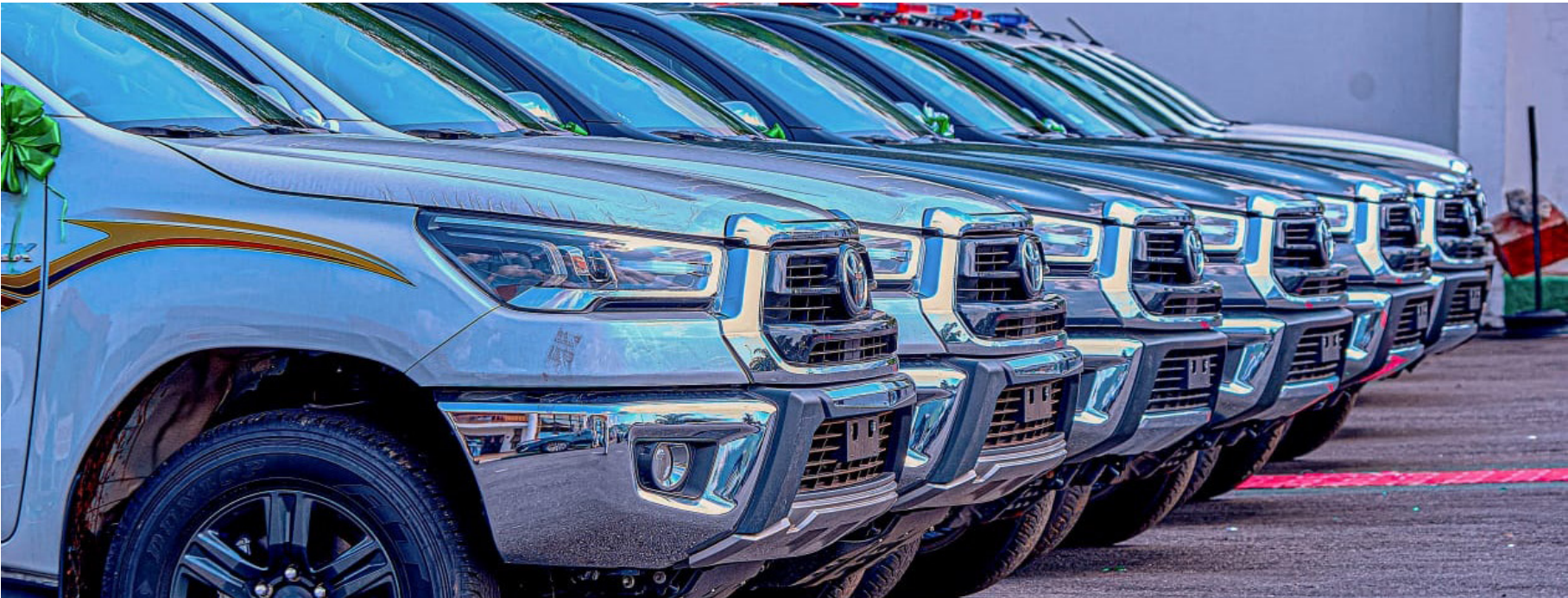
- **Criminal Cases:** 249. some have been completed while some are currently pending in various High Courts of Justice in the State
- **Civil Cases:** 112 civil cases spread throughout the High Courts in the State, Federal High Courts and Industrial Courts. It is important to state that not less than 42 of these civil cases are labour related which are currently ongoing before the National Industrial Court, both in Lokoja and Abuja
- **Appeal Cases:** A number of appeals in criminal and civil matters are pending before both Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court with some concluded and judgments delivered.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo provided 40 SUV cars for all the categories of judges in the state. This gesture of His Excellency has enhanced the welfare and working conditions of Judicial Officers in the state.

















GOVERNOR ODODO'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO HERDERS/FARMERS CLASHES, INCESSANT KILLINGS IN KOGI COMMUNITIES

Herders and farmers' clashes, coupled with the tragic loss of innocent lives, have become a deeply entrenched issue in parts of Omala and Dekina Local Government Areas of Kogi State. This recurring crisis has persisted for decades, defying the efforts of successive administrations to find lasting solutions. The situation reached a particularly devastating peak in 2014 when the peaceful Bagana community in Omala Local Government awoke to a horrifying attack by suspected herders. This assault left behind a trail of destruction, including the loss of numerous lives, homes, and livestock, with the community plunged into grief and despair.

Despite the best intentions, previous administrations struggled to implement effective measures to address the crisis. Mediation efforts and conventional conflict resolution strategies were employed but failed to yield significant results, primarily because they lacked robust mechanisms for shielding the community from the constant threat of overnight attacks by aggressors.

The crisis escalated further in 2017, with the Ojuwo-Ajoma'igbi community in Dekina Local Government Area falling victim to an overnight invasion by unknown assailants. This assault resulted in the deaths of no fewer than 17 people, leaving countless others homeless as the invaders burned down houses indiscriminately. Determined to address the situation, then-Governor Yahaya Bello demonstrated exceptional courage by personally visiting the devastated area, crossing multiple rivers and streams to reach the locus of the tragedy. Bello declared a resolute war on the criminals, deploying security personnel to the affected areas and neighboring communities. However, while this intervention brought temporary relief, it was with limitation, as attacks resumed whenever security personnel were redeployed elsewhere.

The Lingering Challenge of Insecurity

The inability to establish a permanent security presence in these areas, due to insufficient personnel and financial constraints, left the communities vulnerable to repeated attacks. The absence of a Forward Operation Base (FOB) or a similar facility further exacerbated the problem, as it hindered the security agencies' capacity to provide a rapid and effective response to emergencies.

Elected on the platform of "Continuity and Consolidation," Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has risen to the challenge, taking decisive steps to address the longstanding security issues that occasionally threatened the peace of the state. Building on the security framework left by his predecessor, Yahaya Bello, Ododo has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Kogites.

Governor Ododo's Renewed Commitment to Security

Governor Ododo has made his administration's stance on security clear: he is determined not only to combat criminality but to defeat it decisively. During the commissioning of a Quick Response Unit (QRU) of the Nigeria Police Force sometime in June 2024, he unequivocally stated his commitment to proactive governance: "As your governor, I was not elected to pay condolences to victims of kidnappings or violent crimes. I am not here to try, or to make an attempt. I am here to defeat criminality."

This statement encapsulates the governor's determination to prioritize the security of lives and property above all else, signaling a consolidation on a more strategic and proactive approach.

Strengthening Kogi's Security Framework

Within the first few months of his administration, Governor Ododo has demonstrated his dedication to creating a robust and responsive security framework across the state. His actions include the procurement of over 250 operational vehicles and hundreds of motorcycles for various security agencies, ensuring enhanced mobility and efficiency in addressing security challenges. By equipping security personnel with these resources, Ododo has significantly enhanced their ability to conduct effective surveillance and respond swiftly to threats. Additionally, over 2,000 local hunters have been recruited and equipped with essential gear, including ballistic vests, combat boots, and modern security gadgets. This initiative not only empowers local communities to take an active role in their own security but also serves as a valuable complement to the efforts of conventional security forces.

Establishment of Forward Operation Base in Omala

Perhaps the most impactful of Governor Ododo's interventions is the establishment of a Forward Operation Base (FOB) in Abejukolo,

alongside a Joint Taskforce Patrol Base in Bagana. These facilities are designed to serve as strategic outposts for security operations, addressing the persistent threat of bilingual attacks on Omala communities.

The FOB is expected to play a transformative role in bolstering security in the region. Its strategic location will enable security forces to respond more rapidly to emergencies, reducing reaction times and minimizing the potential for loss of life and property. By providing a visible and reassuring military presence, the FOB will not only deter potential aggressors but also restore confidence among local residents, fostering a sense of stability and security.

The Joint Taskforce Patrol Base in Bagana will provide additional support to the FOB, ensuring a sustained security presence in the area. Together, these facilities which are supported with critical logistics such as gunboats and patrol boats to secure waterways, motorcycles to facilitate access to remote and rugged terrains, and vehicles for comprehensive operational support will bolster security operations. This initiative represents a significant step toward breaking the cycle of violence and insecurity that has plagued the region for so long.

A Holistic Approach to Security

Governor Ododo has emphasized the importance of collaboration in addressing security challenges. By fostering closer coordination between the military, law enforcement agencies, and local vigilantes, his administration is creating a comprehensive and unified approach to security management. This holistic strategy not only enhances the effectiveness of individual security measures but also ensures a more sustainable and long-term resolution to the crisis.

Promoting Peace and Development

The establishment of the FOB and related security interventions underscore Governor Ododo's belief that a secure environment is essential for socio-economic growth. By prioritizing the safety of lives and property, the administration is laying the foundation for investments, infrastructure projects, and improved living conditions for residents.

A Commitment to Lasting Peace

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's tireless commitment to addressing the security challenges in Omala and Dekina Local Government Areas marks a turning point in Kogi State's efforts to achieve lasting peace. Through bold and innovative measures, his administration is not only tackling the immediate threats but also creating a foundation for a safer and more prosperous future for all Kogites.

As the governor plans to extend these security initiatives to other troubled areas, such as Bassa Local Government, the people of Kogi State can look forward to a brighter and more secure future under his leadership. For Governor Ododo, the safety and well-being of his people remain the ultimate priority—a commitment he continues to honor with every decision and action.







Chapter 11: Ministry for Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs

The Ministry for Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs in Kogi State occupies a pivotal role in the administrative and socio-cultural framework of the state. As the overseeing body for both the local government councils and the revered traditional institutions, the ministry has remained a cornerstone in fostering grassroots development, sustaining

peace, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting community growth across the state.

Currently under the capable leadership of Barrister Salami Momodu Ozigi-Deedat, a seasoned legal practitioner with deep knowledge of native laws and customs, the ministry has recorded a series of commendable

achievements. His commitment to effective governance, conflict resolution, and policy implementation has helped to strengthen the synergy between traditional rulers, local government officials, and state authorities.

A MISSION ROOTED IN PEACE, ORDER, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, during his inauguration on January 27th, 2024, clearly stated in his address the need “to keep our communities safe and secure.” This vision, targeted at peace and stability at the grassroots, has since become a strategic priority for the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. Barrister Ozigi-Deedat has championed this goal through effective engagement with traditional institutions, continuous collaboration with local council authorities, and implementation of far-reaching policies aimed at building harmonious and progressive communities.

The ministry also works closely with related government agencies, including the Bureau for Local Government Pension, the Local Government Service Commission, and the Office of the Auditor-General for Local Government. Together, these institutions form an operational framework for efficient service delivery at the local level, ensuring accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in local administration.

A significant testament to the ministry’s conflict resolution capacity is the long-awaited return of peace to Bagana, a crisis-ridden community in Omala Local Government Area. The conflict, which lingered for more than a decade, disrupted communal life, displaced residents, and threatened regional stability. Through strategic mediation, inclusive dialogue, and active involvement of traditional stakeholders, the Ododo-led administration brought the crisis to a peaceful conclusion. Today, Bagana is experiencing a new dawn of peace and development.

This landmark achievement has positioned the ministry as a responsive institution capable of navigating complex communal issues with tact and empathy, reinforcing the belief that lasting peace is possible when political will meets decisive action.

The conduct of the 2024 local government elections in Kogi State is widely regarded as one of the most transparent and credible in recent history. Held under the current administration, the elections were devoid of the usual controversies, violence, and post-election litigations that have marred similar exercises in the past.

Following the successful inauguration of the elected local government officials, the councils have begun to function with renewed vigour and clarity of purpose, further affirming Governor Ododo’s commitment to participatory democracy and credible leadership at the grassroots. Perhaps one of the most impactful developments under the current administration is the regular and complete payment of salaries to local government workers. For the first time in decades, local government staff across the 21 LGAs of Kogi State are receiving 100 percent of their salaries and enjoying the benefits of the national minimum wage.

This monumental shift has effectively bridged the long-standing disparity between state and local government workers, boosting morale, restoring dignity, and promoting productivity across board. Beyond regular salaries, local government staff now have improved access to gratuities, thus enabling them to plan for retirement with a sense of security and peace of mind.

RESTORING DIGNITY TO TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The traditional institution, which serves as the custodian of culture, peace, and justice in the local communities, has received renewed

attention under Governor Ododo. The government has demonstrated its unwavering respect and commitment to these institutions by supporting the welfare of traditional rulers and restoring the dignity of their offices.

Among several notable interventions, the Obaro of Kabba, His Royal Majesty Oba Solomon Dele Owoniyi, was provided with a brand-new official vehicle and escort vehicle, as a mark of respect and recognition for his status. Similarly, the historic palace of the Ohimegye Igu of Koton-Karfe is undergoing massive renovation to restore its architectural and cultural glory.

Recognizing the urgent need to fill vacant stools and resolve lingering succession disputes, Governor Ododo approved the appointment of 12 First Class, 5 Second Class, and 8 Third Class chiefs, along with two district heads. These appointments followed thorough consultations and vetting by the Ministry to ensure legitimacy, acceptance, and credibility. The longstanding disputes over the stools of Onu Ajaokuta and Ochogu of Ogugu were amicably resolved, while the issues surrounding the Onu Echeno and Obadofin of Oweland were finally put to rest.

This strategic engagement with the traditional institutions has drastically reduced communal and chieftaincy disputes across the state, ensuring that peace and unity continue to thrive.

In today’s Kogi State, traditional rulers are no longer seen solely as custodians of history and culture. They have been fully integrated into the state’s security architecture. Through strategic collaborations, the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs ensures that traditional rulers now play active roles in intelligence gathering, conflict mediation, community policing, and social harmony.

This innovative approach has not only increased the efficiency of grassroots security management but also bridged the gap between the government and the governed. Communities now have more trust in their leaders, knowing that their voices can be heard and their concerns addressed.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION

The ministry continues to support community-led initiatives aimed at improving local governance and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Through various empowerment schemes, town hall engagements, youth sensitization programs, and infrastructural interventions, the Ministry ensures that development is community-driven and sustainable.

In areas such as women’s inclusion, youth engagement, and local economic development, the ministry plays a facilitative role, providing the enabling environment and support systems needed to unlock the potential of grassroots communities.

While it is important to highlight the successes of the current administration, it is also commendable that the Ministry under Barrister Ozigi-Deedat has chosen to build on the solid foundation laid by former Governor Yahaya Bello. From improving staff welfare to promoting inclusive governance and strengthening traditional institutions, the present administration is raising the bar in local government administration in Kogi State.

The Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, under the leadership of Barrister Salami Momodu Ozigi-Deedat, has become a beacon of administrative excellence and grassroots transformation in Kogi State. With Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's unwavering support and clear vision, the ministry is making giant strides in restoring the pride of local government institutions and elevating the status of traditional rulers.

In an era where the relevance of traditional institutions and local governance structures is being questioned in many quarters, Kogi State stands out as an example of how both systems can be revitalized and harmonized to foster peace, promote development, and drive inclusive governance. The Ministry remains committed to its mandate and will continue to deliver policies and programs that reflect the aspirations of the people of Kogi State.

On January 28, 2025, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo commissioned the newly constructed Unity Hall at the Kogi State Local Government Service Commission headquarters in Lokoja. The hall is envisioned as a centrepiece for administrative collaboration across the state's 21 Local Government Areas. Commending the project's successful completion, the Governor remarked, "This Unity Hall is a testament to our collective urge and

desire to build an efficient and all-inclusive governance which tends to unite the 21 Local Government Areas of the State, irrespective of tribal, political or religious sentiments." The Governor also urged commission staff to maintain the facility with pride. Chairman of the Commission, Hon. Adams Adabenege, praised the administration's focus on infrastructure and committed continued staff support. The initiative forms part of broader efforts to reform and professionalize local government service delivery in Kogi State.





Chapter 12: **Environmental Sustainability**

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's leadership in Kogi State has brought transformative advancements in social welfare and poverty alleviation.

Under the leadership of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, Kogi State has emerged as a beacon of environmental responsibility, seamlessly blending policy innovation with practical implementation to tackle ecological challenges. The administration has demonstrated a resolute commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, adopting a holistic approach that balances conservation with socioeconomic growth. Rooted in the vision of sustainable development, the administration's strategic focus has encompassed environmental protection, climate resilience, effective waste management, and the integration of renewable energy solutions into everyday life. These efforts have not only addressed pressing environmental issues but also set the stage for a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future for the state and its residents.

One of the hallmark initiatives of Governor Ododo's administration has been its reforestation drive, which seeks to counteract years of unchecked deforestation and restore the natural balance in Kogi State. Forested areas, which serve as critical carbon sinks and biodiversity havens, had suffered from overexploitation. Recognizing this, the administration launched large-scale tree-planting campaigns, collaborating with both local communities and international environmental organizations. These campaigns have revitalized degraded lands, particularly in areas prone to erosion and desertification. Beyond their ecological benefits, these reforestation efforts symbolize a cultural shift toward environmental stewardship, with residents actively participating in tree planting and conservation programs. Such community involvement has fostered a renewed sense of environmental responsibility, ensuring the sustainability of these initiatives.

Complementing reforestation efforts, the administration has revolutionized waste management in the state. Urban centers, which had long grappled with inadequate waste disposal systems, have witnessed transformative improvements under Governor Ododo's leadership. Modern waste collection techniques and the establishment of recycling hubs in key cities such as Lokoja have addressed the mounting challenge of solid waste. These hubs are not just processing waste; they are creating value by converting discarded materials into reusable resources, thereby reducing the burden on landfills and contributing to a circular economy. The innovative waste-to-wealth programs have gained traction, particularly in rural areas, where organic waste is now being repurposed into compost for agricultural use. This initiative has dual benefits—supporting local farmers with nutrient-rich fertilizers while simultaneously promoting sustainable agricultural practices. By involving local communities in waste management efforts, the administration has instilled a sense of ownership and accountability, reducing the prevalence of open dumping and improving overall sanitation across the state.

