



DEVELOP ONDO

AKEREDOLU TARGETS \$2 BILLION INVESTMENT

Adewale Omomowo
Ikusemiju Ayokunle

In the contemporary world, industrial advancement remains a veritable driver of economic development. It has been noted for its ability to spur progress and prosperity of any society. In fact, any right-thinking government always considers and gives deep thought into appropriate application of industrial potentials in order to expand and diversify its economy, bring about technological and infrastructural development, towards ensuring a landmark increase in its internally generated revenue.

As part of efforts towards achieving this objective, the present administration in Ondo State led by Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, CON, set the ball rolling by identifying industrial development as part of its REDEEMED agenda – Energy, Mining and Sustainable Industries; Digital Revolution and Entrepreneurship. It must be stated that in attaining this mandate the role of investors in the development of any society cannot be overemphasized

According to Mckayla Girardin publication in theforage.com in 2023, an investor is an individual or an organization that gives money to another person or organization hoping to see a future profit. Likewise, Corporate Finance Institute (2023) also states that an investor is an individual that puts money into an entity such as business for financial return. In essence, any serious government must search and woo potential investors by exposing them to the advantages and benefits they are bound to gain by investing in its State.

According to records, Ondo State has lots of human, natural and treasurable resources, thus, it is positioned as one of the best destinations for investments in Nigeria. According to the State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, it has more than 42 billion barrels of bitumen deposit in Agbabu in Irele Local Government Area of the State, with a reported overburden varying between 0 and 50 metres. It has the longest coastline in Nigeria (180km), capable of housing the Deepsea Port; various kinds of fish and seafood that meet

Contd. on Pg 3.

Editorial

Fellow patriots, I share in your pains and I identify with you at this critical period when Nigeria is trying to re-calibrate and revamp its economy. I indeed appreciate the entire workforce of our dear Sunshine State for cooperating with the government, driven by an unwavering belief that this period is very temporal. You will agree with me that the Akeredolu led administration is doing all it can to mitigate the effects of subsidy removal on the people.

For public servants, the government has done a lot by putting in place measures that could mitigate the effects of petroleum subsidy removal on the State workforce. The State Government with the support from the Federal Government has provided buses to convey workers to and from their offices to their homes, free of charge; arrangement is on to increase running grants of MDAs; approved the payment of additional 10,000 naira to retirees as palliative on monthly basis; paid outstanding leave bonuses; among others. It is our belief that all these and more will continue to put smiles on the faces of workers in Ondo State in the interim, pending when the economic reformation policies of the Federal Government would begin to yield results.

Permit me to briefly mention that the government has also begun distribution of bags of rice and many other items to mitigate the effect of subsidy removal among the populace. Thus, it is necessary to commend the present administration in the State for all these humanitarian feats, targeted at making life bearable for its citizenry.

Away from the subsidy panorama, a question that has always come to the minds of the people, particularly public servants in Ondo State is that "what is the government doing to change the narratives of Ondo State from being a Civil Service oriented State to an industrial State?". This has become a recurring question because successive governments have tried to change the narrative but with little or nothing to show when they leave. However, since the inception of the Akeredolu-led administration, landmark industrial establishments have been observed across Ondo State. We are all aware of the Ore Linyi hub and other industrialization projects ongoing, aimed at strengthening the economy of the Sunshine State.

The present administration is also putting in place various strategies to attract more investors to Ondo State. As such, it is necessary we bring to your readership the various strives of this government at expanding the industrial base of the State, as well as what government is doing to train and empower small and medium scale business owners in Ondo State. This edition of ODSIP publication, therefore, aims to reel out activities, the focus and content of the recently held "Develop Ondo Investment Summit 2.0", significance of the summit and the probable economic impact it will continue to bring to the State.

This medium serves as an avenue for many that could not attend the second edition of the "Develop Ondo" Summit, to follow up with all that transpired.

Also in this edition, you will read about my interaction with ODSIP Ambassadors, my expectations from public servants in Ondo State, among other varieties. I'm therefore convinced that you will find the edition interesting. Once again, I specially thank you for your readership and acceptability of this medium. I thank you for supporting my office in the business of repositioning the Ondo State Bureaucracy for effective Service Delivery.



