

# Kogi Strides Magazine

**Kogi Election  
Tribunal Verdict:  
Why Muritala Ajaka of SDP Lost**

**SETTING THE STAGE  
FOR SUCCESS:**

Gov Ahmed Usman Ododo's  
Leadership Journey at  
100 Days

**Hon Fanwo Shares  
Insider Perspective  
on Gov Ododo's  
Early Leadership**



# GoodWill Message




**T**he Staff and Management of Vanguard Construction and Engineering co. Ltd heartily Congratulate Your Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo on his 100 days in office.

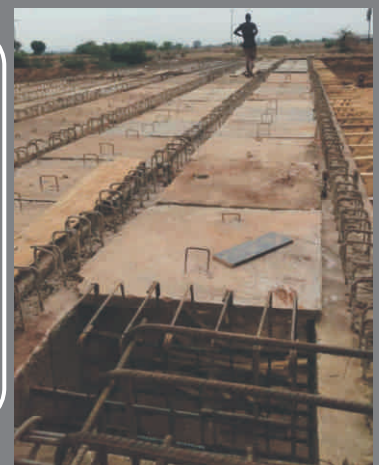
The Management and Staff of the Organisation, congratulate you and your Deputy Comrade Joel Oyibo.

We, therefore, commit you and your Team to the infinite wisdom, guidance and protection of Allah, the Beneficent and the Merciful.

**SIGNED:  
MANAGEMENT**



  
**ON-GOING  
SHERIA -  
OGUMA  
ROAD BEING  
HANDLED BY  
VANGUARD  
CONSTRUCTION  
& ENGINEERING  
COMPANY**



# CONTENTS

	<b>EDITORIAL</b>
	SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS: GOV AHMED USMAN ODODO'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY AT 100 DAYS
	JUDGING ODODO: KOGI RESIDENTS RATE HIS PERFORMANCE AFTER 100 DAYS IN OFFICE
	SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES FOR THE ODODO'S ERA: A FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT
	CELEBRATING 100 DAYS OF PROGRESS IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS
	NAVIGATING THE FIRST 100 DAYS: SECURITY STRATEGIES IN KOGI STATE
	INNOVATING THE INFORMATION SECTOR: THE STORY OF ODODO'S SUCCESS
	ODODO: REVOLUTIONIZING COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN JUST 100 DAYS
	GOVERNOR ODODO ENCOURAGES OPPOSITION TO COLLABORATE FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE STATE, DEDICATES TRIBUNAL VICTORY TO KOGI PEOPLE
	FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: A 100-DAY EXPLORATION OF RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
	<b>CONTENTS</b>

OBANGEDE UPGRADE: PROVOST PLEADS FOR BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION TO PREVENT COLLEGE ISOLATION AMID RAINY SEASONS

GOVERNOR AHMED USMAN ODODO SUSTAINING THE TRAJECTORY ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR.

100 DAYS OF GOV. AHMED USMAN ODODO

UNVEILING THE LEGACY: A CONVERSATION WITH PROF SOLOMON AVIDIME, THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR REFERENCE HOSPITAL OKENE

KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT'S RESILIENCE: RESPONDING TO THE CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY ATTACK

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PREVENT THE REPETITION OF BANDIT ATTACKS ON CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OSARA

APRAISING GOV ODODO'S 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

HON FANWO SHARES INSIDER PERSPECTIVE ON GOV ODODO'S EARLY LEADERSHIP

SECRETS REVEALED: INSIDE THE WALLS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

KOGI ELECTION TRIBUNAL VERDICT: WHY MURITALA AJAKA OF SDP LOST

REVITALIZING HEALTHCARE: KOGI STATE'S AMBITIOUS UPGRADE OF 70 PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRES













# Governor Ododo's First 100 Days in Office: Key Achievements

**G**overnor Ododo's first 100 days in office have been a whirlwind of activities, all aimed at addressing the pressing issues that the people of Kogi State face daily. His administration's key achievements are not just policies and programs, but tangible improvements in the lives of the people. For instance, his initiatives to boost the state's economy, create jobs, and improve infrastructure are not just abstract concepts, but real changes that you, the residents, can see and feel.

One of the standout accomplishments during this period is the successful implementation of a new healthcare initiative. This initiative has enhanced access to quality healthcare services for all residents and has brought concrete benefits to the state. It encompasses the implementation of various community health programs aimed at improving the accessibility of healthcare services for all residents of Kogi State, demonstrating the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare delivery in the state.

One of the most promising achievements in Governor Ododo's first 100 days is the significant progress in healthcare and education. A standout in the education sector is the implementation of a new policy that is already transforming the learning environment in public schools. This policy, with its increased school funding, enhanced teacher training, and improved overall learning environment, is a beacon of hope for the future of education in Kogi State.

Another notable achievement is the successful implementation of a new infrastructure development plan, a plan that is not just about the construction of roads, bridges, and other critical projects. It's a plan that aims to improve the overall quality of life for all of us, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth, bringing a sense of optimism and reassurance about the future of our beloved State.

Governor Ododo has achieved significant progress in clean energy and environmental conservation. A key accomplishment in this sector is the implementation of a new clean energy policy aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable energy sources. This policy includes incentives for stricter regulations on polluting industries.

Furthermore, Governor Ododo has shown a strong commitment to transparency and accountability in governance. One of the key achievements in this area is the implementation of a new anti-corruption initiative to root out corruption and improve public trust in government institutions.

Governor Ododo's administration has also made significant progress in poverty alleviation. A key achievement in this sector is implementing a new social welfare program to provide support to vulnerable populations. This program includes food assistance and job training programs to lift people out of poverty and improve their quality of life.

In the area of security and law enforcement, Governor Ododo has shown a strong commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all residents. One of the major accomplishments in this sector is the successful implementation of a new crime prevention strategy aimed at reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety. This strategy involves increased police presence in high-crime areas and the introduction of community policing initiatives designed to build trust between law enforcement and the community.

Governor Ododo has also made significant progress in economic development. One notable achievement in this sector is the successful implementation of a new economic growth strategy aimed at creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. This strategy includes measures to attract investment, promote entrepreneurship, and support small businesses in the community.

In summary, Governor Ododo's 100-day report highlights several significant achievements in various sectors of governance and administration. From healthcare and education to infrastructure development and clean energy, Governor Ododo's administration has made considerable strides in improving the quality of life for all residents. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and poverty alleviation, Governor Ododo has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the needs of the State and fostering sustainable development. Governor Ododo's administration has set a positive trajectory for Kogi State.



**KINGSLEY FANWO**  
Hon Commissioner/Managing Editor

## EDITORIAL CREW

EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN/  
MANAGING EDITOR

**Hon. Kingsley Olorunfemi Fanwo**

EDITOR (NEWS)

**Adeniyi Sunday Abiodun**

EDITOR (PRINT)

**Ademu Seidu Haruna**

EDITOR (ONLINE/PRODUCTION)

**Ebenezer Olayinka Adurodija**

ECONOMIC EDITOR

**Sumanu Funsho Princess**

COMMERCIAL EDITOR

**Abah Benjamin Eneojoh**

MEMBER

**Modupe Adegboro**

MEMBER

**Olajumoke O. Obatomi**

MEMBER

**Odofin Philip Rotimi**

CREATIVE & DESIGN

**Hamzat Abdulrasheed O.**



DIGITAL EDITION

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT  
[www.kogistate.gov.ng/doing-more](http://www.kogistate.gov.ng/doing-more)

**KOGI STRIDES MAGAZINE** is a publication of Kogi State Ministry of Information and Communications.

Editorial: 08068292806, 08065336011  
08036275871 | Email: [info@kogistate.gov.ng](mailto:info@kogistate.gov.ng)

VOL. 3. NO. 7

# SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS: GOV AHMED USMAN ODODO'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY AT 100 DAYS

By Adurodija Ebenezer

**G**overnor Ahmed Usman Ododo assumed office as the Governor of Kogi State on January 27, 2024, following a rigorous election campaign. His first 100 days in office have been characterized by a flurry of activities and policy initiatives aimed at addressing the numerous challenges facing the state.

Governor Ododo has been proactive in enhancing the economy of Kogi State during his initial 100 days in office. Despite the state's abundance of natural resources, there has been a struggle to fully capitalize on these resources for the benefit of the populace. Governor Ododo has implemented policies to attract investments and stimulate economic growth within the state. Additionally, he has prioritized the creation of job opportunities for the youth through skill development initiatives and support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first hundred days in office have been characterized by a series of initiatives and developments that have received positive feedback from the residents of Kogi State. Here is an overview of his accomplishments and the public's response:

## **PUBLIC SERVICE AND WELFARE:**

### **REGULAR SALARY PAYMENTS:**

The administration has been lauded for ensuring 100% regular salary payments for civil servants, significantly boosting morale and financial stability.

### **WATER SUPPLY:**

The issue of water scarcity has been effectively addressed, with residents now benefitting from running taps, marking a substantial improvement in basic amenities.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

### SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS:

There is a growing demand for the implementation of economic policies to support small and medium entrepreneurs through loans and incentives, which would contribute to the state's economic growth.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES:

Taking directions from the immediate past Governor giant strides in infrastructural development, Governor Ododo's in the first 100 days in office has made infrastructure development a focal point. Kogi State has long endured a dearth of basic infrastructures such as roads, schools, and hospitals.

Governor Ododo has consolidated on several inherited projects aimed at enhancing the state's infrastructure, including the construction of roads, the refurbishment of schools, and the modernization of healthcare facilities. These initiatives are poised to significantly improve the quality of life for the people of Kogi State, enhancing access to essential services and fostering economic growth.

### IMPROVED SECURITY:

The Governor's leadership qualities have been praised for creating a more peaceful environment and enhancing the security of lives and property. One of the primary tasks Governor Ododo tackled upon assuming office was addressing the issue of insecurity in the state. Kogi State has grappled with elevated levels of crime and violence in recent years, prompting Governor Ododo to prioritize this matter. He launched a comprehensive security plan that entailed collaboration with security agencies, community leaders, and other stakeholders. The Governor also prioritized the training and equipping of security personnel to enhance their ability to combat crime effectively in the state. Aside this, the Governor procured vehicles (cars and motorcycles) for security agencies in the state.

### EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITMENT:

The governor's dedication to the education sector has been recognized, with educational leaders expressing their support for his programs and policies. The Governor did not only pay for the WASC and JAMB registrations fees for all Kogi State Indigenes but also initiated the process of payment of bursary allowances

for students of Kogi origin. An act that was last done some 16 years ago.

Overall, Governor Ododo's proactive approach and commitment to addressing key issues have resonated positively with the residents of Kogi State, setting a promising tone for the future of the state under his leadership.