Addressing the vulnerabilities posed by climate change has been another cornerstone of Governor Ododo's environmental agenda.

Under the Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) program, the administration has spearheaded over 170 community-driven micro-projects aimed at enhancing climate resilience. These projects range from constructing irrigation systems to implementing erosion control measures, directly benefiting more than 200,000 people in rural areas. The importance of these initiatives cannot be overstated, as they have provided rural communities with tools to adapt to changing climatic conditions while securing their livelihoods. In tandem with these projects, the government has implemented robust flood mitigation strategies, including the construction of advanced drainage systems and riverbank fortifications. These measures have significantly reduced the impact of seasonal flooding, which had previously disrupted lives and destroyed infrastructure in vulnerable regions.

Recognizing the role of education in driving sustainable change, Governor Ododo's administration has prioritized capacity-building programs that empower citizens to take charge of their environmental responsibilities. Rural populations, particularly youth and women, have been the primary beneficiaries of training programs that emphasize eco-friendly farming techniques, waste recycling, and conservation practices. These programs have not only equipped participants with valuable skills but also fostered economic independence by opening new avenues for green entrepreneurship. To amplify these efforts, the administration has launched widespread public awareness campaigns that target behavioral change. By highlighting the importance of proper waste management, tree planting, and sustainable practices, these campaigns have garnered widespread public support for the government's environmental initiatives, laying the groundwork for long-term ecological sustainability.

In a bid to transition Kogi State to a low-carbon economy, the administration has championed the adoption of renewable energy solutions. Solar electrification projects have been deployed across rural and semi-urban areas, providing clean and reliable power to communities that previously lacked access to electricity. These projects underscore the administration's commitment to reducing

reliance on environmentally harmful fossil fuels while promoting energy equity. Public institutions such as schools and health centers have also embraced solar power, setting an example for the broader adoption of renewable energy technologies. These advancements align with the state's long-term development plan, which integrates environmental sustainability into its core objectives, ensuring that economic progress is not achieved at the expense of ecological health.

Nature-based solutions have further solidified the administration's proactive approach to addressing environmental challenges. By planting vegetation in erosion-prone areas, the government has effectively minimized land degradation, preserving arable farmland and protecting critical ecosystems. Similarly, community-led water runoff control initiatives have enhanced agricultural productivity, providing farmers with the tools to sustainably manage their land. Urban greening projects have transformed cityscapes, with tree-planting drives creating green corridors and cooling urban areas that were once plagued by rising temperatures. The development of parks and recreational spaces has added another dimension to these efforts, promoting ecological balance while enhancing the quality of life for urban residents.

Governor Ododo's administration has also recognized the value of strategic partnerships in achieving its environmental goals. Collaborations with federal agencies, international organizations, and private entities have been instrumental in securing funding and technical expertise for large-scale projects. These partnerships have facilitated the implementation of cutting-edge technologies, such as renewable energy systems and advanced waste management solutions, which might otherwise have been out of reach for the state. The administration's innovative approaches have drawn commendations from environmental bodies, positioning Kogi State as a leader in sustainable governance and a model for other regions to emulate.

The impact of these efforts extends beyond immediate environmental benefits. By integrating robust policies, hands-on projects, and inclusive community participation, the administration has fostered a sense of collective responsibility that transcends

generational boundaries. Young people, who are at the forefront of many environmental initiatives, are not just beneficiaries but active participants in shaping a sustainable future for Kogi State. The achievements of Governor Ododo's first year in office represent a balanced and forward-thinking approach to environmental sustainability, laying a strong foundation for continued progress toward long-term ecological and economic well-being. Through its visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to sustainable development, Kogi State is charting a path toward a greener, more resilient future, ensuring that the benefits of today's initiatives will be felt by generations to come.

ACReSAL's achievements in Kogi State reflect a commitment by Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo to sustainable development and climate resilience. By addressing environmental challenges and empowering communities, the project has laid a foundation for long-term agricultural and economic growth while protecting the state's natural resources for future generations.

The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project has achieved remarkable progress in Kogi State, contributing to environmental sustainability, agricultural productivity, and economic growth. The project focuses on addressing land degradation, improving water resource management, and enhancing climate resilience among communities.

Key Achievements under the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) includes;

- » Gully erosion control works in Etahi, Okene/Adavi LGA
- » Gully erosion control works in Omigbo, Kabba LGA
- » Gully erosion control works in Olubojo, Ankpa LGA
- » Disbursement of Community revolving loan (2,250,000 usd) to 90 communities in Kogi State
- » Distribution of farm inputs in the three senatorial districts of the State

- » • Implementation of dry season farming across the State
- » • Support to farmers through FAO approach (200 hectares implemented)
- » Distribution of handhold tractor in the three senatorial districts of the state
- » Provision of solar powered boreholes and streetlight to rural communities in the state
- » Procurement of GIS and data management equipments
- » Reforestation of degraded forest reserve in the state (Ofejiji, Oforachi & Olle forest)
- » Rehabilitation of Okura nursery, Dekina LGA
- » Support to MDAs (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Water resources)
- » Provision of operational vehicles
- » Provision of ICT equipment
- » Provision of Solar power system



In December 2024, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State disbursed ₦3 billion to 170 groups across 80 climate-impacted communities under the World Bank-supported ACReSAL Community Revolving Fund. The initiative, benefiting 2,381 direct recipients, aims to promote food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience. Governor Ododo reaffirmed his administration's commitment to landscape sustainability and lauded President Tinubu's national efforts in agriculture. Commissioner Joseph Oluwasegun emphasized the fund's role in ensuring food sufficiency, while ACReSAL Coordinator Barr. Ladi Jatto highlighted the fund's interest-free nature and success-driven second phase rollout. Beneficiaries were urged to manage the funds prudently.















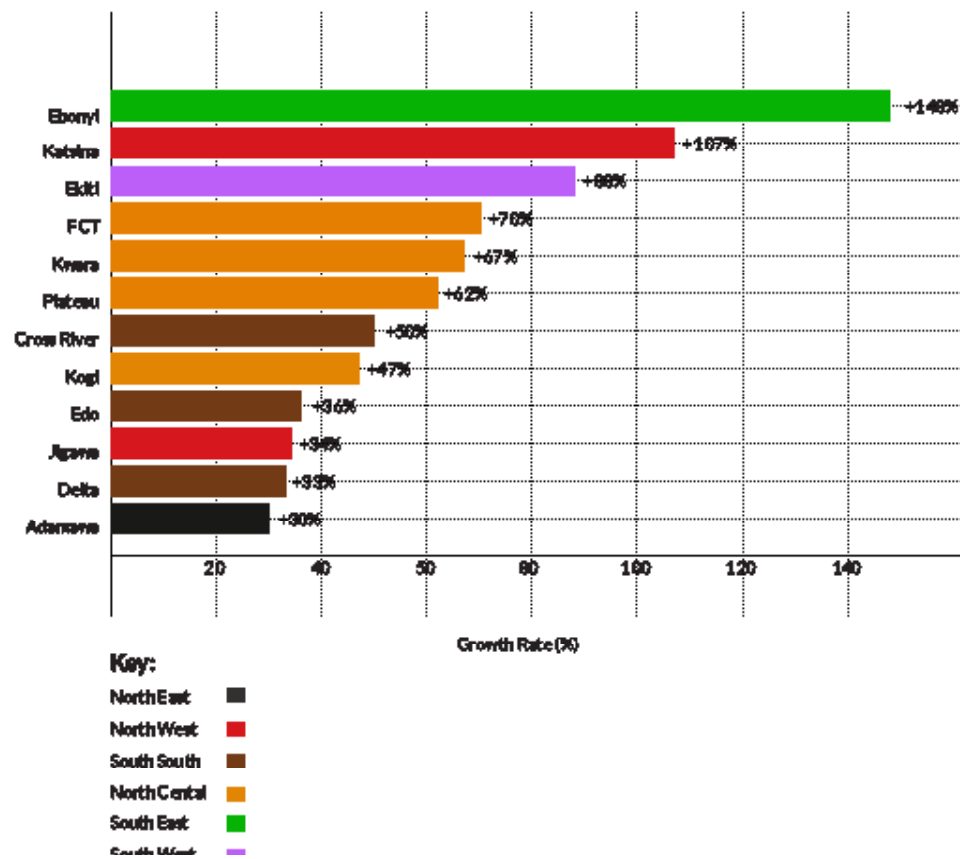




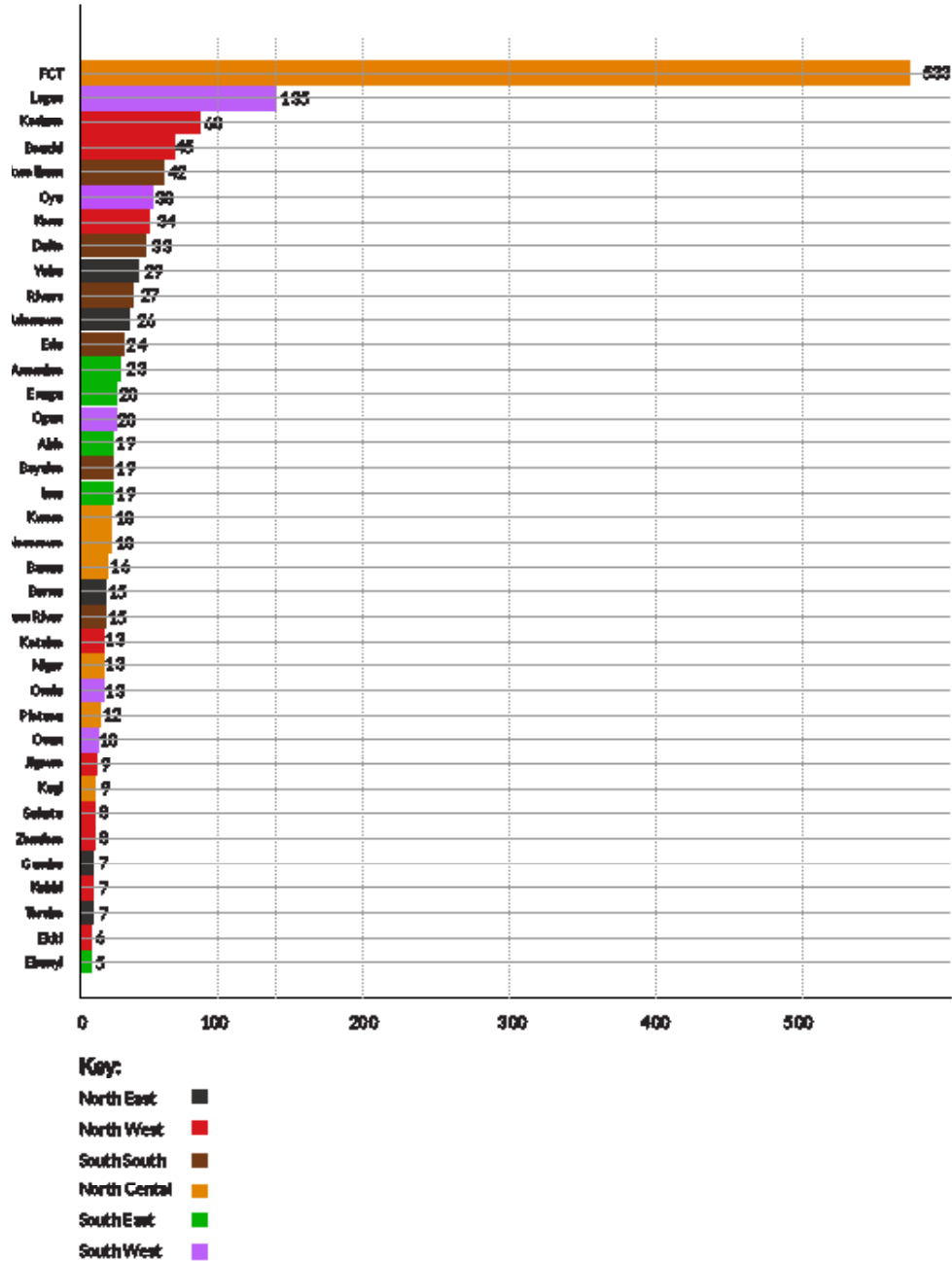




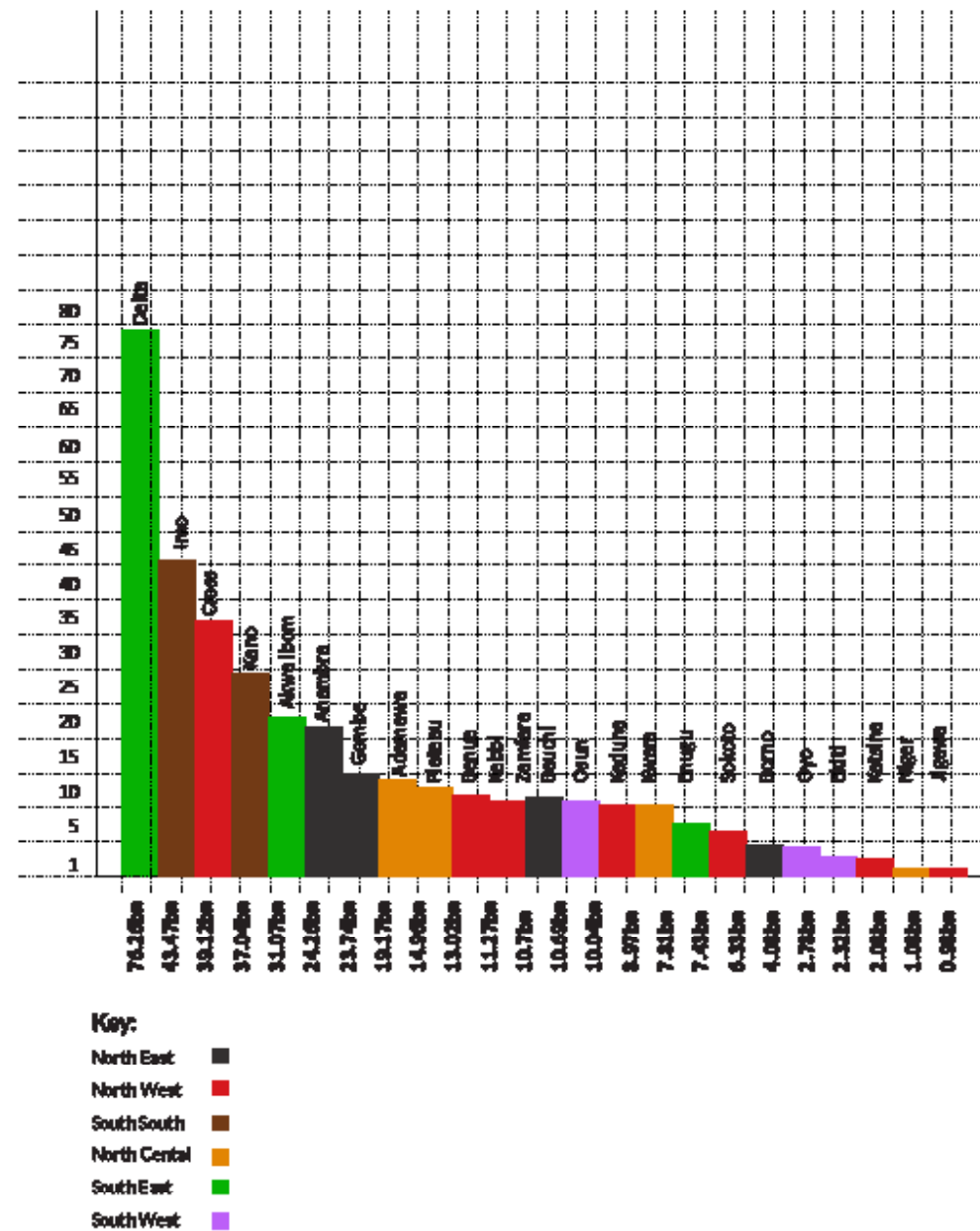
States with the Best Year-on-Year IGR Growth Rate (2022-2023)



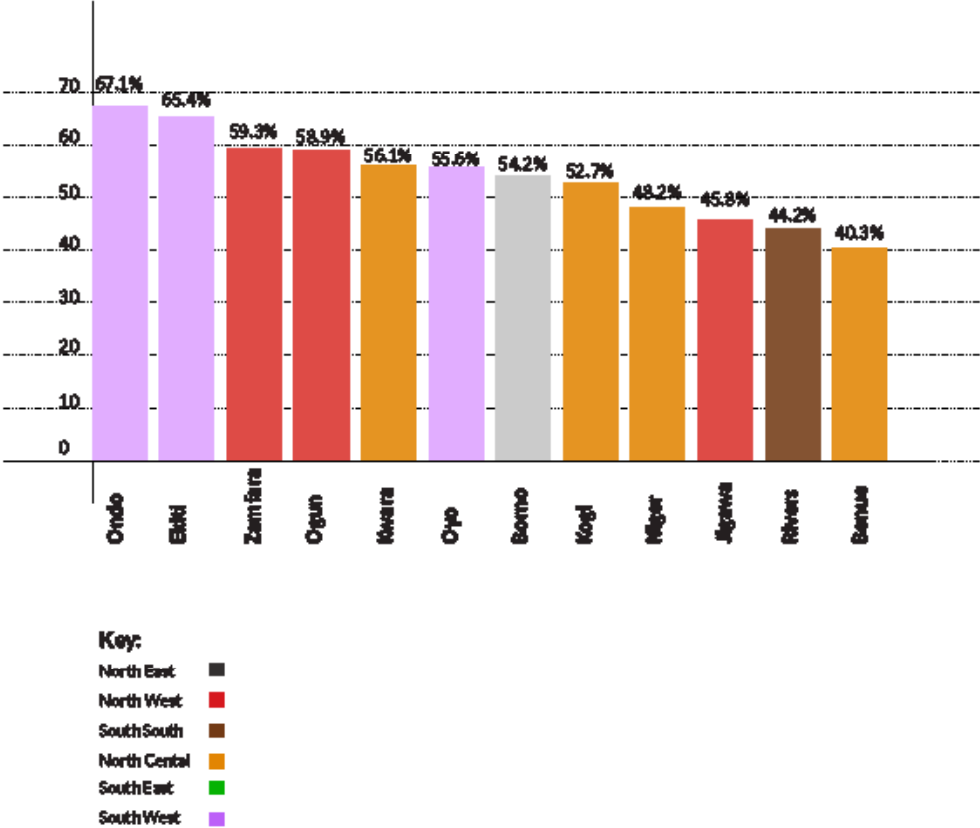
NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF CORRUPTION - 2022