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Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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DEVELOP ONDO...(Contd)

local and foreign demands; attractive tourism sites and various ancient-times monuments like Idanre hills, Iho Eleru, Igbo Eledumare, etc. It equally has vast agricultural resources and potentials that makes it enviable to other States in the country and even beyond.

All these have therefore put a burden on the State Government to bring investors closer to this haven of human, natural and material resources, to enable investors have first-hand information about Ondo State. Thus, the organization of Develop Ondo 2.0 Investment Summit, a high-profile event organized by the Ondo State Government, in partnership with the European Union, United Nations Development Programme, Brevity Anderson and Stears Business.

Whilst interacting with newsmen in Akure, the Honourable Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources in the State, Engr. Razaq Obe who doubles as the Local Organising Committee Chairman, explained that the Summit was to showcase the investment potential and opportunities in Ondo State to local and international investors and thereby attract them to explore available opportunities. According to him, the summit will also provide a platform for stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships to drive economic growth and development of the Sunshine State. He stated that "Develop Ondo 2.0" is the second of its kind; and it has since served as avenue for bringing together investors, industry experts, key stakeholders to network and collaborate with the Ondo State Government; to identify the areas of investment and financing opportunities existing in the State; to showcase Ondo State's ongoing initiatives, policies, and reforms aimed at enhancing the ease of doing business and fostering a conducive investment climate; and to support its robust aspirations in agriculture, tourism, oil and gas, manufacturing, logistics and industrial hubs, green energy technologies and financing solutions.

The colloquium, consequently, led credence to the fact that the Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu led administration is determined to bring onboard landslide development in the State, as such, Develop Ondo 2.0 is specifically targeted at partnering 100 donors, attracting 1500 investors to Ondo State, raising a \$2 Billion investments in the State, and creating 70,000 new jobs.

At the summit, experts discussed how Ondo State could harness investment to improve agribusiness, mining and solid minerals, manufacturing and industrialisation, ICT, tourism and hospitality, transport and logistics, and energy sectors. In particular, the high-level meeting x-rayed the development of the Port of Ondo at Erruna/Ogboti in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, which would become one of the most modern Ports in Nigeria, when completed, with the largest solid mineral terminal located contiguous to an industrial City with Free Trade Zone (FTZ) status.



Accordingly, the Port Ondo that has received the Federal Executive Council's approval and has advanced to concession and negotiation stage is part of the State's strategy of promoting and developing infrastructure dedicated to industry and logistics. The Port will allow the development and operation of an efficient seaport with modern and well-equipped terminals that can service large commercial vessels that operate throughout the world. It will have the capacity to handle vessels of up to 14,000 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit (TEUs) and would be a true alternative to Ports in Lome, Lagos and Cotonou.

Again, in its investment drive, the Akeredolu led administration successfully secured the Federal Government's license to build and operate Industrial City with Free Trade Zone (FTZ) status at Erruna/Ogboti, Ilaje Local Government Area – a project successive governments have tried but failed. The Industrial City measures over 2,700 hectares of land and is being developed with ample amenities and incentives to provide operational leverage to prospective investors for the process and export of solid minerals through the proposed Deep Seaport with a depth of 16.5–18m.

Nevertheless, investigations have revealed that one of the banes of rapid industrial development in Nigeria is shortage of power supply. As such, many companies have gone moribund, while several others are bankrupt. As a way of ensuring the sustenance of these investment blocs, Ondo State Government is about to complete the construction of a 30MW (upgradable to 60MW) Independent Power Project (IPP) to complement electricity supply to the State from the national grid. When completed, this power project will cater for industrial needs of the Free Trade Zone and the Ports as well as the host communities.

Going forward, it is worthy to note that the success of previous summits has encouraged investors to show their willingness to continue investing in the state's priority sectors. These success stories demonstrate the effectiveness of the present administration in attracting investments and fostering economic growth in Ondo State. Part of the achievements recorded so far through the investment summit include but not limited to improvement in agricultural investment, leading to the establishment of large-scale farms, agro-processing facilities, and partnerships with local farmers; "Red Gold Project" which is a major agricultural initiative implemented by the Ondo State government with the aim of promoting the cultivation and processing of oil palm in the State; and development in the State's oil and gas sector.