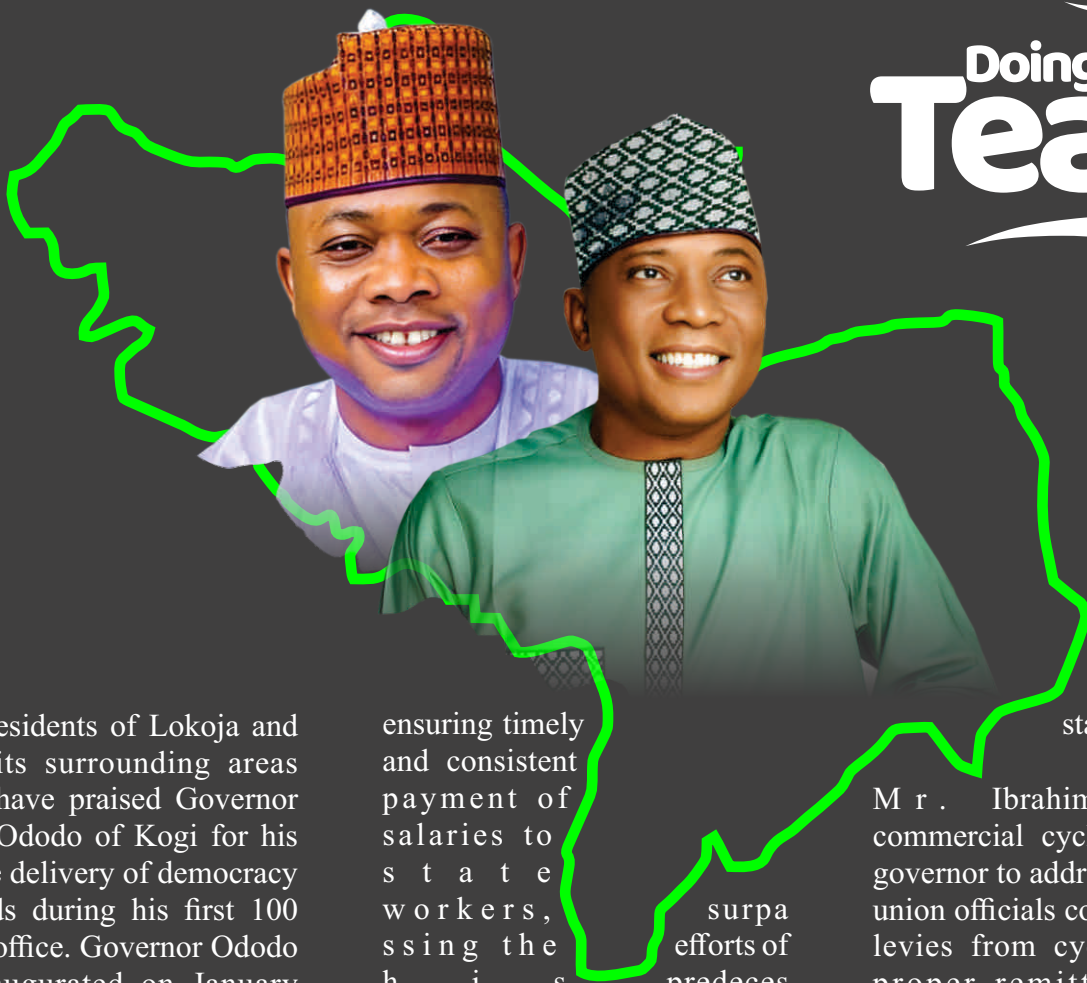
However, within the first one hundred days, Governor Ododo has encountered various challenges, with political opposition being a significant hurdle. Some adversaries have attempted to undermine his authority and impede his efforts to instigate positive change within the state. Nevertheless, Governor Ododo has exhibited unwavering resolve in the face of adversity, showcasing strong leadership and a steadfast commitment to the welfare of the people of Kogi State.

In summary, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's first 100 days in office have been characterized by a blend of accomplishments and obstacles. He has made notable strides in addressing security concerns, advancing infrastructure development, and fostering economic progress in Kogi State. Despite encountering political resistance, Governor Ododo has demonstrated resolute leadership and perseverance in his pursuit of transformative change within the state. As Governor Ododo continues his tenure, it is anticipated that he will build upon the achievements of his initial 100 days and persist in his endeavours to propel the development and prosperity of Kogi State.

*We should be reminded that development is a continuous process.*

*Our experiences have reinforced the notion that growth knows no bounds, and we are excited to carry this momentum into future projects, armed with the lessons learned and the passion ignited by this production.*

# JUDGING ODODO: KOGI RESIDENTS RATE HIS PERFORMANCE AFTER 100 DAYS IN OFFICE



Doing More  
**Team**

Residents of Lokoja and its surrounding areas have praised Governor Usman Ododo of Kogi for his effective delivery of democracy dividends during his first 100 days in office. Governor Ododo was inaugurated on January 27th after emerging victorious in the Kogi November 11th Off-cycle election.

In a recent interview, residents of Lokoja commended the governor for his focus on security and welfare for government workers. They expressed confidence in Governor Ododo's ability to drive rapid development in the state during his tenure.

Mrs. Saliu Eze, a civil servant, commended the governor for

ensuring timely and consistent payment of salaries to state workers, surpassing the efforts of his predecessor in workers' welfare. She noted improvements in access to water and urged the governor to address electricity supply issues with the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC).

Mrs. Abubakar Sabat, a businesswoman, highlighted Governor Ododo's significant achievements within his first 100 days in office. She called for economic policies and programs to support small and medium entrepreneurs, emphasizing the importance of boosting the

state's economy.

Mr. Ibrahim Abubakar, a commercial cyclist, urged the governor to address the issue of union officials collecting illegal levies from cyclists without proper remittance to the government. He emphasized the need for regulatory measures to protect cyclists and ensure compliance with government regulations.

Overall, Governor Ododo's administration has garnered positive feedback from residents of Lokoja, who are optimistic about the progress and development under his leadership.

Kogi  
**Strides**  
Magazine



**1000**

**DAYS IN OFFICE**

Kogi Stride  
**Team**



# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES FOR THE ODODO'S ERA: A FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT

By Mariam Adams

The Kogi State Government has made significant strides in environmental conservation and management under the guidance of His Excellency Alhaji Usman Ododo. One notable initiative is the Tree Planting Programme, launched with the theme "Phyto Control and Protection of Erosion and Marginal Land Project in Kogi State." This program aims to combat the effects of climate change by planting trees across the state. Additionally, the ministry has successfully implemented waste management initiatives, promoting recycling and proper disposal methods to ensure a cleaner environment for all residents. These achievements reflect a solid commitment to sustainable practices and environmental conservation in Kogi State.

Another significant achievement under the leadership of His Excellency Alhaji Usman Ododo is the signing of a N29 billion Erosion contract. This contract will initiate gully reclamation, stabilization, and channelization in three senatorial districts: Etahi in Okene, Omigbo in Kabba, and Olubojo in Ankpa. By focusing on these areas, the government is directly addressing the environmental challenges faced by these communities, demonstrating its commitment to their safety and well-being.

Furthermore, since assuming office, Governor Alhaji Usman Ododo has prioritized the desilting of drainage systems through the Kogi State Ministry of Environment and Ecological Management. This proactive measure aims to facilitate the free flow of floodwater in anticipation of the upcoming rainy season. By taking steps to mitigate the effects of flooding and safeguard the livelihoods of residents in Ankpa, the government is demonstrating its commitment to environmental protection and disaster risk reduction. These efforts are crucial for promoting sustainable development and ensuring the well-being of all Kogi State residents.

The government has initiated the demolition of illegal structures that harbour criminals and hoodlums and the disengagement of illegal squatters and traders from Ganaja Flyover. These decisive actions are intended to enhance security in the area and create a safer environment for residents and commuters. By eliminating these unlawful structures, the government is taking proactive measures to reduce crime and improve public safety in Lokoja.

The government provides cleaning materials to the NUJ to support journalists in maintaining a clean and hygienic

workplace. This initiative not only aids journalists in their daily tasks but also fosters a healthy working environment for media professionals in Lokoja.



*Celebrating*



**100 Days**

**of Progress in Health and Wellness**

# CELEBRATING 100 DAYS OF PROGRESS IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

*By Dorothy Laruba Onoja*

**G**overnor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo's unwavering commitment to improving healthcare accessibility and quality for all residents of Kogi State has been evident through a series of transformative initiatives. From establishing new healthcare

**Sector Health Insurance Plan:** Governor Ododo initiated the enrollment of civil servants in the Kogi State Health Insurance Scheme, ensuring comprehensive healthcare coverage for this sector. This milestone initiative reflects the administration's commitment to universal healthcare access.

State. This initiative includes facility renovations, provision of essential medical equipment, and strengthening human resources. By enhancing infrastructure and staffing, these health centres are better equipped to deliver critical healthcare services to communities throughout the state.



facilities to implementing innovative health programs, Governor Ododo has shown a solid dedication to enhancing the overall well-being of the people of Kogi State. His first 100 days in office have laid a solid foundation for continued progress and development in the healthcare sector.

In honour of Governor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo's 100 days in office, the Kogi State Ministry of Health is pleased to highlight the significant advancements made within the health sector during this period.

Launch of Kogi State Formal

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health has successfully implemented various community health programs aimed at improving the accessibility of healthcare services for all residents of Kogi State, showcasing the government's dedication to enhancing healthcare delivery in the state.

**Revitalisation of Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) for the Launch of Kogi State Intervention on PHC:** The administration began revitalising at least three public health centres across the 21 Local Government Areas (LGA) of Kogi

State. Furthermore, the intervention encompasses training programs for healthcare workers to ensure the delivery of quality services. This holistic approach is designed to meet residents' healthcare needs in a sustainable and impactful manner.

Governor Ododo has prioritised the renovation and enhancement of critical infrastructure within the Kogi State Ministry of Health. This includes the office complex and the State Health Management Information Office, which create conducive work environments for healthcare professionals and improve administrative efficiency.

As part of his commitment to improving healthcare access for all residents, Governor Ododo has also initiated community outreach programs to educate the public on preventive healthcare measures and promote healthy living practices. These initiatives aim to empower individuals to control their health and reduce the burden on the healthcare system. By focusing on infrastructure improvements and community engagement, Governor Ododo is working towards a comprehensive healthcare strategy that addresses

the needs of the people of Kogi State.

Recognising the importance of logistical support in healthcare delivery, Governor Ododo has provided a brand-new Hilux vehicle to the Kogi State Health Insurance Scheme. Additionally, efforts have been made to renovate and redesign essential facilities

institutions. These initiatives underscore the administration's dedication to building a robust healthcare system in Kogi State. Furthermore, Governor Ododo's commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure extends beyond just the physical facilities. His administration has also prioritised training and capacity building for healthcare professionals, ensuring that the

in advancing the health agenda of the state.

The assessment of Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) in Kogi State is currently underway for the implementation of the state intervention in PHCs. Under Governor Ododo's leadership, the healthcare system in Kogi State is poised for significant



such as the Kogi State Central Medical Store Houses, Kogi State Drugs Management Agency, and State Immunization Offices. These initiatives are vital for enhancing the storage and distribution of medical supplies and ensuring the seamless operation of healthcare services.

Governor Ododo's commitment to the well-being of all residents is evident in his support for secondary and tertiary health

state has a skilled and competent workforce to deliver quality care to its residents. By investing in the healthcare system's physical and human resources, Governor Ododo has laid a solid foundation for a healthier and more prosperous Kogi State.

As we commemorate Governor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo's first 100 days in office, the Kogi State Ministry of Health expresses its gratitude to His Excellency for his unwavering support and leadership

improvements. With a focus on infrastructure and personnel, the state is on track to provide better healthcare services to its residents. The ongoing assessment of PHCs shows a commitment to ensuring that every community has access to quality primary healthcare. Governor Ododo's dedication to the state's health agenda is commendable and will undoubtedly lead to a healthier and more prosperous future for Kogi State.

# GoodWill Message

FROM

**Kogi State University, Kabba (KSU)**

The Vice Chancellor, Kogi State University, Kabba Professor K.I.T. Eniola has congratulated His Excellency Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Executive Governor of Kogi State and his Deputy, His Excellency Comrade Joel Salifu Oyibo on their victory at the Election Petition Tribunal.