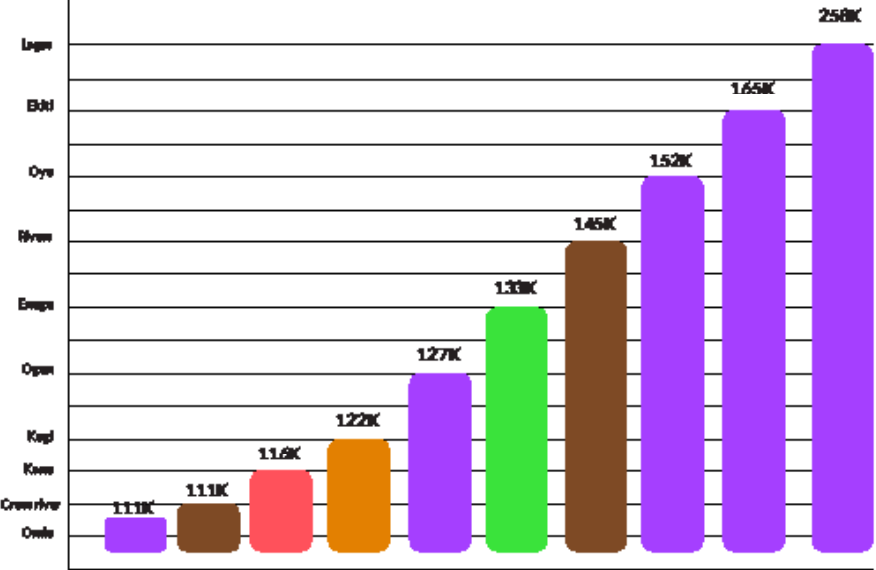
INDEBTEDNESS TO CONTRACTORS BY STATE - 2023



2023 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION STATES WON BY BOLATINUBU



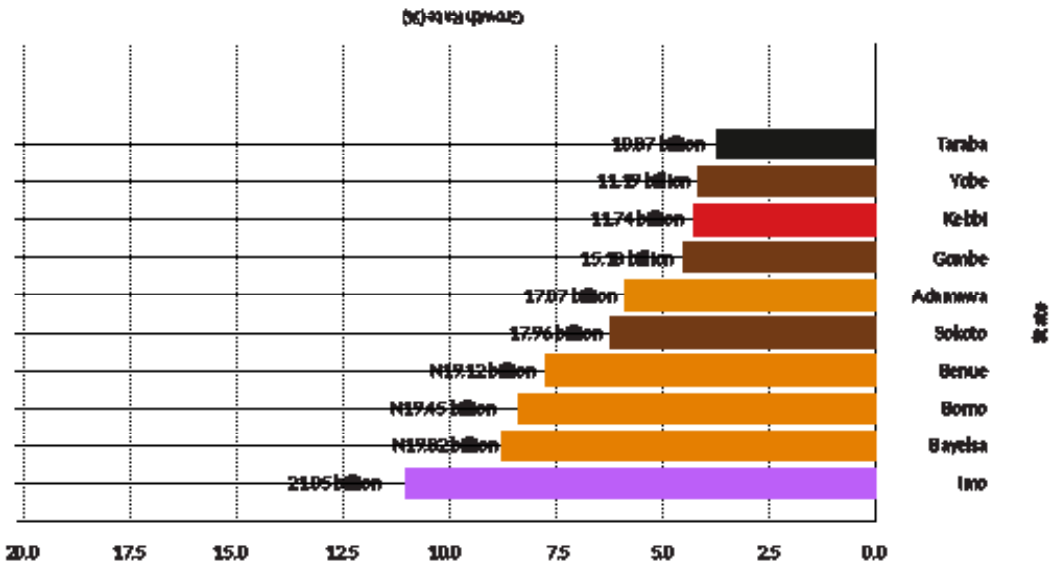
EMPLOYEES IN PUBLIC SECTOR - 2023



Key:

- North East
- North West
- South South
- North Central
- South East

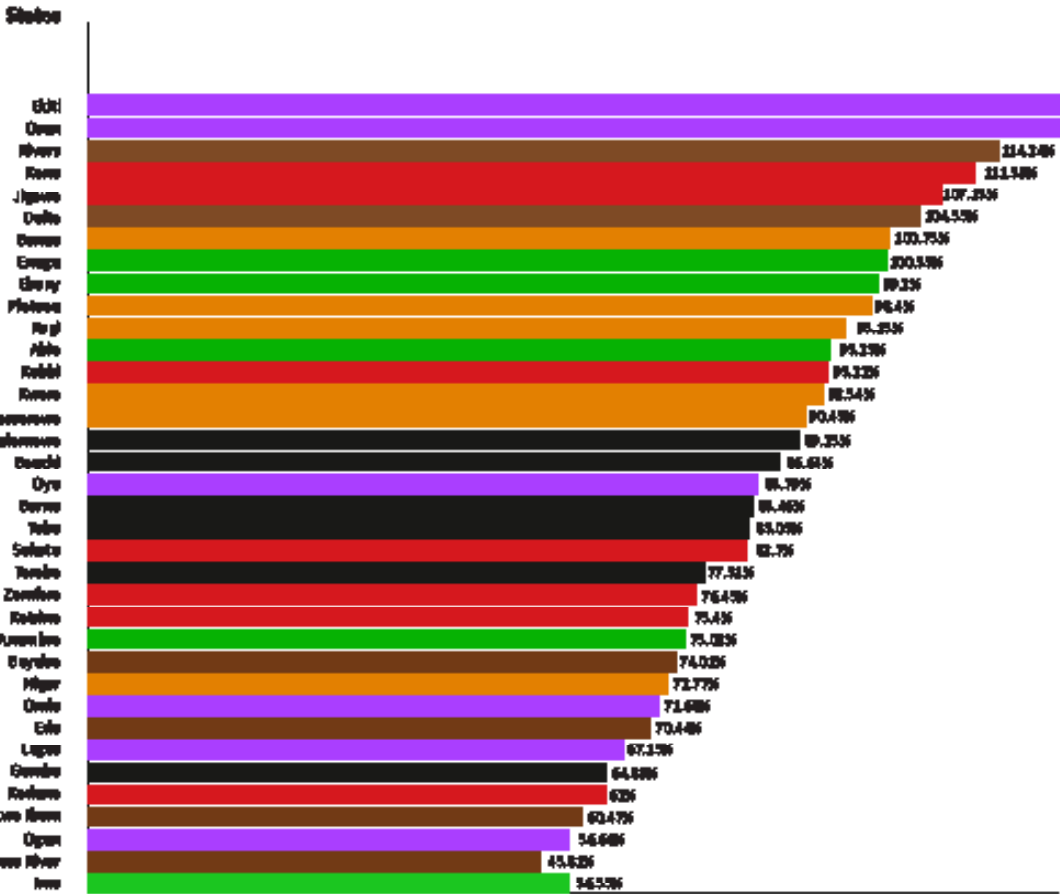
10 STATES WITH THE LOWEST IGR, 2023



Key:

- North East
- North West
- South South
- North Central
- South East
- South West

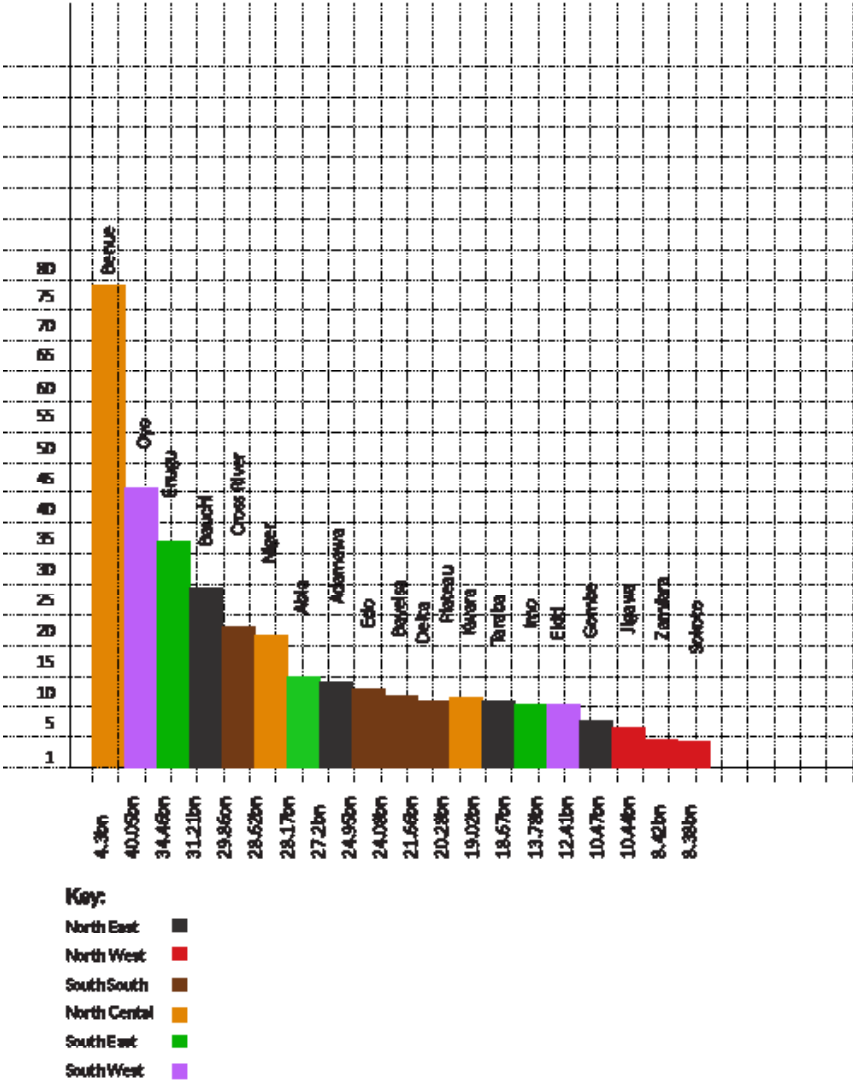
HOW STATES MET THEIR 2023 BUDGET
2023 State's Revenue as a percentage of 2023 Budget



Key:

- North East
- North West
- South South
- North Central
- South East
- South West

STATES OWING HIGHEST PENSION & GRATUITY - 2023



Key:

- North East
- North West
- South South
- North Central
- South East
- South West

Chapter 13:

Ministry of Transportation

THE vision of the Ministry of Transport, Kogi State is to create a modern, integrated, and sustainable transportation system that enhances mobility, supports economic growth, improves the quality of life, and connects all communities within Kogi State and beyond.

Its mission includes to plan, develop, and maintain efficient, safe, and environmentally-friendly transport infrastructure across all modes—road, rail, water, and air, through innovative policies, strategic partnerships, and community-driven initiatives that contribute to the social and economic advancement of Kogi State.



**Sustainable Transport Infrastructure:
Ododo’s Audacious Airport Initiative and
Broader Achievements**

Strategic investment in transportation infrastructure remains a cornerstone for economic competitiveness and social cohesion. Kogi State, centrally located and bordered by ten other states including the Federal Capital Territory, serves as a vital gateway between Northern and Southern Nigeria. The importance of a robust transport system in Kogi cannot be overstated, and under the leadership of His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Ministry of Transportation has advanced several transformative projects that reaffirm the state’s commitment to infrastructure-led development.

Legacy Projects and Foundations

Building on the foundation laid by former Governor Yahaya Bello, the current administration has inherited and enhanced a range of transport projects. Under Bello, the upgrade of the Lokoja Mega Terminal and the construction of vital roads like the Itakpe-Ogaminana-Okene road, Ibana-Ikeje-Emonyokwu-Ogugu road, and Ejule-Umomi-Ugwolawo-Amaka-Idah road helped to unify rural and urban communities while accelerating the flow of goods and services.

**Key Achievements under Governor
Ododo**

- 1. Introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Initiative**
In response to the removal of fuel subsidies and its impact on transportation costs, the Ministry, under Hon. Atuluku Victor Levi, has embraced the Federal Government’s initiative to promote CNG-powered vehicles. Kogi State was among the first to launch the conversion incentive program and distribute CNG buses to transport operators in Lokoja. This move has resulted in a remarkable 40% reduction in transportation costs and reflects a dual commitment to economic relief and environmental responsibility.
- 2. Public-Private Partnerships and Strategic Engagements**
The Ministry has engaged Autogas Service Nigeria Limited and other stakeholders to broaden the impact of the CNG conversion initiative. These partnerships are focused not only on easing the cost of transport but also on fostering a cleaner, more sustainable transportation ecosystem through reduced carbon emissions.
- 3. Zariagi International Airport Initiative: A Bold Leap**
Perhaps the most groundbreaking

initiative under Governor Ododo is the plan to revitalize and upgrade the Zariagi International Airport. With a license secured from the Federal Government, this project stands as a testament to visionary leadership aimed at unlocking Kogi State’s economic potential.

Key Benefits of the Airport Project:

- i. Economic Growth:** Enhanced access to trade routes, markets, and investment opportunities.
- ii. Improved Connectivity:** Facilitates the movement between urban centers and remote communities.
- iii. Tourism Boost:** Increases accessibility to Kogi’s rich cultural and historical landmarks.
- iv. Job Creation:** Provides employment opportunities across construction and aviation services.
- v. Emergency Response Hub:** Allows rapid deployment of aid during crises.
- vi. Environmental Efficiency:** Designed with modern standards that reduce emissions and improve air travel sustainability.

4. Development of Water Transport Infrastructure

Flanked by the Rivers Niger and Benue, Kogi is uniquely positioned to benefit from inland water transportation. In a step toward leveraging this natural advantage,

the Ministry received four fibreglass boats from the National Hydroelectric Power Producing Area Development Commission (N-HYPPADEC) to enhance ferry services and inter-state commerce via waterways

5. **Establishment of a Federal Transport Terminal**

In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Transportation, the State Government is set to construct a state-of-the-art Federal Transport Terminal along the Lokoja-Okene Expressway. Governor Ododo has approved four hectares of land for this project, which will serve as a vital hub for passenger and cargo movement, further positioning Kogi as a transportation powerhouse in Nigeria.

Challenges and Forward Outlook

While the progress is commendable, the Ministry remains aware of the challenges that come with large-scale infrastructure projects—ranging from land acquisition and environmental concerns to capital costs and equitable access. However, with strategic planning, sustainable practices, and inclusive stakeholder engagement, the Ministry of Transportation is poised to turn these challenges into opportunities for growth.

Finally, the Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo’s administration is rewriting the narrative of transportation in Kogi State through innovation, vision, and bold leadership. From adopting cleaner fuel alternatives and enhancing road networks to establishing an international airport and modern terminals, the Ministry of Transportation is setting a new standard for sustainable development and connectivity. These achievements are not just infrastructural—they are transformative pathways for economic inclusion, social integration, and lasting prosperity for the people of Kogi State.

Policy Brief

Strategic Transport Sector Milestones Achieved by the Kogi State Government in 2024

This policy brief outlines key developments in the transport sector under the administration of His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, through the Ministry of Transport. Each milestone is analyzed through the lens of strategic governance goals including economic diversification, energy transition, infrastructure modernization, and social inclusion.

1. Conversion Incentive Program (CIP)

Launched on October 3, 2024, in collaboration with the Federal Government and Mono Energy (PICNG consultant), this program enables the free conversion of 10,000 commercial vehicles in Kogi State to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Targeted at transport workers under NURTW, NARTO, and RTEAN, the CIP promotes green transport and reduces dependence on fossil fuels.

Strategic Objective Achieved: Transition to clean energy, enhancement of transport sector efficiency, and alignment with national climate goals.

2. Approval of Zariagi International Airport

On October 9, 2024, the Federal Government approved the construction of Zariagi

International Airport. The project is currently in the design phase and covers Landside, Terminal Building, and Airside infrastructure.

Strategic Objective Achieved: Boosting regional connectivity, promoting tourism, trade and investment, and elevating Kogi’s strategic relevance in national aviation logistics.

3. Institutional Engagement with PICNG

The Honourable Commissioner’s visit to the Program Director of PICNG on September 10, 2024, facilitated commitments to install CNG stations statewide. This strengthened federal–state collaboration in sustainable energy.

Strategic Objective Achieved: Institutional synergy for energy security and long-term cost reduction in transportation.

4. Inland Water Transport Enhancement

On October 9, 2024, Kogi State received four fiberglass boats from N-HYPPADEC to improve water transport. Commissioning is scheduled for June 2025, with lifejackets from the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy expected to arrive by June 5, 2025.

Strategic Objective Achieved: Expanding multi-modal transport options, improving rural access and safety standards.

5. Federal Transport Terminal Development

A 4-hectare site has been approved along the Lokoja–Okene Expressway for a federal transport terminal.

This is a joint project with the Federal Ministry of Transportation and serves as a hub for intercity mobility.

Strategic Objective Achieved: Integration into national logistics framework and support for regional economic hubs.

6. Revival of Ashok Leyland Buses

The Ministry began restoration of four dormant buses from the Wada administration. One has been completed, and three others are over 50% refurbished for deployment along major Lokoja corridors.