For instance, with the support of Federal Government, Ondo State was considered the FIRST state in Nigeria to develop its comprehensive gas strategy focusing on making the state the Gas Hub of West Africa. Through this, the target of the State is to be a significant component in achieving eventual investment and development. Accordingly, the state has chosen to be ambitious to create an inland gas



corridor from which all major gas fuels (CNG, LNG, LPG) and its by-products (gas to power, methane, butane, propane etc) are collected to feed the inland areas of the country. This is largely possible due to the State's strategic location, along the path of the Escravos Lagos Pipeline System (ELPS), the backbone of Nigeria's commercial gas industry.

Just as the forum provided opportunity for local entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services, present their business ideas to potential investors, gain exposure and potentially secure funding or partnerships, it has well impacted on industrialisation in the State. For example, there are two industrial parks currently located along Benin-Ore-Sagamu-Lagos expressway in Odigbo local government area of the State, specifically, Ore city (the most important trade route in Modern West Africa for the haulage of raw materials and finished goods from the North, East and South of Nigeria to Lagos), with two others proposed to be sited in Owo and Ifedore local government areas. Each Park spans an average of 1,000 hectares and are expected to host companies involved in manufacturing, processing, storage, etc. The platforms at "Develop Ondo 2.0" therefore, aim to empower and nurture local entrepreneurs, enable them to thrive and contribute to the economic development of Ondo State.

As a way of easing business, the State Government also simplified business registration and licensing processes, put in place investment-friendly policies, laws, and regulations to protect investors' interests and provide a predictable business environment. The State government also offers tax breaks, exemptions, and rebates to eligible investors based on specific criteria, such as investment size, location, and sector; whilst dedicated agencies or investment promotion bodies like the Ondo State Development Investment Promotion Agency (ONDIPA) provides support and assistance to investors throughout the investment process, including information provision, project facilitation, and aftercare services.

So far so good, feedbacks have shown the readiness of investors to explore investment opportunities in the State; as such, it can be concluded that Ondo State is on the path to economic growth, industrial development, technological progression, employment generation and reduction in poverty, which will no doubt contribute excellently to the overall development of Nigeria.

This piece is put together with input from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Mineral Resources.

YOU and the RULES

Aderemi Olabode

TIMELINE FOR REQUEST

In our last edition, we examined Virtual Meetings as one of the new provisions in the 2022 Revised Edition of Public Service Rules under Rules 02901 – 02903. In this edition, we are focusing on another new provision which is Timeline for Request under Rule 09202 – 09203.

Rule 09202 states that an officer in the State Public Service, may address the Head of Government, in which case he must transmit such communication, unsealed and in triplicate to any of the channels mentioned in the General Rule, requesting that the request be forwarded in due course to the Head of Government. Every letter of request, petition or other document which may be received by the Head of Government other than through the proper channel will be returned to the writer.

Rule 09203 (a) All requests for enhanced entry placement, career adjustment and other forms of normalization or regularization by a newly recruited officer must be concluded on confirmation of appointment i.e within two to three years of appointment.

Rule 09203 (b) Request for enhanced entry placement of Career reconstruction arising from conversion/transfer must be made before the first promotion in the new cadre i.e within three (3) years from the date of such conversion or transfer.

Rule 09203 (c) Belated request for career reconstruction/adjustment/ normalization **SHALL NOT BE ENTERTAINED** on any grounds.

However, any officer who has any representation or request of a public or private nature to make to the government should address them in line with **Rule 09201** to:

(a) The Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Commission, through his Head of Department/ Accounting Officer in respect of matters relating to appointments (including acting appointments), promotion, transfer and discipline; or

(b) The Permanent Secretary, Office of Establishments, through his Head of Department/ Accounting Officer on matters relating to other conditions of service, e.g. leave, passages, allowances, pensions, gratuities; or

(c) any other recognized channel of communication, which shall however, be routed through the Head of Department of the writer.