Professor Eniola noted that the victory at the EPT is a good news, and the University which has enjoyed immense attention and support from the education-loving governor cannot but felicitate with him for having his election upheld by the Tribunal.

'It is my prayer that this victory will continue to be victory indeed for the State particularly the education sector', Professor Eniola stated.



**PROF. KEHINDE IMISI  
TEMITOPE ENIOLA**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR  
KOGI STATE UNIVERSITY, KABBA

SIGNED

# NAVIGATING THE FIRST 100 DAYS: SECURITY STRATEGIES IN KOGI STATE

By Aliyu Abubakar Musa



A leader's true abilities are often tested during times of challenges and crisis. It is in these moments that a leader's capability to effectively address unexpected problems and sail through a struggling economy becomes evident.

Over the past 100 days, Governor Ahmed Ododo has showcased his leadership skills and tackled the challenges of governance in Kogi State, which has been plagued by a comatose economy.

Before Governor Ododo assumed office, the state faced severe security concerns that posed a threat to the lives and property of its residents. Crime rates were high, with cases of kidnapping and armed robbery being common occurrences. The state was constantly making negative headlines due to the rising wave of criminal activities.

However, under Governor Ododo's leadership, the security situation has significantly improved, having consulted with key stakeholders and implemented effective security strategies which have resulted in a decline in crime rates and earning the state several security awards. Kogi State has now become one of the safest states in Nigeria.

Governor Ododo's commitment to maintaining the state's security momentum is commendable.

Within his first 100 days in office, he provided necessary tools, such as 105 sienna buses and 50 motorcycles, to vigilantes and local hunters operating across the state's 21 Local Government Areas. He also commissioned patrol vehicles equipped with security gadgets for the Quick Response Squad, ensuring effective response in metropolitan cities. These

actions demonstrate Governor Ododo's dedication to safeguarding the lives and properties of the state's residents.

Governor Ododo's achievements in his first 100 days in office have laid the foundation for a promising future. Despite occasional incidents of criminal activities, Kogi State remains one of the most peaceful and safe states in Nigeria.

The Governor's proactive approach to addressing security challenges and his commitment to maintaining a secure environment have instilled a sense of confidence in the people of Kogi State.

As the state moves forward, Governor Ododo's leadership promises to bring forth more positive and significant advancements for the welfare and development of the state and its people.

# INNOVATING THE INFORMATION SECTOR: THE STORY OF ODODO'S SUCCESS

*By Adegboyega Segun.*



Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is the 5th Executive Governor of Kogi State, having been sworn in on 27th January 2024, after his landslide victory in the November 11th elections under the All Progressives Congress.

Emphatically speaking, no government can finish all projects within a regime. There must be something available to be done by the successor(s). On this note, for several years the Kogi State Broadcasting Corporation FM 94 had experienced inadequate power supply and this had made the radio station less effective and less efficient.

Within One Hundred Days in

office, His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo in his magnanimity has taken bold steps to put an end to the inadequate power supply in the Radio Station by providing hybrid power which comprises of solar power and the installation of the 33 KVA transformer to link up the line for daily 24 hours power supply. This has steered a massive revolution in the broadcasting industry as this development would enable the radio station to operate for at least 20 hours per day.

This increase in the number of broadcasting hours has also led to increase in the need for manpower which requires

recruitment of more staff. This has in turn reduced the number of unemployment in the state as it is an avenue of creating job opportunities.

Radio is one of the easiest, fastest and cheapest means of disseminating information to heterogeneous audience. And at the same time it reaches the Grassroots, both literates and uneducated ones. Being a visionary leader who knows the immediate needs of the citizenry, His Excellency has taken a bold step to revolutionize the broadcasting station in order to keep the citizens informed about the government's programmes, activities and policies.

Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is a visionary leader who has shown capacity in different sectors of the state. His unwavering commitment and resilience to infrastructural development, human capital development, security, civil servants' welfare, health sector, educational sector, agricultural sector, etc is second to none.

With what Kogi State has experienced under the administration of His Excellency Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo within just a hundred days in office, it is expedient that Kogi people put their differences aside and throw their maximum support behind Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo for a United and one Kogi in order to take the state to greater heights.

# ODODO:

REVOLUTIONIZING COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN JUST 100 DAYS

By Taiye Bayode

Since his emergence, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, has been a personality who has created initiatives for everyone across the board. Suffice to say that though these feats are incredible, his achievements in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are no different. Here are just a few of them since his emergence as the Executive Governor of Kogi State.

## 1. KOGI STATE MARKET TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

In accordance with the directives of His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Executive Governor, and his commitment to alleviating the hardships faced by traders and consumers, the traders' associations have been instructed to adjust their prices in response to the decline of the United States Dollar. This initiative aims to mitigate the impact of the economic challenges on the residents of Kogi State. As a result of these adjustments, residents can expect to see more affordable prices on essential goods and services in the local markets. This proactive measure demonstrates the government's dedication to ensuring the well-being and financial stability of its citizens during these uncertain times. By working together with traders' associations, the government is taking concrete steps to support

the local economy and promote growth in Kogi State.

## 2. RENOVATION OF THE MINISTRY

H.E, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has also shown notable strides to the Ministry since his assumption to office. He has given a face lift to the Ministry in terms of renovation, which includes fixing of all the ministry's doors, air conditioners, and photocopying machines etc. This is to boost the staff morale of the Ministry, and also, ensure prompt service delivery in the process.

## 3. COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

In Feb. 2024, there was a case of illegal treatment of state rig owners by some Police officers and Indians. Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, through the Hon. Commissioner, swung into action and settled the matter amicably. He made it clear that Kogites won't be treated as outsiders in their own state and made plans for the association to own their own drilling machines in the near future.

## 4. INITIATION OF ONE STATE, ONE PRODUCT AGENDA

In a bid for the State Government to showcase the potential of having her own recognizable product, a state committee of "Nigeria Export Promotion Council" was formed. During this

Committee meeting, it was decided that Cashew is a commodity to be leveraged upon. This is due to the fact that Kogi is blessed with the produce, and up to 40 different products can be derived from the Cashew plant alone. The success of notable countries like China, Kenya, Malawi and co will allow the Government to follow a proven blueprint that is bound to succeed.

## 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE FOR SMEs

The State Government has provided training to businesses and entrepreneurs in the State to enable them to improve their skills and productivity. With a long term goal in mind, the Government/Ministry established a database for small & medium scale enterprises in the state to facilitate accessibility of grants/loans from recognized financial institutions.

Apart from the fact that this move will improve data organization, it will also enhance data security, streamline business processes, create better customer relationship and also allow for easier collaboration and communication. This has allowed for seamless interactions between beneficiaries and the government, while also providing ample tracking and proof of grants/loans that has already been distributed across the state and the sectors that



has benefited.

## 6. KOGI ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD

Right from time, there has been a need for a state-owned agency of government. Fortunately, there was an existing KEDA law in the Ministry, but this law was never implemented, until an action was followed up to the State Executive Council.

This resulted in the inauguration of KEDA board, which is to function under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Today, the agency is doing well in not just helping promote SMEs in the state, but also by providing sensitization workshops and empowerment as well. It is worthy of note that His Excellency, was passionate about the socio-economic landscape of

the state and has never failed to showcase this in various initiatives and business launch(es). Some of which are:

- The “Kogi Fashion Shared Facility”, which is a world class facility equipped with fully automated fashion equipment with a capacity to serve 350 MSMEs daily and 110,000 yearly. The long-term goal of this incredible initiative is aimed at fostering collaboration amongst MSME Fashion Designers in the state so they can grow into the International Markets.
- The “Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) Training”, which is targeted towards women in the state. Research showed that Orange Sweet Potatoes is one of the richest sources of beta-carotene, a carotenoid known for its

ability to reduce cancer risks, not to mention that the Sweet Potatoes industry is worth 200 Billion Naira when fully harnessed. Not less than 100 participants were selected as beneficiaries.

- The Collaboration of "International World MSMEs", which aimed at stimulating the Kogi SME environment, enabled her to be a vital contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Kogi State, amongst others.

In conclusion, Innovation is a never-ending duty, it has become not just evident, but paramount that other States in the country, will follow the blueprint of His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo and his successful projects for inspiration.

# GOVERNOR ODODO ENCOURAGES OPPOSITION TO COLLABORATE FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE STATE, DEDICATES TRIBUNAL VICTORY TO KOGI PEOPLE

Kogi State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo, expressed his appreciation for the decision of the Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, which confirmed his election as the rightful Governor of the state.

In a statement to journalists in Abuja on Monday, Governor Ododo attributed his triumph at the tribunal to the citizens of Kogi State.

He emphasized that the tribunal's ruling not only validated his election but also reinforced his belief that power is bestowed by God and should be utilized for the

betterment of the people.

Governor Ododo commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for upholding the independence of the judiciary, emphasizing the crucial role of the courts in upholding justice, fairness, and democracy.

He called upon opposition parties in the state to collaborate with him in advancing the development of Kogi State, emphasizing the importance of unity and peaceful coexistence among the state's residents.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo emerged as the fifth Executive Governor of Kogi State after

securing 446,237 votes in the November 11, 2023 Governorship election, defeating his closest rival, Muritala Ajaka of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Following legal challenges from the SDP, Action Alliance (AA), and People's Redemption Party (PRP) candidates, the Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal in Abuja reaffirmed Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the duly elected governor of Kogi State after a prolonged legal battle.

# FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: A 100-DAY EXPLORATION OF RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

*By Fatai Buhari*



1. The installation of a hybrid 200KV, 33/0.415KV transformer with a 15KVA inverter/solar system at Kogi State Radio in Lokoja, Kogi State has been successfully completed. Additionally, the new transformer and solar system at Kogi State Radio will not only provide a reliable source of power but also contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of the facility. The successful completion of this project marks a significant step towards sustainable energy usage in the State. As the demand for electricity continues to grow, initiatives like these are crucial in ensuring a stable and efficient power supply for the corporation.
2. An ongoing project involves the installation of 3 No 2.5MVA, 33/0.415KV transformers and the extension of a 33KVO-H line from Okene transmission substation to Confluence University of Science and Technology in Osara, Kogi State. As part of the infrastructure development plan for the State, these projects aim to improve the power supply to key institutions and communities in Kogi State. The installation of the transformers and extension of the transmission lines will not only enhance the reliability of electricity supply but also support the growth and development of Confluence University of Science and Technology and the various institutions in the area. With these upgrades, the region is poised to experience increased efficiency and productivity in its power distribution network.
3. Another ongoing project includes the extension of the 33KV CBN feeder to various ministries and the installation of 1 No. 500KVA 33/0.415KV, 1 No. 300KVA 33/0.415KV, 2 No. 200KVA 33/0.415KV, and 2 No. 10KVA 33/0.415KV transformers to 12 MDA's in Lokoja, Kogi State. Upon completion of the installation of the transformers to the 12 MDA's in Lokoja, Kogi State, the power supply to these government agencies will be significantly improved. This upgrade will not only enhance the efficiency of operations within the MDA's but also contribute to the overall development of the state. The increased capacity provided by the transformers will support the growing energy demands of the region, paving the way for further infrastructure projects like the extension of the 33KV line and low-tension network.
4. Additionally, an ongoing project involves the extension of a 33KV line, installation, and reticulation of a low-tension network that feeds the State House of Assembly complex and the surrounding communities. These infrastructure projects are crucial for the continued growth and development of the state, ensuring that essential services are provided efficiently and reliably. By investing in upgrading the energy infrastructure, the state government is demonstrating its commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents and fostering economic growth. The completion of these projects will not only benefit the MDAs and State House of Assembly complex but also have a positive impact on the surrounding communities, creating a ripple effect of progress and prosperity.