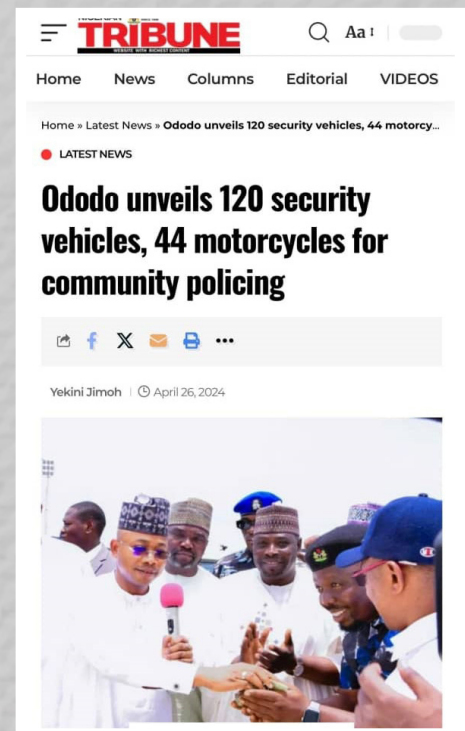
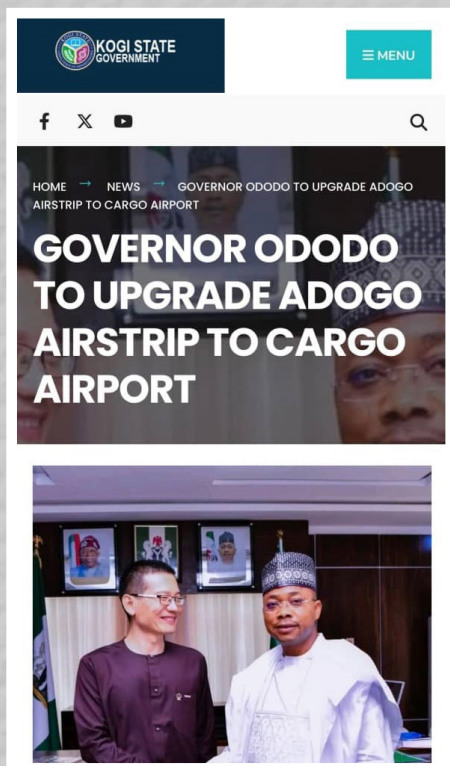
Strategic Objective Achieved: Resource optimization, public transport revitalization, and revenue generation via KGIRS.

Conclusion

Through these initiatives, the Kogi State Ministry of Transport demonstrates policy coherence, federal collaboration, and strategic alignment with Governor Ododo’s vision for inclusive, resilient, and future-forward infrastructure systems.

LIVE

Governance in Action



Chapter 14: **Youth, Women and Special Needs**

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office has been defined by a remarkable dedication to empowering the youth, advancing women's inclusion, and supporting persons living with disabilities (PLWDs).

This administration has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to addressing unemployment, fostering inclusivity, and driving sustainable socioeconomic development across Kogi State. By adopting a multi-dimensional approach, the administration has rolled out innovative programs aimed at equipping citizens with the tools needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world, ensuring that no one is left behind.

A flagship initiative in the administration's youth empowerment drive is the Ododo Youth Empowerment and Skill Acquisition (OYESA) program. Designed to tackle unemployment and build a skilled workforce, the program targets 250 youths from all 21 local government areas of the state. The training, hosted at the Nigeria-Korea Friendship Institute, offers participants the opportunity to gain proficiency in modern vocational skills. Fields of training include automotive technology, plumbing, solar power installation, welding and fabrication, electrical repairs, computer hardware maintenance, and networking. These areas were carefully selected to align with emerging industry demands and provide beneficiaries with skills that are both relevant and marketable. Participants receive comprehensive support during the program, including monthly stipends and accommodation, ensuring that financial and logistical barriers do not impede their success. Upon completing the training, participants benefit from additional support such as the registration of business names with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), the provision of starter kits, and certificates of proficiency. These measures position trainees not only to secure employment but also to establish their businesses and contribute meaningfully to economic diversification. The OYESA program is complemented by other impactful initiatives, including the Youth Transformation Programme of the Niger Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (N-HYPPADEC).

Through this program, 705 beneficiaries across 10 communities in Kogi State have received vocational training in diverse fields such as computer applications, fashion design, poultry farming, catering, fish farming, shoe and bag making, graphic design, and more. The program's inclusivity ensures that participants from local government areas like Ajaokuta, Adavi, Bassa, Ibaji, and Lokoja benefit equitably. Additionally, N-HYPPADEC distributed starter kits to all trainees, including solar energy installations, ICT gadgets, sewing machines, and catering equipment, enabling them to immediately commence operations in their chosen fields. This initiative reflects the administration's commitment to creating sustainable livelihoods and reducing dependency on white-collar jobs. The meticulous selection process employed by N-HYPPADEC further underscores its dedication to ensuring fairness and transparency, with the beneficiaries drawn from marginalized and underserved communities.

Governor Ododo's vision for Kogi State extends beyond youth empowerment, as his administration has placed a high premium on women's inclusion in governance and economic activities. Recognizing the pivotal role women play in driving societal progress, the administration has implemented targeted measures to enhance women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles. Economic empowerment programs have been rolled out to equip women with the resources, training, and funding needed to overcome systemic barriers and contribute to the state's development. These initiatives have expanded opportunities for women in sectors like agriculture, trade, and technology-



driven enterprises, allowing them to lead initiatives that drive economic growth and diversification. By dismantling traditional barriers and fostering gender equity, the administration is creating an environment where women can thrive and contribute fully to the socioeconomic fabric of Kogi State.

The administration's commitment to inclusivity is equally evident in its support for persons living with disabilities (PLWDs). Recognizing the unique challenges faced by this group, Governor Ododo has prioritized their integration into the state's development agenda. A cornerstone of this effort is the free enrollment of PLWDs under the state's Health Insurance Scheme, which ensures access to affordable and quality healthcare services. This initiative represents a broader commitment to social equity and inclusivity, ensuring that PLWDs have the support needed to lead dignified and productive lives. In addition to healthcare, the administration has implemented vocational training programs tailored to the needs of PLWDs, enabling them to acquire skills that promote economic independence and social integration.

These programs and initiatives deliver tangible benefits to the beneficiaries and have a broader impact on the state's economy and society. In the short term, they create

immediate employment opportunities, reduce reliance on government jobs, and enhance the productivity of Kogi State's workforce. For the youth and women who participate in these programs, the provision of starter kits and business registration support translates into the ability to start small enterprises, generate income, and contribute to local economic activity. In the longer term, these initiatives lay the foundation for sustainable economic growth by building a skilled workforce that meets the demands of modern industries. The focus on entrepreneurship and self-reliance fosters a culture of innovation and resilience, ensuring that beneficiaries are well-equipped to adapt to changing economic conditions and global trends.

Governor Ododo's administration has also embraced strategic partnerships to amplify the impact of its empowerment programs. Collaborations with international development organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private-sector stakeholders have mobilized resources and expertise to enhance the reach and effectiveness of these initiatives. These partnerships not only increase the scale of the programs but also introduce best practices and innovative approaches that improve their sustainability and outcomes. For instance, partnerships with technical institutions have facilitated the integration of digital literacy and tech-based skills into vocational training programs, preparing participants for opportunities in the growing digital economy. By aligning training programs with global trends and industry needs, the administration is ensuring that Kogi State's workforce remains competitive on both local and international stages.

The deliberate focus on inclusivity is a hallmark of Governor Ododo's governance philosophy. By integrating youth, women, and PLWDs into the state's development agenda, the administration is fostering a participatory democracy that values diverse perspectives and experiences. This approach not only strengthens social cohesion but also ensures that development efforts are responsive to the needs of all citizens. For youth, the opportunity to acquire technical and entrepreneurial skills represents a pathway to economic independence and social mobility. For women, access to leadership and economic

opportunities enhances their ability to drive change within their communities. For PLWDs, targeted support and inclusive policies provide a foundation for dignity and empowerment.

Healthcare accessibility has also been significantly enhanced under Governor Ododo's administration, particularly for marginalized groups like PLWDs. Subsidized or free treatment under state-sponsored schemes demonstrates a commitment to universal health coverage, ensuring that all citizens can access the care they need. These measures are complemented by robust monitoring and evaluation systems that ensure the effectiveness, sustainability, and responsiveness of the administration's programs. By prioritizing healthcare and social protection, the administration is addressing some of the root causes of poverty and inequality, creating a more equitable society.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office represents a transformative period for Kogi State. Through targeted initiatives like OYESA, the N-HYPPADEC Youth Transformation Programme, and women's empowerment programs, the administration has laid a solid foundation for sustainable socioeconomic development. These efforts are not isolated but are part of a broader strategy to harness the potential of Kogi State's diverse population and build a society where everyone can thrive. By addressing unemployment, promoting gender equity, and supporting vulnerable groups, the administration is setting a benchmark for impactful governance that prioritizes the well-being and advancement of all citizens.

The integration of youth and women into agricultural value chains further underscores the administration's commitment to economic diversification and food security. By promoting modern farming techniques, access to farm inputs, and market linkages, the administration is positioning agriculture as a viable livelihood option, particularly in rural areas. These efforts not only enhance the productivity of the agricultural sector but also create sustainable income opportunities for beneficiaries. Capacity-building programs introduced in partnership with local and international institutions provide advanced training and certification, ensuring that beneficiaries remain competitive in evolving labor markets. These

partnerships exemplify the administration's forward-thinking approach to workforce development and economic empowerment.

Governor Ododo's emphasis on entrepreneurship has also created an enabling environment for business development. Through grants, loans, and training programs, the administration is supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that drive economic growth and create jobs. The focus on tech-based enterprises and digital literacy ensures that Kogi State's entrepreneurs are equipped to leverage opportunities in the digital economy. By fostering a culture of innovation and resilience, the administration is positioning Kogi State as a hub of economic activity and industrial competitiveness.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's leadership in the first year of his administration has been a beacon of hope and progress for Kogi State. His deliberate focus on youth empowerment, women's inclusion, and support for PLWDs reflects a governance model that prioritizes inclusivity, equity, and sustainable development. Through targeted interventions and strategic partnerships, the administration has not only addressed immediate challenges but also laid the groundwork for a brighter and more prosperous future. The impact of these efforts is evident in the lives of the beneficiaries and in the broader trajectory of Kogi State's development. Governor Ododo's vision of an inclusive society where every citizen can thrive is not just an aspiration but a reality that is being realized through his transformative policies and programs. These policies and programmes have ensured the following

- i. Payment of Bursary Allowance to Kogi State Students.
- ii. Payment of subvention to NYCN, NAKOS, Youth Parliament and NANS.
- iii. Regular financial assistance to National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)
- iv. Youth sensitization on effect of Drug and substance Abuse and Trafficking across the three (3) Senatorial District in collaboration with National Drug Law Agency (NDLA), Kogi State Sponsor of our youth to attend all the Federal Ministry Skill

Acquisition/Training Programmes in Jos and FCT.

- v. Full sponsor of our youth with disabilities for mentoring and life enhancement training in Kano State.
- vi. Launching of Kogi Youth Database.
- vii. A one-day training on effective coordination and collaboration among youth bodies and community-based Association in the State.
- viii. A one-day stakeholders consultative meeting on effective coordination and collaboration of youth activities in the State.

On the aspect of Women affairs and Social Development Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has facilitated the following;

- Built the capacity of about 70 staffs on both internal and external training programs
- A two-day capacity-building workshop for the children's parliament demonstrating his commitment to empowering young leaders
- The training of WRAPA FIELD Officers in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development aimed at training volunteers for effective management of Gender Matters and gender mainstreaming at the State level to empowering women and promoting social economic development of the women folk
- 3 days capacity training on the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the third action plan on women peace and security. This is a comprehensive approach to develop a deeper understanding of the objectives, strategies, and indicators, required for successful implementation of the National action Plan of the Peace and Security of Women and technically equip our officers with the requisite knowledge at domesticating the State Action Plan accordingly.
- The Ministry under also organized a one-day training and capacity building workshop for Police Gender Desks officers in the Divisional Police Station in the state to facilitate the effective management of Gender Based violence in the state thereby promoting a healthy socio-economic development of the state
- The ministry has setup a gender equality and women empowerment platform to coordinate all interventions on gender issues and galvanize greater gain for gender management in the state
- The Ministry also demonstrated its commitment to caring for the elderly through its collaboration with the provision of care and medical support to the elderly to enhance their wellbeing and reduced the degree of vulnerability in the State
- Training of the State Technical Workgroup on Gender-Based





Governance:

Governor Ododo's Impressive Female Line-up Proves Gender Sensitivity

Policy Brief

Kogi State continues to lead as a national model of gender-inclusive governance, driven by the deliberate policies of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo whose governance model is giving women - not just space, but trust and authority.

Building on existing foundation Governor Ododo has taken gender equity several steps further. Leading his pantheon of amazons is Dr. Mrs. Folashade Arike Ayoade, the first female Secretary to the State Government, now in her ninth year in the role and Hajia Dr. Habibat Tijani Onumoko, the State's Accountant General.

So far, he has also appointed 5 female commissioners, more than 20 female Special Advisers (SAs) and over 30 Senior Special Assistants (SSAs), giving priority to female political leadership.

Dr. Helen Adeniyi is Commissioner for Science and Technology while Kogi's Culture and Tourism Ministry is led by Hon. Acharu Okpanachi as Commissioner. Hon. Fatimah Momoh is the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, working closely with Hon. Rabiatu Okute, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, to champion empowerment for women - from top to bottom.

Hajia Mariam Abedo, Director-General of the State Pension Commission has overseen payment of billions in backlog pension payments while Barr. Ladi Ahmed Jatto is leading Kogi's award-winning environmental sustainability, climate change and community resilience efforts, first at NEWMAP and now at ACRoSAL. Aisha Omade, head of Kogi State Social Investment Programme Agency (KOSSIP) is in the forefront of social welfare for vulnerable groups.

In elective positions women also hold approximately five out of eleven key positions per Local Government Area, including 1 female Local Government Chairperson (first in the history of the Confluence State), 20 female vice chairpersons and council leaders and over 80 elected female councillors. Under Ododo, women leadership has moved beyond tokenism.

Ododo's Kogi is, without doubt, working for women.



KOGI FIRST LADY, HAJIA SEFINAT ODODO: CHAMPIONING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, HEALTHCARE, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOGI STATE

Kogi First Lady, Hajia Sefinat Ododo: Championing Women Empowerment, Healthcare, and Social Development in Kogi State

The First Lady of Kogi State, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo, has continued to demonstrate unwavering commitment to women empowerment, improved healthcare access, youth development, and the fight against societal ills such as drug abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM). Through a series of impactful initiatives, engagements, and collaborations, Mrs. Ododo has positioned herself as a leading advocate for inclusive growth and social transformation in Kogi State.

Renewed Commitment to Women Empowerment and Healthcare Access

In her New Year message to the people of Kogi State, Hajia Sefinat Ododo reaffirmed her dedication to empowering women, promoting education, expanding access to healthcare, and protecting vulnerable groups. She emphasized that women's empowerment is the cornerstone of societal progress and pledged to continue advancing initiatives that provide economic and social opportunities for women across the state.

During the New Year festivities, Mrs. Ododo embarked on a statewide outreach, distributing antenatal kits, medical supplies, pharmaceutical drugs, food items, and cash gifts to over 120 patients and families. Notable stops included the Muhammadu Buhari Mother and Child

Hospital, Iruvochinomi, where she advocated for timely antenatal care and professional diligence among healthcare workers.

Fighting Drug Abuse and Strengthening Families

Mrs. Ododo used her visits to medical facilities to spotlight the growing menace of drug abuse, particularly among youths. At the Hajia Nana Hawawu Oziohu Memorial Hospital in Upogoro, she called on mothers to play active roles in their children's lives, urging them to "bring your children closer, understand their issues, and guide them on the right path."

She also emphasized the importance of family unity and encouraged women to support their husbands and raise children in a secure and disciplined environment. Her message resonated deeply with families, many of whom expressed heartfelt gratitude for the First Lady's compassion and timely interventions.

Celebrating Women's Contributions to Development

At a special anniversary dinner in Lokoja, Mrs. Ododo celebrated the achievements of women across Kogi State, praising their invaluable roles in business, politics, education, and community development. She highlighted the need for peace, unity, and collaboration among all groups to foster societal growth.

She commended the transformative impact of the Renewed Hope Initiative led by Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, describing her as a compassionate mother and an inspiration to women nationwide. Mrs. Ododo credited her husband, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, for his unwavering support and reiterated her openness to partnerships that uplift women and vulnerable groups.

Joining the Global Fight Against FGM

Marking the 2025 International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, Hajia Sefinat Ododo joined global voices in condemning the harmful practice. She described FGM as a grave human rights violation and stressed the need for collaborative action to end the practice, especially in Africa.

Citing alarming UNICEF statistics, she called for increased government intervention and reiterated her office's commitment to working with organizations to support survivors and eradicate FGM from society.

Congratulating Senator Tinubu on OAFLAD Appointment

Mrs. Ododo congratulated Senator Oluremi Tinubu on her election to the Steering Committee of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD), describing it as a recognition of her exceptional leadership in gender advocacy. She noted that Senator Tinubu's vision aligns with Kogi State's efforts to uplift women and vulnerable communities.

Empowerment of 500 Kogi Women Through RHI

As part of the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI), Senator Oluremi Tinubu, through Hajia Sefinat Ododo, empowered 500 women from Kogi's 21 local government areas with business tools such as freezers, generators, cookers, and grinding machines. The initiative is designed to enhance women's economic self-reliance and contribute to Nigeria's overall economic growth.