**PUBLIC
SERVICE
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2022 (REVISED EDITION)

ODSIP PHOTO SPEAKS

ODSIP Update



The Deputy Governor, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa with Public Servants at the inauguration of the technical committee for the design of a 30-year development plan tagged "Ondo 2054"



Public Servants boarding palliative buses



Panelists at one of the plenary sessions during the DEVELOP ONDO 2.0 investment summit held at Centre for Culture and Event Centre



Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele, FCIPM, some Permanent Secretaries and the Change Ambassadors at the 14th Head of Service's Interaction with Change Ambassadors

Adewale Omomowo
John Edema

INTERACTIVE SESSION: HoS APPLAUDS CIVIL SERVANTS.

The Ondo Service Improvement Programme (ODSIP) Change Ambassadors have been applauded for promoting effective service delivery in the State public service. The applause was given by the State Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele, FCIPM, at the 14th edition of his quarterly interactive session with the Change Ambassadors held on 22nd August, 2023 at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) hall in Akure.

Describing the interactive session as an avenue for the Change Ambassadors to rub minds and improve on themselves as flag bearers of Service Improvement in the State. He commended them for their sustained steadfastness in the reform business stating that they have remained fixated on the goal of giving their best in basic practices devoid of huge financial aid, such as sanitation, symposiums, mentoring clinics among others. He further explained that the Public Service in the past few weeks experienced a myriad of improvements, stating that they are pointers to the fact that reforms need not originate from one source, adding that it is everyone's responsibility which should be taken seriously.

The meeting, which was the third in the year 2023 was significant, noting that topics for the session were geared towards giving practical insight into improving the leadership in the public service and enlightening our social etiquette in this economically difficult time in the Country. He admonished Change Ambassadors to work effectively at cascading lessons learnt in their respective Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with a view to enhancing the leadership qualities and social skills that will lead to a better motivated public service.

According to him, motivational programmes have been put in place to encourage public servants, this includes free transportation to and fro their offices which had begun few weeks ago. He explained that the measures were put in place to encourage public servants to give their best for effective service delivery in the State.

The Administrative Secretary, Reform Office, Office of the HoS, Adewale Omomowo while speaking noted that the initiative facilitated by the Reform Office has yielded immeasurable fruits in terms of knowledge sharing and collaborations. According to him, with the unflinching support of Change Ambassadors, there would be greater improvement in the programme and service delivery.

Participants were put through two topics; "Leadership Strategies for Managing and Enhancing Personnel Productivity" and "Social Skills and Etiquette" which were delivered by the Permanent Secretary, Agency for Transport, Mr. Femi Aladenola and Director, Investment Promotion and Management (ONDIPA), Dr. Richard Adeola Alonge, respectively.

ODSIP Update Contd.

ONDO GOVT INAUGURATES COMMITTEE ON 30-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ondo State Government has inaugurated the technical committee for the design of a 30-year development plan tagged "Ondo 2054". Ondo State Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, while inaugurating the Committee in Akure, charged them to come up with recommendations that would bring infrastructural and human capital development to the State.

Aiyedatiwa said, it was in tandem with Gov. Oluwarotimi Akeredolu's REDEEMED Agenda to engineer an inclusive and sustainable development plan for the State. The Deputy Governor said the inauguration of the technical committee was a sign of government's commitment to implement the fiscal responsibility law to make the state a hub for investors, devoid of any political inclination.

While charging members of the committee to brace up and bring their experience to bear, Aiyedatiwa said the committee had six months to complete and deliver the development plan.

The Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan, during the event, stated the fact that the State's population is on the increase and it urgently calls for future projection on infrastructure and human capital development,

The technical committee to drive the strategic plan to reality comprises Permanent Secretaries of ministries, Directors, General Managers and Consultants.



SUBSIDY REMOVAL: ONDO STATE GOVERNMENT BEGINS MEASURES TO CUSHION EFFECTS.