# OBANGEDE UPGRADE: PROVOST PLEADS FOR BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION TO PREVENT COLLEGE ISOLATION AMID RAINY SEASONS

By Yemi Balogun

The Provost, Obangede College of Nursing and Midwifery, Dr. Mrs. Hannah Abraham Oziohu has lauded the Kogi State Government for the recent upgrade of the institution from School to College.

In an exclusive interview with Information Officers of the Ministry of Information and Communications, the Provost commended the efforts of the state government in terms of infrastructure, renovation of existing structures, erection of more structures, fencing as well as the establishment of exit gate in the College. The College, established in 1980 has made significance progress since the provost took over due to the pragmatic efforts of successive government.

"Since I took over as the Provost in March 2017, there has been several progresses in the college, starting from the improvement of infrastructure, human resources, coupled with the upgrade to college status. The College has existed since 1980", she emphasized.

She expressed satisfaction that the College can now award Higher National Diploma

(HND) certificate and professional certificate like every other institution in the state and country at large.

"It is only the college of nursing that still operates a professional institution, but few years ago it was decided that the profession needed to flow into the regular educational system of the country. Since then, schools of nursing were told to affiliate with Universities or go for NBT accreditation.

But there was no Institution that had started nursing as at then, so the College

could not affiliate with institutions that were not accredited, but the College has decided to go for NBT accreditation. This year, the college will admit the second set. But before accreditation, you must have infrastructures. The NBT has assessed the college and has given it accreditation, hence it has been upgraded from a School to a College", the Provost observed.



Despite the recent progress, Dr. Oziohu expressed urgent concern about the stalled bridge construction project in Obangede. The incomplete bridge threatens to isolate the college, especially during the rainy season.

The Provost, however, urgently appealed to the state government to take immediate action on the

bridge construction that was abruptly halted after a mishap in Obangede community.

She pleaded with the authorities to resume work on the bridge to prevent the college from being cut off, while emphasizing that the raining season could pose a serious threat by isolating the college, reducing admission rates, hindering the activities of staff and students, as well as preventing student nurses from accessing their practical facilities.

"I am pleading to the government to please see to the bridge so that the college will not be cut off. If the road is not completed, our admission will be reduced, and our students will not be able to go for their practical. I know they were working on it before the mishap happened, but my appeal is that they should expedite action because when the rain starts in earnest, it will cut off the College. This is my major appeal, " the Provost said.

In the same vein, the Provost requested the state government's support in providing more sources of water for the college. She highlighted the importance of adequate water supply for the daily activities of the institution

and its inhabitants. Furthermore, she stressed the need for more hostels to accommodate the growing population of students.

"This measure would alleviate the hardship faced by students who currently have to venture outside the college premises to obtain water for their needs", she noted.

Also adding his voice, the President of the Student Union Government (SUG), of the College, Comrade Abdul Malik Ibrahim, while appreciating the Provost and the government for their immense contributions to the College's welfare, also joined in advocating for more hostels to alleviate the living conditions of the students.

The representatives of the SUG emphasized the necessity of reducing the students' hardships, particularly in relation to obtaining water.

They pointed out that having more hostels on campus, more classrooms and lecture theatres would not only provide convenient access to facilities but also foster a sense of community and security.

Additionally, the SUG requested the provision of more buses to

facilitate transportation to the students' practical centers, ensuring easy accessibility for all.

Similarly, a cross section of student nurses also voiced their dissatisfaction with the insufficient water supplies, hostel facilities, and security issues within their college.

They believe that these problems have significantly hindered their learning experiences in various ways.

"To obtain portable water for daily use, we must travel miles as the on-campus water supply is unable to cater to everyone's needs", they posited.

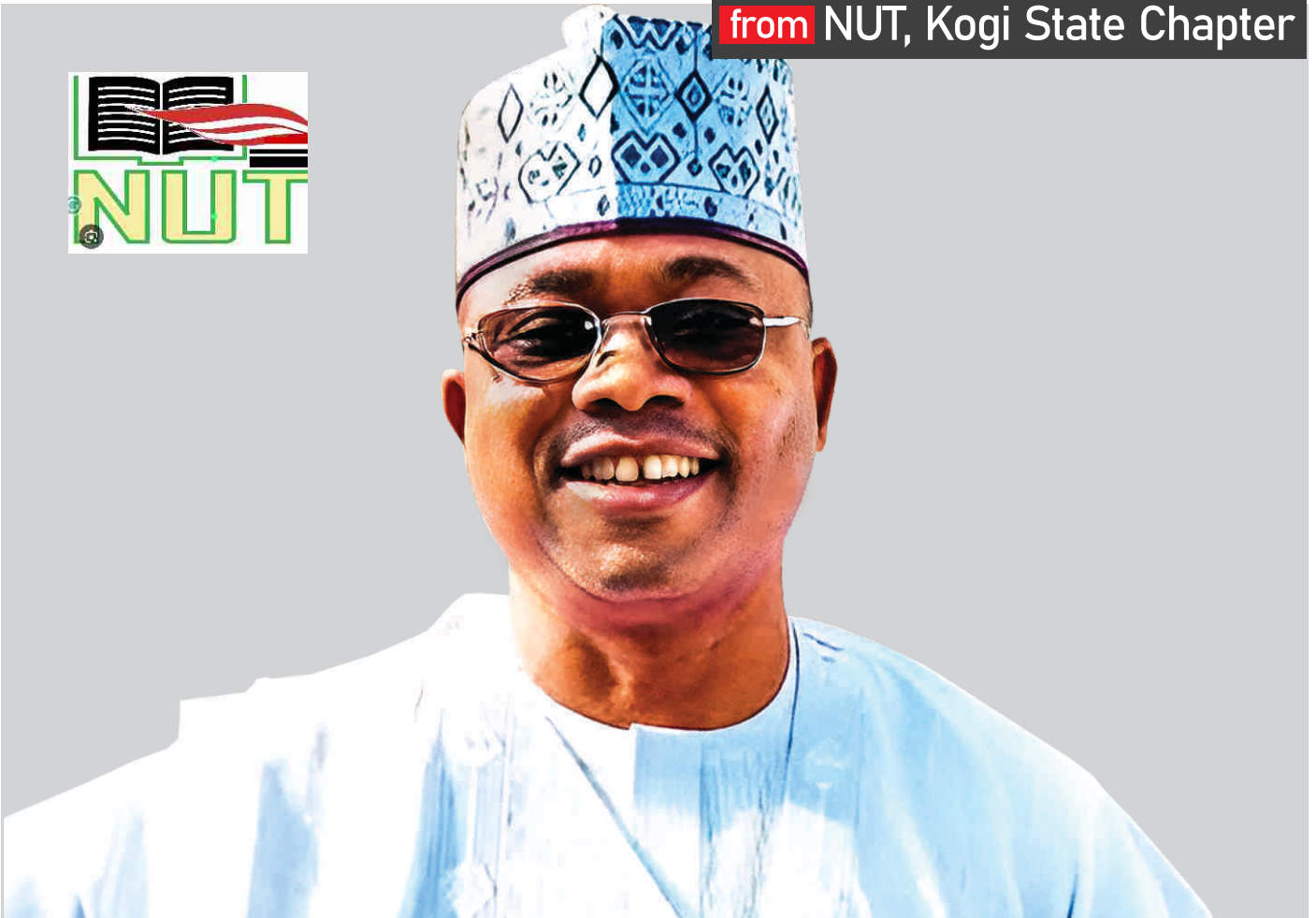
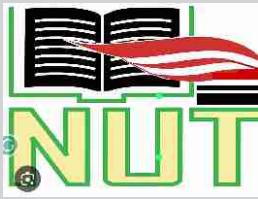
The students are urging the state government to intervene promptly to alleviate their hardships and prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Prompt and decisive action by the Kogi State Government to resolve these critical issues would not only alleviate the current challenges but also solidify the college's position as a premier nursing institution, poised to produce skilled healthcare professionals who will contribute to the betterment of the state and the nation at large.



# GOODWILL MESSAGE

from NUT, Kogi State Chapter



The State Chairman, Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), Comrade Yakubu Dauda, has congratulated the Executive Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Usman Ododo for his victory at the election petition tribunal, describing it as a wholesome victory.

"On behalf of the Nigerian Union of Teachers Kogi State, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your victory at the election petition tribunal. This triumph is a testimonial to the unwavering trust and support of the people of Kogi State, who have chosen you to lead them into a brighter future.

Your dedication to the betterment of your community and the welfare of its citizens is truly admirable. We are confident that your leadership will bring about positive changes and address the pressing issues facing the education sector in Kogi State", Comrade Dauda said.

The Chairman said as teachers, the union is excited to work alongside the Governor in ensuring that students receive the quality education they deserve.

The NUT chairman said the victory is not only a personal accomplishment but also a victory for the people of Kogi State. He prayed for more victory ahead for the Governor.



**SIGNED**  
**COMR.**  
**YAKUBU DAUDA**  
CHAIRMAN NUT  
KOGI STATE CHAPTER

# GOVERNOR AHMED USMAN ODODO SUSTAINING THE TRAJECTORY ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR.

*By Musa Solomon*

As a responsible government that believes in continuity, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is committed to sustaining and building on the endearing legacies of the immediate past administration of His Excellency, the former Governor of Kogi State Alhaji Yahaya Bello especially in Education.

It is a known fact that the immediate past administration of Alhaji Yahaya Bello made education one of its major priorities. This was demonstrated in the sufficient funding of the Education Sector as the budgetary allocation to the sector was increased to 30% as against UNESCO approved 26%.

During this period, the State witnessed an unprecedented achievement in the education sector, amongst which were the establishment of GYB Model Science Secondary Schools across the three Senatorial Districts, recruitment of over 4000 qualified teachers for secondary schools, payment of external and internal examination fees for public primary and secondary school students in the State and above all, the establishment of two State Universities; University of Science and Technology, Osara and Kogi State University, Kabba to cater for the needs of Kogi Students seeking for university admission.

According to the State Commissioner for Education,

Hon. Wemi Jones, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo having being groomed by the former Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello would sustain and build on the achievements recorded in the Education Sector.

The Commissioner said that the visions of the Executive Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo was to root the development of the State through the instrumentality of Education in order to liberate, empower and develop the mental, physical, moral and spiritual wellbeing of the people.

Government he said would restore the good glory of Education through ICT as more emphasis would be on Primary and Secondary level of Education. To this end, the State Government has embarked on the inspection, supervision and evaluation of public primary and secondary schools across the state to ascertain the level of infrastructural decay and proffer solutions to them.

He noted that public primary and secondary schools would be repositioned in accordance with the 2021-2030 State Education Strategic Plan to make Public schools more attractive for parents and guardians to have options to choose between enrolling their Wards in public or Private schools.

Inline with the State free Education policy which was passed into law by the immediate past administration and a follow

up to the payment of Free WAEC Fees for 15,033 SSS3 Students in public secondary schools across the state, the Executive Governor of the State, Alhaji Ahmed approved the payment of JAMB Registration fees for the same 15,033 SSS3 students earlier enrolled by the state for WAEC in Public Secondary Schools.

For students in JSS classes and Primary schools in Public Schools, the Governor has paid for their Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), Basic six and Common Entrance Examination Fees.