Mrs. Ododo, representing the First Lady at the event, reaffirmed that empowering women is crucial to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly gender equality and economic development.

Uplifting Widows and the Elderly

Recognizing the challenges faced by widows and the elderly, Hajia Sefinat Ododo organized an empowerment programme for 500 widows across Kogi State. At the event in Lokoja, she distributed rice, clothing, and cash gifts, emphasizing that their welfare must not be neglected.

She called on political leaders and philanthropists to support widows through job creation and business support, assuring that her office would continue to provide necessary assistance.

Advocating for Gender Equality

At the 2025 International Women's Day celebration themed "Accelerate Action for Gender Parity", Mrs. Ododo reaffirmed Kogi State's commitment to gender inclusion. She cited key milestones such as the domestication of the Child Rights Act, free basic education, and bursary schemes for tertiary students.

She stressed that achieving gender parity requires collective responsibility and called on all sectors, including men, to play active roles in breaking societal barriers.

"When we empower women, we empower the nation. When we educate girls, we uplift communities,"

she said.

Strengthening Community Welfare Through RHI Food Outreach

In collaboration with the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) brought the Food Outreach Scheme to Kogi State. Senator Tinubu, represented by the Wife of the Vice President, Hajia Nana Shettima, donated assorted food items to vulnerable households, highlighting the initiative's role in tackling food insecurity.

Hajia Sefinat Ododo, the State Coordinator for RHI, assured that the food support would reach its intended beneficiaries and praised the initiative's positive impact on Kogi families. Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, in his remarks, commended Senator Tinubu and reaffirmed Kogi's full support for the federal administration.

Promoting Spiritual Growth and Social Unity

As part of her spiritual and social outreach, Mrs. Ododo hosted a Ramadan Iftar for various women groups in Lokoja. She emphasized the transformative power of prayer in building morally upright families and called on women to support their homes with faith, unity, and love.

She encouraged continuous support for one another, especially the less privileged, and reaffirmed her commitment to fostering solidarity among Kogi women for the state's progress.

Through these diverse initiatives and impactful engagements, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo has solidified her position as a visionary leader and compassionate First Lady, dedicated to building a more inclusive, empowered, and prosperous Kogi State.

Conclusion

Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo, the First Lady of Kogi State, has become a beacon of hope, empathy, and progressive leadership for women, children, and marginalized groups in the state. Her impact is felt not only through welfare interventions but also through long-term empowerment strategies that tackle the root causes of poverty, illiteracy, child abuse, gender inequality, and poor health.

By combining advocacy, community engagement, and hands-on humanitarian work, she has repositioned the Office of the First Lady as a powerful agent for social development in Kogi State. As her initiatives continue to blossom, the people of Kogi State are confident that her compassion and commitment will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

IMAGES FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ITEMS TO THE ELDERLY, EMPOWERMENT TOOLS TO WOMEN AND MEDICAL RELIEF MATERIALS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS BY THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, HAJIA SEFINAT ODODO



Chapter 15:

Office of the First Lady

Achievements of the Office of the First Lady of Kogi State, Her Excellency Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo

Since assuming the role of First Lady of Kogi State, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo has brought renewed energy, compassion, and visionary leadership to key social initiatives that impact women, children, and vulnerable populations across the state. Her office has emerged as a strong pillar in the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, actively complementing government efforts in the areas of education, healthcare, social protection, economic empowerment, child rights advocacy, and gender-based violence prevention.



Here are the notable achievements of the Office of the First Lady under Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo:

1. Advocacy for Children's Rights and Education

To commemorate the 2024 Children's Day Celebration, the First Lady of Kogi State, Hajia Sefinat Ododo, issued a passionate call for collective action to protect and uphold the rights of every child. In her message, she emphasized the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure that children thrive in safe and nurturing environments.

She reiterated the commitment of the Ododo-led administration to eliminating the scourge of out-of-school children. Her office has partnered with relevant stakeholders to support the full implementation of the free education policy in the state. This includes government-sponsored payment of WAEC and JAMB fees for students in public schools—critical steps aimed at making education not just accessible but affordable for all children, particularly those from indigent backgrounds.

Moreover, she highlighted the renewed focus on the implementation of the Kogi State Child Rights Act (2009), which has led to heightened awareness around child protection, access to quality education, the fight against child labor, and the challenge of harmful traditional gender stereotypes.

2. Healthcare and Medical Outreach for Women and Children

Recognizing the need for improved access to healthcare, especially among the most vulnerable, the Office of the First Lady has embarked on a state-wide medical outreach targeting women and children across all 21 Local Government Areas of Kogi State.

This initiative aims to bridge the gap in healthcare access for underserved populations. The outreach provides free medical consultations, medication, and preventive services, thereby promoting maternal and child health across rural communities.

In August 2024, Hajia Sefinat Ododo was officially decorated as the Stop TB Champion

in Kogi State. She immediately flagged off the campaign for the eradication of Tuberculosis, demonstrating her commitment to public health advocacy and her alignment with national and global health priorities.

3. Economic Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation

One of the hallmark achievements of Hajia Sefinat Ododo's office is the promotion of economic empowerment for women, particularly widows and petty traders. On August 22, 2024, the First Lady launched the Renewed Hope Initiative's economic empowerment programme in Kogi State on behalf of the wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu. Through this programme, 1,000 women petty traders across the state received recapitalization grants to support and grow their businesses.

Her selfless commitment to alleviating the burden of widows was also demonstrated through generous distributions of cash, food items, and clothing (wrappers) to vulnerable women across the 21 LGAs. This noble gesture not only eased their economic hardship but also restored their dignity and sense of social inclusion. It is an initiative that has continued to receive praise from communities and religious groups across the state.

4. Promoting Child Development and Academic Excellence

In further celebration of children and education, the Office of the First Lady organized a Spelling Bee competition for students across selected schools in the state. Winners of the competition were recognized and rewarded as part of the 2024 Children's Day celebration. This event not only fostered academic excellence and competitiveness among students but also built their confidence and inspired learning.

This underscores Hajia Ododo's belief that investment in education is investment in the future. Her office has continued to design and support programs that give children a platform to showcase their talents while reinforcing the value of formal education.

5. Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo has become a formidable voice in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in Kogi State. During the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, she led a major campaign to raise awareness about the root causes and consequences of GBV.

At a well-attended event at the Government House, Lokoja, the First Lady called for collective action from government agencies, NGOs, communities, and families to address the menace of violence against women. She emphasized the importance of family values such as love, mutual respect, and tolerance, particularly within marriage and relationships, as essential tools in combating GBV.

She also called on men to show empathy and respect towards their spouses, acknowledging the sacrifices women make in family and community life. The First Lady urged women and girls to acquire entrepreneurial skills and embrace empowerment opportunities that would make them more independent and less vulnerable to abuse.

Importantly, she emphasized the need to take the anti-GBV campaign to the grassroots, where the prevalence is often higher due to socio-cultural norms and economic hardship. Her commitment to working with Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and NGOs has set a foundation for sustained advocacy and intervention across the state.

6. Support for National Initiatives and Partnerships

The First Lady of Kogi State has continued to build strong ties with national efforts championed by the Presidency, especially under the leadership of the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu. She has been at the forefront of implementing the Renewed Hope Initiative in Kogi State, ensuring that national empowerment programmes are felt directly at the grassroots level.

Through these partnerships, the Office of the First Lady in Kogi State is not only extending its reach but also leveraging federal support to drive local impact.

Kogi First Lady Hajia Sefinat Usman

Ododo Champions Positive Change, Youth Empowerment, and Gender Equality

The First Lady of Kogi State, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo, has continued to show strong commitment to the welfare of women, children, and vulnerable populations in Kogi State. Through various advocacy campaigns, empowerment initiatives, and partnerships, she has become a central voice in promoting positive values, social responsibility, and gender equity.

7. Advocating for Positive Choices Among Youth

As part of the activities marking the 2024 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Hajia Sefinat Ododo led a sensitization campaign in Okene, urging young people to make conscious and positive life choices, especially in the face of growing social media influence. Speaking at the Palace of the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, she cautioned against the moral decay promoted online and encouraged the youth—especially young women—to uphold values that reflect dignity and self-worth.

She condemned the growing trend of social vices among youth, including internet fraud, and advised them to embrace entrepreneurial and ICT skills that can ensure a productive and self-reliant future. Hajia Sefinat further encouraged parents to enroll their children in school, stressing that the free education policy of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration provides the perfect opportunity for every child to gain quality education.

8. Community Engagement and Traditional Support

During the campaign event, the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Alhaji Ahmed Muhammed Tijani Anaje, echoed the First Lady's message, urging parents—especially fathers—to fulfill their responsibilities in nurturing disciplined, respectful, and morally upright children. He also warned traditional rulers against condoning unethical behavior within their communities.

In her goodwill message, Maryam Abedo, Director General of the Kogi State Pension Commission, called on women to report

any form of abuse and to build trust-based relationships with their children, enabling open communication. She also advocated for mutual respect in marriages to foster a healthier society.

9. Strengthening Gender-Based Violence Advocacy

Beyond youth-focused campaigns, Hajia Sefinat Ododo has remained a leading advocate in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). She continues to reaffirm her commitment through strategic collaborations with NGOs, government agencies, and women-led organizations, including the Kogi State Widows Association, Kogi Catholic Women Organization, No Woman, No Nation, and the Nigerian Society of Engineers' Spouses Forum.

In line with this commitment, she represented Kogi State at the 5th Annual Summit of the Nigeria Governors' Spouses Forum held on December 5, 2024, in Abuja. The summit, themed "Transforming Norms, Strengthening Laws: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls", spotlighted the need for legal reform and the rejection of harmful societal norms.

As part of the summit, the First Lady also showcased Kogi State's rich cultural heritage, including the locally renowned "Itinochi" cuisine and indigenous products, reinforcing the state's pride in its diversity and potential. Supporting the Elderly through the Renewed Hope Initiative

Another impactful program was the distribution of support funds to 250 elderly citizens in Kogi State under the Renewed Hope Initiative Elderly Support Scheme, championed by Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu. Representing the First Lady at the Government House in Lokoja, Hajia Sefinat Ododo announced that each beneficiary received ₦200,000, along with free medical checkups and other relief items.

The program, which targets senior citizens aged 65 and above across all 36 states and the FCT, aims to alleviate the economic burden on the elderly and improve their quality of life in retirement. The initiative, valued at ₦2 billion, also included beneficiaries from the Defence and Police Officers' Wives' Association (DEPOWA).

While congratulating the beneficiaries, Hajia Sefinat urged them to prioritize their health and well-being, stressing the importance of routine medical care.

10. A Voice for National Unity and Women Empowerment

In all her engagements, Hajia Sefinat Usman Ododo has remained a staunch supporter of the national women empowerment drive. She has consistently called on Nigerian women to rally behind Senator Oluremi Tinubu, commending her efforts to uplift women through the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) and other humanitarian programs.

Through these efforts, Hajia Sefinat has become a beacon of hope and inspiration—not just for Kogi State but for women and youth across Nigeria. Her deep compassion, strategic interventions, and advocacy for responsible living continue to make a lasting impact on society.

IMAGES FROM THE LAUNCHING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL “RENEWED HOPE” INITIATIVE BY THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, SENATOR OLUREMI TINUBU ABLY REPRESENTED BY THE WIFE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT HAJIA NANA SHETTIMA















Chapter 16:

Comprehensive Reconstruction of SGS' Office Complex

On November 20, 2024, Kogi State Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo commissioned the newly remodeled Office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) in Lokoja, fulfilling a promise under the state's Development Plan 2024-2056. The extensive works transformed the old complex with reconstructed physical structures, new finishings furnishings and improved work tools, including digital technologies. Governor Ododo emphasized his commitment to providing civil servants with a conducive working environment to enhance service delivery, assuring of sustained and timely payment of emoluments to encourage staff welfare and excellence. Mrs. Folashade Arike Ayoade, Ph.D., the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State (SGS), expressed appreciation to the Governor.



SGS Organises Leadership Retreat and Ministerial Briefing

On January 9–10, 2025, the administration of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo held a two-day Leadership Retreat and Ministerial Briefing in Lokoja organised by the Office of the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State. The event is part of activities marking the first anniversary of his Advanced New Direction Administration on January 27, 2025. The retreat brought together commissioners, special advisers, directors-general, and heads of MDAs who presented scorecards of their achievements and underwent intensive capacity-building sessions.

Facilitated by top officials including Dr. Mrs. Folashade Arike Ayoade, Secretary to the State Government and Hon. Barr. Moses Okezie-Okafor, Director-General of Research and Development, Amb. Olusiji Aina, PhD among others, the retreat emphasized transparency, accountability, and service delivery. Governor Ododo, through his address, urged appointees to deepen inclusivity and uphold the highest standards of governance. The event not only assessed progress but reinforced the administration's resolve to permit only performance-driven leadership and institutional excellence across government.

It will be recalled that the administration, earlier on December 12, 2024, launched the Governance Development Unit (GDU) in Lokoja as strategy vehicle for more effective and accountable governance. The GDU is tasked with advancing key priorities such as strategic planning, performance monitoring, project coordination, data-driven decision-making, stakeholder engagement, innovation and capacity building. It will collaborate with the official think-tank, New Direction Blueprint Team and other existing policy, research and strategy sectors to guide the state in delivering better outcomes across all sectors.







Chapter 17:

Ododo Marks First Year Anniversary in Office with Fanfare; Showcase Achievements

The Government and People of Kogi State celebrated the first anniversary of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration with a series of events highlighting the government's achievements and commitment to inclusive development. The festivities, held at Muhammadu Buhari Square in Lokoja, were attended by dignitaries including Vice President Kashim Shettima, who represented President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and former governors Yahaya Bello and Idris Wada.

The celebration featured the inauguration of key projects such as the 9km Zone 8 - Zangon Daji - Kaduna Junction Road, the 5.5km Zone 8 - Crusher Road and a 350-bed hostel facility at the Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH) in Osara. Additionally, new faculties at CUSTECH, a demonstration farm and several primary healthcare centers were commissioned, reflecting the administration's focus on infrastructure, education and healthcare.

A significant highlight was the 'Kogi Dialogue', a town hall meeting that brought together political leaders, traditional rulers, and citizens to discuss the state's unity and development. Governor Ododo emphasized unity and inclusivity, stating his commitment to serving all Kogites regardless of political affiliations. Vice President Shettima lauded the initiative as a model for collaborative governance.

The anniversary also included a novelty football match between state executives and legislators, ending in a goalless draw, symbolizing unity among government branches. Furthermore, a solidarity walk led by youths showcased widespread support for the governor's policies, particularly in youth empowerment and infrastructural development.

Governor Ododo hit the ground running with his campaign mantra of Continuity and Consolidation and his first year in office has been marked by action at a frenetic pace

to complete and put into use for Kogites outstanding projects and programmes inherited from the administration of his predecessor, former Governor Yahaya Bello.

His Excellency's massive strides in all sectors speak for themselves - timely payment of salaries, implementation of the new minimum wage with consequential adjustments across board for all civil servants and one year tax holiday, educational reforms, agricultural development and enhanced security measures.

The Advanced New Direction Administration's freshman year has no doubt been hugely successful. Its efforts have positioned Kogi State as an emerging hub for investment and development in Nigeria. The good people of Kogi State now look forward with renewed hope to an era of advanced and strategic development for their State from their sophomore year and onwards under Governor Ododo's impactful leadership.





ODO DO MARKS FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE



Chapter 18:

Solid Minerals and Natural Resources:

Kogi seeks new frontiers of wealth from old endowments

... TAKES INVESTMENT DRIVE TO CANADA

PRINCE ALBERT, CANADA - NOVEMBER 2024 - Kogi State made a strong case for foreign investment and international partnerships at the 3rd International Conference on Raw Materials (ICERMS) held from November 2-8, 2024, in Saskatchewan, Canada.

The state was represented by a three-member delegation led by Dr. (Mrs.) Folashade Arike Ayoade, Secretary to the State Government. Others were Hon. Mohammed Bashir Abubakar, Commissioner for Solid Minerals and Natural Resources and Hon. Barr. Moses Okezie-Okafor, Director-General, Research and Development.

At the conference, Dr. Ayoade delivered a goodwill message on behalf of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, in which the Governor affirmed Kogi State's commitment to sustainable resource management, economic diversification and ease of doing business. Hon. Abubakar's presentation branded Kogi as 'The

Solid Minerals Capital of Nigeria', while Hon. Okezie-Okafor spotlighted reforms driving the state's rising appeal to serious investors.

The delegation held strategic meetings with international stakeholders and was hosted by the Mayor of Prince Albert, Hon. Greg Dionne in his offices at City Hall. The Mayor received a Kogi State Medal as keepsake and expressed interest in bilateral partnerships. Discussions explored collaboration in mining, agriculture and education. A visit to a diversified Canadian farm offered practical insights into integrating tourism and agribusiness to boost rural incomes in Kogi.

Like Kogi State, Saskatchewan has abundant natural resources, and is known for innovative technologies, world-renowned agricultural products, a strong workforce, good market access and competitive incentives.