In a bid to cushion the effect of economic hardship that followed the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government of Nigeria, Ondo State Government has rolled out series of palliative measures targeted at improving the livelihood of the citizens of the State. The State Government inaugurated a 14-man Palliative Strategy and Implementation Committee, chaired by the Honourable Commissioner for Finance, Wale Akinterinwa to address pocketbook issues affecting citizens of the state. The State Government in line with the Committee's recommendation has deployed all

functional existing buses in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies for free transportation of public servants from designated bus stops to their offices and back home after the day's work, effective Wednesday 9th August, 2023.

The free shuttle bus system for students has also been resuscitated effective from their resumption date till December 31st, 2023. Thereafter, affordable rates would be charged from January 2024.

In like manner, free shuttle boats equipped with life jackets have been provided for students in the riverine areas. Additional CNG Buses will also be purchased to convey public servants to and from work at no cost to them, till December 31st, 2023.

In addition to this, the State Government has also paid the outstanding 2020 leave bonus while that of 2019 will be paid before the end of 2023. Distribution of food items to the vulnerable citizens of the State has also commenced



"ONLY HEAVY SANCTION AGAINST PERPETRATORS CAN STOP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE," SAYS ONDO HOS

Commensurate punishment for culprits of rape and other anti-social behaviours have been identified as the best way to eradicate these menace in the society. The Ondo State Head of Service, Pastor Kayode Ogundele made this known while receiving the management team of the Ondo State Agency Against Gender-Based Violence, (OSAA-GBV) in his office in Akure, the state capital.

Ogundele, who described Ondo State as one of the first states in the federation to pass and assent the Violence Against Persons Prohibition, VAPP Law, re-emphasised the resolve of government to continue to protect the rights of all citizens irrespective of their vulnerability.

This issue of rape has become so rampant, deterrence will only happen when people know there are serious consequences, he said. If there is no consequence and they don't see culprits getting serious long jail terms, people will not hold themselves in check.



ODSIP Lens

MR GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM VACATION

The Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Odunayo Akeredolu SAN, CON, has returned from his medical vacation. The Governor, Arakunrin, who returned to the country on Thursday September 7th, 2023 resumed official duties immediately.

There are no perfect words to express our gratitude as a State other than to say "Thank you" to the Almighty God for answered prayers.

At the moment, the general perception leans on high optimism now that Aketi is back to deliver his continued unwavering commitment to good leadership and undeterred developmental strides of progress to the citizenry who have long awaited his return.



SENSITIZATION OF IFAD/FGN/LIVE-ND PROJECT STAFF ON EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY-

ODSIP Lens was present at the sensitization for staff of Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises-Niger Delta, project in Ondo State on effective service delivery. The management of Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises-Niger Delta, project in Ondo State sought the partnership of the Department of Public Service Reform and Development (REFORM OFFICE) in training their project staff on effective service delivery. The Reform Office is known for its activities at propagating the tenets of ODSIP which is manpower development on effective service delivery for societal development in the State.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development/Federal Government of Nigeria/livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises-Niger Delta states (IFAD/FGN/LIFE-ND) is a project that directly supports the Nigeria's Agricultural policy and the strategic framework for youth employment and job creation. The project objective is to enhance income, food security and job creation for rural youths and women through agri-enterprises development.

Lectures delivered at the training were Perspectives of Reform Initiatives and Strategies for Effective Service Delivery as well as Service Improvement Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation of Service by Mr. John Oluwafemi Edema, Director of Service Improvement and Innovation and Mrs. Oluwaseyi Bamidele, Head, Monitoring and Evaluation department respectively.

The State Project Coordinator (SPC), lauded the Reform Office for the quality lecture delivered by the speakers and sought for more areas of collaboration with the agency. This, he said will enable the project deliver its mandate.

FUN FACTS

Adult humans have fewer bone than babies. You started your life with 350 bones. As you reach adulthood, your bone fuse together. So, your bones will dwindle to only 206. in other words, adults actually have fewer bones compared to newborn babies

Pound for pound, the human bones are stronger than steel. A block of bone the size of a matchbox can support up to 18,000 pounds of weight.

Words on MARBLE

"There comes a day when you realise turning the page is the best feeling in the world, because you realise there is so much more to the book than the page you were stuck on."
- ZAYN MALIK

Letter
to the EDITOR



NOTE:

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