To cater for the welfare of Kogi State students in higher Institutions, the State Governor approved the payment of 2024 Bursary Award to students of the Kogi state origin in higher Institutions across the country. To this end, Kogi State Scholarship Board (KSSB) embarked on online pre-qualification registration of students of Kogi indigene in higher Institutions in Nigeria. This was to bring transparency and accountability to the process.

There is no doubt that the Government of Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is unequivocally committed to an improved and vibrant Education Sector laced with equity, infrastructure, innovation, and development noting that education reflects the development of human capital.

# 100 Days

Of  
Gov. Ahmed  
Usman Ododo

**G**overnor Ahmed Usman Ododo took office as the Governor of Kogi State on January 27, 2024, after a hard-fought election campaign. His first 100 days in office have been a whirlwind of activity and innovative policies aimed at tackling the state's many challenges.

Governor Ododo has hit the

ground running, focusing on boosting Kogi State's economy. Despite the state's rich natural resources, there has been a struggle to fully utilize them for the benefit of the people. Governor Ododo has introduced policies to attract investments and drive economic growth. He has also made it a priority to create job opportunities for the

youth through skill development programs and support for small and medium-sized businesses.

The residents of Kogi State have responded positively to Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's initiatives and developments during his first hundred days in office. Here's a glimpse of his achievements:



# Security

105 sienna buses and 50 motorcycles, to vigilantes and local hunters operating across the state's 21 Local Government Areas.

Commissioning patrol vehicles equipped with security gadgets for the Quick Response Squad, ensuring effective response in metropolitan cities.

Unveiling the Metropolitan Quick Response Squad, a security initiative designed to address the rise in criminal activities in Lokoja, the state capital, and other major towns within Kogi State.

Rejigging the State Security Architecture of the state and making security a top priority

Deployment of technological enablers to enhance intelligence-gathering capabilities and combat emerging security threats.





# RURAL & ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Installation of hybrid 200KV ,  
33/0.415KV transformer with  
15KVA inverter/Solar at Kogi  
State Radio Lokoja , Kogi State

Installation of 3 No 2.5MVA ,  
33/0.415KV transformers and  
extension of 33KV O-H line from  
Okene transmission substation to  
Confluence University of Science and  
Technology, Osara , Kogi State. (On  
going project)

Extension of 33KVA line ,  
installation and reticulation of  
low tension network that feeds  
the state house of assembly  
complex and the communities  
around it. ( On going project )

Extension of 33KVA CBN feeder to  
various ministries and installation of  
1 No. 500KVA 33/0.415KV, 1 No  
300KVA 33/0.415KV, 2 No 200KVA  
33/415KV and 2 No 10KVA  
33/0.415KV transformers to 12  
MDA's in Lokoja, Kogi State. ( On  
going project )

# HEALTH SECTOR

*Continuous Support for Secondary and Tertiary Health Institutions.*

*Provision of Brand New Hilux to State Health Insurance: Recognizing the importance of logistical support in healthcare delivery, Governor Ododo released a brand new Hilux vehicle to the Kogi State Health Insurance Scheme. Additionally, the administration commenced the renovation and redesign of essential facilities such as the Kogi State Central Medical Store Houses, Kogi State Drugs Management Agency, and State Immunization Offices. These initiatives are crucial for improving the storage and distribution of medical supplies and ensuring the smooth operation of healthcare services.*

*Renovation and Upliftment of Kogi State Ministry of Health Complex: Governor Ododo prioritized the renovation and upliftment of key infrastructure within the Kogi State Ministry of Health, including the office complex and the State Health Management Information office. These efforts aim to create conducive work environments for healthcare professionals and enhance administrative efficiency.*

*Revitalization of Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) for the Commencement of Kogi State Intervention on PHC: The administration commenced the revitalization of at least three public health centres across the 21 Local Government Areas (LGA) of Kogi State. This initiative encompasses the renovation of facilities, provision of essential medical equipment, and bolstering human resources. By improving infrastructure and staffing, these health centres are better equipped to provide essential healthcare services to communities across the state.*

*Commencement of Kogi State Formal Sector Health Insurance Plan: Governor Ododo initiated the formal sector enrollment for the Kogi State Health Insurance Scheme, ensuring that civil servants have access to comprehensive healthcare coverage. This landmark initiative is a testament to the administration's dedication to universal healthcare access.*

# ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT

1

The Tree Planting Programme, launched with the theme "Phyto Control and Protection of Erosion and Marginal Land Project in Kogi State." This program aims to combat the effects of climate change by planting trees across the state.

2

The signing of a N29 billion Erosion contract. This contract will initiate gully reclamation, stabilization, and channelization in three senatorial districts: Etahi in Okene, Omigbo in Kabba, and Olubojo in Ankpa.

3

The desilting of drainage systems through the Kogi State Ministry of Environment and Ecological Management. This proactive measure aims to facilitate the free flow of floodwater in anticipation of the upcoming rainy season.

4

The demolition of illegal structures that harbour criminals and hoodlums and the disengagement of illegal squatters and traders from Ganaja Flyover. These decisive actions are intended to enhance security in the area and create a safer environment for residents and commuters. By eliminating these unlawful structures, the government is taking proactive measures to reduce crime and improve public safety in Lokoja.

5

The government provides cleaning materials to the NUJ to support journalists in maintaining a clean and hygienic workplace.



# Governance

*Improvement on the welfare of Local Government staff is a commendable testament to his leadership. Under his guidance, the Local Government Staff now receives 85% salary monthly as against 16 years of between 20% - 35%.*

# EDUCATION SECTOR

Sufficient funding of the Education Sector as the budgetary allocation to the sector was increased to 30% as against UNESCO approved 26%.

Continuation of infrastructural development at the University of Science and Technology, Osara and Kogi State University, Kabba.

Payment of WAEC registration fees for 15,033 SSS3 Students in public secondary schools across the state

The payment of JAMB Registration fees for the same 15,033 SSS3 students earlier enrolled by the state for WAEC in Public Secondary Schools.

Payment of Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), Basic six and Common Entrance Examination Fees.

Approval for payment of 2024 Bursary Award to students of the Kogi state origin in higher Institutions across the country. To this end, Kogi State Scholarship Board (KSSB) embarked on online pre-qualification registration of students of Kogi indigene in higher Institutions in Nigeria. This was to bring transparency and accountability to the process.

# Agriculture & Food SECURITY



Engagement with farmers (His Excellency first assignment)

Mapping out of farmlands.

Provision of seedlings, inputs and chemicals etc to farmers.

Peaceful coexistence between farmers and herders.

Provision of over 60,000 bags of parboiled rice to indigenes of the state but with special attention to indigents.

Activation of agro rangers to protect farmers activities and their produce.

Engagement of Agricultural experts in the ministry (consultants).

Provision of server for data capturing.

Provision of over 100 tractors for farmers.

Provision of inputs to over 500 farmers (fertilizers, threshers, irrigation machines etc) through IFAD (international fund for Agric Development).

# Infrastructure





# Unveiling the Legacy:

**A Conversation with  
Prof Solomon Avidime,  
*the Chief Medical Director*  
Reference Hospital Okene**

*The state-of-the-art Reference Hospital Okene is a cutting-edge medical facility designed to meet the healthcare needs of the state and put an end to medical tourism. The hospital is equipped with top-of-the-line equipment that is unparalleled in the country, and even the entire continent. The team of highly skilled medical professionals provides the highest quality care to patients.*

*From advanced surgical procedures to state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging, they strive to offer comprehensive healthcare services under one roof. At Reference Hospital Okene, they are committed to setting new standards in healthcare delivery and ensuring the well-being of our community. In this interview, the Chief Medical Director of the Hospital, Prof Solomon Avidime shared insights on its innovative operations. Excerpt:*







**What is the Staff Strength of this hospital?**

Here at our hospital, we are fortunate to have a distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on staff. It is not common to have professors in every healthcare system, but we are proud to have such expertise available to our patients.

Despite the challenges posed by the Japa Syndrome affecting healthcare facilities in the city centre, I can confidently say that we have a team of highly skilled consultants in various specialties. In addition to myself as a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, we have two consultants in Radiology, a consultant Physician, a cardiologist, a paediatrician, and a paediatric surgeon. While some of our consultants visit periodically, many are permanently on site.

Currently, we have six active consortiums working together to provide comprehensive care to our patients. As a new hospital, we are continuously growing and expanding our team to meet the needs of our community. Our nursing staff is diverse, with experienced nurses serving in leadership roles and younger nurses providing compassionate care at the bedside.

Our laboratory and pharmacy are fully staffed, ensuring that

**Can we meet you?**

Greetings, I am Professor Solomon Avidime, a distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and currently serving as the Chief Medical Director of Central Reference Hospital in Okene. Prior to my appointment here, I was a faculty member at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. It has been seven months since we began operations at this esteemed institution, and I am honored to lead such a dedicated team of healthcare professionals.

**Can you give us a brief overview of this Central Reference Hospital Okene?**

The Central Reference Hospital Okene stands as a remarkable achievement, brought to fruition under the visionary leadership of the former Governor of Kogi State, His Excellency Alh. Dr. Yahaya Adoza Bello. This project represents a significant investment by the Kogi State Government in healthcare, boasting a meticulously designed exterior and interior, encompassing three floors and approximately 250 bed spaces.

Within the hospital, a multitude

of Clinical Departments and laboratory medicine facilities are housed. These Clinical Departments include Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery, Paediatrics, and Medicine, each meticulously delineated to ensure optimal patient care. Additionally, the hospital features an Eye Care Department and a state-of-the-art Radio diagnostic Centre, equipped with cutting-edge technology previously unseen in Nigeria and much of Africa.

Furthermore, the hospital is equipped with an Emergency Department, boasting four theatres including specialized facilities for general surgery, emergency procedures, and labour ward operations. A Dialysis Centre, equipped with specialized machines, further enhances the hospital's capabilities, all of which adhere to international standards of excellence.



patients receive prompt and accurate test results and medications. Each department in our hospital is equipped with skilled professionals who work together to provide the highest quality of care. Patients can expect to receive care from a team of healthcare providers, starting with junior staff and progressing to senior consultants for a comprehensive treatment plan.

While we are proud of the care we provide, we are always striving to improve and enhance our services. As we continue to grow and expand our team, we are committed to delivering the best possible care to our patients.

**Giving the state-of -the art equipment in this hospital, vis-à-vis the economy challenges. How accessible is this hospital?**

Healthcare costs can be quite high due to the expensive nature of drugs and medical supplies. However, there are provisions in place to ensure that individuals have access to quality healthcare without being limited by financial constraints. One of such provision is the Bello Care program, which is still active, along with the Kogi State Government's Health Insurance Agency. Additionally, the National Health Insurance Scheme has long been in existence.



These programs offer the opportunity for everyone to enrol and guarantee that they can access healthcare services when needed without worrying about financial burdens. Our hospital is fully accredited to provide services to these insurance agencies, and we strongly encourage indigent patients to enrol in these schemes to avoid out-of-pocket expenses. Furthermore, the State Health



Insurance Agency offers tailored packages for different groups, such as artisans and market women. We are actively encouraging these groups to enrol together to take advantage of the benefits offered by the insurance program. This will not only assist them in accessing healthcare services but also alleviate financial burdens.

While healthcare costs are undeniably high, enrolling in these insurance agencies can significantly reduce out-of-pocket expenses. It is crucial for the non-organized labour force to join these programs and enjoy the full benefits of

being enrolled. By participating in these initiatives, individuals can ensure that they have access to quality healthcare without financial limitations.