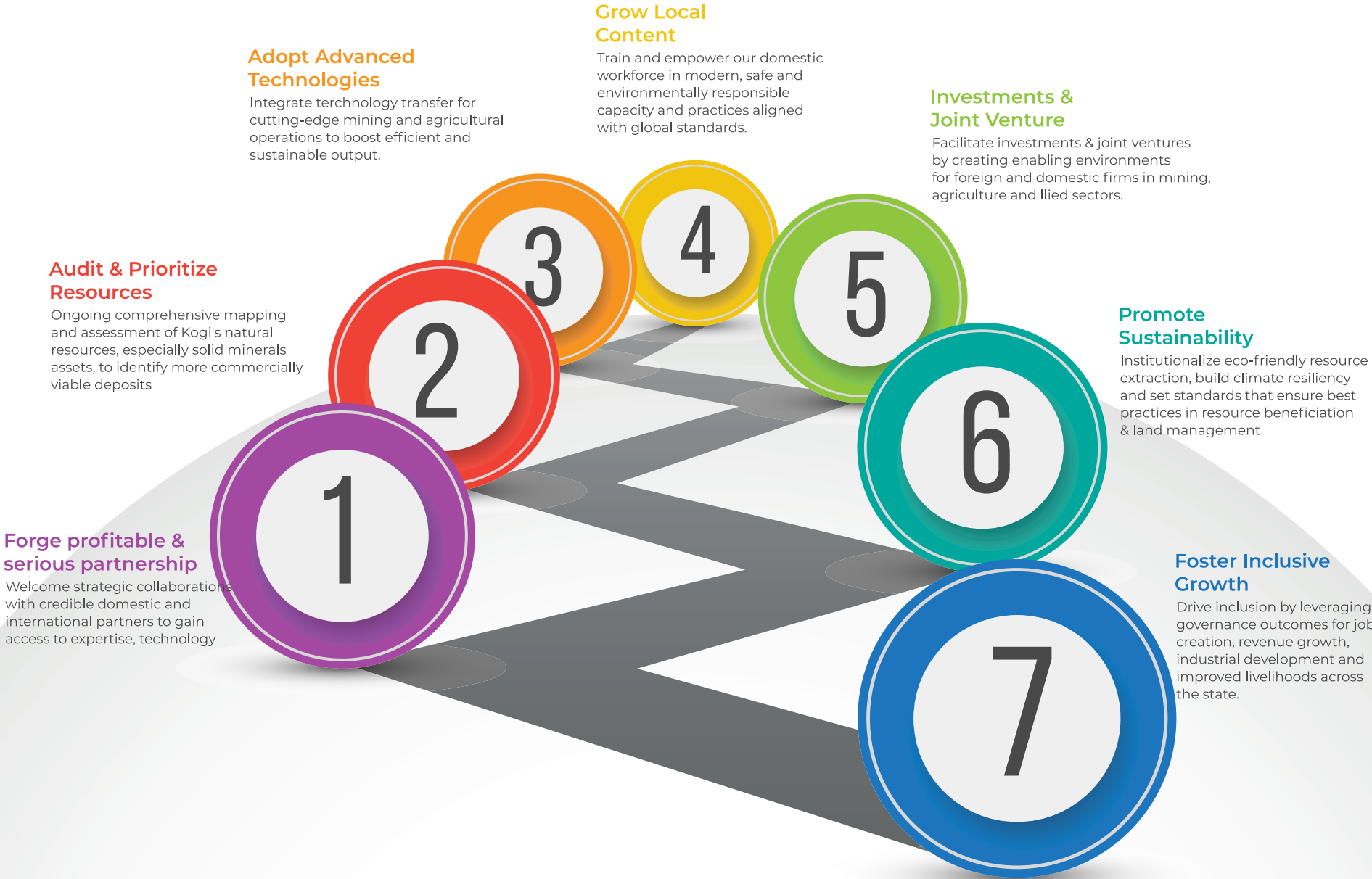
Unlike Kogi State, the Canadian province has substantially exploited these endowments. Saskatchewan supplies more than a third of the world's total exported durum wheat and is the world's top exporter of lentils and dry peas. It holds the world's largest reserves of potash and high-grade uranium, and is a significant producer of other critical minerals like lithium, helium and rare earth elements.

Key outcomes include interest from Canadian investors in Kogi's solid minerals sector, prospects for agricultural innovation, and opportunities for skills development partnerships.

The Conference which had support of the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada and that of the Premier of Saskatchewan bolstered Kogi's international visibility and opened pathways for partnerships that could significantly enhance the state's transformation agenda under Governor Ododo.



KOGI'S 7-STEP ACTION PLAN TO LEVERAGE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR QUICK & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



The New Direction Administration of His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State is deploying a 7-step raw materials (solid minerals and other natural resources) strategy to transform its abundant assets into drivers of sustainable development. It starts with an ongoing comprehensive audit to identify commercially viable assets, as the state seeks international partnerships - especially with China and Canada - for technology transfer and expertise. The importation of advanced mining, agricultural and overall extractive technologies alongside coordinated local content and human capacity development components are required of all partners, the latter through coordinated training and knowledge. By facilitating joint ventures and prioritizing environmentally sustainable practices, our strategy is to stimulate inclusive growth through job creation, revenue expansion and industrialization, in line with cardinal tenets of The Kogi State 32-Year Development Plan.

Editorial Team

Chapter 19:

Civil Service and Pensions Administration

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first year in office has been considered by exceptional strides in labor relations and worker welfare, exemplified by the successful implementation of the New National Minimum Wage in Kogi State. His administration's prompt actions to domesticate the federally approved N70,000 minimum wage and its enhancements underscore his commitment to improving the livelihood of civil servants and pensioners in the state. This report reflects on the systematic, inclusive, and effective processes employed by the administration to achieve this milestone and its broader implications for governance and social welfare.



N72,500 minimum wage was approved for all state and local government workers, with consequential adjustments applied across all grade levels. The implementation also extended to sectoral salary structures, including CONPSS, CONHESS, COMPCASS, CONMESS, CONUASS, CONRAISS, CONTEDISS, and CONTISS, ensuring equitable compensation for professionals across various sectors. Additionally, the agreement introduced a pension harmonization scheme, granting an across-the-board increase of N10,000 for pensioners. This measure sought to bridge disparities and provide financial relief for retired workers, aligning with federal-level increments.

To further alleviate the financial burdens on civil servants, Governor Ododo's administration announced a one-year tax holiday on the salary increment arising from the new minimum wage. This policy, designed to cushion the impact of rising living costs, underscored the administration's sensitivity to the economic realities faced by workers. Furthermore, pensioners receiving less than N50,000 monthly were assured free healthcare services in all government hospitals across Kogi State. This initiative not only addressed critical healthcare needs but also highlighted a holistic approach to

improving the quality of life for retired public servants.

In July 2024, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the new national minimum wage of N70,000 for civil servants and private-sector employees, effective immediately. Governor Ododo, renowned for his labor-friendly governance style, promptly directed preparations for implementing this policy in Kogi State, even before organized labor formally applied for its domestication. This proactive approach demonstrated a governance philosophy rooted in empathy and responsiveness, ensuring that workers' welfare remained a priority. By September 4, 2024, the administration had constituted a New Minimum Wage Committee to spearhead the negotiation and implementation process. The committee, inaugurated on September 17, 2024, was composed of government representatives, labor union leaders, and other key stakeholders, ensuring that the interests of all parties were fairly represented.

The Head of Service, Pst. Elijah Adeiza Evinemi (FCA), led the committee, with Comrade Gabriel Amari, the Kogi State NLC Chairman, representing the labor unions. The inaugural meeting, held on September 18, 2024, marked the beginning of extensive deliberations on the wage structure. Technical subcommittees examined various proposals, balancing fiscal realities with the need to address workers' financial challenges. Through collaborative and transparent discussions, the committee finalized an agreement on October 19, 2024, setting the minimum wage at N72,500—higher than the federally mandated figure. This decision, reached after consultations with Governor Ododo, reflected his administration's commitment to mitigating the economic pressures faced by workers while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The terms of the agreement encompassed several progressive measures that reinforced the administration's labor-friendly reputation. The

The implementation of the new minimum wage was backdated to October 2024, ensuring immediate benefits for workers and pensioners. This prompt execution positioned Kogi State as a trailblazer in labor policy implementation, earning widespread acclaim. During the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) held in Port Harcourt on November 8, 2024, Kogi State was rated as the best-performing state in implementing the new wage policy. This recognition, based on reports from the state NLC Chairman, affirmed the administration's exemplary labor-management relations and efficient policy execution.

The success of this initiative reflects Governor Ododo's proactive and inclusive governance approach. By prioritizing dialogue and mutual respect, his administration fostered a collaborative environment that facilitated swift negotiations and implementation. The establishment of the Minimum Wage Negotiating Committee, its inauguration, the timely resolution of negotiations, and the subsequent signing of a collective bargaining agreement exemplify the administration's commitment to due process and transparency. These achievements highlight a governance model that values stakeholder engagement and consensus-building as essential tools for effective policymaking.

Beyond the immediate financial benefits for workers, the implementation of the new minimum wage has broader implications for economic stability and social equity. The one-year tax holiday on the increment provides workers with increased disposable income, stimulating local economic activities and fostering resilience against inflationary



pressures. Similarly, the harmonization of pensions addresses longstanding disparities and enhances the financial security of retirees, contributing to a more equitable distribution of resources.

The administration's emphasis on healthcare access for pensioners underscores a comprehensive approach to social welfare. By ensuring free medical services for retired workers with limited incomes, the government has demonstrated a commitment to addressing systemic gaps in healthcare provision. This initiative aligns with global best practices in social protection, reflecting a forward-thinking vision for inclusive development.

Governor Ododo's proactive leadership has also set a benchmark for other states in Nigeria, showcasing the potential of labor-friendly policies to enhance governance outcomes. The recognition from national labor bodies and the positive reception from workers across Kogi State underscore the transformative impact of these efforts. By addressing worker welfare as a strategic priority, the administration has fostered trust and goodwill, strengthening its relationship with labor unions and the broader workforce.

In conclusion, the successful implementation of the new minimum wage in Kogi State under Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's administration is a testament to visionary leadership and effective governance. Through

strategic planning, inclusive negotiations, and prompt execution, the administration has not only enhanced the livelihood of civil servants and pensioners but also set a standard for labor relations and policy implementation in Nigeria. This achievement, complemented by innovative measures such as the tax holiday and healthcare access for pensioners, reflects a holistic approach to worker welfare and economic empowerment. As Kogi State continues to build on these successes, Governor Ododo's leadership remains a beacon of hope and progress, inspiring confidence in the state's capacity to deliver on its commitment to equitable and sustainable development.





Success and Succession

Leadership Lessons from Governor Ododo's Relationship with His Predecessor

By | Moses Okezie-Okafor

I am one of the few Nigerians who has gone through the expense and rigour of professional training and certification by the world-renowned leadership expert, Dr. John C. Maxwell, as a speaker, coach and trainer with his personal mentoring organisation, the John Maxwell Team. Having studied, and still yet understudying, leadership under the No. 1 authority on the subject on planet earth, I count myself qualified to recognize and analyse the laws of leadership as they unfold in real time before us in the uncommon relationship between the last and current Governors of The Confluence State.

Leadership is often defined by the ability to build, guide and inspire. There is no doubt left in the mind of knowledgeable ones that former Governor Yahaya Bello put in place the most extensive suite of achievements of any Governor in Kogi State before him. It might be that one of his role models, former Governor Abubakar Audu, could have done more going by his antecedents in the one term he had, but the Prince of the Niger was denied the time and opportunity by negative forces and happenstance - may his soul continue to rest in peace.

However, despite all he accomplished as the 4th Executive Governor of Kogi State, it has become crystal clear that Bello's greatest accomplishment as a leader was his ability to nurture and hand over power to a successor and allow him to lead without interference, ensuring the continuity and consolidation that is currently powering a sustainable transformation in their State.

'Success without a successor is failure', says a popular truism. This means that success is consolidated and made even more effective when the succession succeeds, especially when it does so as spectacularly as we see in Kogi State between former Governor Yahaya Bello, CON, and his successor, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, FCA. The relationship between these two extraordinary gentlemen is governed, not by ego or conflict but by trust, mutual empowerment and a shared vision for the accelerated development of their beloved Kogi State.

Their relationship provides us the materials for a living case study of the above principle against the background of intractable crises which are erupting in real time between other notable predecessors and successors in the nation. Truth be told, their relationship is actually an anomaly in the Nigerian political space where conflict between predecessors and successors have not only become a recurring decimal, but an existential threat to our very democracy itself.

Yahaya Bello - The Secure Leader Who Built for Continuity

'Only secure leaders give power to others.' This is the foundation of The Law of Empowerment, the 12th of John Maxwell's 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership. For many Nigerian leaders, succession is a tool for indirect rule - a means to retain power by proxy over the territory they have allegedly 'handed over' - by micromanagement, interference and even outright sabotage of their successor.

Yahaya Bello has done the exact opposite. He did not just nurture and pick a successor - he mentored, empowered and prepared him for leadership ahead of time. More importantly, once the transition was complete, he stepped back and let His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo lead. Inasmuch as constitutional term limits circumscribe a Governor's stay in Office, a leader who raises a successor and actually allows him to lead without interference is a leader who understands legacy over control and values vision over vanity.

In the cutthroat world of Nigerian politics, 'the outgoing', as citizens sometimes call them, often evince a pathological need to arrogate to themselves 'godfatherhood' over 'the

incoming' (the godson) which they rub in his face ad nauseam. Leaders like Yahaya Bello who resist the temptation to morph into a puppetmaster after office possess leadership security. It is insecure leaders who struggle with both actual and ostensible transfer of power. They meddle, undermine, resist change and if all else fails, resort to sabotage. His Excellency, Yahaya Bello, CON has, by all accounts, allowed his successor to thrive - making sure to hang over his head no Sword of Damocles. In doing so, he activated the 20th law, The Law of Explosive Growth - because when you empower a leader, you multiply leadership impact across an entire sociopolitical ecosystem - in this case, Kogi State. Most importantly, he has seen to it that the governance structures he built continue to solidify and serve Kogi well after his departure, thus fulfilling John Maxwell's 21st and final law, The Law of Legacy.

It takes two to tango - and Bello was prescient enough to select as co-traveller in this journey a successor whose integrity and fidelity complements his forthrightness and fearlessness perfectly. As Nigeria now agrees, in the intricate rhythms of leadership succession, one cannot find a better individual than His Excellency, Ahmed Usman Ododo, the 5th Executive Governor of Kogi State and Chief Servant of the Confluence State.

Ahmed Usman Ododo - Honoring the Past, Leading the Future

Leadership should be about building bridges, not burning them. It should be about progression, not regression. And most importantly, it should be about governance that serves the people, not the ego of leaders. Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo brings these qualities in abundance to his leadership. In doing so he simultaneously satisfies the demands of several core Maxwellian laws enunciated in the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, all of which define great statesmen.

The Law of Respect (Strength in Humility)

The Law of Respect is the 7th law of leadership. According to John Maxwell, ‘People naturally follow leaders who are stronger, more competent and more principled than themselves’. A leader who acknowledges the contributions of his predecessor rather than seeking to erase them earns the respect of both his team and his people. In the 14 months since Ododo emerged as Bello’s successor, he has not wielded office to discredit the past. Instead, he acknowledges and builds upon it, showing that strong leaders do not need to destroy history or existing legacies to build their own.

All of us who started the journey of the New Direction Agenda in Kogi State with Yahaya Bello since 2015 can attest to Ododo’s impeccable respect for our boss in the nearly one decade that has passed - both as an aide and now as a Chief Executive. He immediately named him ‘The Leader’ of the ruling party in the State upon assuming Office - a position Governors hold onto tenaciously. Above all, he has added substance to the title by treating him with nothing but utmost regard and fealty in both words and deeds.

The Law of Empowerment (Governance Beyond Self)

Like Bello, Ododo also leads by John Maxwell’s 12th Law, ‘The Law of Empowerment’ by default. It says that ‘Only secure leaders give power to others, enabling them to grow and lead without fear of losing control’. A leader’s strength lies, not just in their ability to make decisions alone, but in how well they empower others. Ododo has been deliberate in making governance a shared responsibility by involving all stakeholders. His leadership is not one of command and control, but of collaboration and inclusion.

I have personally been treated with nothing but the greatest respect by the Governor. Whenever decisions were necessary concerning my office and responsibilities, His Excellency has personally made sure my views were given thoughtful consideration in the final decisions. This is an experience shared by

as many colleagues as I have spoken with - both vertically and horizontally - across the leadership value chain in Kogi State.

His Excellency ran on the mantra of continuity and consolidation and has proved ultra-committed to that promise. He speaks often of his resolve to strengthen the political actors and structures entrusted to him by his successor, and has done so with admirable rectitude. His team feel valued and individuals take pride in their contributions. As a result, the people of Kogi State have an administration united in purpose and are reaping a rapid succession of achievements within his one year and 2 months in Office.

The Law of Legacy (Governance as a Relay, Not a Sprint)

Too many leaders govern with the next election in mind rather than the next generation. Governor Ododo, however, has approached leadership with a long-term perspective, ensuring that his administration builds sustainable structures rather than short-term projects. He honors the work of his predecessor, making it clear that governance is a relay race, not a battlefield.

The Law of Buy-In (Trust as Governance Capital)

The Law of Buy-In is Maxwell’s 14th leadership principle and it clarifies a striking phenomenon about leaders: ‘People buy into the leader first before they buy into the vision’. Good governance is not just about policies, outcomes and targets - it’s about trust. Since his inauguration Governor Ododo has actively worked to win the buy-in of Kogi’s diverse stakeholders - not through empty rhetoric, but through competence, fairness and accountability. He calls himself ‘The Chief Servant of Kogi State’ and that is what he truly is.

In his bid to unite Kogi’s diverse peoples, he has taken himself to places and met with persons the average leader would either have nothing to do with or expect to come calling, cap in hand. Today in Kogi State, anyone who imagines

himself at loggerheads with this great man - whether in the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) or in the opposition - knows in his or her heart of hearts that he or she has proved impervious to reconciliation. John Maxwell insists that people follow leaders they trust - and Ododo has proven himself worthy of trust by all.

The Law of Explosive Growth (Multiplying Leadership Capacity)

The Law of Explosive Growth posits that leaders who merely want growth, lead followers but those committed to multiplying growth, develop and lead other leaders. Ododo is not merely governing - he is multiplying leaders. By focusing on empowerment rather than control, he is cultivating leadership at every level, ensuring that Kogi’s governance structure becomes self-sustaining and generationally relevant. In Kogi State, people of all tribes, religions, genders, age and ability - all demographics - have a place and a say in governance, as leaders and as stakeholders. No wonder the data speak of a burgeoning renaissance across the board.