**How advanced are the equipment in this Hospital?**

Allow me to direct your attention to a particularly significant aspect of our services. This area serves as a key selling point for our radio

diagnostic unit - our state-of-the-art CT Scan machine, boasting 1-8 slice capability and unparalleled quality that cannot be matched elsewhere.

The CT scan is just one of the advanced diagnostic tools utilized in our daily patient care services. Located near my office is the MR1, a cutting-edge 1.5 Tesla machine with artificial intelligence processing capabilities that deliver results in under 30 minutes. Our X-ray unit features predominantly digital machines, producing high-quality images that facilitate accurate diagnostic evaluations.

Upon visiting our analysis centre, you will encounter the latest

models of diagnostic equipment that are not easily found elsewhere. Our theatre is equipped with modern amenities, including advanced lighting, precision instruments, operating microscopes, and state-of-the-art operating tables.

Our commitment to excellence is not merely a marketing campaign - it is a tangible reality. The investments we have made in our facilities are evident in the advanced technologies we utilize to provide top-notch care to our patients.

**What is Proficiency of the staff handling the equipment?**

In order to ensure optimal performance, it is essential to provide regular training for your staff. When we first hired a radiographer, we made sure to provide thorough training to ensure they were proficient in operating the machines.

We are fortunate to have training support from both the vendors and the manufacturer for all the machines in our facility. They visit us regularly to provide training sessions, allowing us to stay updated and pass on our knowledge to others. It is worth noting that all the equipment we use are manufactured by G.E, a renowned company known for their high-quality medical equipment.

Training is a key focus for us, as we believe in continuous improvement and development for our staff. It is an ongoing process that ensures our team remains skilled and knowledgeable in their roles.

**The Hospital has an Oxygen Production Plant. Has it being**

**put into effective usage?**

Yes, we have an oxygen plant located just behind my office. Our plant has the capacity to produce 100 cylinders per day, ensuring that we have an ample supply of oxygen for our current needs. We are already utilizing the oxygen within our system and are in the process of preparing for sales by advertising our products to the public.

The quality of oxygen produced by our plant is not limited to our hospital alone; it is intended to serve other hospitals in the state and beyond. We have a large quantity of oxygen available for sale, which is great news for those in need of this essential resource.

Adjacent to the oxygen plant is our hyperbaric oxygen treatment facility, the first of its kind in Nigeria. This facility is reserved for special patients who require treatment with pure oxygen. We are in the process of activating this facility and expect to begin offering services soon.

Since opening our doors seven months ago, we have been providing immediate healthcare services to the community. We are gradually expanding our services to include specialized care, such as our intensive care unit for patients requiring intensive care management.

We are grateful for the support of His Excellency Alh. Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Executive Governor of the State, and the Health Ministry, who oversee our activities. Their support has been instrumental in our success thus far.

**With the establishment of this hospital. Can it stem medical**

**tourism?**

Let me provide two perspectives on the matter: local and international tourism. In the context of local tourism, individuals who would typically travel to Lagos or Abuja for services are now able to access those same services here. Consider the financial implications of traveling from Kogi to Abuja or Lagos for an MRI, when the same service is available here at a more affordable rate. This is just one aspect of tourism that we are exploring.

Moving on to international tourism, we are making strides towards becoming a destination for individuals seeking hyperbaric oxygen treatment. Our state-of-the-art facility is designed to cater to the needs of international patients, offering executive rooms for their comfort and convenience. Our ambulances are equipped with modern amenities, including oxygen, and trained medical staff, ensuring that patients can be transported safely and efficiently throughout Nigeria.

We are already providing these services and are working towards expanding our reach to attract patients from outside Nigeria to Okene for their medical needs. With our commitment to excellence and patient care, we are confident that Okene will soon be recognized as a hub for medical tourism on a global scale.



# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY

AT THE  
KOGI STATE  
ELECTORAL  
TRIBUNAL



It is with great joy and heart full of delight that I heartily congratulate a boss and political icon, Your Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo on your resounding victory at the Election Tribunal.

The tribunal judgement upholding your election as the Executive Governor of the State is a testament of People's decision that was demonstrated in last year November 11th Election as they all trooped out en-mass to exercise their franchise that led your landslide victory.

I can therefore describe the judgement as a victory for the people of the state. The judiciary has once again proven to be on the side of the people.

The citizens have felt your impact positively in different sectors of the State in your 100 days in office. This has shown your unwavering commitment to serve the people as promised. You don't believe in the politics of bigotry.

On this note, I hereby implore every Kogite to put the politics of bigotry aside and throw the necessary support behind Governor Ododo towards the development of the state to a prosperous, industrious, productive and successful one.

Once again I say a big congratulations to you, Your Excellency, on your resounding victory. I wish you success in the tasks ahead.

**Signed:**  
**Hon. Kingsley Femi Fanwo,**  
*Commissioner for Information and Communications.*



# KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT'S RESILIENCE: RESPONDING TO THE CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY ATTACK

By Adurodiya Ebenezer



In a brazen display of violence, a group of bandits recently launched an attack on Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTEC) in Okene, Kogi State. This heinous act has left the academic community in a state of shock and fear. The assailants forcefully entered the campus, disturbing the tranquil academic setting and kidnapping numerous students who were diligently preparing for their examinations.

This unfortunate incident highlights the security threats that educational institutions in Nigeria are confronted with, emphasizing the critical necessity for implementing effective security measures to safeguard the well-being of students and faculty members. It is imperative that authorities take immediate action to ensure the safety of students and faculty members on campus.

The traumatic experience faced by those affected by this incident

underscores the urgent need for increased security measures and vigilance. The academic community must come together to address these security challenges and create a safe environment for learning and growth.

## **The Immediate Response**

In response to the attack, the Kogi State Government swiftly activated its security apparatus to address the crisis. As tensions rose in the aftermath of the attack, the Kogi State Government also reached out to neighbouring states for support in tracking down the perpetrators. The collaboration between different security agencies and local community members was crucial in coordinating a swift and effective response to the crisis.

Despite the challenges posed by the remote location of the university campus, the collective efforts of all involved helped to restore a sense of security and hope in the community.

Here are some notable efforts that were made during and after the attack:

Firstly, security forces were deployed to the university campus immediately to secure the area and prevent further harm.

Local hunters, renowned for their knowledge of the terrain, also collaborated with conventional security agents to thoroughly search the school area, which is surrounded by dense bushes in the remote town of Osara. Furthermore, medical teams were quickly mobilized to provide immediate care to the injured students and staff members. The university administration worked tirelessly to provide counselling and support services to those affected by the traumatic event, ensuring that they had access to the resources they needed to cope with the aftermath. In addition, local volunteers and community members came together to offer their assistance in

any way they could, whether it was providing food and shelter to those displaced or helping in the search and rescue efforts. Their selfless acts of kindness and solidarity helped to strengthen the sense of unity and resilience within the community during this challenging time.

Additionally, the Commissioner for Information, Kingsley Femi Fanwo, provided regular updates to the public, ensuring them that efforts were being made to rescue the abducted students. Amidst the chaos and uncertainty, the collaboration between local volunteers, community members, and government officials was instrumental in providing support and reassurance to those affected by the crisis.

The collective response showcased the power of unity and solidarity in times of crisis, highlighting the resilience of the community in the face of adversity. Together, they worked tirelessly to address the immediate needs of the situation and provide a sense of hope and stability to all those involved. The state government also maintained open channels of communication with relevant stakeholders, including parents, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies.

These coordinated efforts demonstrate the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its citizens in the face of adversity. By prioritizing collaboration and transparency, the state government was able to effectively navigate through the challenges and uncertainties of the situation.

Their dedication to keeping all parties informed and involved

showcases a strong sense of leadership and responsibility. It is clear that the well-being of the community is at the forefront of their decision-making process, ultimately fostering a sense of trust and unity among the people they serve.

### **The Rescue Operation**

Despite the challenging terrain and the audacity of the attackers, the collaborative efforts of security forces and local hunters resulted in the successful rescue of several abducted students. The bravery and gallantry displayed by these individuals warrant commendation, as they selflessly put their lives on the line to secure the safety of the young scholars.

Their unwavering dedication to protecting the community serves as a shining example of courage and unity in the face of adversity. The rescued students can now return to their families, grateful for the heroes who risked everything to bring them back home safely. This successful operation highlights the importance of cooperation and solidarity in overcoming challenges and ensuring the well-being of all.

### **The Way Forward**

#### **1. Enhancing Security Measures:**

- It is imperative for the Kogi State Government to bolster security measures in educational institutions throughout the state. This includes reinforcing campuses, improving surveillance techniques, and enhancing response times to potential threats.
- Collaboration with neighbouring states and federal security agencies is essential in combating banditry and other criminal

activities.

#### **2. Providing Psychosocial Support for Victims:**

- The psychological impact on the rescued students should not be underestimated. The government must offer counselling services and establish a safe environment for them to recover.

#### **3. Promoting Community Vigilance:**

- Involving local communities in intelligence gathering and reporting suspicious activities is crucial. Community members often possess valuable information that can aid security efforts.

#### **4. Addressing Root Causes:**

- It is imperative for the government to tackle the underlying factors contributing to insecurity, such as unemployment, poverty, and social disintegration.
- Investing in education, vocational training, and youth empowerment can help deter vulnerable individuals from engaging in criminal activities.

### **Conclusion**

The attack on Confluence University serves as a wake-up call for all stakeholders. Kogi State must remain resolute in its commitment to safeguarding lives and ensuring that educational institutions remain safe havens for learning and growth. The resilience displayed during this crisis underscores the state's determination to protect its citizens and uphold the right to education.

# 100 DAYS OF UNPRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENTS



Leadership is leading others to self-discovery, path with love and empathy.

Your purposeful and visionary leadership raging storm around you, you saunter achievements, turning your foes into your

guiding them on the right

acumen is alluring. Despite the e ffortlessly with breathtaking allies.

My amiable Boss, the Blooming Flamboyant Flower, His Excellency, Alh. Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Executive Governor of Kogi State. It is just 100 Days in office and your landslide achievements are audible to the deaf and visible to the blind. Coasting on the Consolidation and continuity mantra, you have excelled excellently in the areas of infrastructural projects, human welfare, and security. It's super amazing how you have achieved these feats amidst the dusts.

You are a detrabalized leader. An overcomer. A performer. And a prudent Auditor with the midas touch.

This is reiterating my readiness to give in my best in serving you diligently to ensure that we deliver wholesomely to the masses. I will build on the confidence you've impacted on me to extend tentacles to the grassroots.

I pray for strength, divine protection, unlimited wisdom, and sufficient grace for you today and beyond. May the Almighty Allah bless and keep you safe for us.

Signed  
Hon. Engr. Mohammed Ahovi Yusuf  
The Honourable Commissioner for Works



## A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PREVENT THE REPETITION OF BANDIT ATTACKS ON CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OSARA AND FURTHER COORDINATED RESPONSE TO RECLAIM THE REMAINING KIDNAPPED STUDENTS.

*By Abah Benjamin Eneojoh*

**T**o demonstrate a proactive and multi-layered approach to addressing school security concerns and responding to kidnapping incidents requires a crucial attempt to remain vigilant and adapt to emerging threats to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff of the institution.

Plan to avoid further threats at CUSTEC covers essential measures to enhance security, engage authorities, and prioritize student safety by bringing up unique ideas that could frustrate the repetition such a nasty experience.

Prevention:

1. Create an express road behind the school from

Oborovo or Osara town to link Zariagi community at Kabba junction in order to put the institution at the centre of two express road by so doing, dislodged the Bandits off the forest behind the school.

2. Create a government layout of the land behind the School and sell it to interested developers who will develop his or her plot with a short time frame or give the land to Estate Developers with a short time frame agreement.
3. Improve perimeter security with fencing, barbed wire, and secure gates both at the front and the back of the school
4. Enhance surveillance with CCTV cameras and motion-

sensitive lights.

5. Collaborate with authorities for regular patrols and support.
6. Implement access control with limited entry points and screening.
7. Train staff and students on security awareness and drills.
8. Engage the local community in reporting suspicious activities.
9. Consider private security supplementation.
10. Regularly assess and improve security measures.
11. Build a Security Tower

A security tower, also known as an observation tower or watchtower, can provide several benefits, including:





- a. Enhanced surveillance: A security tower provides a high vantage point for security personnel to monitor the surrounding area, enabling them to detect potential threats or incidents more effectively.
- b. Deterrent effect: The presence of a security tower can deter potential intruders or criminals, as it clearly indicates a strong security presence.
- c. Improved response times: Security personnel in a tower can quickly respond to incidents or alarms, reducing response times and enabling a more effective response.
- d. Increased visibility: A security tower can provide clear visibility of the surrounding area, including blind spots or hard-to-see areas.
- e. Enhanced situational awareness: Security personnel in a tower can gain a better understanding of the overall security situation, enabling more effective decision-making.
- f. Cost-effective: Building a security tower can be more cost-effective than deploying multiple security guards or cameras to cover the same area.
- g. Flexibility: Security towers can be equipped with various security systems, such as cameras, sensors, and communication equipment, making them adaptable to different security needs.
- h. Permanent presence: A security tower provides a permanent security presence, unlike security patrols which may only pass through an area periodically.

- i. Reduced manpower needs: With a security tower, fewer security personnel are needed to patrol the area, freeing up resources for other tasks.
- j. Improved safety: Security towers can also serve as a safe location for security personnel to observe and respond to incidents, reducing their exposure to potential dangers.

Keep in mind that the specific benefits will depend on the context and purpose of the security tower, as well as the specific features and equipment installed.

On the Quick Response to recover all when bandits attack the following should also be put into consideration:

1. Activate an emergency response plan and establish a command center.
2. Gather intelligence on the kidnapping.
3. Engage law enforcement for investigation and rescue.
4. Negotiate with abductors (if possible).
5. Conduct search and rescue operations.
6. Provide support services for rescued students.
7. Review and improve security measures.
8. Communicate with stakeholders throughout the process.
9. Prioritize student safety and well-being.

In conclusion, the measures outlined to prevent bandit attacks on CUSTEC and reclaim kidnapped students demonstrate a comprehensive and proactive approach to addressing security concerns. By improving

perimeter security, enhancing surveillance, collaborating with authorities, By access control, training staff and students, engaging the community, and considering private security, schools can significantly reduce the risk of attacks and protect their students and staff.

In the event of a kidnapping, swift activation of an emergency response plan, gathering intelligence, engaging law enforcement, negotiating with abductors (if possible), conducting search and rescue operations, providing support services, reviewing and improving security measures, and communicating with stakeholders are crucial steps to ensure the safe return of students and minimize trauma.

Remember, prioritizing student safety and well-being is paramount. By staying vigilant and adapting to emerging threats, schools can create a secure learning environment and protect the future of their students.

In the event of a kidnapping, swift activation of an emergency response plan, gathering intelligence, engaging law enforcement, negotiating with abductors (if possible), conducting search and rescue operations, providing support services, reviewing and improving security measures, and communicating with stakeholders are crucial steps to ensure the safe return of students and minimize trauma.

Remember, prioritizing student safety and well-being is paramount. By staying vigilant and adapting to emerging threats, schools can create a secure learning environment and protect the future of their students.

## APRAISING GOV ODODO'S



## DAYS IN OFFICE.

*By Adeniyi S. Abiodun*

**W**alter Lippman postulates that "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on". A leader cannot be considered a good leader unless he is able to groom personalities that will take over from him and build on his legacy projects when his tenure expires.

When the immediate former governor Alhaji Yahaya Bello's tenure was approaching its conclusion, the question on the lips of the Kogians was, 'who would succeed him in Lugard House?' Many aspirants contested in the intra and inter party elections and the incumbent governor Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo won the General Elections and was officially sworn-in on the 27th day of January, 2024.

The joy of Kogians knew no bounds as a tested and trusted technocrat had received the mantle of leadership. Having successfully served as the Auditor General of Local Governments in the administration of Gov. Yahaya Bello, every Kogian believed he was the square peg in a square hole, especially as he would build on the legacy projects of his predecessor.

No sooner had he assumed office than he established Operation Quick Response and equipped the outfit with over 100 vehicles, motorcycles and other necessary logistics. The aim was to complement the efforts of Security Officers and men in the face of incessant kidnappings, armed robbery, farmers'/herders' clashes and other criminalities in the state. This effort proved to be successful during the barbaric

kidnap of innocent students in Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH). The Governor mobilized Operation Quick Response in conjunction with the Armed Forces, Civil Defence, The Police and Vigilantes and majority of the students were rescued within two days.

It is enormously noteworthy that the immediate former Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, established two full fledged universities during his tenure. They are the CUSTECH Osara and Kogi State University, (KSU) Kabba. These solid universities have gone a long way to enhance the social-economic development of their host communities and Kogi State in general. Students on the campuses would have been roaming the streets, seeking admissions while the teaching and non-

teaching staff would be in the labour market. The development that goes simultaneously with the establishment of universities is proverbial. The population of the host communities have increased banks, hospitals, hostels, transport business and the morale of the citizenry have received a gargantuan boom in the areas and beyond. Those that are skeptical can go to the sites and witness the positive spiral effect of the magic wand that established the universities. Also, students do not have to travel far before they acquire education in the highest citadels of intellectualism.

The good news is that Alhaji Usman Ododo has consolidated on the projects established by his predecessor. During the recent inspection and monitoring of projects by the Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development, Hon Abanika Taiye in CUSTECH Osara and KSU, Kabba, some projects had been completed while work was vigorously ongoing on others. The Vice Chancellors of CUSTECH Engr. Prof Abdulrahman Salau and KSU, Kabba Prof Kehinde I. T. Eniola respectively, appreciated the Governor for the completed and ongoing projects which include hostels for male and female students, faculties, libraries and senate buildings.

To support and ensure the academic progress and performance of Kogi State Students, Gov Ododo resuscitated the Bursary

Payment to students in tertiary institutions. This gesture has reduced the financial burden on parents and ensured that students are able to procure their needs in the pursuit of their academic excellence.

One major achievement of His Excellency Alhaji Usman Ododo was the successful conduct of APC Gubernatorial Primary Elections in Ondo State barely a month after his Inauguration. Through his transparent effort. His Excellency, Hon Lucky Ayedatiwa emerged as the APC Governorship candidate in Ondo State. This assignment was a test of his ability to handle difficult situations. He performed excellently and justified the confidence reposed in him. Only personalities with track records of astuteness and integrity are appointed to preside over the election of a governorship candidate. Gov Ododo had displayed admirable wisdom and integrity in the election which was adjudged to be free, fair and credible,

An adage states that a community without good roads is like a house without a door. The Governor inherited the ongoing road reconstruction project from Kaduna/GYB Junction to Zone 8 Junction in Lokoja. The road rehabilitation and dualization commenced during the administration of Captain Idris Wada and continued during the administration of Gov, Yahaya Bello. Gov Ododo has displayed his commitment to consolidating on the

achievements of his predecessor by ensuring the continuity of the reconstruction and rehabilitation. The road is almost completed with asphalt overlay of the most standard quality. Gov Ododo has broken the jinx associated with work on the road. Completion of the road will welcome more development in all ramifications to Kogi State.

During the recent Africa Cup of Nations competition held in Cote D'ivoire, to ease the difficulty in viewing the matches, Gov Ododo provided free logistics at Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Center for people to watch all matches in a conducive environment thereby helping the good people of Kogi State to be abreast of developments in African Soccer.

His Excellency has established the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and has promised to provide affordable houses for Kogians and also the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to cater for the urgent needs of the people of Kogi State.

In 100 days, Gov Ododo has achieved a lot, which indicate his total commitment to the rapid social-economic development of the state.

His development strides, generally speaking, conform with the submission of Carl Schurz who posited thus "My country right or wrong; when right, to keep her right; when wrong, to put her right".

# HON FANWO SHARES INSIDER PERSPECTIVE ON GOV ODODO'S EARLY LEADERSHIP

*By Segun Adegboyega*



The Kogi State Commissioner for Information and Communications, Hon. Kingsley Fanwo, extends his heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, on his successful completion of 100 days in office as the Executive Governor of Kogi State.

During a press briefing in Lokoja, Kogi State, Hon. Fanwo praised Governor Ododo as a dynamic leader who wasted no time in getting to work following his landslide victory in the November 11th Gubernatorial Elections.

He emphasized that Alhaji Ahmed Ododo's previous experience as the Auditor General for Local Governments under the administration of Alhaji

Yahaya Bello has equipped him with the knowledge and skills needed to build upon and sustain the positive initiatives of his predecessor.

Hon. Fanwo highlighted Governor Ododo's commitment to the development

of Kogi State, noting his swift actions in key areas such as security, education, agriculture, health, infrastructure, human capital development, and civil service welfare.

He commended the Governor for continuing and expediting the road rehabilitation projects initiated by the previous administration, as well as for prioritizing the safety and well-being of the state's residents through strategic security measures.

In a recent demonstration of his dedication to enhancing security, Governor Ododo unveiled new operational vehicles for the Kogi State Vigilante Service, underscoring his administration's proactive approach to

safeguarding the populace. These initiatives reflect Governor Ododo's unwavering commitment to advancing the prosperity and security of Kogi State.

His Excellency has generously distributed food supplies to the citizens to alleviate the impact of the subsidy removal. These distributions were carefully executed to ensure that they reached the grassroots level.

Additionally, state and local government employees, as well as pensioners, have been receiving competitive salaries and other benefits under his administration.

Hon. Fanwo commended His Excellency for taking decisive actions to ensure that the State Broadcasting Corporation operates for a minimum of 20 hours per day. This was achieved through the installation of standard solar power and a 33 KVA transformer, enhancing the corporation's effectiveness and efficiency.

He emphasized that His Excellency has accomplished numerous achievements, including those not listed here, within just 100 days in office. He urged citizens to set aside political biases and rally behind Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo for the rapid and substantial development of Kogi State.

## SECRETS REVEALED: INSIDE THE WALLS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

By Rotimi Odofin

### Governor Ahmed Ododo Unveiled New Security; Restates Commitment To Security For All

Governor Usman Ahmed Ododo of Kogi state has unveiled a new fleet of security vehicles to improve the state's security. He is committed to the safety of people and properties through community policing with local vigilantes.

The governor emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order and fighting criminals to ensure progress and prosperity. The state will work together with security agencies and vigilantes to respond quickly to distress calls and improve intelligence gathering.

Governor Ododo thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his support in addressing security challenges and assured full support from Kogi state. The state's security plan will involve all security agencies and community engagement to keep people safe. The governor praised the efforts of security agencies and vigilantes in protecting the state and country.

### KSU KABBA: Gov. Ododo Says He Is Satisfied With Ongoing Projects

Kogi State Governor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo visited Kogi State University Kabba to inspect ongoing projects and expressed satisfaction with the progress. He promised to invest more in education and continue the achievements of his predecessor. The Vice Chancellor thanked the Governor for releasing funds for the projects, but mentioned the need for more accommodation, lecture halls, laboratories, CCTV cameras, and security vehicles. The Governor promised to ensure all projects are completed in the next three months.