The Law of Influence (Leadership Beyond Position)

John Maxwell’s most famous quote on leadership is the one about influence. It states, ‘Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less.’ Ododo’s leadership is not defined by his title - it is underscored by his impact. His ability to govern without alienating, to lead without dictating and to reform without erasing the past is simply a masterclass in modern leadership.

I hold the view that the reward for transformational leadership in any arena is influence. In that regard, Governor Ododo is reaping a bumper harvest - not just at home but across the length and breadth of Nigeria, and beyond. No wonder Kogites are already united in their increasing clamour for him to get ready for another term at the appropriate time.

The Kogi Model As a Possible Blueprint for Nigeria

The relationship between Their Excellencies, Yahaya Adoza Bello and Ahmed Usman Ododo is not just a political success story, it is a leadership case study. It is an example of how the continuum of governance should work - one leader builds, another takes over and the vision continues without friction, sabotage or insecurity on either part. I might be wrong (although I don't think so), but I have personally not seen its parallel in the history of Nigerian democracy - at least not in this Fourth Republic.

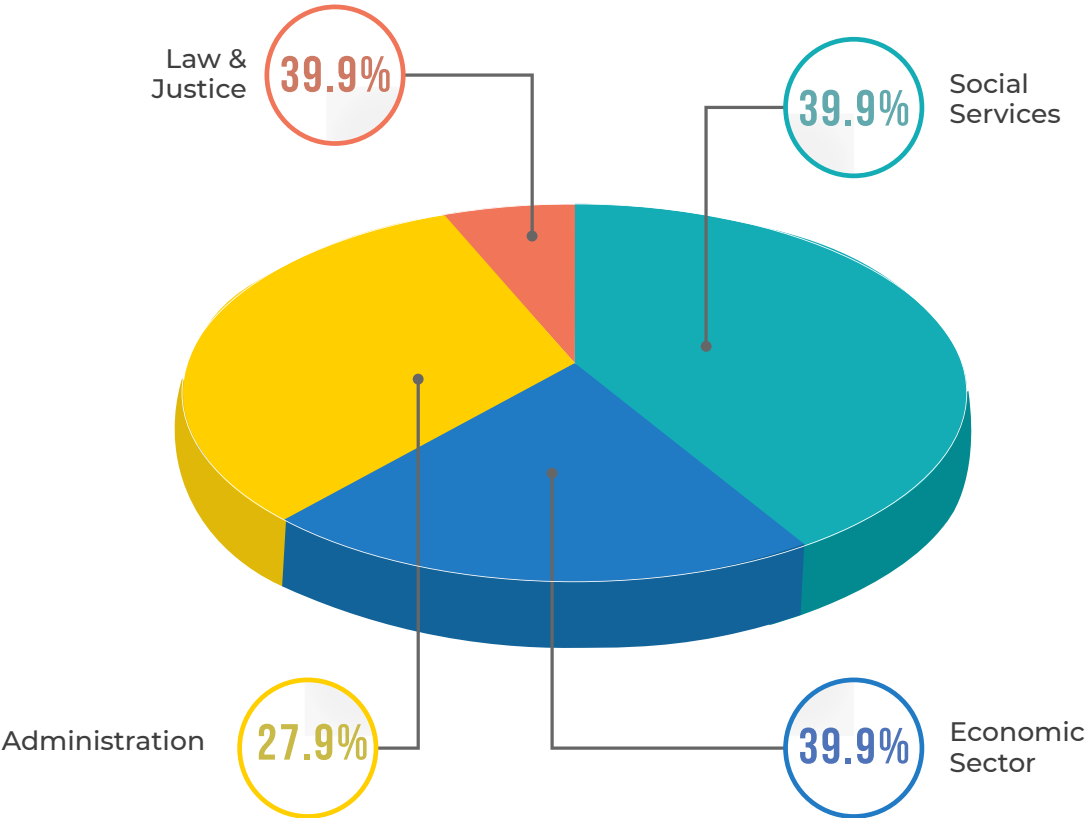
In a country where political transitions are often marred by vendettas, disruptions, and policy reversals, what I call 'the Kogi Model' offers a pathway to stability and progress. It proves that leadership is about service, not personal gain. It shows that the true greatness of leaders is not just how they lead, but how they step aside for others to lead after them. Nigeria's political elite would do well to study and adopt this model. As Maxwell himself says, 'A leader's lasting value is measured by succession.' Yahaya Bello has left a legacy, not a vacuum. Ahmed Usman

Ododo is carrying that legacy forward - not as a shadow, but as a leader in his own right. That is what true leadership looks like. That is the Kogi Model. And that, ultimately, is part of what Nigeria needs if we are to overcome the predecessor-successor clashes that have become so ubiquitous across our leadership landscape, so often threatening the stability of the polity itself.

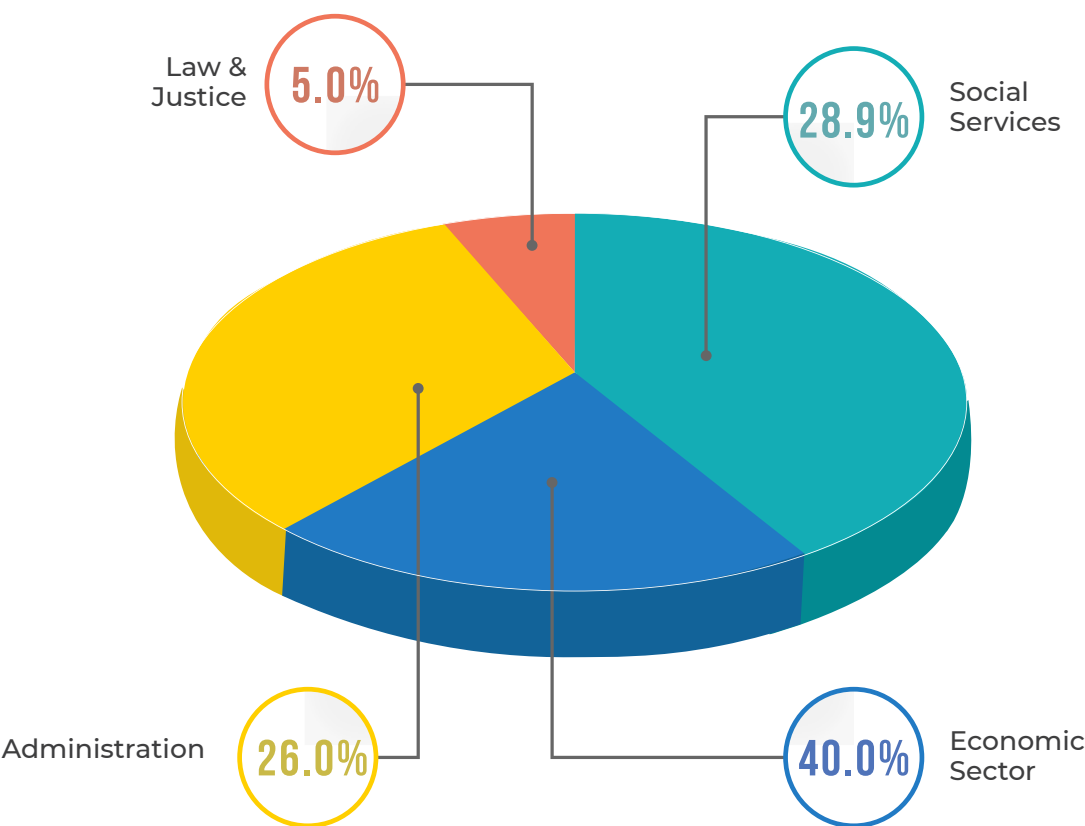
The Editorial Team



KOGI STATE BUDGET 2023



KOGI STATE BUDGET 2024



Policy Brief

Budget of Consolidation and Continuity for Inclusive Growth

The Kogi State 2024 budget, approved at N258,278,501,339.00, represents a 30.71% increase over the 2023 revised budget. It includes a significant allocation for capital expenditure (N112.5 billion) and recurrent expenditure (N145.7 billion). The budget prioritizes good governance, infrastructure development, education, healthcare, agriculture, security, and women’s empowerment. Kogi State’s 2023 and 2024 budgets reveals a strategic intensification of public investment across all sectors, with particularly notable increases in the economic sector (from ₦68.65bn to ₦80.5bn) and social services (from ₦49.36bn to ₦58.2bn), reflecting the administration’s commitment to infrastructure, education, health, and economic diversification. The significant jump in allocations to law and justice (from ₦5.99bn to ₦10.1bn) also signals a renewed focus on institutional reform, security and justice delivery. Overall, the shift tells a story of forward-looking governance aimed at consolidating gains, deepening impact, and significantly accelerating the momentum of development across the Confluence State.

Editorial Team



Policy Brief

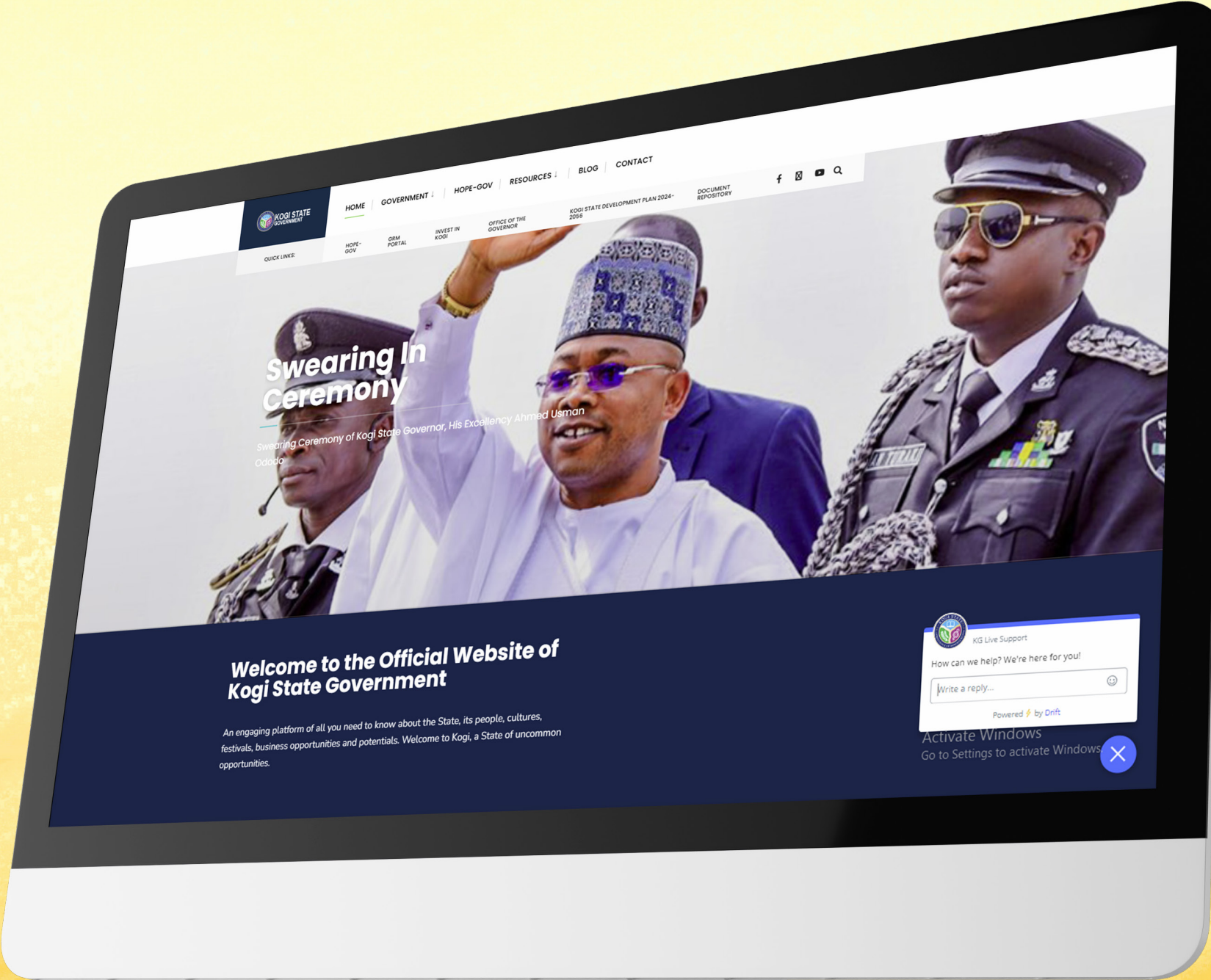
Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has consolidated strongly on the policy of responsible debt consumption instituted by his predecessor. According to the Debt Management Office and syndicated sources, Kogi State’s formal debt profile stood at ₦44.89 billion (domestic) and \$51.17 million (external) as of December 2023, comparing very favourably indeed with its peers. Within one year, the Ododo Administration further reduced these to ₦41.59 billion and \$31.58 million respectively - achieving a ₦3.3 billion and \$19.59 million drop during a period of critical economic difficulties triggered by federal reforms to eliminate entrenched fuel subsidies and exchange rate disparities. This was made possible through fiscal discipline, enhanced federal income, improved IGR generation, strategic debt restructuring and transparency. These results, within his first year alone, unequivocally attest that Governor Ododo’s governance is delivering measurable progress as underscored by the effectiveness of his strategic debt, and other, policies. His Excellency’s Advanced New Direction Administration is firmly setting Kogi State on the highway to sustainable economic growth and financial stability.

Editorial Team



www.kogistate.gov.ng

Navigating Kogi State's Digital Gateway



Kogi State's official website serves as a comprehensive portal into the state's governance, resources, and opportunities. Designed with user-friendliness in mind, it offers residents, investors, and visitors seamless access to vital information and services.

HOMEPAGE:

The Confluence of Opportunities

Upon entering the site, users are greeted with the state's emblem and the tagline 'Confluence of Opportunities,' reflecting Kogi's strategic location at the meeting point of Rivers Niger and Benue. The homepage features dynamic content, including recent news, announcements, and quick links to essential services.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE:

Insight into Leadership

The 'Government' section provides detailed information on the state's administrative framework:

- **Executive:** Details on the Executive Arm with profiles of the Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary to the State Government, Chief of Staff, Head of Service, Commissioners and other functionaries.
- **Legislature:** Details on the the Legislative Arm in Kogi State - the Kogi State House of Assembly, with information on the Speaker, members and legislative activities.
- **Judiciary:** Details on the Judicial Arm of Government in Kogi State, with information on the Chief Judge and judicial proceedings.

This section showcases that separation of powers, the rule of law and collaboration is at work in Kogi State and keeps citizens informed about their leaders.

RESOURCES:

Access to Vital Documents

Under 'Resources,' users can find a wealth of documents and data:

- **SABER Documents:** Covering areas like land administration, regulatory frameworks, PPP development, investment promotion, and transparency initiatives.
- **Budget Information:** Including budget call circulars, performance reports, citizen budgets, and the state's MTSS & MTEF.
- **Legal Documents:** Bills, laws, financial statements, and audit reports.

These resources promote accountability and allow stakeholders to stay informed about the state's fiscal and legal matters.

HOPE-GOV:

Enhancing Governance

The HOPE-GOV initiative focuses on improving financial and human resource management across the state's public sector. It complements other programs like HOPE-Primary Healthcare and HOPE-Basic Education, aiming to enhance service delivery and governance.

INVEST IN KOGI:

Opportunities for Investors

This section highlights Kogi State's investment potentials, offering information on:

- Business incentives and policies.
- Ongoing and completed projects.
- Economic data and statistics.

It's a valuable resource for investors seeking opportunities in the state.

News and Updates: Stay Informed

The website's news section provides regular updates on:

- Government initiatives and projects
- Public health campaigns and infrastructure developments.
- Community engagement and events.

This ensures that citizens and stakeholders are kept abreast of governance and the state's activities.

Contact and Feedback: Engage with the Government

The 'Contact' page offers various channels for communication, including phone numbers, email addresses, and physical office locations. It encourages public engagement and feedback, fostering a participatory governance model.

Kogi State's official website confirms the Governor Ododo's commitment to digitization of governance, seamless processes, transparency, accessibility and inclusive development. It serves as a vital tool for citizens, investors and visitors to connect with the state's resources and opportunities.



The website www.kogistate.gov.ng is under the oversight of its proprietor, **Kingsley Femi Fanwo**, a consummate media professional and the Honourable Commissioner for Information and Communications in Kogi State.

Home > News > Governor Ododo's Visionary Leadership Revolutionizes Kogi State With Payment of WAEC Fees



NEWS

Governor Ododo's Visionary Leadership Revolutionizes Kogi State With Payment Of WAEC Fees

By Admin

Oct 30, 2024, 08:54 Am

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Akume to Ododo: You started well, be focused

By UNOBU FAKOL SALUO

May 19, 2024

In Politics

0

A photograph of Senator George Akume and Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo shaking hands. Both are wearing white traditional Kogi outfits. Akume is on the left, and Ododo is on the right.

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The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, has hailed the performance of the Kogi State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo on his one hundred days in office.

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Dangote refinery blames petrol price increase on crude oil prices

Ahmed Usman-Ododo: Wetin you suppose know about di new Kogi state govnor-elect

A portrait of Ahmed Usman-Ododo, the Governor of Kogi State. He is wearing a white traditional Kogi outfit and a patterned cap, smiling at the camera.

FACEBOOK/AHMED.USMAN-ODODO

Usman-Ododo na di former Auditor-General for Kogi State

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Ododo Hails Kogi Youths, Students For Their Support, Reiterates Commitment To Infrastructural Development

By Joy Anigbogu

On Sep 11, 2024

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A photograph of Governor Ododo standing with a group of youths and students on a stage. They are all smiling and posing for the camera. Governor Ododo is in the center, wearing a white traditional Kogi outfit and a patterned cap. The youths and students are wearing various casual clothes.