## SWEARING-IN

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State swore in 19 new commissioners to serve in his cabinet. He emphasized the importance of loyalty and dedication to serving the people of the state. The commissioners were selected based on their track records and contributions to the governor's victory in the last election. Additionally, other appointed aides, including the Chief of Staff and Director General of Protocol, were also sworn in. The Governor expressed gratitude for the support his administration has received and promised to lead by example.

Gov. Ododo Inspects Obangede – Okaito – Ihima Road, Urges Contractors To Engage Local Artisans

Kogi State Governor Ododo has encouraged contractors to hire local artisans for projects to reduce insecurity in the country. He commended TEC Engineering for their work and promised timely payment. He emphasized the importance of collaboration to address security challenges and promised to complete projects started by the previous administration.



### POWER GENERATION: KOGI SETS UP ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AGENCY

The Kogi State Executive Council has approved the establishment of the Kogi State Electricity Regulatory Agency to generate and distribute power throughout the state. They also engaged a consultant, Kinetic Innovation Limited, to help develop the commission. Additionally, plans are in place to start generating power to support industrial development. The council approved strategies for improved security measures and reducing governance costs to invest more in security. There are plans to expand minerals exploration in line with federal policies. The

council also approved the establishment of the Kogi State Information Technology Development Agency and the Commodity Export Promotion and Market Development Agency. Governor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo emphasized the need to reduce governance costs for infrastructure development and for Senior Special Assistants and Ward Special Assistants to reside in their communities.

## GOVERNOR ODODO PLEDGES TO ERADICATE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN OMALA COUNCIL AREA

Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Usman Ododo, visited communities in Omala local government area that were affected by criminal activities. He promised to clear out criminal enclaves and facilitate the establishment of a Forward Operation Base by the Nigerian Army in the area.

The Governor expressed concern over senseless killings and destruction of property, promising to restore peace and punish those responsible. The local government chairman highlighted conflict over natural resources as a cause of unrest and asked for help in restoring the economy. Governor Ododo also promised interventions to address security lapses and improve infrastructure in the area. The community leaders expressed gratitude for the Governor's support and assistance.

# Good will message

from the Confluence University of Science and Technology, Kogi State( CUSTECH)

The Vice Chancellor, Confluence university of Science and Technology, CUSTECH, Prof. Abdulrahman Asipita Salawu has congratulated Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo for his landslide victory at the tribunal.

"On behalf of the esteemed Confluence University of Science and Technology, Kogi State, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Ododo on his resounding victory at the tribunal. Your triumph over the SDP candidate is a proof of the unwavering trust and support of the people you serve, and we are honored to stand alongside you in this momentous occasion", Prof. Salawu noted.

Prof. Salawu, while acknowledging the victory said the institution is dedicated to fostering academic excellence and community empowerment, as the University prides itself in the leaders who emerge from the state and work tirelessly to uplift the lives of her citizens.

"Your victory is not just a personal achievement, but a victory for the people of Kogi State, who have placed their faith in your ability to navigate the complexities of governance and deliver the progress and development they deserve", he said.

He said Governor Ododo's unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of his people , his unwavering principles, and steadfast determination to overcome the challenges presented in the political space are all qualities that have earned him the respect and admiration of the people.

The V.C, while restating the Institution's resolve to support his efforts and provide the necessary expertise and resources to help advance the development agenda of his administration, expressed confident that Gov. Ododo's continued leadership will pave the way for a brighter future for Kogi State, one marked by sustainable development, social justice, and a renewed sense of purpose.

He prayed that his leadership would continue to inspire and empower the people, and his triumph at the tribunal be the first of many successes that will define his tenure in office.



**ENGR. PROF. SALAWU  
ABDULRAHMAN ASIPITA**

*FNMS, FNIMMM, MNSE, R.COREN*

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY, OSARA, KOGI STATE**

# Kogi Election Tribunal Verdict: Why Muritala Ajaka of SDP Lost

By Adurodija Ebenezer



The Kogi Electoral Tribunal in Abuja delivered its verdict on May 27, 2024, confirming the incumbent Governor, Alhaji Usman Ododo, as the rightful winner of the November 11, 2023 Kogi Elections.

The petitioner, Alhaji Muritala Ajaka of the Social Democratic Party, failed to prove his case, which centred around alleged non-compliance with the 2022 Electoral Act. The tribunal judge emphasized that Section 137 of the Electoral Act is not a cure-all solution. Various accusations were made against Alhaji Usman Ododo by the petitioners, including claims of over-voting and certificate forgery, with the hope of overturning the election results in their favour.

In the court's ruling, it was stated that:

The allegations of over-voting were dismissed due to lack of concrete evidence. The judge noted

that the petitioners could not prove that the Respondent was involved in any fraudulent activities. Additionally, the witnesses provided conflicting testimonies compared to their written statements. The court also highlighted that the petitioners failed to present witnesses from all polling units, casting doubt on the credibility of those who did testify.

The petitioners' failure to provide substantial witnesses and video evidence weakened their case, as Section 137 of the Electoral Act cannot be used as a quick fix without proper supporting evidence. Overall, the tribunal's verdict favored Alhaji Usman Ododo, citing the lack of compelling evidence from the petitioners to support their claims.

The Star witness of the SDP, who was alleged to be a staff of the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC, was not verified to be a staff of the electoral

umpire. His disposition during cross examination also shows he was not part and parcel of the election as he was out of station in Imo State on the day of Election in Kogi State.

The court also ruled that individuals who are not part of the manufacturing of the Bimodal Verification System, BVAS, lose the locus standi to demonstrate such evidence in exhibit.

The Forensic Expert provided by the petitioners to substantiate their claims of over-voting, following an inspection of the electoral materials, failed to meet the requirements set forth in the electoral act, as determined by the judges. The purported expert only submitted a photocopy of his credentials, which the Tribunal deemed insufficient to validate his professional expertise.

Regarding the Certificate Forgery claims, the court ruled that the issue was essentially a moot point, as it fell under pre-election matters and was therefore time-barred.

The aforementioned reasons formed the basis for the dismissal of the SDP candidates' prayers, as they were found to lack merit and failed to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that they had won the election. Consequently, the Tribunal declared Alhaji Usman Ododo as the duly elected winner of the Kogi November 11th, 2023 elections.

# Revitalizing Healthcare: Kogi State's Ambitious Upgrade of 70 Primary Healthcare Centres

By Ebenezer Adurodija



**K**ogi State is taking a significant step towards enhancing its healthcare infrastructure by embarking on an ambitious project to rehabilitate 70 Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) across the state. Led by Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, this initiative represents a crucial moment in the state's commitment to providing accessible and high-quality healthcare for all its residents.

The announcement coincided with the launch of a comprehensive distribution of medical equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities throughout the state. This coordinated effort highlights the administration's dedication to strengthening the health sector in response to a growing population and changing medical needs.

Governor Ododo's administration has not only secured the necessary funding for this extensive rehabilitation but has also pre-qualified contractors to ensure the timely and efficient execution of the project. The upgraded PHCs, strategically located across the 21 local government areas, will serve as beacons of hope for communities, particularly in areas previously lacking essential services.

This initiative also aligns with

the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) program for children, showcasing the state's proactive approach to addressing prevalent health issues. Governor Ododo's commitment to providing quality healthcare as a fundamental right, not a privilege, is evident in his unwavering efforts.

In a gesture of appreciation, Governor Ododo expressed gratitude towards President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his unwavering support in the health sector, particularly through infrastructure and human resource development under the Renewed Hope Agenda. This collaborative effort extends to partners and donor agencies whose invaluable contributions have played a crucial role in enhancing accessibility and affordability of healthcare services in Kogi State.

The State Commissioner for Health, Dr. AbdulAzeez Adams, reiterated the government's commitment to providing quality healthcare, emphasizing the substantial investments made in infrastructural improvements and the procurement of essential medical equipment and supplies. The range of distributed items includes oxygen concentrators, mobile X-ray machines, surgical

gowns, and public address systems for community awareness campaigns.

Furthermore, Governor Ododo announced plans to revamp the Kogi State Central Medical Store, transforming it into an e-pharma warehouse to streamline drug procurement and storage processes, ultimately enhancing the state's healthcare delivery system.

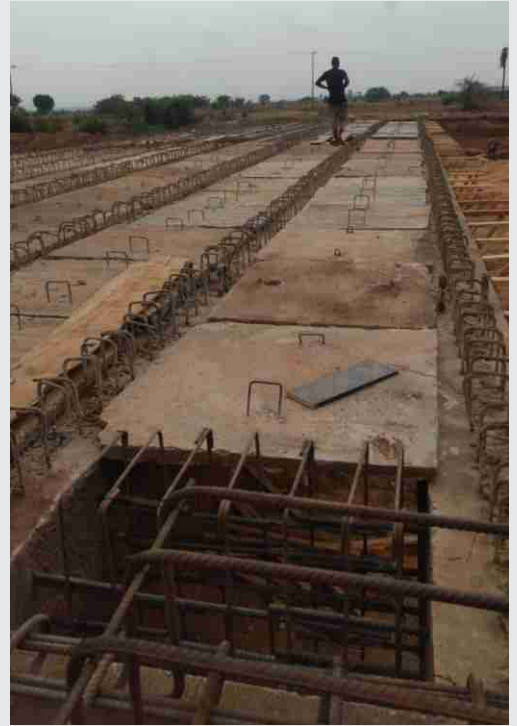
As Kogi State progresses with these advancements, it sets a benchmark for other states to emulate, showcasing the transformative impact of visionary leadership and collaborative governance in healthcare. The residents of Kogi can anticipate a future where quality healthcare is not merely a vision but a tangible reality.

This article encapsulates the essence of the ongoing healthcare revolution in Kogi State, highlighting the government's initiatives to upgrade primary healthcare facilities and enhance the overall health infrastructure for its citizens. This initiative represents a commendable stride towards ensuring that every individual in Kogi State has access to the healthcare services they rightfully deserve.



# PHOTO GALLERY







# GoodWill Message

FROM

**CCECC**



**T**he management and staff of CCECC Nigeria Limited, a leading construction company in Nigeria, would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency, Alhaji U Ahmed Usman Ododo, and Comrade Joel Salifu Oyibo on their 100 days in office.

We are thrilled and honored to witness this momentous occasion, as it has shown the quality of leadership in Kogi State. With the dynamic leadership of Governor Ododo and Deputy Governor Oyibo, we are confident that Kogi State will experience unprecedented growth and development.

As a company deeply committed to the progress of Nigeria, we are excited to collaborate with the new administration in realizing their vision for a prosperous Kogi State. CCECC Nigeria Limited stands ready to contribute our expertise and resources to support the government's efforts in infrastructure development, job creation, and economic empowerment.

We believe that Governor Ododo and Deputy Governor Oyibo's dedication, passion, and innovative approach will bring about positive change and transform Kogi State into a model for other states to emulate. Their leadership will undoubtedly inspire and motivate the people of Kogi State to strive for excellence and work towards a brighter future.

Once again, we congratulate Governor Ododo and Deputy Governor Oyibo on this auspicious occasion. The entire CCECC Nigeria Limited family is excited to witness the remarkable achievements that lie ahead under their visionary leadership. Together, we will build a stronger, more prosperous Kogi State for all its citizens.

**SIGNED:  
MANAGEMENT**