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I'm here to lead, battle against criminals and win the war – Governor Ododo

VICTORIA NNAKAKE - July 28, 2024

Insecurity: Gov Ododo Launches Quick Response Unit

By Samuel Anyanwu - July 24, 2024

f x p w in e b

FIC Report (Kogi State) – Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of kogi state on Wednesday launched Quick Response Unit, QRU, a Policing Initiative for Efficient response to save lives, combat crimes and secure communities.

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Convoke Security Summit Urgently, Confluence Patriots Charges Gov Ododo

By AdminJan 19, 2025, 17:48 Pm

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By AgencyJanuary 17, 2025



Governor Ahmed Ododo of Kogi State

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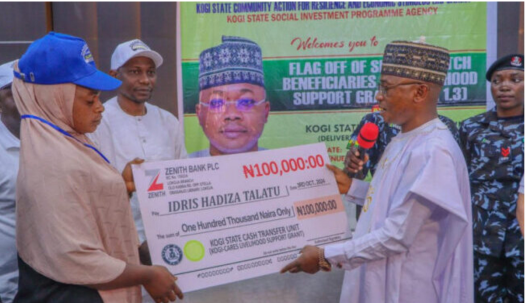
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> KG-CARES: Gov. Ododo Empowers 8000 Youth, Women with N100,000 Livelihood Grants in Kogi

KG-CARES: Gov. Ododo Empowers 8000 Youth, Women with N100,000 Livelihood Grants in Kogi

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NEWS

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo: Strengthening Security in Kogi State

August 24, 20240



Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has prioritized the safety and security of Kogi State residents since assuming office in January 2024. His administration has successfully reduced crime rates through a comprehensive strategy that includes collaboration with law enforcement, community engagement, and technological advancements.

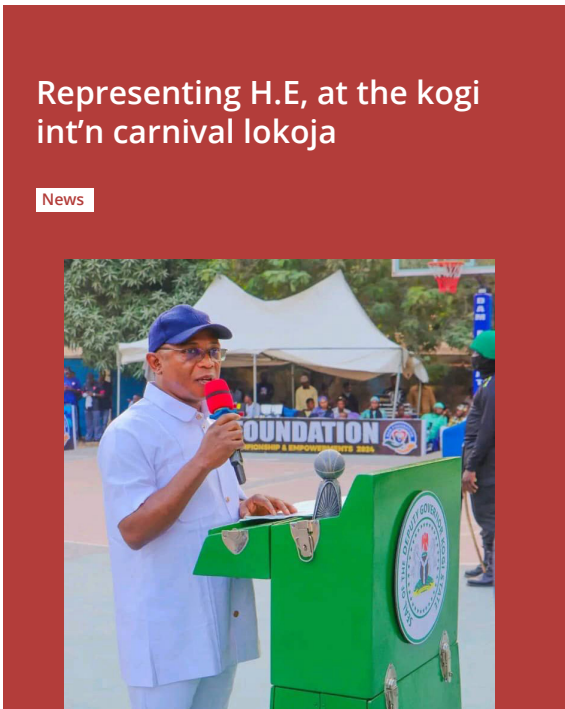
One of the major achievements of Governor Ododo's tenure is the enhancement of law

AN ABLE DEPUTY



Representing H.E, at the kogi
int'n carnival lokoja

News



Representing H.E, at the kogi
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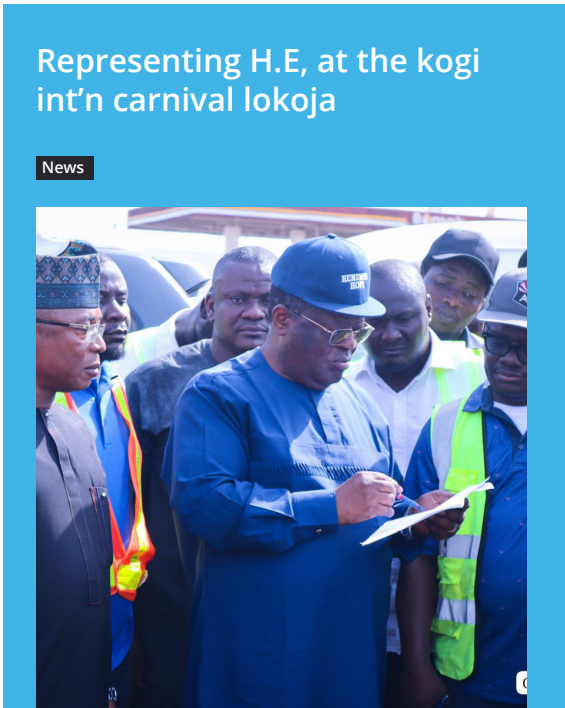
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At the DAM foundation
Basketball competition in
Okene Representing HE- the
Executive Governor



H.E Represented His Boss at
the Thanksgiving Ceremony
of the Newly Appointed
Minister for water and
Sanitation Prof. **Joseph
Terlumu Utsev** at Mbagen in
Burukun Local Government
Benue State



Representing H.E, at the kogi
int'n carnival lokoja

News

2025

A SNEAK PREVIEW

The 2024 Kogi State Referral Compendium tagged, 'Consolidation and Continuity' confirms that His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo and the Advanced New Direction Administration in Kogi State had a stellar and accomplished year 2024, but we assure you - you ain't seen nothing yet. Watch out for 2025!

Among numerous accomplishment Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has multiplied efforts in homegrown initiatives to broaden Kogi's capacity to generate wealth this year. Recently, he invested heavily in new mining equipment for Kogi State. The State also invested in the acquisition of 15 mining licenses of her own, aiming to get in the driver's seat and drive economic diversification, reduce reliance on federal allocations and boost job creation through large-scale exploration and sustainable mining practices. Kogi State is also prioritising bilateral collaborations - at home and abroad. In March Governor Ododo, assisted by his amiable wife, Hajiya Sefinat Usman Ododo,

hosted the wife of the Vice President, Hajiya Nana Shettima, who represented the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, for a Renewed Hope Initiative Food Outreach in Lokoja. This highlights the administration's resolve to work with the Federal Government and all other partners who display credible intentions to augment the State Government's massive investments in the dividends of democracy for Kogites.

Wait for the dust to settle on 2025 activities by this workaholic Chief Servant who is not only in a mighty hurry to achieve accelerated development of the Confluence State - but he is fully ready to give it all it takes.

The Office of Research and Development will cover all of this, and much more, for you in our next edition - The Kogi State Referral Compendium, 2025. Make it a date.

The Editor-in-Chief



Kogi State's 2025 Budget: Bold Foundations for Inclusive Development

When His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, signed the 2025 Appropriation Bill into law on December 30, 2024, it was not merely an administrative milestone. It was a deliberate declaration of vision and commitment that Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo not only has bold aspirations for his state but the critical intentionality - political will, if you like - to find the resources needed to make them real.

At ₦582.4 billion, the 2025 budget is the largest in the state's history, marking a 43% increase over the previous year's ₦406 billion allocation. This expansion reflects an understanding that development requires scale and sustained investment. It also signals that the administration will not be content with incremental improvements but is prepared to initiate and pursue accelerated progress.

Crucially, this is a budget designed for people - a fact that is self-evident from its very metrics. Nearly ₦211 billion, that is, more than a third of the total sum, is committed to social services such as healthcare, education and social welfare support. These are sectors where the impact of investment is most visible in everyday life, whether it is the child who receives free exam registration, the mother who enjoys free ante-natal and post-natal services, the citizen who finds affordable essential medicines in the community health centre, or the teacher who has a functioning classroom.

At the same time, the budget's capital expenditure - over 52% of total allocations - prioritizes infrastructure that connects communities, powers commerce and unlocks productivity in the state's economy. ₦228 billion is earmarked for economic and

infrastructure development, a deliberate choice to create jobs, expand food security, secure lives and properties and enhance the enabling environment for enterprise.

Unlike many budgets that become symbolic once signed, this one is anchored in the clear expectations of a public that increasingly demands accountability. From the first day of the budget presentation to its signing into law, Governor Ododo has consistently emphasized continuity - completing inherited projects, addressing local government infrastructure gaps and settling longstanding obligations that have burdened the state's finances, while outlining his plan to unlock strategic development.

Some observers have raised questions about the sustainability of such an ambitious plan, and it is true that translating a 43% budget increase into visible improvements will require discipline in execution and innovation in revenue generation. The administration is fully aware of this reality. Accordingly, the 2025 budget integrates strategies to strengthen tax administration, increase all categories of internally generated revenue, deepen public-private partnerships and streamline project delivery timelines across all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Equally important is the commitment to transparency. The Governor has directed that all MDAs must publish implementation status reports, creating clear lines of accountability and opening the door for citizen engagement in monitoring. This is a critical safeguard against the historical challenges of underperformance and unspent allocations - as well as the perennial demons of waste and leakages.

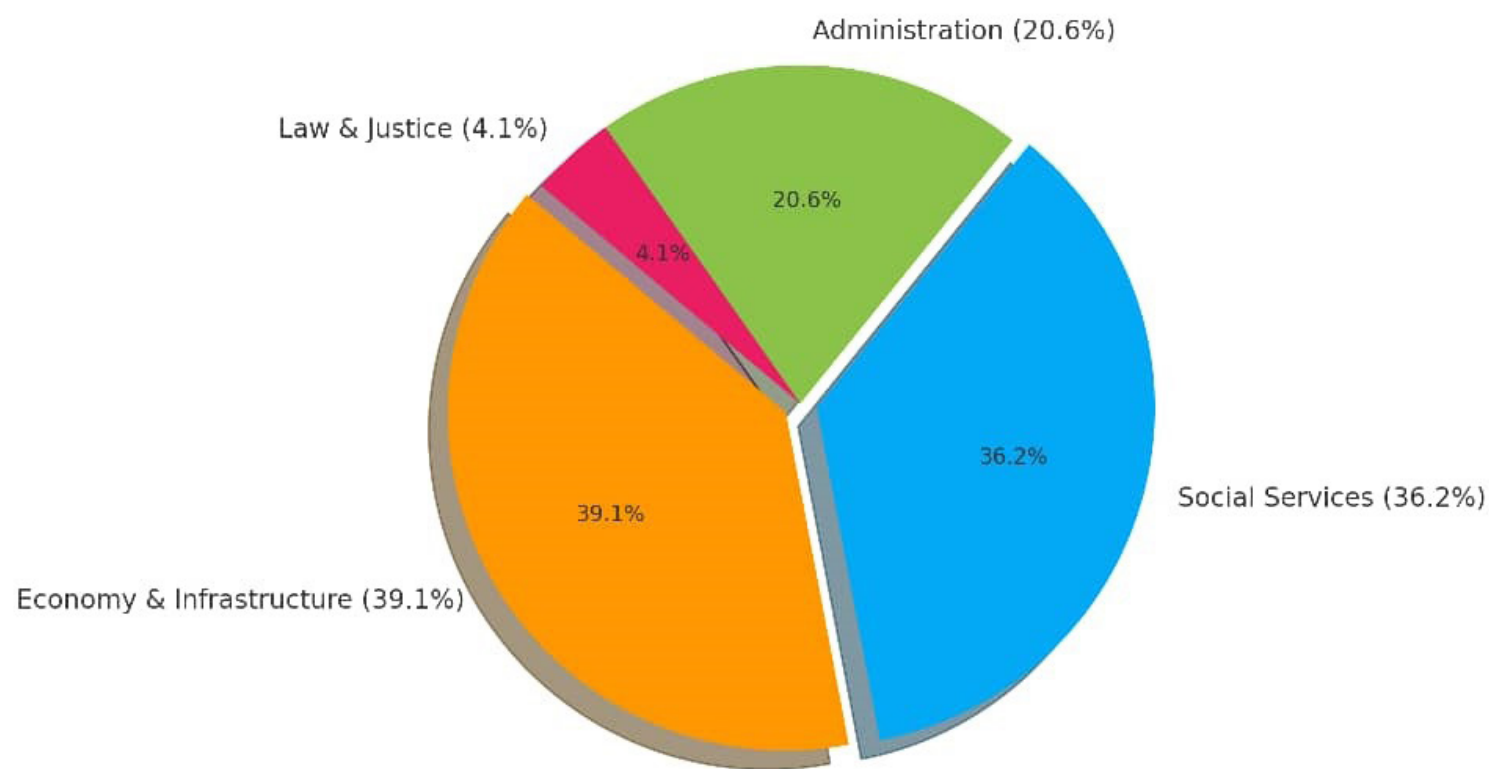
Perhaps the most defining feature of this budget is its spirit. It is framed by a belief that governance must be inclusive - a long time objective of the New Direction Agenda. This is driven by a passion to see that development reaches even the most rural communities as surely as it serves the urban centres. From local road rehabilitation to health infrastructure and school improvement, every component of this budget is designed to reflect the priorities of Kogi's diverse people.

All things being equal, with effective implementation, this budget will not only transform physical infrastructure but will renew public confidence in government as an enabler of progress. In this sense, the ₦582 billion appropriation is more than a financial plan. It is a promise to deliver a Kogi State where development is both visible and inclusive, and where the aspirations of ordinary citizens are met with the seriousness they deserve.

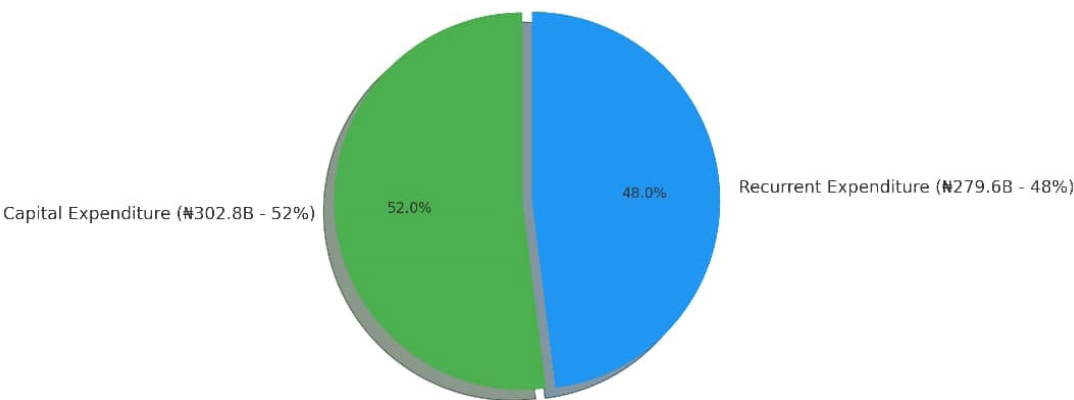
The administration is committed to translating this budget from paper into measurable impact. It will require the full support of the people of Kogi State to succeed. Together, Kogites can ensure that 2025 is a year of tangible progress, shared prosperity and strengthened trust between government and the people by giving the administration of His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo their total support.

Editorial Team.

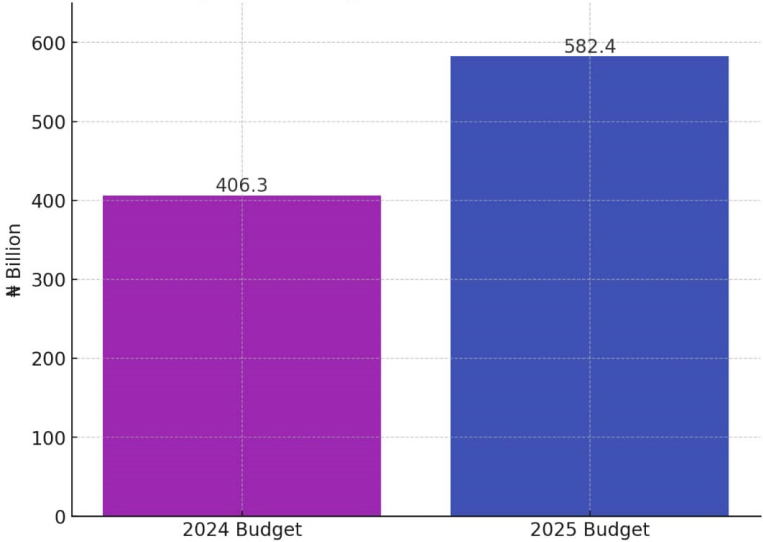
Kogi State 2025 Budget - Sectoral Allocations



Kogi State 2025 Budget - Capital vs Recurrent Expenditure



Kogi State Budget Growth: 2024 vs 2025





A tribute to **Progress and Foundation**

I confirm that the difficult reforms undertaken by my eminent predecessor, His Excellency, former Governor Yahaya Bello, during his eight years in office, and the systems he set up, have positioned us on a strong footing for the accelerated progress we are now witnessing.

Governor Bello's leadership was marked by bold decisions and an unyielding commitment to transforming our state. He took on monumental challenges with courage and determination, often making personal sacrifices to ensure that Kogi State moved forward. The structural reforms he championed were not only innovative but also forward-looking, addressing long-standing issues and positioning the state for sustainable growth.

Through his efforts, sectors such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and security experienced significant improvements. He initiated programs and policies that were tailored to meet the unique needs of our people, creating a roadmap for development that continues to guide our current administration.

The seeds Governor Bello planted during his tenure were sown with great foresight, and today, we are beginning to reap the rewards of his vision. His administration laid the foundation for fiscal discipline, effective governance, and inclusive development, which have become the bedrock of the successes we are celebrating today.

As I serve this great state as Governor, I stand on the shoulders of his legacy, committed to deepening the progress he envisioned. Together, we owe him a debt of gratitude for the battles he fought, the barriers he broke, and the systems he established to uplift our state. His contributions will remain a source of inspiration as we continue to pursue a brighter and more prosperous future for Kogi State.

Building on a legacy...



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